

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 15 No. 5a

We are Westmount

May 4, 2021

Soccer training attracts 325

Summer camps, many tennis lessons fill up quickly

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

This year's high demand for the city's summer youth camps and the youth and adult tennis lessons filled up most available spots very quickly, according to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. The spring registration has gone "very well."

"It's very definitely a sign that people want to get into outside activities," he said last week as the department prepared to open up the few remaining two-week camp sessions May 1 to people who had already "double-booked" more than the initially-allowed one two-week session. The initial restriction was to allow everyone to have a chance of at least one session.

Both youth and adult tennis lessons filled up earlier and faster than usual, leaving only a few spots available, most toward the end of the summer, until evening classes were added effective May 3. This was enabled by a later, 9:30 pm start to the curfew.

Even the youth soccer offered in May and June, where government restrictions this year

continued on p. 22

FOUND: Perlman's 1983 golden anniversary album



Westmounter Penny Liu is seen on April 27 with some of the 1983 golden wedding anniversary items that she found in a buffet purchased at an estate sale. Was she able to find the family of the couple in question, Sophie and Marcus Perlman? See p. 20 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

Don't forget
Mother's Day
is Sunday, May 9
For gift ideas from our
advertisers, see p. 24-25

Is it easier to 'attend' Westmount city council meetings from home?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When the city moved its YouTube live streaming of regular council meetings to the Zoom webinar platform on April 19, Mayor Christina Smith said she hoped it would encourage more residents to "attend" and then participate in the second question period.

It didn't make much difference, however, according to attendance numbers that

the city monitored during the live session. These involved 11 "attendees" at the start, eight questions emailed in advance and only one question received through Zoom at the end, when the number of attendees had dropped to six.

In fact, the numbers did not differ much from pre-COVID times when people had to go to city hall for a meeting, ask questions at the start and then wait through the

continued on p. 3



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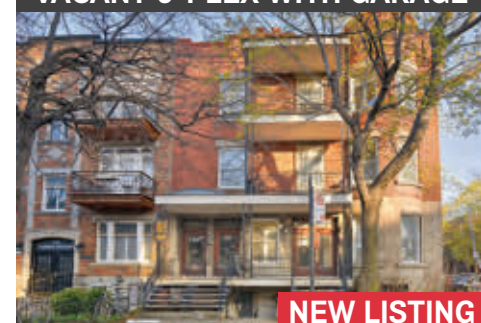
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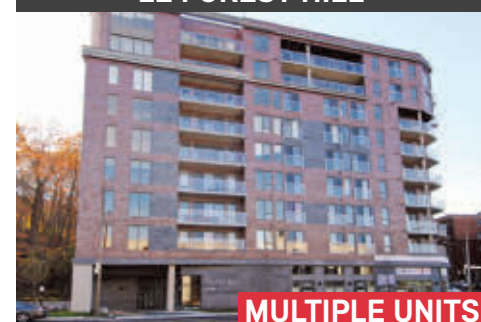


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Fledgling falcon photographed



"If the *Independent's* readers would like an update on our now-identified peregrine falcons, the baby falcon has now emerged," said Surrey Gardens' Harry Bloomfield about the birds nesting at St. Joseph's Oratory.

PHOTO COURTESY OF H. BLOOMFIELD.

Council, cont'd. from p. 1

business session to ask more, which, typically, few chose to do.

"It was my hope that the move to the Zoom interface would get more people involved and generate more response in the second question period," Mayor Smith said in reply to Robert Babczak, the lone second-period questioner, asking for the reason for the switch.

Babczak, a resident of Melville, also asked the city to activate the online indicator of people watching the meeting at any one time. City clerk Andrew Brownstein said that would be explored.

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9 Lives, p. 26

Dodge on October real estate, p. 19

Return to Retail:



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infoWestmount, p. 21



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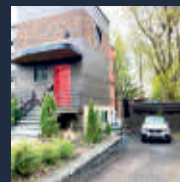
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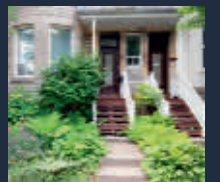
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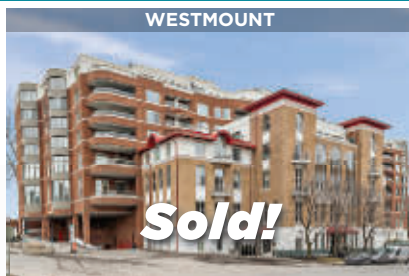
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Staff also preparing for the unexpected Public library stays shut, but offers most services

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the inscription to the right of the original entrance to Westmount Public Library states: “Pass on the light,” and that’s exactly what the library is trying to do despite the COVID closure of the building.

“Rather than creating confusion by opening and closing only to re-open and shut again,” said library director Julie-Anne Cardella, “we’re staying on hold because of the emerging variants but continuing to offer our services.”

But just to be ready for the possibility that outdoor gatherings might be permitted this summer, the Community Events section has put out a call for artists to exhibit at The Gallery and for concerts in the park.

On the other hand, preparing for a possible re-opening of the library to the public, “one of my concerns, is the loss of a lot of our part-time staff who could not be retained while the library was physically closed,” Cardella explained.

It would take time to train replacements to work under ongoing pandemic pre-



Some library users and even staff were taken by surprise early April 27 by the sudden relocation of the book drop to just left of the main entrance, as shown here April 29. Its previous site to the right was considered too close to the large construction trucks involved in the greenhouse project. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



Photo of motif at front door inscribed in 1899, as seen May 26, 2017.

cautions.

Meanwhile, the library continues to loan out reading and video materials, answer reference and research questions, provide “lots of programming,” maintain the reader advisory service and online information, in short: “everything except opening the building.”

It receives and processes some 500 to 1,000 reservations a day for borrowing

material that can be picked up at the door. Returned items are quarantined for 72 hours.

The book drop-off was moved April 27 to a spot on the pathway just left of the front door from its previous temporary location in front of the greenhouses, which was becoming unsafe owing to the large trucks accessing the greenhouse construction project.

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"I went for my haircut the week of April 19 at Salon Pierre mon coiffeur on St. Catherine St. Good news! All the staff had received the vaccine from the Proxim pharmacy. They were so proud that they even posed for a picture," wrote Luc Lavoie to the *Independent* April 23. PHOTO COURTESY OF L. LAVOIE.

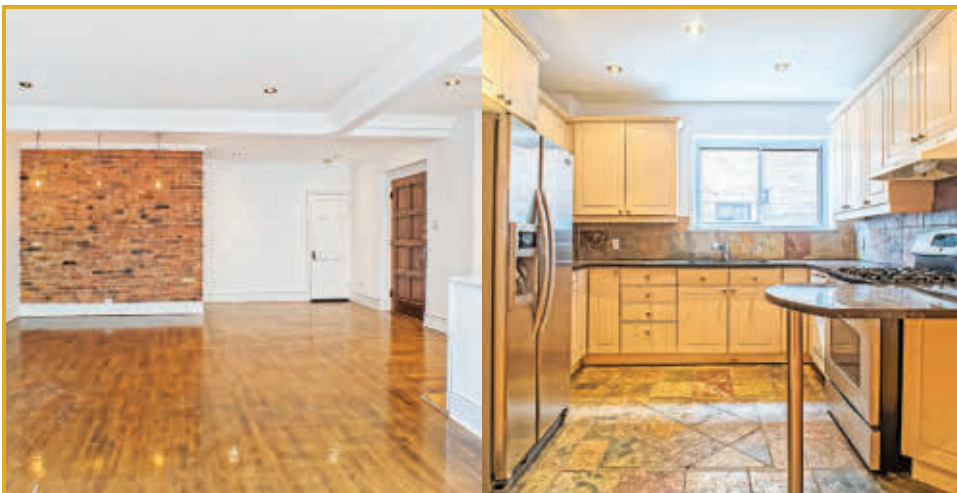
PHOTO COURTESY OF L. LAVOIE

‘Believe in yourself’ – ‘Stay strong’



Cousins Clara and Ana Sofia were proud of their Westmount Park mural and messages, as seen over the April 25-25 weekend. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA CARDOT.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA CARDOT.



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Hazardous waste day



The city's bi-annual household hazardous waste collection took place as usual in the Westmount Public Library's parking lot April 24. Public Security was managing a long line-up in the morning but by the time of this photograph in the afternoon things were more easy going. A vulture was seen circling overhead.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Police Report

Suspect breaks into office – only to steal a banana

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St. are wondering what were the motives or the state of mind of an intruder who illegally entered a business in a building at the corner of Dorchester and Greene last week – only to steal a piece of fruit he found in the lobby.

Sometime shortly after 6:45 pm on April 26, the suspect tried various doors while trying to enter the building. After getting in, he used a security code, which some-

how he already knew, to unlock the door of the business.

"It was a type of lock that uses an access code," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "The suspect tried several codes, and he had the code to get in."

Pimentel said that after getting in, the suspect went on to "steal a banana from a plate, then left through the same entry point," while ignoring other objects in the office.

He said the investigators questioned employees, as well as staff in adjacent of-

fices, and no one recognized the suspect in surveillance camera images. An investigation has been opened.

Security guard injured

A security guard who intercepted a shoplifter trying to leave a retail store at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave. without paying for some purchases was lightly injured during an incident around 4:15 pm on April 27.

The incident "turned into a physical altercation," said Pimentel, noting that the suspect now faces a charge of armed rob-

bery since what started as shoplifting escalated into violence.

The suspect was carrying a sports equipment bag while making his way around the store, dropping items of merchandise into the bag at one point.

Going to another section of the store where he chose a lemon, he then proceeded to the checkout to pay only for the fruit.

The security guard, who had been watching *continued on p. 20*

Price increased from \$31k to \$56k

Council votes on added cost of toboggan run

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Looking back at the winter that was, one of the outdoor activities initiated by the city over the pandemic made its way back onto the April 19 city council agenda. This was the creation of a professionally created "formal" toboggan run in King George (Murray) Park.

Required was money for an additional cost of the "grooming" contract of \$24,093,

taxes included, to increase the original amount of \$31,467 to a total of \$55,560 for services to Snö Innovation Inc.

This included the run's installation with the blowing of artificial snow, followed by a later rerouting of the run near the bottom to reduce speed, and more snow.

"I think we can all agree that the King George toboggan run was a great success," Mayor Christina Smith said, as all council-

lors raised their hands in approval.

No mention was made of repeating the run this coming winter but the city has already stated it would have an artificial rink re-installed in Westmount Park.

Its rental cost was \$99,993 including tax credits. Two cross-country ski tracks were also created in King George Park and Westmount Athletic Grounds but these were created by the city's Public Works crews.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE'S THE HOMELESS COVERAGE?

I was incredibly disappointed to read your story on the graffiti by the highway on p. 5 of your April 20 edition.

There is a literal city of homeless people living within spitting distance of the graffiti, under the highway, yet not a word on that.

If the graffiti causing an eyesore is the big concern of residents, then we need to have a serious collective discussion about our priorities. Our MNA, Jennifer Maccarone, toured this very spot to bring attention to the plight of the homeless during COVID and curfews and I don't recall that being p. 5 news, let alone covered.

How about a two-page spread on the underlying social failures that have led to people living under a highway during winter months instead of on the different Bixi stations in Westmount?

MARC LAVOIE, PROSPECT ST.

Editor's reply: We are a newspaper and, for that reason, we react to new situations. Unfortunately, homelessness has been a constant fact during the paper's existence, and we aren't going to write a story saying "There are homeless people in Westmount," any more than we are going to write stories about there being tenants and homeowners. All three have been constant facts, not news.

We do, however, write about the home-

less of Westmount when we become aware of news about them, including such recent stories as "We can afford to end homelessness," Brewery Mission CEO tells Rotarians" (April 30, 2021, p. 8), "Resilience [shelter] finds a permanent home near Cabot Square" (March 2, 2021, p. 11), "Caring, Resilience [shelter] and Sharing" (December 8, 2020, p. 1), and "Squatters leave former Open Door, Atwater Ave. sites" (July 7, 2020, p. 30).

It will always be easy to ridicule a locally focused publication by contrasting a micro-news story like newly installed Bixi stands with a serious issue like homelessness. If I could solve homelessness by exchanging a story about Bixis for one on the homeless, I would do it.

But the world does not work that way. For me, the Bixi story – which also had the desirable quality of being unique to our newspaper – had merit because it was recent, it was helpful to local Bixi users (who are numerous), it informed those who dislike Bixis or aspects of them, and it was a hopeful sign of spring in a time when hope is needed more than ever.

On that note, we will always, unapologetically, embrace the lighter side (e.g. pictures of animals, funny things people said, photos of interesting garbage etc...) while not ignoring that there are unhappy things going on in our midst.

But, to repeat, it is not as though covering difficult, perennial problems (which all

media outlets do, a lot) solves them – nor does feeling righteous while reading or viewing or hearing such stories.

(If massive amounts of news coverage solved problems, we would all eat healthily, exercise regularly, avoid drugs, tobacco and alcohol, save for retirement and floss. It ain't happening...)

With regard to sourcing stories, we don't know everything and stories don't always present themselves in time for coverage. For instance, I was unaware that Jennifer Maccarone had toured that area of Westmount. If I'd known, we might well have covered it.

Most homelessness and pandemic policy issues, though, are provincial (including the curfew that you mention) or federal, so don't expect too much coverage of them. Provincial and federal politics are not areas that we focus on, for many reasons – including the many, many other media outlets covering those spaces.

I would rather cover one thing (municipal life) well than many things less well or repetitively, even if those other things might be very important. We aren't saying that massive, societal (or even trans-national) problems aren't important or that they don't exist. We are simply choosing to focus on stories that are local, important to whom they affect and unique to us.

Lastly, our story about our local municipal government working to get an arm of the provincial government, the Transport ministry, to honour its highway-graffiti-cleaning agreement was interesting to us (and, we hope, most of our readers) because it was right inside of our main focus: municipal life. We won't solve all your problems, but we do aim to keep you informed about that. – DP

DETOURS WITHOUT END – THE DOGGIE VERSION

RE: "Detours without end" (April 20, p. 3)

Yes, I also have been caught by these [vehicle] detours, but I feel it is not only Montreal that is famous for this type of thing.* I find that Westmount's signage re: dogs is also very confusing.

Just today, my wife and I went for one of our frequent walks around Summit Woods. And guess what signage we saw re: dogs? (Note that I only photographed three of the more common entrances to the actual woods.)

As can be seen, sometimes there is one sign telling people at what time of year the dogs have to be on leash in the woods, but the sign's heading is "Summit Woods" – so if I have a dog, I will look at the sign saying "Dogs in the Woods," which only says "Dogs must be leashed at all times



outside of the Summit Woods" and makes no mention of ever needing your dog to be on leash.

Also, the small picture [of the walker and dog next to the garbage can] shows a dog off leash.

Entrance #2

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

At another entrance to the woods, we have two signs: titled “Summit Woods” [with COVID regulations] and “Dogs in the Woods,” but on the sign titled “Summit Woods,” there is no mention of when dogs must be leashed.

Entrance #3

Now on the third entrance to the woods we had three signs with all of the above. ???

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

*For clarity, I deliberately wrote that “The Montreal *metropolis* is infamous for its detours” (emphasis added). This is not only a city of Montreal problem.

It extends well beyond its borders and the island, and perhaps even all across the province. – DP.

IT IS PEDESTRIANS WHO ARE AT RISK – FROM CYCLISTS

Yes, here is a letter on the often-contested subject of – here we go – the bike path on de Maisonneuve between Melville and Greene.

I just did not believe my eyes when I read the very first sentence on the front page of the April 20 edition. Why? Headline: “New plan keeps bike path on de Maisonneuve during water work.” The potential safety concerns are for cyclists being diverted to St. Catherine.

Has anyone from either this newspaper or the city walked along there the past few days? Safety for cyclists? I think not! Safety for pedestrians is *the* concern here as cyclists weave all over the place as the lines of the existing/former bike path are obliterated with dirt.

There appears to be no understanding of all us who are local to that location and walk several times a day for whatever reason, including to get groceries or just to exercise. And I can tell you if ever I am caused bodily injury, it won't be from a car. It'll be from a bike.

None of them obey stop signs or lights. The cyclists are out of control and no one is concerned for people walking. I am shocked beyond belief.

M. TRACEY, METCALFE AVE.

Editor's reply: For clarity, the original story did mention other bike-path users (“others”) and “pedestrians,” and I did walk that section of de Maisonneuve. I then composed and published a photo-essay called “Chaos on de Maisonneuve” (April 20, p. 22) – a fairly tough headline for a news story (and warranted in my view). I did not mention pedestrians explicitly (even though I was/am one), but construction-area “chaos” can't be interpreted as a safe thing for walkers. – DP

CLARKE CHAOS IS DANGEROUS, NOISY

As we enter the second spring of COVID, one of our few pleasures is walking around the neighbourhood. However, we are imprisoned between the noisy and vibrating construction at the St. Leon school and the city construction between Clarke and Olivier on de Maisonneuve. Two major construction sites on one block? (If we walk around to escape to Kit-chener Ave, we find a place even more bombarded by huge trucks and a big dig.)

I would like to know why the city did not coordinate the timing of these major projects. It is really too much for residents and we are losing our peaceful quality of life.

Equally concerning is safety. It is becoming impossible for parents to drop off their kids safely in front of St. Leon school. Two days in a row, I saw a little five-year-old walking by himself south on Clarke past huge trucks because police were blocking parents from driving onto Clarke. It is chaotic, dangerous and stressful.

We should be able to safely enjoy some peace and quiet, especially at this time.

DONNA-LYNN KOVIC, CLARKE AVE.

Editor's note: To be fair, I don't think that the city is able to time other entities' projects if they meet the city's existing statutory criteria, and even less so in the case of more powerful governments like the province (via the French-language school “service centre”) at St. Leon and the city of Montreal for the de Maisonneuve water work. – DP

INSULATE HOUSES INSTEAD OF BANNING FIREPLACES

The year that Montreal decided to ban the use of fireplaces, I happened to be listening to the CBC, which was interviewing a scientist who had just returned from the Paris climate conference.

This gentleman scoffed the whole notion of prohibiting the use of fireplaces, and essentially said it was going to make little difference to the quality of air in the winter, as people for the most part do not heat their homes with fireplaces.

The biggest problem he cited to the air quality was the volume of old housing stock in cities such as Montreal that have not been properly maintained, and/or brought up to date: addition of insulation, efficient heating systems etc.

The scientists referred to these types of buildings as “leaky.” Due to their inefficiency, they account for 30 percent of emissions in the air during the winter season! I was astounded when I heard how

high that percentage was.

So rather than ban the use of fireplaces, and let common sense prevail, perhaps the city might give further encouragement to property owners, single-family and multiple dwellings, to update their properties and render them as eco-friendly and energy efficient as possible

C. D. CUMMING, NDG

NO TO FIREPLACE BAN

I strongly endorse your editorial (April 20, p. 6) exposing the foolishness of the latest manifestation of the feel-good craze – ban all fireplaces. It's as if someone made a list of the last remaining small pleasures and was taking fiendish delight in crossing them off one by one. I sincerely trust city council will have the fortitude not to give in to this latest attack on our freedoms.

ROBERT COWLING, PARKMAN PLACE

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE IS MEETING, WOOD SMOKE IS HARMFUL

I thank you, Mr. Price, for your continued publication of our columns in the *Independent* under the “Westmount Healthy City Project” heading.

I wish to point out that – contrary to the note printed after Heather Black's interview

with Susan Grundy, our former Environment Committee chair, on April 20, p. 20 – our committee is indeed back to meeting via Zoom, and is connecting to press forward with environmental concerns. That note also said that Councillor Marina Brzeski called our committee to meet “last week.” She was not at our last meeting.

Sir, your editorial – April 20, p. 6 – addressed a column by one of our members (March 30, p. 20) on fireplace wood smoke and its toxicity. Our committee members are dedicated to data. The Canadian government just this year spelled out woodsmoke harm on its site *Wood Smoke – Canada.ca*. Environnement Québec is also clear; see *Chauffage au bois- pas aussi “inoffensive.”*

Susan Grundy exemplifies the excellence and commitment all the members on our committee have, and have had, and we wish her every success. I hold each member in the highest esteem! Westmounters can be very grateful for all they have done and continue to do to protect our local, and global ecology.

H. LEIN, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

Editor's reply: More references to general studies by allegedly august entities. What effect have the wood-fire chimneys of Westmounters had on health? – DP.



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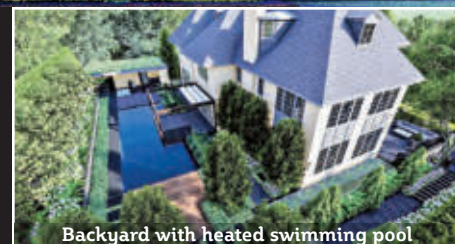
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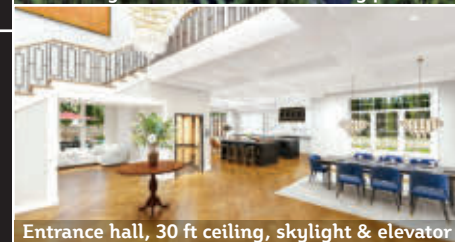
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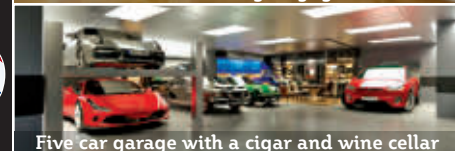
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Remember – and count – our returning migratory birds



ECOWatch
HEATHER BLACK

At the April 6 city council meeting, Councillor Cynthia Lulham reminded citizens to leash their dogs in Summit Woods until mid-June to protect migratory birds. With bird populations decreasing, it is important to follow and uphold this legislation.

Population decline

Many of us visit Summit Woods each spring to hear the songbirds and catch a glimpse of the many warblers *en route* to nesting sites. Although the park is considered a bird sanctuary, dogs off leash ensure that there are no ground-nesting birds. While the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Birds Canada estimates that cats kill between 100 to 350 million birds, dogs also reduce numbers. Researchers Peter B. Banks and Jessica Bryant found that even walking dogs on leash in a wooded park led to a 37-percent decline in bird species with a 41-percent



Canada geese at the Westmount Park lagoon on April 9.

decline in bird numbers. But dogs off leash, in particular, can attack birds. Last August in Outremont, a duck's beak was partially torn off while she was protecting her young. While Montreal has cracked down on off-leash dogs – three tickets and lose your dog licence – in Westmount, the situation is becoming worse. One solution is for the city to create a pet-free zone in the southwest corner of Summit Woods and behind the washrooms in Westmount Park. Another is to ask park goers to register – a requirement at New York's High Line park

or McGill's Morgan Arboretum. But citizens can also do their part by responding to Environment Canada and Climate Change's online bird pledge. The first item is, of course, "supervise my pet outdoors" followed by "make my windows bird safe." Others include buying sustainable products – no pesticides or chemical fertilizers – and to plant "bird-friendly yards," which include native grasses for nesting materials or blossoms with winter seed pods. But why should you care? First of all, birds fulfill important ecological roles from

pest control to pollen or plant dispersal on the wings of a Baltimore oriole or mallards' feet. And second, as we are also evolutionary creatures, researcher Danielle M. Ferraro recently determined that the restorative value of time in nature is directly linked to bird song – the cheery call of a cardinal or robin. The bird pledge also reminds citizens to support conservation efforts such as the May 8, Big Day count at ebird.org. Participating in citizen science helps identify species at risk. *The State of Canada's Birds 2019* report records that the number of aerial insectivores – such as Westmount Park's eastern kingbirds – has declined 59 percent since 1970 and that the insectivores and meadow birds now constitute 80 percent of threatened or endangered species. **Count and be counted** By-laws requiring dogs to be leashed are well founded, not only for birds, but to protect other dogs and citizens. Please respect our regulations and report offenders to Westmount Public Security. And on May 8, celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by signing Canada's bird pledge or watching for – and recording – the return of our feathered friends.



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We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



There are many reasons to get vaccinated, including protecting ourselves from the complications and dangers caused by infectious diseases, but also to stop the return of infectious diseases that are avoidable through vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign now underway is aimed at preventing serious complications and death from COVID-19. We also use vaccination as a way of protecting our healthcare system and getting back to a more normal life.

When did the vaccination campaign start?

COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 with the delivery of the first vaccine doses. Because the availability of vaccine is limited, categories of people deemed at higher risk of developing COVID-19 complications have been given priority. As more vaccine becomes available in Canada, the categories of recipients will be extended.

Order of priority of recipients of COVID-19 vaccines

- 1 Vulnerable people and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) or in intermediate and family-type resources (RI-RTFs)
- 2 Workers in the health and social services network who have contact with users
- 3 Autonomous or semi-autonomous people who live in private seniors' homes (RPAs) or in certain closed residential facilities for older adults
- 4 Isolated and remote communities
- 5 People 80 years of age or older
- 6 People 70 to 79 years of age
- 7 People 60 to 69 years of age
- 8 Adults under 60 years of age who have a chronic disease or health problem that increases the risk of complications of COVID-19
- 9 Adults under 60 years of age who do not have a chronic disease or health problem that increases the risk of complications, but who provide essential services and have contact with users
- 10 Everyone else in the general population at least 16 years of age

What supply strategy was used to acquire the vaccines?

The Government of Canada signed advance purchase agreements for seven promising COVID-19 vaccines with the following companies: AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Medicago, Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer and Sanofi Pasteur/GlaxoSmithKline. The purchases are conditional upon approval of these vaccines by Health Canada.

To date, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been approved for distribution in Canada. Soon, other vaccines from these companies will be used to speed up COVID-19 vaccination.



What types of COVID-19 vaccines are being studied?

There are three types of vaccine currently being studied.

- 1 mRNA vaccines:** These vaccines contain part of the RNA of the virus which has the ability to make the S protein located on the surface of the virus. Once the RNA messenger is inside our cells, they make proteins similar to those on the surface of the virus using the instructions provided by the RNA messenger. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it. The RNA fragment is quickly destroyed by cells. There is no risk that this RNA will alter our genes.
- 2 Viral vector vaccines:** These contain a weakened version of a virus that is harmless to humans. Once in the body, the vaccine enters our cells and gives them instructions to make protein S. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it. Once in the body, the vaccine enters our cells and gives them instructions to make protein S. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it.
- 3 Protein subunit vaccines:** These contain non-infectious fragments of proteins that mimic the envelope of the virus. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it.

Will an mRNA vaccine alter our genetic code?

No. Messenger RNA does not enter the cell's nucleus or come into contact with the nucleic DNA. As such, it cannot alter our DNA in any way.

How do COVID-19 vaccines work?

When someone receives the vaccine against the virus that causes COVID-19, their body starts to defend itself against the virus. An immune reaction occurs which neutralizes the virus producing antibodies and activating defense cells.

Most COVID-19 vaccines in development prompt the production of antibodies to block protein S; the protein that allows the virus to infect the human body. This prevents the virus from entering and infecting human cells.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is composed of strands of ribonucleic acid (RNA) genetic material surrounded by a crown-like envelope with proteins that include the S (spike) protein, hence the name "coronavirus."



What side effects can be expected from injection with the COVID-19 vaccine?

Some minor side effects may occur, such as redness or pain at the injection site and fatigue, fever or chills. These symptoms are less common among vaccine recipients over the age of 55, are usually benign and do not last long.

As of now there are no known serious side effects from mRNA vaccines. While other random problems may arise, such as a cold or gastroenteritis, they are not related to the vaccine per se.

Because the vaccine does not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus, it is not capable of causing COVID-19. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or within 14 days of receiving the vaccination could still develop symptoms and get the COVID-19 disease.

As such, following health measures remains important until such time as a majority of the population has been vaccinated.

Why did it take 40 years to develop a flu vaccine but only nine months for one against COVID-19?

Past efforts, particularly during the SARS epidemic in 2003, advanced coronavirus vaccine research and accelerated the fight against COVID-19.

There are currently over 50 COVID-19 vaccines undergoing clinical trials around the world, the result of unprecedented scientific cooperation. Considerable financial and human resources have been invested in the development of vaccines that meet regulatory requirements in such a short span of time.

Public health and regulatory authorities in many countries, including Canada, are working hard to ensure that as many safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines as possible become quickly available to their populations.

Why are two vaccine doses required?

The second dose "reminds" the immune system to continue producing antibodies and ensures long-term protection. In current circumstances, where COVID-19 is spreading very fast, administration of the second dose may be delayed somewhat to be able to vaccinate more people with the first dose.

[Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine](https://quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine)

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ALL-TIME RECORD SALE ON ROCKLAND ROAD



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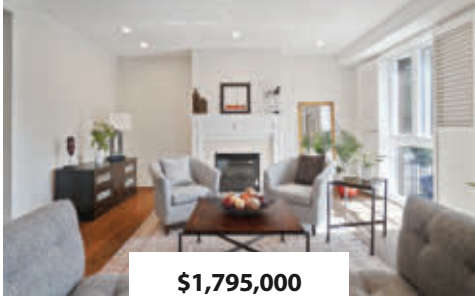
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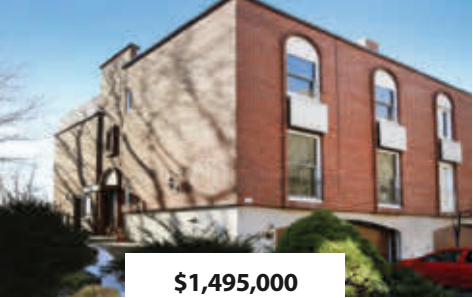
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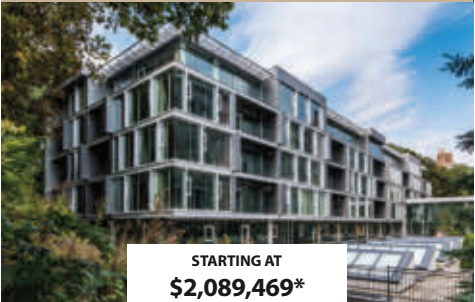
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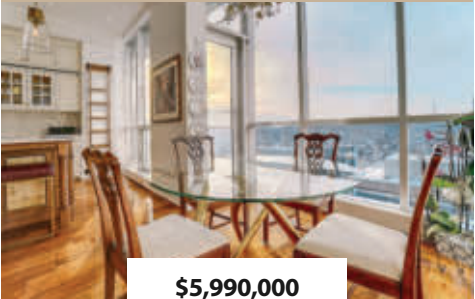


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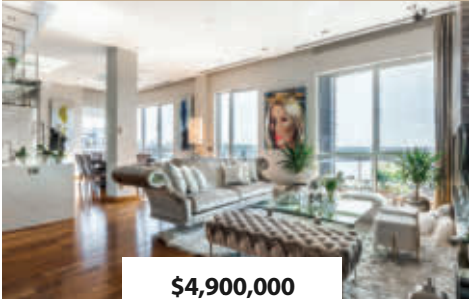
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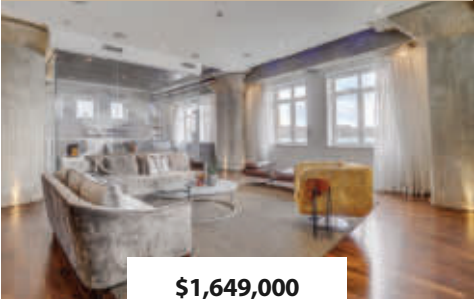
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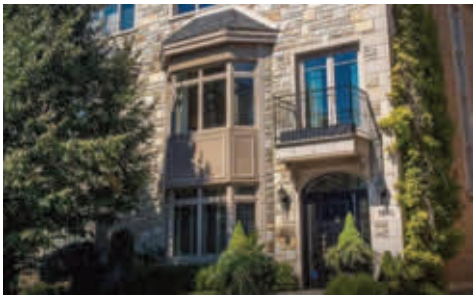
Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in October 2020

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
17 Anwoth	Lynne Andrea Goldberg	\$2,240,000	\$2,049,800	9.3%
421 Argyle	Mengyun Hao	\$1,930,000	\$2,100,000	-8.1%
559 Argyle	Hanhoui Sun & Ping Wang	\$1,950,000	\$2,010,900	-3.0%
659 Belmont	Benoit Desjardins	\$1,955,000	\$1,912,400	2.2%
4298 Dorchester	Lawrence Henri Moquette	\$2,050,000	\$1,727,200	18.7%
25 Forden	Mark Lorne Wiltzer & Jacqueline Gelber	\$4,500,000	\$5,109,700	-11.9%
631 Grosvenor	Adam Shine & Brigitte Roy	\$2,070,000	\$2,014,700	2.7%
699 Grosvenor	Rong Tian Hai	\$2,000,000	\$1,718,600	16.4%
120 Irvine	Jeff Clarke	\$1,200,000	\$871,700	37.7%
622 Murray Hill	Nicholas Niro	\$2,380,000	\$1,940,200	22.7%
40 Oakland	Nicholas F. Martire & Willamina Graham Leus	\$3,380,000	\$2,760,100	22.5%
485 Roslyn	Charles William Fox & Patricia Ann Cloran	\$2,288,000	\$1,866,600	22.6%
24 Springfield	Springfield S.S.C.	\$1,505,000	\$1,213,600	24.0%
476 Strathcona	Barbara Gael Eakin	\$2,150,000	\$1,896,800	13.3%
65 Summit Crescent	estate David Reich	\$2,400,000	\$2,504,300	-4.2%
4698 Westmount Ave.	Portes et Fenêtres Hickson Inc.	\$2,050,000	\$1,762,300	16.3%
9 Willow	Dominique Amar	\$2,658,000	\$1,396,300	90.4%
37 Windsor	Paule Vaillancourt & André de Montigny	\$1,375,000	\$1,140,400	20.6%
CONDOMINIUMS				
37 Bruce	Jean-Philippe Lapointe & Catherine Lalonde	\$752,000	\$670,600	12.1%
351 Clarke	Jennifer Josephine Chadwick	\$750,000	\$826,100	-9.2%
11 Hillside #103	May Julie Mahfood	\$735,000	\$573,700	28.1%
11 Hillside #104	Ji Li	\$590,000	\$467,000	26.3%
200 Lansdowne #506	estate Karma Merne Perry	\$995,000	\$1,030,000	-3.4%
3127 St. Antoine	Alexandra Popa	\$525,000	\$410,000	28.0%
SHARE SALES				
65-67 Hallowell, 46.8%	Gregory Christie & Nancy Essebeg	\$785,000	\$508,903	54.3% ¹
65-67 Hallowell, 53.2%	Elizabeth Hasse	\$872,000	\$578,497	50.7% ²
4642-46 St. Catherine, 44%	Vincenzo Domenico Ciampi	\$828,100	\$679,360	21.9% ³

1 Exclusive use of 67 Hallowell. Valuation is 46.8% of \$1,087,400. 2 Exclusive use of 65 Hallowell. Valuation is 53.2% of \$1,087,400. 3 Exclusive use of 4642 St. Catherine. Valuation is 44% of \$1,544,000.



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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

October transfers: Record high total

ket returned after a springtime pause because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As citizens started spending more time at home, and realizing the pandemic was not going to end overnight, the value of residential real estate started to soar, not just locally but across the country.

The Westmount totals for October include 12 sales over \$2 million – also a record for any month in 2020 – with a top price of \$4,500,000 for 25 Forden Ave., though that was a considerable mark-down of almost 12 percent compared to its municipal valuation of \$5,109,700, the biggest of four mark-downs in the month.

Despite the fact that October also heralded the highest mark-up of 2020 to date – at 9 Willow Ave. – the average mark-up dropped to 11.3 percent from 15.1 percent in September and 16.3 percent in August registrations. The average mark-ups have kept the value of the “average” Westmount house above \$2 million per month during the entire year 2020.

Six condominium sales *continued on p. 20*

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in October 2020, gleaned from non-city sources. Because this is an unofficial list, The Independent may publish more sales registered in October at a later date. The list of sales researched by us can be found on p. 18.

Westmount buyers paid out \$40,081,000 to buy 18 one- and two-family dwellings in October 2020, the highest monthly dollar amount in Westmount's history, and the highest volume of sales during the year-to-date. Just as a reference, buyers spent \$40,444,790 – about the same amount – in the entire year of 1978 on 451 Westmount sales, the highest unit volume since we started keeping records in 1975.

The 18 sales roughly represent sales negotiated by agents in July and August, which is when the Westmount sales mar-



25 Forden on April 26.



120 Irvine on April 26.



9 Willow on April 26.



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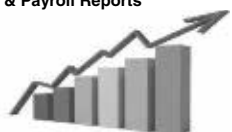


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Finishing westbound portion for another \$1M

Contract awarded for repaving, sidewalks on Dorchester

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council awarded a contract April 19 for the asphalt re-paving of Dorchester westbound between Greene and St. Catherine at Clarke. The project went to Eurovia Quebec Construction at a maximum of \$1,051,138 including taxes.

While not specifically mentioned in the resolution, the work also includes reconstruction of the sidewalks, repair to two

underground Hydro Westmount chambers and some hydro conduits, according District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez.

This was the lowest conforming bid of six, the highest coming in at \$1,337,283. Another, at \$1,223,172 came from Ventec, which last year did similar work on the westbound portion from Atwater to Greene at a maximum bid of \$784,072.

The eastbound portion of the street was repaved in 2015. Until last year, major work on Dorchester and the median had been virtually on hold since the public consultation meetings of 2016 on the creation of a vision for the potential development of the southeast sector, which included the city's Tupper parking lots immediately north of the street. It also involved the proposed narrowing of Dorchester (see story June 21, 2016, p. 1)

More recently, since December, two changes in traffic on the eastbound side have already taken place. These are the addition of a pedestrian-controlled push-button crosswalk at Clandeboye and a strip for resident-parking from Clandeboye to Greene (see story April 20, p. 5).

Liu found items in dining room cabinet

RETURNED: Perlman's 1983 golden anniversary mementos

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

When Sydenham Ave. resident Penny Liu took home a dining room cabinet her family had bought at a local estate sale during the summer last year, she wasn't expecting to find anything in it.

So, it came as quite a surprise to Liu when she realized that in one of the drawers of the cabinet were clues that had seemingly been left behind by the previous owner: an old printed brochure for a family event long ago, with pictures.

Written on the cover was "Sophie and Marcus Perlman, Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, June 1983."

Inside were dozens of printed pictures from their childhood, their youth and happy times with their sons and grandchildren.

From what Liu could see, it was an album marking the couple's golden wedding anniversary in 1983. Inscribed under one of the pictures were the following lines of verse (attributed to Henry Van Dyke):

*Time is... Too slow for those who wait,
Too swift for those who fear,
Too long for those who grieve,
Too short for those who rejoice;
But for those who love, time is not.*

She told the *Independent* she wanted to return the items to the family and was hoping to locate them.

"These are things that have no real value for me," she said. "But I think that for this couple or their children, this would be a good memory."

Several hours after we interviewed her, Liu contacted the *Independent* to inform us that she had succeeded (with the help of a Westmount-area real estate broker) in locating a member of the Perlman family.

Daniel Perlman gratefully picked up the items Liu had found.

In a phone interview, Daniel said he was surprised to learn from Liu that his family's items had been left behind in the dining room cabinet drawer. "Marcus Perlman was actually my grandfather's brother," he said, noting that the couple were his great-aunt and great-uncle.

See p. 1 for photo.



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and caught him in the act, intercepted the suspect at the cash and instructed him to follow to another area of the store.

According to the police report, the suspect stated he was "not going to jail," dropped the bag and ran off.

When the guard pursued and attempted

Police report, cont'd. from p. 9

to subdue him, the suspect is alleged to have struck him with a fist, then fled southward along Victoria Ave.

All the stolen items in the bag were recovered, and the police have a good description of the suspect based on images captured by security cameras in the store.

Transfers, cont'd. from p. 19

were registered last October, all under \$1 million and with an average mark-up of 9.3 percent. The "stall" caused by the pandemic meant there were only four sales in the second quarter of the year (April-June) but then 11 in the third quarter, with prices as high as \$2,025,000, so we have to wait

to see how the fourth-quarter volume and prices compare to those statistics.

Also sold were three shares of buildings, two involving the upstairs and downstairs units (both two storeys) at 65/67 Hollowell St., then one floor at 4642-46 St. Catherine St., a triplex.

Store robbed

A retail business located at Westmount Square was robbed of cash during a break-in on April 25 sometime around 6:15 pm after the perpetrator tore a door security grill from its moorings in the wall.

According to the police report, the suspect went straight to the cash register, from which he took money left behind by the owner. After looking at security footage captured by cameras belonging to the merchant and Westmount Square, the investigators were able to get a rough idea of what the suspect looked like.

"We have descriptions of the suspect and it is under investigation," said Pimentel.

Bicycle stolen

On April 27 around 4 pm, an intruder unlawfully entered the garage of an apartment building at the corner of Grosvenor Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. where he stole a Triban-brand bicycle. The police report didn't say whether the bike was locked, nor how the suspect got into the garage.

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infoWESTMOUNT

2021.05.04 • Vol. 2/9

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount**NOUVELLES**PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL**Lundi 7 juin****NEWS**NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING**Monday, June 7th****COVID-19 : mises à jour de l'admissibilité à la vaccination**


La prise de rendez-vous pour obtenir la vaccination est désormais accessible à de nouveaux groupes de population. Renseignez-vous à santemontreal.qc.ca et à ciussscentreouest.ca.

COVID-19 vaccination availability updates


Appointments to receive the vaccination are now open to new population groups. Find out more at santemontreal.qc.ca and at ciussscentreouest.ca.

Ajout de cours de tennis en soirée

En raison de modifications au couvre-feu, le Service des sports et loisirs a ajouté des cours de tennis supplémentaires en soirée. Les places sont limitées. Inscriptions : westmount.org.

Parc Prince-Albert : aire de jeux fermée

La nouvelle aire de jeux demeure fermée en attente de conditions météorologiques spécifiques pour assurer l'installation appropriée de la surface de sécurité. Merci de votre compréhension. westmount.org

Bois Summit : chiens en laisse

D'ici le 15 juin, les chiens doivent être tenus en

laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au bois Summit. westmount.org

Système d'alerte à la communauté

Pannes d'électricité, fuites de gaz, avis d'ébullition de l'eau : ne manquez pas les avertissements d'urgence de la Ville. Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant pour recevoir les alertes CodeRED de Westmount par téléphone, par courriel ou par texto. westmount.org.

Séances du conseil en direct sur Zoom

Les séances du Conseil sont maintenant diffusées en direct sur Zoom. westmount.org

Evening tennis lessons added

Due to changes to the curfew directives, the Sports & Recreation Department has added extra evening tennis lessons. Space is limited. For details and registration, visit westmount.org.

Prince Albert Park: play area closed

The new play area will remain closed until the specific weather conditions occur that are required for the appropriate installation and curing of the safety surface. Thank you for your understanding. westmount.org

Summit Woods: dogs on leash

Until June 15, dogs in Summit Woods must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES. westmount.org

Community alert system

Power outages, gas leaks, or boil water advisories: don't miss important emergency notifications from the City. Sign up now to receive Westmount's CodeRED alerts by phone, by email or by text. westmount.org.

Council meetings live on Zoom

Council sittings are now streamed live on Zoom. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE**Service de cueillette sans contact**

Réservez vos items en ligne ou par courriel; vous aurez 3 jours pour les ramasser. Horaire :
Lundi et mercredi : 13 h à 17 h
Mardi et jeudi : 13 h à 19 h
Vendredi : 10 h à 17 h.

Service de recommandations de livres

Remplissez le formulaire en ligne pour recevoir une liste de livres recommandés. westlib.org

Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel aux artistes

Invitation aux artistes de Westmount pour la saison 2021-2022 de la Galerie. **Date limite : 11 mai 2021.** Info : galerieart@westmount.org ou 514 989-5265. westmount.org

Bibliothèque de semences

Semences gratuites pour les membres : faites une demande en ligne ou par téléphone et venez récupérer vos semences à la Bibliothèque. Choisissez parmi plus de 50 variétés de plantes, incluant fines herbes, fleurs, légumes et plusieurs variétés patrimoniales. westlib.org

Conférence - La Mongolie : à la rencontre des peuples nomades

Lundi 10 mai, 14 h, sur Zoom. Évadez-vous en découvrant le charme de la Mongolie avec le grand voyageur Pierre-Luc Côté. Ayez votre téléphone intelligent avec vous car cette conférence sera interactive. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Soirée de quiz virtuel

Samedi 15 mai, 19 h - 20 h, en ligne. Jouez sur votre ordinateur ou votre appareil mobile. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Trousses de bricolages pour enfants

Lundi 17 mai. Inscris-toi pour participer à un atelier de bricolage à faire chez toi. Une trousse te sera remise à la Bibliothèque. Inscription obligatoire à westlib.org.

L'heure du conte en ligne

Découvrez des contes racontés par des employés sur la chaîne YouTube de la Bibliothèque.

LIBRARY**Contactless pickup service**

Reserve items online or by email; you will have 3 days to pick up your items. Pickup schedule:
Monday and Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 1-7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Book recommendation service

Fill out an online form to receive a list of recommended books. westlib.org

Gallery at Victoria Hall: call to artists

Westmount artists are invited to apply for the Gallery's 2021-2022 season. **Deadline: May 11, 2021.** Info: galerieart@westmount.org or 514 989-5265. westmount.org

Seed Library pickup service

Free seeds for members: make a request online or by phone and pick up your seeds at the Library. Choose from more than 50 varieties of plants, including herbs, flowers, vegetables and heirloom varieties. westlib.org

Lecture - La Mongolie : à la rencontre des peuples nomades

Monday, May 10, 2 p.m., on Zoom (in French). Discover the charm of Mongolia with traveller Pierre-Luc Côté. Keep your smartphone nearby for an interactive activity. Register on Eventbrite.

Virtual Quiz Night

Saturday, May 15, 7 - 8 p.m., online. Play on your computer or mobile device. Register at westlib.org.

Take and Make Crafts for Kids

Monday, May 17. Sign up for a fun craft kit to do at home! Kits will be available for curbside pickup. Pre-registration required at westlib.org.

Storytime online

Listen to stories read by staff on the Library's YouTube channel.



Montreal ranks low for disabled access, Shepherd tells Rotarians

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Montreal is one of the least accessible cities in North America for the physically disabled and well behind comparable cities internationally, an advocate for the disabled, who left Montreal partly for that reason, told members of the Rotary Club of Westmount on April 28.

John Shepherd, who is currently completing a PhD in rehabilitation sciences at the University of Toronto, was the Westmount Rotarians' weekly online speaking guest.

A former Montrealer, he has lived with a spinal chord injury for 15 years, during which time he had a chance to observe shortcomings in society that persons with disabilities must face.

Shepherd rated Montreal as "one of the least accessible major cities in North America and well behind its peers internationally." He suggested that the lack of accessibility might best be seen in the public transit network of the Société de transport de Montréal (STM).

"The ramps in the buses are notoriously poorly maintained. Drivers are unhelpful," he said, while maintaining that although the claims are "anecdotal," they are based on a large amount of testimony and advocacy by a number of different user groups.



Seen here on April 28 while addressing the Westmount Rotarians, former Montrealer John Shepherd said Montreal is one of the least accessible North American cities for persons with disabilities.

cacy by a number of different user groups.

Shepherd said "the clear and unmistakable reality" is that only 16 of the STM's 68 Metro stations have wheelchair elevator access. "And the reality of using the Metro is even worse than that, when you think about the fact that most interchange or transfer stations are not accessible."

Shepherd said that part of the reason he decided to leave Montreal was the unfriendliness of its subterranean public transit system. He said that for a physically disabled person, getting around Montreal "is exceptionally challenging and part of the reason why I'm not there right now." Noting that he was speaking on the anniversary of the opening of Expo '67 54 years earlier, Shepherd said the Montreal world's fair "was a model of accessibility" where many state-of-the-art innovations were introduced for the disabled.

He said that during Expo '67, when special "disabled" signage and adapted washrooms were among the innovations, this "could have ushered in a future that didn't happen and is bittersweet to think about."

Shepherd's consuming interest in disability issues goes back to an evening in February 2003. As he was driving from Montreal to Boston along Interstate 89, he hit a patch of black ice; his vehicle left the road, flipped; and he suffered a spinal chord injury, resulting in his becoming a quadriplegic.

While the accident changed his career plans and employment prospects, it was also around then that he decided to live in Toronto rather than in Montreal, "because of the lack of accessibility" in this city, he said.

Apart from his own experiences and the conclusions he came to as a result, he pointed out that many other people with disabilities "are not able to participate fully in society, and the results are a huge injustice and, just as importantly, a phenomenal lost human potential."

Summer camps, cont'd. from p. 1

limited kids to training only, attracted 325 between the ages of 5 and 16. This compares to the usual 900-1,000 when the games were allowed.

Field drainage a problem

"We've had trouble with the fields this year," Lapointe said, attributing it to heavy snow and drainage problems on the big Melville field.

The practices were scheduled from May 1 to June 19.

A breakdown of some of the summer camp results showed that 67 of the 70 spots in the first two-week session were quickly

filled along with another 143 of 210 spots in the three subsequent sessions, when registrants were limited to one session only as an initial choice in order to ensure that everyone could have at least one session.

The demand for tennis lessons came quickly across all age groups and was quite unexpected. "We have a lot of lessons in various age groups and almost all were almost full within a few days of registration."

In an effort to make physical activity available, the Westmount Recreation Centre has been kept open for general skating and stick-and-puck by reservation.

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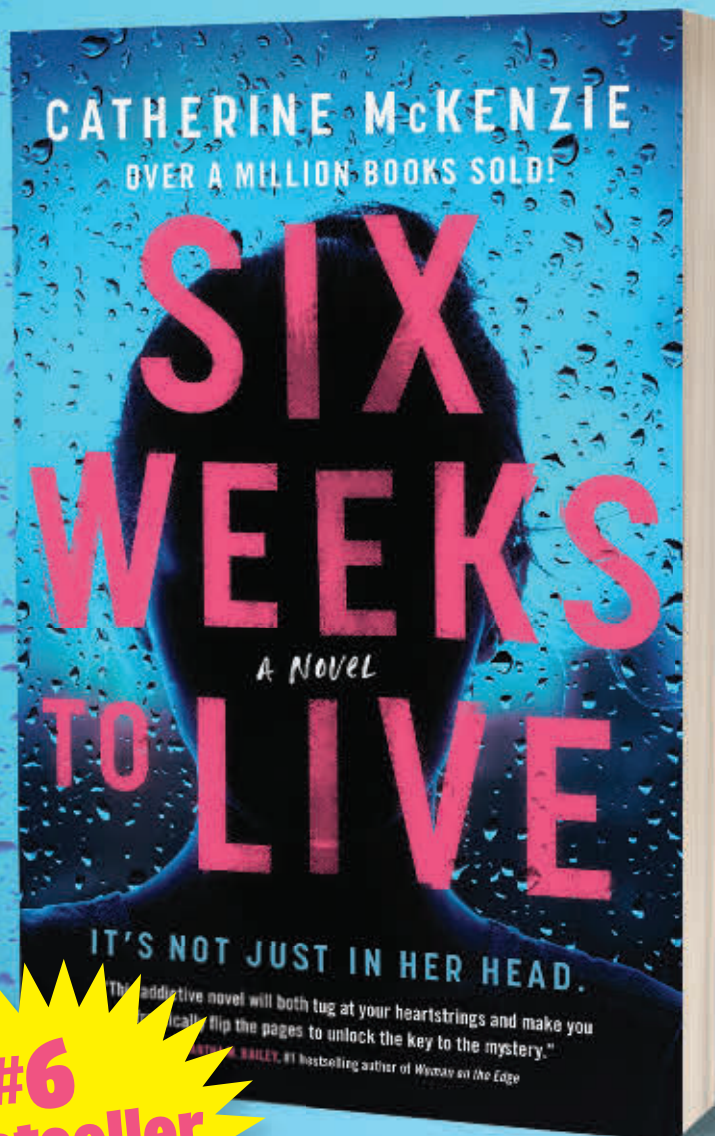
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Mother's Day

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Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE

A delicious shop on Greene Ave. has been a local go-to destination for almost a year. L'Art Glacier par Roland del Monte was launched by owner Daphne Tsadilas-Shamie last June. Working with renowned pastry chef Roland del Monte, formerly with the prestigious Sofitel's Renoir restaurant and honoured in France, she reported that the ice cream parlour has "exceeded expectations. There is now a staff of 10, growing to 15."

And it's no wonder. Not only are small batches of artisanal ice-creams and sorbets delivered fresh daily, the boutique offers a mouth-watering array of munchies: chocolate brownies (zinged with zest of orange), pretty macarons and meringues, flans, and lemon maple cake.

Oh. And jams. That there is a touch of maple in many of the delicacies makes

sense. The award-winning Del Monte is an ambassador for the maple producers of Quebec. This delightful little spot offers doggies an outside water dish. But dogs love sweets too, so now cappuccino is offered to four-legged guests.

The array of smoothies, milk-shakes, iced coffee and lattes offered contribute to making the shop a magnet for those who love to stop to enjoy and chat – like Italians with their *gelato*. But how has it fared post-lock-downs? It's back to being a family place. People stroll over for dessert!"

The charm of the shop is not only in the mouth-watering quality; there is a lovely, soft pastel feel. Indeed, Daphne arrived in a beautiful pistachio-hued shirt and the staff wears peony-pink masks. It is a soothing stop before one rushes back to concrete and never-ending COVID news.

The shop's reputation has grown throughout the city. Daphne partnered with Fou d'Ici for lunch sandwiches. And this summer her wonderful wares will be sold in Old Montreal at the Fou d'Ici shop. Favoured flavours to date? Mango, blueberry and strawberry mint sorbets, and chocolate and *continued on p. 26*

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Happy Mother's Day



A Mother's Day retrospective: Daphne Tsadilas-Shamie with daughters Francesca, Sophia, Chloe and Alexa, and husband, city councillor Jeff Shamie, in front of her shop on July 5. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



la cookery

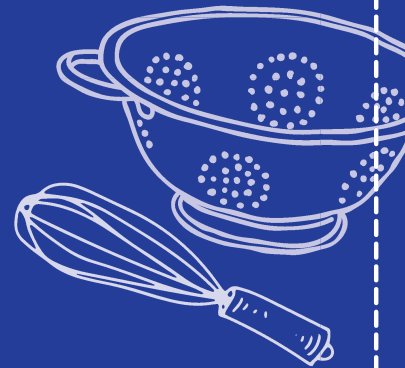
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From left, Daphne Tsadlias-Shamie and Evelyne Renzi.

Return to Retail, cont'd. from p. 24

maple pecan ice cream sell out quickly. Yet on some days, the coconut disappears quickly. All are best enjoyed with a topping of special sprinkles.

PS: Lactose-free and nut-free goodies are offered, and a vegan vanilla-chocolate sorbet

is “in the works.”

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Cooking with Athena, Grégoire Trudeau & Londono

Westmount resident Tatiana Londono, along with other board members at Shield of Athena, announced the launch of a cookbook in time for Mother's Day. Sophie Grégoire Trudeau opens *Recipes and Stories from Athena's Kitchen* with a foreword. The 34 recipes represent 20 different countries. 100 percent of the proceeds will support Shield of Athena, a non-profit organization for victims of family violence, offering emergency shelter and professional services to women and their children. Shieldofathena.com



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Isha is very pretty, with a soft grey striped coat and unique little white face with a grey cap. Her huge gold-tone eyes are striking and she is memorable.

Isha is available for adoption from the Montreal SPCA cattery, ready for her forever family to take her home as soon as possible. She is very healthy at seven years of age, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

Please refer to her identification number 47563426 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at



the SPCA.
Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is Lucky, smiling and looking forward to a new family life getting to know other Westmount dogs in all their fun activities with family and doggie buddies.

Lucky is at the Montreal SPCA kennel, a wonderful sweet fellow who is happy and fun. He is six years seven months old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please refer to his identification number 44143102 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.



Your neighbour,
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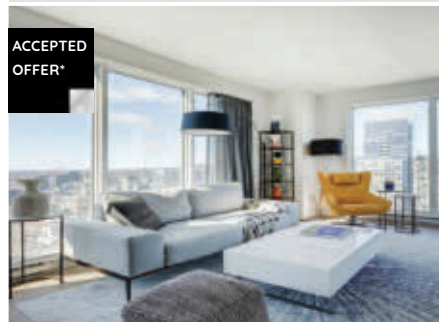
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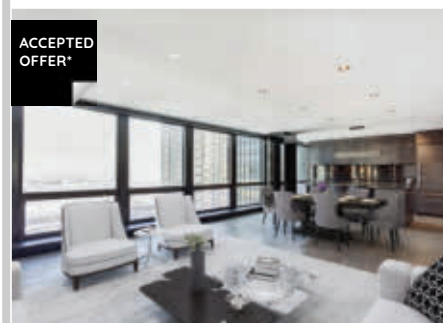
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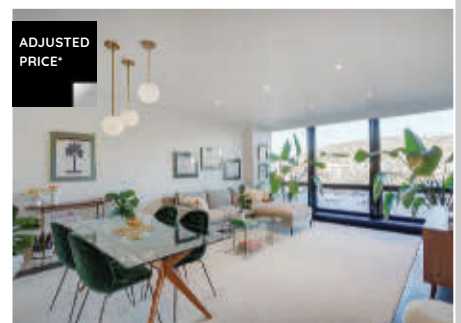
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