

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 9c

We are Westmount

September 20, 2022

14-0 soccer season for U10 boys



Westmount Soccer Club players, from left, back row: Teo Parnet-Hanczakowski (assistant coach), Campbell Bailey, Noah Richards, Samir Alrefai, Tianyou Liu, Jonah Souweine, Lucas Simon-Padilla, Jules Parnet-Hanczakowski, Benjamin Ansari, Yanis Bensouda, Evan Long and Alejandro Cardot (coach); front row: Justin Stamos, Henry Hunter, Lucas Jans, David Patriquin, William Ghattas, Cristobal Cardot, and Oliver Heathcote. Not pictured: Felix Christou. See p. 12 for story.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUZANNE OWENS.

Shaar marks 100 years in Westmount



The Shaar Hashomayim synagogue celebrated 100 years to the day in Westmount September 17 with a re-dedication of its sanctuary in memory of Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat. Earlier in the week, Shaar leadership opened a 100-year-old time capsule. See p. 15.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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New property valuation roll made public

The new property valuation roll for the entire island of Montreal was deposited September 14. Residents can see their new valuations by going to: servicesenligne2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sel/evalweb/index.

Property owners are cautioned not to mechanically apply previous municipal tax (or “mille”) rates to their new valuation.

As valuations rise, lower tax rates usual-

ly counteract much of the increase in value's effect on the final tax bill. Indeed, in a theoretical world, if Westmount municipal and Montreal agglomeration spending remained the same, and relative valuations between neighbourhoods and properties did not change, lower tax rates would make for an unchanged final tax bill.

Drivers for changed tax bills are higher local and agglomeration spending, and changes in the assessed relative value of properties. Above-average valuation increases, for instance, will put more of the tax burden on those properties.

**The Beer Review
is back!**

See p. 10



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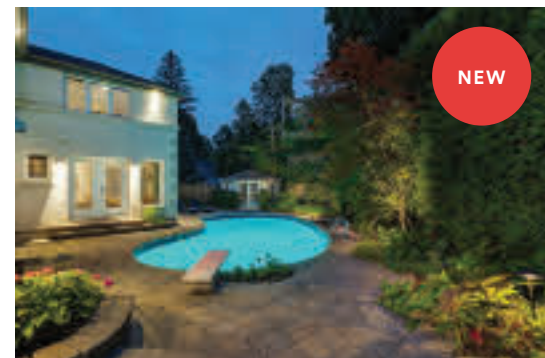
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Cyclist flies over handlebars at speed bump on Roslyn

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 27-year-old NDG cyclist was taken to hospital September 12 after falling in front of 470 Roslyn Ave., according to Public Security officials. He had been riding down the hill at 8:08 pm when a witness, a doctor, said the man had flown over the handlebars at the speed bump and rolled over.

He had been wearing a helmet but injured both shoulders and was taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé. Officers took the bicycle to the Public Security station. Other cyclists have fallen hitting a speed bump on Lansdowne at a similar point in the hill.

Strange sound heard at 12:58 am

When an overnight Public Security patroller heard the sound of a machine on Montrose September 11 at 12:58 am, the officer found a Kubota tractor left running in front of civic number 4455. No one was in attendance. This is described as a small tractor/dumpster used to move earth from the front to the back of a property.

The key was removed, as was one found

in another tractor in the backyard that had not been left running. Both sets of keys were taken back to the Public Security station and notes left behind. The machine came from a rental company.

Lookout opened but not the steps

Two 27-year-old Montreal men were given \$153 tickets when caught drinking beer on the staircase leading down from summit lookout September 12 at 9:30 pm, according to Public Security officials. They had been captured on the city's surveillance camera.

When officers arrived on the scene, they spotted two motorcycles illegally parked on the lookout itself, which had been opened to the public the previous week after a yearlong closure – except for the bottom of the staircase that was still off limits.

'Gravel' ticket = \$454

A contractor was issued a statement of offence for \$454 September 12 on Mt. Stephen for leaving a pile of gravel on the sidewalk, Public Security officials said. The gravel was spotted at 10:35 am. The co-owner of the company doing the work had a valid permit, but admitted it did not allow for any material to be left on the sidewalk or street.

Ticketed for parks curfew, warned about alcohol

A 44-year-old NDG man was given a \$79 ticket for breaking the parks midnight curfew September 13 when seen sitting on a bench at 1:06 am in Westmount Park. He was drinking a beer and in possession of a bottle of wine, for which he was given a warning for a first offence rather than a second ticket. He was described as co-operative and left the park.

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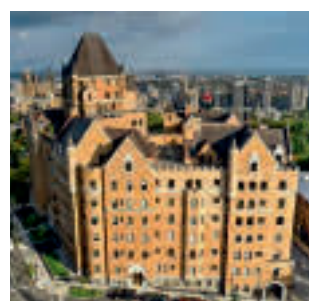
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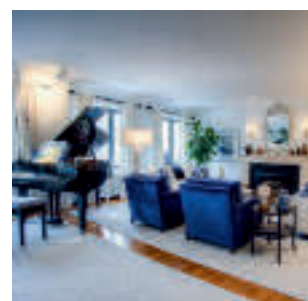
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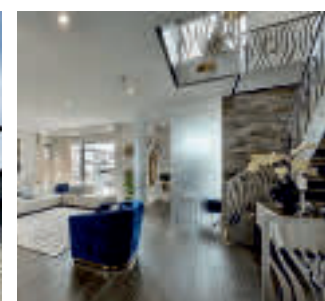
3982 Chemin Côte-des-Neiges, PH-A54, Ville-Marie \$2,999,000
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This 2 story penthouse located in the luxurious The Trafalgar, provides a welcoming atmosphere and panoramic views of the Montreal skyline. Two private terraces, fitness room, valet parking and doorman.



3175 Rue des Outardes, Saint-Laurent \$3,177,000
MLS 14881956 | BEDS : 5 BATH: 3+1

Unique and prestigious property well sited on a 7,500 ft² lot. Inviting backyard is ideal for entertaining and offers a heated saltwater pool, jacuzzi and a huge panoramic balcony/terrace. A must see!





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A Starlit Trip to the Library

Launch of new Katz book to set for StoryWalk Sept. 22

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A sequel to the children’s book by Dawson teacher Andrew Katz *How to Catch a Bear Who Loves to Read* will be launched in Westmount September 22 with a new StoryWalk in Westmount Park.

Hot off the press and called *A Starlit Trip to the Library*, the book features more adventures of Julia with her woodland friends.

These are Bertrand the bear, Abigail the beaver, Scotty the squirrel and others, as they ride on a raft through the forest to the library to get a bedtime story book from the night librarian, Olga the owl. On their voyage of discovery, they learn about stars and constellations.

Into the unknown

“It’s a story about how books take us into the unknown,” Katz said last week. “I was inspired by the poetic words by Emily Dickinson over the fireplace in the library’s Westmount Room that say: ‘There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away,’” he explained.

In the story, Julia had never gone into the forest but was camping with her ani-



mal friends to read them a bedtime story. Just as she discovered she had forgotten the book, Bertrand the bear, floated by on his way to the library and welcomed them aboard.

Song included

This led to their voyage told not only

through lavishly illustrated forestry illustrations by Joseph Sherman but also in a song sung by Julia.

These words appear in the book along with a QR code that can be used to hear the song as sung by Julia and also accessible by Googling the author’s name and “Julia’s Song” or at the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0c7rrwsMgJw

New: A song!

“The song is something we’re introducing,” Katz said. The “we” he refers to is his co-author Juliana Léveillé-Trudel, who wrote the French version simultaneously rather than as a direct translation.

This bilingual aspect has helped the book from Crackboom! Books to become the new StoryWalk in Westmount Park. Both are to be available at the children’s department in the library, according to librarian Wendy Wayling.

Katz has been teaching English and creative writing specializing in children’s literature among other areas. He won the Dawson College Director General’s Award for Teaching Excellence in 2013 (see story October 16, 2018, p. 15).



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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, October 3



Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux le 1^{er} octobre
Samedi 1^{er} octobre, 9 h à 16 h 30, stationnement de la Bibliothèque.
Visitez **westmount.org** pour la liste de matières acceptées. Apportez aussi vos appareils électroniques désuets.

Structures de jeux ouvertes
Les nouvelles structures au terrain de jeux du parc Westmount ont été certifiées sécuritaires et sont ouvertes au public.

Rentrée scolaire : soyez vigilant!
Nous rappelons aux conducteurs de ralentir, de respecter les feux clignotants des autobus scolaires et de faire attention aux étudiants qui traversent les rues. **westmount.org**.

Ouverture du dépôt Belvédère
Le dépôt pour résidus de jardin du ch. belvédère sera ouvert aux entrepreneurs détenant un permis de la Ville à partir du **lundi 26 septembre**.

Kiosque fermier au Square Prince Albert
Les jeudis de 14 h à 18 h. Procurez-vous des légumes biologiques de saison. Le kiosque sera annulé si les conditions météorologiques sont défavorables.

Inscription d'automne en cours
Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant à vos activités préférées de sports et de loisirs. Consultez le guide d'activités à **westmount.org**.

Inscrivez-vous à CodeRED
Recevez les avis critiques de la Ville par téléphone, par texto ou par courriel. Visitez **westmount.org/codered** pour vous inscrire.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection October 1st
Saturday, October 1st, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Parking lot of the Public Library. Visit **westmount.org** to view the list of materials accepted. Bring your unwanted electronics the same day.

Playground structures open
The new structures in the Westmount Park playground have been certified safe and are now open to the public.

Back-to-school safety reminders
We remind drivers to slow down, respect flashing school bus lights, watch for students crossing the street. For more safety advice, visit **westmount.org**.

Belvedere depot to open
The garden waste depot on Belvedere Rd. will be open to landscaping contractors with a City permit beginning **Monday, September 26**.

Farm stand in Prince Albert Square
Thursdays from 2 to 6 p.m. Pick up fresh organic vegetables every Thursday. The farm stand will be canceled if weather conditions are unfavourable.

Registration for fall activities
Register now for your favourite sports and recreation activities. Consult the activity guide online at **westmount.org**.

Sign up for CodeRED
Receive important and critical notices from the City by phone, email or text. Sign up now by visiting **westmount.org/codered**.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Appel de candidatures : Comité de la Bibliothèque publique
Nommés pour trois ans, les candidats retenus devront offrir leurs temps et leurs compétences de façon bénévole dans le but d'aider le comité à remplir son mandat. Soumettez votre lettre de motivation à Anne-Marie Lacombe, directrice, au plus tard le **lundi 3 octobre**. Informations : **mlacombe@westmount.org** / 514 989-5429.

Exposition : Cecilia Torres, Les nuées
Jusqu'au 23 septembre, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Venez rencontrer l'artiste et voir son processus.

Club de films documentaires : la semaine de la vérité et de la réconciliation
Mercredi 21 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Invitée spéciale : Alanis Obomsawin. **westlib.org**.

Lancement du StoryWalk® de l'automne : Voyage de nuit à la bibli
Jeudi 22 septembre, 16 h 30, parc Westmount. Avec les auteurs Andrew Katz et Juliana Léveillé-Trudel. Inscrivez vous à **westlib.org**.

Rencontre d'auteur : Peter Behrens
Samedi 24 septembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Inscrivez-vous à **westlib.org**.

Projection spéciale : Elvis (2022)
Samedi 24 septembre, 18 h, Victoria Hall. Réalisé par Baz Luhrmann. Classé 13 ans et plus. Inscrivez-vous à **westmount.org**.

Ciné-club au Victoria Hall : Belfast (2021)
Mardi 27 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Réalisé par Kenneth Branagh. Inscrivez-vous à **westmount.org**.

Conférence : The irreconcilables: Four Female Filmmakers
Jeudi 29 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec des extraits d'œuvres de Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola, Kathryn Bigelow et Sarah Polley. Inscrivez-vous à **westlib.org**.

Suspension de dons de documents
En raison du volume de dons déjà reçus, la Bibliothèque doit interrompre temporairement son programme de dons.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Call for Candidates: Public Library Committee
Appointed by for a 3-year term, successful candidates are expected to volunteer their time and expertise to help the Committee fulfill its mandate. Submit your letter of interest to Anne-Marie Lacombe, Director, by **Monday, October 3**. Information: 514 989-5429 / **mlacombe@westmount.org**.

Exhibition: Cecilia Torres, Murmurations
Until September 23, Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Documentary Film Club : Truth and Reconciliation Week
Wednesday, September 21, 7 p.m. Library. Special guest: Alanis Obomsawin. **westlib.org**.

Launch of the Autumn StoryWalk®: A Starlit Trip to the Library
Thursday, September 22, 4:30 p.m., Westmount Park. With authors Andrew Katz and Juliana Léveillé-Trudel. Register at **westlib.org**.

Author Event: Peter Behrens
Saturday, September 24, 2 p.m., Library. Register at **westlib.org**.

Special Screening: Elvis (2022)
Saturday, September 24, 6 p.m., Victoria Hall. Directed by Baz Luhrmann. Rated PG-13. Register at **westmount.org**.

Film Club at Victoria Hall : Belfast (2021)
Tuesday, September 27, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. By Kenneth Branagh. Register at **westmount.org**.

Lecture: The irreconcilables: Four Female Filmmakers
Thursday, September 29, 7 p.m., Library. With clips from the works of Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola, Kathryn Bigelow and Sarah Polley. Register at **westlib.org**.

Pause on donations
Due to the volume of materials already accepted, the Library must temporarily pause its donation programme.

Moving ahead with research on glass recycling depots, costs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is moving ahead on requests to establish one or two depots for glass recycling to try to ensure that what is discarded for re-use is actually picked up and used by local industry if possible, Mayor Christina Smith told the city council meeting September 6.

Looking at options

The city is looking at several options she told Richard Dufort of Anwoth, who has been leading the charge for this type of disposal process following reports that once recyclable materials are picked up by a city contractor, some of them may be sent offshore rather than being re-used and diverted from landfill.

"Has the city looked into changing its contractor rather than going to the lowest conforming bidder?" Dufort asked.

Considering containers

Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes sustainable development and citizen engagement, but was not at the meeting due to COVID exposure, told the *Independent* last week the city was moving ahead on considering types of container, location(s) and cost effectiveness

of setting up glass depots.

"We hope we may have a project in place by year end but it might take longer," he said.

The plan would be to continue the option of collecting glass along with paper,

Murray Park water feature, dry for another year?

Single bid way over estimate, city hopes to reduce it

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Efforts for more than five years appear to be ongoing to obtain what amounts to an "affordable" bid to re-construct and re-activate the landmark pond and water feature in King George (Murray) Park. It has been dry since the end of 2016.

In minutes of the city's general committee meeting of August 1 tabled September 6, it was reported that only one bid had been received this summer in a call for tenders and that one was "47 percent higher than the original contract estimate."

As a result, "the city will renegotiate a reduction of the bid price," the minutes state. "The GC members [i.e. general committee members, as city council members

plastics and other recyclable materials from the curbside blue bins but to provide the central option that Dufour and other residents have been seeking.

"We are at the stage of researching the different continued on p. 9

are called when they meet in private] discussed the bid (and) it was suggested that the tender be cancelled if the bid price could not be reduced to the original estimate."

District 2 councillor Elisabeth Roux, for whom refurbishing the park was a major election concern, said last week that fixing the park's hilly pathways and staying on track with the current tree regeneration and replacement were major priorities.

Because of the pending decision to reduce the tender bid for the water feature, the original estimate would not be disclosed, she explained. Previous tender bids had been rejected as restoring the water system was not deemed an immediate priority.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHALLENGE ISSUED TO PRO-HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT PETITIONERS, DEVELOPER, CITY

In response to the [news article about the pro-Hillside development] petition published in the *Independent* (August 30, p. 5), the residents of 11 Hillside Ave. would like to challenge the online petition organizer.

In the virtual world, gathering signatures is easy. Unfortunately, the person who does this activity should be held accountable for the consequence of it.

Our petition signees, on the other hand, are with valid address of the same street – real human beings whose quality of living will be seriously impacted by this project, as the provision for privacy has not been reflected in the design.

We believe that the city has the awareness and understanding to support the residents of Westmount prior to the future buyers of the new condominiums and the building developer.

We acknowledge that the demolition of and reconstruction of the run-down armory is necessary in order to achieve an increase of value to our residential properties within this neighbourhood, and much-needed housing would be catered to families that are downsizing or re-locating to Westmount. Having said that, we continue to urge the designers of the project to take into serious consideration features that would protect the privacy of both the affected occupants of 11 Hillside and of the

new condominium building.

Since demolition would be taking place, perhaps a set-back can be incorporated – not only on the top floors but also from ground up – for the side facing the 11 Hillside residents?

We understand that windows and balconies would allow better air circulation and natural lighting into the residential units of the new building. But at the same time, what use would they be if curtains had to stay drawn in order to protect their own privacy? and if windows and balcony doors had to stay shut to avoid having smells from cooking coming from close neighbouring residences? We would like to remind the developer that these are also selling features buyers look for.

Our main concern and only request is to encourage harmonious and healthy living conditions with our potential new neighbours. We believe that taking into consideration for a set-back for the side of 1-3 Hillside facing 11 Hillside would be a definite win-win solution for the residents of both buildings, the developer and ultimately the city of Westmount.

Hopefully, the [rival] petition organizer would come to a realization that our request is clearly within reason.

In addition, we would like to thank the developer, in advance, for kindly taking this into consideration.

NIMA EBRAHIMZADEH & SUE GOH, ON
BEHALF OF THE SIGNATORIES AND
RESIDENTS OF 11 HILLSIDE AVE.

AGE OF WESTMOUNT HIGH A MORE COMPLEX NUMBER THAN 150

As archivist for the Westmount Historical Association, I would like to comment on the photo caption in the *Independent* regarding celebrations marking “the beginning of Westmount High’s 150th year” (September 6, p. 19).

Although the high school now on St. Catherine St. has a long and proud history, it is itself not a century and a half old. Rather, it is the culmination of nearly 150 years of English public-school education in our community that should be noted and explained.

The origins of our local public school system go back to a re-purposed wooden house on Côte St. Antoine near Clarke where a small number of English children were taught (1873-1875).

It was followed by a modest school on Stanton St. and then a larger one (see photo below), later renamed Côte St. Antoine Academy, with classes up to 7th or 8th grade (1875-1894). For more advanced education, students could attend private schools or the High School of Montreal.

With significantly increased demand, other schools were added to the system. Côte St. Antoine Academy on Côte St. Antoine Rd., built in 1894 and renamed “Westmount Academy” the following year, offered classes for all ages, with some students later qualifying to write the McGill College entrance exams. In addition, several new elementary schools were gradually added to the system to distribute students from increasingly crowded classes.

In 1914, Westmount High School (today’s Westmount Park Elementary building) was built on Academy Rd. and Westmount Academy (renamed “Argyle School”) retained the primary grades.

In 1935, a re-built Argyle School (Selwyn House’s Lucas building of today) took on the intermediate grades from the high school, by then overloaded with students. Another change occurred in 1940 with the senior high returning to the building on Côte St. Antoine and the junior high (i.e.

intermediate level) students taking over the Academy Rd. site. The two schools were merged in 1961 in a new facility on St. Catherine St. – the high school we know today.

JANE MARTIN, WHA ARCHIVIST

TO WHAT END WAS LÉVESQUE CARTOON PUBLISHED?

Dear editor,

You are “on fire” and I agree wholeheartedly with the points made in your editorial of September 13 (“*Gazette’s* René Lévesque cartoon terrible from multiple perspectives,” p. 9).

I was furious with both the cartoonist and the [*Gazette’s*] editor. “To what end was this cartoon published?” was my thought. And you gave form and thrust to my gut reaction.

Two “*glutei*” and forget the “*convivii*.”
MARILYN COOPERMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

CITY NEEDS BROAD EXPERTISE OF SPCA

I doubt that many of your readers know that Westmount has – not so recently – cancelled its service contract with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), thus leaving residents with no critical access to this vital organization.

Having learned about this quite by accident, I called the city and was contacted by the head of Public Security, Mr. [Greg] McBain, who told me that there is no need for SPCA services as it has since contracted with [the Centre canin du Suroît in Vaudreuil-Soulanges] control service instead.

I have been told that when there is a lost animal, the city tries to find the owner, but – if unsuccessful – forwards it to [the Centre canin du Suroît], which keeps it for seven days and then, if not claimed and in good health and not too old, sends it to an adoption agency such as Animatch.

Mr. McBain said that “the good news is that we have not had to use the services to pick up or shelter a dog from Westmount. All dogs we have found have been returned to their owners by Public Security.” But in my experience there is always that “first time.”

However as nominally acceptable as this arrangement has been, I find it odd that one of the richest and highest-taxed municipalities in Canada cannot or will not afford the services of a proven and established animal-welfare leader like SPCA whose range of expertise includes wild animals as well as farm animals and domestic pets – and also employs trained inspectors who pursue animal cruelty reports. Regardless of the city’s claims about the

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The second school on Stanton St. c. 1890.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WHA ARCHIVES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPCA billings, it is certainly true that SPCA has seen a dramatic rise in costs related to care and treatment and services. Thanks to larger post-COVID issues there has been an equally dramatic rise in the number of abandoned and unwanted animals.

Surely our city can find better ways to cut costs than at the expense of sentient beings, who cannot speak for themselves and certainly cannot vote.

ANNA COATES, CLAREMONT AVE.

Editor's note: This letter accurately describes part of the city of Westmount's lost-dog procedure, but omits some of the steps. I would guess that the reason that no dogs have been sent to the Centre canin du Suroît is both the number of well-tagged dogs in and around Westmount, and the effort that Public Security puts into finding owners.

For the record, this is how department director Greg McBain explained the whole procedure to me last week:

"When a dog is found in Westmount and reported to the Public Safety department, our goal is to find the owner and reunite them with their dog.

"When the dog has no identification, messages are sent out to the public via our EMILI dog-tag database, the Westmount

Facebook page, and our Twitter account.

"We also check with a local veterinarian and have them scan for a microchip.

"In the event that we would be unable to find the owner, our dispatch would contact the Centre Canin du Suroît to have the dog transported to its offices and cared for. They would keep the dog for a one-week period and then the dog could be put up for adoption once a health check has been completed by their veterinarian.

"To this day, we have not sent any dogs to the centre du canin."

.....
Glass recycling, cont'd from p. 7

options," he said. "Mr. Dufort's engagement has helped in this effort and has been a reason this is moving forward." It's an example of what citizens can accomplish when working together with the city, he added.

Denis Biro of Burton had initially asked about the environmental compliance of contractors in general after the first reports circulated of an offshore process (see story March 22, p. 7). But Dufort and others have repeatedly questioned the alleged practices used by the current contractor and measures the city might take to change the process (see story April 26, 2022, p. 10).

One more paw in the dog park



"I just wanted to submit this picture. It's the tree trunks they just placed at the Murray Hill dog run. I thought it was funny how the tree trunk looks like a dog paw with a heart in it since it's a dog park and we love our fur babies," said contributor Lisa Vilder, proud owner of Bernese mountain dogs Lima and Vinny.

PHOTO COURTESY OF L. VILDER.

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This is a fundraiser for constitutional litigation challenging Quebec's Bill 96. By donating, you will help fund court challenges that will protect the rights of all Quebecers. The first \$100,000 raised will help fund *Mitchell v Québec*, which challenges the provisions of Bill 96 that restrict the use of English documents in Quebec's courts. Any additional funds raised after that will be distributed to other constitutional challenges against Bill 96 that:

- (1) challenge parts of Bill 96 that infringe the constitutional rights of Quebecers;
- (2) have a reasonable chance of success;
- (3) are respectful of the role of the French language in Quebec and its culture; and
- (4) are not already funded from other sources.

ADAM STERNTHAL & MOSEN AZIZ, organizers

www.gofundme.com/f/bill-96-legal-challenge

Beer Review – The Connoisseur and the Philistine

Messorem Bracitorium

2233 Rue Pitt, in a perhaps unnamed area between St. Henri, Côte St. Paul and Pointe St. Charles (just to the south of the Lachine canal bikepath and St. Patrick St., in line with the Georges Étienne Cartier foot bridge and square)

GREG DUNNING, THE CONNOISSEUR:
Beer drinker, homebrewer and beer hunter.

Ideal beer: One that is manufactured by people who care more about the beer than the money.
Favourite beer: Summer 2022 – Vox Populi Kettle Sour Berliner Weisse 3% – always cycling and always thirsty in the summer.

DAVID PRICE, THE PHILISTINE:
Beer drinker
Ideal beer: stronger-than-average lager, even if it’s commercial Canadian beer. He dislikes too much hops flavour or aroma in beer (i.e. most India pale ales or IPAs), and does not like roasted malts (e.g. stouts). He also dislikes wheat beers, which remind him of toothpaste, which he doesn’t normally eat or drink. Favourite beer: Sapporo. He recently had some Harp after a long trial separation and, while it is good, it is not as good as Sapporo. He also likes the original St. Ambroise pale ale (red label).

July 14, 2022

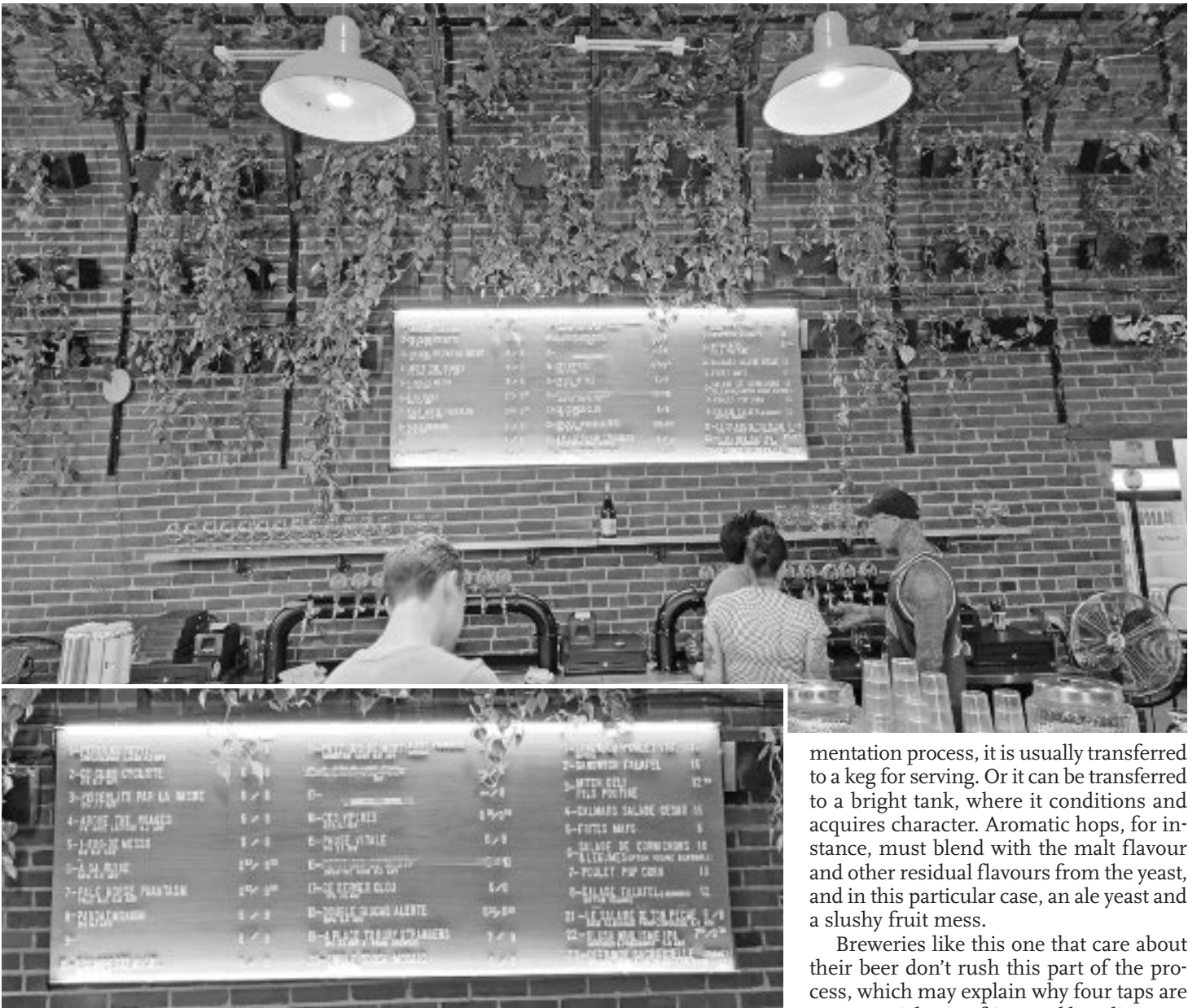
THE CONNOISSEUR:
I have visited Messorem Bracitorum several times since the Government let us out of our houses, but this is the first time I have spelled or said it right. Sounds like Latin, right? Dr. Google says “Messorem” means reaper and “Bracitorium” means brewery. Therefore, Reaper Brewery. The people behind this unique locale are really into beer and they began as homebrewers, beer hunters and musicians (you can read their candid story on their website).

It has been open since August 2019. There are 20 taps available to draw from, but on visiting day there were 16 open for business. Thirteen of those 16 taps are IPAs.

Well, you know what is coming from the lager-loving Philistine. You’ve been warned.

THE CONNOISSEUR: – #10 – Escapade au Ciel– IPA 6.5%

A classic American IPA that you can dive into. I’d rather imbibe a 5% or less on my first try, but it’s pretty hard to find anything sessionable here. Not bitter, not a grapefruit bomb, but a nice balanced and aromatic IPA, with tropical fruit aromas.



Gone very fast; I must try to pay attention to the hop varieties. There was a 5% pale ale on the lighted beerboard over the taps, which should have been my starter.

THE PHILISTINE: #1 – Périr au Répít zwickelbier lager (4.3%) –

Yes, the beerboard (see photo above) did not look Philistine friendly, but at least the beer on tap #1 was a lager! Upon testing, it was an unremarkable beer. As one might expect in summer, it was light on the tongue – not silky or thick like Sapporo on tap, but not too light or watery like a light beer either. It had a tiny bit of that “gym sock” taste so loved by microbrewers, but only the smallest amount. Two percent gym sock?

Regardless, I am not complaining! Most microbrewers don’t offer a single lager.

THE CONNOISSEUR: #11 – Petit Jus de Mort – Smoothie Sour – 6.6%

I was surprised to learn that the raspberry, blackcurrant and blueberry purée, so integral to this beer, is actually mixed with the beer in the bright tank before it flows out of the tap.

The website says peach and raspberry, but our hostess – I mean bar person (she/her) – mentioned the three fruits to me. Before I go technical, this is such an accessible beer, if that’s what it is. It looks like a strawberry smoothie at Rejuice! and tastes like it too. It’s sweet and milkshake-thick, and really a non-beer, but it’s chug-gable.

Anybody who says that they don’t like beer will drink this and get another.

Now to get technical: What is a bright tank? When beer is finished its natural fer-

mentation process, it is usually transferred to a keg for serving. Or it can be transferred to a bright tank, where it conditions and acquires character. Aromatic hops, for instance, must blend with the malt flavour and other residual flavours from the yeast, and in this particular case, an ale yeast and a slushy fruit mess.

Breweries like this one that care about their beer don’t rush this part of the process, which may explain why four taps are empty tonight. A refrigerated beer line connects the bright tank to the tap, then into your glass without using kegs, thus skipping a step, and saving time and effort. Often the beer is under enough pressure in the bright tank such that no extra CO2 must be applied to get the beer out.

I’ve never had a beer from a bright tank that had slush mixed into it. There is beer in there somewhere.

THE PHILISTINE: #7 Pale Ale Horse Phantasm 5.9%

Sometimes a “pale ale” is quite different from an “India pale ale” – the famous/in-famous “IPA” of the microbrewers and beer snobs. The original St. Ambroise in the red bottle and can, for instance, is called a pale ale and – Greg tells me – uses less aromatic, British hops than North American IPAs.

I found Horse Phantasm grapefruity, which I have been told is a hallmark of the American pale ale (APA) and its west coast hops. Not for me, but I should have guessed from its very, very cloudy appearance. Not usually a good sign for the Philistine.

THE CONNOISSEUR: #19 – A Place to Bury Strangers – 7.3% – NEIPA

This style, New England IPA (NEIPA), is right in Messorum's wheelhouse. A Place to Bury Strangers is not only a Vermont-inspired beer, but a collaboration with Foam Brewers from Burlington.

I know that powerful and sharp hop aroma of the NEIPA, but I honestly cannot keep up with all the mixtures of hop varieties in this IPA emporium. I know this one tasted like Mosaic because it had that sharp grapefruit aromatic bite and not the smooth pineapple smell from Cascade.

But I gave up when I asked a server which hops were in this one.

He told me that it is mainly Citra YEH303, which is a Yakima Phantasm Citra trial hop blended with a whole bunch of other hops, some during the boiling phase, some during whirlpool, and some in the dry-hopping phase.

Oh yeah, right! I stopped writing after “303.”

Every IPA here is a product of what I could otherwise call Messorum: a hop laboratory. As a student of beer, I wish the ingredients, particularly the hops, were clearly indicated for each beer so that I don't just stumble along in an IPA forest going progressively blind at 6% and above. I must have something to eat, now that I have imbibed 60 oz at over 6% ABV.

THE PHILISTINE: #11 – Petit Jus de Mort – Smoothie Sour – 6.6%

Greg really wanted me to have some of this ... drink. When I saw it, I just laughed. It was a visual joke: blood-red and thick looking. Then it was thick on the tongue, like Clamato juice.

Inside a little bubble on my note pad, I wrote “Not beer.”

Five minutes later, Greg said aloud, “It's not beer, but it's good.” Sometimes the Connoisseur and the Philistine come to the same conclusion.

Only now – in the cold, sober light of day – do I see the word “smoothie” in its name. There is a reason that there are different words for beer and smoothie. I will leave it there.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Fried chicken sandwich, with coleslaw, pickle, and onion

This sandwich was served like a hamburger, but crispy fried chicken replaced the patty. Really bad for you, but really, really good. I haven't had KFC since I was six, but maybe I should, or this sandwich

is special. Fresh accompaniments.

It's a limited menu of chicken, fries and some veggies, but this simple menu allows the kitchen to get it out fast and alert patrons using electronic beepers provided upon ordering.

So what did we know-it-all MBAs talk about over dinner? Efficiency.

Here's a suggestion for beer ordering because there is a problem here. You are often 15 people deep in line waiting to be close enough to read the beer menu over the bar.

When your turn comes, and since each beer just has a funky name, type and different ABV (alcohol by volume), you, and every other thirsty person, has a bunch of questions to ask the barperson because it's impossible to distinguish 13 IPAs on the menu by their really cool names.

On a busy night, it can take 20 minutes to get one beer.

Last summer, I experienced a system in East Vancouver at an also very crowded brewpub called Parallel 49. I scrutinized a detailed menu and figured out what I wanted, then I got in line. One person at the order desk took my predetermined order of food and beer, took my money, and then gave me a gadget like a pager. On my way, I poured myself a glass of self-serve water, then found a table. When the pager went off, I went to the counter, handed in the gadget and collected my order. When I wanted more, I just got up and did it again.

Messorum already has this system for food, and we would be happy to pick up our beer *and* food ourselves because the cyclists in Lycra here every night want to pick up their own orders anyway and check their Fitbits. There is a member of Mensa in our crew, but you already knew that.

THE PHILISTINE:

It was Périr au Répit lager for the rest of the evening for me. Why? This brewery, on this day, was IPA-DIPA country (i.e. India pale ale-*double* India pale ale). I don't need to try 50 varieties of this style to know that I won't like them.

The Périr just kept tasting better, which I have noticed happens with beer.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Double Fauche Alerte – DIPA – 8.3%

I thought I could distinguish a DIPA from a NEIPA in the alcoholic troposphere I presently inhabit, but I could not, even



Messorum Bracitorium has three towers. Even Tolkien only had two!

though I know that there is careful hop selection going on here.

Maybe this was a triple IPA and I read from the line below Double Fauche Alerte? It's another pretty hazy IPA, just like all the other hazy IPAs that live here. But please don't misunderstand: this is good beer and faithfully representative of the style.

Would I have another one? Yes.

What makes this brewpub stand out – say in contrast to the St. Ambroise beer garden across the canal – is that the beer menu changes rapidly, and I mean daily. When a tank goes dry, the line is flushed and a new and different tank is hooked up. I was here last week and there was a German kellerbier at 4.3% on tap #1. I also had an excellent Vienna lager three weeks ago and there is an imperial barrel aged stout on the menu as I write this. I think my fellow henchman has been draining the same lager after lager tonight to escape the IPA blob. Tonight, there are some beers that I have seen before, several others that I have not and I won't even get to, which is why I have to come back.

SUMMARY

THE CONNOISSEUR: You have probably heard of the American IPA movement that is still basically on its world tour and you should consider it. Something to talk about at your next tony gathering – or maybe not. Messorum Bracitorium (still double checking my spelling) is your one-stop IPA shop to explore this massively popular style. According to *Beer Advocate*, in 2018, there were 27,515 different American IPAs, 13,765 American Pale Ales, and 10,839 American Double/Imperial IPAs in the world to choose from; 25 percent of all beers being made are these three related styles, among the 104 different beer styles. It behooves all of us to delve into this style

of beer even if my colleague can't stand it. By way of a landmark, when you sit at your table at Messorum, you will see an old, preserved 100-foot water tower. When Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson's *Batman* was released in 1989, a huge yellow Batman logo appeared on that tower and you could see it every time you approached the Decarie Expressway from the Champlain bridge; remember flash marketing? Of course you do, you read the *Independent*. Underneath it are 40 picnic tables that are very occupied seven

days a week, noon to midnight, especially after 6 pm by the cycling crowd. I don't know of any brewpub or taproom in this city that can boast opening hours like this. You can also sit under a small roof on bar stools and raised tables if it gets chilly or rains and finally there are big picnic tables inside beside the bar. It's a great place to make friends.

THE PHILISTINE: I really like this place, although I think I missed a good session for me by a few days. They told us that they had offered *several* (!) lagers on tap just a few days before. And I like the sound of the kellerbier and Vienna lager that Greg mentions. Rats.

Only Cheval Blanc (see September 10, 2019, p. 30) could compete with that many lager offerings.

Oh well, these outings are not really about beer for me. It is the fault of my palette, not the brewers, but I dislike 80 percent or more of the ones we try! (At least there is alcohol in them, and the company is great.)

What's to like about Messorum Bracitorium? This establishment is the epitome of post-industrial cool and casual. There is lots of metal and exposed brick. The three-part layout described by Greg is in what appears to be a former factory – surrounded by still more former factories. And it is a 20-minute walk from southern Westmount. A great place for a summer beer, and the large crowd of cyclists seemed to agree.

One minor point: if the name means “Brewery of the Reaper,” shouldn't the Latin have the noun “messor” (reaper) in the genitive case, i.e. Messoris Bracitorium? Instead, it is in the accusative case. Next time, let's have lots of beer (again) and see how intelligently we can talk about that!

Trina Vineberg’s \$50,000 library bequest

Donation to go toward 125th anniversary celebrations

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A \$50,000 bequest to the Westmount Public Library from the estate of the late Trina Vineberg (Berenson) will be put toward year-long celebrations of the library’s 125th anniversary coming up June 20, 2024, according to Anne-Marie Lacombe. Lacombe took over as director of the library and community events September 9 on the retirement of Julie-Anne Cardella.

“A committee will be set up to share ideas for this anniversary,” she told the *Independent* last week after the donation was announced at the September 6 city council meeting by Councillor Elisabeth Roux as

commissioner. Celebrations for the library will also include the 25th anniversary of the Gallery.

Vineberg, a lifelong resident of Westmount, died January 24. She was a well-known food consultant and the former food editor of the *Family Herald* magazine and her cookbook *Family Heirlooms*. She was also the sister of retired *Montreal Star* journalist Dusty Vineberg Solomon, also a lifelong Westmounter.

The bequest cannot be used for purposes other than those approved by council, the resolution stated, adding that an appropriate account be created for the exclusive use of the library.

Quebec Open Croquet Championships

By ANDREW DE COURCY-IRELAND, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The 2022 Quebec Open Croquet Championships were played September 8 to 11 on the lawn bowling greens of Westmount and the Town of Mount Royal.

This was the first time the championships have been held since 2019, as the COVID pandemic prevented the competition in 2020 and 2021.

The winner of the Association Rules event was Patrick Little of St. Catharines, who defeated Jane Beharriell of Toronto.

Westmounter Andrew de Courcy-Ireland finished in third place.

‘Golf croquet’

The golf croquet event was divided into two flights. The winner of the Champion-

ship Flight was John Richardson of Toronto, who is ranked number 1 in Canada.

Westmount Lawn Bowling & Croquet member Hanan Rashad (ranked number 2 in Canada) finished in second place. Hesham El Zoghby of Oakville was third and Ron Carter of the Westmount club finished in fourth place and Westmount member KS Tsang was sixth.

The second flight of golf croquet was won by Westmounter Ian MacLaren, who defeated George Claffey of Berlin, Connecticut. Rod de Courcy-Ireland of Westmount defeated Lou Bessette of the Mount Royal Croquet Club to finish in third place.

The Quebec Open Croquet Championships have been contested annually in Westmount and the Town of Mount Royal since 1994.

14-0 season for Westmount Soccer Club’s U10 boys

The U10 boys’ team of the Westmount Soccer Club had an undefeated season this year. It faced a number of teams over 14 regular-season games, including ones from LaSalle, St. Laurent, Verdun, Dorval, DDO, Île Bizard, Pointe Claire, the Lakeshore and Lachine.

There is no final match at this age level, so the perfect record is the last word on the season – the same result as last year for most of the current team members when they were “U9” (aged 9 and under) players.

At a first post-season tournament, the Julia Cianci Memorial Tournament in St. Laurent, the team finished first in their group, but was knocked out in the semi-finals.

It is to be followed by another tourney September 24 and 25, the Classique de L’express in Boucherville.

The Westmount Soccer Club is distinct from the city of Westmount’s soccer program.

See p. 1 for photo.

Contractor uses leaf blower out of season

A contractor was issued a statement of offence for \$277 when spotted using a leaf blower on Belvedere September 8 at 9:02 am, Public Security officials said. The permitted fall season for using the devices is October 1 to December 1.

Stall on St. Catherine



A Westmount Public Security officer had parked her vehicle behind this stalled white car on St. Catherine near Gladstone September 13 to direct traffic around it.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

City: Hands off destruction of the wetland

Council asks feds to protect ‘monarch’ field from development

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council September 6 joined many of those from neighbouring municipalities in adopting a resolution asking the federal government to “cease all development” of federal land at Pierre Elliott Trudeau airport. It is regarded as an important habitat especially for the dwindling numbers of monarch butterflies.

The appeal comes after reports in July that some of this field in Dorval and St. Laurent of some 215 hectares had been cut just as it was ripe with some 4,000 milkweed plants on which the iconic orange monarchs feed and lay their eggs during their migration to and from Montreal.

“The petition was initiated by Dorval,” Councillor Matt Aronson told the *Independent*, in his role as commissioner for sus-

tainability and at the initiative of Mayor Christina Smith.

The appeal also follows a commitment and mayor’s pledge from the city council meeting August 2, 2021 to protect the threatened monarch, a request from St. Catherine St. resident Penny Arsenault, of the David Suzuki Foundation’s Butterfly Project (see story August 17, 2021, p. 1).

Arsenault attended the council meeting September 6 and was addressed by Mayor Smith as she approached the mic as “the butterfly lady.”

The city has been encouraging residents to plant milkweed seeds from its seed-lending library as initiated by former councillor Cynthia Lulham, who had a strong interest in the issue, including at one time visiting a major monarch winter refuge in Mexico.

PSOs take man to hospital after long wait for Urgences Santé

A Public Security patroller came across a man seated on the sidewalk at Olivier and de Maisonneuve September 7 surrounded by a number of people at 11:47 am. He was reported to have hit his head just above the eye while tripping on crossing the street.

Officers disinfected the wound, Public Security officials said, and decided to take the man to the Montreal General Hospital after Urgences Santé was taking “a while” to respond. The 58-year-old had broken his glasses in the fall resulting in the cut.

Bruce Roberts (1946-2022)

Wild horses: Remembering an artist forever in motion

BY JENNIFER BALL

Governor General's Award-winning artist and Westmounter Bruce Roberts passed away on August 29 following a brief fight with cancer.

Born in 1946 in England and raised in Ontario, Roberts took up drawing and illustration when he was five years old to pass the time while spending a year and a half in a TB sanatorium.

"He was caged in and what saved him was that his parents brought him books of horses, cowboys and Indians, and he started drawing horses. For him, horses represented freedom and flying free and that was a theme in his work...Everything is in motion in his line," said Anna Gedalof, his wife and long-time collaborator.

Gedalof was not sure what the primary source of cancer was, but it was virulent and in his bones.

Winning the prize

She and Roberts met when she invited him to her 39th birthday party where party-guests needed to bring art that was made from food that would then be judged.

"I was working with a lot of artists and illustrators in advertising, when that was really a going concern in Montreal," Gedalof said. "He shows up with this baguette with an orchid in the middle and all these loonies, pins, it was really an amazing work of art..."

"He won the prize: me! Because he never left.

"When I met him, he was creating theatre drawings and on a good night, he might sell three drawings to actors who don't have money either!"

One of the last projects the couple collaborated on was more lucrative: the Ritz-Carleton Residences.

"You need a bit of Bruce's whimsy," I told them. "Why don't we do Sherbrooke St. with the façade of the Ritz and some of the elegant characters – that he drew so fluently – that really capture people in the city?"

In the middle of the project, he had a stroke. "This was 2020 and he lost part of the field of vision in his eye and he had to re-train himself. It took us another year to finish this," Gedalof said.

Roberts won the Governor General's Award in 2001 for *Fidèles éléphants*, an anti-war Japanese children's book.

Restaurant work for Le Devoir

In general, he worked on both the French side and the English side.

"One of the things Bruce was most

proud of was the series of illustrations he did for *Le Devoir* restaurant column, first with Josée Blanchette and then Jean-Philippe Tastet. He loved newspapers and loved to draw for them and he always enjoyed doing illustrations for the *Independent* with David Price."

"Bruce was a valued contributor of drawings," said Price, "including his last one for us – an Easter-themed work (April 12, 2022, p. 25).

"Over the years, he would come into our pages – for free, at his suggestion – and then leave for a while. It was in keeping with what seemed to be his semi-anarchistic style of life, which I just loved.

"Bruce's youthful demeanor gave him an ageless quality and I was stunned and saddened by the news of his death. He was an original, who made original art, and I am so glad that some of that originality ended up in the paper for our readers.

"My condolences to Anna, and to his friends and family."

Roberts was also so proud of "the Afrika Musica project," continued Gedalof, where he did a 50-foot mural for the music room. Work for Musée Pointe à Callière and the fact that he did a painting for the Orchestra



Bruce Roberts at the Mouton Noir café at the Westmount recreation centre in 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY NELSON GEDALOF.

Metropolitan that raised \$30,000 for the orchestra...He had an unlimited imagination that went far."

Gedalof is approaching the McCord Museum to take the Bruce Roberts archive

into their collection.

A homage to Bruce Roberts will take place at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St, on Thursday, September 22 between 5 and 8 pm.



Bruce Roberts' illustration of the old Westmount arena at the time of its closing, a rare time that the *Independent* asked for a specific subject. It was first published in its April 17, 2012 edition, p. 14.

Social entrepreneurship starts young in Vic village

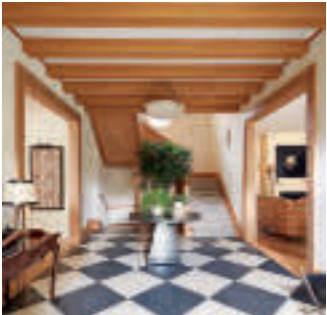


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Young Westmounters were out providing sustenance, and supporting charity, September 3. From left, potential client Rabie Sabie, and organizers Juliette Lewkiw, Jeanne Roscini and Beatrice Hart. "A total of \$66 was raised and has ready been donated to Sun Youth/Jeunesse Au leil," Lewkiw's father Sean told the *Independent* email the next day.

PHOTOS: VERONICA REDGRAVE (LEFT) AND COURTESY OF S. LEWKIW.

Coiffure Jean John

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**Homme Femme Enfants
Men Women Children**

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

Placed by Leonard Cohen's grandfather

Shaar Hashomayim opens 100-year-old time capsule

By JENNIFER BALL

At 1.30 pm on September 15, the Shaar Hashomayim on Côte St. Antoine opened a time capsule that had been placed by Leonard Cohen's grandfather, Lyon Cohen, into the synagogue's north-east cornerstone in 1921.

"He was the congregation's longest serving president. His first term was 1902 to 1907 and then he served again as president from 1914 until 1932," immediate past-president Claire Berger said.

Hannah Srour-Zackon is a University of Toronto graduate in library sciences who joined the Shaar this year on a grant from a Canadian summer youth program.

"It has been a bit of a treasure hunt," she said. When summer construction work on the exterior inadvertently dislodged a 1967 corner-stone that contained a time capsule, leadership began to wonder about the remaining cornerstones from 1921 and 1948.

"The time capsule from 1967 contained



Lyon Cohen, grandfather of Leonard, in the *Keneder Adler* Yiddish newspaper.

letters from the synagogue's rabbi, president and *parnass* (the religious administrator of the congregation), pamphlets related to Canada's centennial, newspapers with major events from 1967 [and] information about the Pavilion of Judaism at Expo 67, which the synagogue's rabbi, Dr. Wilfred Shuchat had conceived of and oversaw," Srour-Zackon said.

As for the 1948 time capsule, she imagines they'll wait some time before opening it.

At the unveiling of the 1921 -capsule were Rabba Rachel Finegold, Srour-Zackon, Berger, Shaar president Julius Suss and Rabbi Adam Scheier, as well as a few others.

"We spend so much of our time and our mission as an organization to understand what the past is trying to tell us," Suss said. "We are thinking about the values of those who came before us and how we apply that to modern times. This is a powerful moment to actually having a direct connection to the past and to be able to discover something that was left for us..."



From left, Shaar president Julius Suss and Rabbi Adam Scheier removing the copper cylinder time capsule from the 1921 corner-stone on September 15.

What did Cohen leave?

- A copy of the Yiddish newspaper *Keneder Adler* dated November 10, 1921, which included Cohen's photograph in an article about the laying of the corner-stone,
- the noon edition of the *Montreal Herald* newspaper,
- the *Montreal Daily Star*,
- the *Montreal Gazette* – replete with the comic strip Mutt and Jeff,
- coins with King George V including half-dollar, twenty-five cent, ten cent, five cent and penny pieces,

- messages on paper stuck to the interior of the cylinder that require more time for proper processing.

The treasures were all handled following strictest archivist guidelines. They will be stored in acid-free folders inside acid-free boxes in the Shaar's archive.

"We hope to install the new time capsule in mid-October, after our high holidays are over. This will also give us hopefully enough time to gather exactly what materials we want. For instance, we have already saved newspapers announcing the queen's death," Srour-Zackon said.



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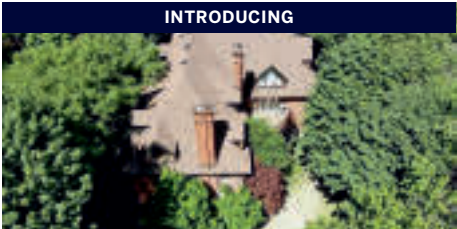


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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

August sales: Slight improvement

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2017 to August 2022, based on accepted offer dates



condominium sales, only one was posted for July and one more for August. The former transaction involved a unit in a low-rise apartment building and a price of \$830,000 while the latter was a portion of a converted duplex that sold for \$1,136,000; between them, the two rendered an aver-

age mark-up of 51.7 percent, relatively close to the average for one- and two-family dwellings.

Only six single-family dwellings sold in adjacent-Westmount districts in the last three months (June, July, August), all for over \$1 million.

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Fellow Quebecers,

In this election, the Quebec we call home and the Canada we love are being threatened. Nationalism is sweeping through Quebec, fuelled by the CAQ, copied by the Quebec Conservatives and enabled by the Quebec Liberals. As a result, our rights are being trampled and Quebec faces a decade of constitutional battles, for which few politicians are prepared. But the **Canadian Party of Quebec is ready**. We will oppose divisive nationalism and unlike any party in the National Assembly, **we will defend bilingualism, federalism, educational choice, and the Canadian constitution**. If you share these principles, please vote for me on October 3rd.

The Liberals have betrayed us and it's time for change - it's time to vote for respect. Fighting for self-preservation amid rising Quebec nationalism, the Quebec Liberals have betrayed Anglos and minorities. They made a calculated decision to sell out Anglos and minorities, sell out federalism, and sell out the Canadian Constitution. Since 2018, the Quebec **Liberal Party has given the CAQ a free pass** to create the conditions for a decade of conflict:

- They accepted use of the notwithstanding clause to bypass the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,
- They voted in favor of the first and second readings of Bill 96, and they actually helped the CAQ write the Bill,
- The Liberals would actually keep 98 percent of Bill 96 if elected.

I will fight for your family's Canadian rights and freedoms.

I was born and raised in Quebec, and spent part of my childhood living in Iqaluit, Nunavut, before graduating from Bishop's College School in Lennoxville. Following my studies in History and Politics at Queen's University, I earned law degrees at Université Laval and Osgoode Hall Law School. I exposed the Parti Quebecois' discriminatory Charter of Values in The New York Times in 2014, so trust that as your new MNA, **I will be ready and able to hold the CAQ to account**.

But what can an opposition MNA do? Unlike the Quebec Liberals, I will not participate in writing discriminatory legislation. Unlike the Quebec Conservatives, I will not play the divisive game of nationalism. On a daily basis, I will stand up in the Assembly and fight for your right to remain in Quebec. **One principled voice can stop unanimous motions, force debates of substance on bad bills, amend bills in committee, confront Legault and Jolin-Barrette on their actions daily**. Our riding, legislative and party offices would provide a focal point for Quebecers to have a real voice of opposition in Quebec City.

The Canadian Party of Quebec was founded on June 21, 2022. Our opposition to discriminatory laws and divisive rhetoric does not arise for a fleeting opportunity for more votes, it comes from the deep conviction of our members. Please compare our principles to yours to see if we share the same hopes for Quebec. I remain confident we can build a better Quebec, for all of us.

Queen Elizabeth's Temple connection

Temple-Palooza looks to Jewish new year, 'our best selves'

By JENNIFER BALL

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom opened its doors to the public September 10 in advance of Judaism's high holy days. There were two venues for the event called "Temple-Palooza Apple-solutely Temple": the temple itself at 4100 Sherbrooke St., corner of Wood Ave., and the adjacent Queen Elizabeth Gardens at the north-east corner of Wood Ave. and Sherbrooke.

"Temple-Palooza is a chance to bring back some buzz and remind ourselves of the good things that can happen when people come together," Rabbi Lisa Grushcow said. "We are proud of how we have sustained our community over these years, and we are committed to coming back in a way that reflects our values: inclusivity, care for each other, and care for the world around us."

The temple offered visitors the opportunity to pick up free prayer books and drop off food to benefit MADA community services. Its updated third-floor lounge featured a newly-mounted Temple timeline that starts with the year 1882 – when the temple began holding services at the Zion church – and finished with the year 2017, when the church sponsored Syrian refugees to come to Canada.

The Aron Museum, which is situated in the temple, was open also to showcase the over 300 artifacts from its ceremonial art collection.

Shofar for new year

Among its many treasures is a horn shofar.

"The shofar is the call to announce the new year," which starts on September 25.



Event poster at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom at 4100 Sherbrooke Street West, corner of Wood Ave. on August 29.

"It is meant almost as an alarm clock to wake us up to being our best selves," Rabbi Grushcow said.

In the adjacent Queen Elizabeth Gardens, there were opportunities to enjoy treats from Le Cheese food truck. They were "serving grilled cheese, mac and cheese, Greek salad, French fries and poutine," Ketan Patel said, who was working there with business co-owner Pascal Salzman.

In Queen Elizabeth Gardens, cut flowers had been laid against a plaque celebrating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

And there are other Temple links to Queen Elizabeth.

"If you look at the timeline [newly-mounted, at the front of the temple], you will see that in 1959 Queen Elizabeth II met Rabbi Harry Joshua Stern," at the temple Rabbi Grushcow said. The queen visited Montreal in June 1959 when she was in Canada to open the St. Lawrence seaway.

Rabbi Stern served from 1927 to 1979 at Temple Emanu-El. In 1980, Temple Beth Sholom, a sister congregation formed in 1953, was united with Emanu-El to form the present Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom congregation.

Whether event participants were monarchists or republicans, one parallel could be drawn between the temple and the monarchy, Rabbi Grushcow believes.

"It is interesting talking about monarchy! We use crowns to decorate our Torah scrolls, and we recognize and abide with the government as the law of the land – always – but we also have a sense that we answer to a higher authority."



Photo of Rabbi Harry Joshua Stern of Temple Emanu-El meeting Queen Elizabeth II when she visited Temple in June 1959.



From left, Ketan Patel and Pascal Salzman, the owners of the Le Cheese food truck, as seen on Barot Rd. adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Gardens on September 10.

Bloc Montréal’s Heidi Small pledges to speak out for anglo rights

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Bloc Montréal candidate Heidi Small says that as she knocked on doors in Westmount over the past few weeks while campaigning to become the provincial representative for Westmount–St. Louis, she kept running into people telling her they felt cast adrift by the Quebec Liberal Party. “They mostly feel abandoned,” she said in an interview last week with the *Westmount Independent*.

“They feel vulnerable. They don’t feel like there is proper representation any longer, seeing what happened with Bill 96.”

Small, a Montreal-based food critic and social influencer with a background in journalism, TV production and the film industry, has lived in Westmount for the past 23 years.

While she holds no illusions when considering that Premier François Legault and his CAQ government might easily be re-elected with an even stronger majority than before, she believes that what might be needed mostly in the provincial assembly is a representative who can voice independent criticism of the government.

“Our fate is kind of sealed in the sense that the Legault party will come back in

and have more seats than we could ever have anticipated,” said Small.

“But sometimes it’s like the little engine that could: you have that one person who gets that one seat who can make the loudest noise and be a disruptor, because I’m not attached to the Liberal machine who dictate how you speak, how you walk, how you move.”

She maintains that as a representative with Bloc Montréal, she would speak genuinely on behalf of the constituents “and really deliver their message, which is a huge concern for their rights.

English rights

“That’s what it comes down to: they want English representation at the National Assembly level. That’s been their major concern – their English rights.”

Bloc Montréal has pledged to repeal Bill 96. The French Language Charter reform was possibly the most notorious of the three signature pieces of legislation passed by the CAQ government since 2018, although Bill 21, banning “religious symbols,” was close behind. The Bill 40 school board reform tried but failed to impact English school commissions due to a court injunction.



Seen here on Victoria Ave. on Sept. 15, Bloc Montréal candidate in Westmount–St. Louis Heidi Small says that while out campaigning, she has met many Westmounters saying they feel cast adrift by the Quebec Liberal Party.

Westmount Battery fires cannon to mark the end of Queen Elizabeth’s reign

By JENNIFER BALL

It was as recently as June 4 that a Westmount cannon was fired to celebrate Queen Elizabeth’s platinum jubilee and just 16 weeks later, three shots were fired from two to mourn her passing.

Westmount’s platinum jubilee cannon ceremony was held, not in the city, but on the grounds of Mount Royal Cemetery, when one cannon was fired. The previous time that cannon were fired in the city of Westmount was 125 years earlier, in 1897, on the occasion of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee.

Not fired for the funerals of Queen Victoria, King George V or King George VI?

“Not that I know of,” said Westmount resident Patrick Martin, who served on city council from 2006 until 2017 and is a co-founder of Westmount Battery, “because after that, the military donated them to the city of Westmount.”

The two cannon are from 1810. “They were built under King George the third, who was the great-great-great grandfather of Queen Elizabeth.”

“They are so heavy that they would not have been in the field but used as garrison guns. There are only two left and they have sequential serial numbers so they have

stayed together.”

Charles de Kovachich is one of the co-founders of Westmount Battery, a former honorary colonel of the Second Field Regiment and a veteran who served as an artil-

lery officer here in Montreal. “Today, we are re-enacting a royal salute from the period of 1867. We have re-enactors dressed in period uniforms and we will be doing what we know to be the drill to fire

the cannons.”

Provincial representative Jennifer Maccarone, Mayor Christina Smith and former city councillor George Bowser were onsite to light the fuses.



Mayor Christina Smith after firing the cannon at Westmount Athletic Grounds on September 17 – just visible through the smoke.

Québec solidaire candidate David Touchette says he has support from upper-Westmounters

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

When David Touchette was deciding which Montreal-area riding he'd be running in for the Québec solidaire party, several of its aspiring candidates confided to him that they felt reluctant to run in an area as affluent as Westmount.

Partly to overcome his apprehension about going door to door in a wealthy and at one time predominantly white Anglo-Saxon neighbourhood while promoting a party known for its social justice agenda, Touchette, who is black and whose first language is French, decided he'd deal with the situation directly.

He literally started at the top, canvassing households on streets around the summit.

He was hoping that some of the Montreal region's wealthiest residents might agree to sign his endorsement papers, so that he could register with the provincial director of elections as Québec solidaire's Westmount–St. Louis candidate.

He said that when he told his Québec solidaire colleagues he was “going to go on the mountain where there are the big houses,” they tried to warn him against it.

“I said, ‘Why?’ And I wanted to show they were wrong, that they are human at



Québec solidaire's Westmount–St. Louis candidate David Touchette, seen here on September 16 in Westmount Park, says he was surprised at the interest in the party he encountered while campaigning in Westmount, including up on the summit.

the top of this mountain, and I am going to prove it.”

To Touchette's amazement, he received eight signatures from summit residents, out of the total 115 signatures needed.

‘Cool’ people on summit

“The people were very cool,” he told the *Independent*, noting that many seemed receptive to the party's left-leaning ideas, although some expressed concerns about Québec solidaire's pledge to pursue Quebec independence should they ever be elected as a government.

He said that before then, “I was sure

people were going to close the door on my nose. But no, most of the people were willing to discuss with me. They opened their doors. They were interested to know about Québec solidaire.”

Since 2007 when Québec solidaire first ran candidates in that year's provincial election, the party's share of votes in Westmount–St. Louis has steadily risen, from less than one percent and second-to-last place in that first election, to 10.25 percent in 2018, when they finished in second spot, behind the Liberals and just ahead of the CAQ.

Touchette said that since at least 2018, Québec solidaire underwent what he described as “an extraordinary increase of members from the riding of Westmount–St. Louis. And we don't know why. The outlook has completely changed.”

Regarding the incumbent CAQ government's Bill 96, which reformed Quebec's Bill 101 language legislation, he said he per-

Important note Attention, candidates! Want coverage? Call us

In an attempt to produce candidate profiles like the ones here and already published, reporter Martin C. Barry has contacted:

- Florence Racicot (PQ), and
- Maria-Luisa Torres-Piaggio (CAQ)

but has not heard back. If these candidates want coverage, they should contact us immediately. Our last issue before the election is next week's, and it is in preparation now.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, in quite a breathtaking way, Master Finn just steals the show, naturally most elegant and quite personable.

This handsome grey, black and white longhair, who has a lot of the Norwegian forest cat typing, is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, waiting for a family to call his own.

Gregarious and affectionate, he is a very

I am Finn

caring companion to all. Finn is an active and healthy seven-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please enquire about him as soon as possible through the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, where his information page is available under his identification number 30326953, and click on the “Book a visit” button to present your contact information to the adoption counsellors. They will then set up a family visit at the shelter to discuss adoption.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Exquisitely cute and so affectionate, Belle is a delight. She is a senior Yorkie type who deserves the very best that life has to offer now in a new family.

She is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel and needs to be bundled up and taken to a proper loving home as soon as possible. Belle is 14 years old and has been thoroughly vetted at the shelter, where she is thought of highly as sweet and cuddly even though it is a big change for her.

Belle is healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed, and microchipped. Her dental care was important and she

Precious Belle

now eats soft food only as a lot of senior dogs prefer.

Belle falls under the humanitarian adoption program, with reduced adoption fees, in a way encouraging her new family to consider a new fall coat and sweater for her as she enjoys quiet walks at a leisurely pace.

If you would like more information on Belle, please do not hesitate to refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scrolling to her information page under her identification number 51045338 and clicking on the “Fill out the form” button to present contact information to the adoption counsellors who will then contact you to answer your questions and discuss adoption.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Comin' Up

Wednesday, September 21

Montreal Camera Club launches its 130th season with “Getting Started in Astrophotography for Experienced Photographers” presented by guest speaker Nico Carver, Center for Astrophysics/Harvard & Smithsonian. Annual single membership \$80. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. & online via WebEx. 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Sunday, October 2

Plant re-homing: drop off unwanted

summer plants. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., 12 noon to 3pm. *Also Sunday, October 9.*

Thursday, October 6

Montreal Camera Club's presents “Explore your Creativity with DE-STRESS & SHOOT” by guest speaker Michelle Macleod, McGill University, Visual Arts Collection. Annual single membership \$80. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. & online via WebEx.

I believe in a strong Québec within a united Canada.

I voted against Bill 96, Bill 21, and Bill 40.

Enough with the politics of division.

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ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND HOME CARE SERVICES

I will prioritize quality health and social services: a family doctor for everyone; home care services; services for seniors and those with chronic illnesses or handicaps; mental health services for everyone; safer staff-patient ratios in all CHSLDs; specialized care and attention for everyone in situations of vulnerability.

END THE DIVISION OF BILL 96 AND PROTECT MINORITY RIGHTS

Out with the notwithstanding clause; no more linguistic limitations on health and social services; no warrantless OQLF searches and seizures; no more unnecessary administrative burdens on businesses; out with the 6-month deadline imposed on new Quebecers to learn French; no more freeze on English CEGEP enrollment; let CEGEP students choose their courses; reinstate the Dawson College expansion project; restore judicial independence; exempt First Nations people from the impact of language laws.

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

We need an elementary school, secondary school, and adult/vocational education services to meet the growing needs of families and the community. I am committed to new educational facilities and access to quality educational services for all students, including those with learning disabilities or other handicaps. I also believe in working towards a strong economy that reconciles environmental protection and fighting against climate change.

Vote Jennifer Maccarone for Westmount–Saint-Louis.


Vote Liberal.

On September 25th, 26th (advanced polls), or October 3rd.

Want me to knock on your door, call you, or need transportation assistance to vote?
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Dylan Thomas' last work

Dramatis Personae returns to *Under Milk Wood*

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Westmount-based Dramatis Personae community theatre group gave a set of performances of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas' last work, *Under Milk Wood*, at Victoria Hall September 9 to 11.

Although Dylan Thomas died shortly after the play was first read out in New York City when he was just 39, his reputation as one of the 20th century's great poets only grew, just as *Under Milk Wood* went on to be produced not only live on stage, but also in audio recordings and as a major film rendering.

It was not the first time Dramatis Personae staged the piece. "We have actually staged it before quite a number of years ago," said Somerville Ave. resident Ann Elbourne, who helps coordinate the troupe's activities along with Ellen Rubin.

The not-for-profit performance company was founded in 1985 by Ann Page and has been actively staging dramatic pieces in Westmount since then. While most of the actors are amateurs, a professional director is used for all shows, with Christopher Moore currently serving as director.

Funded by membership fees and generous donations from audiences, Dramatis Personae typically produces two shows



each year. During the COVID pandemic, they turned to the small screen and performed three Zoom shows in 2020 and 2021, which were viewed around the world.

The troupe's next staging will be in the spring of 2023 at Victoria Hall.

Nine members of Dramatis Personae are seen here in the main auditorium at Victoria Hall September 11 as they were about to perform the last of four stagings during the weekend of Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*.

Police Report

Man, 76, in coma after drowning accident at Alexis Nihon tower

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The near-drowning last week of a 76-year-old man in the pool at a de Maisonneuve Blvd. residential high-rise building has prompted a local police official to suggest a close watch should be kept on all potentially vulnerable people when they are swimming, in addition to closely monitoring children.

"A lot of seniors have health issues and some have access to pools," noted the Montreal police dept.'s Station 12 interim-community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

"It's just something to be remembered that there should always be somebody who's supervising if ever they go for a swim," he added.

In this particular case, the man, a tenant or guest in the residential tower of Alexis Nihon Plaza at 4000 de Maisonneuve, was swimming in the indoor pool at around 11:30 am, when, according to Yigit, a guard in charge of monitoring a bank of security cameras spotted what he believed to be a

problem in the pool area.

"So, they sent up a security guard, and the security guard saw that he was drowning," said Yigit. "The security guard jumped in, pulled him out of the water, and they started to do CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)."

"They did mouth-to-mouth and they were able to get back a pulse," he added. "But then after that he was transported to hospital where the last word was that he was in a coma."

According to a report filed by the responding officers, a heart-related ailment or other malaise is believed to have caused the man to suffer a restriction of his movements, subsequently causing him to sink beneath the surface and begin to drown.

As of late last week, said Yigit, the man was at the Montreal General Hospital where he was still listed as being in a coma. The police report said drowning was the cause, with a prior health condition being a contributing factor.



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This reader was carrying his copy of the *Independent* in a novel way September 13 near the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment building. “I know that I am supposed to hold all our readers in equal esteem, but this man is my current favourite,” said *Independent* editor David Price. PHOTO: D. PRICE.

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Art Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Boyle examines how we shape identity

“Boyle’s deeply compelling exhibition invites us to consider what it means to truly see ourselves and others at a time when so much of our perception of reality is mediated by technology,” commented Des-

marais.

The playful exhibit was curated by **Alexandrine Théorêt**, assistant curator of International Modern and Contemporary Art at the MMFA. Also present at the event were

Sequoia Miller, chief curator, Gardiner Museum, and **Stéphane Aquin**, director, MMFA.

Organized by the Gardiner Museum in Toronto, in collaboration with the MMFA, it is a fun must-see.

PS Please send your social event information to veronica@redgravepr.com

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Stutman’s jewellery artistic, sculptural



Art Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Montreal is renowned as a UNESCO City of Design, so it is never a surprise to come across creativity in all areas: architecture, art, fashion *et al.*

Oh. And jewellery.

Jewellery designer **Barbara Stutman’s** pieces have been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout Canada, the US, Europe and Asia. In Montreal, the Westmounter is featured at Galerie Noel Guyomarc’h, where she showed me her latest creations.

Her pieces are “created to stimulate the mind as well as the eye.” She specializes in working metal wire, using textile techniques such as weaving, knitting and crocheting. Iconic pearls, worn by royalty throughout the ages, have been adapted by her unerring eye into sculptural statement pieces. Re-framing the traditional with vinyl lacing (“gimp”), Stutman’s neckpieces are not only sensational: they are multi-functional. With their hidden magnetic

clasp, they can be worn as a long necklace or tighter as a choker. Some are wonderfully sculptural. (If I had one, I would simply put in on my coffee table.)

The artist adds miniscule sterling silver wire and some “sparkles” making her one-off pieces not only full of fun, but full of textural point-counter-point.

While women may not be as sartorially fearless as to wear black tulle and diamonds to play tennis, wearing one of Barbara’s pieces adds ineffable style to any outfit.

For millennia, fine metal has been worked into adornments. Stutman’s beautiful adornments take crocheted craftwork into the realm of art. One of the few in the world dedicated to contemporary jewellery, Galerie Noel Guyomarc’h is the only one in Canada.

Galerie owner Noel Guyomarc’h explained that he shows Stutman’s designs at SOFA Chicago and often sells out to collectors. He also carries work by Quebec, Canadian and international artists and is renowned for his eye for the best. Guyomarc’h’s expertise means he is invited to curate modern jewellery exhibitions and evaluate collections.

A popular piece in Stutman’s line is a series of *über*-delicate-looking brooches



Barbara Stutman and Noel Guyomarc’h.

(“boutonnieres crocheted with fine wire”). Noel explained women as well as men were buying them. (Noel wears one in the photo above.)

During the Renaissance, very fine gold threads were expertly woven into fabrics. With her innovative approach, jewellery de-

signer Barbara Stutman transmutes this ancestral tradition into unique creations.

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