

Vic village Oct. 14, Greene on Oct. 21

Merchant festivals to kick off fall with Hallowe'en theme

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Try shooting a ball into a pumpkin using a hockey stick, decorating a pumpkin, making a mask or watching a magician.

These are some of the activities being organized for the first fall merchants' festival and sidewalk sale set to take place in Victoria village October 14 from 10 am to 5 pm.

A second one for October 21 in Quartier Greene is to follow with its own similar programming – but will be “slightly different” when plans are finalized next week, according to organizer Cynthia Lulham, the general manager of both area associations.

The concept is based on the summer festivals held to highlight and promote the

merchants.

“A strong community needs strong commercial sectors and we have some really unique shopping and business venues,” Lulham pointed out.

The Vic village event will feature music at Prince Albert square starting at noon. This is to be decorated in a fall/Hallowe'en theme and Mr. Magique will stroll the area throughout the event with his magic, she said.

Pies!

Also listed will be a “fun pie and bake stand” from Le Fournil. Another attraction includes a doggie photo booth “for pet Hallowe'en photos.”

The Visual Arts Centre will also have a mask-making workshop from 10 am to 1 pm on *continued on p. 28*

Fiddler on the Greene

Andy Bulman-Fleming was playing his violin outside the 5 Saisons on the corner of Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve September 26, as he has done occasionally over the past few weeks. It's hard not to pick up the strains of the technically challenging Bach solo sonatas echoing along the avenue. Bulman-Fleming started playing violin at age six. Asked why his sheet music was upside down, facing away from him, he said, “It's memorized. That's just so people can see what I'm playing. I can't talk to them when I'm playing.” He is also a freelance technical writer and translator.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Park space promised in sex-abuse settlement delayed

New bids now being analyzed for Doug Ellis memorial garden

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The planning of a memorial garden to be created close to the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) was put on hold by city council August 21 while new tenders were sought. An original bid authorized almost a year ago by the council October 11 was deemed too high.

The space, to be created in Westmount

Park, was part of the legal settlement in a class action suit against the city regarding sexual abuse by deceased hockey coach John Garland.

“We are analyzing the (new) bids,” city director general Julie Mandeville told the *Independent* last week. “The process is ongoing as we speak.”

The original bid had been authorized at a maxi- *continued on p. 28*



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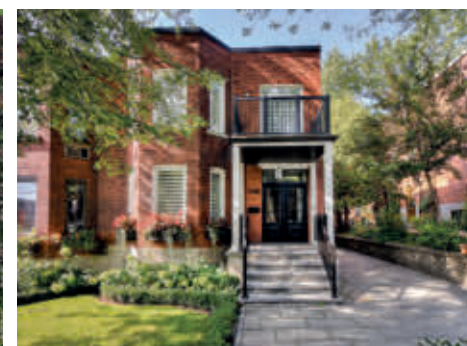
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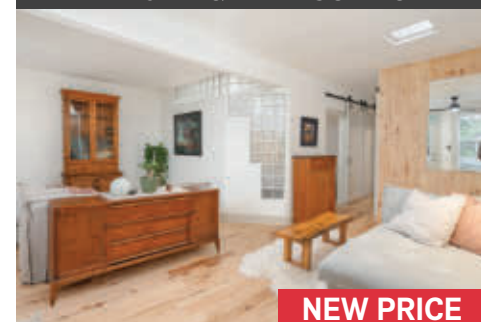
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NEW PRICE

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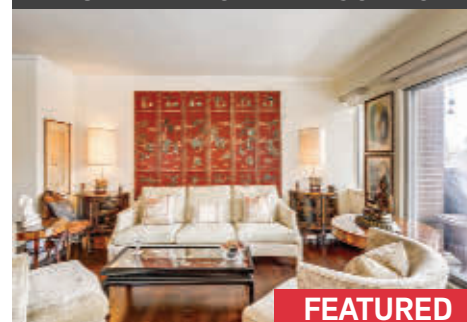
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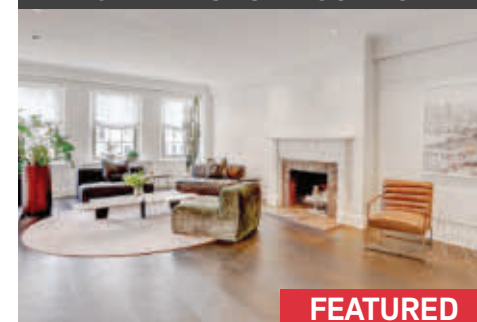
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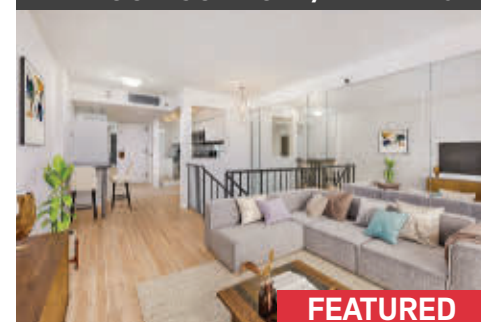
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One Westmount dog owner fined \$460 for Summit Woods offences



A sign explaining Summit Woods’ dog rules near a northwestern/Oakland Ave. entrance to the park, as seen October 2. The *Independent* noticed at least one loose, unaccompanied dog that same morning.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a continued campaign in Summit Woods to enforce the city’s by-laws about the behaviour of dogs and their owners, public safety officers report issuing two \$230 statements of offence September 27 to one local dog owner.

The incident occurred when two patrol-ers in the bird and fauna sanctuary noticed a dog running loose. Meanwhile, the

guardian walked well ahead with her back to the officers, who were close enough to witness the situation. It was evident that she kept trying to avoid them by walking out of sight, it was reported.

When the tag was verified, it was found to have expired, for which one of the tickets was issued. The other involved allowing the dog to walk far enough away from the guardian that she would be unable to control it, as required in the by-law.

Assistance given to 86-year-old man on sidewalk

An 86-year-old Westmount resident was found on the ground but propped up against a pole September 28 at 12:45 pm, Public Security officials said.

When attending to a call for assistance in the area of St. Catherine and Park Place near a bus stop, a public safety officer found two women with him. They were believed to be nurses.

He was described as conscious and was kept comfortable until the arrival of Urgences Santé personnel, who transported him to Verdun Hospital.



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Work greenhouses to be addressed, then courtyard fixed

Council ends ‘repair’ work on library/greenhouse courtyard

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A council resolution August 21 terminated a contract for additional repair work to the library’s storytelling garden and conservatory courtyard resulting from the lengthy \$6-million greenhouse restoration project.

This contract had resulted from a request for proposals a year ago and subsequent awarding to the landscape firm Conception Paysage for \$36,746 including tax credits for the 2022 fiscal year and, up to a maximum amount of \$89,681 including taxes.

The additional expense was explained at the August meeting by library commissioner Councillor Elisabeth Roux as a “*gros gaspillage*” (big waste) of money.

While the city had previously awarded the contract to repair the “inevitable” damage to the two garden areas, “it now appears that the adjoining [work] greenhouses will need to be addressed, and that in doing so the gardens could again sustain some damage,” she told the *Independent*.

“It would therefore be a waste of taxpayer dollars to fix them, only to damage them shortly thereafter. It seems more rea-



sonable to complete what has to be done next to these prize-winning gardens [i.e. to the work greenhouses], before giving them back their lustre.”

The city’s extensive work greenhouses lie to the west of the restored conservatory and have been derelict for some time.

Looking north at a portion of the city’s work greenhouses on October 1. The backs of Victoria Hall and the library are visible in the background.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

It followed another cost-cutting landscaping measure at the same meeting. That one related to another contract, also from a year ago, to create a memorial garden to Doug Ellis, a victim of sexual abuse

by deceased Westmount hockey coach John Garland. In this item, new tender bids were sought and are under review (story p. 1).

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Les bureaux de Westmount seront fermés le 9 octobre pour la fête de l'Action de Grâce. La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount et le Conservatoire de Westmount seront fermés le dimanche et le lundi.

Les collectes de résidus auront lieu selon l'horaire habituel.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED
Monday, October 9, 2023

Westmount's offices will be closed October 9 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The Westmount Public Library and the Westmount Conservatory will be closed Sunday and Monday.

Waste collections will take place according to the usual schedule.

westmount.org

GUEST POEM

Earth’s End Now Nigh?

By Stephen Chin

Editor’s warning: This poem decries certain practices regarding animals and livestock in a way that might upset some readers. – DP.

When I sleep: I die temporarily. When I die: I sleep permanently. Asleep: I can dream, proving I am *not* dead. Dead: I cannot dream, proving I *am* dead.

Where go I when I go to sleep? I embark on a return trip to my mother’s womb where decades ago, I am nourished, much loved, kept warm and comfortable. Tonight, wanting to sleep soundly, I simulate a similitude of my mother’s womb: recalling it is dark there, I pull curtains to close them, turn off lights and cover my eyes with a soft dark cloth and, I cover my ears with the same soft dark cloth that covers my eyes because loud sounds bother me.

Now in bed in my dark bedroom am I ready go to sleep? No! Have I not forgotten the warmth of mother’s womb? Can I not re-experience that delicious warmth by covering my body with a 600 down-filled covering the French call “duvet”?

Isn’t down the very warmest baby feathers of the Canada goose? Indeed it is! Therefore am I now enjoying the warmth of my duvet which contains 100-percent down stolen from the murdered body of the noble bird that is warmly clad once sailing in frozen air amongst highest of mountains? Indeed so!

But what of it? Does not Man murder beautiful animals such as the cow, the horse, the pig, the goat, the deer, the rabbit, the sheep and her baby lambs? Driving sharp knives into their bodies and chopping off heads of the chicken, of the duck, of the turkey and, firing lead pellets into the heads of pheasants to taste their feather-plucked bodies steamed, baked, or deliciously stir-fried in goat butter?

Yes! And when the honest, genuinely gentle butcher decides to forgo the murder of beautiful animals, does Man’s genius not invent a steel space *with* entrance, *without* exit where, concealed in its walls: outsized hammers and razor sharp knives can quickly be flicked into action on the helplessly beautiful animals corralled into it to supply Man His daily piece of bloody steak he prefers *rare*? But it is not.

And does not Man locate these steel slaughter rooms far away? Very! Very far away! So that the screams and cries of helpless beautiful animals having their heads *humanely* hammered into brains and knives slashing their throats cannot be heard by people who love them dead?

And because Man loves to drink the soft milk of the gentle mother cow, does He not programme her to conceive frequently, unnaturally to produce more babies than she should to flood her udder with milk for Him to drink?

And what can Man not think of? Or understand? Or feel? Or imagine? The enormity of a mother cow’s sadness standing alone: silent: in pain: helpless: when her baby soon arriving but, *not* for her to cast a flickering glimpse of love at, is plucked out her womb?

To be placed in a cold dark basement room, frequently fed water-softened raw rice to tenderize his flesh for the delicate jaws of wealthy diners in 5-star restaurants to mastigate?

And her babe does not know that the ghastly sucking attachment to his mother belly is now withdrawing her udder to its last drop of *his* milk. And *if* his mother takes her own sweet time to replenish her milk, she will be fed hormones and vitamins to flood her udder to hang two to three inches from the ground.

And after she has given birth just a year ago, she will be again be artificially impregnated for the sorrow-go-round. And when her flesh turns leathery, Man will transmogrify her ancient body into dog food for His favourite pet to enjoy.

And does Man not fire –> steel harpoons into the whale’s body so that: after waiting patiently one week for the creature to give up her mighty ghost, He could taste exotic meat?

And has fishing not evolved into a *fun-sport* as well as a *favourite hobby* for Man and His friends to enjoy? Just imagine! Oneself cordially invited to a delicious meal and, when you part lips to take in the tempting morsel on your fork, your fork suddenly ! transmogrifies into a J-hook to go into your upper jaw to exit through one of your eyes.

And the beautiful shark circumnavigating planet Earth’s oceans for a million years now finds her elegant arms slashed off before her quivering body is rubbished into her beloved ocean home to tolerate the intolerable for days and nights until kindly death enfolds her in his arms for Ritz Carlton hotels to serve clients delicious bowls of shark’s fin soup.

And is Man *only* now beginning be aware of? Or suspect that His killer reflexes are at long last boomeranging home? And does Man at long last not realize that the millions upon millions of beautiful animals He *has* murdered and *is* murdering *every* minute of *every* day are now taking their unwillingly hard-earned but well-deserved revenge?

Flaming Apocalypses! Monsoonal Acapolypses! Biblical Apocalypses presently ravaging Earth! An Ever-Rippling-Wider Circle for Billions upon Billions of Cars! of Trucks ! of Bicycles! of Motor Cycles! of Colossal Ocean Cruising Hotels ! Of 380 Airbuses!

Not warming but Hotting Up Planet Earth’s Very Climate! Poisoning Her Very Air! Planet Earth’s Fresh Air that is Essential for Healthy Life on Earth! And Contemporanean Sodoms and Gomoras roasted to grey ashes.

Is Earth’s End Nigh?

Not likely?

But Surely **NOT Not** likely... !

Warmly wrapped in a down-filled duvet, I like philosophically to ponder that I am *not* abusing Canada’s Iconic Bird who presently is sailing in frozen air over high mountain ranges clad in her natural down coat while I am in bed unnaturally clad by hers.

Now evening and concluding my piece for poetry category I believe I will, and I can, sleep as soundly as once I was asleep in mother’s womb. Now asking you, dear reader: *Why* could or should I not?

I wish you a very good night.

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GUEST COLUMN

Nothing honourable about Quebec's linguistic honour system

BY MYRTIS FOSSEY, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Saying that the healthcare system is in crisis in Quebec is not novel. Statements about wait times and lack of service providers are also nothing new. This piece is not about those aspects of healthcare. It's about the lack of basic human decency that is now reinforced by the systemic discrimination inherent in Bill 96.

I recently witnessed this discrimination when my son and I took my 80-year-old father for a blood test at the local CLSC.

My parents immigrated to Quebec in the 1960s because my father was offered a professorship at McGill University. My father was born in England, but received his PhD from a French University in Lyon.

He worked in both French and English his whole career, and in his retirement he continues to supervise graduate students at the Université de Montréal as an emeritus professor of McGill University.

My father is trilingual (English, French, Greek) and he prefers to receive medical interventions in English. My 17-year-old son just graduated from a fully bilingual high school and is comfortable in both languages.

I myself did the first half of my schooling in Quebec in French and the second half in English, as a result I am fluently bilingual and work in both languages as a psychologist. My son and I are both capable of communicating about medical issues in either French or English.

Back to the scene of discrimination that I witnessed. When I look around to see the other patients in the waiting room of the CLSC, it dawns on me that my father is lucky indeed as he is accompanied by two advocates (my son who assists with my father's physical limitations and myself who assist with the medical decision-making process), whereas the other elderly patients are by and large unaccompanied, and the few who have caregivers with them are speaking neither English nor French. This is a typical scene in our borough, which is known for being diverse linguistically and culturally.

After a long negotiation with the staff that managed to lose my father's requisition form (which was faxed to them by his treating physician from another hospital) and an even longer wait for the blood test itself (despite having an appointment time), we finally found ourselves in a small room with three nurses' stations for blood testing.

The nurse treating my father talks to

him in French. I can tell he doesn't understand so I translate to English, the nurse continues to speak to him in French and doesn't ask him if he would prefer to be spoken to in English.

Neither does she ask if he has the right to be spoken to in English. She just proceeds to talk to him through me. At this point, she doesn't even look at him, she is simply performing the medical procedure. Okay. So far, not great, but my father is in good hands since my son and I are there with him.

On the left of us is a francophone male patient who is also having a blood test, he is chatting with the nurse comfortably. To the right of us is an elderly woman who isn't speaking at all while getting her blood test. Both individuals are elderly and unaccompanied.

Suddenly, the woman's nurse and my father's nurse start to have an exchange in French about the elderly woman.

"Là, je ne sais pas comment lui expliquer comment faire le test pour les selles, comment on dit « selles » en anglais?"

"Ahhh ché pas moé, dis-y « caca » puis donnes-y les papiers qu'a s'arrange avec a maison."

My son looked at me after witnessing this exchange, big eyes full of anger on the woman's behalf, and I knew I had to do something. I quickly interjected to explain to the woman in English what was required of her when gathering data for a stool test and checked to see that she understood.

The whole time, the nurses said nothing, nothing in their own defence, not an apology to the woman, not a thank-you to me, nothing, dead silence. My father and this woman simply ceased to be human beings when they needed to communicate in English.

My father became invisible the minute he couldn't speak in French. This elderly anglophone woman was also completely invisible to them, but she was also the butt of their joke.

Imagine if I hadn't been there. Would my father have been able to advocate for himself? Maybe. Would this woman be okay when she got home? Maybe. Perhaps nothing would have happened, maybe the woman would have called someone to help her when she got home, maybe it would have been okay.

As I write that, I realize that our standards of care reflect the extent to which we are hostages to a broken system that now justifies and sanctions a dispassionate atti-

EDITORIAL (REPRINT)

Free print media makes sense locally – Help us tell others

There have been two large recent bankruptcies in the newspaper world recently: the similarly named Metroland Media Group and Métro Media. The first meant the end of 70 weekly newspapers in Ontario and the second led to the demise of 16 here in Quebec.

It seems like as good a time as any to let our readers – who have always been our steadfast and appreciated allies as we work to find (and keep) paying advertising clients – how we are doing.

The answer is fine, but we could use your support. Why? Because *the perception* of printed newspapers being outdated or destined to fail is the greatest (only?) threat to well-run, well-distributed newspapers with lots of original reporting, which we aspire to be.

Granted, not all newspapers are good. For instance, large, impersonal megacorps have a hard time, in my view, creating interesting local content. Running local newspapers is an artisanal, not an industrial, activity. But any failures taint us all.

Why printed paper? Why not web-only?

So why does print still work?

Firstly, it is important to differentiate free newspapers from subscription-based ones. The *Independent* has many challenges, but finding subscribers is not one of them. We're free and we aim to be ubiquitous in Westmount.

Furthermore, being free to the reader dovetails well with a particular nuance regarding municipal and other micro coverage: People don't think that they care about local news. Because of this fact, many won't seek it out, but if it is presented to them, they read it. I can't tell you how many times that people – who could easily have said nothing – have commented on tiny stories two thirds of the way into an issue of the paper. They didn't get there by accident. They were reading the whole thing!

Why aren't we all digital-only already?

This same nuance means that all the

talk of "going digital" is silly, at least locally. If local newspapers could have gotten rid of two of their main expenses (i.e. printing and distribution) by "doing digital," they would have done so years ago.

Similarly, note that no one is talking about brand-new, web-only publications springing up to cover the areas where these 86 now defunct newspapers were functioning. Remember also that the internet is *old*. The IPO of Netscape was in 1995, almost three decades ago! If we were all going to be all-web, it would have happened years ago.

Print, especially free print and especially free print distributed door to door (like us), has a real business purpose: to find the reader. It is not used by businesspeople for its quaintness or nostalgic value. And it can find a member of Gen Y or Gen Z as easily as it can find a Baby Boomer or Silent Generation member. On the other hand, the web and all its many siblings, children and cousins (Facebook etc...) do not find readers. The readers have to find them. But many people won't do any searching or subscribing or logging in, or won't do it for certain topics, including local news.

Local news may not be cool, or world shaking, but people actually do care about it *once they start reading*, especially as they enter certain demographics (e.g. become parents, homeowners, retirees). And many then discover that local news affects them more than the international (or federal or provincial or metropolitan) *cause du jour* and they definitely have more influence over it than such issues.

Please write to us with support

All this to say, if you like what we're doing and that we are here, it would be very helpful if you could write in (for publication) and say so. (If you don't like what we're doing, feel free to write in too.)

This party could go on for a long time, and your support can help make that happen.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

tude towards the most vulnerable population in Quebec, the elderly anglophone.

The CAQ wanted to reassure everyone that Bill 96 would be enforced on the "honour system" that people wouldn't be required to prove their rights to English services, and yet there was no honour or dignity in how this woman was treated, worse

yet, there is no recourse, there is no ombudsman, no representative, no activist, nobody. The elderly anglophone in Quebec will surely continue to be mistreated without anyone at the CAQ batting a lash.

Myrtis Fossey is a psychologist and deputy leader of the Canadian Party of Quebec (CaPQ)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS FOR THE PARKING TOLERANCE!

Last Monday, Yom Kippur, I invited family and friends to our house to break the fast. I called the PSOs to ask about evening parking passes and was told that there would be no ticketing at all. Thank you, Westmount, for your thoughtfulness. You added to goodness to our holiday!

RUTH ILYSE, BRUCE AVE.

THANKS FOR THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL VIGILANCE

On behalf of the many parents and residents I wanted to thank our Public Security officers and the police officers from Station 12 for their presence and work around the schools in Westmount and on our streets in general.

With increasing traffic, road work and general stress, it seems, from many drivers who rush to get somewhere, their work helps secure what we hold most precious: our children and the community as a whole.

Speed limits are 30 km/h in school zones and we must ensure that as drivers and citizens we pay special care in such areas.

As for the city, please keep being proactive in implementing speed-calming measures to make our streets as safe as possible for all.

Good fall everyone and drive safe.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS EMMANUEL,
UPPER BELMONT

WHAT'S UP WITH THE FORMER CAR DEALERSHIP?

Coming out of Alexis Nihon on St. Catherine St., we are forced to look at a black monstrosity on the south side with street numbers 4024 to 4028. This must be the ugliest building in Montreal.

Many years ago I remember buying a AMC Gremlin there, one of the worse purchases of my life. Now all I can see in this space is a chicken take-out. The second floor has one light that never seems to go out.

Why has this building continued to sit there for so long? It is in an awful state and is a real eyesore, especially since it's in Westmount.

Is there no way it could be renovated or torn down? Right now, it is covered with a black tarpaulin to keep it from falling on pedestrians.

What is going on here?

GRAHAM WRIGHT,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Editor's reply: To the best of our knowledge, there is no general upkeep law in Westmount. And tearing this building down might prove tricky since it has a heritage rating. – DP.

CHANGE UP THE FLOWERS, PLEASE

While acknowledging that there are more immediate daily concerns, I'd like to bring attention to a specific issue: Westmount's selection of summer outdoor flowers. Every year, we notice the same flowers clustered together in city planters, parks and street corners. These combina-



tions often appear uninspiring and lack-luster, failing to harmonize with one another.

In contrast, I've observed that many other boroughs feature vibrant, colourful, and delightful flower selections. These choices seem to have been made with care, enhancing the visual appeal of their streets and planters. They exude aesthetics and creativity.

Perhaps we can look forward to the possibility of different choices next summer, choices that will breathe new life into our surroundings.

LINDA MASHAAL, SHERBROOKE ST.

A THANK-YOU TO OUR SEASONAL VISITORS

Soon it will be time to say goodbye to our yearly visitors and a bit of sadness overcomes us.

Where do they go? Where do they stay over the winter? Are they "snowbirds"?

But how we look forward to seeing them again in the spring when nests are being built, when the pond is being cleaned and filled up with water again. And then here they are, tiny ducklings. How many? We count, 12? No...16! We watch with delight as they swim in line behind Mom, worrying about the one that dawdles, the one that veers too far from the little troop.

We hold the leashes of our dogs a little tighter, making sure that they are not even thinking about following their natural instinct to chase. We make the "Shhh" sound to the little children when we come upon a nest where the ducklings are huddled close together, keeping each other warm....shhh, the babies are sleeping.

We remind the older children to be mindful and respectful, not to run when the ducks are waddling around us in the grass, pecking at the tender blades. We resist the urge to feed them (thank you for the "DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE SIGN").

And then we watch them grow and become independent, not always hanging out with Mom and siblings, no longer swimming in a row. We spot one or two in a neighbouring yard. Are they lost? Or are they hoping that the grass is greener on the other side?

Once in a while, we hear that some have ventured dangerously onto the busy street, then rescued by park staff and brought to the safety of the park.

And as the days get shorter and the leaves change into fall colours, and after bringing us so much joy, they are gone... the pond is drained once again.

The Ducks at Westmount Park.

HEIDY VERMEULEN, METCALFE AVE.

Clarification

Urban Planning, Engineering to report to senior director Flies

In last week's story on Tom Flies returning to the city to take up a new position as "senior director" in charge of major projects, these will involve Urban Planning and Engineering, according to city director general Julie Mandeville. "Eventually, environment and mobility will [be included] too. In the meantime, I will still oversee Public Works, not Tom," she said. "I just wanted to clarify."

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Same residents speak during both question periods

Attendees seek action on Summit Woods, The Blvd.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council was asked September 18 by two frequent questioners whether, in one case, tree work in Summit Woods would help preserve the existing trails this autumn and, in another, what criteria are used in selecting street reconstruction work.

John Fretz, an advocate of protecting the bird and fauna sanctuary, said he had noticed that tree work was under way recently and wanted to know what was being undertaken. Would the fallen pieces of the felled trees be used to help narrow the trails in the woods that appear to keep widening, especially with frequent walking of dogs?

“They keep coming to us from far and wide,” to use Summit Woods as a dog run, he said. “Especially an over-abundance on weekends.”

Mayor Christina Smith replied that she would get him an outline of the work. She said a lot of it had been needed to keep up with damage from the spring ice storm. Fretz, who had been a member of the currently defunct Friends of Summit Woods, is especially protective of the vegetation and how it is affected by the widening of trails by dogs and people.

Roadwork decided on advice from city engineers

On the other hand, Janis Kraut of The Boulevard asked how the city decides which streets to include in the annual capital works budget.

Councillor Conrad Peart, whose commissionership includes infrastructure, urban planning and architecture, explained that the choices are made on the advice of the city’s Engineering department.

The reasons, he told Kraut, are “multi-

disciplinary” and not just based on the age of a street, for example. The needs are assessed by the city’s engineering department considering the required work of various components, not simply “taking items out of the hat.” Many aspects are taken into account, he explained. These include the condition and needs of the water lines, hydro network, concrete base and sidewalks.

It also includes government subsidies, added Councillor Antonio D’Amico, finance commissioner.

Kraut has frequently contended there is a need to work on The Boulevard. It has been previously explained that this street is a shared thoroughfare with Montreal, whose work involves a complicated process involving input and utilities involving both jurisdictions. It was also previously explained that this is currently in the process of assessment.

After continued explanations from various councillors and repeated requests from Mayor Smith to step aside and turn the microphone over to others, Kraut finally said, “Thank you for your inconsistency.”

Fall Rummage Sale

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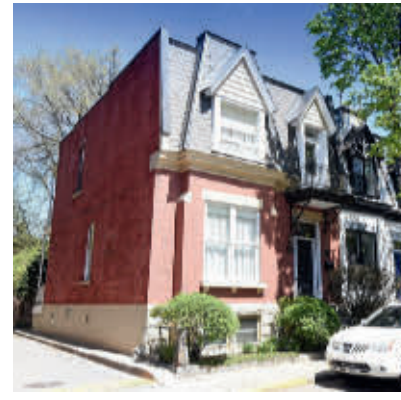
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Police Report

Homeless murder victim was living in new encampment

By Martin C. Barry

A reputed former street gang leader who died from a stab wound during the late hours of September 25 following an altercation at the corner of St. Catherine and Atwater in Westmount was living in an encampment behind a homeless day shelter, says a Montreal police spokesperson.

The encampment is located in an alleyway behind Resilience Montreal at 4000 St. Catherine St. West, said Cst. Mike Yigit, community relations officer for Station 12.

He said some homeless from a group that had been living for years in an encampment south of Dorchester Blvd. underneath the Ville Marie Expressway moved to the alleyway after being expelled in July.

Late last week, police homicide detectives were questioning witnesses about the circumstances leading to the death of the 49-year-old man. *The Gazette* later identified him as a once powerful gang leader



A mobile police command post near the scene of the September 25 murder, as seen September 26. PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM RICHARDS.

who controlled a drug-trafficking network that operated in downtown Montreal.

More stolen vehicles

Westmount continued last week to feel the effects of a regional wave of vehicle thefts involving mostly luxury cars, with four high-end vehicles stolen over a six-day period.

In the first instance, a Land Rover parked near the corner of Somerville and Victoria avenues was stolen on September 22 sometime between half past noon and 3

pm. During the early morning hours of September 23, a Jaguar F-Pace luxury SUV was stolen from a parking spot near the corner of Upper Roslyn and Sunnyside avenues in upper Westmount.

Then on September 25, another Land Rover, this time near the corner of Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Prince Albert Ave., was stolen around 3:30 pm. Finally, during the early morning hours of September 27, another Jaguar F-Pace was stolen from a nearby street, also in Westmount.

These are some of the latest car thefts in Westmount, added to others that have taken place over the past few months. Police and insurance investigators believe they are the work of vehicle theft professionals operating in eastern Canada in conjunction with international accomplices.

Modified electric bike gets big fine

A warning was issued by the police this week to users of electric scooters and electric bicycles: modifying them to roll faster than 32 km/h could earn you a ticket and

a fine. As well, Cst. Yigit pointed out, the driver must be at least 18 years old or have a driver's licence.

"So, a 16-year-old who does not have a driver's license cannot have an electric bike," said Yigit. "And if you go over 32 kilometres an hour, then it's considered as a motor vehicle, and you've got to get a license plate and it's considered a motorcycle."

According to Yigit, some electric bike and electric scooter buyers have been modifying them to go faster than 32 km/h, which is illegal unless they are registered with the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

He said the issue came up following an incident recently when Station 12 officers were monitoring traffic on the de Maisonneuve Blvd. bike path, and an electric bicycle driven by a 15-year-old happened along travelling at 70 km/h.

"When he went through a stop sign, the officers tried to stop him," he said. "When they finally caught up, they gave him a fine and they towed his bike away because it was modified to go over 32 km/h."

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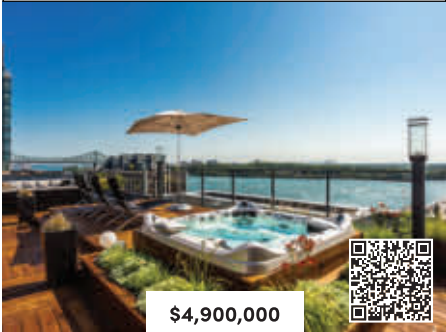


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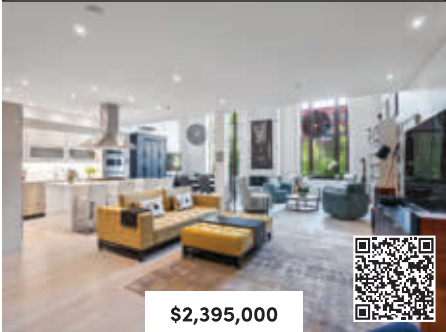


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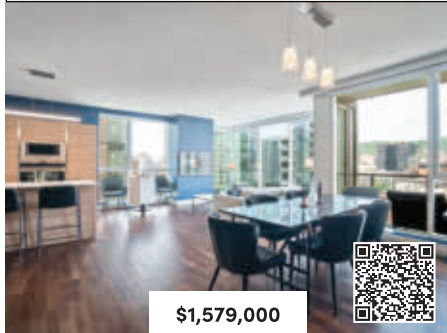


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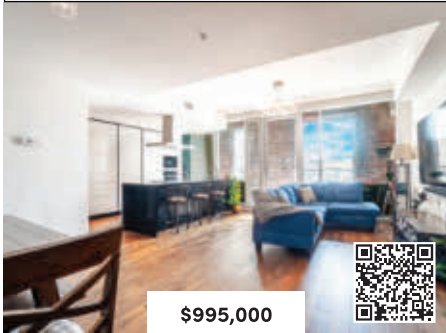


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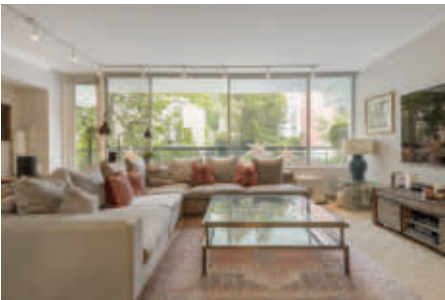
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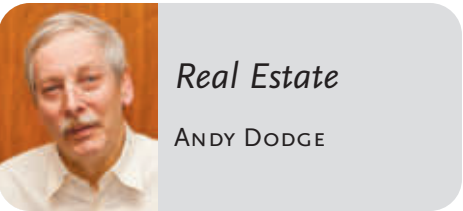
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in April, 2023, gleaned mainly from city sources. A list of sales can be found p. 19.

Westmount sales continued to tread water in April this year, with four of nine one- and two-family dwellings changing hands for less than the valuation and the average price/valuation ratio at -3.3 percent, up from -6.8 percent a month earlier, but still not enough to encourage homeowners that the market is improving.

Top price in the month was \$4 million, for a large brick mansion at 516 Roslyn Ave. between Sherbrooke St. and Côte St. Antoine Rd, set on 11,100 square feet of land but undergoing significant renovations now. The price was 14 percent less than its municipal evaluation, third-lowest mark-down of the month and only half the size of the mark-down at another detached Roslyn Ave. house, this one at 633 Roslyn,

April transfers: Still under water

opposite the school of the same name. The latter house, called “a renovator’s rare opportunity” in the agent’s listing, sold for just \$1,505,000 while evaluated at \$2,465,800, thus a 39-percent markdown. It was also the lowest price of the month.

A row house at 16 Windsor Ave. became the most marked-up sale of the month, some 32.5 percent more than the tax value, though the price was only \$1,735,000. This property had been purchased in May of 2021 for \$1,575,000 and after modest improvements it re-sold in April for \$1,735,000.

Overall, eight single-family dwellings and a duplex sold for a total \$20,531,000 with a total municipal valuation of \$21,221,200, thus averaging \$2,281,222, about the same as the average for January and down slightly from the averages for February and March.

Five of the nine April sales showed mark-downs on the tax assessment, while four had mark-ups.

Only two condominium sales were registered in April, both in lower-rise apartment buildings. At 399 Clarke Ave. a sixth-

floor apartment sold for \$749,000 while one at 4476 St. Catherine St. sold for \$670,000. While three out of seven sales in the first

quarter of 2023 sold for more than \$1 million, there were none like that to begin the second quarter.



516 Roslyn, the month’s highest price, \$4,000,000, on September 28.



633 Roslyn, the month’s lowest price, \$1,505,000 and biggest mark-down, at 39 percent, on September 28.



16 Windsor, the month’s highest mark-up, at 32.5 percent, on September 28.

JOSEPH MAROVITCH

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in April 2023

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
41 Arlington	Monica Serban & Jan Seuntjens	\$2,200,000	\$1,934,500	13.7%
87 Holton	Harriet Cramer	\$2,000,000	\$1,826,900	9.5%
20 Rosemount	estate Edith Cohen	\$2,150,000	\$2,284,500	-5.9%
516 Roslyn	estate Agnes Bimbi	\$4,000,000	\$4,648,500	-14.0%
633 Roslyn	Cecile Prince	\$1,505,000	\$2,465,800	-39.0%
618 Sydenham	Alexander Israel Bernstein & Andrea Violet Williams	\$3,305,000	\$2,848,600	16.0%
752 Upper Lansdowne	Sandra Gottlieb	\$1,700,000	\$2,006,900	-15.3%
16 Windsor	Sacha Singh	\$1,735,000	\$1,309,100	32.5%
DUPLEXES				
4467-69 de Maisonneuve	Jean Lalonde	\$1,936,000	\$1,896,400	2.1%
CONDOMINIUMS				
399 Clarke #6E	estate Dora Berkson (Morrow)	\$749,000	\$735,800	1.8%
4476 St. Catherine #404	Wei Miao	\$670,000	\$715,600	-6.4%

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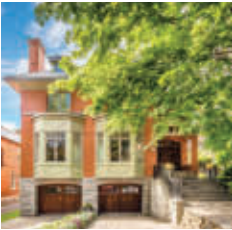
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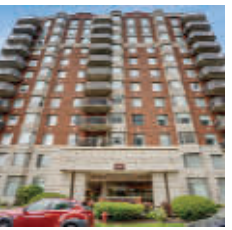
530 Av. Mount-Pleasant
Westmount | \$ 3,495,000



627 Av. Murray Hill
Westmount | \$ 2,695,000



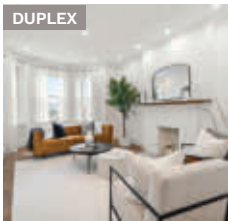
320 Rue Dufferin
Hampstead | \$ 2,295,000



6803 Rue Abraham-De Sola,
Côte-Saint-Luc | \$ 1,795,000



56 Rue Turgeon
Montréal | \$ 1,795,000



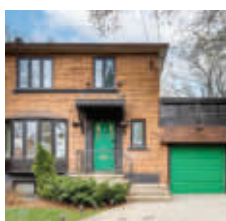
4569 Rue Sherbrooke O.
Westmount | \$ 1,795,000



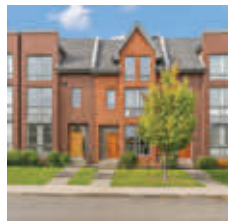
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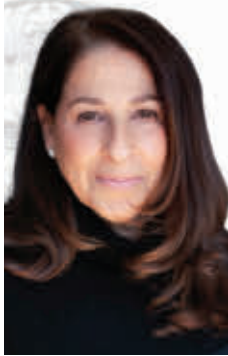
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Mortazavi’s art heading to the Moon in ‘Lunar Codex’

By MARTIN C. BARRY

When it comes to depicting nudity in her artwork, Homeira Mortazavi says she has nothing to hide – nor does she have any use for censorship.

More than a half-dozen of the Iranian-born Westmount artist’s paintings – including at least one with full-frontal female nudity – will soon be heading into space as part of the Lunar Codex.

Samuel Peralta, a multidisciplinary physicist, author and Toronto-based artist, initiated the project to establish a permanent archive of digitized art, music and literary works on the Moon.

He plans to eventually include works by 30,000 artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers from 157 countries.

While acknowledging that it’s unusual for a woman of Iranian origin to be candid about a topic that’s mostly taboo in an Islamic republic, Motazavi is unapologetic.

She is determined to express herself without constraints as an artist – in this particular case from the far reaches of the Moon.

“I consider it quite artistic,” she said concerning how she sometimes portrays her human subjects in the buff. “It is a



genre that has always been appreciated throughout the ages and can be seen in all the museums today.”

She said the idea of someone being offended by the sight of nudity in a painting

Seen here on September 15 in her Westmount studio is Homeira Morazavi with two of the seven paintings that will be sent in digitized format to the Moon as part of the Lunar Codex project.

would leave her feeling just as offended where her work to be subjected to censorship.

Mortazavi met Peralta through the Chi-

cago-based 33 Contemporary Gallery, where she had been taking part in group shows.

continued on p. 28

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Second-hand clothing an antidote to fast fashion?

Vintage Musts opens second store in Westmount Square

By JENNIFER BALL

Westmount's vintage-clothing retail offering expanded September 8 with the addition of a second shop in Westmount Square for Vintage Musts. It is located closer to the St. Catherine St. entrance, with the original store near the Greene one.

There are now three vintage options in Westmount, with Charlotte and Gabrielle at 353 Prince Albert Ave. at Somerville Ave. rounding out the trio.

The stores' mandate may also have an ecological aspect, as buyers re-use goods and swim against the "fast fashion" trend.

Fast fashion replicates recent catwalk looks, mass produces them at a low cost and brings them to retail stores quickly at a low price. And the practice is racking up critics. According to research Jo Ellison that published in *The Financial Times* newspaper on the weekend of August 26-27, only 20 percent of textiles are collected for re-use or recycling globally. Canadians, according to a 2023 study from researchers at the University of Waterloo and Seneca College, toss away close to 500 million kilograms of fabric items yearly.

Robert Poirier is the owner of the two Vintage Musts boutiques. Emmanuelle Lesage owns Charlotte and Gabrielle after purchasing it from Danielle LeBlanc just prior to the pandemic.

All three offer high-quality items consigned by customers. Items that do not sell – and that their owners do not want back – are donated to the owners' preferred non-profits. Lesage partners with Dress for Success, while Poirier supports Chez Doris.

Poirier: Finding treasures, style over trends

Poirier says he has a penchant for good, minimal, classical design, but invests in accessories because "you can transform the whole outfit with accessories."



Robert Poirier inside his new, second Vintage Musts boutique on September 15 in Westmount Square. It is closer to the St. Catherine St. entrance than the original one.

He also has an eye for real value from estate sales that he adds to his inventory. "If you have imagination and you know where to go, you can find treasures."

He lit up as he showed off a three-quarter-length Akris cashmere coat that was dropped off for consignment earlier that week. "For someone who is looking for a special item, that is a discovery," he enthused. "Why spend three times the price in stores, when you know that you can find these items? But you have to shop!"

On the topic of reduce, re-use and recycle, Poirier remarked that "you should have something that you can re-interpret..."

"You can wear something this year and in two years, you can still wear the same thing and still be fashionable. I do not believe in trends, in that sense, I believe in style."

Lesage – who preferred that her goods be photographed rather than herself – said that her items are high-quality and that her clientele ranges from 16-year-olds to 75-plus.

"More and more people – mostly the younger generation – are buying because they know...that this fashion industry is

killing the planet..."

"[Fast fashion is more harmful] than airplane travel and it is [more harmful] than boat travel..."

"People buy...I cannot remember the number exactly, but I think it is two or three times more clothing per year, per person than they did 20 years ago and they keep it for less time."

Lesage: Second-hand stigma fading

On a brighter note, Lesage has observed that buying pre-loved items is gaining in popularity. "There was a stigma in Montreal. 'Oh no! I do not want to purchase second-hand clothing' and that stigma, I find, is partially going away."

Besides the environmental benefit of selling on rather than ditching curbside, where no municipal recycling program for textiles currently exists, there is a socio-economic benefit to the business as witnessed by Lesage: the democratizing of luxury, in her words.

They have Dior, Gucci, Chanel and Hermès but "our prices are so much better...It is making luxury accessible for more people. It is spreading beauty and it is important to have beauty."



Charlotte and Gabrielle's window display on September 13. It located at 353 Prince Albert Ave., at Somerville Ave. Charlotte and Gabrielle's shoe display, below, on September 22.

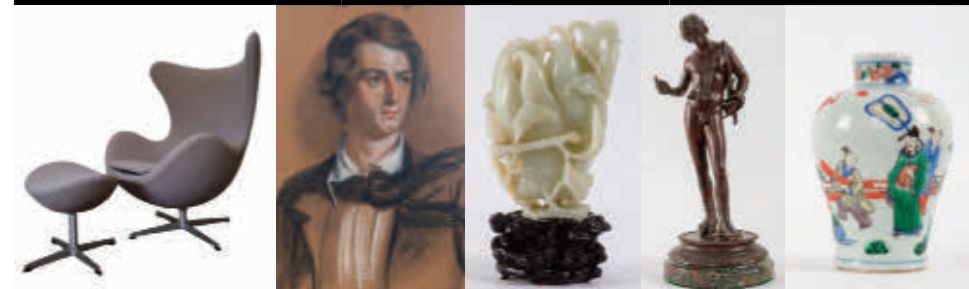




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Salon Olivier & Gabrielle raises funds, awareness re ovarian cancer



Salon Olivier & Gabrielle on St. Catherine raised funds and awareness for ovarian cancer this September, which was Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. "Two years ago, we lost our beloved co-worker Marisa, who as a very well-known hairdresser in Westmount. There is still time to donate."



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Toastmasters welcome champion speakers Menard, Terekhov, Ganni



Benoit Menard.



Vitaly Terekhov.



Maryam Ganni.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Westmount Toastmasters' "Championship Speakers' Night 2023" was held at Victoria Hall September 19. The gathering of about 25 people welcomed three guest speakers from other clubs who have received awards for their speaking performances.

Chairman Jordan Flinker brought the meeting to order and vice president public relations Joseph Solmer welcomed the audience and guests. Solmer provided some background about the Toastmasters for those in the audience who were new to this very popular, if daunting, pursuit. Solmer explained that Toastmasters mentors presenters, and provides tips and guidance, but also develops leadership skills and self-confidence.

An introverted public speaker?

The first guest speaker was Benoit Menard, who describes himself – remarkably – as an introvert. Talking about the joy of lifelong learning, Menard exudes the

basis of his discourse. His first language is French but he spoke perfect English with a debonair French accent. We quickly learnt how the engineer embraced English and later Chinese, how he stumbled through dancing lessons and went on to win several speaking contests for the CN Collaborators, his Montreal-based club.

'Economics is boring' – economic prof

The second, multiple award-winning speaker, in the humour category, Vitaly Terekhov, a Marianopolis College economics professor and author, explained through humour how you must always give up, contrary to popular idiom "never give up."

Terekhov explained how he uses humour to teach economics, because "let's face it, economics is boring." Born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), he first moved to Australia, studied economics and then gave up. It was too hot in Australia. He came to Canada and didn't give up. He obtained a doctorate in economics at Concordia University and went into teaching.

Two hard acts to follow. But the third speaker, Maryam Ganni, born in Baghdad to Iraqi-Armenian parents, wowed the audience with grace, charm, eloquence and deep emotion.

Ganni is a make-up artist, studied public relations and entrepreneurship at McGill University and is the founder of Maryam Ganni Enterprises Inc. On the recommendation of her professor at McGill, she got involved in public speaking. With an Ottawa-based mentor, Ganni swept into third place out of 80,000 contestants in the Toastmaster International 2023 World Championship of Public Speaking.

Ganni, who is legally blind, believes everyone has the inner flame to be unstoppable and is living proof of this.

Ganni presented the speech she'd given for the championship "You have no idea," which described how her dominant-but-loving father had hovered above her like a drone (as in helicopter parent). "Ever felt like your parents and you come from different planets? My father and I, different galaxies. He speaks Arabic, I speak millen-

nial" and so on until she had had completely enchanted the audience. Maryam Ganni's speech can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5xF4M2ghjA.

After a short break, the audience conducted an evaluation of the speeches and speakers gave tips, then everyone mingled and socialized. The Westmount Toastmasters is in its 26th year and founder member and treasurer Olga Hanchuk explained that the club meets weekly at Victoria Hall between 7 pm and 9 pm and people can come along and try it for free.

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Canada's first female Jewish Orthodox clergyperson

Rabba Kohl Finegold leaves the Shaar for Illinois

By JENNIFER BALL

When the first Orthodox woman to serve as synagogue clergy in Canada stood up to deliver her last sermon to the congregation of Shaar Hashomayim, there was not a dry eye to be seen.

It was almost 10 years to the day after delivering her first Rosh Hashana sermon that Rabba Rachel Kohl Finegold ("Rabba Rachel") delivered her last one at the Shaar, located on the corner of Côte St. Antoine and Kensington Ave.

Rabba Rachel, her husband Rabbi Avi Finegold and their three daughters, Kinneret, Nedivah and Hadar, are leaving Westmount shortly for Deerfield, Illinois. She will serve as the spiritual leader at Moriah Congregation. The synagogue, she said, reached out to her.

Her actual last day was not disclosed because withdrawing from a congregation in a mega-synagogue is not straightforward when you are one of its spiritual leaders. "I am maybe leaving Montreal but the congregation will never leave me," is the way Rabba Finegold chose to particularize it.

She presumes that her leadership has instituted a legacy that can be self-sustaining. "...it is reminding people that a religious figure is not an intermediary between you and your religious faith. A religious leader is a facilitator." (See January 18, 2022, p. 20.)

Rabbi Adam Schier, the senior rabbi at the Shaar, said "...the spiritual work that we do... the difference that we make is in those lives you have changed and enriched...

"There are many people in this community whose lives have been forever changed because of their encounters with Rabba Rachel and that is an extraordinary accomplishment."

The Shaar celebrated 100 years in its current location in Westmount on Sep-

tember 17, 2022 but for 167 years of its existence, the community was led exclusively by men in the positions of spiritual leadership, Rabbi Schier summarized.

"Ten years ago, Rabba Rachel stood up on the bema to deliver a sermon on Rosh

Hashana, and there was a gasp. There was disbelief! People were elated and excited but also hesitant, uneasy and unsure of what this meant for us. Fast forward a decade and when she stood up to deliver her last Rosh Hashana sermon as a

member of our clergy, and there wasn't a dry eye in the place. There was even a standing ovation," he beamed.

The way we think about a spiritual leader has been altered over the last 10 years and that is a tribute to Rabba Rachel's success in our community, Rabbi Schier said, though Rabba Rachel countered: "women's leadership can only take its place when there are male allies."

Rabba Rachel contextualized the progress as an evolving landscape in North America and throughout the world. "Orthodox Jewish women, like me, have been given the opportunity to study at the highest levels, which wasn't the case for our mothers and grandmothers. The obvious outgrowth of having access to learning is then wanting access to have leadership."

While the *Independent* was setting up for a photo session outside the Shaar, a very young female student from the adjacent Akiva school vocalized her dismay that Rabba Rachel will soon be leaving. At the same time, she intuited the bright side of the juncture in Rabba Rachel's professional career: "You are going to have your own Shaar!"



Rabba Rachel Kohl Finegold outside the Shaar Hashomayim on September 22.

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Bobbykins is a young cat, very well mannered and attentive to affection. He plays happily and enjoys company. His abandonment is a sad human gesture, yet one that gives us an opportunity to turn our backs to cruelty and change his life.

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She is a very good girlie, in foster care at the moment with a volunteer family for the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions animal rescue group.

At two years of age, she is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed after having puppies four months ago, and microchipped. She is affectionate, friendly, bright, playful and loyal.

A happy and attentive companion, she enjoys walks, games and cocooning. As she did not get as much attention in her previous family, the foster family is working on the leash routine, the calm greeting protocol and the friendly approach to dogs and cats.

Topaz is catching up quickly and is motivated in her attention span throughout her training and familiarization. She enjoys the outdoors for long walks. She would be a better match with children over the age of 10 as she is in a catching-up phase of puppy to adult training.

For more information on Topaz, please refer to the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their website www.gerdys-rescue.org or their Facebook and PetFinder social media sites. You can then contact them at their email address info@gerdys-rescue.org to receive an adoption questionnaire and discuss your family's interest in beautiful Topaz.

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Hallowe'en s'en vient!



It is only October 1, but Hallowe'en decorations are already up at the western entrance to Westmount Park.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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It's hard out there for a bollard



A bollard is missing on Sherbrooke near Prince Albert square, as seen September 12.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Mortazavi, cont'd from p. 20

“He had a dream to put his own art on the Moon and he shared that dream with other artists,” she said, while adding that he decided to include others close to the artists’ collective in the project.

“And the beauty of this project is that there are a lot of works by women that are included, and also publications, magazines, art catalogs and literature.”

Among the artworks Peralta accepted to be part of the Lunar Codex is “New Moon,” a 1980 serigraph by Alex Colville, the late Canadian painter and print-maker. Successful applicants are included free of charge in the Lunar Codex.

According to the Lunar Codex’s website, the various digitized works will be inscribed onto nickel-based, dime-sized “Nano-

Fiche” cards, an analog memory storage medium that is believed to be impervious to temperature and humidity, with a near-zero degradation factor.

“As an archival medium, it can be expected to last for hundreds of thousands of years, if not more,” states the website. “Some have called it the medium of choice for a ‘million-year archive.’”

The seven digitized paintings that Mortazavi has chosen will be loaded into the second capsule the Lunar Codex project sends into space.

A first capsule orbited the Moon on a NASA mission last year. Other Lunar Codex capsules are scheduled to land on the moon starting this fall through NASA’s commercial lunar payload services program.

Memorial garden, cont'd from p. 1

mum of \$70,261 for the space to be called the Douglas Firstbrook Ellis Memorial Garden.

It had been awarded to the landscape firm of Hodgins & Associates, and named for one of the hockey prodigies reported to have been abused by Garland.

The late Doug Ellis had been described by his mother as having been “poisoned” his entire life by the experience, leading ultimately to his death at age 44 (see story

October 25, 2022, p. 1).

In explaining the resolution to cancel the original bid, Councillor Mary Gallery, whose commissionership includes Sports and Recreation as well as parks, explained that “we’re disappointed only one bidder (had come) forward.”

The city hoped, she explained, “to get a few more prices that make more sense.” She said she also hoped “the whole community knows this is a very important initiative on the city’s behalf.”

Victoria Village, cont'd from p. 1

Victoria, which will take place indoors in case of rain or cold.

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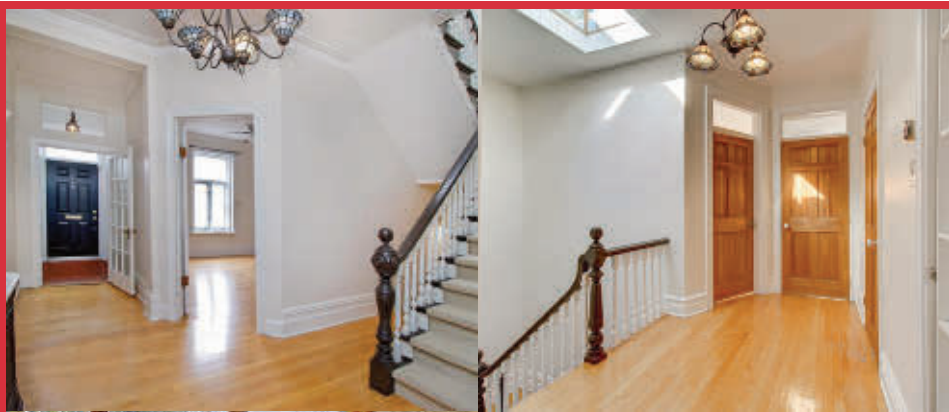
As well, a “target (pumpkin) game” will be set up on Somerville while a pumpkin-decorating event is being promoted for next to Prince Albert square, with pumpkins provided to be taken home. Theatre Tortue Berlué is also set to hold a puppet show for children in its mobile theatre bus in the afternoon.

A schedule of times is expected to be available at villagevictoria.ca/en/.

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Queen Elizabeth foundation hosts ‘Under the Tuscan Sun’



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Liz McConomy, Mitchell Labell, Marie-Laure Guillard, Shahinaze Hachem, Irene Tschernomor, Alexandra Goldbloom, Tony Fagnoli, Joanne Mastro, Nicole Larocque and John MacDonald.

The Queen Elizabeth Health Complex Foundation (QEHCf) hosted Under the Tuscan Sun at the Mount Royal Tennis Club. Guests enjoyed drinks on the terrace while alluring aromas of pastas by club chef Stephanie Darwish wafted in the air.

In keeping with the Tuscan theme, Italian wines were sourced by Nadia Gulli from Ascoli Wines & Spirits.

The organizing committee was led by QEHCf chair **John MacDonald**, working with dedicated volunteers **Tony Fagnoli**, **Alexandre Gagnon**, **Shahinaze Hachem**, **Mitchell Labell**, **Nicole Larocque**, **Joanne Mastro**, **Liz McConomy**, **Irene Tschernomor**, **Alexandra Goldbloom**, and **Élaine Lalonde**.

Noted enjoying the *serata divertente* were **Gisele Lerch**, **Cornelia Nihon**, **Lillian Howick**, **Shari and Ralph Fishman**, **David Birnbaum**, **Danielle Corey**, **Mila Mulroney**, **Alexandre** continued on p. 30






3.00ctw Square Radiant

7.03ctw Round Brilliant

4.14ctw Light Yellow GIA

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Alex Gagnon, Gina Roy and Jean-François Villeneuve.



Bill and Susan Cowen, and Tony Fagnoli.



Sylvia Renusa and Mila Mulrooney.



Miriam Green and Domenico D'Alesio.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 29

Gagnon, Sylvia Renusa, Gina Roy and Jean-Francois Villeneuve, Susan and Bill Cowen, Lilliana Simpson, Shari and Ralph Fishman, Susan and Richard Hart and QEHC's former board pres Miriam Green, honorary board member Domenico D'Alesio, and board members Joanne Mastro, David Birnbaum and Reynold Del Papa, as well as Dr. Laurence Kadoch (Imaging Clinic).

DJ Mario Adorante added a fun party mood to the *soirée*, which raised \$58,000 for the QEHC Diabetes Education Program, which provides patient support as

well as free services of a nurse specialized in diabetes management.

Sponsors were Alan Klinkhoff Gallery, Susan and Richard Hart, BGL Brokerage Ltd, BFL Canada, James Griffin and Sons, Kane & Fetterly, Robco, Dr. and Mrs. Skip Kerner, Globex 2000, Honeyrose, and Groupe Sutton (Marie-Laure Guillard), Novotel, Richard & Satoko Ingram, and Travelway Group International. Air Canada Foundation sponsored the event with two return economy class tickets anywhere in North America including Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean.



Lillian Howick and Cornelia Nihon.

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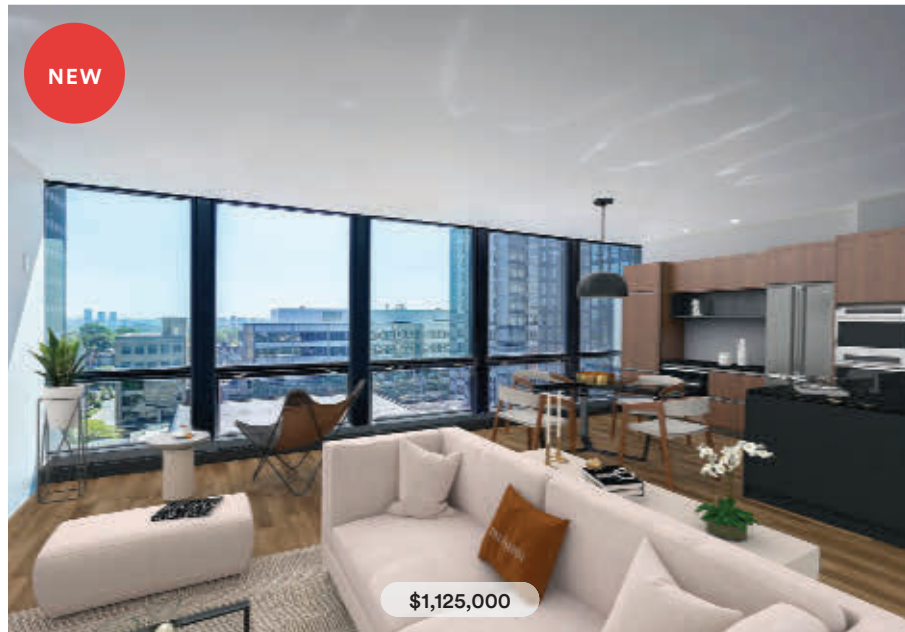
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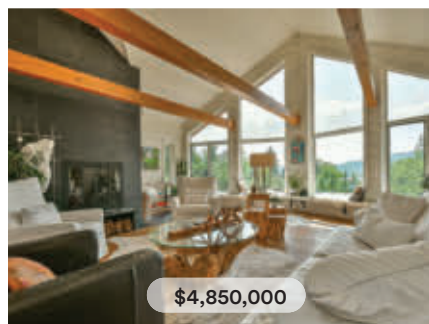


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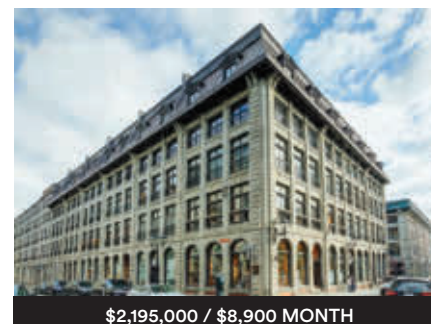
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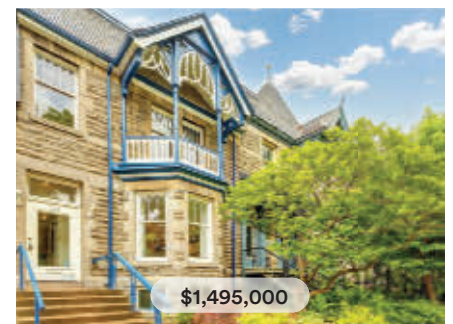
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