

## New contract awarded for Doug Ellis memorial garden

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After rejecting on August 21 a single bid by Limoges et fils for “re-developing” the Douglas Firstbrook Ellis Memorial Garden as priced too high at \$1,095,251, city council approved a different one October 2 in the amount of \$773,863 including tax credits to Ventec Inc., described as the lowest conforming bidder after a new tender.

The new garden space is to be located

near the Westmount recreation centre in the area formerly used as a dog run. This is just north of Lansdowne and St. Catherine.

The garden is part of a legal settlement in a class action suit against the city regarding sexual abuse by deceased hockey coach John Garland and was 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).

The process of creating the garden began with the acceptance of a bid on October 11, 2022 “for professional services” from a landscaping design firm. It was awarded to Hodgins & Associates for \$70,261.

## A window on the east



The view to the east towards Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery from this belvedere was improved recently by cutting some branches. It is located in Summit Woods on the pathway where Summit Circle once ran, nearer to Summit Rd. than Oakland Ave.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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## A/V area freed up to look to the future

## Contract given for new library entrance, makerspace

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Westmount Public Library gears up to mark its 125th anniversary next year, city council October 2 approved a contract to create a new universally accessible entrance off the park at ground-floor level as well as a “makerspace.”

A makerspace is generally an area providing technological equipment for people

to work collaboratively on projects such as 3D printing. In this case at a public library, it was decided to focus on audio-visual development and production, library director Anne-Marie Lacombe said last week.

“We’re very excited by this as the library needs to move forward. A timeline for the work has not been determined, but the goal is to have it ready for the 125th.”

continued on p. 12

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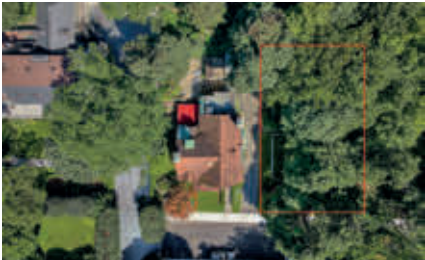
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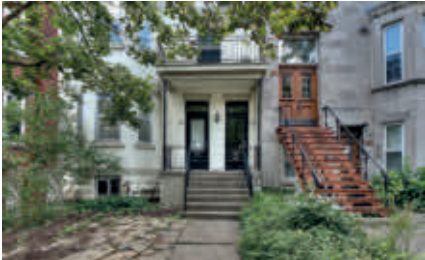
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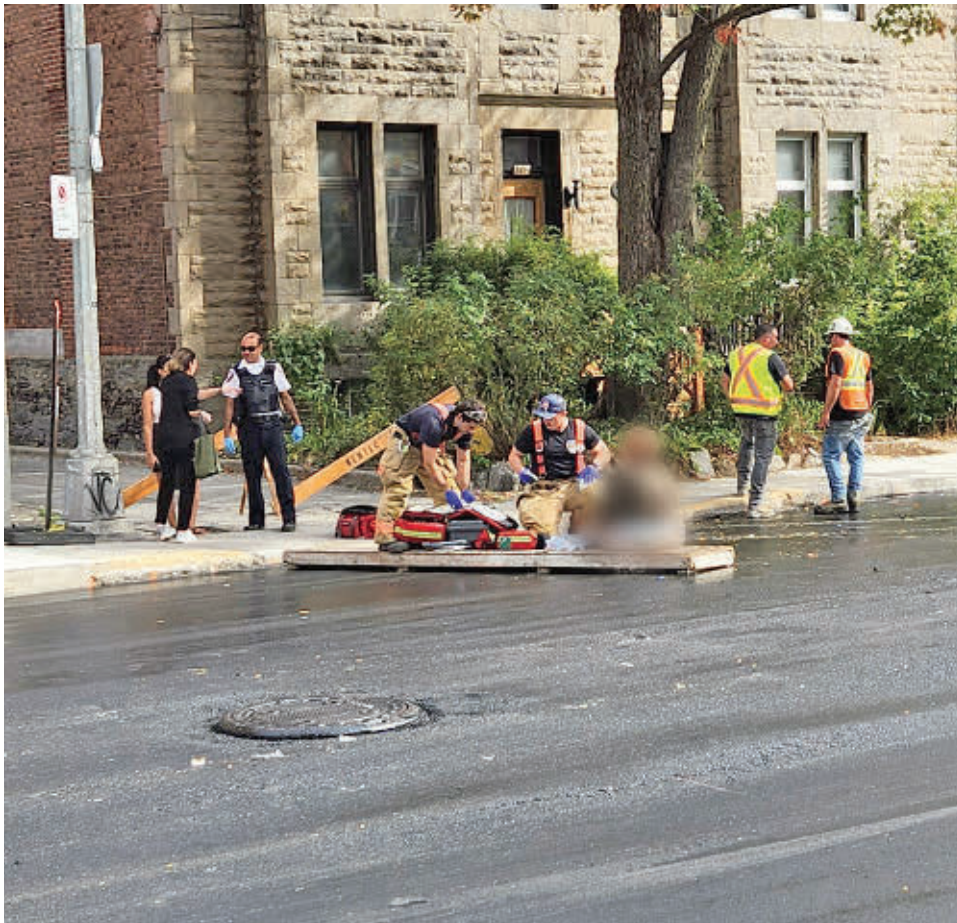
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## Slip-and-fall on Claremont



A woman crossing Claremont Ave. below Sherbrooke October 5 at around noon while new asphalt was still wet got the soles of her shoes covered with the slippery substance, Public Security officials said. This caused her to slip and fall. She was helped by Westmount public safety officers and Montreal firefighters. The image of the woman has been obscured by the *Independent*.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Overheard

Woman to another woman, near the Metro grocery store's parking lot on Victoria, September 14 at around 10 am:

"We bought [...] a new bed. When we first moved here, we bought him a single, but he's a big guy [now] and he keeps falling out of his [old] bed."

\*

Woman, loudly, into a cell phone September 23 at around 3:30 pm near Lansdowne and St. Catherine:

"I get it! I see it! But what the f--- am I supposed to do?"

## 500 Claremont completion target: summer 2025

Neighbours of the 500 Claremont construction project received a letter from its developer, Groupe Forum, late last month. In it, Forum announced summer 2025 as the completion date for the six-storey apartment complex, which is being built from a re-purposed institutional building.

## Fergus elected as speaker

Selwyn House and Marianopolis alumnus Greg Fergus was chosen as speaker of the house of commons October 3. He has been an MP for Hull-Aylmer in Quebec since 2015 and is the first black speaker.

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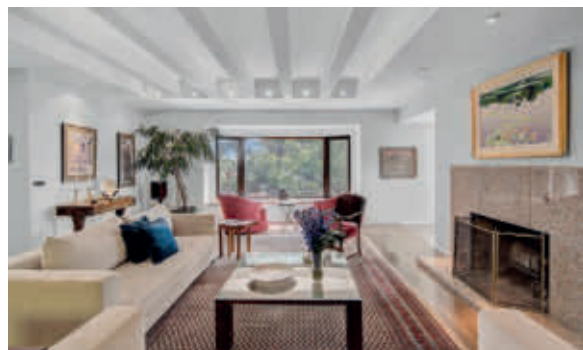
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## Mobility, safety deadline now Oct. 16 New survey version expanded to all school zones



The crossing guard at Clarke and Sherbrooke on October 6.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

An upgraded version of the city’s initial online survey on safety and mobility in school zones in the vicinity of city hall has now been expanded to include all Westmount school zones excluding Dawson and Marianopolis.

The initial version from the end of June was pulled over the summer holidays due to a lack of responses attributed to the timing when much school-related activity was reduced. It targeted an area around city hall with many of the city’s schools.

As of October 4, the restructured survey also includes on-street questioning of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians travelling through the school zones. As well, a mailing via Canada Post of “invitation cards” to Westmount addresses took place last week to access a link to the survey. It was also expected to be posted on the city’s

Engage website.

“Although all school zones have a need for improved safety,” city communications director Sebastian Samuel explained, “each has separate issues so it was decided to take a more proactive approach and take this into account,” he told the *Independent*.

The conclusions of the survey were expected to form part of a report to be submitted to the city in “autumn 2023” as commissioned from Intervia Group, a firm of civil engineers (see story May 23, p. 5).

The new version is described as taking into account potential or upcoming infrastructure projects, including redesigning and reconstructing sidewalks and roadways.

On announcing the new version, the city’s website states that “participation is crucial in helping the city to understand the main issues in these areas and to collaborate on finding optimal solutions.”

## Vic village puppet show in a bus Oct. 14 requires reservations

At the fall festival taking place in Victoria village Saturday, October 14, one of the attractions – a puppet show in a bus – requires reservations for the free tickets, according to festival organizer Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the merchants’ association.

In a detailed schedule released last week, reservations for two presentations by Tortue Berlué at 2 pm and 3:30 pm can be made by email at clulham@sympatico.ca.

Because numbers are limited to 45 for each performance, these should include the number and ages of children and number of adults accompanying them.

“These shows are presented in French and combine puppetry, acting, music and video to create immersive, surprising and amazing experiences for children ages 4 to 8 years,” she explained. Tortue Berlué is a non-profit travelling theatre company that creates and presents puppet shows in a bus.



Team founded by players Mizrahi, Mazzarelo

## 'Great showing' for first Junior A Wings team: Maislin

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's first-ever Junior-level hockey team for ages under 21 took place Sunday, October 1, at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) between the Wings and the Mercier Braves, who won 7-3.

"It was a great first showing," said Andrew Maislin, the WRC's operations manager who is also president of the Westmount Minor Hockey Association.

### 'Spin-off' team

The Junior team was a "spin-off" from last year's M18 (under 18) players who wanted to continue playing inter-city hockey after they reached the youth hockey cut-off age level.

The category for the Junior players is under 21 "and they got off to a good start," he said.

The team was player driven. Two of them, Matthew Mazzarelo and Aiden Mizrahi, presented Maislin with a list of potential players prior to the start of the season. "Without the initiative of these two young men, this team would not have happened. The team also has a great group of coaches."

PHOTO & CAPTION: INDEPENDENT.

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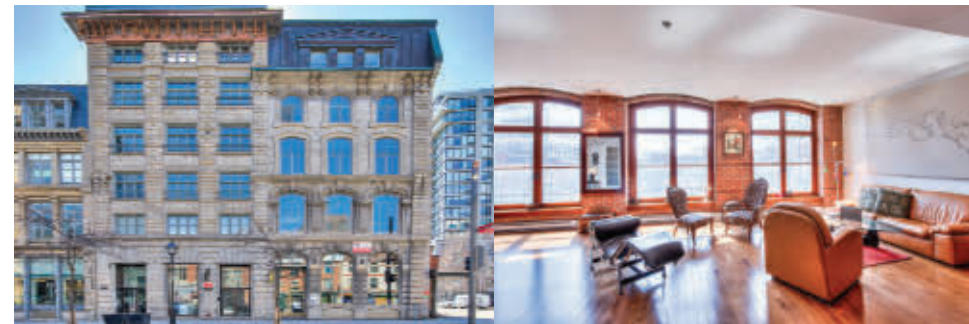


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# Authors, translators mark Journées de la culture at library

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Four acclaimed authors and translators, all Westmount residents, read parts of their works during a literary soirée held after hours at the Westmount Public Library on September 30.

Forty-five guests with an appreciation for literary works came to see featured authors Caroline Vu, Chantal Ringuet, Jonathan Kaplansky and Cora Siré.

The event was held in partnership with les Journées de la culture, a provincially-funded program to encourage public awareness of culture and the arts.

### Caroline Vu

Caroline Vu, who was born in Vietnam and has published three novels, read from her latest, *Boulevard Catinat*. It tells the story of two friends, Mai and Mai Ly, in Vietnam when war was raging from the mid-1960s to the early seventies.

While Mai flirts with American GIs in rowdy bars along Saigon's raunchy Catinat Blvd., Mai Ly joins the communist resistance in the jungle. The story follows the two to latter-day New York City.

### Chantal Ringuet

Originally from Quebec City, Chantal



From left, featured authors Chantal Ringuet, Caroline Vu, Jonathan Kaplansky and Cora Siré (at lectern) read out portions of their works during a literary soirée held at the Westmount Public Library on Sept. 30.

Ringuet has written nearly a dozen books of prose and poetry, and she has also translated a number of other authors' works. Among her published volumes of poetry is *Under the Skin of War* and *Forêt en chambre*. She read from some of her more recent poetry.

### Jonathan Kaplansky

Jonathan Kaplansky is a translator of French literary works into English. His translation of Nobel Prize winner Annie Ernaux's *La vie extérieure* (*Things Seen in English*) won a French Voices Award.

He has also translated many Quebec-

based authors, including Jonathan Bécotte, who wrote *Comme un ouragan*. Kaplansky read out a selection from his English translation of the book, which was published under the title *Like a Hurricane*.

### Cora Siré

Cora Siré, a poet, novelist and short-story writer has authored five books. Her novel, *Behold Things Beautiful*, was a finalist for the Quebec Writers' Federation's Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction.

She read from her latest book, *Fear the Mirror*.

During a question-and-answer exchange that provided some insight into the translator's art, Ringuet and Kaplansky said they never translate their own work.

"But one of the authors I've translated translated me," he acknowledged, while adding he had translated some of Ringuet's poetry. Kaplansky explained what it was like to translate Annie Ernaux's work.

"It was 2010, so before the Nobel Prize," he said. "It was very interesting. I was given a choice of three authors to read and she is the author I chose to translate. And I met her and she was very helpful during the process."



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## EDITORIAL (REPRINT)

# Please write in to support your local newspaper

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 mega-corps 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.

His email is  
[editor@westmountindependent.com](mailto:editor@westmountindependent.com).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **CORRECTION: SUMMIT WOODS DOES HAVE FRIENDS**

In your October 3 issue (p. 11) you wrote: “John Fretz who had been a member of the currently defunct Friends of Summit Woods...”

Actually, the Friends are alive and kicking. We have undertaken walks and posted letters, etc. And we are now poised to do some trail work in the absence of the city’s promises.

There might be some confusion with the defunct Summit Woods Advisory Committee (SWAC), which was regrettably not revived under the new mayor and parks commissioner.

If you can clear it up that would be appreciated.

Thanks for everything!

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### **PLEASE DON’T BLOCK MY DRIVEWAY**

I live at 175 Côte St. Antoine Rd., and since this address is near two schools and there is [private] construction work in front of my house, every day I have issues leaving my garage because people insist on parking their cars/trucks after the sidewalk cutout, blocking a significant portion of my driveway.

I already called several times to Public Security, but they could not help me a lot because they only can issue a ticket if there is a yellow line painted or if my whole

driveway was blocked.

In May 2023, we requested by email to the mayor that the city paint a yellow line delimiting where parking is not allowed, but they said it depends on Public Works’ schedule.

Two weeks ago, I contacted Public Works and Public Security, and they could not give me an estimate date.

But every day, we face the same challenge: cars and trucks do not give us enough space to enter and leave our garage, which results in my children being late at school, my husband being late at work, in addition to all the stress that goes with it.

We’ve already put a sign asking to not block the driveway, put a construction cone that is constantly removed.... and I don’t know what to do with this clear lack of respect for people in this city.

I kindly ask your help to bring this to the city’s attention in the *Westmount Independent* and maybe have the yellow line painted soon.

RENATA GAUDIN, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

### **DON’T LET ISLAND OF MONTREAL BECOME CONEY ISLAND**

I welcome your exposure of the mutant cones to be seen all over Westmount.

But beware of placing one cone on another. By the next day, many more will appear as they breed exceedingly fast.

The mutants you showed us are very worrying, just like COVID variants. And



A hefty cone and a skinny cone on Prince Albert near Sherbrooke October 5. Out on a date?

PHOTO & CAPTION: INDEPENDENT.

anyone who has driven north up Autoroute 15 recently could not fail to see a much larger species gradually moving north, probably having escaped from some laboratory in the USA. They must be stopped.

Years ago, Montreal appeared to be fighting them as on the old Champlain bridge, you could see armoured vehicles picking them off the bridge at least twice daily.

This is no longer done on the new bridge. We must hold the line.

IAN SPOFFORTH, ST. CATHERINE ST.

### **STOP BILL C-275, CONSERVATIVE PRIVATE-MEMBER’S BILL ON ANIMAL TREATMENT**

Open letter to Anna Gainey, MP

Dear Ms. Gainey,

As a resident of your NDG-Westmount constituency whose previous letter to you on this matter still remains unanswered, I am once again writing you to express my profound disgust with the official opposition’s proposed Bill C-275, An Act to amend the Health Of Animals Act, which completed its second reading last June 21 – and to urge you to vote against this barbaric and cynical proposed law henceforth.

If passed in its present form, this law would effectively block concerned citizens and independent parties from surveilling and monitoring farm and animal-treatment conditions, thus aiding and promoting, through legislated concealment, widespread animal abuse in the meat industry.

Unlike farmers and meat producers, animals have no voice and cannot vote. The industry can, does and will continue to abuse, exploit and effectively torture animals with impunity should Bill C-275 be-

come law – an abomination that has no place in a presumably civilized country.

Thus, I appeal to your sense of moral duty as my MP to communicate these clear and vital humanitarian concerns to your fellow members across all party lines in parliament in order to demolish this horrendous private-member’s bill, which brings shame not only upon its proponent, John Barlow (Conservative; Foothills), but upon every elected member of Canada’s parliament who continues to condone and perpetrate its inevitable malfeasance.

ANNA COATES, CLAREMONT AVE.

### **APPLAUSE FOR NAZI INSULTED JEWS, FAMILIES OF WAR DEAD**

The applause offered a Nazi in our house of commons was not merely an insult to Jews. It was a grave insult to the families of World War II Canadian servicemen who gave their lives in the battle against the Nazi menace. Something to keep in mind as November 11 approaches.

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

### **THANKS FOR THE CEDAR AVE. MEMORIES**

I happened to come across your article on my childhood home at 3302 Cedar Ave. (March 8, 2022, p. 22). I truly enjoyed reading the article and I finally know its history.

My mother, still living at the young age of 88, is indeed an artist and my father, Dr. Claude Langlois, was primarily a physician at Notre Dame Hospital in the department of allergy and immunology. Perhaps you could consider him an administrator, as per your article, if you consider his work as a physician for insurance companies.\*

I was eight years old when we moved in 1971. During the previous years, the FLQ created its terror in Montreal and I remember visiting the house. My mother insisted this was the house of her dreams, the owners were eager to sell and “get out,” and my father knew he was getting the deal of a lifetime.

From time to time, I search the home to reminisce and look at renovations and updates that were made once it goes up for sale. I enjoyed the massive renovations that were made after my parents sold the home; my mother, on the other hand, feels that the home was robbed of its charm.

In any case, thank you for this beautifully written and researched article, a pleasant read indeed!

GENEVIEVE (LANGLOIS) FREND-ROSSO, YARDLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

\**Editor’s note:* The professions of owners are usually taken from the subject house’s deed. – DP.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount*

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## Wrong way on Greene



There was very little traffic on Greene on the morning of September 24, a Sunday, but one user was a Public Safety department vehicle and another was a car going in the wrong direction, i.e. north/up. A discussion ensued.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



The area in question is now temporarily set up as a reading room after re-location of the A/V collections. It is now awaiting the start of renovations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

### Library, cont'd from p. 1

While Lacombe has had professional experience with developing a makerspace in her work in Montreal, in Westmount this will be in the hands of others, she explained.

The area, formerly occupied by the audio-visual collection, has already been evacuated to make way for the new second accessible entrance and the makerspace. The adult A/V department was moved to the third storey and the children's portion was consolidated into the children's department.

### Lowest of 6 other bids

The contract for the work was awarded in the council resolution to Progest Construction at a maximum of \$518,727, of which \$94,733 is authorized for the 2023

fiscal year and described as a "cultural space." It was the lowest of six other bids, of which the highest at a maximum of \$943,945 came from Celeb Construction.

The proposed work was initially announced last November when the library applied for a grant from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (see story November 1, 2022, p. 1). The library was subsequently discovered to be ineligible for the grant, as reported by general committee minutes in April, leaving the financing to come from the city.

Interestingly, Councillor Matt Aronson, an advocate of encouraging new ideas and sustainability, had owned and operated with his brothers a "makerspace" workshop called MKRLAB on Sherbrooke in NDG. He closed it at the start of COVID (see story May 25, 2021, p. 8).

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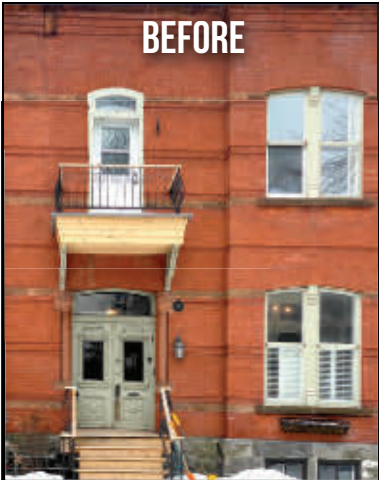
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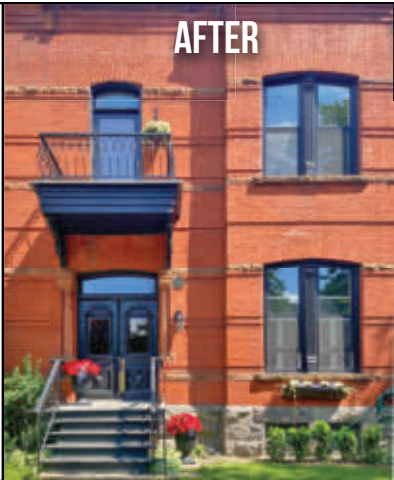
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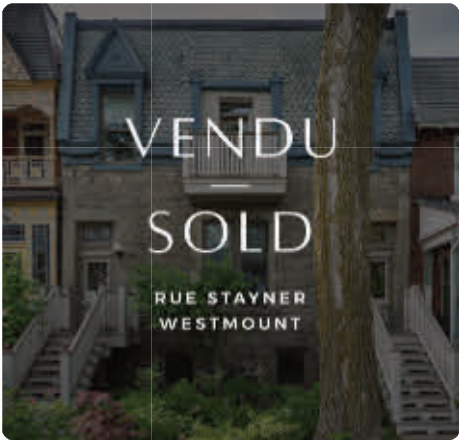
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## Claremont Ave. works progresses



Work on Claremont was progressing fast last week. The black creosote-like layer visible at right was applied between these two pictures: October 4 and October 5 at around noon both days.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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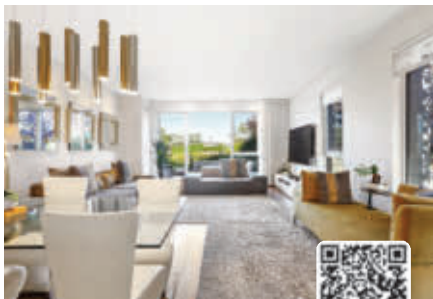
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Social Notes  
VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Rain doesn't stop the Stroll for Kids

Rubber boots were worn for the 2023 Stroll for Kids. The Just for Kids Foundation's event at Trudeau Park started in pouring rain. Parents and their excited little ones warmed up with delights from Mandy's salads, Tuck Shop, Miette, Notre-Boeuf-de-Grace, HangTime Pizza, Real Bagels, Rejuice, Prana granola bars, Mid-day Squares, Dough Nats, Thirsty Buddha, Lassonde juices, Pigeon Coffee, Arthur's babka, chicken skewers from Central Bernard and Bossa sandwiches.

Sponsor Broccolini's swag bags contained Vic Studio passes, kids' activity books, crayons, David's Tea and Squish Candy.

Event chair **Jennifer Cosgrove** worked with committee members **Sarah Broccolini**, **Stéphanie Souffront**, **Jaclyn Hoffman**, **Jaclyn Marcovitz**, **Jacqueline Hopmeyer**, **Kelly Cohen**, **Jasmine Zhang**, **Alfee Kaufman**, **Alex Gosselin**, **Erica Grand**, and Stroll co-founders **Jodie Zimmerman-Frenkiel** and **Alana Geller**. **Lorie Blumer** and **Cory Garfinkle** were event organizers.

Children were entranced by the science booth *continued on p. 17*



Sarah Broccolini and Jennifer Cosgrove.



Alexandre Setlakwe and friend.



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**Social notes, cont'd from p. 16**

and many, proud of their fun painted faces, happily held bright balloon creations.

But their squeals of excitement were loudest for “Spiderman!” and the three pretty princesses in crinolined dresses.

The Disney damsels performed famed songs and “Let It Go” – their anthem from the film *Frozen* – had little feet jumping in the wet grass.

Westmount families included Yasemin Comert Niro, Marissa de Miguel, Olivier Setlakwe, Jaclyn Hoffman and Norman Hébert, Alexandra MacBain, Adriana Embiricos, Lauren Teblum, Allison Jaskolka and Hadrien Montagne, Carina Sweibel, Sarah Segal, Nadia Niro, Gabriel Philippe-Bouchard, Daniel Cohen and Sabina Maderle and Steve Di Gregorio.

The fun day raised a record-breaking \$220,000. Monies will support initiatives at the Children's including The Heart & Hands Pediatric Clinic – a remote clinic delivering health care to vulnerable children through a school-based health centre – and purchasing equipment for the ENT department and for the Sleep Medical Clinic and Laboratory.

Dear readers, as it was a tad challenging to get photos of children hidden under rain hoods and umbrellas, I have opted instead to simply present the inimitable mood – which was fabulous!



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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 16 octobre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, October 16



**Sécurité en zone scolaire**  
La Ville vous invite à participer à un sondage concernant la mobilité et la sécurité dans les zones scolaires à Westmount. La date limite pour participer au sondage est le 16 octobre. [engage.westmount.org/securitescolaire](https://engage.westmount.org/securitescolaire)



**School Safety**  
The City invites you to participate in a survey concerning mobility and safety in areas around Westmount's schools. The deadline to participate in the survey is October 16. [engage.westmount.org/schoolsafety](https://engage.westmount.org/schoolsafety)

**Période de tolérance pour les souffleuses à feuilles à essence**  
La Ville accorde une tolérance pour l'utilisation de souffleuses à feuilles à essence pour la période d'automne 2023 en raison de difficultés d'approvisionnement d'appareils électriques. Nos équipes feront l'essai de nos nouveaux équipements dans les parcs cet automne.

**Du nouveau à la Bibliothèque publique**  
Un nouveau projet de rénovation ajoutera un atelier de fabrication collaboratif, ainsi qu'une 2<sup>e</sup> entrée accessible et un espace café libre-service repensé. Renseignez-vous à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Sports et loisirs — entraîneurs recherchés**  
Aucune expérience nécessaire. Formation et certification payée. 3 h par semaine. Envoyez un message à [recreation@westmount.org](mailto:recreation@westmount.org).

**Visitez un centre de tri et un site d'enfouissement**  
**Où vont vos matières résiduelles ?** La Ville invite les résidents de 8 ans et plus à visiter un centre de tri de matières recyclables le **23 octobre** à Lachine (midi à 15 h 30) et un site d'enfouissement le **27 octobre** à Terrebonne (12 h 30 à 17 h 30). Départ du CLW en autobus. Inscrivez-vous au préalable à [westmount.org/visites](https://westmount.org/visites).

**Tolerance period for gas-powered leaf blowers**  
The City is granting a tolerance for gas-powered leaf blowers for the 2023 fall period due to supply problems related to electric devices. Our crews will be trying out the City's new equipment in our parks this fall.

**Something new is coming to the Public Library**  
A new renovation project will add a makerspace, as well as a second accessible entrance and a redesigned self-serve café area. Learn more at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Sports & Recreation — coaches needed**  
No experience necessary. Training and certification offered. 3 hours per week. Send a message to [recreation@westmount.org](mailto:recreation@westmount.org).

**Visit a sorting centre and a landfill**  
**Where do your waste materials go?** The City invites residents aged 8 and up to visit a recycling sorting centre in Lachine on **October 23** (noon to 3:30 p.m.) and a landfill site in Terrebonne on **October 27** (12:30 to 5:30 p.m.). Departure from the WRC by bus. For more information and to sign up in advance, visit [westmount.org/tours](https://westmount.org/tours).

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**Les heures de conte à la Bibliothèque**  
**Du 27 septembre au 30 novembre.**

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Les mercredis, 10 h 10 à 10 h 30 - en anglais
- **Les « tout-petits » contes (18 mois à 3 ans)**  
Les mercredis, 10 h 40 à 11 h - en anglais
- **Conte et bricolage (4 à 6 ans)**  
Les mercredis, 16 h à 16 h 45 - en anglais
- **Conte et bricolage avec Didi (2 à 4 ans)**  
Les jeudis, 10 h 30 à 11 h - en français

**Visite de l'apiculteur**  
**Mercredi 11 octobre, 15 h 15,** Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque. Venez observer l'apiculteur et les abeilles au travail.

**Club de films documentaires**  
**Mercredi 18 octobre, 19 h,** Bibliothèque. *Beyond Paper* (2022). En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

**Place aux contes — The Luck Child**  
**Dimanche 22 octobre, 14 h,** Victoria Hall. 7 ans et plus. Le conteur Daniel Morden interprète son conte Grimm préféré. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

**Ciné-club — An Cailín Ciúin (2022)**  
**Mardi 24 octobre, 14 h,** Victoria Hall. En irlandais avec sous-titres en anglais. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

**Projection spéciale d'Halloween**  
**Mercredi 25 octobre, 19 h,** Victoria Hall. Le film d'horreur culte *Carnival of Souls* (1962). Inscrivez-vous à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Extravaganza de l'Halloween**  
**Samedi 28 octobre, 18 h 30,** Victoria Hall. Décorez une citrouille chez vous et apportez-la à la Bibliothèque entre le 13 et 27 octobre. Vous recevrez un billet gratuit pour l'événement. Les places sont limitées. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).



**Galerie du Victoria Hall : vernissage**  
**Jeudi 12 octobre, 18 h.** Les photographies du Dr Léopold Hurtubise. Bienvenue à tous.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Storytime at the Library**  
**September 27 to November 30.**

- **Books for babies (6 to 18 months)**  
Wednesdays, 10:10 to 10:30 a.m.
- **Tales for Toddlers (18 months to 3 yrs)**  
Wednesdays, 10:40 to 11 a.m.
- **Storytime & Craft (4 to 6 yr olds)**  
Wednesdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m.
- **Storytime & Craft with Didi (2 to 4 yr olds)**  
Thursdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m. - in French

**Beekeeper Visit**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 3:15 p.m.,** Library Storytelling Garden. Watch the beekeeper and the bees at work.

**Gallery at Victoria Hall: vernissage**  
**Thursday, October 12.** The photography of Dr. Léopold Hurtubise. Everyone welcome.

**Documentary Film Club**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 7 p.m.,** Library. *Beyond Paper* (2022). Register at [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

**Storytelling event — The Luck Child**  
**Sunday, October 22, 2 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Storyteller Daniel Morden performs his favourite Grimm fairy tale. Register at [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).



**Film Club — An Cailín Ciúin (2022)**  
**Tuesday, October 24, 2 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. In Irish with English sub-titles. Register at [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

**Special Halloween Screening**  
**Wednesday, October 25, 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. *Carnival of Souls* (1962). Register at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Halloween Extravaganza**  
**Saturday, October 28, 6:30 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Decorate a pumpkin at home and bring it to the Library between Oct 13 & 27 for a free ticket to the event. Space is limited. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)



## Dear Buddy, best friend



**Westmount  
A-dog-tions**

LYSANNE FOWLER

Buddy brings out the child in me, the best friend that a little girl dreams of – to hug at home, play silly games with and, yes, cuddle on the sofa and let in the bed.

He is a Great Labrador type, very hunky, with a glossy black coat and soft brown eyes. He is a catch!

Buddy has gone from the shelter experience to a foster family at the Montreal SPCA, where he is waiting for his adoptive family.

He is a mature fellow, and at nine years

old, more poised than a puppy in his walks and play. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

As a senior at this time of reduced adoption fees, he is eligible for a humanitarian reduced adoption fee as well.

Please search the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), go direct to Buddy's information page from his identification number, 51797082 and click on the black rectangle on the upper right of the page. You will then be accessing the adoption form to present basic information.

An adoption coordinator will get back to you to discuss Buddy and the adoption process for your family, with the goal of ensuring that he has the opportunity to join you in your home soon.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



## Magic with Merlin



**9 Lives**

LYSANNE FOWLER

Life is sweet with a loving feline friend. Days are filled with joy, laughter and affection. How to say "no" to this perfect little fellow?

Here is Merlin, who is in a foster family now for the Montreal SPCA. The cattery is full and it is time to adopt, to then settle in for the next season with a rescue cat from the shelter.

Handsome Merlin is so distinct, with his beautiful short-haired white coat, with a black cap and cape to contrast.

He is waiting for his new family to ask for him, and come by with the carrier for a transition to happy times in his forever home. Merlin is a healthy senior, 10 years young, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

If you would like more information on him, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then scroll to Merlin's information page from his identification number, 20091334, and then click on the black rectangle on the right side of the page to fill out the adoption form.

You will be contacted by a member of the adoption team for an interview to discuss your family's interest and look forward to bringing him home.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



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# SWAT honours Duncan of Sport au Gus

The Senior Westmount All Star Team recently honoured one of the longtime sponsors of its hockey tournament, which raises money for brain tumour research and neuro-surgery at the Montreal Children's and St. Justine hospitals.

"Angus Duncan, the prior owner of Sport au Gus [store on Sherbrooke at Girouard], has been a staunch supporter of our SWAT *tournoi* for almost 30 years, providing hockey equipment for our silent auction and advertising in our program brochure," said SWAT member Howard Hoppenheim.

"Equally important is his steadfast commitment to the operational success of our *tournoi*, a prime example being where he, at the eleventh hour, promptly sourced and procured an urgent delivery of referee shirts and whistles.

"Angus *never* expressed concerns of the valuable support provided to SWAT by his competitors, Play It Again Sports (on Decarie) and the Westmount recreation centre pro shop, as he always genuinely had the children and families of our two children's hospitals at the forefront of his efforts, decisions and contributions."

SWAT held its 31st tournament last year (see November 29, 2022, p. 3).

The tournament was initiated in 1991, inspired by the late Nicolas W. Matossian,

a young patient at the Montreal Children's Hospital diagnosed with terminal brain

cancer. With his friends, he organized two golf tournaments that in his remaining lifetime raised over \$50,000. The hockey tournament has since raised hundreds of thousands of dollars.



From left, standing: Jim West, Nic Matossian, honouree Angus Duncan, Fred Greenberg, Alain Elbaz and Howard Hoppenheim; kneeling: Patrick Baldwin, Laurent Dionne, Ken Shaw and Dominic Agostino.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF H. HOPPENHEIM.

## Police Report

# No break-ins, just one car theft in Westmount

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. are reporting a significant downward trend in crime in the past week or so, with no residential or commercial burglaries and just one vehicle theft incident.

"It's been a very quiet week," said Cst. Mike Yigit, Station 12's community relations officer. "There were no break-ins and there's only been one car theft."

According to Station 12's log of criminal incidents last week, that vehicle theft took place sometime before 6 pm on October 1 when the owner of a Jeep Wrangler parked near the corner of Wood Ave. and de Maissonneuve Blvd. reported it as missing and possibly stolen.

While the Jeep Wrangler does not ap-

pear on a list of the most stolen vehicles in Canada in 2022, the Wrangler topped a list of the most stolen SUVs in Ottawa between January and April this year.

A news report recounting the near-theft in the nation's capital of a Jeep Wrangler suggested that covering up the vehicle identification number (VIN) around the edge of the windshield may discourage thieves because they need that data in order to forge an electronic access key.

An after-market engine immobilizer, which is hard-wired directly into the car's electronic systems, may also be useful by preventing the car's engine from being started.

Over the past few months, Westmount has been feeling the effects of a regional wave of high-end car thefts, with more than

a dozen luxury vehicles reported stolen.

Police and insurance investigators believe they are the work of vehicle theft professionals operating in eastern Canada in conjunction with international accomplices.

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Certified translator, reviser, general translation: French, English, Spanish (from Mexico) and Italian – specialized translation: From French to English social sciences, medical sciences: emilio\_pagnotta@hotmail.com.

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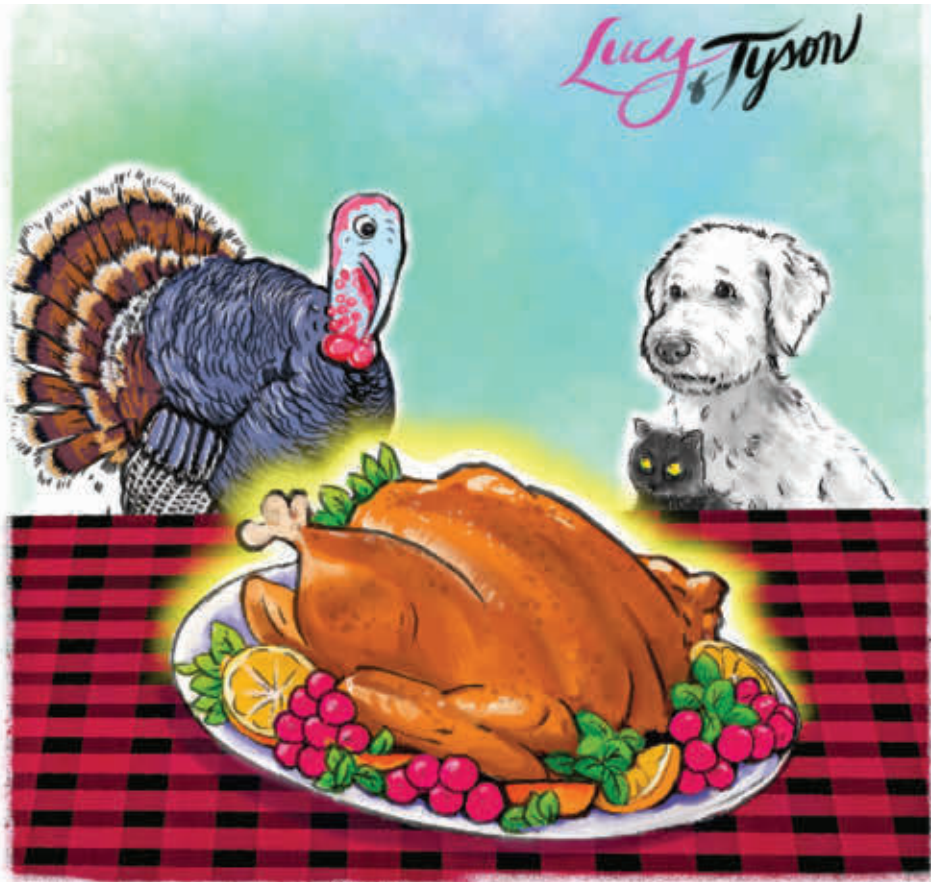
## Weird in Westmount: View from above



This 360-degree view was taken from about 200 feet above the ground October 2 next to the MUHC's Glen super-hospital. The fisheye-style view shows downtown Montreal at the top and the MUHC at the bottom. Westmount is on the left and the Ville Marie expressway (route 136/720) on the right.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Fall means Thanksgiving



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Lecture 1 of 3

# Westmount Public Library: A study in constancy, change

By RALPH THOMPSON

The first of three Westmount Historical Association fall lectures took place September 22 at 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, which was originally the children's library.

The location is quite fitting since the series is all about the Westmount Public Library and its 125-year history.

WHA president Louise Carpentier welcomed the gathering and Caroline Breslaw welcomed the three speakers, who, she explained, are all Westmount residents: Peter Trent, former mayor of Westmount, and Julia Gersovitz and Rosanne Moss, founding partners of EVOQ Architecture.

Julia Gersovitz is a leader in the field of conservation and rehabilitation of historic building, a professor of practice at McGill's school of architecture and an adjunct professor at the University of Montreal.

Gersovitz acknowledged the work of Laureen Sweeney in her book *Polishing the Jewel*, the story of the mid-1990s renewal of the library. She went on to describe the evolution of the civic complex of Victoria Hall, the conservatory/greenhouse, the library and Westmount Park.

### It begins

In 1897, the city council gave approval to build a free public library. When it opened in 1899, it would be the first in Quebec and one of the first in Canada. At this time, the Roman Catholic church dominated Quebec and restricted access to books. It even forbade women from borrowing them without their husbands' permission.

### Designs

Scottish architect Robert Findlay was asked to develop designs. He had recently designed the original Victoria Hall. The final plan became recognized as a significant building in Canadian architecture.



The budget hadn't allowed for the children's library (now the Westmount Room), but it was added 1910.

In 1924, the main building was extended to add reading rooms south of the tower.

In 1959, a modern three-storey annex was built further south.

Today, users can soak up the beauty and architectural splendour of the library's interior, but Trent explained that, for decades, this sight was not what was viewed inside the library.

The Westmount Room, for instance, had been split into three offices, the fireplace bricked up and painted white (as was the whole interior), acoustic tiles and fluorescent lights hung from the ceilings, a leaking asphalt-shingled roof and the superlative Richardsonian Romanesque main entrance faced a crowded parking lot.

"By 1987, the library was in a deplorable state," said Trent. Then-mayor May Cutler called upon Trent, who was in England at the time and preparing to retire from his business, to return to council (he had been an alderman, as councillors were previously called) and "make the renovation happen."

In 1990, Councillor Trent (as he had become) went on to obtain council approval (a nine-month process) for a Peter Rose-designed replacement pavilion for the 1959 structure and refurbishment project, including the new spine and north (Sherbrooke-facing) entrance. In 1991, Trent was acclaimed as mayor and employed a key success strategy for this major project. Citizen consensus.

A fundraising committee was formed which included chairpersons David Culver and Marjorie Bronfman, as well as David Johnston (later governor general) and

Rosanne Moss (front left) describes the meticulous interior restoration task of the Findlay building. Julia Gersovitz (front centre) and former Mayor Peter Trent.

David Lank and many others. Later, \$1.5 million in donations was included in the \$7.6-million project cost. The project was completed in 1995, on time and on budget as demanded by Culver.

### Interior changes

Rosanne Moss, a specialist in heritage conservation described the interior configuration of the new structure, the Rose building, and went on to explain the painstaking task of restoring the Findlay building, restoring the columns with a marbleizing technique known as scaglia, repainting the stencil bands and returning the ceiling and brass lights to their original design.

The last room in the Findlay design, the Westmount Room, was completed to reflect its more recent construction and use for arts and crafts. The décor includes Voysey floral wallpaper design and at Mayor Trent's request, quotations from English and French authors.

About 60 people attended the lecture including former mayor Karin Marks, current councillors Conrad Peart and Elisabeth Roux, former councillor Victor Drury, Thomas Burpee and library director Anne-Marie Lacombe.

Upcoming WHA lectures, membership, donations, reference material, the newsletter and more can be found at [westmounthistorical.org/](http://westmounthistorical.org/).



Peter Trent describes the deplorable state of library before 1995. The original Robert Findlay plaque presented beneath the screen was donated to the WHA. Presenter Julia Gersovitz far right.

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## A symphony of sorrowful songs saved from Nazi destruction

# Berlin's Semer Ensemble returns to the Shaar

BY JENNIFER BALL

Germany's Semer Ensemble brought back to life – for the benefit of a packed auditorium right here in Westmount – Jewish music from recordings made in Berlin between 1933 and 1938.

The musicians played on October 2 at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and the performance was supported by the German Foreign Office and Lufthansa. The Shaar is located on the corner of Côte St. Antoine and Kensington Ave.

The Semer Ensemble has the rare challenge of working to interpret compositions without sheet music that was performed nine decades ago. They learned by listen-



ing to and transcribing brittle recordings. These were accessible by 78 RPMs that Hirsch Lewin began selling under the Semer label in 1932. After the Nazis came to power a year later, he began safeguarding as much Jewish music as he could.

In late 1938, his store was destroyed by an anti-Jewish mob and Gestapo officers, destroying 4,500 recordings.

### Lost ... and found

"Basically, the record of this, and the memory of it, was lost for the next 70 years," Alan Bern said, who leads the ensemble.

In the early 1990s, a musicologist named Dr. Rainer Lotz began to restore the Semer catalogue through a Sisyphean effort of archival research and networking, "The miracle is that he was able to find at least one copy of every recording in the catalogue," Bern marveled.

The concert featured Berlin cabaret, Russian folk songs, operatic arias, cantorial

From left: Alan Bern, Martin Lillich, Sasha Lurje, Mark Kovnatskiy, Lorin Sklamberg, Daniel Kahn and Fabian Schnedler on October 2 at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

music and beer hall chanties sung in Yiddish, German, Russian and Hebrew, all accompanied by English subtitles.

The ensemble is composed of Bern on piano and accordion, with vocalists Lorin Sklamberg, Daniel Kahn, Sasha Lurje and Fabian Schnedler, violinist Mark Kovnatskiy and bassist Martin Lillich.

### Coincides with Sukkot

Senior rabbi Adam Scheier of the Shaar said, "This amazing and creative and talented group last graced the stage in 2017 and that wonderful evening six years ago turned me and so many other here into fans and made us all more excited to welcome them back here this evening..."

"We are now amidst the festival of Sukkot, which is the time that we are called to go outside of our home and our synagogues, and enter the world around us and in that spirit, it is such a privilege to share

this moment with all of you."

Rabbi Scheier offered a special welcome to the consul general at the US consulate general in Montreal, Robert Sanders, who was in attendance, and to the event's co-sponsors: the Jewish Museum of Montreal, Lufthansa airlines and the German government.

"A partnership between a Jewish synagogue and the German government is a remarkable reality," he said. "We stand in awe and in gratitude and really as we stand here, we stand with two different communities. With our Jewish community in Montreal and with those who are here with the German-speaking community."

As the crowd trickled out of the musical event, the *Independent* overheard a woman say to her male companion: "Wow, some of that music was really sad!"

He paused and returned with "Well, it was, after all, a very sad time."



Alan Bern, who leads the Semer Ensemble.

## Westmount Dental Care

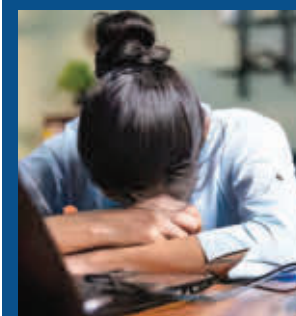
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## Weird in Westmount: Flag device (?)



A mysterious contraption was observed October 2 in the field adjoining the MUHC's Glen super-hospital, next to the slip road that runs down to the Glen Rd. It does appear to be a fairly elaborate flag that is temporarily taken down or awaiting the right moment to be raised. Its not possible to read what is written on the white sheet without unfolding it.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Attire at the recent Batshaw eve was “back to black” – shout-out to Amy Winehouse – but the best black was sported by Lola, the friendly therapy dog. The tail-wagging smoocher was introduced by owner-handler **Maria Colantonio**, who explained Lola offers “comforting hugs” at Batshaw.

The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation fundraiser was the first one held since COVID, explained **Mark Lowe**, Pragmatic Communications, attending with his wife **Sara O’Brien**.

The event attracted a full house to the well-located St. Ambroise location: perfect for easy parking. (What a relief!) The concept is simply delicious.

Local Taverne on the Square offered a special cocktail, prepared by bartender **Gabriel Latremouille** and owner **Jon Cercone**. And much-loved chefs from **Chez Mylo Catering**, **Cartier Arms**, **Pizzeria Melrose** and **Epic Tofu** prepared signature canapés, and guests voted on their favourite.

Dessert was provided *continued on p. 26*

Batshaw hosts first post-COVID event



Laura Lavy, Wendy Khan, Ben Wearing, Janet Faith, Sophie Higgins and Tina Khan.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 25

by Doughnats. Défi Canapé winner was Epic Tofu with vegan pulled porkless tacos in a soft black sesame-seed tortilla with pineapple-mango slaw.

Hard choice: they were all amazing! Hungry arrivals also took advantage of a delicious spread of Italian-styled antipasti. Committee members were Laura Lavy, Wendy Khan, Ben Wearing, Janet Faith, Sophie Higgins and Tina Khan, all also board members.

Westmounters noted chatting amidst the silent auction items included Christina Smith, mayor, Batshaw Foundation's president Janet Faith and treasurer Andrew Clark; Judy Martin, former president Batshaw Youth and Family Centres; Linda Smith, Alex Prijic-Smith, Sue Khan, Ariana D'Ermo, Jenni Khan, Trevor Bishop, Andrea Buhl and Adrian Kestenband, helpful volunteers Sophie Cobrin and Aili Schwartz, and Michele and Ronald Kaulbach with whom I shared Nova Scotia tales: his family has been involved in Lunenburg since the late 19th century. The fun evening raised \$80,000 for the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation, which provides support to clients of the centres. Foundation president Janet Faith thanked gold sponsors Jarislowsky Fraser and 3 Macs, a division of Raymond James.



Michele and Ronnie Kaulbach, Christina Smith.



Janet Faith and Judy Martin.



Nissa, Sue and Jenni Khan.



Maria Colantonio and Lola.

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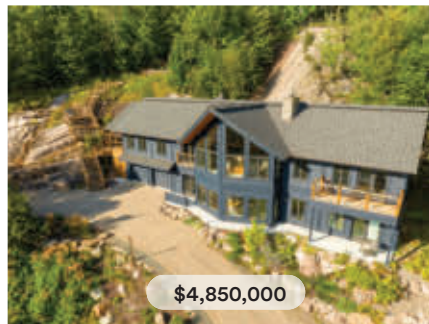
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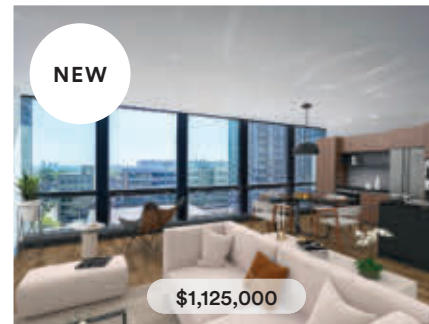
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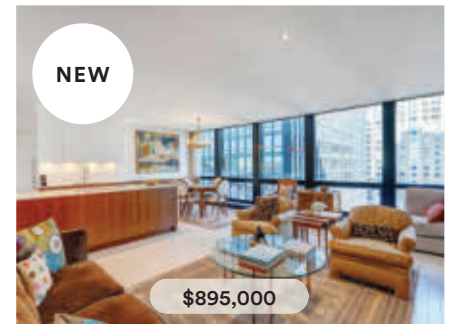
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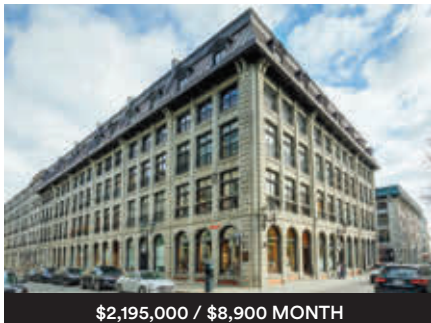
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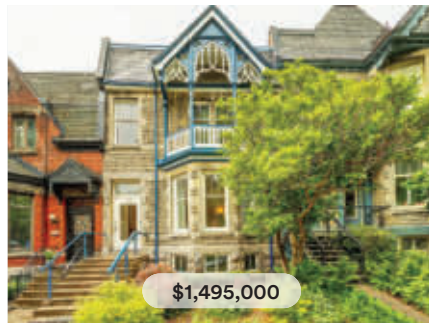
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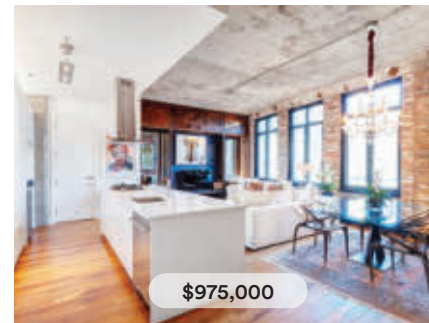
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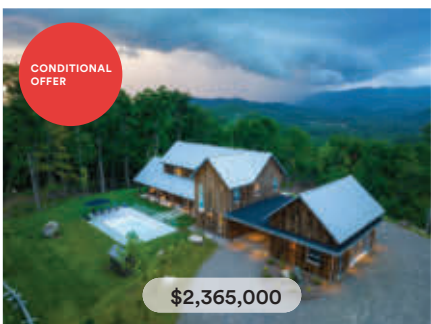
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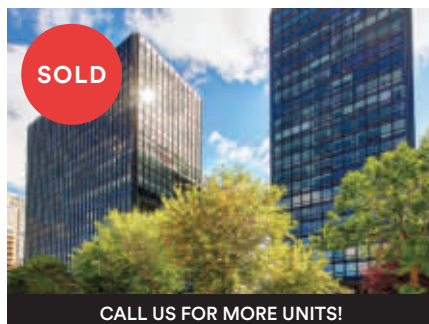
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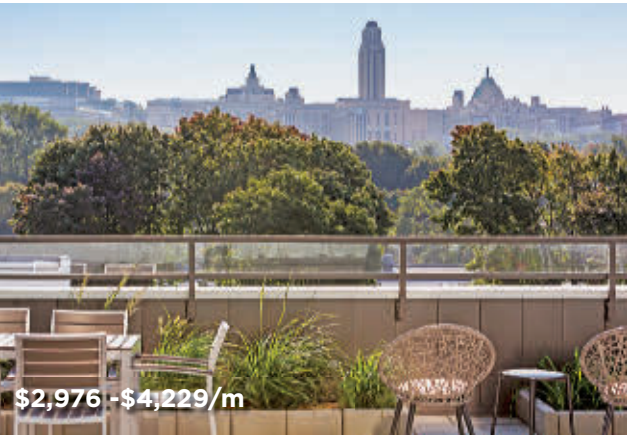
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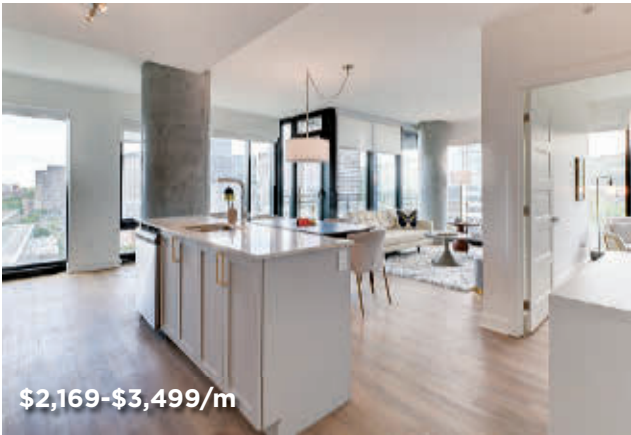
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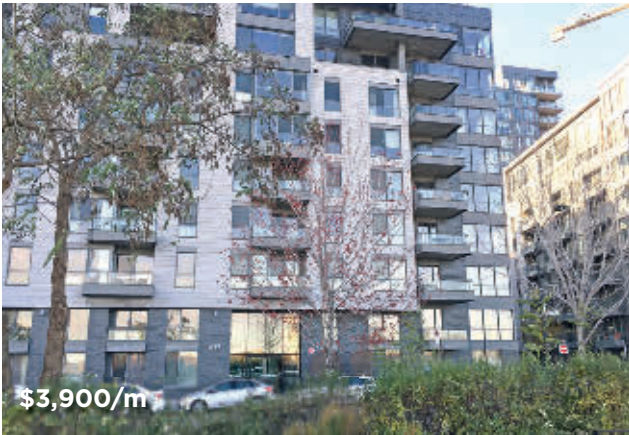
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