

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 17 No. 10e

We are Westmount

October 31, 2023

Hallowe'en, Oz arrive at Vic Hall



More than 200 children and parents were reported to have attended the Westmount Public Library's Hallowe'en Extravaganza October 28 at Victoria Hall as it was transformed for the event into the magical land of Oz. See p.12 for story.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINA SAMOUKOVA/WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Argh! Cub Scouts visit anti-piracy naval vessel



A group from the 2nd Westmount Cub Scouts toured the HMCS Glace Bay on October 14. See p. 8 for story.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ELLIOTT.

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City extends freeze on southeast development

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A special council meeting took place October 24 to "temporarily restrict" the issuance of Urban Planning permits in the southeast sector of the city. This is to replace the expiry of a 90-day interim control freeze imposed August 21.

Announced only the day before, the special meeting was chaired by Councillor Matt Aronson as acting mayor in the

absence of Mayor Christina Smith. Also absent were councillors Antonio D'Amico, Jeff Shamie and Anitra Bostock.

Moved by Councillor Conrad Peart, as commissioner of urban planning, the draft by-law, numbered 1611, was posted the morning of the meeting and applies to new construction, extensions, demolitions, transformations, cadastral operations and lot subdivisions.

While Peart added no continued on p. 14



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Part of multi-phase work to Vic Hall-library-greenhouse

\$500k contract okayed to upgrade Victoria Hall kitchen

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A contract to upgrade the ventilation system in the kitchen at Victoria Hall was approved at the council meeting October 16. The expense is to be spread over the remainder of 2023 at a cost of \$175,827 including tax credits and a maximum of

\$502,248 when the work is expected to be complete in 2024.

The contract was awarded to TEKNO Inc., the lowest of six other competing bids ranging up to a maximum of \$809,295.

This is to be done over the two years since it involves installing a temporary heating unit for the kitchen to provide

fresh air during the cold weather when the HVAC system is turned off, according to Patrick Duchesne, of the Engineering department's building division.

The work on updating Victoria Hall's utility room was begun two years ago with Phase 1 involving preparatory work and moved into Phase 2 this year (see story

November 8, 2022, p. 7).

Victoria Hall's mechanical room previously serviced the old section of the library, but is now being split off so that each building would be independent of each other. This is considered important considering Victoria Hall serves as the city's emergency shelter.

Looking at pedestrian, vehicle and biking mobility

School zone safety survey generates 775 responses

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Preliminary results are now being analyzed in the city's expanded survey on safety and mobility in Westmount school zones, city officials said last week. Following the deadline October 16, a count indicated at least online 775 surveys had been received.

"They have been sent to the specialists and it's possible that a few other surveys – maybe those on hard copy – may yet be received, city communications director Sebastian Samuel said.

The results are expected to form part of a report that the city commissioned from

Intervia Group on safety in school zones (see story October 10, p. 6).

A smaller version of the survey had been launched in late June at the end of the school year (see story July 11, p. 4). This was found to have generated so few responses that it was "pulled" awaiting the start of the new school year

Relaunched as an expanded version, it covered all school zones rather than the initial ones located only in the congested area around city hall.

The city's survey comes as school safety has become a wider municipal concern including one with public consultations slated for Montreal.



A school bus extending its stop sign so as to disembark students on Sherbrooke at Kensington on October 27.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Flipped car sends driver to hospital

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A car flipped on its side at 1:55 am October 24 after hitting a parked one at Sherbrooke just west of Mount Pleasant, Public Security officials said. The driver was reported to have been taken to hospital by Urgences Santé.

A patrolling officer came across the incident. Five police cars were already on the scene along with the two tow trucks and ambulance. Both cars had to be towed.

Public Security remained to help protect the site. No other details were recorded.

Cyclist hit by car at Westmount Ave. and Aberdeen

At 6:20 pm on October 23, Public Security received a call about a cyclist being hit by a car at Westmount Ave. and Aberdeen. On arrival at the scene, a responding patroller found Urgences Santé had already been called and the cyclist was standing and talking to by-standers. He was evaluated and left with his wife, who had been called.

While not specified in the report, officials said it was likely he had been riding on the Westmount Ave. bike path, but no details were reported.

Dog escapes from home

A small dog found at Sherbrooke and Claremont was dropped off at the Public Security station on Stanton St., October 23 at 9:22 am, according to Public Security officials. The dog turned out not to have been microchipped when checked out by a veterinarian.

While it did not have a tag attached to its collar, the owner, who called the station to enquire after it, said the tag must have fallen off when the dog escaped. It had indeed had a licence when checked out in the city's database and was issued a new tag.

First time lenient, second time ticketed

A ticket was finally issued to a dog owner October 22 for walking two dogs off leash in Summit Woods after failing to adhere to an initial warning, Public Security officials said.

A patroller had received a call at 12:06 pm for two unleashed dogs at Summit Woods and gave the handler a warning to leash them and leave the park. Due to "the compliant nature" of the man, he was not ticketed immediately. But the officer spotted him back again 10 minutes later with the dogs unleashed. This time, he was

issued a ticket for \$230. He was identified as a resident of Hampstead.

Operator ticketed \$659

The operator of an excavator was ticketed \$659 October 19 at a construction site at 473 Metcalfe for occupying the public domain without a permit. A pile of gravel also blocked the northbound lane as well as a small dump truck.

Public Security officials said a hazardous situation resulted from the lack of signage and a signaler. The operator was issued the ticket rather than one being sent to the contractor because he had taken responsibility for the non-compliance.

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
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE ARE THE GOOD PEOPLE?

Where are the good people? Where are the Israeli flags?

Not standing up and denouncing Hamas' slaughter, rape, torture and kidnapping of innocent Jews – women, babies, toddlers, boys, girls, men, mothers and fathers, can only be viewed as indifference to loss of Jewish life.

"It's nothing new," you might say, "Jews have been murdered for thousands of years and it's a boring old story. Jews and Arabs kill each other, it's their problem."

This is about humanity or rather the lack of humanity and not taking a stand is

supporting Hamas terrorists. This isn't about land, history, or any of the attempted diversions from what happened on October 7. Terrorists went with one objective and that was to terrorize and kill Jews. No Canadian should be allowed to support and celebrate terrorists and one would expect to see outraged people on the streets calling for the eradication of Hamas. Instead, we see only Hamas supporters and people ripping down posters of kidnapped Israeli's being held in Gaza. How quick were you to hang your Ukrainian flags on your houses and cars. The only Israeli flag I have seen so far is hanging from my window. We Jews see you, or rather, we don't

see you and we don't hear you. It's not too late. Reach out to your Jewish friends and neighbours and ask how they are. Tell them you support them. Denounce anyone who stands up for Hamas.

JEREMY STERN, CLAREMONT AVE.

HURRAY FOR NEW GARBAGE CANS

I noticed in the past few weeks a few new garbage cans (see below) that can be opened with a pull or a step and lets you load your waste vertically. Bravo!

As I used to travel a lot and saw many types that were so much better than what Westmount went with, I did bring it up before many times and was shocked that the city went with top-fill garbage cans.

I tried many times before their decision to recommend the proper ones and wrote in to the *Independent* several times about it. I even went to lengths of describing which cans would be the best.

The ones that they selected were just wrong. With open tops or swinging lids, there were so many issues with squirrels getting stuck in them and then when the lids were taken off, the squirrels pulled garbage out of and litter was throughout Westmount, not to mention the amount of rain and snow that just accumulated in the cans. Imagine my surprise to see, eight years later, some of the proper garbage cans in place that I recommended time and time again.

I am thrilled to see that someone in the administration finally came to their senses or was responsible to bring others to their

senses to try out these new garbage cans, and I only hope that the disastrous garbage cans we have throughout the city get replaced with these in the near future!

It would also be nice to see more of them as recycling cans so we can divert more from landfills.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

DISAPPOINTED WITH SHAMIE ON PROVINCIAL MATTER

I agree with Editor Price (September 26, p. 8) that newspapers are very valuable. In particular, they are essential to democracy, keeping governments accountable. And that certainly applies to the local level as well.

In fact, along those lines, I'll take this opportunity to express my disappointment with city councillor Jeff Shamie. When I recently called him for help with a landlord that wasn't complying with the Régie's heating requirements, he told me (three times) that he would encourage us to dialogue.

After I replied (three times) that I had dialogued with the landlord multiple times via email, he asked what I would like him to do.

I know that such regulations are a provincial matter, but I suggested that he give the landlord a call. He outright refused – not possible. We bid one another a good day and that was that. Disappointing.

I'm sure Editor Price will have full coverage of the next cycle of our local elections.

ALEX SIMONELIS, SHERBROOKE ST.



WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am
(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

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MORE APPRECIATION LETTERS

Thanks for more reader letters

Thank you again to everyone who answered my call for letters of support to show advertisers that our readers – you – are out there. Last week (p. 10), we ran two full pages of them, but we are always happy to have more, including the ones reproduced here. David Price, editor

*

WHAT ELSE COULD ONE ASK FOR?

Why I enjoy reading *Westmount Independent*:

- It keeps me in touch with what is going on in the community.
- The articles, which cover a variety of subjects, are coherent and concise.
- The colours and composition of the photos are high quality.
- The page size makes it easy to read, even on a crowded bus or in the park on a windy day.
- The Letters to the Editor provide a forum for discussion of issues that concern the newspaper's readers.

What else could one ask for in a community newspaper ... ?

ANNE HOLLOWAY, LANSDOWNE AVE.

COVER-TO-COVER READER (4)

To learn what's happening in our community, I read each issue of the *Westmount Independent* cover to cover.

With much appreciation,

STEPHEN COHEN

THANK YOU FOR COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE

I would like to thank [editor] David Price and [chief reporter] Laureen Sweeney for their dedicated effort in producing a comprehensive newspaper every week with useful information that keeps Westmount residents informed and engaged, with what is no doubt tight timelines and tight budgets. Local newspapers play a crucial role in fostering community awareness and facilitating discussion on important issues especially as it relates to how residents' tax dollars are spent.

But even more important is the Letters to the Editor page where residents' voices can be heard. This page provides an essential platform for residents to express their opinions and hold the administration accountable for its actions. It serves as a vital, and sometimes the only, conduit for democratic engagement and enables citizens to voice their concerns, offer suggestions and question how their tax dollars are being allocated. I was told that the Letters page is the first thing that the administra-

tion reads.

It is on these pages that residents learnt, as well as perhaps the administration, of the [actions of] Mr. Hakim, the city director general with probably the shortest tenure. It was on these pages that residents expressed a firestorm of opposition to the Westmount Park redesign, finally resulting in the derailment of the de-beautification of Westmount Park, and where residents learnt of the true cost of Hydro Westmount, amongst other important issues.

Publications like the *Westmount Independent* serve as watchdogs for government actions, promote transparency and encourage participation in local governance. If not for the *Westmount Independent* residents would be in the dark (Hydro Westmount notwithstanding) as to what is going on at city hall. Thank you, David and Laureen, for keeping the conversation going.

JANIS KRAUT, THE BOULEVARD

EVERYONE SHOULD READ IT

Led by a competent, effective, transparent, and informed decision-maker, David Price is on my very short shortlist of truly value-add members and citizens of our Westmount community. Everyone should get into the habit of reading the *Westmount Independent*, a trusted weekly news source that can educate, enlighten and bring enjoyment to its local readership, to Montrealeers across boroughs, and well beyond.

NATASHA ARORA, WOOD AVE.

CAN'T IMAGINE A WEEK WITHOUT THE INDEPENDENT

The *Independent* is our link to Westmount life! I am writing today in support of the mission of the *Independent* and in particular, the paper copy that is distributed.

I read the *Independent* every week IN PRINT and seek it out on delivery day! Sometimes, I will go to one of the retailers that have them to get a copy if mine has not been delivered yet. My son, who no longer lives in Westmount, asks me to save all the copies so he can catch up with the news (and my new daughter-in-law now also reads it).

I keep my copy in the kitchen so I can refer to it – of particular interest to me are the Westmount retailers ads (I try to buy local) and the [city of Westmount's] Info-Westmount page that lists all the community events. I also enjoy the spirited back and forth on the Letters to the Editor page and I appreciate David's editorials, which are always well written and informative (whether or not I agree).

I can't imagine my week without my paper copy of the *Independent*. David, keep up the good work! You are much appreciated in our community.

LEA KATSANIS, IRVINE AVE.

INDEPENDENT IS INDISPENSABLE

Your paper is absolutely indispensable. As many readers have pointed out, it is the only paper that I read cover to cover. With all the turmoil going on in the world these days, it is good to have the *Independent* as our comfortable companion. Keep your wonderful paper going.

MICHAEL POLAK, PROSPECT ST.

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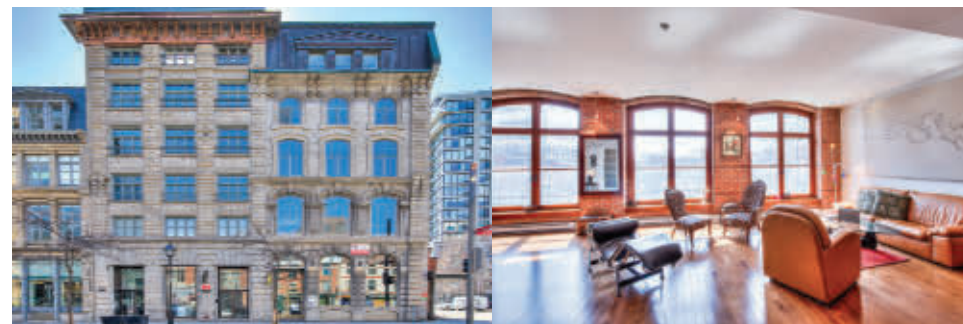
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Player of the Month for October

Luca Robinson cited for ‘positive attitude and leadership’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

“In continuing with the tradition of highlighting a player’s commitment, perseverance, positive attitude and leadership, the Westmount Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) named Luca Robinson (number 56) the Player of the Month for October 2023.”

With these words, the October recognition was announced last week by Andrew Maislin, president of the WMHA and operations manager for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). This is the first player so honoured for the current hockey season.

As a member of the M13B Wings team, Luca recorded the first goal for the WMHA for the 2023-2024 season by scoring in the home opener against the Lachine Rapides on October 14, Maislin explained. The goal was assisted by Aryeh Issenman (number 46) in 12 seconds into the second period.

Luca has always played for Westmount for various A and B teams throughout his career, Maislin continued. “We are truly impressed by the quiet, yet impactful leadership Luca exhibits. His ability to lead by example and stay composed under pressure is remarkable.”

Began in 2015

Luca began his career the fall of 2015 as an underage M7-1 player (formerly known as MAHG 1).

“Although he might be the quietest player in the player room,” Maislin said, his presence on the ice is always noticeable. “He uses his formidable size to his advantage and is often first to the puck in the corner. Luca is quick on his skates and always has his head on a swivel. These skills allow him to be the team’s playmaker in front of the net.”

His teammates are “fortunate” to have someone as dedicated, focused, and reliable both on and off the ice, Maislin said. “Luca’s quiet strength is an invaluable asset

to the team, and we admire his leadership qualities. We look forward to seeing him develop as a player and team leader this season.”



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Two-vehicle collision sends one driver to hospital

By JENNIFER BALL

A two-vehicle collision sent a mother to hospital with minor injuries.

It happened at a few minutes before 8 am on the morning of October 20 at the intersection of St. Catherine St. and Lambert Closse, just east of downtown's border with Westmount.

Jeanne Drouin from the Montreal police department's media relations department spoke with the *Independent* later that day.

"It is a minor collision," Drouin said. "There is nothing criminal involved. No one has been arrested, for instance, for impaired driving and the passengers had minor injuries..."

"One of the drivers was a 27-year-old woman who had a child in the car with her at the time of the accident. The mother was transported to hospital, but her injuries did not put her life in danger. The driver of the other car was a 19-year-old man."

Two white sedans were involved in the collision: a Mercedes and an Infiniti, although the police did not disclose which car the man and the woman were driving, nor who may have been at fault in the accident.

"There will be no investigation," Drouin



This two-vehicle collision happened around 8 am October 20 at St. Catherine St. and Lambert-Closse.

said "but the police report will be sent to the Société de l'assurance automobile du

Québec, as is the standard operating procedure."

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Mayor Smith: ‘let the world know’ posters not being removed by Public Works...any longer

By JENNIFER BALL

Mayor Christina Smith says that no “lettheworldknow” posters have been removed by Westmount Public Works since October 19.

Since the October 7 surprise attack on Israel carried out by Hamas, over 200 people have been taken hostage – and both a global and local effort is under way to put faces and names to those captives, as well

as to keep them in the public eye.

Posters have gone up globally that read “...on October 7, nearly 200 innocent civilians were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip. Their whereabouts remain unknown... Please help bring them home alive, #KidnappedFromIsrael.”

The *Independent* witnessed and photographed Westmount Public Works taking down #KidnappedFromIsrael posters on October 17 on the northwest corner of Sherbrooke at Claremont. When asked why they were removing these posters, a worker told the *Independent* that they were told to do so because it was “propaganda.” A large “Sherbrooke REVe” poster by the Montreal Bicycle Club on the same city lamppost was left untouched. It was still there on October 27 when the *Independent* checked.

By October 19, workers were instructed by Mayor Christina Smith’s team to leave

the “lettheworldknow” posters in situ.

After initialing denying that Public Works had taken down any posters, Smith said: “I think this often happens. It gets miscommunicated on the ground. Public Works has always been instructed to take down any signs. There are signs that go up on the lamppost and our parking meters and things like that, so they are continually taking those signs down.”

This is due to By-law 41 from 1894 that prohibits citizens placing posters in public spaces from the municipality of the “town of Côte Sainte Antoine” (as Westmount was then called).

“Listen, would [these] by-laws stand up against freedom of speech? Probably not, but it’s the by-law that only during election time are you allowed to put signs up on the lampposts...

“But [Public Works] is kind of con-

tinually doing that. It’s part of their daily work and so they took some down. Someone got very upset from what I understand – and so they stopped taking them down...

“We gave them instructions to leave them, so whoever took it down was not our employees.”

The *Independent* noticed lampposts covered with posters from Wood Ave. to Claremont Ave. They included dog-walker posters, Sherbrooke REVe posters, communist worker posters, “masse critique” posters, “rent too damn high” posters, and a poster for *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Imperial Theatre.

At this time of war between Israeli and Hamas, Mayor Smith said she is less concerned with the by-law and more concerned about residents.

“We have a very, very strong Jewish community in our city. They are a huge part of our city. I’m very close to many of them and this is a very difficult time...

“So, we are obviously less concerned with our by-law and more concerned with the safety and well-being of our residents. They are extremely anxious right now and I don’t blame them,” Mayor Smith said.

Two Israeli artists who live in New York City were responsible for the poster templates. They were interviewed by *Barron’s* and they say their work isn’t political, it’s a humanitarian project. For Dede Bandid and his life partner Nitzan Mintz, every person on the posters deserves to go back home.

The campaign is called “lettheworldknow” and it is one of the largest social and international information campaigns ever, in which thousands of participants are volunteering in dozens of countries around the world. The couple posted the flyers online – allowing anyone with a printer to make copies.

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Westmount Cubs visit the Glace Bay

By VIRGINIA ELLIOTT,
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The 2nd Westmount Cub Scouts were treated to a visit aboard *HMCS Glace Bay*, a coastal defense vessel with the Royal Canadian Navy Atlantic fleet on October 14 at Montreal’s port.

The ship works to protect the Canadian coast from illegal activity in Canadian waters and in time of war could be deployed as a minesweeper. She has been involved in anti-piracy operations along the Atlantic coast as well as in the Caribbean.

The *Glace Bay* has also been involved in marine rescue missions and was involved in the ill-fated search for the *Titan* submarine that was lost last June on a descent to the *Titanic* wreck site.

The 8- to-10-year-old Cubs were treated to a personal tour by former Westmount Venturer Joshua Acre-Hosein, who is pres-

ently employed as a third class sailor with the position of boatswain (pronounced “bauson”). He is a graduate of Westmount High School. It is interesting to note that a large percentage of the crew was involved in Scouting as youngsters before joining the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The ship was in port as part of the Great Lakes tour, which is a joint recruitment operation with the RCMP, Coast Guard and department of Fisheries.

HMCS Glace Bay will proceed to other ports of call – Kingston, Toronto and Windsor – before returning to her home port of Halifax in November.

Boatswain Acre-Hosein was very proud to show the 2nd Westmount Cubs around the ship and introduce them to life in the Canadian navy.

See photo on p. 1.

Virginia Elliott is a Scouting volunteer.

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Caisse officials brief Women's Canadian Club on REM rail project



From left, Elizabeth Boivin, director of environment with CDPQ Infra, and Isabelle Mulholland, a CDPQ Infra environmental consultant with expertise in archaeology, at Victoria Hall on October 18.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although the construction of Caisse de dépôt et placement's du Québec Infra's Réseau express métropolitain light-rail train hasn't been anywhere nearly as controversial as the creation of a new national oil pipeline, there are days when some of those working on the \$7.95-billion project have wondered what it's all about.

"There's always a balance when we deliver large infrastructure projects," Elizabeth Boivin, director of environment with CDPQ Infra, told members of the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, who were meeting at Victoria Hall on October 18.

She acknowledged that the social acceptability of major infrastructure projects is something developers always need to consider.

"We struggled a lot," she said, adding that "at some point we realized we're not doing a pipeline project, we're doing a transit project, but we were like in the papers, you know, almost every week."

Since work on the REM got under way five years ago, CDPQ Infra has had to deal with friction in some neighbourhoods of Montreal where the line passes. In areas like Town of Mount Royal, the company created so-called neighbourhood committees to help deal with issues like construction noise.

More recently, after the opening of the first section of the REM from the South Shore to downtown Montreal, and Griffintown residents complained about excessive train noise, CDPQ Infra pledged to correct

the problem with anti-noise measures that are now being implemented.

"We're putting in dampers and that's going to help reduce the noise, you know, on the rails at the source," Boivin said, while adding that the company has also begun a noise reduction technique that involves grinding the rails.

She said CDPQ Infra will take new noise level measurements and consult the public once more.

Isabelle Mulholland, a CDPQ Infra environmental consultant with expertise in archaeology, outlined her efforts to preserve archaeological findings on sites which were excavated for the REM.

The company's archaeological team studied sites with native as well as Irish connections.

Among their findings was a cemetery in Pointe St. Charles where Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine during the 1840s century were buried.

Although DNA experts working with CDPQ Infra have been analyzing the human remains, Mulholland said the bones will eventually be turned over to representatives of Montreal's Irish community and they will be buried in a commemorative park to be located around the site.

She said identification of the remains is being conducted at the Université du Québec's Trois Rivières campus, using an information database in Ireland. Researchers are also trying to determine whether the deceased were related through marriage or adoption to French-speaking Quebecers.

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9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Orlando is a very handsome fellow, a cuddly youngster with a lot of affection to give. He is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, which is very full and this makes it important to reach out to adopt this friendly companion as soon as possible.
Orlando is growing out of kittenhood at one year of age. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.
To find out more about him, it is very

Police Report

Westmount car thefts down, although break-ins surge

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Although the number of car thefts committed in Westmount is down compared to a few weeks ago, there's been a surge in vehicle break-ins, according to an official at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St.
Sometime between the evening of October 23 and the morning of October 24, a Lexus UX subcompact luxury crossover SUV parked near the corner of Grosvenor and Sunnyside avenues was stolen.
In an incident report to police at Station 12, the owner said he had parked at 6 pm on October 23, only to find the vehicle missing the following day.
However, the car was fitted with a GPS module, which notified him that one of the vehicle's doors had been opened without authorization. He was then able to track the car through the GPS's smartphone app to a spot on Murray Hill Ave. a few blocks away where it was parked.
According to Cst. Mike Yigit, Station 12's community relations officer, the owner immediately informed the police who con-

Elegant Orlando

venient to go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, and then scroll to his information page under his identification number, 20000051418.
You can then plan your trip to the shelter to visit the adoption counsellors and Orlando. The SPCA is open every day as of 10 am and it is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges.
Please bring a cat carrier for your visit to bring Orlando home. If you need to purchase one, you can review the selection at the accessories boutique onsite.
Your neighbour,
Lysanne



firmed the vehicle's recovery, while also noting that the rear passenger-side window had been shattered.

Four vehicle break-ins

Over a period of four days from October 14 to 19, police at Station 12 received four complaints from Westmounters about forced entries into vehicles.
Two of the incidents, one on Prospect St. in lower Westmount and another outside 4299 de Maisonneuve Blvd., took place on October 14.
Although there was no additional information available on the first of these incidents, the second involved a Honda CRV. The vehicle's driver-side window was found to have been broken with a brick.
On October 16, a Chevrolet Equinox crossover SUV parked behind the Atwater Library and Computer Centre was broken into.
Finally on October 19, a vehicle parked outside 4000 de Maisonneuve was broken into through a shattered window.
With the exception of the Prospect St. incident, which took place around mid-

night, the other break-ins were perpetrated during the afternoon or evening.
A dashboard-mounted camera, an Apple accessory power cord and a pair of sunglasses were reported to have been stolen from the Honda and the Chevy.
No information was immediately available about items stolen from the two other vehicles as their owners filed online reports.

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Court date postponed

‘Dilapidated’ house gobbling up more and more costs



4030 Dorchester on October 27.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a series of city attempts to improve safety to passers-by from what has been described as “a dilapidated” house at 4030 Dorchester, city council October 16 approved an additional \$53,296.31 for fencing to the previous contract of \$111,772 to secure the house. This brings the maximum amount of the contract to \$165,068.31.

The city’s goal is for it to eventually be reimbursed by the owner.

This is the castle-like stone and brick

house at the corner of Werendale Park road that has been cordoned off one way or another for more than four years since city inspectors began issuing notices in 2016.

Under the previous amount of \$111,727, the plan was to have had the loose stones removed and the safety “tunnel” over Werendale Park taken down in April or May, Councillor Kathleen Kez said. The tunnel removal did happen this year.

A court date for October involving the owner, however, was postponed, Kez explained.



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Pumpkin decorating winners announced

Vic Hall becomes the Land of Oz for Hallowe'en Extravaganza

More than 200 children and parents were reported to have attended the Westmount Public Library's Hallowe'en Extravaganza October 28 at Victoria Hall as it was transformed for the event into the magical land of Oz.

The children, who had submitted more than 200 painted pumpkins in order to attend, viewed and participated in an interactive themed skit, following which they paraded their costumes, danced and were treated to Oz-inspired cupcakes. Loot bags were filled with rainbow bracelets, pin-wheels and bubbles, which they used during the skits.

The eight pumpkin-decorating winners

were announced as follows:

Category A: ages 5-6
1st Prize: Cecilia Morais
2nd Prize: Isse Hasegawa

Category B: ages 7-8
1st Prize: Shia Uchino
2nd Prize: Tea Okawa

Category C: ages 9-12
1st Prize: Aya Okawac
2nd Prize: Seoyeon Bang

Family Category
1st Prize: Purlmal Family
2nd Prize: Osorio Family.

We welcome your letters

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



Westmount
A-dog-tions
LYSANNE FOWLER

Striking, he takes your breath away. He has the classic dignity of the German shepherd, such elegant carriage and contrast of faun and black coat. Max has a beautiful face and warm brown eyes, which light up when he is pleased and affectionate.

He is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, which has had an influx of dogs for adoptions. It would be best if he could find a place in your heart and you could reach out for him as soon as possible.

He is three years old now, a young dog who needs to catch up on a stable and loving home environment. He is very affectionate and enjoys lots of toys and play. He is in need of a soft approach to routine and communication, with a focus on him so it would be best that he be in a home without young children.

Max is healthy, up to date on his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. For more information on him, visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.spc.com, search for his information page through his identification number, 52065260, then plan your trip as a family to the shelter

Most elegant Max



which is open every day as of 10 am for visits and meetings with adoption counselors.

It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges. Max is waiting, please bring him home to a wonderful Westmount dog life.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

What a fabulous idea! Forget basic black: white wins at these extraordinary events.

Le Dîner en Blanc was created 35 years ago in Paris. Very quickly, the “outdoor picnic” became a must-attend event copied all over the world.

Outside France, in 2012, Montreal was



Alicia and Ernesto Schiffrin.

Gatsby meets Dîner en Blanc at Hillside



Geoff Howard, Elise Nesbitt, Charles and Elizabeth de Brabant; Marie-Chantal Leger and Robert Cassius de Linval; Susan Chadwick and Andrew de Courcy-Ireland.

the first to host this effervescently elegant eve. The concept is chic: after all, the idea came from Paris.

At the invitation-only event, one wears white, and brings a white table and chairs. (Bubbly can be considered “white”!)

Recently, the Hillside Tennis Club held their Gatsby-inspired Dîner en blanc. Guests were greeted by general manager **Jason Viau-Breau** and chef **Jean-Philippe Marion** created a special menu.

Though members are used to wearing white during the day to compete on the clay tennis *continued on p. 14*

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Mary Lee Rosenholz and Barry Goldsman.



Mary Lee Muneeb Khalid and Karen McCurry.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 13

courts, they stepped up to the fashion plate in evening looks ranging from white tuxedo jackets and bow ties to long grass-trailing dresses. (One guest did opt to wear sky-blue, not cloud white.)

Board member **Geoff Howard** was in attendance, as was past pres **Susan Chadwick**, there with her husband **Andrew de Courcy-Ireland**.

Westmounters enjoying the night included **Elise Nesbitt**, **Mary Lee Rosenholz** and **Barry Goldsman**, **Valeria Rosenbloom**, and **Adriana Arrillaga** and **Najeeb Khalid**, as well as **Elizabeth** and **Charles de Brabant**, **Marie-Chantal Leger** and **Robert Cassius de Linval**, **Marie** and **John Keyserlingk**, **Karen McCurry** and **Muneeb Khalid**, and **Alicia** and **Ernesto Schiffrin**.



Adriana Arrillaga and Najeeb Khalid.

Development freeze, cont'd from p. 1

comments, he had referred on August 21 to the interim 90-day freeze in the area as “step one” in a two-step plan to “pull all planning aspects together such as zoning and buildings. It is a plan to make a plan.”

He had said that the area had been “lacking a cohesive vision,” explaining that to date various permits had been approved piece-meal, building by building, and that the city had been receiving more permit applications (see story August 29, p. 1).

In the area, empty or disused or under-used sites, or ones with development or change already under way, include:

- the former Miso/McDonald’s at St. Catherine and Atwater (tenant moving out),
- the empty lot where 4014-4022 St. Cath-

erine St. stood (developer demolished building, then stopped work),

- the largely empty building that housed the Packard car dealership at 4024-4032 St. Catherine St.,
- the former St. Stephen’s Church at Atwater and Dorchester (in the hands of a developer whose only visible work was some digging last year).

Parking lots include ones:

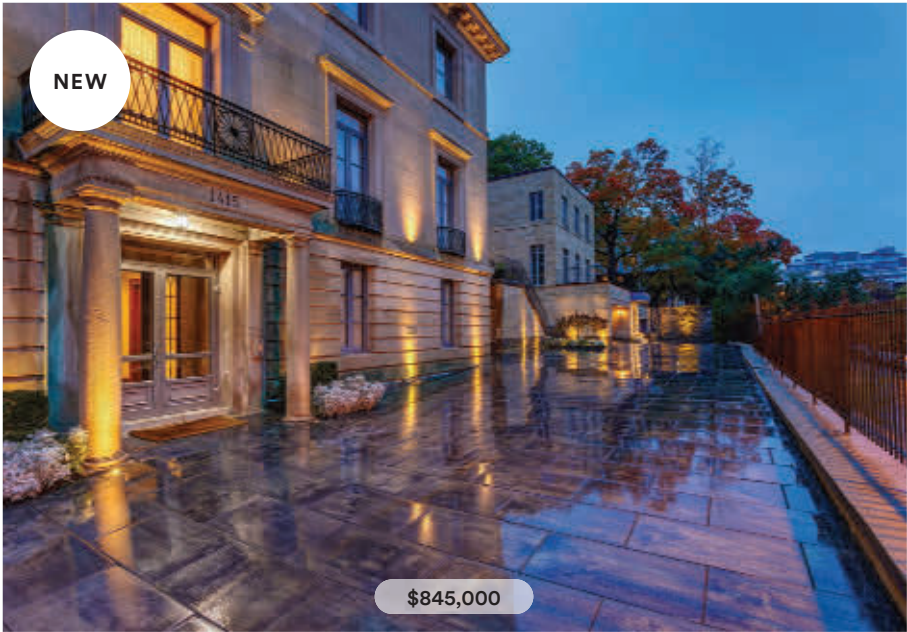
- at Bureau en Gros on St. Catherine,
- behind 1100 Atwater (in fact sandwiched between Dorchester and Tupper),
- west of the former Reddy Memorial Hospital on Tupper,
- owned by the city, namely its two “Tupper lots,” which are located to the east and west of Gladstone.



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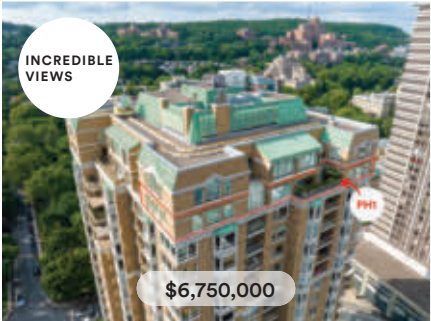
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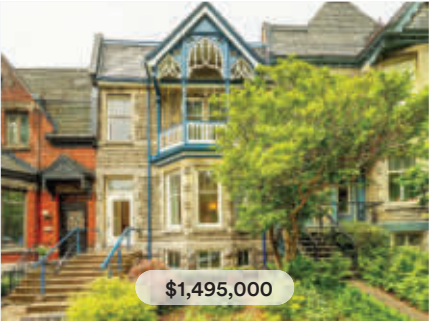
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A large red Cadillac SUV is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked in front of a modern building with large glass windows. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, suggesting sunset or sunrise. To the right of the car, a woman in a long, flowing red dress is standing, looking towards the car.



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