

Big changes coming to city's garbage pick-up

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Upcoming changes in the city's traditional garbage (waste) collections announced last week are aimed at helping address climate change, growing environmental needs and other sustainability issues that include cost.

Highlights of a new city program called "Eco-Responsible Westmount Initiative" include moving collections to the edge of a street or alley that is accessible to all as well as reducing the number of weekly pick-ups to one every two weeks between October and April. It also makes the participation in food waste (composting) mandatory for all residential buildings of nine to 29 units. Phasing-in begins May 1 of next year.

Goals of the program are to reduce the quantity of residual material, increase the

rate of recycled material and adopt the composting option.

Many of the changes will bring Westmount more in line with "most other" neighbouring residential communities, Councillor Anitra Bostock, told the *Independent* as commissioner of public works.

But one that has not been highlighted, she explained, is stopping "the longstanding tradition of having contractors collect garbage from the backyards of some residential properties," that do not have garbage-truck access from the rear. This, she said, is no longer "sustainable" for cost or even security.

Cost and security cited

"It's not realistic or wise to have (contractors) going around to the back of properties and needing what amounts to a map of a continued on p. 3

New city, 'same' street



The city welcomed new residents at its fall flower show, including these five. Three of them, on the left, live on the same street, Bruce Ave. From left, Emilina moved from the city of Montreal, Maria from Calgary, Julie from Beaconsfield, and Nicole and Julia from Ukraine. See p.10 for story.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Comes 85 years after Kristallnacht: Cllr. Aronson

Council resolution calls for Holocaust program in Qc schools

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 6 adopted a lengthy resolution urging the Quebec government to introduce mandatory Holocaust education in Quebec elementary schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

This would be based on a mandatory program introduced in Ontario, citing a

rise in anti-Semitism incidents reported by police and Jewish organizations such as B'nai Brith.

"As survivors age and pass away," it states, "it is more important than ever that our schools play a key role in preserving the memory of the Holocaust, protecting children from Holocaust denial and distortion often broadcast on line." continued on p. 3

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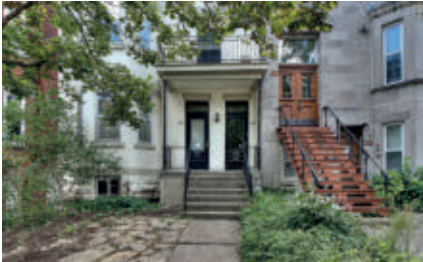
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Renews call for support of Marianopolis project

City moves forward with call for synthetic turf field

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city moved forward November 6 with a previously announced plan to partner with Marianopolis College for joint use of its athletic facilities. This involved one resolution for renovating the CEGEP's gymnasium and another for replacing its natural playing field by one of synthetic turf.

Supporting Marianopolis

Each was a motion of support to Marianopolis for financial assistance from the Quebec ministry of Education for sporting and recreation infrastructure (see also story June 27, p. 1).

It was the proposal for the one involving the outdoor playing field, however, that led to questions from meeting attendee Penny Arseneault of St. Catherine St. concerning the use of synthetic turf.

Does this have to go through an environment committee and the Imagine Westmount 2040 project? she asked. And what about the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)? Given a lifespan of 10 years

or less of a synthetic field, she suggested that by 2040 the city might be rolling out its "third" turf field.

No zoning change needed

Mayor Christina Smith mentioned that the 2040 project was not "on hold" but would be considered just as the southeast development is. The field, being a landscaping project, would not require a zoning change, she said, adding that schools "often have a different set of rules."

She had explained at the time of the vote that it was important to note this was not the awarding of a contract but support for Marianopolis to be able to benefit from a government subsidy. She also said there were many different options and types of synthetic turf, including organic options.

Holocaust program, cont'd from p. 1

Councillor Matt Aronson, who moved the resolution as a "new business" item, then pointed out in impassioned comments that this was being presented on the week of November 9-10, the 85th anniversary of what is "looked at as the official beginning of WW II."

This event, known as Kristallnacht (or the Night of Broken Glass), was when a program of violence and havoc by Nazis against Jews in Germany and Austria littered streets with broken glass. The reason for keeping such events in history alive, he said, is to ensure they are never allowed to happen again "not to the Jewish community and not to any community."

"Those who forget history," Aronson warned, "are doomed to repeat it."

Mayor Christina Smith stated that the city's resolution was a motion "to be worked on" similar to one from Ontario and latterly Côte des Neiges-NDG.

Garbage pick-up, cont'd from p. 1

neighbourhood to identify which ones allow access."

As a result, it will be up to residents to move their garbage to the curb.

A letter announcing upcoming changes to waste management is to be delivered to all households this month. The city's changes are "linked to the objectives of the Metropolitan Water Management Plan." This affects 82 municipalities in the Montreal Metropolitan Community, including Westmount.

More details along with a survey on the issue can be found on the city website at engage.westmount.org/westmounteco.

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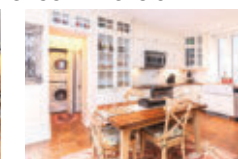
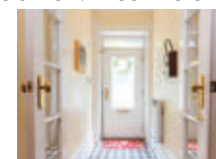
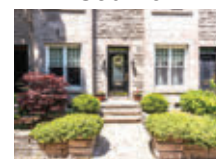
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Lapointe named substitute interim city clerk in DG's absence

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe was appointed by city council November 6 to be interim substitute city clerk, effective November 10. Since the recent vacancy of the city clerk/director of legal affairs position, it has been held in an interim capacity by Julie Mandeville, the city's director general.

Lapointe's interim role was explained by Mayor Christina Smith as being required for when Mandeville expects to be out of town for a few days. He has previously served on a couple of occasions as interim DG and is substitute director general (e.g. see story February 7, p. 6).

Also at the meeting, city council approved dismissal of the city clerk/director of legal affairs who had left the city some two weeks earlier (see story November 7, p. 1) but this went without further comment.

Under Quebec's Cities and Towns Act, all municipalities must at least have a city manager (DG) who acts as the municipality's chief officer and manager of the human, material and financial resources. The city clerk and treasurer's duties are



Dave Lapointe at this year's Winter Carnival, February 5.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

also provided for by law (sections 112 to 114.1.1, 85 and 97).

City writes off \$20k in unpaid Hydro accounts back to 2020

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 6 wrote off bad debts of Hydro Westmount customer accounts amounting to \$20,168.55. The unpaid accounts relate to the year 2020, according to the resolution.

They were described by Councillor Jeff Shamie, commissioner of the city's Finance and Administration (F&A) committee as well as Hydro Westmount, as having been "entrusted unsuccessfully" for collection.

First since 2016

This was the latest write-off since those in 2016 relating to 2012-2015. Amounting to \$113,557, those had been described at the time as more than double the historically typical amount (see story January 12, 2016, p. 2).

At that time, those included a total of 231 accounts involving bankruptcies, people who had moved away and some that the city was unable to transfer to a new billing system though no details were provided concerning the recent write-off.

The latest write-offs, however, involved

40 accounts, Shamie told the *Independent*. "One was for \$4,000 and another for \$3,000, but most were under \$1,000."

Costumers were urged on the city's website as of October 10 to register on a new Hydro Westmount customer portal. "Once your profile is created," it states, "you will be able to view your bills and payment history, access your electricity consumption, obtain your account balance and more, at any time and in complete security."

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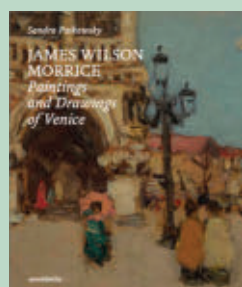
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EDITORIAL

Firebombing synagogues, shooting at schools is wrong – obviously

Prior to last week, I would have hoped that the above headline was unnecessary, but, given the news from Dollard des Ormeaux (a synagogue and a building used by Federation CJA firebombed) and from Côte des Neiges (two Jewish schools shot at), I guess it is needed.

I almost always hesitate to opine on international affairs, including Middle Eastern ones, in these pages. Who needs more words on these topics? Do they do any good, in any publication? In a municipally focused weekly published in Canada? Am I an expert?

A major reason that I don't comment on all things is the tight local focus of our newspaper. Well, things just got very local. DDO is 30 minutes away by car from here and Côte des Neiges is walking distance – and we have synagogues in Westmount.

So, let's make the obvious case, which – sadly – seems necessary. Why is firebombing synagogues and shooting at schools wrong? At a minimum:

1. They are serious criminal offences, for excellent reasons (destruction of property, potential loss of life (including firefighters), creation of fear, potential of fire to spread).
2. Given the timing, they are very likely an attempt to re-victimize the civilian group

whose unprovoked targetting for murder and kidnapping on October 7 started the current chain of events.

For these reasons, I would hope that everyone in Canada, Quebec, Montreal and Westmount – regardless of background or politics – would join in condemning these actions.

Regardless, I encourage the Canadian authorities (municipal, agglomeration, provincial, federal) to increase their vigilance around likely targets. Why? Because firebombing synagogues and shooting at schools is wrong – obviously.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

Overheard

“Not for you.” – Purolator driver as he aggressively drives by a jaywalker while driving southbound on Lansdowne, seemingly alluding to him having a green light but not the pedestrian. Nov. 3 at 1:30 pm.

*

On St. Catherine in front of Westmount High, October 31 at around 8 am. Young teenager to police officer monitoring speeders: “Officer, how fast was he going?”

Officer: “About 50 [kph].” – Teen: “That’s over?” – Officer: “Yes.”

Teen: “He should have known better.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUEBEC NEEDS BRIDGES, NOT EXCLUSIONARY FEES

RE: The proposed increase in fees for non-Quebecers at English universities

In my personal experience and through my children's experience at McGill University, I have found the anglophone education and university system in Quebec to be more open to new ideas and inclusion than the francophone one.

Could the number of non-Quebecers at these institutions and openness to them be playing a role? Why would we want to discourage their presence?

We are from France and what made us stay in Quebec was all the opportunities our children could get here that they could not get in France. The Villa Sainte-Marceline school where my six daughters went for high school was the first reason why we stayed here when job opportunities looked better for my husband in France. At Villa Sainte-Marcelline, our daughters not only got to pursue an enriched program, learn three languages and more, they also grew up so much as human beings.

We have seven children and the opportunity to choose between entering either French or English universities at an affordable cost was also something important for us. I'd say that we even influenced our children to begin their studies in Quebec while some were thinking of going elsewhere because we thought that what was offered in Montreal was unique. They all ended up very happy with staying here at least for their first years of university.

After doing their high school and CEGEP in French, five out of six of our daughters chose to begin their higher education at McGill. Some went and are still going from one system to the other (francophone and anglophone education) and they take the best part of each. All of them are at least bilingual, some of them are fluent in Spanish and even other languages.

We are all very attached to the French language and we know that there is a need to protect it and for newcomers to learn it. After taking care of my children, I thought I could help with that.

This is why instead of pursuing my career as a corporate lawyer, I decided to pursue my education in French as a second language instructor at the University of Montreal to help new immigrants with French and integration. Thanks to my studies and experiences in Quebec, I learnt a new way of teaching French. The way I teach is in fact a combination of both systems: I teach within the French system using the strategies learnt in French immersion classes and experiences. I also use a lot of resources from Ontario and

other parts of Canada and learn a lot from my students and fellow teachers from all over the world.

We need to build bridges, not to destroy them. This is how we will build an exceptional educational system together with French and the culture of Quebec at its centre. The rest of Canada is the greatest help that we can get to reinforce the French language within Canada. We can't afford to lose their students.

OLIVIA LAVERDURE, WESTMOUNT AVE.

SHERBROOKE/VICTORIA/ GROSVENOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS NEED ATTENTION

First let me say how much I, and my husband, enjoy getting the print version of the *Indie*. While I can get it online, we both prefer to enjoy the print edition, which keeps us up to date with what is happening in our community, and also gives a sense of belonging to this community, and in actual print helps keep us connected to our somewhat antiquated roots.

Being crabby, I have noticed something a bit scary, and I don't think that it is Hal-lowe'en derivative. Trying to cross Sherbrooke St. at Victoria, Hot Wheels (my walker) and I have often seen that the unsynchronized lights at Victoria and Sherbrooke, as well as at Grosvenor and Sherbrooke heading east, have blocked the pedestrian crossing.

Do we wait for the next light? Tried that, doesn't work.

Do we weave our way between cars trying to clear the intersection? Tried that. Yes, it works if drivers aren't, deservedly, impatient.

Any suggestions?

Keep up the good reporting for your much enjoyed newspaper, and thanks.

LYNN PECKNOLD, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT VICTORIA TRAFFIC VIOLATORS

I live at the corner of Victoria and Chesterfield avenues. On multiple occasions, I have alerted the Westmount authorities to the very dangerous traffic situation prevailing at the corner of the above streets, where there is a very visible stop sign.

I know that many of my neighbours have raised the same concern with the Westmount authorities. Indeed, I have observed over the past several years that between 65 percent to 70 percent of the vehicles don't even slow down at the stop sign. Some 20 percent do slow down and the remaining 10 percent effectively make the full stop.

The city has responded to the various complaints by saying it cannot install speed

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

limiters on Victoria because it is a route taken by ambulances. Fair and understood.

In response also, the city has installed on Victoria a speed display screen and in the summer, heavy concrete flower containers to slow down the traffic.

Sad to say, to no avail. None of these devices has had a significant impact on the speeding situation. The enduring state of affairs should justify the installation of a hidden police radar speeding camera with hefty fines.

If technically feasible, to not do so – given the wide and public knowledge of this dangerous situation – could, in the context of an accident or casualty, put the administration in a difficult position.

JEAN-PIERRE GIROUARD, VICTORIA AVE.

Editor's notes: FYI, it is my understanding that (1) the agglomeration of Montreal police is in charge of moving violations and Westmount Public Security cannot ticket for them; and (2) photo-radar can only be installed by the province and/or with its

consent, which it rarely gives. – DP.

STOP SIGNS

Have we waited too long to fix what is wrong to stop the pollution of land sea and air infecting the globe and there is no spare to stop forests from burning rivers from flooding stop wars from recurring killing and bleeding to stop leaders from power who don't want to repair who govern with greed and hot air to stop lies that spread world wide with truth on its knees left aside to stop the curse of hate with tolerance and kindness in its place Have we waited too long to fix what is wrong

RONA SHEFLER HEFT,
KENSINGTON AVE.

Correction: Cantor Adam Stotland quoted, pictured

In "Shaar's choir supports Magen David Adom at Shaare" (November 7, p. 23), references at the beginning of the article to another cantor, including in the caption, should have been to cantor Adam Stotland of Shaare Zion Beth-El Congregation. It was he who said: "We have all seen what is happening in our own city. We are all online and we all see the hate. I would like to draw everyone's attention to the light right above the arc – the *aish tamid*, the eternal flame, symbolizing the eternity of Jewish people, the eternity of our hope, the eternity of our state of Israel, the eternity of our resolve. That is what the *aish tamid* is. We will shine forever." The *Independent* was misinformed by a member of the audience and apologizes for the error. – DP.



Adam Stotland.

MORE APPRECIATION LETTERS

Thank you again to all our letter writers, including the current batch. In addition to their use and presence in the paper, the letters will all be assembled to be part of our marketing material to sell the ads that make the *Independent* possible. There is no business issue at the *Independent* at present, but we do not take our readers or advertisers for granted. Thank you.

– David Price, editor

*

DISCOURAGES ISOLATIONISM

I, for one, love receiving the *Westmount Independent* through my door. I appreciate being able to see the gist of what is happening in the neighbourhood with news of contracts and little incidents etc.

Your work makes me feel more connected to my neighbours – invaluable to me in this world of encouraged isolationism.

I appreciate the forum for encouraged communication and debate at the local level, where change can actually happen.

Best regards, and a warm thank-you for what you do.

DAGNY BOCK, TRAFALGAR AVE.

PROVIDES CONTINUITY

Thanks for giving the *Westmount Independent* readers the opportunity to express

their opinion on what the weekly publication means to them.

I have been absent from Westmount for many years. However, I have enjoyed the columns that express the continuity of historical and current events that have occurred in the city of Westmount over many years. It has been a very rewarding experience for me.

Wishing everyone at the *Independent* much success and satisfaction in your careers.

BERNIE MACDONALD, OTTAWA

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City, military units mark Remembrance Day



BY RALPH THOMPSON

The city of Westmount's Remembrance Day ceremony took place at the cenotaph in Vimy Park November 5 at 2 pm in untypically pleasant weather conditions. Padre Captain Christopher Belle presided over the ceremony, which included a recognition of the area as unceded native land. He proceeded with reflections and encouragements and the Lord's Prayer. The Last Post and The Reveille were played by Corporal Dumas on her trumpet.



Canadian Navy master sergeant Greyfeather, left, standing alongside the wreath he later laid at the cenotaph on behalf of foreign military personnel. Greyfeather served three tours with the US Marines in Vietnam. Five-year-old Westmounter Ettan Suchak, right, got to climb one of Westmount's restored heritage cannon. Originally, this cannon could propel a 12-pound (five-kilogram) cannonball at a distance of more than 900 meters.



Wreaths were laid around the cenotaph as the Fusiliers Mont-Royal band played "Abide with Me." Presentations were made by Anna Gaine, member of parliament for NDG-Westmount, who placed the first wreath; followed by Jennifer Maccarone, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis; Mayor Christina Smith; the Royal Canadian Legion; the Royal Canadian Navy reserve division *HMCS Donnacona*; 2nd Field Engineers Regiment; 34th Communications Regiment; The Royal Mon-

trealm Regiment; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Royal Navy master sergeant Greyfeather for foreign military personnel; Cadet Corps representatives and several local organizations including the Westmount Historical Association and The Rotary Club of Westmount. The ceremony closed just before 3 pm with "God Save the King."

Westmount's cannon silent

Westmount's restored 1810 cannon were on display, to the delight of young and old, although they were not fired over con-

cern that loud noises might concern nearby establishments given the current Middle East tensions, said Westmount Battery president Patrick Martin. The cenotaph was constructed in 1922 to commemorate soldiers who died in World War I and it was placed on a marble platform in 1948. Names of Westmounters who fell during the two wars are inscribed in the marble walls. Between 150 and 200 people gathered for the official Remembrance Day ceremony, which is held the Sunday before November 11 for logistics reasons.



Knights against cancer



To mark Breast Cancer Awareness Day (October 27), some employees who work at Knight Therapeutics, which is located at Place Alexis Nihon, were out for a walk in rosy t-shirts and holding pastel balloons. They are seen here on the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Wood Ave. on October 26.

PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL



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City welcomes new residents, thanks volunteers



BY RALPH THOMPSON

The city's fall flower show, held in Victoria Hall November 1, is a bi-annual event to recognize the contributions to the community by volunteers and to welcome newcomers.

Representatives from local organizations were mingling in the crowd, including representatives from Westmount Park United Church, the Westmount Historical Association, the Association of Cyclists and Pedestrians, the Westmount Public Library Committee, the Friends of Summit Woods and many others.

Stand-up tables were decked out with orchids, and a large display of greenery and flowers surrounded the lectern in front of the stage. Tasty canapés were offered along with a variety of drinks.

Mayor Christina Smith welcomed everyone, thanked the volunteers for their contributions and introduced city council members Kathleen Kez, Matt Aronson, Mary Gallery, Anitra Bostock, Conrad Peart, Jeff Shamie, Elisabeth Roux and Antonio D'Amico, as well as former mayor Karin Marks and former councillors Victor Drury and Theodora Samiotis.

Councillor Elisabeth Roux, commissioner of the Westmount Public Library and community events, then introduced the city department directors to lots of cheers and clapping, including the director general, Julie Mandeville; Elisa Gaetano Engineering; Salah Bouziane, Hydro Westmount, and Ali-Reza Sedighian, assistant director, Hydro Westmount; Annie-Claude Cérat, Human Resources; Nathalie Jodoin, assistant director; Urban Planning; Anne-Marie Lacombe, Library & Community

Events; Claude Ladouceur, Finance, and Frédéric Thifault, assistant director, Finance; Dave Lapointe, Sports and Recreation; Gregory McBain, Public Safety; and Robert Talarico, Public Works.

Two hundred and forty-two people attended the invitation-only event, including 53 new residents.

► From left, Nancy Rosenfeld of the Westmount Public Library Committee and new resident Nancy Strohl. Far right, Hana Ramli from Jordan is excited to be a new Westmounter. Her sons came to Canada and she recently followed suit and settled in Westmount.

▼ Below, Nik and Rozhan are Polytechnique students from Iran and they've been living in Westmount for five months. Below right, new resident Neil (left) from Lancashire, England is working at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. He was chatting with newcomers Beth and Taylor, who are artists studying at Concordia University.

Councillor Elisabeth Roux introduced the team of the city department directors.



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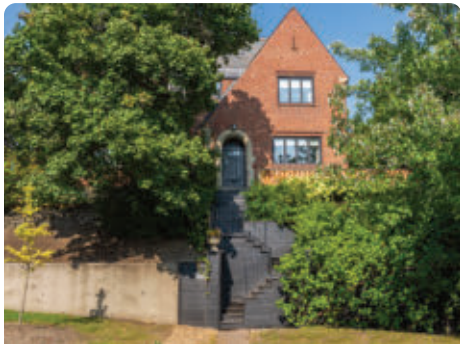


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Hard out there for stairs



A vehicle appears to have hit the steps from The Boulevard to Upper Roslyn, as seen November 1.

Best deal ever?



This gasoline price was “offered” October 30 on Sherbrooke at Decarie, several streets west of Westmount.
PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Study recently hosted a fun Founder’s Day event, complete with cupcakes.

Annabel Soutar (class of 1988) was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Judy Elder Alumna Award.

It is presented annually to a Study alumna who has distinguished herself in her chosen field of endeavour and who embodies the values that Elder embraced: heart-based leadership, ambition to excel in a chosen field, courage to break new ground, and commitment to teach and inspire through mentorship.

Soutar is a Montreal-based playwright, theatre producer and mother of two Study girls. Soutar has made notable ground-breaking contributions to Montreal, Quebec and Canadian theatre.

In 2000, she co-founded *Porte Parole Productions* with actor and husband Alex Ivanovici. Her award-winning theatre company has attained international success.

At the Study’s annual Founder’s Day the school celebrates Study founder Margaret Gascoigne and awards the Judy Elder Alumna Award to an Old Girl.

The Study recognizes Soutar with Judy Elder award



Kim McInnes, Matthew Elder, Annabel Soutar, Erika Flores Ludwick and Goldie Gilmore.

Westmount’s Simply Wonderful catered a family luncheon for Annabel before the assembly where she received the award.

Present at the assembly were head of school **Kim McInnes**, **Nelson Cheung**, Foundation trustee **Sarah Ivory** (’78), board member **Samantha Hayes** (’86), and board chair **Erika Flores Ludwick** (’88), as well as head girl **Goldie Gilmore**, and Old Girls’ association co-chairs **Rachel Cytrynbaum** (’98) and **Amanda Eaman** (’97).

After speeches, the event concluded with kindergarteners singing “Happy Birthday” to the school’s 108th.

Following tradition, the youngest kindergarten student (**Victoria Wong**) and the most senior Old Girl present (Sarah Ivory ’78) cut the cake together.

Then there was a Study Old Girls Association tea where student council members served tea and scones from the Gryphon d’Or Tea Room.

Founded in 1915, The Study is a private non-subsidized bilingual all-girls school leading to a Quebec (MEES) secondary school diploma. Certificate for English Instruction is not required (K-11).



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Scenes of Westmount



An ‘Independent’ locking device?

The entrance to Tavern on the Square in Westmount Square on October 25. PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL.



Small squirrel, large meal

One of Westmount’s many squirrels preparing to dine. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Resident ‘does not know if and when I can come back’ after leaving

Westmount Square residents speak out about location of pro-Palestine protests, large police perimeter

By JENNIFER BALL

The riot squad in formation on the steps of Westmount Square, police riding on bicycles through demonstrators and drones circulating over Wood Ave. – not

The first lost bootie of winter?



November 5 on Victoria near de Maisonneuve. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

your typical Friday night in the city, condo residents who live there say.

Westmount Square is located between St. Catherine St., de Maisonneuve Blvd., Wood Ave. and Greene Ave., and it is connected to Place Alexis Nihon, Dawson College, and the Atwater Metro station by a tunnel.

Recently, though, routes out to that shopping mall, CEGEP, and Metro station have been cut off because the edifice has been enmeshed in protests by two separate groups: pro-Palestine and pro-Israel.

The two have pooled around the Israeli consulate, located at 1 Westmount Square, which faces Wood Ave. near St. Catherine St., to broadcast their messages as the Israel-Hamas war continues (see October 17, p. 8 & 9 and November 7. p. 30).

To the *Independent's* knowledge, there have been numerous pro-Palestine protests and one pro-Israel gathering since October 7. There was also a pro-Palestine one planned for October 28. Police notified restaurants and businesses, and secured the perimeter, but it failed to materialize.

Three residents in the condo towers adjacent to the office building containing the consulate spoke out about their experiences and their concerns going forward. All three requested anonymity due to their unease over ongoing tensions.

Two Tower 2 homeowners wanted to express their concerns about the protests. Their tower is located near the northwest corner of Westmount Square, facing de Maisonneuve.

The first said that he felt that the police perimeter was too large and punitive. “The minimum number of streets should be closed, unless there is imminent danger,” he opined.

The second, an elderly man said, “I face



Westmount Square's Wood Ave. side on October 13.

Wood Ave., and I see the demonstrations as they are happening...

“...it creates a sense of unease when this is going on. When I leave my garage, I do not know if and when I can come back. On a recent night, I had no access to return home until almost 9:30 pm...”

“I spoke to our building security and they said I could park at the back of our building but the police officer on Atwater Ave. would not let me enter...Would common sense not dictate that these demonstrations be held in public spaces, such as parks?”

A resident of 1 Wood, across the street from Westmount Square, expressed similar thoughts in a letter to the *Independent* last week (p. 8). In the same issue, local restaurateurs explained that the protests were affecting their businesses (p. 30).

In her web-published message dated October 27, Mayor Christina Smith said “...we in turn have been in regular contact with the SPVM [Montreal police], which is solely responsible for the awarding of permits for demonstrations and monitoring marches and protests.”

Westmount's Jewish community on edge


Tower 3 is near the eastern edge of Westmount Square, facing Greene. A resident told the *Independent*: “Just ordinary people were trying to walk across the plaza and they were stopped by police and told ‘Don’t go there!’...”

“It is affecting our mobility. I did go to a friend’s apartment on the fifth floor and watched the demonstration and there appeared to be police on bicycles riding through the crowd and a drone way up high. A heavy-duty drone! We did not know whose drone that was.”

She said she is very concerned about the protests and, it seems, so is the significant community of Jewish residents in Westmount, who have been reaching out for connection since October 7.

“I have never been asked so many times in my entire life: ‘Are you Jewish?’” She isn’t and says “no.”

2021 self-reported census data, published in 2022, indicated the Jewish community represented 22.5 percent of the population of Westmount (see December 6, 2022, p. 15). This is the second largest religious group in Westmount after Christians at 40 percent.



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LYSANNE FOWLER

Embracing Lupe

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Petite Lupe is a charmer, a cute Chihuahua mix who loves everyone: people, dogs, cats. She is a healthy active senior who



A tiny delight, Lupe is a bright light. A little golden darling with huge brown eyes, she brings joy and affection to those around her. She lost her owner and was taken in swiftly but temporarily to keep her safe.

Now, a permanent home is being found for her by the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. Over the years, I must admit that my worst nightmare was always to leave my dogs behind when I am gone. Things don't go as planned in life and we all help when it is requested of us. In many ways, throughout my volunteer work for animals in need, I know that it is the Westmount way: we step in for a senior pet left

enjoys her walks, trots and little runs for the joy of being in the fresh air. She enjoys the backyard and sniffing around as well.

We notice that small dogs do well as seniors. Lupe is a great example at 14 years young and aging gracefully.

She is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She will be having a dental exam shortly.

Please enquire about her through the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org and do not hesitate to email the volunteers for more information on her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

A special fellow for a special family, Caviar is very sweet and quite dog-like in his attentions, a great companion who is a buddy to all, including other cats.

He is four years old and very healthy except for a mild neurological condition since birth that makes his walking a bit wobbly. He doesn't know or care, it seems, as he jumps and runs around the house in silly play and sheer happiness. A people

Precious Caviar

pleaser, it would be great if he had someone at home to keep company with during part of the day.

Caviar is in foster care for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions while a new family is found for him.

He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. For more information on Caviar, please refer to the rescue's website at www.gerdysrescue.org, and feel free to write to them about adoption at their email address info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,
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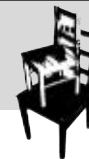
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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Social Notes covered the launch of the *À La Carte* cookbook over six months ago. Fast forward and the initial 2,100 copies have sold out.

As the printing was sponsored, the entire \$50 book price went to the cause: the Montreal Children's Hospital Healthy Kids Fund. (Stores selling the book took no commission.)

Not only a cookbook – with recipes graciously offered by local chefs and restaurants as well as by families – it is a story book. Tales from patients and healthcare givers touch the heart.

\$135k raised

Recently Rebecca Fruchter-Klein, author of the cookbook, presented a donation of \$135,086 to the fund. The amount was raised through book sales and a generous donation from the team at E4C.

Copies were also sold outside the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation offices and at Quinn Farm on Île Perrot, where Fruchter-Klein and her son Ryan met Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and

À La Carte cookbook sells out – for the kids



Valerie Frost, Rebecca Fruchter-Klein and Renée Vézina.

signed a copy for him.

Present at the cheque-giving were the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation's

president Renée Vézina and Valerie Frost, vp, partnerships and donor relations. Also present were Neal Caminsky, Riccardo Cel-

lere, Hanna Hajilou, Carolina Moens and Galia Zagury.
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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Miriam Foundation hosts art auction at Alcan

and **Vanessa Sicotte** and **Jonathan Plourde**, who spoke of their appreciation of Miriam's assistance with their autistic child Teddy.

Arriving ladies shone with sartorial

insouciance. Time to dress up: finally!

"It" bags shone with initials: jewellery glistened. Outfits ranged from mini-mini dresses to wide-wide-legged trousers; from midnight black to cloud white, an outfit

that elegantly broke the oft-quoted "white not worn after Labour Day" dress code.

Eunice Mayers ("I'm 89!") sparkled in sequins.

Art offered ranged from sculpture, painting and photography to digital works. Gallery-style lighting illuminated OP / pop art (Paul-Émile Rioux); Selfies (Jeena-art-byjayr); Lady Diana Spencer (Stikki Peaches); an iconic image of Leonard Cohen (Marlene Itzkovitz), an acrylic by Yehouda Chaki, and a large Richard Roblin work.

Aiming for apex visibility, attendees posed in front of their favourite piece. Artists present were **Catherine Benny**, **Marie Danielle Leblanc**, **Ariane Côté**, **Mimi Kitner**, **Marily Vaillancourt** and **Paul-Émile Rioux** on his way to show at Art Basel Miami Beach.

The entertaining – and effective – auctioneer was **Lee Haberkorn** from "Lee in the afternoon" on Virgin Radio 95.9.

Noted in the packed room were **Franki and Peter Yanofsky**, **Linda Shaw** and **Frank Motter**, **Sarah** and **Allen Rubin**, **Andrea** and **Alex Bernstein**, **Frank Niro**, **Ziki** and **Amitt Zaffir**, **Carol** and **Neil Tryansky**, **Joyce** and **Jeremy Becker**, **Joy** and **Jeff Bultz**, **Lyla Brad-**

continued on p. 22



Sarah Pinchevsky, Lee Haberkorn and Warren Greenstone.

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Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

ley, Kathy and David Grosvenor, Terry and Linda Smith (excited about her upcoming Milos Miriam fundraiser), and Josh Wolfe and Vanessa Grimaldi with their son Winston. (Never too young to look at art!)

Sponsors were Franki and Peter Yanofsky, Linda Shaw and Frank Motter, Howard and Vivian Stotland, Richard Hart, Baker Tilly Montréal S.E.N.C.R.L./LLP, Vortex Solution, Feldman, Messias, and Melki Pharmacy, Milan and Pearl Bratin, and Maureen Nassif Ashley.

The \$165,000 raised goes towards subsidizing Miriam Foundation programs and services, allowing greater access to services to those families who need them.



Louis Ludwick, Allen Rubin and Neil Tryansky.



Vanessa Sicotte and Jonathan Plourde.



Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir, Carol Tryansky, Franki Yanofsky, and Judy Wolfe.



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Josh Wolfe, Vanessa Grimaldi and Winston Wolfe.



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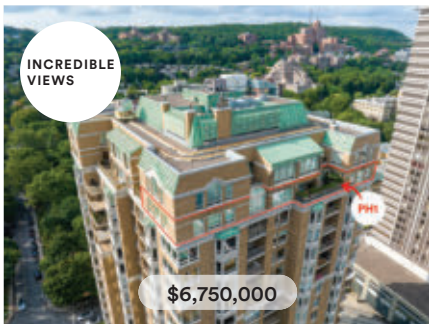
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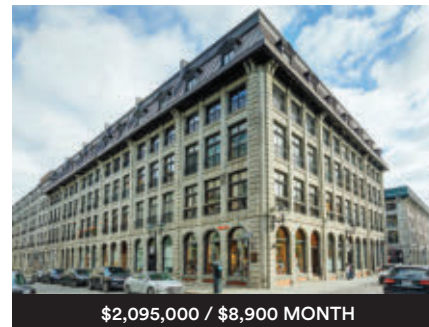
Westmount
1 WOOD AV. PH1

\$6,750,000



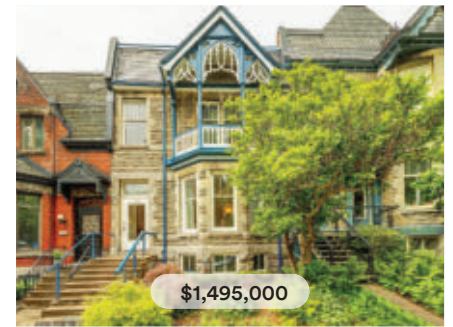
Mont-Tremblant
159 CH. DE L'ERMITÉ

\$4,850,000



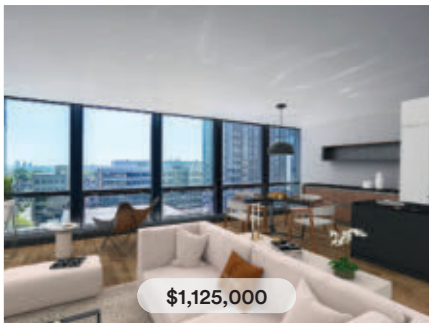
Old Montreal
60 RUE DE BRÉSOLES, APT. 320

\$2,095,000 / \$8,900 MONTH



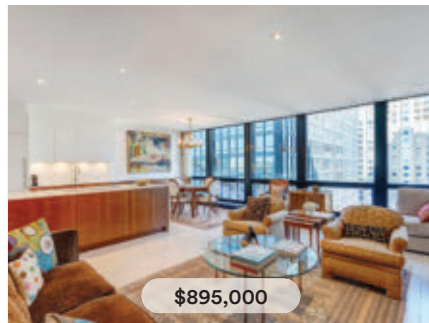
Westmount
102 COLUMBIA AV.

\$1,495,000



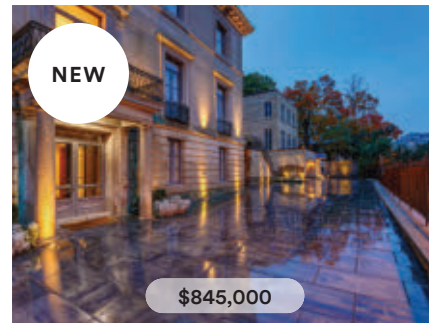
Westmount
2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 701

\$1,125,000



Westmount
3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 718

\$895,000



Golden Square Mile
1415 AV. DES PINS W., APT. 203B

\$845,000



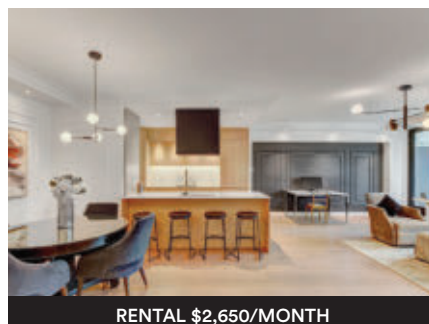
Golden Square Mile
1520 DR. PENFIELD AV., APT 104

\$699,000



Ville-Marie
2700 CH. HILL PARK, BEAVER LAKE

RENTAL \$7,750/MONTH



Golden Square Mile
1545 DR. PENFIELD AV., APT. 305

RENTAL \$2,650/MONTH



Westmount
2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 1901

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A red Cadillac SUV is parked in front of a modern building at sunset. To the right, a woman in a flowing red dress stands with her back to the camera, looking towards the building.

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