Holiday Gift Guide 2023 WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 17 No. 11c

We are Westmount

November 21, 2023

New 'move and dance' program launched Winter registration gives head start to residents Nov. 21

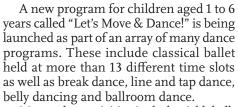
By Laureen Sweeney

Westmount residents have a head-start, as of Tuesday, November 21, to register in the city's winter programs and activities before they start to fill up. By December 5, these will open to everyone holding a Sports and Recreation facilities card.

Although the inter-city hockey season is already under way, a number of instructional skating classes for both youth and adult ages are among numerous programs listed in the new winter 2024 brochure on the city's website. There are also low intensity fitness programs targetting seniors and/or persons with limited mobility.



Mary Calabrese 514.962.5527 Residential Real Estate Broker mcalabrese@sutton.com



Many other activities include pickleball, babysitting, self-defence for women and teens over 12 as well as seniors and some fitness programs also available on Zoom.

Most programs take place at Victoria Hall and the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) while others will use gyms at Selwyn House, Westmount High and the Royal Montreal Regiment's armory.

WRC turns 10!



Passer-by Zachary Guay, centre, was asked by the mayor to slice into a giant 10th birthday cake for the Westmount recreation centre while observed by Westmount employees and politicians, from left, Claude Ladouceur, Andrew Maislin, Jennifer Heaps, Dave Lapointe, Mayor Christina Smith, Julie Mandeville, Kathleen Kez, Mary Gallery, Bruce Stacey and Anne-Marie Lacombe. See p. 10 for story. Photo: RALPH THOMPSON.

Salt, Zambonis, loaders More contracts show how costly winter is for the city

By Laureen Sweeney

Coming on the heels of the first "measurable" but small amount of snow November 9, city council awarded another three winter-

More (Westmount & agglo) budget news See p. 9 weather contracts at the council meeting November 6.

These follow at least six others that had included removal of snow from lanes and city parking lots, the rental of 12-wheel trucks with operators and tow truck services as well as the installation of a refrigerated rink and creation of a toboggan run at King George (Murray) Park (see also October 24, p. 1).

The first of the three continued on p. 17





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New police commander takes over at Station 12 Beaudet arrives in Westmount, just in time for protests

By Jennifer Ball

Angélique Beaudet, the new police commander of Westmount's Station 12, took the job just days before the October 7 massacre in Israel and her priorities were changed in ways that she could never have predicted.

Beaudet, who is a 25+ year veteran of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), started her tenure on October 2. By October 8, pro-Palestinian supporters had swamped Westmount Square – and more protests soon followed.

Beaudet: Community relations important

She is fully aware that a major part of her mandate is community relations and she was forthright in disclosing she had received criticism about the heightened police presence around Westmount Square, which is located between St. Catherine St., de Maisonneuve Blvd., Wood Ave. and Greene Ave., and houses the Israeli consulate.

Her riposte was that her immediate priority is "the security of the population."

She admits to having had a few sleepless nights since starting, but this has been due to the fact that she has been on a few night patrols.

She did that, she said, to familiarize herself with the potential hot spots in Westmount for crime, violent behaviour and substance use. It is also due to the fact that she is implementing a significant project: a plan for visibility into the SPVM's security actions in Westmount.

No protest permits needed

In dialogue with the *Independent*, Beaudet was keen to clear up a misconception that some residents have about permits being provided to pro-Palestinian supporters.

"They think that the city of Westmount accords permits, but they don't. They think

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Police commander Angélique Beaudet inside PDQ/Station 12 on November 17.

that the SPVM gives permits for the protests, but we don't. We don't have to give permits because everybody has the right to liberal expression and they have the right to protest," as entrenched in Canadian charters of rights.

Moreover, policing is hindered when protest routes are undefined beforehand.

"We do not know when the protests will happen, nor where the protestors are going. So, it's difficult for me to inform the population. When I do know, I do my very best, with my patrols, to advise those around Westmount Square."

Weekly meetings with Jewish community

Beaudet says she also meets with representatives of the Jewish community every week to give them direction and to listen to their concerns.

The city has three Jewish places of worship. Beaudet wanted to stress that in Westmount, there have been no incidents to date where the safety of the population was compromised, but the police have doubled the frequency of patrols in an attempt to prevent hate crimes.

Prior to Beaudet's promotion to commander, she was a lieutenant-detective in criminal analysis and intelligence, and before that, she was a major crimes investigator who tackled sexual exploitation.

Despite being thrown into the deep end just five days into her new job, Beaudet says she is really enjoying being in Westmount and at Poste de quartier (PDQ) 12.

"It's a new area for me. I used to work more in the West Island. The people here are really kind and we don't have that everywhere in Montreal..."



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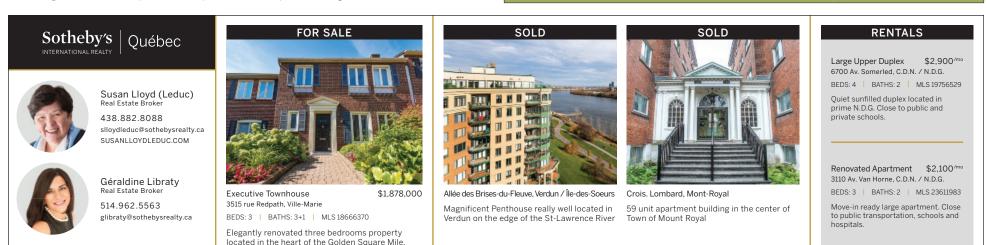
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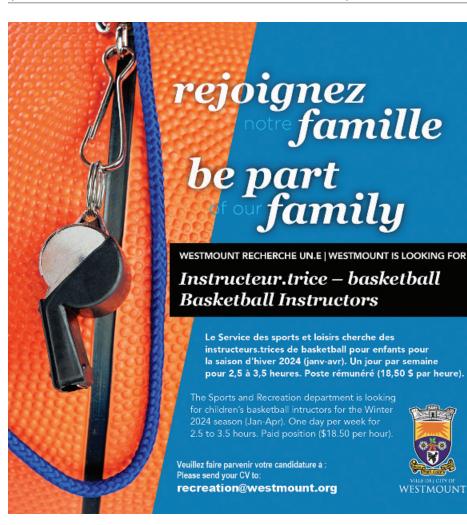
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9th year Selwyn House students do '24 Hours for the Unhoused'



On the evening of Nov. 14 during their 24 Hours for the Unhoused event, Selwyn House students and staff were preparing to bed down for the night in the school yard in the sleeping bags seen in the foreground, while making sandwiches for the Bread & Beyond charitable organization.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Volunteers from Dans la Rue joined students and faculty at Selwyn House School on Côte St. Antoine Rd. on November 14 for a 24-hour activity meant to raise awareness of the growing problem of homelessness in Montreal.

The event saw the students experience homelessness for a 24-hour period, sleeping out in the cold in the Selwyn House school yard and making sandwiches for the NDG-based charity Bread & Beyond, while gaining insights from the Dans La Rue volunteers on what it is like for homeless youths living on Montreal's streets.

According to David Grier, a Selwyn House teacher who has organized the event for the past nine years, the name was changed to 24 Hours for the Unhoused in order to reflect the growing magnitude of the homelessness problem.

"We've always called it 24 Hours for the Homeless and we decided to change the name to 'unhoused' to put a new emphasis on the problem," he said, noting that homelessness in Montreal has risen 30

percent in the past five years since the last census.

'We wanted to change the onus from the person being responsible for being in over their head to the community being responsible," he added. "These people don't have a roof over their head and we feel that isn't just their responsibility, but it's our collective responsibility to provide them with shelter."

Alwin Cawston, one of the four Dans la Rue volunteers who took part, said an increasingly acute lack of affordable housing is turning homelessness into a fullblown crisis.

"We get new people every week that we have never seen before, often just because they simply haven't enough money to pay for the rent," he said, while suggesting that rampant corporate greed is a contributing factor.

Grier said what they are trying to promote to the students at Selwyn House is the notion that community responsibility involves everyone. "It's a collective, and we're all working towards everybody having a home," he said.



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Based on PAC rec. but opposed by Cllr. D'Amico Permit denied to replace slate roof at 3302 Cedar

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 6 denied an application for proposed work on the sloping slate roof at 3302 Cedar near Clarke. This was based on a recommendation of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Minutes of PAC meetings in September state that in this case, the proposed material to be used – "a smooth, uniform black slate" – differs from the existing (original) type "characterized by its rough texture and varied colours of grey, iron, mauve and green typical of Arts-and-Crafts slate roofs." Councillor Antonio D'Amico, who represents the area as District 1's representative, was the only councillor to vote against the motion to deny the permit, later telling the *Independent* that he believed the property owner was "in good faith" and trying to comply with the city's standards.

The roof in question is steep and sloping on a house built of stone in varying shades. The house features a high chimney and dormer windows. It is one of a distinctive grouping of some six that form a crescent shape just south of The Boulevard.



3302 Cedar, centre, and its neighbours on November 16.

Photo: Independent.



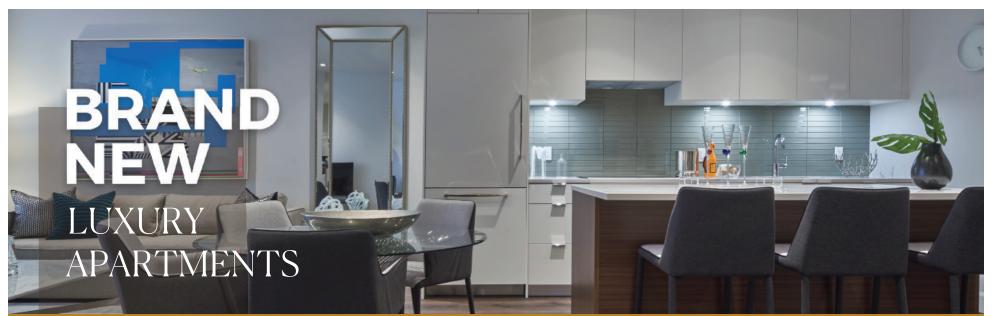
Lovely townhouse ideally located on the flats of Westmount; 2 car garage (a rarity), 3+1 bedroom; 2+2 bathroom. Close to shops, restaurants, parks, all transportation plus.

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From left, Liam Martelli (M13 B Wings) and Luca Martelli (M9-1 Wings).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

Annual 'friendship' hockey tournament in Gloucester, Mass. 'One for the books' – Westmount, Cape Ann joint winners

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

This year's annual "friendship" hockey tournament between teams from Westmount and Gloucester, Mass., turned out to be "one for the books," said Andrew Maislin, who coordinated the city's participation as president of the Westmount Minor Hockey Association.

On his return from the weekend away (November 10-12), he explained that the teams were tied for wins after 30 games. In such a case, the tiebreaker then goes to the number of goals scored so, "for all intents and purposes," Westmount Wings won the tournament.

"However," Maislin added, "being who we are at the Westmount Minor Hockey Association and the fact that we do not promote running up scores but strongly encourage fair play, honour and respect, we decided that the winner of the 2023 Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament was going to be Westmount and Cape Ann."

As a result, the names of both hockey associations are to be added to the cup for



The M15 B Wings team, from left, front row: Luca Robinson, Jasper Synnott-Brandt and William Nesbitt; middle row: Jeremy Behr, Jingbo Xu, Clavin Ho, Justin Behr, Shimon Rozhansky, Ivan Pell, Adrian Mohammadebrahimzadeh and Noah Shinder; back row: Marcel Behr and Nick Shinder.

this year.

"We want the players' accomplishments to be honoured as both associations worked as hard as they could all weekend to come out victorious... We really want to represent the entire point of this event rather than it being more than us versus them."



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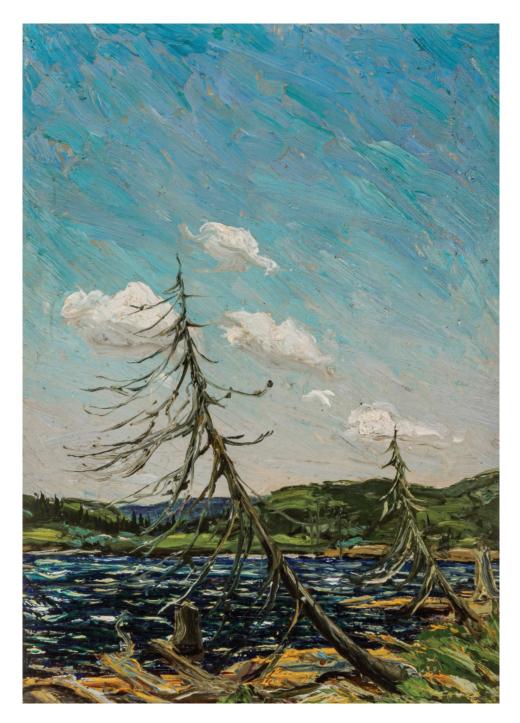
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLEASE KEEP WEEKLY GARBAGE COLLECTION (1)

Westmount is changing some of its garbage collection procedures.

Among some of the initiatives is that garbage collection for single-family homes and residential buildings of up to eight units will be weekly from May to September and bi-weekly from October to April.

The document received by residents indicates that these changes will have a positive effect on climate change, and to quote the document "Less Waste + Smarter Habits = Cleaner Environment."

But I am not quite certain how singlefamily homes will have less waste simply because it will be picked up bi-weekly rather than weekly. The frequency of garbage collection really has nothing to do with the amount of waste being collected, or am I not understanding things correctly?

Allen Rubin, Lexington Ave.

PLEASE KEEP WEEKLY GARBAGE COLLECTION (2)

Delivered through the mail slot today, and now posted on the Westmount city website, is a declaration of a major change to Westmount's garbage collection system. Starting May 1, 2024, every building of less than nine units (that is, all single-family homes, and small buildings) will have their trash only picked up every two weeks instead of every week - during the October

through April period.

The justification for this change is an open-ended statement about climate crisis, and being part of the solution. This is not a notice of discussion or debate. The decision is a *fait accompli*.

There are so many issues with what has just happened. Instead of opening a discussion on this issue, letting many opinions be heard, and having a decision of this magnitude made into a town referendum, or an elected officials vote in a well publicized meeting, we have a unilateral decision. The idea of consultation is reduced to a city re-education effort on how to reduce trash in your household.

Some might argue that storing trash for two weeks is not the best sanitary solution, or that people will just get more and larger trash bins, or that this is just signalling virtue without democratic input.

Will this actually solve anything? Will we soon go to year-round two-week trash pick-ups? What other measures will soon follow? The city has just decided it doesn't need a discussion.

It is time that the city officials re-think their role. Are they primarily climate crusaders, or are they there to run the city efficiently - and to put any larger issues to the public for a consensus (or at least a clear majority) before implementing a major change such as this. We need ensure that our local government answers to the citizens, not the other way around.

BRIAN COPP, SHORNCLIFFE AVE.

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PLEASE KEEP WEEKLY GARBAGE COLLECTION (3)

The decision to collect garbage once every two weeks from October to April is unacceptable. During the winter months, it is probable that there will be more garbage to be collected than in the summer, including a plethora of diapers. Surely our taxes are sufficient to pay for garbage collection on a weekly basis.

TIM CARSLEY, BARAT RD.

PLEASE KEEP WEEKLY GARBAGE COLLECTION (4)

We were appalled to receive an edict from the "Waste Management Team" that garbage will be collected only every two weeks. This is truly an exercise in greenwashing by reducing the most basic of services (despite increasing tax hikes). The gloss of "education campaigns" for the lowly public is unacceptably patronizing. Will there be lessons on the recycling of dirty diapers? It will certainly not be a "cleaner" environment for the many residents who have limited space or larger families. Expectation of basic hygiene standards in a neighbourhood cannot be eroded by donning a global climate crusader's cape.

N. Orlow, Grosvenor Ave.

RESIDENTS NEED TO DO BETTER WITH RECYCLING

Re your two-page article (November 7, p. 24) on a visit to the Lachine recycling facility, several sub-headings resonated with me, namely the first: "Clean material helps workers."

This brings to mind what I see in the blue bins in the basement of my apartment building that are filled each week by tenants. There is ordinary trash not only unsorted but seemingly just dumped. There is often no sorting of paper and folded boxes, or separate bags of metal, glass and plastic, and clearly no attempts made to clean these recyclables, which as your article says can be a problem for buyers of these materials, and especially for the sorters.

I also think that your readers might remind themselves of your second subheading, "Not wanted": namely such items as "clothing, electronics, Styrofoam, plastic wrap, batteries, car parts, furniture and construction material."

If readers want further information, they can type the keywords "Westmount recycling" on Google to find the rules for "Recycling" on the city of Westmount's website.

PLEASE REMIND US ABOUT PERMIT EXPIRIES

As I just received a parking ticket (at the new improved rate of \$90) because my Westmount-permitted parking sticker had expired, I would like to know why the city cannot send out reminders. I receive a "Now due" email concerning my credit cards, and obviously this is helpful.

When I asked, the person at the parking permit office told me that most people ignore them anyway.

Hmm. I wouldn't have, for sure! He also told me that soon there will be no more printed stickers, but all done with license plates, and we will pay online. So if we can pay online, why - as you have our email addresses - can a "Reminder - payment" due not be sent out? Perhaps the city might consider this moving forward? VERONICA REDGRAVE, HALLOWELL ST.

Editor's note: Veronica is a columnist for the Independent. – DP.

REMEMBRANCE DAY WAS NOVEMBER 11

A thoughtful but small ceremony was held at our cenotaph on Remembrance Day but it was not the ceremony it should have been!

Notwithstanding conflicting scheduling or whatever, I urge Mayor Smith and city council to reconsider the decision to not hold our full Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11 every year.

Our fallen heroes deserve it.

GLENN ROURKE, WESTMOUNT SQUARE

LOVE FROM NYC

We recently spent a weekend in Westmount and we could not have had a better time.

One of the highlights was reading the Westmount Independent. It really enhanced our weekend and made us eager for more!

We will definitely be back and are looking forward to reading the week's newspaper. We are not sure we can ever love anything as much as we love this newspaper.

Thank you!

CHANCHIE, DEVORAH AND GITTY NAP, New York. NY

THANKS FOR REMEMBRANCE

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all who came to the Westmount cenotaph on Saturday, November 11 to commemorate and remember those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

A particular thank-you to Rev. Patrick RICHARD ORLANDO, SHERBROOKE ST. Wheeler of St. Matthias Church and Mr.

City's share of tax hikes up about \$2M Agglo tax increase appears to be somewhat good news

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The impact of the overall agglomeration tax increase for Westmount in 2024 appears to be relatively good news, Mayor Christina Smith said last week. "We know the increase for Westmount is around 3 to 3.1 percent," she said just prior to the agglomeration meeting and release of the budget November 15.

"This will amount to about \$2 million more," she explained, still not acceptable in her view, but low compared to the agglo impact on some of the demerged municipalities and Montreal boroughs.

Last year, Westmount's increase to its share (quote-part) of island-wide services such as fire, police, transit and water services was up about 4.4 percent.

This amounted to a total of \$67.7 million, as reported by Councillor Antonio D'Amico, the city's finance commissioner on November 6. This was about \$2.4 million more than for 2022. The exact numbers tend to fluctuate over the years but usually are well over 50 percent of the city's overall budget.

The Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), along with some of its member municipalities, have been contesting the manner in which these municipalities are assessed for their shared agglo costs, which, they claim, do not reflect their share of services received such as in the frequency of police patrolling.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lawrence Reich, who offered prayers of remembrance; to the three members of our armed forces (two naval officers and one army officer), who on their own initiative attended in uniform and provided the ceremony with a quiet formality and dignity; to the employee of the city of Westmount who arranged to have the flags at city hall and the cenotaph lowered to halfmast; and to Wilfrid de Freitas, who worked behind the scenes to help organize the event.

CATHERINE DUFF-CARON, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SPELL CHECK IS FREE

With reference to Veronica Redgrave's City Views column in the November 7 issue (p. 29), I have the following question: "Archibishop" - who dat?

JOAN MCCORDICK, ABBOTT AVE. Editor's reply: I read this letter. - DP

WHAT'S THE RULE ON GASOLINE LEAF BLOWERS?

According to the city website (west mount.org/en/leafblowers-in-westmount), council adopted a motion in October 2022 to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers as of October 1, 2023.

However, a representative of Westmount Security informed me just this past week that gasoline-powered blowers remain perfectly okay.

So which is it?

Stop-work order issued





This address on Victoria was in the news in June, when what metropolitan media called "suspected arson" occurred there. It was then a construction site, which then turned into what was announced by sign outside as an asbestos removal job, as photographed November 14 (left). On November 9, the city of Westmount issued a stop-work order to that effort due to the lack of a permit (centre, November 14), which then ended up in the street, as seen November 17. As the Independent went to press on November 20, the stop-work notice was back up and the asbestos/amiante sign was gone.

Budgetted expenditures expected to drop for year end

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Cuts in some of the city's capital works projects budgetted for this year owing to work interruptions attributed to the bluecollar strike over the summer have resulted in reducing the budget's pay-as-you-go (PAYG) surplus contribution as reflected in the year-end forecast.

In presenting the forecast at the November 6 council meeting, Councillor Antonio D'Amico, finance commissioner, later told the Independent that he singled out the reduced surplus appropriation because the effect on the surplus "is the most frequently requested question I receive from residents."

As a result, he pointed out, the adopted surplus contribution to PAYG of \$12.5 million has been reduced to \$6 million in the forecast.

Lawn contractors are taking advantage of either lax enforcement and confusion by our Security team or a retreat by council. Either way, it's loud and noxious.

J. LEE, ROSLYN AVE.

Editor's reply: As far as we know, the ban should have started October 1 (see November 22, 2022), although a temporary exemption for all leaf blowers was granted after the city's blue-collar strike (see August 29, p. 4), which may have muddled the waters.

Non-gasoline leaf blowers are permitted from October 1 to May 31. - DP.

Correction

In the October 14 issue, p. 3, the story on changes in garbage collection should say the initiative is linked to the Metropolitan Waste Management Plan.

While this is a nine-month forecast, it means that as of September 30, the expenditures required to operate the city net of a surplus appropriation include \$58.6 million in addition to \$67.7 million for the agglomeration share and another \$1.1 million for the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC). This totals some \$127.3 million after the \$6-million surplus appropriation in the forecast with the net result listed at just over \$2.1 million.



Women Children

Men PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT

Westmount recreation centre turns 10



Yota and Iri were distracted from their rush to hockey practice by a couple of large slices of birthday cake.



Emiliana (centre) and Ella were among the celebrants - and cake consumers.

By Ralph Thompson

The Westmount Recreation Centre (WRC) celebrated its 10th anniversary November 8 at 5 pm. Mayor Christina Smith presided over the slicing of the cake by young Zachary Guay along with the city's director general Julie Mandeville; city councillors Mary Gallery, Kathleen Kez and Elisabeth Roux; Sports and Recreation Centre director Dave Lapointe and his colleagues Jennifer Heaps, Bruce Stacey and Andrew Maislin; Anne-Marie Lacombe, director of the Library and Community Events and Claude Ladouceur, director of Finance. (See photo on p. 1)

"We must remember former mayor Karin Marks, who started the new recreation centre project, and former mayor Peter Trent, who carried on, and also the many donors and supporters who made it happen," said Smith.

In fact, there were many arguments for and objections to the project. Council minutes as far back as January 9, 2006 show demand from citizens for an upgraded sports facility and plans were drawn up in 1999 for a new facility, only to be shelved by the 2002-2006 merger with Montreal.

On the other hand, many wanted much more basic amenities and criticized the plans for an enlarged facility early on (e.g. April 29-30, 2008, p. 6).

Partial funding for the project came from the federal and provincial governments in the form of grants plus substantial funding from donations in the community. Small plaques can be seen around the arena and outside crediting the many contributors.

It was not until 2013 that the impressive project was completed, including two

underground NHL-sized hockey rinks (the Molson and Desmarais arenas, named after two generous families), a large outdoor swimming pool, changing rooms and exercise rooms – all the while achieving a Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating that recognizes excellence for sustainable building.

Because the rinks are located underground, Westmount Park and its green s space were significantly expanded. It may not be apparent to a casual passer-by, but the WRC provides services to not only Westmounters but residents beyond their borders frequently participate in activities and the Mouton Noir café is a very popular venue year-round.

Below are estimated numbers of people either using or visiting the WRC on a weekly basis.

According to management, exact usage



is difficult to determine because individuals come and go to accompany kids, watch games etc. without being checked in:

Winter season:

Participants	4,000-5,000	
Visitors	1,000-2,000	
Including general skating/hockey (300),		
schools (800), youth pr	ograms (450), youth	
hockey (1,000), adult pr	rograms (250), adult	
hockey (600), Teen Cer	ntre (150), café (800)	

Summer season:

Participants Visitors			nts	5,000-6,000		
				1,000	1,000-2,000	
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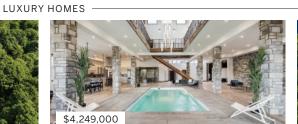
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Holiday Giff Guide 2023





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1325 Greene Avenue, Westmount QC

Simple tricks to disentangle holiday lights

The joyous holiday season is enhanced by the beautiful and festive decorations that adorn homes and businesses during this special time of year. Twinkling lights are part of the holiday decorating equation. However, tangled lights in storage bins and boxes can sap anyone's holiday spirit.

Christmas lights can turn into a tangled mess no matter how hard people work to avoid such an outcome. Christmas lights get tangled partly because of their design. There is a metal wire inside the cord to help with the packaging of the lights, which gives the cord a natural curve. Furthermore, most light cords are made from twisted or braided wires that have spaces throughout. The lights themselves can get snagged in these pockets between the wires.

Although it can be frustrating to deal with tangled lights that look like balls of yarn in a knitting basket, there are ways to disentangle them with relative ease – and then pack them in a way that can reduce further tangles.

Begin by plugging all lights into the outlet to see if they work. If most of the bulbs are burnt out or the lights do not go on at all, discard the strand. There's no point untangling lights only to learn they don't work.

Start slowly, beginning on the plug end, when untangling the lights. Keep the strand you're working on separate from the other lights so they do not inadvertently become entangled. Tackle this job in a space with a lot of room. Lay the lights out on a large table or sit on the floor to do the untangling.

Utilize a pen or pencil to fish out more stubborn snags. This can help you loosen any knots and make it easier to pull snags through.



Lay the untangled strands out in a safe area away from your working space as you work through each strand.

One of the ways to avoid the hassle of tangled lights is to remember to store the lights in ways that will reduce their propensity for tangling in the first place.

- Rather than wrap lights around your hand or arm to condense the strand, use something else. A piece of cardboard, a hanger and some PVC tubing can keep lights from becoming tangled.
- Store lights in a zip-top bag to keep them from tangling with other strands stored together.
- Save the original boxes and return the lights to them after each use.
- Icicle lights have hanging strands of lights on longer strands, which can compound tangling issues. Use a rubber band to gather the hanging "icicles" together, or use some plastic wrap for the same purpose.
- Invest in a cord reel, similar to what you might use for a garden hose. Longer light strands or wires are stored on such reels, and they can be used with Christmas lights.

Patience and care can prevent holiday lights from becoming tangled. – MCG



Snap a great Christmas card photo

Greeting cards are among the first signs that the holiday season has arrived. Mailboxes are filled with cards and email inboxes have new messages popping up each day wishing others well. Many of these greetings feature family photos.

A Shutterfly poll conducted by Ipsos in 2021 discovered that, while traditional holiday messages are by far the most popular missives at 63 percent, younger age groups show more interest in other types of cards, such as photo cards (between 34 and 38 percent depending on age group). Forty-one percent of people polled prefer to receive photo cards. That means holiday well-wishers may want to brush up on their photography skills.

- Keep cards in the back of your mind. While the Norman Rockwell-esque family tableau or a wintry Christmas scene is a go-to holiday card, any photoworthy moment throughout the year can suffice. Keep a lookout for ideas while vacationing or enjoying time together as a family.
- Avoid busy prints. Stick to solid colours when posing for holiday photos; otherwise, recipients' eyes may not know where to look when viewing the photo. Photo subjects should

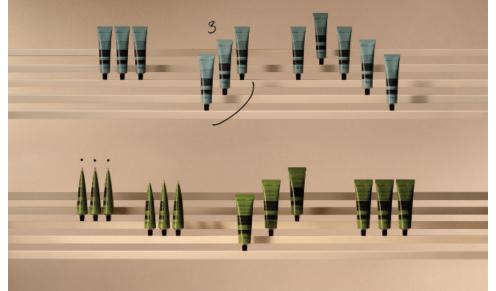
coordinate, but wardrobes that

- completely match can seem contrived.
 Avoid red eye. Proper lighting can help avoid the occurrence of "red eye" in photographs, which happens when the flash bounces off a wide pupil. Asking subjects to look into bright light before the photo, or utilizing a camera that snaps a small burst of flash before the actual flash, can help alleviate this problem.
- Embrace candid shots or mixups. Some of the funniest and most memorable photos are when things didn't go according to plan.
- Zoom in tight and cropped. Card recipients want to look at you and not the surroundings.
- Angle correctly for flattering photos. Adjust your body posture to look your best. Turn the lower half of your body to the side and then adjust the upper half to move slightly toward the camera to appear more svelte. Position the camera lens at eye level or above to avoid double chins in photos.

Relax and have fun with holiday greeting cards. Plan outfits, watch lighting and catch kids at the right time to create memorable cards. – MCG Aēsop.

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4 unique holiday party themes

The holiday season is a festive time of year filled with plenty of opportunities to socialize with friends and family.

As people will be attending many different events, savvy hosts and hostesses may want to set their occasions apart in different ways. A fun theme can provide a break from the standard traditions. Consider these four unique party themes when planning holiday parties.

1. Ornament exchange: Decorating the home is commonplace this time of year. Who couldn't use a new trinket for the mantle or an ornament to adorn the tree? Ask all guests to bring a giftwrapped ornament to the party. Then place numbers in a bowl and have each guest draw a number; this is the order in which they will then select an ornament. After the first person makes their selection, subsequent guests can choose a new ornament from the pile or "steal" one from those already picked. The guest who picked first then has one last chance to keep or steal at the end. 2. Tropical holiday: The weather outside may be frightful, but a tropical island party can be utterly delightful. Give the event an island flair with fruity drinks,

grilled kabobs, coconut desserts, and steel-drum music.

3. Grinchy party: A party devoted to the Dr. Seuss character The Grinch can be a fun way to pass time together. While the holidays are supposed to be holly and jolly, a Grinch-themed party can put the emphasis on being a little bit more naughty than nice. And who doesn't enjoy an ample serving of roast beast? Have guests come decked out in Grinch costumes or Grinch emblazoned t-shirts or other clothing.

4. Christmas karaoke: Set up the karaoke machine or utilize one of the services available online, and make sure that guests are prepared to belt out their favourite holiday tunes – whether traditional carols or pop hits. A group of ladies can join together for The Waitresses' "Christmas Wrapping" or guests can try their hands at hitting the high notes of Mariah Carey's ubiquitous "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Chances are serving some liquid courage will help guests loosen up and be more inclined to grab the microphone.

These are just a few different party themes that holiday hosts can consider this season. - MCG

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Burn candles safely for the holidays and beyond

Candles are not in short supply come the holiday season. During Hanukah, candles are an integral component of celebrating the miracle of oil that burned in the temple for eight days. Christians light candles during Christmas services and in their homes to represent the light Jesus brought to the world.

There is no denying the warmth and beauty candles can bring to a home when they are flickering delicately. But candles have open flames, so caution must reign supreme when they are in use. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says 85 percent of candle fires can be prevented by following some key safety precautions. The National Fire Protection Association says Christmas is the most dangerous day for candle fires. Here is how to burn candles safely.

- Always trim wicks to 1/4-inch before burning candles. Long or crooked wicks can cause uneven burning, dripping or flaring.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, including Christmas trees.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy and will not tip over easily.
- Use a long match or long lighter to light candles to prevent fingers and hands from getting too close to the flames.
- Run used matches under water to cool them down and prevent fires from occurring after matches are disposed

in the trash.

- Never leave a candle unattended. It should be in sight at all times.
- Place and store candles beyond the reach of children and pets where they will be less likely to get knocked over.
- Never touch or move a candle while it is burning or while the wax is liquefied.
- Place candles on stable, heat-resistant surfaces.
- Keep candles away from drafts, vents and air currents.
- Follow candle manufacturers' recommendations on burn time and proper use.
- When utilizing multiple candles, place them at least three inches apart from one another. This reduces the chances for the candles to melt one another, or create their own drafts that will cause the candles to burn improperly.
- Extinguish a candle if the flame becomes too high or flickers repeatedly.
- Refrain from burning a candle longer than three hours at a time, and never burn a candle when there is less than one centimeter of wax at the base.
- Use a candle snuffer to safely extinguish a candle, and make sure the candle is completely out (wick ember is no longer glowing) before leaving the room.

Candles can be awe-inspiring components of holiday decor. But caution must always be the top priority when lighting candles inside a home. – MCG



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Tips to pick the perfect Christmas tree



Christmas trees are among the most recognizable symbols of the holiday season, and the popularity of trees is undeniable. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year. Christmas trees also are big business in Canada, where Statistics Canada notes cash receipts from Canadian Christmas tree producers totaled nearly \$163.5 million in 2022.

Annual spending on Christmas trees underscores how important they are to holiday decor. Christmas trees serve as the centrepiece in millions of holiday home décor schemes, so it's important to pick a tree that can shine in that role. This holiday season, celebrants can consider these tips as they look for the perfect Christmas tree.

- Measure the area where the tree will be placed. A large tree can be aweinspiring, but also can stick out like a sore thumb if it takes up too much space. There should be enough room around the tree for families and their guests to sit around it. The home interior experts at Better Homes & Gardens recommend leaving a minimum of six inches between the top of the tree and the ceiling. If a tree topper will be added, make sure the top of the tree is at least 12 inches from the ceiling. Measure the area before leaving to buy a tree so it can fit nicely into the room and the surrounding decor.
- Try the shake test. Anyone who has purchased a fresh-cut Christmas tree is

undoubtedly familiar with the shake test, which remains an effective way to measure the dryness of the tree. A slight shake will produce some fallen needles. If the brown needles are few and far between, then the tree likely is not overly dry. However, a lot of falling green needles indicates the tree is already drying out, which means it could shed quite a bit and lose its looks before Christmas Day.

- Pick a tree with a symmetrical look. Trees are living things, so it's unlikely that buyers will find a perfectly symmetrical tree. However, a tree that's misshapen or already has some sagging branches won't make for an awe-inspiring addition to a home decor scheme.
- Find the trunk (if you can). A trunk that's visible through the branches indicates the tree does not have dense branches, which will be necessary if homeowners want to dress the tree with ornaments.
- If it's hard to find the trunk because of all the thick branches and green needles, then the tree is likely pretty healthy.
- Test the needles. The home improvement experts at Lowes note that needles should be flexible but still snap when bent sharply. Avoid trees with needles that are already losing their colour and can easily be pulled off.

A Christmas tree garners a lot of attention come the holiday season, which only underscores the significance of finding a tree worthy of being the centrepiece of holiday décor. – MCG

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Enjoy this traditional herbed dish

Hosting for the holidays typically requires having foods and beverages on hand to keep guests jolly.

As most home cooks can attest, inspiration can fizzle when trying to come up with familiar flavors that will appeal to guests and offer that touch of "wow" when plated. "Pomodori Farciti all'Erbette" is an Italian dish of stuffed tomatos with herbs. Although tomatoes are a New World food, and were a favourite of Mesoamerican people since at least AD 700, explorers brought tomatoes back to Europe and they became quite popular there, especially in the cuisine of Mediterranean nations where tomatoes grew readily. Today they are enjoyed the across the globe and are an important component of many recipes.

Holiday entertainers can whip up this recipe for "Pomodori Farciti all'Erbette," courtesy of *Tasting History* (Simon Element) by Max Miller with Ann Volkwein, for a tasty offering. Holiday celebrants may be happy to see that the red

tomatoes with green herbs in the dish fit right in with their holiday décor colour scheme!

Pomodori Farciti all'Erbette

Makes 6 to 8 servings

- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 1/2 cup finely chopped yellow or white onion
- ¹/4 cup finely chopped fresh sorrel (or substitute arugula or spinach with a squeeze of lemon)
- 4 ounces prosciutto
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

- 8 ounces Provatura cheese (or fresh mozzarella)
- 3 large egg yolks
- 6 to 8 medium fresh tomatoes

2 or 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil Ham broth or crusty bread, if desired, for serving

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- 2. Mix the parsley, onion, sorrel, and mint together in a medium bowl. Tear the prosciutto into small pieces, then mix into the herbs, add salt and pepper to taste. Grate the cheese in the mixture, add the egg yolks and mix to form a paste.
- 3. Slice off the tops of the tomatoes and scoop out the inside with a spoon,

discarding the tops and insides of the tomatoes. Stuff the hollow tomatoes with the herb mixture until full but not packed too tightly. The filling should be flush with the top of the tomato.

4. Add enough olive oil to cover the bottom of an oven-safe frying pan and set over medium heat. Pan-fry the tomatoes, bottom down, for 2 to 3 minutes, then use tongs to quickly flip them over and to prevent the filling from falling out. Pan-fry top down for 2 to 3 minutes. Then place the frying pan into the oven and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and serve hot. The original recipe says these can be served with a ham broth, but they also can be served with a bit of crusty Italian bread, if desired.

Cook's note: The quantities of the herbs and onion can be modified to suit your preference. – MCG

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Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in October 2023. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

If September's slow sales list wasn't enough to worry Westmount homeowners, they got no encouragement from the October list, which is just as slow but not quite as low.

Of the four real estate sales in October, one cleared the five-million mark, but the others were all under \$2,000,000.

Three of the four were double-digit mark-downs from city valuation and the average of the four was -13.9 percent. The lowest price was for a semi-detached home on Belmont Ave., actually selling for less than a townhouse on Burton Ave. (which represented the only mark-up of the four sales).

The four single-family sales in each of September and October are bringing down the year's volume to levels unseen since 1994, when Quebec was beginning to talk about holding a second referendum. This time, it is more likely that the slowdown is caused by the rising interest rates, which force many buyers to pay considerably more for loans, whether these are to purchase the house or to use the house as collateral for investment loans. In the past decade, both months have averaged 14 sales per month; each had only seven sales in 2022, but otherwise each month had more than 10 sales during the decade.

Condos

Only two condominium sales were

October sales: Slow, again

posted in October, one 27.8 percent above valuation and the other 11.5 percent below valuation, coming off a third quarter (July-September) that averaged only a 3.5-percent markup in nine sales. Last year, the fourth quarter showed 10 sales, so we need considerably more action in November and December to hold even with last year's volume.

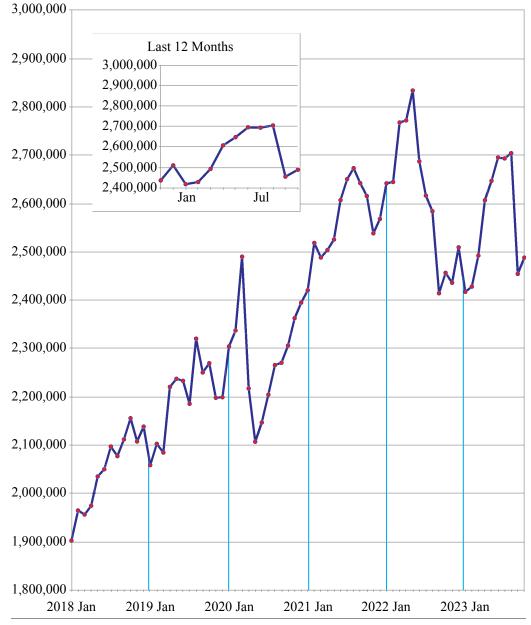
The latest tally of available listings jumped by one compared to a month ago, still with slightly more in the \$2-\$3 million range than below \$2 million, and with 35 out of 97 properties asking more than \$3 million. Only one house is listed at less than \$1 million; the two that had been listed for \$25 million both have come off the market, so the highest asking price right now is \$18,000,000 for an upper-level home.

Rentals, Westmount adjacent

The house-rental market is getting more active, with four more contracts negotiated in the past month to bring the year's total to 40. There are some 35 houses available for rent, for rates ranging from \$4,350 to \$25,000 per month, though the highest contract awarded so far is for \$15,700 per month.

Two sales in September and October on Northcliffe Ave. make up the entire list of adjacent-Westmount sales either west or north of Westmount's borders.

There were two sales to the east of the city limits and then two more in Shaughnessy village, along with condominiums at Trafalgar Apartments, 3982 Côte des Neiges, and M sur la Montagne, 3150 Place de Ramezay, and one co-op apartment at Gleneagles, 3940 Côte des Neiges. Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2018 to October 2023, based on accepted offer dates





Police Report (November 13-17) Charges being considered after Wood/de Maisonneuve dog bite incident

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St. are examining evidence before deciding whether to proceed with charges against the owner of a dog that allegedly bit a woman around 5 pm on November 12 on Wood Ave. near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd.

According to Cst. Mike Yigit, Station 12's community relations officer, a man who was out walking had just reached the intersection of the two streets when his dog lunged at a passing woman and allegedly nipped one of her hands.

Cst. Yigit explained the procedure the police follow when they are dealing with dog bite incidents.

"Normally when somebody gets bitten by a dog, the owner has to keep the dog under watch for at least 10 days," he said, noting that the waiting period is necessary to ascertain whether the dog or the bite victim develop rabies symptoms.

As of last Thursday, according to Yigit, the police were waiting for a report from an investigator before deciding whether or not to proceed with a criminal charge. He said part of the investigation will involve determining whether the dog had a previous history of aggressive behaviour.

Two car thefts

Although there were no household break-ins or burglaries reported last week on Westmount's territory, complaints were filed regarding two car thefts and one forced entry into a vehicle.

In the first car theft incident, the owner of a Toyota Highlander reported that she parked near the corner of Forden and Westmount avenues around midnight on November 13.

Later that day, although still unaware

the car was missing, she was notified by police in St. Jean sur Richelieu around 20 kilometres southeast of Montreal that it had been recovered. One of the car's windows had been shattered.

Cst. Yigit noted that car thieves sometimes will drive a stolen vehicle to another location where they will abandon it and wait to see whether it is recovered through an on-board vehicle tracking system. "If they come back a week later and the vehicle is still there, it means that it doesn't have a system," he said.

... and another one, plus a debit card

The owner of a Ford Explorer who parked on Greene Ave. at 5:30 pm on November 14 wasn't as fortunate. Not only did he find the following morning that the vehicle was missing, but a bank debit card he had left inside was also taken.

When he checked in with his bank to

see his balance, he found a \$70 wireless debit payment had been made for coffee, donuts and fuel at a gas station where there was a Tim Horton's take-out. The vehicle had not been recovered by late last week.

Car contents thief arrested

A member of the public played a key role last week in helping the police arrest a suspect who had been seen going from car to car along Wood Ave. while apparently trying to find one that was unlocked and vulnerable to robbery.

Around 3 pm on November 14, the witness called 9-1-1 to report what he had seen. According to Cst. Yigit, the police arrived just after the suspect had entered an unlocked vehicle where he reportedly stole a man's jacket.

The officers quickly recognized the suspect because of a description the witness had provided to the 9-1-1 operator.

Police Report (November 6-10) Two household burglaries, two car break-ins two weeks ago

By Martin C. Barry

After several months when almost no household burglaries were reported in Westmount, there was a resurgence two weeks ago although a local wave of car thefts appears to have eased for the time being at least.

House robbed

At some time between late October and the first days of November, a resident in a dwelling near the corner of Olivier Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. was robbed of a \$3,000 bicycle he had carefully kept in a garage, where he took the extra precaution of securing it with a lock and chain.

"They forced and opened up the garage door and then they cut the chain," said Cst. Mike Yigit, community relations officer at Station 12.

In a complaint the owner filed at Station 12, he said he remembered last seeing the bike on October 27, but first noticed it was missing on November 3.

A second household break-in incident in Westmount was reported to police on Nov. 8 by the owners of a dwelling around Willow and Claremont avenues.

According to the police report, the owners went out around 3 pm. At 10 pm when they got home, they discovered the house had been broken into.

"They got in through a broken window on the second floor," Cst. Yigit said of the suspects' *modus operandi*. The report didn't specify how they got up to the secondstorey window.

The police routinely caution homeowners not to leave ladders lying about outdoors, and to make sure second-story windows are as carefully secured as on the first floor, since burglars typically seek out this type of security weakness.

Cars broken into

Station 12 investigators received complaints regarding two car break-ins last week, both around the same area of lower Westmount.

In the first incident, a car parked on Prospect St. near Clandeboye Ave. was broken into by someone who was possibly suffering from a tobacco craving, since a pack of cigarettes was the only thing reported stolen in a complaint to the police.

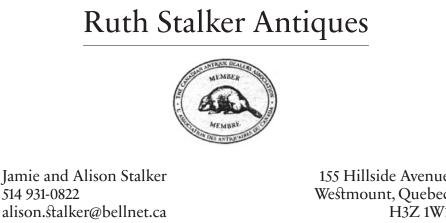
It was a little more serious in the second case. Someone broke into a car parked on Stayner St. near the corner of Greene Ave., making off with what were described as personal papers, as well as some items of clothing.

In both cases, passenger-side windows were shattered to gain entry.

The standing advice to car owners by the police is to never leave anything out in the open inside a vehicle as it only facilitates crimes of opportunity.

"With the holidays coming, people tend to leave purchases inside the car," said Cst. Yigit, suggesting car owners exercise extra caution during the upcoming holiday period.







Lily-Ann Westmount A-dog-tions

Lysanne Fowler

Most beautiful and loving, Lily Ann is a joy. A young German shepherd-type, she is a tribute to her breed.

Lily-Ann is intelligent, curious, attentive and affectionate. As a one-and-a-half-yearold, she is still growing into her body and her training. She has good basics and response to commands, and is ready to work more for leash training and "meet and greet" with calm excitement.

A healthy girlie, she enjoys long walks, hikes, car rides and play. Energetic and interactive, she is great with children but maybe over 10 years old because she is a bigger breed. She is not a barker and communicates by chatting if she wants your attention. So clever!

Lily-Ann is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and micro-

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Seeking Participants

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chipped. A home with a yard is a good place for her so she can exercise and play as she is young and active.

If you would like to find out more about her, please go to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue. org for her information page and photographs, or refer to their Facebook presence. Please feel free to email the volunteers to follow up and enquire at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler

I am quite taken by him. Oh my, a precious Cornish rex! Actually, we don't see them often and in such a memorable copper shading of redhead. Yes, a very handsome fellow.

They also have wonderful personalities, playful and kittenish, social and friendly with people and other cats.

Simba is at the Montreal SPCA cattery at the moment, hopefully not for long if you would consider bringing him home to join your family soon.

He is a very healthy three-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Simba arrived at the shelter as a declawed cat, on all four feet, so he is an indoor-only cat.

He also has the Cornish rex coat, which is more down, so he likes to keep snuggly and warm.

If you would like more information on him, please do not hesitate to go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com, scroll to his information page from his identification number, 52222952, then plan your visit to the shelter for a meeting

new ones was the group purchase of road

salt with Montreal and other agglomer-

ation municipalities for the 2023-2024

winter season from Compass Minerals

Canada, with Westmount's share to be a

cost of \$948,772 including tax credits. "This

is less expensive as part of a group pur-

chase," explained Councillor Anitra

maintenance of two electric ice rink re-sur-

facers for 36 months at a cost of \$16,101

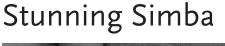
including tax credits for the current fiscal

year and a total of \$326,492 including taxes.

This is "very exciting and gratifying"

Next to be approved was the rental and

Bostock.





with their adoption coordinators.

The SPCA is open every day as of 10 am and it is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges H4P 1X4. Please remember to bring your carrier if you have one, or you can choose one from the selection available at the onsite accessories boutique.

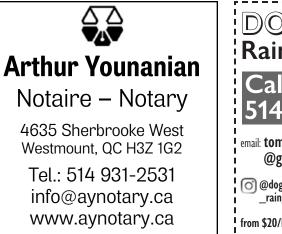
Your neighbour,

Lysanne

Contracts, cont'd from p. 1

said Councillor Matt Aronson as part of his commissionership that includes sustainability and as an advocate of the city's use of electric vehicles. The contract went to Robert Boisleau Inc., described as an exclusive supplier of Zamboni products.

A third approved contract involved the rental of loader tractors with operator. This was awarded to Ventec Construction for the winter season (November 1 to April 30, 2024) at a maximum of \$624,027 including taxes, of which \$61,365 including tax credits is for the current fiscal year. It also includes two renewal options at variable but similar amounts.







Part 2 of 2: Landfill

A view of the sprawling Complexe Enviro Connexions site, with the Trans Canada Pipeline facility in the foreground. This site produces enough gas to power 23,000 homes per day.

Three levels of government work to keep Quebec's garbage from just being dumped

By Ralph Thompson

Westmount's environment team, which works inside the Public Works department, organized a visit to a landfill October 27 to mark Quebec's Waste Reduction Week of October 20 to 29.

This followed an October 23 visit in Lachine to one of Montreal's recycling sorting centres (see November 7, p. 24).

This visit

A large group of Westmounters, including councillors Elisabeth Roux, Conrad Peart and Matt Aronson, piled into a school bus that left the Westmount recreation centre at 1 pm for a one-hour ride to Complexe Enviro Connexions (CEC) in Terrebonne on the North Shore.

"This is not the landfill site used by Westmount," explained Julie Lagiorgia, Environment technician, because "not all

Eric Luu, LL.B., B.C.L., MTAX

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landfill sites offer access to the public."

(Like recycling and kitchen waste, Westmount is responsible for garbage pick-up, which it contracts out, and then the Montreal agglomeration designates the disposal facilities, including the first stop: a transhipment centre. Westmount's garbage is then moved on to a landfill in St. Thomas between Rawdon and Berthierville on the North Shore.)

The Terrebonne landfill covers more than six square kilometers and is the largest landfill site in Canada. It is run by a vertically integrated, publicly traded wastemanagement conglomerate that includes BFI Canada and spans North America.

The process is not just dumping garbage bags into a hole, out of sight – out of mind. Today, waste management is a structured, highly regulated industry from greenhouse gas emissions monitored at the federal level to strict provincial laws



and local (municipal) oversight.

CEC has to obey many laws and norms, including maintaining a clean, noise-free climate and picking up waste that gets blown around.

CEC handles recycling, garden, kitchen and construction waste, and electronic junk. The processes incorporate about 30 large pits for ongoing composting, compacted trash, gas production and water filtration. This operation generates enough gas to power 23,000 homes per day (6,600 gigajoules), according to André Chulak, director of communications and community relations.

Huge dump trucks are first weighed and scanned for nuclear contamination. International waste (including garbage from Dorval airport) is stored in a separate area.

The designated dump sites are huge pits, which are dug above the water table and lined with a very thick nonporous layer of glacial clay to prevent contaminates from seeping into ground water.

The trash is strewn in layers, compressed with giant computer-controlled landfill compactor (three passes are made on every pile) and then covered with soil.

Unfortunately, the company would not allow us to photograph this compaction process.

The delivery trucks, rolling in two or three at a time, are subsequently cleaned and re-weighed on departure. CEC earns \$120 per metric ton for trash. Once the large pits are full, they are sealed and gas extraction pipes are installed. CEC is committed to manage each pile for 30 years.



Falconer Samuel is pictured with one of the falcons used to disperse seagulls. It has its eyes covered to prevent it from getting excited.

Garden and kitchen waste, handled separately, are spread out and turned frequently for a period, and then placed into sealed composting pits. Warm water and microorganisms work on the compost piles to accelerate biodegradation. The water is drawn away from below to filtration ponds, where contamination is removed (and then later used to fertilize willow trees on site and returned to the local water filtration plant).

Eventually, the composted material is sifted to extract plastics and other material, which are sent to the landfill pits. The rich compost soil goes mainly to the agriculture industry and some to garden centres.

The extracted biogas is filtered and refined on site. Much of the processed gas is fed into the TransCanada Pipeline that runs alongside CEC.

All this activity attracts wildlife. Visitors saw a number of wild turkeys pecking at the composting piles and a large population of ring-billed gulls (sea gulls), resident on a nearby island in the St. Lawrence River, would swarm the site if CEC didn't create deterrents. So, CEC employs a falconer who has 10 birds, drones and firecrackers to scare away the birds.

The smell

Odours from the decaying waste and gas production are also an issue. One control mechanism is deodorizing sprays erected on fencing around the composting heaps although, at one of the few opportunities visitors had to leave the bus, the *Independent* did get a whiff of rotten eggs (hydrogen sulphide). But it did seem that, overall, odours were well controlled.

The visit was enlightening and it was good to see how seriously all level of government take waste management, but also sad to see so much waste, a staggering average of 749 kilograms per capita in Quebec according to a The Conference Board of Canada.



RÉSERVEZ LA DATE

28 novembre 2023

MARDI 9 JE DONNE

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL

Lundi 4 décembre

Collecte d'aliments des fêtes

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présente devant le supermarché Métro

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5 Saisons le 29 novembre de 10 h à 17 h

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

November 28th, 2023

GIVINGTUESDAY

Watch your mailbox: the first edition of

Westmount's new municipal newsletter will

soon arrive by Canada Post. It includes news,

Council announcements, information about

City services and projects, an event calendar,

Sports & Recreation — coaches needed

certification offered. 3 hours per week. Send

a message to recreation@westmount.org .

No experience necessary. Training and

New City publication

and more. Don't miss it.

Monday, December 4

Holiday Food Drive

The Public Safety team will be outside the Métro supermarket November 28 and outside Les 5 Saisons grocery store November 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to accept your food donations. Help us fill the van!

2023 Food Collection

You are invited to contribute non-perishable food and toiletries that will be distributed to families in the community. Bring your items to the bins located in public buildings, or to the Public Safety van at special events (see above). 514 989-5367

Garden waste collection

Due to the quantity of materials to be picked up, there are delays in the collection. Please leave your materials curbside; they will be picked up as soon as possible. westmount.org/greenwaste

Nouvelle publication de la Ville

édition du tout nouveau bulletin municipal de Westmount arrivera bientôt par Postes Canada. Elle inclut des nouvelles, des communiqués du Conseil, des informations sur les services et projets de la Ville, un calendrier d'événements et encore plus. À ne pas manquer.

Surveillez votre boîte aux lettres : la première

Sports et loisirs — entraîneurs recherchés Aucune expérience nécessaire. Formation et certification payée. 3 h par semaine. Envoyez un message à recreation@westmount.org.

Collecte 2023 de denrées alimentaires

Vous êtes invité à offrir des denrées non-périssables et des articles de toilette qui seront distribués dans la communauté. Déposez vos items dans les bacs situés dans les édifices publics ou dans le camion de la Sécurité publique lors d'événements spéciaux. 514 989-5367.

Collecte de résidus de jardin

En raison de la quantité de matières à ramasser, des retards sont à prévoir. Veuillez laisser vos résidus en bordure de rue ; ils seront ramassés dès que possible. westmount.org/residusverts

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Ouverture à 11 h le 4 décembre Exceptionnellement, la Bibliothèque ouvrira à 11 h le lundi 4 décembre.

Galerie du Victoria Hall - exposition Du 21 novembre au 15 décembre. Œuvres d'Eliane Rivard et d'Irene Kudish.

Conférence — Treasures of the Westmount Public Library's Archives Jeudi 23 novembre, 19 h, Bibiothèque. En anglais. Avec Lora Baiocco. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Ciné-club - Past Lives (2023) Mardi 28 novembre. 14 h. Victoria Hall. En anglais et coréen. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.



Collecte de sang Héma-Québec Mercredi 29 novembre. Victoria Hall. Par rendezvous:1800343-7264 / hema-quebec.gc.ca

Club de films documentaires

Mercredi 29 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque, Our People Will be healed. Avec Alanis Obomsawin, cinéaste. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org

Cercle littéraire avec l'Institut Thomas More

Jeudi 30 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Une discussion libre autour de la nouvelle Edge of the World du recueil How to Pronounce Knife de Souvankham Thammavongsa. En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Illumination du sapin de Noël Vendredi 1^{er} décembre, 17 h, hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux élu.e.s pour cette célébration.

Heure du conte drag (3 à 7 ans) Dimanche 3 décembre, 14 h à 15 h. Avec Barbada de Barbades. Un après-midi d'histoires et de chansons. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Fête de la Hannoukah Lundi 11 décembre. 17 h. hôtel de ville. Illumination des chandelles et réception. Bienvenue à tous et à toutes.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

11 a.m. opening on December 4 Exceptionally, the Library will open at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 4.



Gallery at Victoria Hall - exhibition November 21 to December 15. Works by Eliane Rivard and Irene Kudish.

Lecture — Treasures of the Westmount Public Library's Archives Thursday, November 23, 7 p.m., Library. With Lora Baiocco. Register at westlib.org.

Film Club — Past Lives (2023) Tuesday, November 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. In English and Korean. Register at westlib.org.

Héma-Québec Blood Drive Wednesday, November 29, Victoria Hall. By appointment: 1 800 343-7264 / hema-quebec.qc.ca

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, November 29, 7 p.m., Library. Our People Will be healed. With Alanis Obomsawin. filmmaker. Register at westlib.org.

Literature Circle with the **Thomas More Institute**

Thursday, November 30, 7 p.m., Library. An open discussion about the short story Edge of the World from How to Pronounce Knife by Souvankham Thammavongsa. Register at westlib.org.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 1st, 5 p.m., City Hall. Join Council members for this celebration.

Drag Storytime (3 to 7 yr olds)

Sunday, December 3, 2-3 p.m. With Barbada de Barbades. An afternoon of stories and songs. Register at westlib.org.

Chanukah Celebration

Monday, December 11, 5 p.m., City Hall. Candle lighting and reception. Everyone welcome.





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SieMatic bring European sophistication to Greene



Greene Ave. is often referred to as "tony." Nothing to do with the former much-loved shoe shop, the posh adjective is used because of the classic chic offered at the street's boutiques.

Today, luxe has returned. COVD drove many into their kitchens. Baking was back. But the "old" kitchens were now viewed with a more critical eye. Many were "refreshed."

Enter SieMatic, Greene's new neighbour. The top-of-the-line kitchen cabinet firm is from Germany. In Europe, its sophistication is renowned. The high-end units are fabulous. Perfect for condos or families, they are anti-fingerprint (those sticky hands!) and sealed against dust and insects. See-through lit cabinets make life easy while offering the opportunity to showcase collected pieces.

Design specifications mean 30 percent more storage space is available. The pullout drawers self-close smoothly. Finishes offered are luxurious as well as the "go-anywhere" warm white, explained Kevin Napert, CEO SieMatic Montreal.

Also welcoming guests were his executive assistant Marie-Eve Tremblay; project manager Dominic Tremblay, and Caroline Bertaux, kitchen designer, as well as Sie-Matic North America's Hans Henkes, CEO, and Rainer Mueller, director sales.

Many store visitors have already inquired about upgrading their kitchen with SieMatic, which is available in 60 countries, so they must be doing a lot right. Sie-Matic also works with architects and designers. (Hmm. Maybe it's time to replace my "vintage" – aka "gently-used" – fridge!)



Marie-Ève Tremblay, Kevin Napert, Dominic Tremblay, Caroline Bertaux, Hans Henkes and Rainer Mueller.





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Social Notes Veronica Redgrave

The damp of an autumnal eve was warmed by a fall fire. Yes. Already. The Mount Royal Tennis Club's (MRTC) cheerful fireplace blazed with welcome for the Camp Amy Molson cocktail fundraiser.

Camp Amy Molson is an overnight

Camp Amy Molson hosts fundraiser at MRTC

camp for Montreal inner-city kids (aged 5 to 14) living in vulnerable circumstances. It was founded in 1944 when the Ladies Benevolent Society bought an old farmhouse with a legacy left by Amy Molson.

During the first summer, there were 58 campers and five counselors, each of whom earned 20 cents a week. Today, the camp has facilities for over 150 children and 70 staff, and offers three summer sessions as well as a farm and wilderness

program.

The club hosted the annual fundraiser with delicious easy-to-eat bites. Board pres **Cynthia Joy** was thrilled to have "a no-rain event for a change." Explaining the camp's mission, she noted that 95 percent of the campers live below the poverty line.

Other camp board members present were Elise Pesant, Catherine Rousseau, Brian McGirr, Josephte McNamara, Shauna Joyce and Jake Burack.

Elise Pesant, Catherine Rousseau, Brian McGirr, Josephte McNamara, Olivia Choquette, Shauna Joyce, Cynthia Joy and Jake Burack.

Noted enjoying the eve were motherdaughter groups: artist Jennifer Hornyak and daughters Caroline and Alexandra, there with her daughter Olivia Choquette; Mary Marilley and daughter Anne Marie; Louise McNamara and Josephte; and Marie Claire Holland and Dany.

Guests shed cozy coats and mingled to bid on the silent auction items. They were greeted by **Shauna Joyce**, Camp Amy Molson executive director. Also noted from the camp was **Dane Savoury**, director of operations.

Helpful volunteers continued on p. 22



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

were camp staff, including Dayna Martin, Dylan O'Hara and Sarah Khan (some of whom were former campers and are now working there each summer) as well as Rebecca Rosler and Narah Joy.

Noted in the packed room were Leslie MacDonald and Eric Klinkoff, Susan and Richard Hart, Alexandra Heidleman, Kim Drummond-Dlouhy and Peter Dlouhy, Lori Baird and Scott Morgan, Leslie and Brian Dunn, Charles Porteous and Nicole Small, Pattie Edwards, Alex Leslie, and Nicole Vien.



Shauna Joyce and Dane Savoury.



Leslie and Brian Dunn.



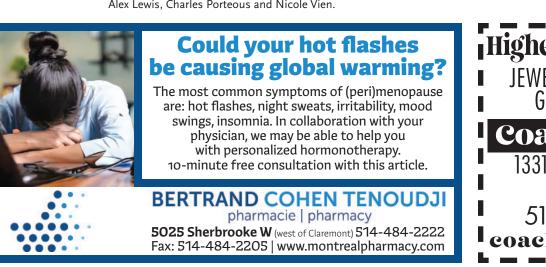
Rebecca Rosler and Narah Joly.



Alexandra Heidleman, Peter Dlouhy and Kim Drummond-Dlouhy.



Alex Lewis, Charles Porteous and Nicole Vien.



Dayna Martin and Sarah Khan.



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JILL PRÉVOST

Homeowner Tip #23

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