

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 17 No. 12a

We are Westmount

December 5, 2023

'Trade-off': kids' health vs. environment

City's support for turf field at Marianopolis challenged

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council's resolution of support November 6 for Marianopolis College to obtain a provincial grant for building "a full-size synthetic playing field" drew sharp

opposition on environmental grounds at the recent council meeting November 20.

Denis Biro, of Burton, spoke some five minutes during question period addressing many environmental issues with synthetic turf. These even addressed an organic fill that he described as having been treated with herbicide to prevent the growth of weeds beneath, which he called "a graveyard of biodiversity: everything dead above it and under it."

In reply, Mayor Christina Smith said that "the industry has evolved. We also see an overuse of our (natural) fields." Many families and *continued on p. 3*

City preps for festive season with new arch



Sarah was jogging through Westmount Park November 28 and passed under a new decorative archway placed near de Maisonneuve and Lansdowne.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Next issue (December 12) is the last one before our usual Christmas break

No issues: December 19 & 26 and January 2 & 9

First issue of 2024: January 16

Reaching out for partnerships

Dawson seeks more support for sports subsidy

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the city council meeting November 20, a resolution of support was approved for a request by Dawson College to the Quebec government for a subsidy to renovate its "outdated sports infrastructures." It was two years ago that the city's approved a similar resolution (see story December 14, 2021, p. 1).

At that time, city Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe had explained that

the city's principal need at Dawson was use of its gym facilities, though this was not explained in the current resolution.

The city has partnered with both Dawson and Marianopolis to use their sporting facilities in return for supporting their applications for provincial funding. In the case of Marianopolis, this involved two resolutions adopted November 6: one for indoor facilities and the other for the creation of a turf field (see above).



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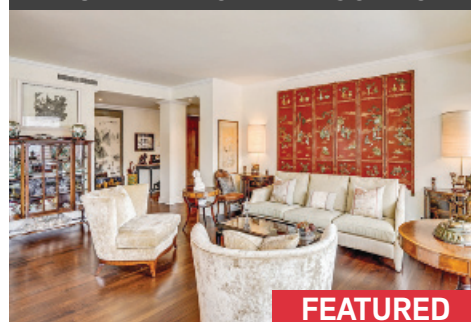
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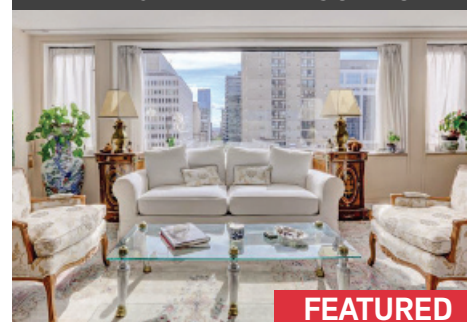
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Resident: ‘No words required!’



HEADLINE & PHOTO COURTESY OF FRED GIRVAN.

Turf field, cont'd from p. 1

children have to go elsewhere to play “and the city can’t have a soccer team because it doesn’t have the infrastructure.”

A need for children to get more exercise was cited by the council in seeking the partnership with Marianopolis, a resolution approved unanimously but with comments.

Worth pursuing

“We have grappled with this issue but sometimes we have to choose ... for the greater good,” said Councillor Antonio D’Amico. “It’s a trade-off,” he explained adding that the partnership with Marianopolis was “very worth pursuing.”

Councillor Conrad Peart, commissioner of urban planning, then added that “There are never perfect solutions... but hard choices.”

The area under consideration at Marianopolis, said Councillor Elisabeth Roux, had served as a parking lot as far back as

she could remember as a former student at the site before its use by Marianopolis.

How much?

John Fretz, a resident of Lansdowne and advocate for preservation of Summit Woods and questioner on city finances, asked what the city was looking at in terms of a monetary investment in the partnership project but was told this was not yet known. No contract had been awarded.

The resolution was one of two concerning Marianopolis that the city adopted November 6.

The other was in support of the school’s request for a subsidy to renovate its indoor gymnasium that also would be available for city use.

As the city reaches out for partnerships, another support resolution followed November 20 for a subsidy request by Dawson College to renovate its indoor sporting facilities (see story p. 1).




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Giving Tuesday/Wednesday comes to Victoria, Greene



Public Safety officers Michael Leccese (left) and William Lamontagne spent Giving Tuesday, November 28, outside the Metro supermarket on Victoria. In spite of the chilly breeze, “People have been very generous,” said Leccese.



Ines Holzbaaur, who works in Westmount, hands over a large bag of goodies from the 5 Seasons grocery store on Greene Ave. to the Public Security team for its annual holiday food drive in support of local families November 29. “Its a good thing they’re doing. I like Public Safety, except when they give me a ticket,” said Holzbaaur with a chuckle.



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Contactivity asks: ‘Won’t you be my neighbour?’



City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

In 1962, *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* debuted on CBC, and became the longest running children’s television series. Today, the cardigan-comforting feeling of “having neighbours” seems to be lost: young and old alike are immersed in their phones.

But the art of conversation and communicating is making a return. In fact, Lulea, a small Swedish town is encouraging its citizens to greet each other as they pass. Not a text.

A little closer to home, Westmount’s Contactivity, a centre for seniors, has done wonders with its community programs. One is with Selwyn House.

The private boys’ school welcomes guests from Contactivity with whom they chat while eating lunch. Discussions range from video games and sports to lives lived over half a century and more.

“During COVID, the students used Zoom. One student played the piano for his ‘guest.’ He asked if he could continue once the lock-down was over,” said Benita Goldin, Contactivity executive director.

Other activities between the two generations include reading stories, learning tech skills, helping at sports events, singing in an intergenerational choir and crafting together.

“We have also introduced fun courses like knitting, which the boys enjoy.”

In an era when the “family unit” is not what it used to be, and no one has any time except to scroll, these Contactivity initiatives plant seeds for future growth.

The centre also offers a wide series of courses just for seniors (line dancing any-



Edén Schwartz, Benita Goldin, Elana Schwartz and Selwyn House headmaster Michael Downey.

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one?), including fitness, painting, crafts, discussion groups, book club, bridge and other card games, a Thursday lunch-and-learn series and outings. Special holiday celebrations are popular.

On December 9, Contactivity is having its annual holiday craft sale at the Westmount recreation centre, which is sure to draw an eager crowd of shoppers.

In a world where Netflix can now be viewed faster – just use the “speed” button – Contactivity shows us how to slow down: how to re-discover simple pleasures. Like saying “hello.” (That’s “halla” in Swedish.)

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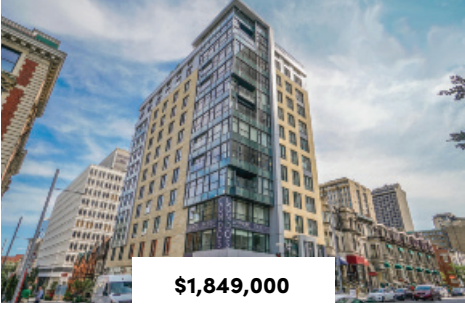
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLEASE KEEP SIDE/BACK
GARBAGE COLLECTION

Open letter to Mayor Christina Smith

Are you and this administration even aware of the weight-lifting restrictions that exist for people with certain medical conditions? Given Westmount's older population, how can you eliminate side garbage collection that some residents rely on when it is medically inadvisable to lift, much less carry, a garbage can to the curb?

This administration talks a good game about ensuring the safety and security of residents. So how does that commitment square with the city's change to garbage collection that will force residents with back or hernia problems to carry a garbage bin to the curb, when that weight exceeds what they are capable of lifting or what is permissible?

This is your administration's idea of protecting our safety? I am urging you to reconsider this new policy.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

NOVEMBER OR LIFE
AT THE CHÂTEAU

Being a "very senior" person, it is time that I think about how the final years of my residence on this planet might unfold for me.

It so happens that I was given the opportunity to spend many hours at the Château Westmount, a residence for the aged where I am assisting a friend with his

meals.
I expected to have feelings of apprehension, sadness and even despair.

But now, as I am familiar with the routines and getting to know many of the residents and staff, I am surprised that the following words come to mind:

Enjoying,
Accepting,
Knowing,
Resting,
Gratitude,
and, yes, Waiting.

Enjoying the many activities that are being offered, the celebrations, the visits from family members and friends.

Accepting the loss of hearing, loss of mobility, sometimes loss of cognition, the instances when the mind and the body refuse to work together, the present state of being, the living for the moment.

Knowing that although memories may fade, the heart has not forgotten the feelings of being cared for, and still knows how to trust.

Resting, just resting the eyes, not always sleeping, but so looking forward to the nap, so tired.

Gratitude, for the carefully prepared meals, for the assistance and caring of the staff, for their patience, for their cheerfulness, for being familiar with each person's particular needs and whims, for creating an atmosphere of fellowship and friendships, for the visits from family and friends.

Waiting for the next meal, the nap, the visits from family and friends and, yes, sometimes spoken out loud..... waiting for the forever sleep.

And, surprisingly, there is a lot of laughter. I know now that I will be all right!

HEIDY VERMEULEN, METCALFE AVE.

LEGAULT, CAQ AT HEART OF
DISCRIMINATION PROBLEM

Recently, in apparent attempts to terrorize the Montreal Jewish community, people threw Molotov cocktails at a synagogue and Jewish community centre, and shot at two Jewish schools. (Editor's note: Since this letter was written, one of the two shot-at Jewish schools has been shot at again and a different Jewish community centre (in Côte des Neiges this time) has been the target of a firebomb. – DP.)

At the same time, Montreal police report a significant increase in Islamophobic incidents, in what a recent poll indicates is already the most Islamophobic province in Canada. These are disturbing escalations in the amount of bigoted hostility been seen in Quebec. In response, Premier François Legault told the CBC that "The Quebec nation is a peaceful nation. Let's not import the hatred and violence we see elsewhere in the world."

The problem with his statement, however, is that it implies a false reality.

Mr. Legault and his party, the CAQ, have built their power on a foundation of identity politics, bigotry, division and discrimination. With Bills 21, 40 and 96, he has done what he can to attack those who are not like him: rich, white, powerful, francophone and Catholic.

He attacks anglophones and allophones by prohibiting them from communicating and learning in their chosen languages. He attacks religious minorities by outlawing their religious garb in the workplace. He creates cruel and pointless barriers to non-francophones trying to access health, legal and government services. He attacks busi-

nesses by outlawing common-sense, practical approaches to bilingualism. He imposes impossible and destructive linguistic and other barriers to immigrants in their quest for a place in Quebec society. He takes away the opportunities and choices of francophones to live, learn, communicate and function in the wider world.

And using the Canadian Charter's notwithstanding clause as a shield against evidence and logic, he attacks the freedom of everyone in the province by suspending core human rights, including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, the right not to be subjected to unreasonable search and seizure, the right to an interpreter in court, the right to equal protection under the law, the right not to be discriminated against based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, etc. Yes, that's correct – Legault's new laws suspend all of those rights.

Legault, the CAQ, and [one of the opposition parties], the PQ, have declared war on human rights in Quebec. We are in the greatest constitutional crisis in decades, one in which those in power in Quebec are clearly trying to see just how far they can go in making life unpleasant and, ultimately, unlivable, for minorities. Growing up in the Quebec of the 1970s and 1980s, as a fifth-generation Irish Quebecer, I was many times told to go back to Ontario or England. It seems that now those taunts have been codified in legislation.

In the last few years, Legault's only real stand against racism in Quebec has been to deny that it exists except in isolated incidents. He has also repeatedly denied the existence of systemic racism, while at the same time appearing to either not know, or pretend not to know, what systemic racism is. It seems that it's probably not difficult for him to maintain his view on this point, given that his party's MPPs are almost all white francophones – a level of racial and linguistic diversity that is entirely inconsistent with the actual make-up of Quebec society.

If Legault doesn't, as he claims, wish to import hatred and violence into Quebec, then maybe he should stop creating an atmosphere in which that is bound to occur. Perhaps he could start by recognizing that Quebec is not the homogenous, unilingual nation he imagines it to be in the dishonest preamble to the anti-minority Bill 96 ("...the only official language of Québec is French [...] French is the common language of the Québec nation").

He might also recognize that racism and other forms of discrimination are a problem in Quebec, and that – oh, gosh – he's at the heart of the problem. The reality, of continued on p. 9

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GUEST COLUMN

People need people – and shops, within walking distance

By CYNTHIA LULHAM

Having a viable, vibrant commercial area in a city is essential to the success of the community. “Why?” you may ask.

Not only do these commercial areas offer services and products that are needed by the residents but they can also create a space for much needed social interaction and community connecting. Local resident Susan Pinker’s book *The Village Effect* offers valuable insight into the human need for social interface opportunities and the value of those experiences.

“Face-to-face contact can make us healthier, happier and smarter!”

I know this was true for my late elderly aunt. Her daily walk included a visit to a local café where she had a coffee, chatted with the same waitress every day (who knew her by name) and interacted with many of the other regular patrons.

Westmount’s 15-minute city

These places and opportunities can do much to alleviate social isolation for many people. Westmount’s two public squares

were intentionally built in the two commercial areas to create spaces for the community to come together, meet and interact. The addition of street-seating spaces and new furniture have increased this capacity.

For residents living in lower Westmount, our two commercial areas offer the benefits of the “15-minute city.”

The 15-minute city is an urban planning concept in which most daily necessities and services, such as work, shopping, education, healthcare, and leisure can be easily reached by a 15-minute walk, bike ride or public transit trip from any point in the city.

There are again many health benefits from being walkable and reducing car dependency. But also the financial benefits of supporting neighbourhood businesses, restaurants and shops by encouraging residents to shop local.

For the last decade, we have had a large turnover of shops and many vacant storefronts in both Victoria village and Quartier Greene. The area east of Wood on the south side of St. Catherine is an urban blight and as a key entry point into Westmount certainly doesn’t reflect our com-

munity.

The revitalization of the southeast under the new Special Planning Program (SPP) by the city of Westmount is a welcome initiative that will bring all stakeholders together through in-depth public consultations towards creating a redevelopment plan for this area that includes economic development of the retail areas.

The Westmount city council has invested time and funds towards building strong merchant associations over the past five years.

Much of this work took place before and during COVID. But having the foundations of legal non-profit entities, social media branding in place, along with funding for events, allowed for a smoother re-launch this year.

Merchant associations have grown

The Westmount merchant association; – Victoria Village and Quartier Greene – welcomed many new members this year and will continue to build their memberships in 2024. It is interesting that almost all independent shops joined while most chain stores declined, including Metro and

5 Saisons.

There is a lack of understanding of the community benefit that we will strive to overcome in 2024. Activities in 2023 included two festivals each, along with music and activities in the public squares as well as a greatly increased social media presence.

For the Quartier Greene area, these were the first festivals in decades! In 2024 we plan to add events for restaurants and fashion shops. Initial contacts with building owners have been very positive and we plan to build on this important initiative in 2024.

The collaboration and support of the city of Westmount is important and appreciated but we also need support from the community – you, our residents! Our merchants are so dedicated and work long hours! The holiday shopping season is key to their annual sales, success and continued operation. Please support our merchants and businesses by remembering to always shop local for your holiday gift giving and needed services. Thank you!

Cynthia Lulham is the general manager of Westmount’s two merchant associations, and a former city councillor.

Letters to the editor, cont’d from p. 8

course, is that Quebec is diverse – linguistically, racially, religiously – and this is a good thing. We are multicultural, and it works. Legault has often expressed his dislike of multiculturalism, but by doing so he is expressing his dislike of what Quebec is, and of its actual people.

Until Legault changes his ways, should it be any surprise that hate crimes and discrimination continue, against Jews, Muslims, indigenous people and non-franco-phones?

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Seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT 2024

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The deadline to submit your application is **Wednesday, January 31**.

Only selected applicants will be interviewed.

westmount.org

Mason Kaine, November’s player of the month

Becoming a ‘play maker’ for his M9-3 hockey team

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mason Kaine of the M9-3 Westmount Wings hockey team (for ages nine and under) has been selected as November’s player of the month for city’s Minor Hockey Association.

“Although Mason, aged 7, might be new to competitive hockey, he is working ex-

tremely hard to support the team and develop his skills,” said Andrew Maislin, president of the Westmount association, who is also operations manager for the Westmount recreation centre.

Mason, he explained, had already been called up to play for the higher level M9-2 team during the Cape Ann Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament last month.

‘Right spot’ on ice

“Even though the M9 category does not keep score or team standings,” Maislin told the *Independent*, “Mason has developed into a ‘play maker’ on his team. He seems to be able to always find himself in the right spot, either in front of the net to receive a pass from his teammates or back on defence protecting his goalie. We look forward to seeing him progress this season.”

He described Mason as a “well-rounded” athlete who participates in other sports during the year such as soccer and baseball, and has completed two years of the M7 hockey program.



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Preparing with more trucks, sidewalk plows Winter work gains traction: snow chute & more equipment

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the city builds up its snow-removal resources for the winter, more contracts were awarded at the council meeting November 20, starting with where to put the snow – again dumping it at the Butler snow chute in Montreal’s Southwest borough.

To this effect, city council approved Westmount’s share of an inter-municipal

service agreement from the Montreal borough for the period November 1, 2023 to April 30, 1928 at a minimum of \$781,600 and a maximum of \$2,198,250. Of this amount, \$103,500 including taxes was authorized for the 2023 fiscal year concerning the 2023-2024 winter season.

To collect the snow from sidewalks, the supply and delivery of two new Caterpillar sidewalk plows was accepted from Équipements Plannord Ltée at its bid price of \$479,793 and a maximum of \$525,436 including taxes. This was described as the only bid received.

Also approved was the rental from Urbex Construction of five 12-wheel trucks with operators for snow loading for the 2023-2024 winter season at a max of \$226,860 including taxes. The portion to be paid for the 2023 fiscal year was \$78,487 including tax credits. This worked out to \$143.50 per truck, according to the information.

The five trucks are in addition to up to 26 others with operators already contracted from Les Entreprises Pep whose bid represented a cost of \$192.33 per truck (see story October 24, p. 12).

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Remembering Derek Drummond (1936-2023)

Multi-talented, funny architect/educator also served on PAC

LAUREEN SWEENEY

A remembrance service took place last Thursday at St. George’s Anglican Church for Derek Armour Drummond, who died November 17 at the Montreal General Hospital.

A lifelong resident of Westmount, he led a distinguished professional career associated with being director of the McGill School of Architecture and also left a lasting mark on the city’s community through contributions to its development, heritage and everyday life.

A bird watcher in Summit Woods and avid photographer, he kept his camera at the ready and had a quick eye for newsworthy happenings such as street accidents, some of which he sent to the *Independent*.

Former mayor Peter Trent, who had been commissioner of urban planning from 1983 to 1987, recalls it was during that time that Drummond joined the city’s Architectural and Planning Commission, now called the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

“Two matters that concerned Derek were the future occupation of the Mother

House by Dawson College and the development of commercial areas such as Greene Ave. Derek wanted to keep some residential buildings on Greene to keep a neighbourhood atmosphere.”

‘Wicked sense of humour’

Few people, Trent said, “know how much Derek was passionate about urban planning. For years, he was a board member of the International Making Cities Livable movement that began in 1985 and encouraged me to attend their meetings.

“Above all,” he added, “I think back on Derek’s wicked sense of humour, his self-deprecation, his affability, and his warmth to anyone who crossed his path along with a willingness to share his experiences with them.”

As an example, he said, this included sharing many photographic tips with Trent’s wife, Kathryn, an amateur photographer.

When the city launched its celebration of the PAC’s 100th anniversary in 2016, the event April 13 included an exhibition of 53 photos of buildings photographed and documented by Drummond (see story April 19, 2016, p. 33). This also involved photos



The late Derek Drummond, left, who photographed the houses and buildings on display in 2016 at the 100th anniversary of Westmount’s Architectural and Planning Commission/Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), and exhibit curator Bruce Anderson, also an architect and photographer.

for a large calendar.

Drummond failed to shy away from controversy and kept a focus on the impact that some decisions might have on areas he loved. He submitted his own letter to the editor, for example, concerning the need to preserve trees in King George (Murray) Park near where he lived on Mon-

trose (see story October 25, 2022, p. 4). He also continued to be available for consultation or comment.

Predeceased by his wife, Anne Lafleur, Drummond is survived by his four sons, Colin (Jyoti), Gavin (Kate), Bob (Linton) and Louis (Vikki), as well as nine grandchildren and a sister, Barbara Brodeur.



One of Derek Drummond’s contributions to the *Indie*: As reported by an onlooker, this accident took place at about 12:40 pm on October 30, 2012 at the corner of Montrose and Argyle. It took firefighters some 30 minutes to get the driver out of the car. Public Security officials said that the driver was conscious and suffered slight shock.

PHOTO COURTESY OF D. DRUMMOND



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Holiday Gift Guide 2023

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Tasty tidbits about eggnog

Eggnog is a rich and delicious beverage that has become synonymous with this time of year. This milk- and egg-based concoction is tasty on its own, or it can be dressed up with other flavours and spiked with a favourite spirit.

December is National Eggnog Month, and December 24 is National Eggnog Day. Indulge in these festive facts about the beverage, courtesy of Mental Floss, The Fact Site and Tastemade.

- Eggnog likely originated in the medieval period and known as “posset,” a hot, milk-based drink made of spices and wine. Though posset could be a cocktail, its soothing properties were used as a cold and flu remedy.
- Milk, eggs and sherry used in the early recipes were difficult to come by, so when eggnog first appeared it was a drink only the wealthy could enjoy. Eggnog was popularized in the American colonies, where the ingredients were more readily available.
- Etymologists believe “eggnog” stems from “noggin,” referring to small wooden mugs used to serve strong ale, known by the slang word “nog.”
- In the Medieval period, it was risky to drink milk straight because it wasn’t pasteurized. Eggnog contained alcohol so that it would hopefully kill off any harmful bacteria in the milk.
- A typical homemade version of eggnog has roughly one egg per serving. However, commercial eggnog is regulated by the FDA and can only contain 1 percent of the product’s final weight in egg yolk solids. That stems from fear of raw egg and salmonella.
- President George Washington apparently enjoyed serving eggnog at Christmas, and even had his own special recipe (see below), according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac.
- There is no right or wrong alcohol to use when preparing eggnog. Distilled spirits like rum, sherry, cognac, and



- whiskey all produce suitable egg-nogs.
- Puerto Rican coquito is a traditional drink that is very similar to eggnog.
 - Individuals concerned about eggs or milk in eggnog can enjoy a vegan recipe made from nut milk instead.
 - One of the more notable flavours in eggnog comes from the use of nutmeg. Nutmeg is a fragrant spice made from grinding the seed of the nutmeg tree.
- Here is Washington’s original recipe:

Eggnog

- 1 quart cream
 - 1 quart milk
 - 1 dozen tablespoons sugar
 - 1 pint brandy
 - 1/2 pint rye whiskey
 - 1/2 pint Jamaican rum
 - 1/4 pint sherry
- Eggs (Washington forgot to include the number, so home chefs can improvise or use six, which seems to be the standard in traditional recipes)
- Mix liquor first, then separate yolks and whites of eggs, add sugar to beaten yolks, mix well. Add milk and cream, slowly beating. Beat whites of eggs until stiff and fold slowly into mixture. Let sit in cool place for several days. Taste frequently. – MCG

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Did you know?

Christmas trees are a key component of many people's holiday season. It's a family tradition to choose (or take out) the tree each year and then adorn it with ornaments, tinsel, family mementos, and a beautiful tree topper. In regard to tree toppers, most people fasten the top bough with an angel or a star. The first tree toppers were the infant Jesus, but toppers are now available in other options symbolic of the Nativity of Jesus. The star refers to the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the Magi to the birthplace of Jesus. The angel represents the messengers of God as well as the Angel Gabriel, who visited Mary to share the news that she would be giving birth to the Son of God. People can choose whichever topper they prefer, but many refer to the religious significance of Christmas. – MCG

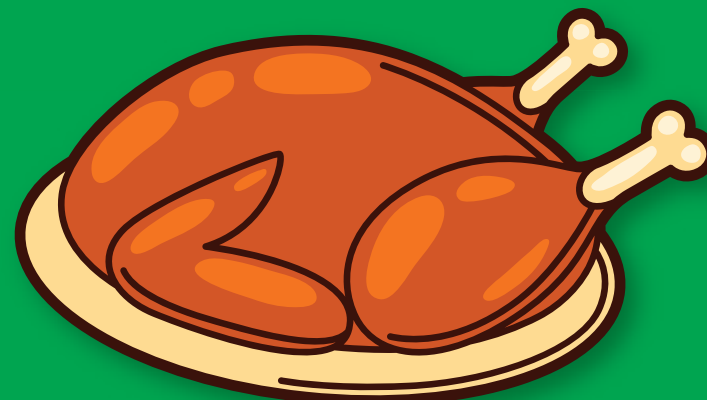
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Happy
Holidays

Traditions associated with Hanukkah celebrations

Come December, the holiday season has hit full swing. Celebrants of various faiths and backgrounds participate in holiday celebrations, which are unique to each faith.

Although Hanukkah is a relatively minor holiday on the Jewish religious calendar, it has enjoyed a greater share of fanfare in recent years. That popularity is perhaps due to the proximity of Hanukkah to another major December celebration featuring a bearded fellow in a red suit.

Hanukkah isn't mandated by the Torah, and isn't even mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. Rather, it was created by ancient rabbis.

Judaism is one of the world's oldest and most influential religions. World Population Review estimates there were approximately 15.2 million Jews worldwide in 2021. Many likely will participate in Hanukkah celebrations. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Kislev each year. In 2023, Hanukkah begins at sundown on December 7 and ends on the evening of Friday, December 15. Here are some

Hanukkah traditions.

Lighting the menorah

Participants will light a special nine-pronged menorah, sometimes called a hanukkiah. It is practice to light one candle per night to recall the miracle of the sacred lamp oil that lasted for eight days during the rededication of the Temple. The ninth candle (shammash) is used to light the others. Lighting the menorah has been a primary ritual for at least 1,800 years. Lit menorahs are placed in prominent locations, including front windows in homes.

Playing dreidel

There are various stories about the origins of the dreidel, but historians say the first mention in Jewish writings did not occur until the 18th century. The four sides of the dreidel are marked with different letters, which in German are G "ganz" (all), H "halb" (half), N "nisch" (nothing) and S "schick" (put). This dictates whether the player who spun the dreidel gets all, half or nothing in the collective coin pot, or has to put



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in his own. Yiddish is quite similar to German, and the letters on the dreidel also correspond to the first letters of the Yiddish phrase “nes gadol haya sham,” which translates to “a great miracle

happened here,” a reference to the Hanukkah miracle.

Time at home

Unlike other Jewish holidays, Hanukkah is celebrated primarily at home rather than in a synagogue. This means that family time is a big component of Hanukkah celebrations, which include singing songs, praying and cooking foods.

Fried dishes

Eating dishes cooked in oil is another commemoration of the miracle of the oil. Potato pancakes called latkes and jelly doughnuts may be served during Hanukkah celebrations.

Giving gelt and gifts

Gelt was the gift of coin that would be given out to independent workers come Hanukkah as an end-of-year gratuity. Later it became a way to offer small tokens to children. Today's gelt is typically discs of chocolate wrapped in foil to resemble coins.

Many families also give gifts during Hanukkah, particularly on the sixth night. But Hanukkah gift-giving generally is not to the extent of gift-giving in other religions. Gifts may be monetary but also can include gifts of time. – MCG

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How to pet proof your home
when decking the halls

Many factors combine to make the holiday season so unique and festive, and that includes all the effort people put into decorating their homes. It's equally important to consider pets when decorating. Many household pets are naturally curious, and that curiosity can make it difficult to decorate safely. But various pet-proofing strategies can ensure decorations and displays aren't compromised by four-legged friends.

- Secure the Christmas tree. Much like other residents of the home, pets may be mesmerized by a glowing Christmas tree. Pets may sniff around the tree or investigate it closely, which can increase the chances that it tips over. That poses a significant safety hazard and underscores the importance of using a sturdy stand. Fastening the tree to a wall, much like one might do with a television that isn't mounted, adds a further layer of protection from tip-overs.
- Block off the base of a live tree. Live trees need water to stay green and keep their needles throughout the season. That water could prove enticing to thirsty pets. Drinking water from a tree stand could increase the risk of the tree tipping over and the water could upset the stomach of pets if the tree was treated with pesticides prior to being brought home. When decorating with a live tree, make sure the base of the tree where the water will be is blocked off. A small fence around the tree could keep curious pets away. The room where the tree is located should be locked or inaccessible when pets are home alone.
- Inspect and conceal light wires. Wires can become frayed over time, and that could pique pets' curiosity. Lighting wires should always be inspected prior to decorating and frayed or damaged wires should be thrown away, even if it



means replacing lights. If wires are still sturdy, conceal them along the base of the wall using a cable concealer, which prevents pets from chewing on them.

- Candles should not be lit in homes with pets. Even candles on shelves that are seemingly beyond pets' reach can be hazardous, as pets have a way of accessing spaces they seemingly shouldn't be able to reach. Use electric candles in lieu of traditional ones.
- Pet owners can speak with their veterinarians before bringing poinsettias, holly and other seasonal plants and flowers into their homes. Some pets could suffer allergic reactions, so it's best to err on the side of caution before including live plants and flowers in decorative displays.

Pet owners must exercise an extra bit of caution to keep their pets and homes safe when decorating. – MCG

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How to prepare a fireplace for the winter



As hours of daylight shorten and fall gives way to winter, thoughts shift from fall foliage to spending time cuddling under warm blankets and being cozy indoors. A fireplace can improve the ambiance of any room and help to create a warm and welcoming gathering spot.

Home fireplaces typically are wood-burning or gas. Though maintenance for these fireplaces differs, certain preparatory steps must be taken to prepare a fireplace for winter.

Clear the clutter

Items can accumulate in areas that are not in use, and a fireplace is no exception. Take a few hours to remove any belongings from in front of the fireplace and clean the mantle thoroughly.

Have the chimney cleaned

Hire a professional chimney cleaning company to inspect the chimney and clean it thoroughly before winter. According to BobVila.com, a chimney should be cleaned once a year, or after about every 80 fires. The National Fire Protection Association says failure to properly clean chimneys is one of the leading contributors to home fires. That's due to creosote, a highly flammable residue that builds up in the flue that lines the chimney.

Inspect the interior

The interior of a wood-burning fireplace is likely lined with fire bricks. Check for cracks and loose joints. Hire a professional mason to make any repairs, as special materials are needed to withstand the heat of fires.

Install a chimney cap and screen

According to Family Handyman, a chimney cap is a protective covering that goes over the top of the chimney. It is

made of steel or copper mesh with a cap on top. This protects the chimney from rain and downdrafts, and keeps animals and debris from getting into the chimney.

Prune overhanging branches

If there are trees close to the home and the chimney, cut them back, as they can be a fire hazard. Branches and leaves also can restrict the proper draft of the chimney.

Assess the outdoor vent

Gas fireplaces typically emit exhaust through a vent in the home. Remove any blockages from the vent, including leaves, cobwebs and debris.

Check glass or other coverings

The glass or face of the fireplace helps regulate carbon monoxide exposure and protects people from the flames. Be sure the glass covering is intact.

Clean ceramic logs

Gas fireplaces use ceramic logs, rocks or beads that can become dusty. Clean them prior to use. Dirty ceramic logs can be a fire hazard and produce an unpleasant burning smell.

Check the blower and pilot

If the fireplace has an electric blower, clean and dust it so it doesn't become clogged. Inspect the pilot light for any wear and tear that includes wiring or structural issues.

It takes several steps to prepare fireplaces for cold weather when they're likely to be used with frequency. – MCG

Editor's note: Westmount has banned the burning of wood except in emergencies. See August 29, p. 1. – DP.



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DU CONSEIL

Lundi 18 décembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, December 18



Bureaux municipaux fermés du 22 décembre au 3 janvier
Les membres du Conseil et de l'administration de Westmount vous souhaitent de joyeuses fêtes en santé et en sécurité. Au plaisir de vous servir en 2024.



Municipal offices closed December 22 to January 3
The members of Westmount's City Council and administration wish you a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to serving you in 2024.

Fête de la Hannoukah
Lundi 11 décembre, 17 h, Hôtel de Ville. Une célébration communautaire de la fête des lumières, avec l'illumination de chandelles et une réception. Bienvenue à tous et à toutes. westmount.org.

Carte d'accès aux installations 2024
La carte 2024 est présentement disponible en ligne et en personne. Deux preuves de résidence sont exigées. westmount.org

Emplois d'été 2024
Vous pouvez postuler dès maintenant pour un emploi d'été à la Ville de Westmount. La date limite pour soumettre une candidature est le 31 janvier. westmount.org/emploisdete

Horaires des collectes pour les fêtes
Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures du lundi seront remises au **mardi 26 décembre** et **mardi 2 janvier**.

Film des vacances — Élémentaire (2023)
Mercredi 27 décembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. 6 ans et plus. En anglais. Le nombre de places est limité. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Collecte de sapins
Les semaines du 8 et du 15 janvier. Placez votre sapin en bordure de rue le jour de votre collecte de résidus verts. Des retards sont possible pendant les opérations de déneigement.

Déneigement et stationnement de rue
Portez attention aux interdictions temporaires de stationnement pendant les opérations de chargement de neige. Les voitures qui entravent les opérations seront remorquées. westmount.org

Patinoire réfrigérée ouverte
La patinoire extérieure du parc Westmount est désormais ouverte à tous les jours de 8 h à 22 h, selon les conditions de température.

Chanukah Celebration
Monday, December 11, 5 p.m., City Hall. A community celebration of this festival of lights, with a candle lighting and reception. Everyone is welcome to attend. westmount.org

2024 Facility Membership Card
The 2024 card is available now online and in person. Two proofs of residency are required. westmount.org

Summer employment 2024
You can apply now for a summer job at the City of Westmount. The deadline for submitting an application is January 31st. westmount.org/summerjobs

Holiday collection schedules
The Monday kitchen waste and garbage collections will be moved to **Tuesday, December 26** and **Tuesday, January 2**.

Film des vacances — Elemental (2023)
Wednesday, December 27, 2 p.m., Library. 6 years+. Space is limited. Please register at westlib.org.

Christmas tree collection
Weeks of January 8 and 15. Place your tree at the street the same day as your green waste collection. Delays are possible during snow removal operations.

Snow clearing and street parking
Watch for signage for temporary parking restrictions during snow loading operations. Cars that interfere with snow removal will be towed. westmount.org

Refrigerated rink open
The outdoor rink in Westmount Park is now open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Rink conditions may vary according to the weather.

HORAIRE DES FÊTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	M/W 20	J/T 21	V/F 22	S/S 23	D/S 24	L/M 25	M/T 26	M/W 27	J/T 28	V/F 29	S/S 30	D/M 31	L/M 1	M/T 2	M/W 3
BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	- - - - -	- - - - -	bureaux fermés du 22 décembre au 2 janvier			- - - - -	- - - - -	offices closed from December 22 to January 2			- - - - -	- - - - -	8 h 30 - 16 h 30
BIBLIOTHÈQUE - LIBRARY	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	fermée closed	10 h - 17 h	fermée les 24, 25 et 26 décembre			10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	fermée closed	10 h - 17 h	closed December 31 and January 1 & 2			10 h - 21 h
VICTORIA HALL	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	Victoria Hall fermé du 21 décembre au 3 janvier			- - - - -	- - - - -	Victoria Hall closed from December 21 to January 3			- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
CENTRE DES LOISIRS (GLACES) RECREATION CENTRE (RINKS)	7 h 30 - 23 h 30	7 h 30 - 23 h 30	11 h - 20 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermé closed	11 h 30 - 20 h	8 h 30 - 21 h	8 h 30 - 21 h	11 h - 20 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermé closed	11 h 30 - 20 h	7 h 30 - 23 h 30
CONSERVATOIRE / CONSERVATORY	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	fermé closed	10 h - 17 h	fermé les 24, 25 et 26 décembre			10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	fermé closed	10 h - 17 h	closed December 31 and January 1 & 2			10 h - 21 h
POLICE : PDQ 12 - STATION 12	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 19 h

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June transfers: Volume up, prices down

Real Estate
ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in June 2023, gleaned from city information. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

Volume was up but prices were low in Westmount's real estate closings last June, as 15 sales averaged \$1,855,167, the highest volume but lowest monthly average price in the first half of 2023.

This is the second month in a row that the average has dipped below the \$2-million mark, in fact only the fourth month it has happened since February of 2020. The average price:valuation ratio dipped back below unity, where it has struggled throughout 2023 except for May, when it climbed up to a five-percent mark-up. The June average was -6.16 percent.

If the averages were not enough proof of how low the market could go, the first under \$1 million price since March of 2021 was registered, for 29 Burton Ave., not just slightly under the \$1-million mark but \$542,500 for a house reportedly in true "needs love" condition, complete with a tax



812 Upper Belmont.

bill based on a valuation of \$975,800. This meant a mark-down of 44.4 percent, certainly the lowest of the month, which listed eight mark-downs and seven mark-ups, including five mark-downs of more than 10 percent.

The highest price, on the other hand, was modest by Westmount standards, only \$2,535,000 for a large bungalow at 812 Upper Belmont Ave., close to Devon Park; the highest mark-up was only 13.2 percent for 7 Belfrage Rd., one of only two to have a mark-up higher than 10 percent.

A month ago, we were surprised by the "pairs" of houses – on the same street – except we noted that the super-high mark-up at 599 Victoria involved a "singleton" house. A late-arriving sale registered in May involved 499 Victoria, this time for a 40.9-percent mark-down, thus including

Victoria in the list of May transfers, which included two sales per street.

In June, then, a tenth-floor condominium at 1 Wood Ave. outpaced all of the house sales with a \$2,700,000 price tag, though even that was slightly less than its municipal evaluation. Among seven condo sales, the lowest price also outpaced the 29 Burton Ave., as a flat at 3169 St. Antoine St. changed hands for \$599,000.

Our normal practice is to compare condominium prices on a quarterly basis, adding five sales in April and May to the June list, but even with those, the price range is still the same. For the 12 sales, the average mark-up is 3.2 percent and among the 12 there were only four mark-downs.

There were no commercial-property sales in June, according to the list provided by the city of duties on real estate transfers.



7 Belfrage.



29 Burton. All photos November 29.

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2023

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
15 Anwoth	Dr. Luis Humberto Ospina Agamez & Dr. Maria Del Pilar Cortez Mino	\$1,825,000	\$1,986,300	-8.1%
68 Arlington	Rita Kazimirowsky (Schaffer)	\$2,310,000	\$2,301,700	0.4%
7 Belfrage	Jennifer Shaw	\$1,935,000	\$1,710,100	13.2%
755 Upper Belmont	Wang Zhang	\$2,320,000	\$2,281,000	1.7%
812 Upper Belmont	Tingting Miao	\$2,535,000	\$2,400,000	5.6%
3780 The Boulevard	estate Luisita Bronstroller	\$1,280,000	\$1,521,500	-15.9%
54 Bruce	Christopher Sweeney & Dominique Tardif	\$1,375,000	\$1,318,600	4.3%
29 Burton	Mary Lant & Kenneth Flagel	\$542,500	\$975,800	-44.4%
602 Clarke	John Richardson & Martine Lapierre	\$2,040,000	\$2,690,800	-24.2%
582 Côte St. Antoine	Siegrid Peiffer	\$1,680,000	\$2,133,800	-21.3%
4385 de Maisonneuve	Violaine Boucher	\$1,825,000	\$2,201,400	-17.1%
4725 de Maisonneuve	Jonathan W. Elkins & Nicola Delaney	\$1,700,000	\$1,879,900	-9.6%
792 Upper Lansdowne	Sébastien Thomas & Valérie Mac-Seng	\$2,015,000	\$2,160,000	-6.7%
612 Victoria	Kenneth Tooke & Jane Bourke	\$2,185,000	\$1,978,000	10.5%
425 Wood	Hilary Radley & Jean de Brabant	\$2,260,000	\$2,114,500	6.9%
MAY 2023 SALE				
499 Victoria	Helen Ann Koncewicz-Kyle	\$1,110,000	\$1,876,900	-40.9%
CONDOMINIUMS				
75 Bruce	Emond C. Sealy & Panagiota Iatsiroubas	\$920,000	\$839,200	9.6%
229 Clarke	Nicole Haguelon & Jean-Louis Larmor	\$1,100,000	\$899,800	22.2%
11 Hillside #208	Jessica Mender & estate Seymour Mender	\$620,000	\$632,600	-2.0%
200 Lansdowne #103	Emmanuel Mavradakis	\$729,000	\$817,800	-10.9%
200 Lansdowne #505	Wendelin Gardner	\$645,000	\$602,900	7.0%
3169 St. Antoine	Mayuri Gupta	\$599,000	\$534,600	12.0%
1 Wood #1003	estate Betty Beatrice Yossem	\$2,700,000	\$2,903,700	-7.0%

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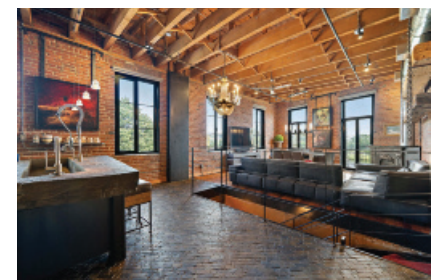
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627 Av. Murray Hill | Westmount
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56 Rue Turgeon | Le Sud-Ouest
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1947 Rue Baile | Ville-Marie
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Who does what?

District 8 residents hear from police, Public Security, CIUSSS

By JENNIFER BALL

The question “Who you gonna call?” was addressed during a public safety information night for District 8 residents held at Centre Greene November 21. The District 8 municipal electoral district is located between Atwater Ave., St. Antoine St., Hallowell St. and de Maisonneuve.

Westmount’s Public Safety department, the (agglomeration) police team at neighbourhood Station 12 and the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) du Centre Ouest de l’Île de Montréal explained how they are committed to the safety of citizens and how their mandates are distinct.

In attendance on the night were police (Station 12 chief Angélique Beaudet, and officers Emmanuel Provencher, Antonino Petrotta, Mike Yigit), Mayor Christina Smith, District 8 city councillor Kathleen Kez, director Giovanna Cocco and chief administrator Catherine Roberge from the CIUSS’s mental health and dependency program, and Westmount Public Security director Greg McBain.

Kez, who is also the city’s commissioner of public security, said, “You’re worried about the increase in crime, car theft, and are not necessarily comfortable with the homeless in our parks: in particular Stayner Park...

“We thought it would be a good idea to bring you together and have the SPVM [police] tell us a little bit about their role and what they’re doing to help keep our community safe.”

Mayor Smith chimed in that “Kez is a great advocate for your safety concerns at the council table with the city, with the police, with Public Security, so rest assured.”

McBain has worked for the city of Westmount for over 30 years. He described the flow of information this way: “Information comes to me through the Councillor Kez, through the mayor, through the [city’s]



director general. I share this information with the police. I get them involved and make sure they’re on top of things, which they are.

“It is very important to share information with us and it is very important to call the police if there has been a break-in or a theft in your car. Don’t be afraid to call them. Call us as well. If there are certain things that we cannot handle, we will be sure to call them also.”

The members of the Westmount Public Safety department provide the citizens of Westmount with uniformed, 24-hour patrol service. Dispatch is 514.989.5222.

Beaudet is the new commander of Sta-

tion 12 (see November 21, p. 3). On the subjects of patrols, she said “there are a lot of things that go on that no one knows about. We are here to let you know what we need, but also what we do.”

A resident asked how to report a crime. The police replied it is 911 for anything urgent and 514.280.2222 for non-urgent situations.

District 8 residents disclosed homeless camping on their doorsteps, cars being stolen off the street as well as consterna-

tion over the lack of progress in the development of the former St. Stephen’s Anglican church at Dorchester and Atwater, which Mayor Smith said is in the hands of a developer, not the city.

A Westmount.org brochure was provided that summarized the triad’s mandate.

The CIUSSS is committed to providing healthcare recipients with timely access to a seamless continuum of care that focusses on individual’s particular needs. Info-santé can be reached by calling 811.

Police Report

Police recover stolen RAV4 with electronic ignition programming unit

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Although police at Station 12 on Stanton St. are reporting just one criminal incident in Westmount – a car theft – in a little more than a week, investigators believe they recovered a key piece of evidence that offers some insight into how vehicles are increasingly being stolen.

Sometime during night of November 24, a Toyota RAV4 compact SUV with Ontario licence plates was stolen from a parking spot on Westmount’s York St. However, it was recovered by the next day in Lachine.

While the vehicle was in transit along a

stretch of highway, it was spotted by two Sûreté du Québec patrol officers who suspected it was stolen and began following it.

“What happened was that the stolen car took an exit and they lost sight of it,” Cst. Mike Yigit, Station 12’s community relations officer, explained. “They eventually recovered the vehicle, but without the suspects.”

After eventually locating the vehicle, according to Cst. Yigit, the SQ officers found an object on the ground nearby that greatly stirred their interest: an XTOOL automotive scanner key programming unit.

XTOOL Auto Key Programmer is a line of handheld electronic units sold over the

internet especially for programming or re-programming electronic car ignition systems and corresponding electronic key fobs.

The company (ShenZhen Xtooltech Intelligent Co. Ltd.) operating the website that sells the tools is based in Baoan District, Shenzhen, China.

On its website, it offers no specific explanations or disclaimers as to how their auto key programmer units might be used or misused. However, they do state regarding at least one of the units that it can be used for engine diagnosis and key programming, with special functions for re-setting electronic dashboard indicator readouts.

“It programs the fob,” said Cst. Yigit. “And I’m assuming the suspects used that tool to basically jump start the vehicle.”

He said he wasn’t certain whether, in the eyes of Canadian law enforcement, XTOOL might be regarded as illegal, although he noted that it has become widely available over the internet. He suggested that such devices fall within a grey area legally.

“They are perhaps legal, but they can be used for illegal purposes,” said Cst. Yigit, while noting that car sales dealerships might be among the legitimate users.

He said the investigators may be able to trace the ownership of the unit through a serial number, although finger prints are more likely to prove useful.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Memorable Lux



growing into. His gaze is arresting. His amber-brown eyes contrast with his black mask on snow-white markings.

Lux is at the Montreal SPCA kennel at the moment, ready to be taken into loving arms for affection and lots of activities since he has an energetic disposition. Lux is two years old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

To find out more about him, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to his information page from his identification number, A0051905264, then plan your visit to the shelter to meet with a counsellor and visit Lux.

They are open every day as of 10 am, making sure to arrive at least an hour before closing time on the day of your choice. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges, H4P 1X4.

Lux is a wonderful fellow, please go visit the shelter to complete the process of adopting him.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Most special Nena



In defining “special,” we could look at the glass half full or half empty.

Beautiful Nena has an odd gait and cannot jump, but she certainly more than compensates by being the most attractive and affectionate butterscotch-and-grey tabby.

Nena is presently in a foster family's care for the Montreal SPCA, a fun and cuddly six-year-old who is ready for a forever family. She is healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

As she has a wobbly gait, like a runway model on a catwalk, she is available for adoption from the humanitarian reduced-adoption-fee category.

Please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and scroll to Nena's information page from her identification number, 46648079, then click on the “Fill out the form” link on the right hand side of the page to provide the adoption counsellors with some basic information for them to contact you after as part of the process to discuss adopting her.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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Guest travel column

Mexico City: The biggest, smallest city

By MARISSA DE MIGUEL

I landed in Mexico City (Ciudad de México or “CDMX” to the initiated) the night of a Taylor Swift concert. Just when you think you’re far from home, all too quickly you’re reminded just how small the world is/has become.

Swifties, coupled with the fact that Mexico City has a population of over 22 million (five times the population of Montreal), meant that at midnight on a Monday night, I was in bumper-to-bumper traffic. But that was the first and last time Mexico City ever really felt like a big city.

Between COVID and two young kids, I’m a bit late to the party. CDMX has been on the wanderlust’s hit list for ages now. I quickly understood why. We stayed at Octavia House in La Condesa, a borough that feels like a European city transplanted into a tropical country.

Picture Haussmann-esque boulevards but with traffic, separated by jungle-green footpaths, which – if you’re lucky enough to visit during the spring – bloom purple thanks to the local jacaranda tree.

La Condesa is a short walk to the Roma district, *continued on p. 19*

Octavia Casa: Cactus pear juice, concrete floors and conchas for breakfast. Perfection.



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The Rosetta bakery at 9 pm on a Tuesday. Night-cap pastry anyone?

where one goes to eat. There, you'll find the acclaimed Rosetta restaurant, famed for re-interpreting traditional Mexican dishes (get the Savoy pistachio tacos, skip the tamales). You'll also find the up-and-coming Maximo Bistrot (a farm-to-table first for the city) and the timeless, and this traveller's personal *coup-de-cœur*, Contramar.

If there's one spot to splurge, make it Contramar. Call me a traditionalist, but nothing beats soaking in the late afternoon sun, street-side, while people-watching over tuna tostadas. CDMX's answer to Montreal's Leméac, but switch out the olive martinis for fresh lemon margs.

See? Never far from home.

We traded Frida Kahlo's Casa Azul for Luis Barragán's Casa Gilardi.

Barragán is probably the most famous unknown architect. At once joyful, contem-

plative and arresting, Barragán uses colour like one accessorizes an outfit. Vibrant "pops" accent otherwise religiously sober rooms and walls.

I saw both Casa Giraldi and his home, Casa Luis Barragán, now declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

He designed Casa Giraldi for two advertising-executive bachelors, their raucous lifestyle a far cry from Barragán's solitary existence.

Probably that's why he repeatedly turned the project down. He finally said "yes" and the Instagram community has rejoiced ever since.

How shall I put it? The house is very content friendly.

Like Paris, or New York, CDMX is a city that feels familiar, and yet you know you can go back to again and again and, if you like, never see the same thing twice.



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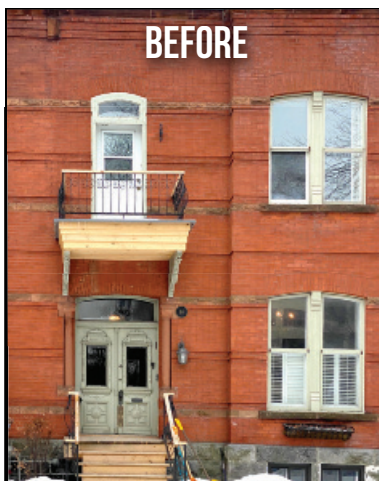


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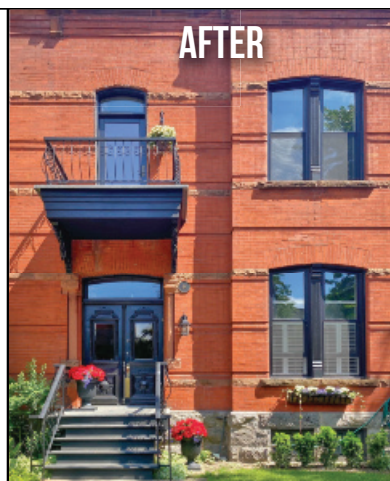
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St. Catherine St.'s Maison 4110 (fka TNT) turns 30



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

For the past 30 years, the boutique at 4110 St. Catherine St. has offered the best of fashion.

Now called Maison 4110. It used to be TNT. (It's still a dynamite store!)

To celebrate the anniversary, owner **Brian Cytrynbaum** and his wife **Claudia** welcomed guests to a Beatrice-catered afternoon. Clusters of gold and white balloons shared space with holiday-ready sequins.

Sparkles are only one part of the collection. Ladies were trying on – and buying – the latest jeans as well as cold-chasing cozy sweaters and jackets. There were celebrity styles and street styles, classics with shelf life and the latest-of-the-latest ready to swing into *soirée* season.

Store manager **Kristol Thompson** showed me the VIP dressing room where shoppers enjoyed large mirrors and soft sofas, whilst their four-legged friends sat patiently admiring (“We are dog friendly”).

But today's Maison 4110 is only one part of the story. The icing, if you like. The cake is the building. Owned by Brian Cytrynbaum, it houses his global empire. “We

opened in the shop downstairs with Rivet Jeans 30 years ago. Today, we operate in 54 countries. Along with curated lines at Maison 4110, we have our own brand, Majestic Filatures, sold around the world including Holt Renfrew. We also manufacture for other collections.”

Brian is doing something right: his “affordable luxury” lines sell out. Styles evoke the fashion genre “stealth wealth” influenced by *Succession*. Although that *über*-successful TV series ended six months ago, its look and feel still resonate.

“Quiet luxury styles” are on European runways and streets. Maison 4110's impressive array of sought-after brands offers these looks – and more.

Brian is proud; and rightly so. His is truly a success story. “We owe our roots to Westmount. Today, our shop has a staff of 10 and an in-house tailor for alterations.”

And just when I thought I'd seen it all, I discovered the shop's charming little wellness corner featuring *eau de parfums*, fragrant oils and wonderfully comfy eberjay PJs.

One can easily shop online, and choose from hats, boots, shoes, scarves and jewelry as well as designer brands for men and women. But if, like me, you like to touch the fabric and try on your choice – in a VIP room, of course – Maison 4110 is open every day: a fashion destination in the heart of Westmount.

MAISON 4110.COM, 4110 St. Catherine St.



Claudia Cytrynbaum.

Big Fat Greek Fundraiser raises money for Miriam at Milos



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 4th My Big Fat Greek Fundraiser was sold out: again. Hosted by *über*-organizers **Linda Smith** and **Andrew Hops**, it was held at Milos, the internationally renowned *estiatorio*. Milos' visionary founder, **Costas Spiliadis**, stopped by to offer kudos to the team.

The night's shade was black punctuated with sparkle. But white was the stand-out choice for Linda Smith. She was there with her husband **Dr. Terry Smith** and her long designer gown took stage centre.

Mose Persico, attending with his wife **Joanne**, deftly drove prices at the auction.

Noted in the crowd were **Therese Brownstein**, **Rosemary** and **Frank Niro**, **Steven Shadowitz**, **Liza Kaufman** and **Paul Ostrov** and daughter **Alfee Kaufman** and **Geoff Garbarino**, **Joy** and **Jeff Bultz**, **Jessica Lapointe** and **Dr. Andrew Gyopar**, **Anna** and **Jon Broccolini**, **Anne Marie Boucher**, **Tatiana Londono** and **David Alter**,
Cheryl Blass, **Ron Dobrin**, *continued on p. 22*



Andrew Hops, Costas Spiliadis and Linda Smith.



Warren Greenstone and Mose Persico.

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Barry Garber, Sonia Benezra and Paul Émile Rioux.



Jordan Schacter, Sascha Smith and Khristopher Russell-Murray.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

Terry and Sam Mintzberg, Yolanda and Mike Page, Dr. Teanoosh Zadeh, Lauren and Mitch Adler, Jennifer and Dom Ferst, Lindsay Hart, Sarah and Milligan Broccolini, Sonia Benezra, Nadine Cohen and Barry Garber, co-producer of Immersive Disney Animation at Montreal's Arsenal.

Also seen were Gloria and Mark Kakon, Corinne Asseraf, Nadine Cohen, Nick Niro, artists Paul Émile Rioux and Honey Solarz there with her daughter Susan Gayle, Kathy Alix, Sascha Smith, Jordan Schacter and Kristopher Russell-Murray.

The fun evening raised funds for the Miriam Foundation. Since 1973, it has played an important role in providing support and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Attending from Miriam were CEO Warren Greenstone and Sarah Pinchevsky, project coordinator.

Auction items were graciously donated by Delmar Jewellers, Doucet Latendresse, Galerie Blouin Division, artist Paul-Émile Rioux, Nancy Rahal, Natuzzi Italia and Corinne Asseraf's Galerie 203. Merry balloon groupings were donated by Haute Balloons. Shaharah's band and DJ YO-C ensured guests danced the night away. Much to everyone's delight, Marco played his tams-tams which glistened like his glasses.



Paul Ostrov and Liza Kaufman.



Corinne Asaraff and Steven Shadowitz.



Sarah Broccolini and Nick Niro.



Marco and his twinkling tam tam.

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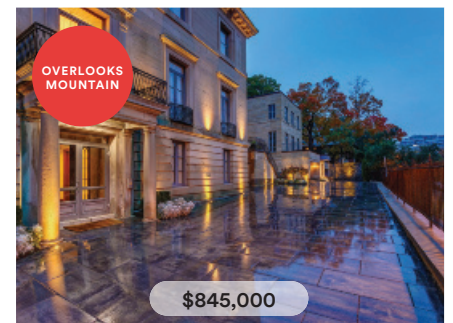
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