

*Smith contends union spreading 'false information'*

## Blue-collar demonstration at her home 'unacceptable': mayor

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith opened the city council meeting March 20 with an update on "events" related to ongoing negotiations with the city's blue-collar workers, saying in part the city was offering "generous" changes that include "better work-family balance."

"However, last Thursday, March 16, a line was crossed," she said. "I was shocked to see several blue-collar workers and union representatives show up in front of my house to demonstrate. Some even spoke directly from my porch to personally attack me and spread false information about the city's offers to the blue-collar workers during the negotiations."

"Posters and flags of the union," she said, "were also hung on the front door of

my home. This is the home where I live with my family. The home where I live with my children. This is unacceptable... Those actions were nothing more than intimidation."

This, she explained, "has no place in our work environment, in our city and as a bargaining tool will not be tolerated."

The word "respect" had been used "a lot" in the negotiations," she said. "But the respect has to be mutual. The privacy of all Westmounters, including elected officials, must also be respected. Union demonstrations must take place in the public space, not on private property."

She concluded saying she hoped last Thursday's event would not be repeated.

Soon after her statement, Richard Dufour, the first questioner of ..... the meeting said "how ..... continued on p. 6

## Spring arrives in Westmount



... although it may have left and arrived again a few times by the time you read this. Regardless, good friends Alice, left, and Nicole were strolling in Westmount Park March 24 enjoying a beautiful spring afternoon. Nicole is a McGill student in civil engineering and Alice is studying cinematography in New York. Alice was also taking traditional film photographs of the park with her Hasselblad camera.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

*Proposed change follows nine years of restrictions*

## Victoria village opening up again to doctors' offices, clinics

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How much has changed in nine years!

Now that the MUHC super-hospital has been built and is operating, city council March 20 gave notice of its intention to repeal its zoning restrictions from 2014 that limit the number and space size for doctors' offices and medical clinics in Victoria village.

While the proposed zoning By-law 1601 was presented by Councillor Matt Aronson without comment, the changes to remove quotas and floor-area sizes are listed for six commercial zones "to encourage the occupation of certain vacant premises."

The six zones identified are roughly located along Sherbrooke between Claremont and Grosvenor and ..... south along Victoria. They ..... continued on p. 10

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Ingenious configuration of the living area spread over two levels thus promoting the privacy of the occupants of this two bedroom, renovated and upgraded bathroom and powder room. Classic layout at this sought after TIMELESS address.



# Public Security plans 'Easter Bingo' for seniors

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In its outreach to seniors, Public Security is hosting a bingo event at Victoria Hall on April 6 from 4 to 6 pm. Because of the date just before Easter weekend, it is being called an "Easter Bingo," according to assistant Public Security director Kim Colquhoun.

Posters have been placed at several apartment buildings and other locations in the city where seniors are known to live. Prizes and snacks are to be offered. To reserve a spot, eligible residents are requested to call Colquhoun at 514.989.5367 since only 80 places will be available.

The event is being modelled after a Halloween bingo in 2022 that coincided with a mini-COVID wave, which ended up

keeping away some of those planning to attend and who have requested a repeat event.

Such an event helps forge a meaningful relationship with seniors and the various programs offered by Public Security to assist them, Colquhoun said.



PSO William Lamontagne officiates at Public Security's first bingo event held just before Halloween last October.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY

## Rabbits rescued in Westmount Park!

Public Security received a call March 13 at 11:20 pm from a resident reporting rabbits in Westmount Park, according to department officials.

When officers responded, they were able to collect two "young" rabbits. Because of their domesticated dispositions, it was surmised that they had been dropped off.

They were taken back to the station and subsequently picked up by Contrôle animal Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

This is the rescue group that handles the city's wildlife issues with the hope that suitable homes or locations might be

found.

In this case, "the rabbits were adopted for zootherapy with kids," Public Security reported after a follow-up inquiry last week.

## Parkers beware: street maintenance starts April 1

Residents are reminded to keep a lookout for street cleaning times when parking is prohibited starting April 1, Public Security officials said. Times differ according to the street and block.

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## Fretz thanks city, Public Security for quick response

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the council meeting March 20, frequent questioner John Fretz rose to say he and his wife had been in Westmount Park March 11 after attending the city's self-defence program when "an elderly woman had taken a fall" in the park and was being cared for by a caregiver.

When they appeared to need assistance, he said, he called Public Security who arrived very quickly to help. "I was very impressed," he said, thanking both Public Security for its response as well as the city's Sports and Recreation department for providing the self-defence program.

This is the same incident covered in the *Independent* of March 21 (p. 3), where it was stated that after assisting the woman, the responding officer drove her and her caregiver back to the nearby Place Kensington where she lives.

## Westmount

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Half for Vic village, half for Greene

# Council okays \$80,000 to help re-build commercial sectors

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s two merchant associations, in the Victoria village and Greene commercial districts, were awarded grants of \$40,000 each at the city council meeting March 20 to help revitalize their districts. According to the city resolution moved by Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes economic develop-

ment, the grants are conditional on the associations providing their financial statements for the past year along with a breakdown of the allocation of the grant funds. “Our merchants are working very hard to promote business in our areas as they try to re-build and grow post-COVID,” Aronson explained. The grants are expected to help the associations hold events and other promotional activities.

Although the associations have operated for many years, they were granted non-profit status in 2018. This enabled them to receive the grants. The resolution explains that while “a local municipality may grant financial assistance to promote the well-being of its population,” in this case, “having prosperous economic sectors is essential to the well-being of Westmount’s population.”

## Police Report

# Police repeat warning to merchants to empty the cash register

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A break-in and robbery last week at a Sherbrooke St. retail outlet suggests some local merchants still aren’t taking seriously some advice from police to remove cash receipts at the end of the working day. On March 20 around 5 am, Station 12’s overnight team received a call about a burglar alarm that had gone off at the store near the corner of Claremont Ave. “The suspect went in by the front door by shattering the window of the main door, and he took the money that was in the cash drawer,” said Station 12 community rela-

tions officer Cst. Adalbert Pimentel. He said a security camera captured images of the suspect from beginning to end of the incident, which lasted no more than 15 seconds. “He just broke in, went in, went straight to the cash and took off right away,” Pimentel added. According to a description of the male suspect, he was wearing a black coat, a white hoodie, dark slacks, as well as gloves and black shoes. It was far from the first time that a merchant in one of Westmount’s two commercial districts was robbed after leaving money behind after hours in the till.

“We always advise to leave the cash drawer open and empty, so that someone outside seeing that knows there’s nothing to steal,” said Pimentel. The responding officers found what is believed to be a burglary tool that could have been used to break in. The Montreal police department’s forensic identification unit will be analyzing it for fingerprints or traces of DNA to be compared with evidence from other crime incidents. **Break-in at Wood & St. Catherine** Investigators at Station ..... 12 are working on a file *continued on p. 5*



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## Notice of draft by-law 'a start': Mayor Smith

# Ban on wood-burning to start with commercial use in '25

Is a ban on the burning of wood in Westmount fireplaces coming sooner than expected?

City council presented a draft by-law March 20 explaining the city's intention to prohibit the burning of solid fuel (wood) in heating or cooking devices as well as fireplaces but in commercial establishments or for commercial use.

The object of this By-law 1600 "is to control the emission of particulate matter" into the atmosphere, as an environmental measure to help reduce health problems such as asthma related in particular to winter smog.

When Montreal proposed a ban on new wood-burning fireplaces and stoves in 2009 to apply in 2018, it requested in 2011 that Westmount and other island suburbs do the same. This was when Quebec offered a rebate to replace these wood-burning devices with fireplaces or stoves that use cleaner alternatives (see story August 1, 2011 p. 1, 7).

The ban was not believed to be required in Westmount, at least, where houses do not commonly use wood for heating as in some areas in Montreal.

Fast forward to 2018, however, when the Montreal prohibition came into force, Westmount did not follow suit, to the relief of many homeowners who use fireplaces for ambiance rather than heating (see story September 8, 2015, p. 1).

### No comment provided

After Councillor Matt Aronson, commissioner of sustainability, moved last week's resolution, without comment, to introduce the proposed draft by-law, Richard Dufour of Anwoth Rd. asked for confirmation that it would apply only commercially.

When told it would, he said, "Why are

we stopping there?"

"It's a start," replied Mayor Christina Smith.

The proposed by-law states that as of September 1, 2025 the installation or replacement of a wood-burning device is to be prohibited commercially unless it is certified under certain allowable emission standards.

Enforcement of the by-law would be the role of Urban Planning and Public Security inspectors, and any person authorized by the city. Fines for non-compliance for individuals are listed as \$500 to \$2,000 and from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for a company.

When the issue of a potential ban on interior wood-burning was first announced in 2011, it was suggested by then-mayor Peter Trent that when Westmounters order wood for fireplaces, they choose hard wood such as maple. This is because hard wood gives off half as much of the offending fine particles as soft woods.

### Police report, cont'd from p. 4

regarding a March 21 break-and-enter incident at a commercial address near the corner of Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St.

Around 10 am, a male suspect was seen approaching a loading dock at the building while stating to a witness that he needed to use a washroom.

Shortly after, private security officers received a call about noise coming from an area where retailers and offices are located that the suspect had entered.

The security officers found that a door at one retailer had been broken and an office had been entered. The investigators have an image of the suspect taken by a security camera.

## Appel aux artistes de Westmount

Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leur candidature pour la prochaine saison d'expositions de la Galerie du Victoria Hall. Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents, semi-professionnels ou établis résidant à Westmount. Les artistes sélectionnés se verront proposer une exposition solo ou partagée à la Galerie du Victoria Hall.

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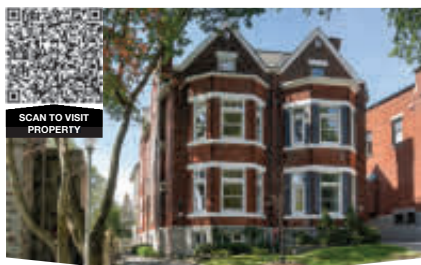
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Picture from left to right Vanessa, Delphine, Céline and Alexandre.

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From the city's website

# Blue-collar negotiations: Mayor Smith's statement

The following item was posted on the city's website March 22

As I mentioned in my previous communications regarding the current negotiations for the renewal of the collective agreement, my hope is that the discussions and negotiations take place around the bargaining table and not in the public space or the media and are based on facts.

Union representatives have the right to go to the media to make their point of view known. However, I have to set the record straight when some of the information is wrong or misleading.

In the March 21 edition of the *Westmount Independent* [p. 8], an advisor to the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) implied that we are not open to changes in work schedules as practised in other cities. This is false. As part of these negotiations, we have offered interesting changes to the work schedule to allow for a better work-family balance. These proposals are comparable to those in other similar cities. We want our blue-collar workers to thrive in their professional and personal lives.

Some union leaders, who are not even present at the bargaining table, have also stated at demonstrations that the city is only offering a 15-percent wage increase over seven years. This is yet another piece of misinformation designed to portray the

city as an employer that does not care about the impact of the current economic climate on its employees. In recent years, blue-collar salary increases have been above the inflation rate. The union finds that the current offer is below its expectations, but it needs to consider the current market in the sector.

I have the deepest respect for the blue-collar workers of Westmount, and I know how vital their daily work is to our city. I also respect the workers' right to defend their interests, but we must also consider the interests of the entire community. I also support the employees' rights to strike and to do so in public spaces such as city hall and to come to council meetings to ask me questions. However, I cannot allow picketing at my house on my property where my children and husband are trying to come and go peacefully from our home. My family is off limits.

Throughout these negotiations, we have shown openness, consideration, collaboration, availability and, above all, good faith. And we will continue to do so because we fervently hope that these negotiations will lead to an agreement, and that we will be able to return to a harmonious and peaceful working climate to fulfil our mission for the citizens.

Christina M. Smith  
Mayor of Westmount

Strike, cont'd from p. 1

very sad" he was to hear about the workers in front of her home. "It's really scandalous... It's a thankless job and I hope you aren't discouraged."

The workers belong to local 301 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees CUPE (Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal SCFP). Some had attended the city council meeting February 6 to air their

grievances (see story February 14, p. 1). They have been without a collective agreement since the end of December 2019.

In a follow-up website posting March 22, Mayor Smith reiterated that "as part of these negotiations, we have offered interesting changes to the work schedule to allow for a better work-family balance. These proposals are comparable to those in other similar cities."

She also stated that in terms of wages, "In recent years, blue-collar salary increases have been above the inflation rate... The union finds that the current city offer is below expectations, but it needs to consider the current market in the sector."

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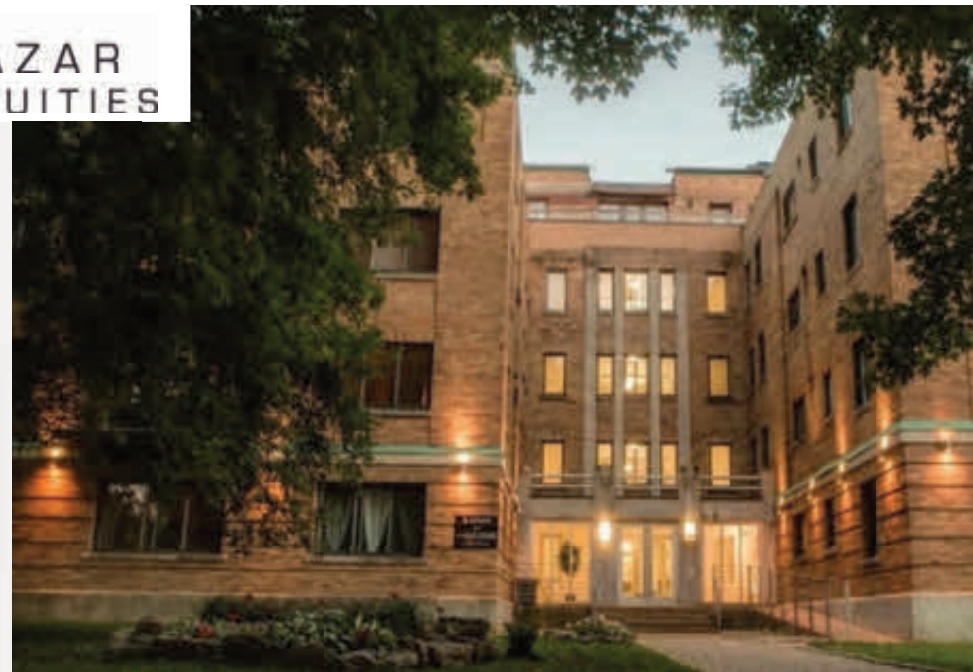
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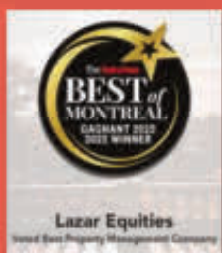
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# Police advise Women’s Canadian Club members on phone, online fraud

By Martin C. Barry

How many among us have received scam phone calls or e-mails from fraudsters falsely claiming to represent banks, online marketers like Amazon, or law enforcement officials seeking bail for an incarcerated grandson?

If a show of hands during a recent gathering of members of the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal is any indicator, a lot of people are probably familiar with the situation by now.

The WCCM extended an open invitation to the public to attend a free talk on “Fraud: How to recognize it and how to avoid it” at Victoria Hall at noon on February 21.

The speakers were Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, community relations officer at Station 12, and Cst. Stéphan Laperrière, a regional community relations officer at the Montreal police dept.’s Operational Centre on Guy St. downtown.

“Clearly, fraud on so many different levels is on the rise,” said Jane Wightman, co-chair of the WCCM speaker’s committee, noting that some of her acquaintances reported having to change their phone numbers several times after receiving harassing daily calls. “All ages are falling victim to these assaults,” she said.

According to Pimentel, a lot of people would be surprised if they knew just how successful the scammers are at deceiving even those who seemingly ought to know



From left, Montreal police dept. community relations officers Stéphan Laperrière and Adalbert Pimentel delivered advice on self-protecting against online scams and frauds to members of the better.

“We all say we won’t fall for it, but a lot of people do fall for it,” he said. “We even had a police officer who fell for it, but I’m not going to mention his name. So, anybody can fall for it.”

While phone fraud involving the transfer of large sums of money using pre-paid electronic gift cards has become one of the most common schemes encountered by senior citizens, methods involving cryptocurrency like Ethereum or Bitcoin are less likely among this segment of the population because they’re simply not familiar with it.

“Never provide personal financial information to anyone that you did not initiate the call to,” he continued. “If you’re not calling the bank yourself at a legit number, do not give that information to somebody who calls you.”

Cst. Laperrière, for his part, has been dealing lately with online shopping fraud. He said a way you might sometimes be able to tell if you’re dealing with a fraudulent website is that “the price is way too good.

“You’ve shopped around, you know the price you’re going to pay for a certain quality of clothing or articles, but you’re asking yourself how come it’s 80 percent lower compared to the other place when they’re offering the same thing,” he said, suggesting that operators like this are simply dangling bait to obtain your credit card or banking information.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHAT'S WITH THE CONSERVATORY'S HEATING SYSTEM? AND OVERALL COST?

On March 6, I attended the city council meeting to raise concerns about the state of the conservatory. In re-opening it last summer, Mayor Smith referred to it as an "Oasis, especially during winter months."

Given the malfunctioning of the newly replaced heating system, it is anything but. When walking through it from the library several weeks ago, a machine meant to heat the greenhouse was spewing such a high volume of noise, and made it impossible to relax – or stay. It completely prevented any enjoyment of this "oasis."

Very little was said with respect to my question, especially on the further cost to the public, and how restoration was managed.

Attempting to follow up with my question, Cllr. Peart sent me a statement. However, this statement provided by the city only raises further questions and concerns.

Nice rhetoric, but it doesn't respond well to the "disruption" and the reality that this long-awaited for re-opening of Westmount's conservatory cannot seriously be enjoyed after a seven-year closure and the enormous public funds that were spent on it.

From the perspective of a citizen, and taxpayer, the situation is unfathomable after seven years, albeit the pandemic constraints and \$6.6 million devoted to this project – up from the original estimate of over \$2 million.

Was this public money effectively spent? My questions remain unanswered:

Were competent engineering models not employed to test out the integrated systems? Had this been done, perhaps it would have prevented such malfunctioning to the heating system. Engineering is certainly not my field, but I am sufficiently studied to know that this may have been preventable – had there been adequate

oversight by city of Westmount professionals.

With respect, the company that won the bid should have had experience with "complex building systems." In the context of choosing a heating system in our climate, were state of the art computerized models not run? Were systems in others parts of the world with similar constraints not researched – before the actual work had begun?

Transparency is required, *before shovels go in the ground*. And, the public should be informed as to who is responsible for the repairs, and further costs – the contracting firm, or the public purse. Westmount has a high taxation rate, increasing every year, and we should not have to bear this – as we did for very expensive consultations on the park, which were quietly dropped. After considerable fanfare with consultations, it went nowhere. Accountability, on all public issues, should be a given, please.

CAROLINE JONDAHL, ST. CATHERINE ST.

### FIX ROADS, PLEASE, FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE USERS

The weather is getting warmer and city preparations for repairs to roads, sidewalks and bike paths are probably already in place.

When deciding what to do and when, the safety of pedestrians and cyclists should be the top priority because broken sidewalks, crosswalks and bike paths could result in a fall with personal injury. But unfortunately, over the past several years, maintaining safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists has not been a priority.

As an example, the scramble crosswalks across Sherbrooke St., particularly through Vic village, where pedestrian traffic is high, have big cracks and holes that are dangerous for pedestrians, especially for seniors using canes or walkers for stability.

As for cyclists, several have fallen after hitting potholes along the frequently-



patched Lansdowne/Glen bike path, especially along the steep section between Côte St. Antoine and Sherbrooke St. That path is in such bad condition that most cyclists now ride in the driving lane. Ditto for the narrow bumpy Glen bike path. The difference in quality between Westmount and the Southwest borough is remarkable along the Glen. South of the border, the bike path is smooth and wider.

The very popular de Maisonneuve bike path has also been neglected for years so cyclists now constantly hit bumps and cracks while swerving to avoid potholes. Both those key paths are beyond patching and now need re-paving to be safe.

These safety issues have been brought to the attention of the city repeatedly, so it will be interesting to see what the city does this summer.

The photo above is of the Lansdowne bike path.

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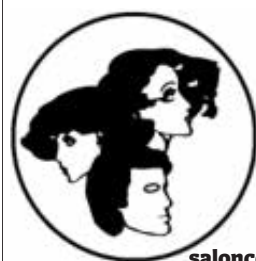
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# Airbnb, parking raised during Château Maisonneuve zoning change hearing

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The management team at the Château Maisonneuve has given assurances that a commercial-to-residential conversion they are seeking for the towering de Maisonneuve Blvd. building will not lead to Airbnb-type abuses nor to additional parking problems.

The pledge was made during an information meeting held by Westmount city council on March 23 regarding an application for a zoning change by Creccal Investments, which owns the 4998 de Maisonneuve Blvd. building.

A Westmount Urban Planning department official said she wanted to dispel rumours that Creccal planned to tear down the massive building, which has dominated the corner of de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine since 1967.

“The building will not be demolished,” she said, adding that Creccal is seeking a zoning modification to change the status of the second to the fifth storeys. The company also wants the current parking requirement (one parking space for each residential unit) to be reduced.

Rica Crecco, vice-president of operations at Creccal, said the company’s request to add 102 new residential units to the 243 existing ones met all by-law requirements, except for unit sizes and parking ratio. She said the company hopes to create smaller-sized units.

Crecco said a major reason they want to convert to residential is a drastic drop in demand for office and commercial space, especially during the COVID pandemic, while at the same time demand for residential space has been steadily increasing.

The building has three subterranean



From left, architect Line Laurin, Creccal vice-president of operations Rica Crecco and Alessia Di Geso, the company’s director of finance, during the Château Maisonneuve information meeting on March 22 at Westmount city hall.

## Peart announces Wednesday virtual meetings

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Any questions for Councillor Conrad Peart concerning District 4 or his commissioner’s role in urban planning and infrastructure? If so, he has resumed his previous weekly meetings from 2021 for anyone seeking information. These are now taking place on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 pm.

He announced the scheduling of this year’s meetings at the council meeting March 20.

Appointments can be made by schedul-

ing a virtual meeting with him using the Zoom platform accessed via the city website under the “City council” tab and using the form that can be found beside his photo.

Peart began trailblazing the face-to-face sessions in February 2021 as a way of communicating with his constituents and other residents during the pandemic restrictions (see story February 9, 2021, p. 3).

When introduced at that time, it was a move described by Mayor Christina Smith as “a great initiative” at the council meeting February 1, 2021.



Mario Lecaldare raises questions during Westmount city council’s information meeting on March 22 regarding Creccal Investments’ request to convert four storeys of the Château Maisonneuve on de Maisonneuve Blvd. from commercial to residential.

levels of parking and an outdoor parking area, providing 274 interior spaces and 76 outside, some of which are leased out to residents from nearby streets.

However, of the 350 spaces, the city only deems 244 as conforming because some from the total don’t meet width or turn-radius requirements, resulting in a 0.66:1 ratio with the proposed units rather than 1:1 as would be required under the existing by-law.

Alessia Di Geso, the company’s director of finance, said the company estimated in 2017 that its residential tenants would only need 122 parking spots. As well, she said a current trend towards increased use of public transit suggests that future tenants will be less inclined to also be car owners.

“Therefore, we respectfully disagree that the one-to-one ratio is necessary,” she said, insisting there’s more than enough parking, and that over the years many existing parking spaces have gone unused.

During a question period, Marc Felgar of York St. asked whether any measures would be taken to restrict units being sub-leased through the online Airbnb short-

term rentals marketplace.

“We are absolutely adamant that we do not have Airbnb in our apartments,” Crecco replied, adding that the company monitors Airbnb to ensure there are no postings for units in Château Maisonneuve.

Regarding parking, Steven Cobrin, also a York resident, asked members of council “to consider that there is already not enough parking for the existing owners on York and Prince Albert and that any additional requirements on the streets would exacerbate this situation.”

He said he wasn’t concerned about the 1:1 ratio, but remained apprehensive about street parking. “My point is that this will inevitably lead to more parking on the street,” said Cobrin. “Even if it’s for two hours, with Westmount permits or just visitors, this will inevitably lead to more parking [on the street].”

*The Westmount Independent’s editor lives in a zone contiguous to 4998 de Maisonneuve and was at the meeting in a personal capacity.*

### Vic village, cont’d from p. 1

are numbered C5-20-01, C5-20-02, C5-20-03, C5-20-04, C5-20-05 and C17-20-06.

The limits on doctors’ offices and clinics had been imposed initially in By-law 1456 to pre-empt anticipated parking and traffic congestion in the district resulting from an influx of the doctors’ offices that might be set up near the super-hospital (see story February 11, 2014, p. 1).

“While this did not materialize, we are now trying to revitalize the Vic village, for example, and fill some of the second-floor vacancies,” said former city councillor Cynthia Lulham, who is now working as general manager for the east- and west-end merchant associations. The draft by-law does not, however, remove the ground-floor restriction, she pointed out.

Fast forward nine years and many of the expected medical offices associated with the super-hospital have been located in the large buildings adjacent to the hospital. These are on the south side of de Maisonneuve on either side of the Vendôme Metro entrance.

Whenever a zoning change is proposed, a zoning freeze is immediately imposed until the proposed change has gone through the process. This includes public consultation and the petition/register/referendum process.

While no date has been announced for a public consultation meeting, this usually follows at the first or second reading of the draft by-law.





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# Lower Westmount campers obtain reprieve from eviction

By Martin C. Barry

A group of people encamped under the Ville Marie expressway in lower Westmount scored a victory last week when the province's Transport ministry was challenged by lawyers for the campers.

Up to 18 people spent the past winter living in tents underneath the Highway 136 deck just west of Atwater within the boundaries of the city of Westmount.

Transport Québec, which has authority over the space, has been trying for months to force the squatters out so that it can safely carry out repairs it says are needed to the underside of the expressway overpass.

The Mobile Legal Clinic, which helps people experiencing homelessness, took

Transport Québec to court, seeking an injunction against the ministry's attempt to force the campers to move by a March 29 deadline.

According to an agreement reached with Transport Québec, the campers have until March 31 to come up with a plan to find permanent housing rather than temporary shelters. If they fail to do so by then, their lawyers will return to court.

"It's a bit of a complicated thing," said David Chapman, executive-director of Resilience Montreal, which has been providing support to the campers from its base at the corner of Atwater and St. Catherine on the eastern edge of Westmount.

As he explained, the agreement targets lodging for the occupiers, rather than relo-

cation, meaning that a place to live must be found for them. "Relocation would have simply meant 'out you go,'" he said. "Whereas lodging is a destination."

"It is a small victory for human rights, for the rights of homeless persons," he continued, noting that the court granted the campers and their supporters 10 days to find appropriate accommodation.

"Different people are going to need different things," said Chapman. "And, of course, their needs will be in the forefront as we work with them to decide, you know, where they're going to live."

"This will also be in conjunction with government agencies, which will need to help with speeding up the bureaucratic process connected to housing."

Season 2 now available

## Irish in Canada podcast released in time for St. Patrick's Day

By Martin C. Barry

With Westmounters of Irish (and other) backgrounds having just marked St. Patrick's Day on March 17, there may be those who are also interested in learning more about their early Canadian roots.

The *Irish in Canada* podcast, which was launched last year, was created, researched and narrated by Dr. Jane McGaughey.

A Westmounter for more than a decade, McGaughey is the Johnson Chair of Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University's School of Irish Studies.

Books, too

She is the author of several carefully-researched books, including *Ulster's Men: Protestant Unionist Masculinities and Militarization in the North of Ireland 1912-1923*, which was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2012.



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The themes explored in podcast season one included the 1832 cholera epidemic, the "Shiners" (an Irish gang that terrorized Ottawa before it was the nation's capital) and the origins and influence of the Orange Order in Canada.

While season one has been available on YouTube and as a podcast app since last December, season two was launched on March 2.

Original research

The two seasons explore the lives and legacies of Irish immigrants and their Canadian descendants. It all began as a series of lectures from an undergraduate course offered by the School of Irish Studies – and a class that McGaughey has taught since 2012.

Apart from the material derived from the course content, McGaughey developed at least one of the upcoming episodes from her own historical research.

It concerns Mary Boyd, a 19th century Irish immigrant to Canada who worked as a domestic at a Toronto-area home where, according to McGaughey's findings, she was subjected to experimental electric shock by a medical doctor.

"He was electrocuting her, presumably to bring on her period, although it looked like it might have been a form of trying to give her an abortion," she said, while adding that the circumstances bore similarities to elements revealed during the 1868 abortion trial in Montreal of Robert Notman (of the famed portrait photography family).



Dr. Jane McGaughey, a Westmounter who is the Johnson Chair of Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University's School of Irish Studies, created, researched and narrated the *Irish in Canada* podcast.

While electricity was regarded by the medical establishment as a novel and potentially useful tool at that time, McGaughey noted that "it's usually not used on a woman's cervix – and in her case it was. So, that's going to be one of the very new pieces of research that I'm revealing in season two."



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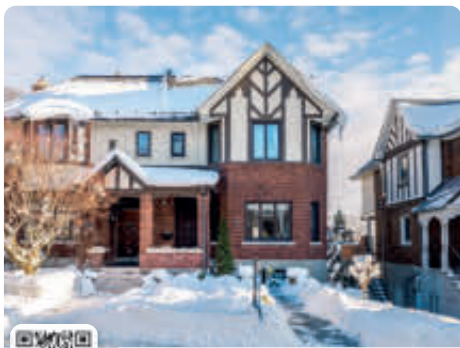
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LISTINGS



Opponent rips sign decrying drag queen reading to children

# Protestors/attendees react negatively/positively to storyteller Barbada

By RALPH THOMPSON

A small number of protestors (about eight according to Public Security) made their way into the Westmount Public Library March 25 shortly before the start of the regularly scheduled Storytime children’s event for three- to seven-year-olds at 2 pm.

The protestors were objecting to storyteller Barbada de Barbades, star of an ICI ARTV documentary series about drag queens.

“We got wind of potential protests through social media,” said Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and Com-

munity Events.

Police and Westmount public safety officers were on hand, as was city councillor Elisabeth Roux, who is the commissioner of the library and community events.

**Protestor, opponent square off**

Protestors started photographing staff and were asked to stop. One lady quietly strolled around the library showing her sign “*les enfants n’ont pas besoin de ça*” (children don’t need this), a sentiment one woman in the library strongly disagreed with.

She promptly grabbed the sign tore it

in two.

“I’m shaking, I’m so angry,” said Celine, “Minorities are the target of so much violence here.”

The protestor calmly continued with her mission while holding the torn sign, although it was clear that few in the library had any idea what she was protesting against.

“We saw a lot of misinformation on social media,” said Lach, referring to statements that Barbada would be wearing a g-string and other assertions. “I’m very proud of the library staff,” said Lach, “The whole team handled the situation very well.” Lach and Public Security said thankfully the protestors didn’t cause any damage or any significant disruption.

In the meantime, “Drag Storytime” had been quietly moved to Victoria Hall, where the sold-out event (35 children, each with one parent) started 15 minutes late. From the moment Barbada swept into the room in a spectacular sequin gown, rainbow hair, brash eye colouring and enormous lashes, the children were captivated by her energy and effervescence.

Dolly Parton, waving her arms around and jumping up and down with the children. Colourful cupcakes and drinks were served at the end of the event.



Storyteller Barbada kept the attention of the children from the moment she entered room.



A protestor picks up the pieces of her torn sign after Celine, a library user, approached her and ripped it in two. The protestor then continued her walk around the library with the mangled page. “What’s going on?” said the young man.

**Everyone comfortable at actual event**

If anyone, child or parent, was uncomfortable with the storyteller, it wasn’t evident. She immediately interacted with the children one on one, with questions and answers flying back and forth, interrupted only by laughter.

Barbada read from several children’s books, but her message was clear. “It’s important to be who you are.”

“Is it wrong to wear a brightly coloured coat made out of rags?” (An extract from one of her stories.)

“No!” was the unanimous response.

“Is it wrong for a girl to do karate or a boy to do ballet dancing?”

“No!” was the unanimous response.

And soon Barbada was singing along to


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# At former Children’s, ‘1111 Atwater’ penthouses are 30% sold

By JENNIFER BALL

At the western portion of the former Montreal Children’s Hospital site – along with the Eleve and Selena seniors’ rental projects (see March 21, p. SL-22) – are 20 to 25 luxury condo penthouses for sale. These occupy the top eight floors of 1111 Atwater and they are now 30 percent sold. A small portion of the building’s foot is in Westmount.

In November 4, 2021, the developers’ former broker predicted a summer 2022 delivery of sold condos and said that 25 percent of them had been sold.

Marc Lefort, vice president and partner at McGill Real Estate, the new agency for the project, said they are now 30 percent

sold. He believes sales will be brisk, though, now that a designed and staged unit is available to view.

“People are going to go in the building and see a real penthouse, and we feel that this is the year that it is going to go really fast.”

Other than the delivery-date lag, little else seems to have diverged from the original blueprints.

On March 15, the Canadian real estate association released data from the MLS Home Price Index (HPI), which edged down 1.1 percent month over month and was down 15.8 percent year over year. The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average sale price posted an 18.9 percent year-over-year decline in February.

Lefort said the purchase prices for the condos haven’t changed since 2021. Residences start at one bedroom, 1,170 sq. ft, for \$2 million with combined condo fees and municipal taxes netting out at \$36,000 yearly. Five bedrooms, 6,770 sq. ft plus a loggia at 345 sq. ft and a terrace at 2,040 sq. ft., for \$17.2 million with combined yearly costs of \$261,000.

The interior designer on the project is still Andres Escobar of the New York based company Lemay and Escobar.

Services include a workout room, pool, conference room and guest loft that can be reserved by owners on a first-come, first-served basis. The residences will be managed by the developer EMD-Batimo and all include high-performance glazed curtain walls and heated floors in ensuite master bathrooms. “Superior quality” appliances, Italian cabinetry and stone island counter tops are kitchen staples.



The view from the 37th floor of 1111 Atwater, looking north-east at the mountain on November 4, 2021.



The 1111 Atwater lobby in development, as seen March 21 of this year.



Looking north at 1111 Atwater toward Tupper and St. Catherine on March 21 of this year.

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Profile

# Harry Molson: Westmounter, businessman, sailor, *Titanic* victim

BY CRAIG CORMACK

On April 15, 1912, Harry Molson peered off the deck of the *Titanic* to lights in the distance. He had done his duty helping the crew lowering lifeboats full of women and children. He calmly removed his shoes and dove off of the ship toward lights (most probably the *Californian*). He swam off into history, never to be seen again.

Molson was no stranger to boats and sailing. He owned his own boat, and was an experienced sailor and swimmer. He was a Mason, a commodore of the Royal St. Lawrence yacht club in Dorval and the chair of the Forest and Stream Club in Dorval. He served on the boards of many companies and charities.

He had survived two prior shipwrecks, including one (the wreck of the *Scotsman* in 1899 off of Newfoundland) after which he was rescued by a lifeboat and another (the sinking of the *Canada*) after which he swam to shore.

Molson's luck ran out with the *Titanic*, as it did with so many others, and his body was never found.

According to Wikipedia, "Harry Molson was born August 9, 1856 to William Mark-



Painting of Harry Molson at the Forest and Stream Club in Dorval.

land Molson and Helen Augusta Converse in Montreal. Harry grew up in Westmount. Harry was not in the direct line of influential Molsons, but he became wealthy when his childless uncle, John Henry Molson, passed away and left him an inheritance, including a seat on the board of the Molson's Bank."

Harry Markland Molson owned his own boat, which had both sail and steam power. The Molson family biographer, Shirley Woods, says of him: "While he enjoyed a variety of sports, his passion was sailing... he owned the *Alcyone*, a luxurious 75-foot yacht of 40 tonnes. The *Alcyone* was ideal for cruising and was equipped with 26 electric lights. Among the guests on board for her maiden voyage were Harry's cousin, Alexander Morris, and his comely wife, Florence Nightingale Morris."

## Interview with Karen Molson

I had the opportunity to interview Karen

Molson – family member, historian and author of *The Molsons – Their Lives and Times 1780-2000*. This is what she had to say about Harry Molson.

**CC:** I understand Harry Molson was a member of the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club in Dorval. How much do you know about his sailing abilities? Was he a good and able sailor?

**KM:** I know that he was considered by his peers to be an excellent sailor and swimmer. He was passionate about the sea and sailing. He had no fear...

**CC:** Do you know if he went on any long trips in his sailing boat or on any other ships?

**KM:** I know he travelled from Cuba to New York, because there is a record of that on a database online. He was sailing on a boat not his own, because he was on a list of passengers. The name of the ship on that particular voyage was the *SS Havana*. He arrived in New York on March 30, 1910.

He is a hard person to research because he didn't have any children to leave documents or stories to about his life. It is very hard to research someone who didn't have children.

## Personal life

**CC:** I understand he was quite the man about town. He was a bachelor, and he was allegedly involved with his cousin's wife. Is this true? What is your comment about this?

**KM:** Right, it is true [about the rumour]. It is, of course, pure speculation because there is no way you could provide something that could prove that, however, he and his cousin Alexander Morris... they were very close growing up together. There are photographs of them together taken by Notman as boys. You will find photographs of Harry and his cousins in the Notman archives at the McCord Museum.

He and his cousin clearly spent a lot of



A capstan from the *Alcyone* with a watercolour painting of the boat.

IMAGE COURTESY OF LIVEAUCTIONEERS.COM

time together. They were cousins on his mother's side [via the Converse family]. And his cousin married a woman named Florence. The only reason why this speculation has happened is that they lived together, the three of them. All three names come up consistently on census forms in the early 1900s.

Harry lived with them [at a summer house] in Dorval. And I suppose that got tongues wagging, but they lived in Victorian times so people didn't talk out loud about things – they muttered and kept their thoughts to themselves – and he was so powerful that no one dared bring any criticism.

The other reason people believe there was a relationship was that shortly before he went overseas, he made a new will and he left his assets, his money and property, to Florence. So that would make you think there was some strong bond.

**CC:** In your research, did you ever come across any correspondence from Major Arthur Peuchen to the Molson family?

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Apparently, Peuchen was with Harry on the *Titanic* deck loading people into lifeboats. Were Peuchen and Harry close friends? Peuchen was later vilified for surviving the sinking.

**KM:** No, I never found any correspondence from Peuchen. I can't comment on the word "friendship," but they certainly knew each other in the business world for many years. Harry sat on Peuchen's boards – a couple of companies ... Perhaps they were close, I just don't want to claim something I cannot follow up on.

### Choosing the Titanic

**CC:** Also, I read that Peuchen convinced Harry to take the *Titanic* back to New York with him because Harry was booked on another ship.

**KM:** Unfortunately for Peuchen, because he survived, he was ostracized. I never found any correspondence from Peuchen to the family following the disaster.

**CC:** Also, I found out that Peuchen, J. W. McConnell and Harry Markland Molson had dinner in London before boarding the *Titanic*. Did you hear anything about this?

**KM:** This was in Fong's book on J. W. McConnell. Yes, they did have dinner. And Peuchen and Harry had dinner on the night of the sinking along with Westmounters Hudson and Bess Allison. Unfortunately, most of the Alisson family perished too. [See "Centennial of Titanic sinking – A Westmount family goes down with the Titanic in 1912," April 10-11, 2012, p. 22.]

Recently I read that searchers discovered Arthur Peuchen's wallet beside the *Titanic* complete with streetcar tickets and all. The wallet was remarkably well preserved.

**CC:** Harry was the mayor of Dorval. Was he really into politics?

**KM:** Apart from the fact that he was the mayor of Dorval, I am unaware of any other involvement in politics. But if you are on the board of directors of several



Notman photograph of Harry Molson (in hat) and Alexander Morris (with croquet stick).

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCCORD MUSEUM.

influential companies, that is sort of political also. Like his forbears, his ambitions were not political as much as in business.

### Artifacts

**CC:** I heard that the Molson family kind of built a memorial to Harry in the family house in Métis that holds his belongings. Have you seen any of these objects?

**KM:** ... I have been to Métis, but I have never seen any of Harry's belongings. Apparently, Harry had very fine furniture and china.

**CC:** Harry's father died the year after the *Titanic* went down and Helen Converse (his mother) within a few years after. Do you think the shock of the loss of Harry contributed to both of them passing away?

**KM:** Nobody that I know of commented on Harry's passing in the days following the disaster.

You could assume that the shock had an effect on Markland's health (Harry's

## The mystery of #2 Edgehill Rd.

BY CRAIG CORMACK

While researching Harry Molson's life, the address #2 Edgehill came up time and again as his Westmount residence. I attempted to photograph his home but found out that the address never existed, even though it had been repeated in historical record for over 100 years.

Karen Molson kindly helped me find out that Harry lived at two different times on Edgehill. According to the census report, he was listed as Harry Markland and he had a house at 138 Edgehill.

The other address was an apartment complex addressed at 912 Edgehill apt #2 (he was neighbours with Mrs. Ogilvy of the Ogilvy family). The house at 138 was willed to his brother when Harry died. His home included the aforementioned beautiful wooden furniture, china and a collection of clocks in his billiard room.

#2 would seem to allude to the apartment number, but neither of these addresses exist today on Edgehill.

Were the houses re-numbered? Torn down? Does one refer to another Edgehill? Who knows?

father), but we cannot say that there is a definite connection for sure. Both Harry's parents were quite elderly, and they may have been ill with other things. Markland was 80 years old when he died in Oregon.

**CC:** Was Markland back together with Helen Converse at the time of his death? [They had split early in Harry's life and his mother had moved to Oregon. Harry stayed with his father in Montreal.]

**KM:** No, I don't think so. But the Oregon connection came from Markland's mining interests there. He was a great speculator and lost a lot of money because



Arthur Peuchen.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

of it. He wanted to mine the iron in the sand along the banks of the St. Lawrence River, for example. Unfortunately, everything he tried to do failed financially. He was an unlucky guy, and he was kind of the black sheep of that generation in the family because he took risks. As a rule, Molsons are extremely conservative with money and don't ever take risks. And when Markland took them, the family said "alright, okay."

**CC:** And he was outside the brewing business as well?

**KM:** That's right.

**CC:** Have you seen anything in your research about how the Molson family dealt with the passing of Harry in the disaster?

**KM:** There were mournful letters written in the family about members who died in the First World War a few years later. Nothing came up in my research about the family's reaction to Harry's death.



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# Ever so handsome Lulu



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Lulu's stunning long fur in shades of white and black is exquisite, and leads to wonderful thoughts of combing him slowly while he purrs ...

He is so delicate, with a perfect white face, huge expressive amber eyes and a pink nose. A sweetheart who is waiting for a family at the Montreal SPCA cattery, Lulu is waiting for a family to come by for him as the new SPCA policy is to be open seven days a week as of 10 am for adoption visits.

Lulu is five years young, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is affectionate and social, a sweet companion.

Please go to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), scroll to Lulu's information page from his identification number, 52239447, then note the opening hours of the shelter on the day that you wish to visit the adoption volunteers and Lulu. Its address is 5215 Jean Talon St. West.

Please come as a family, and bring a car-



rier for Lulu or you can purchase one at their accessories boutique.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

An active and all-around happy guy, Hely is very attractive in his most unique colouring, adding merle shading to the classic black, caramel and white tones of his sleek short coat.

At three years of age, he is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, ready for visitors to come by with a view to adopting him, as families can plan to meet adoption coordinators daily as of 10 am now, seven days a week.

Hely is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Still quite young and playful, he is catching up on his social integration and he would thrive in an adult-only home where he would get lots of attention and affection.

If you would like more information on him, check the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), refer to Hely's information page from his identification number, 52108127, and refer to the opening hours schedule for the day you are planning on visiting him at the shelter. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

# Hely is an original



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Cet avis vous informe que Marie-Céline Drapeau, psychothérapeute, a cessé d'exercer au 2,100 rue Marlowe et ses dossiers ont été cédés à Emmanuel Piché, psychologue, au 4472 rue Girouard.

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# infoWESTMOUNT

2023.03.28 • Vol. 4/06

Publié par la Ville de Westmount  
Published by the City of Westmount

## NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 3 avril

## NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, April 3



## Finaliste au Prix d'excellence en architecture 2023

Le projet de restauration du Conservatoire de Westmount figure parmi les finalistes du Prix d'excellence en architecture de l'Ordre des architectes du Québec. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)



## 2023 Excellence in Architecture Award finalist

The Westmount Conservatory restoration project is among the finalists for the Prix d'excellence en architecture of the Ordre des architectes du Québec. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Ville de Montréal : consultation pré-budgétaire 2024

La Ville de Montréal souhaite consulter la population montréalaise quant aux orientations budgétaires pour l'année 2024. Il y a plusieurs façons de partager vos opinions en personne et en ligne. Visitez [westmount.org/nouvelles](http://westmount.org/nouvelles) ou [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca) pour en savoir plus.

### Bénévoles recherché.e.s

Partagez votre passion pour le sport en devenant bénévole pour les sports d'équipe. Une formation est offerte. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Consultation publique : réseau bus STM

Dans le cadre de la refonte du réseau bus, la Société de transport de Montréal (STM) vous invite à partager vos idées en ligne à tout moment d'ici le 16 avril, ou lors d'une session sur Zoom le 29 mars à 18 h 30. [stm.info/refonte](http://stm.info/refonte)

### Activités du printemps : inscription

Inscrivez-vous au soccer, tennis et une foule d'autres activités. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Abonnez-vous à E-Westmount

Votre bulletin municipal. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Ville de Montréal :

#### 2024 pre-budget consultation

Ville de Montréal would like to consult Montrealers on the city's budget directions for 2024. There are several ways to share your views in person and online. Visit [westmount.org/news](http://westmount.org/news) or [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca) to learn more.

### Volunteers wanted

Share your passion for sports and connect with the community by volunteering for team sports. Training is offered. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Public consultation: STM bus network

As part of the bus network redesign, the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) invites you to share your ideas online anytime until April 16, or at a Zoom session on Wednesday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. [stm.info/refonte](http://stm.info/refonte)

### Registration for spring activities

Sign up now for soccer, tennis and many other activities. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Sign up for E-Westmount

Your municipal newsletter. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



### Concerts d'été : appel de soumissions

Les musiciens sont invités à soumettre une candidature pour cette série de concerts au parc Westmount au plus tard le 6 avril. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Exposition : Alexander Slim

Jusqu'au 14 avril, Galerie du Victoria Hall.

### Rencontre d'auteur : Joshua Levy

Judi 30 mars, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Rencontrez Joshua Levy, auteur, poète, auteur de mémoires et conteur. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Musique au gré des saisons (1-5 ans)

Samedi 1<sup>er</sup> avril, 11 h, Bibliothèque. Retrouvez Alison Notkin pour un cours de musique inspiré du printemps. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Concert :

#### Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal

Samedi 1<sup>er</sup> avril, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Aires et scènes d'opéra de Christoph Willibald Gluck. Inscrivez-vous à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Concert Jazz : SuperNova 4

Mercredi 5 avril, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Avec Félix Stüssi, Jean Derome, Normand Guilbeault et Pierre Tanguay. Inscrivez-vous à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Conférence : Westmount Train Station: CPR History and a Future Vision

Mercredi 12 avril, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec David Hanna, PhD, expert en patrimoine et ancien professeur d'urbanisme. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Club de lecture pour ados (13 à 17 ans)

Judi 20 avril, 17 h, Bibliothèque. *Annihilation* par Jeff VanderMeer. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Jour de la Terre : échange de vêtements

Samedi 22 avril, 13 h, Victoria Hall. Renouvelez votre garde-robe de manière durable et gratuite! Inscrivez-vous à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Summer concerts: call for submissions

Musicians are invited to submit a candidacy for this concert series in Westmount Park. The deadline is April 6. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Exhibition: Alexander Slim

Until April 14, Gallery at Victoria Hall.

### Author event: Joshua Levy

Thursday, March 30, 7 p.m., Library. Join Joshua Levy, author, poet, memoirist and storyteller. Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Music by the Season (1-5 yr olds)

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 a.m., Library. Join Alison Notkin for a fun, spring-inspired music class. Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Concert: Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Opera arias and scenes by Christoph Willibald Gluck. Register at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Concert Jazz : SuperNova 4

Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. With Félix Stüssi, Jean Derome, Normand Guilbeault and Pierre Tanguay. Register at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Lecture : Westmount Train Station: CPR History and a Future Vision

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m., Library. With David Hanna, PhD, heritage expert and former professor of urban planning. Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Book club for teens (13 to 17 yr olds)

Thursday, April 30, 5 p.m., Library. *Annihilation* by Jeff VanderMeer. Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).



### Earth Day Clothing Swap

Saturday, April 22, 1 p.m., Victoria Hall. Upcycle your wardrobe sustainably and for free! Register at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).





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# Most teachers want to stay Majority of Ste-Marcelline parents have the school as first choice for their daughters

By JENNIFER BALL

The latest dispatch from the board of directors and the management and future committee of the Villa Sainte-Marcelline school for girls revealed results from a parent survey, including that a clear majority of parents still consider Marcelline to be the first choice for their daughters. The management and future committee was formerly known as the rescue committee.

The Congrégation des Soeurs de la Villa Sainte-Marcelline owns the building, but the school is a separate entity. After announcing in October last year that the school's lease would not be renewed after June 2023, the Congrégation committed in January to maintain the school's operations until June 2024.

A March 22 statement from the committee said, "the future is about student well-being. It is also about high quality programs, teaching and education, and competent and dedicated teachers who love their students. The results of the parent survey (with a response rate of 62 percent

at the secondary level and 78 percent at the elementary level) reveal that 86 percent of parents still consider Marcelline to be the first choice for their daughter.

"The survey also indicates that there will be at least one class and one teacher for each of the elementary grades. According to the forecast, one class should be planned for P5 and P6 [*primaire 5 & 6*] at this time, however, the opening of a second class in P6 is still possible.

"For the secondary level, there will be at least one class in Secondary 1 and two classes in the other levels. A minimum of two teachers per subject will keep their job or an equivalent job. All elementary teachers have expressed interest in coming back next year, as have 25 of the 30 secondary teachers."

Other main take-aways from the communiqué were:

- The mother general, who directs the Congrégation from the group's headquarters in Milan, and the Quebec sisters "have shown their interest in the fate of the Villa," including sending a

representative of the mother house to meet with the regional council of the sisters in Canada, the committee and the board of directors of the school.

"These meetings helped to sustain the Villa's optimism in planning for its future," said the letter.

- The committee has appealed to the Congrégation to extend the school's lease to June 30, 2026, instead of June 2024, to "allow time to develop and discuss proposed solutions with the congregation and the Villa board."
- The committee has "secured commitments of \$500,000 per year for three years (\$1,500,000 total) and an additional \$2,000,000 for the following 10 years... These commitments are contingent on the lease being extended to June 30, 2026 and a long-term solution being in place."

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**Jennifer Maccarone, MNA for Westmount–Saint-Louis, is now accepting applications for the Westmount–Saint-Louis Youth and Citizen Councils.**

## Who?

The Westmount–Saint-Louis Youth Council is for youth between the ages of 15 and 24, and the Citizen Council is for those 25 years of age and older. Members are expected to attend six meetings a year, either online or in person.

## How?

To apply, you must complete your application form before April 24, 2023. Contact us by phone or e-mail, visit our social media platforms, or scan the QR code below to sign up.

## Why?

The Youth and Citizen Councils are a great opportunity to interact with your MNA, to identify issues that matter to you, and to give you the tools to take action and to make your voice heard.

## Riding office

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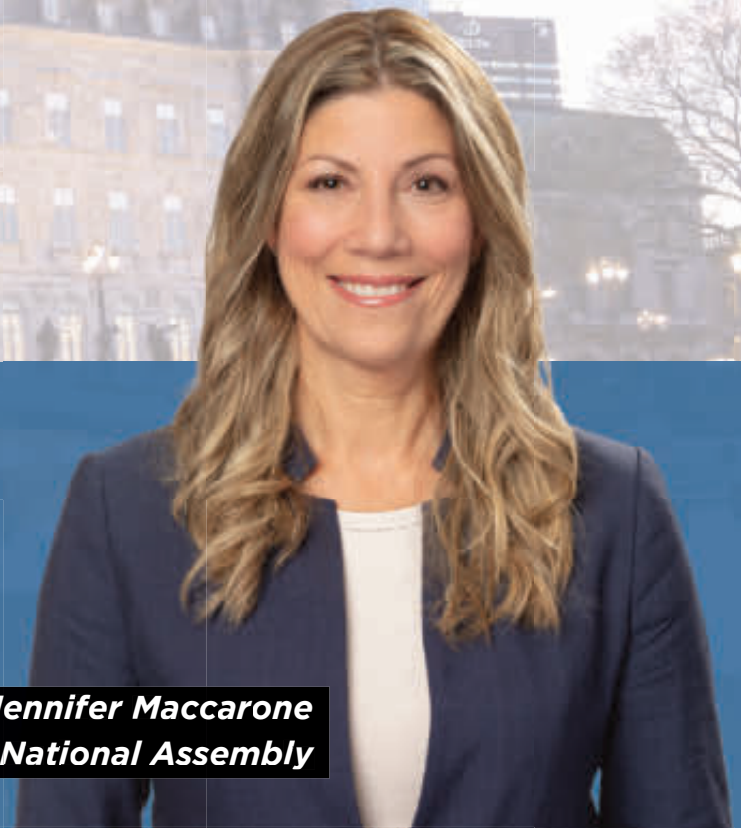
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## Trucker convoy #2 coming to Westmount?



The “freedom car” at left was photographed March 16, only to be joined in the same neighbourhood the following week by the “freedom truck” at right, as seen March 22. They were both photographed on Prince Albert below de Maisonneuve. Other pedestrians have also been taking photos of the stand-out vehicles, including reader Matthew Eramian, who wrote, “Power (steering) to the people! Another four-wheeled fanatic was spotted at the corner Prince Albert and de Maisonneuve. Is Westmount the new Ottawa? We’ll just have to wait and see what happens next week!”

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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## City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Florence is a cradle, and a school



Santa Croce.

in Rome, what I didn't know was that – working with the artist's nephew Lionardo Buonarroto – the Medicis helped steal the body so that it could be interred in Florence.

Here, 20 days after his death, Michelangelo's coffin was opened so that the populace could pay its respects before a state funeral organized by Duke Cosimo I de' Medici. (By then, the Medici bankers had attained a noble title.)

Artist Giorgio Vasari – the world's first art historian – was commissioned to design and build the tomb of Michelangelo, a project that took over 14 years.

### ***Galileo buried in a church?***

Galileo is also buried here. I wondered why, as Pope Urban VIII had castigated the scientist for his views. (He was put on trial for his belief that the earth revolved around the sun, a view that was deemed heretical by the Catholic Church.) So, how, I asked myself, is it that his tomb is in a sacred space? I should have known: Florence's "Midas" Medicis helped.

Moving around the enormous basilica, I gazed up at a large crucifix by Cimabue (c. 1288). I wondered why ..... it was hung so high in the *continued on p. 26*

### ***Famous Italians buried here!***

It is also the burial place of such illustrious Italians as Galileo (1564-1642), Cimabue (c. 1240-1302), Machiavelli (1469-1527) and Michelangelo (1475-1564).

The latter, a Renaissance genius – poet, sculpture, painter and architect – was much-admired by the Medicis, the quietly ruling *über*-powerful family of Florence.

So although Michelangelo passed away

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City views cont'd from p. 25

sacristy.

*Destino:* It's a story of fate. On November 6, 1966, the Franciscans had the work down for restoring, thus it was not safe from the Arno River's devastating deluge that night, a flood that caused widespread destruction. At Santa Croce, way way up on a tall, tall pole, a sign shows the height reached by the flood waters.

Today, the Cimabue cross hangs as a symbol of that moment. Moving on, I read that some of the marble tombs at Santa Croce are cenotaphs: their bodies are interred elsewhere.

Such is the case with Dante. A political exile from his beloved Florence, he passed away in Ravenna. But this "*padre della lingua italiana*" has a mighty presence at the entrance of the basilica. Here looms a large brooding statue of Dante, erected in 1865 to celebrate the 600th anniversary of his birth. I was told that the work was once in

the Piazza Santa Croce, but moved after the 1966 flood.

Statue of Liberty's antecedent?

Another discovery I made was the *La Libertà della poesia*. The statue by Giovan Battista Niccolini (1870-76) celebrates freedom of thought and creativity. It has a surprising echo in New York, where Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty (1877) is almost a duplicate of the Niccolini work, which it is said the French sculptor may have seen on his trip to Italy in 1875.

Next, I viewed the Bardi Chapel, where stories from the life of St. Francis are beautifully illustrated in Giotto's fresco series. After the 16 chapels of the basilica, one goes outdoors into the *primo chiostro* (cloister), which offers a welcome tranquility.

Here is the Pazzi Chapel designed by Brunelleschi, he of the Duomo dome



La Libertà della poesia

fame. Brunelleschi wanted no decoration in his exquisitely elegant white-and-grey architectural space. So none was added – until after his death.

Here *pietra serena* (grey marble) columns stand in precise proportions, their symmetry bearing the rounded arches of

the upper loggia, now used by the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.

I exited exhausted (time for an *aperol*!), but elated to have learned so much. My visit felt like a slow walk through the cradle of the Renaissance.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a partial demolition permit and for a preliminary programme for the immovable located at **21 Oakland Avenue**;

2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **May 29, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**, and will be broadcasted live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

www.westmount.org



VILLE DE | CITY OF  
WESTMOUNT



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit and for a preliminary programme for the immovable located at **10 Roxborough Avenue**;

2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **May 29, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**, and will be broadcasted live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

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VILLE DE | CITY OF  
WESTMOUNT



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a partial demolition permit and for a preliminary programme for the immovable located at **94 Sunnyside Avenue**;

2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **May 29, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**, and will be broadcasted live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

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## Welcome to Westmount-Square!



ARCHITECTURAL GEM WITH PANORAMIC MOUNTAIN VIEWS



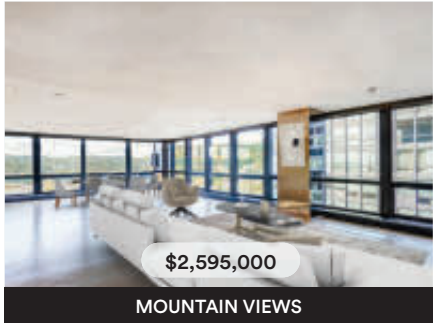
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2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 1403

2 2 2385 sf.



MOUNTAIN AND RIVER VIEWS



MOUNTAIN VIEWS



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