

*Blue-collar strike expected to start June 22 at midnight*

## Rec staff plan to keep pool open, but city cancels Splash Bash, St. Jean event

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Given the intended strike by city blue-collar workers to start June 22, city officials said celebrations were cancelled for both St. Jean/Fête Nationale in Westmount Park on June 23 and the Canada Day Splash Bash July 1.

The pool, however, would be kept open for use and for lessons.

"It's very, very unfortunate because it's robbing the children of the fun," said Mayor Christina Smith. The reason was explained as because the set-up, logistics and safety of these events depend on the city's blue-collar workers.

As a result, all the events are cancelled

including the Canada Day races at the pool, barbecue and birthday cake.

"The city has requested a Canada Day citizenship ceremony," she said, "but there is a backlog because of COVID so they are not doing one in Westmount on July 1. We are hoping for the fall."

Refuse collection (garbage, household compost, recycling) is done by third-party contractors and is not affected by the strike. Garden compost collection will be interrupted in the event of a strike.

Major road projects are also done by third parties and are not affected (see story, p. 5).

There are no changes ..... to the library's summer *continued on p. 6*

## It's still spring! Chicks need food



A male northern cardinal feeding its impetuous little chicks, vying for attention in the pouring rain. The male cardinal has lost its bright red plumage, which is quite normal. Most birds go through a moulting phase after the breeding season but its particularly noticeable with brightly coloured birds like the cardinal and blue jay. For more coverage of animals, see p.12. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## Victoria Village Festival postponed due to rain until Friday, July 21 to Sunday, July 23



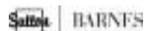
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## Contractor ticketed \$1,317 for refusing to obtain permit when blocking Edgehill

A statement of offence was to be sent to a contractor for \$1,317 for failing to obtain a permit to occupy the public domain June 13, Public Security officials said. This followed an initial discovery at 8 am of a truck and flatbed trailer blocking the street in front of 24 and 26 Edgehill. The foreman refused to move the vehicles when given an initial verbal warning. But patrollers noticed the vehicles had still not been moved at 9:50 am.

“Our main concern is for the safety of students walking back and forth in the area

without having a safe pedestrian passage as would have been required on a permit,” said Public Security director Greg McBain.

## 2-car accident at Wood and Sherbrooke

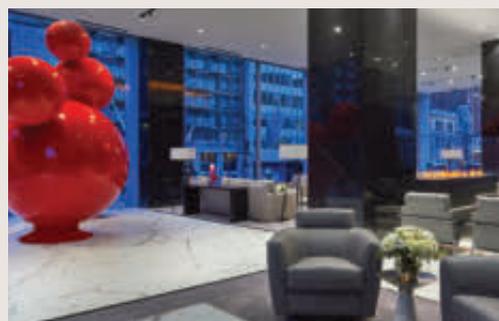
Two cars collided June 14 just after noon at the corner of Wood and Sherbrooke, Public Security officials report. One was described as travelling along Sherbrooke when the other turned to go onto Wood. No one was injured but both drivers were



This two-car accident took place June 14 at Wood and Sherbrooke.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

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found on the sidewalk appearing to be shaken up. Police were called but no ambulance was required. One car had to be towed.

## Dog licensing reminder and Summit Woods leash hours as of June 16

The owner of two dogs south of Dorchester was found June 13 not to have obtained licences for some three years and was given 48 hours to obtain the required permits, according to Public Security

reports.

“This is a reminder that all dogs need to be licensed in Westmount,” said department director Greg McBain.

Now that the bird migration period is over in Summit Woods, during which dogs had to be leashed at all times, they must now be leashed between 10 am and 5 pm, after which they are allowed off leash until midnight when the park is closed to everyone.

“Public Security will be doing periodic checks, he said. “This is very important because the park is used by many people.”

## Kindness at Le Fournil

BY DAVID PRICE

Westmount Independent advertising consultant Harvey Aisenthal was visiting client Le Fournil on Sherbrooke near Prince Albert last week when someone surprised him with a generous offer.

His contact was not at the store when he went by, but some of the baked goods caught his eye. He chose to buy a brownie. Problem! No cash.

Could he put it on a card? No, not a large enough transaction.

Would he buy three? “I was tempted to,

but I didn't want that many calories,” he said afterwards.

Oh, well. He began to walk up the stairs. A 14- or 15-year-old girl who had overheard part of the exchange caught up with him.

“Excuse me, sir, I will buy you a brownie.”

“I think she thought I had no money at all,” Harvey said with a laugh, “but I was really touched. Not many young people would do that.”

He declined, but felt richer for it nonetheless.

## Westmount Dental Care

Dr. Douglas E. Hamilton

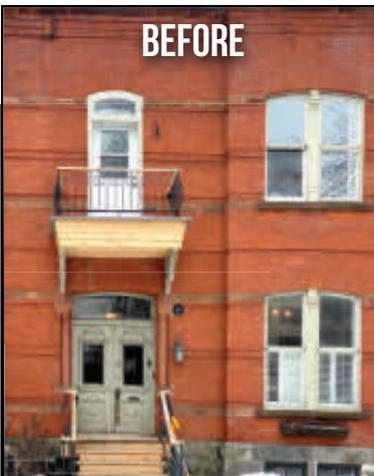
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# Woman suffering ‘malaise’ taken to hospital after car hits 2

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A woman was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé June 14 when the car she was driving June 14 sidwiped two cars parked in front of 573 Grosvenor just south of the construction zone north of Westmount Ave., according to Public Security officials.

The driver, a 56-year-old city of Montreal resident, was reported to have suffered a “malaise,” or sudden disability.

One of the parked vehicles belonged to the city’s Engineering department apparently parked there by the driver attending the Grosvenor worksite. He summoned a nearby public safety officer on duty at the Roslyn school zone at 7:55 am, who had already heard the sound of the impact.

Urgences Santé and police were called. The two parked cars were described as scraped along the side while the woman’s Lexus ended up on the sidewalk.

## 2 dogs run away, one leads Public Security to its home

A public safety officer was flagged down at Wood and Sherbrooke June 13 at 12:20 pm and told that two dogs had been seen running loose. One was eventually located in nearby lanes. The other was found at the front door of the dogs’ home on Elm, according to Public Security officials. Neither had a Westmount licence and the owner was given two weeks to obtain the required permits. It turned out the dogs had run out the back door.



This dog, shown with PSO Zachary Frotten, was found on the doorstep of its Elm Ave. home.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

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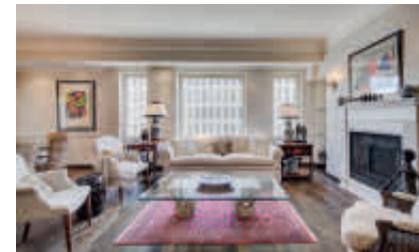
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## Table of Contents

Letters to the Editor, p. 10

Dodge on spring real estate: Coming alive?, p. 16

Pet page, p. 19

Police, p. 21

Social Notes:

Velan family supports La rue des Femmes, p. 24

Fundraiser for Magen David Adom, p. 25

On Westmount’s artsy side:

John Schweitzer donates, p. 22

Retrospective on Bruce Roberts, p. 23



InfoWestmount, p. 18



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Resident Mendelsohn concerned over Grosvenor dust

# Contractor to spray more often, unaffected by city strike

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Living in a construction zone can be fraught with dust, noise, traffic detours and other annoyances especially when a busy street is stripped down and completely rebuilt such as the current Grosvenor reconstruction project from Westmount Ave. to The Boulevard.

“We residents are choking on fine particulate even within our homes,” stated Eric Mendelsohn in an online question at the June 5 council meeting. The street was “filthy and unwalkable,” he added.

Mayor Christina Smith agreed that such work can be dusty and noisy but that the city’s head of Engineering was “with us tonight,” had also noticed the issues and would be looking into asking that the street “be sprayed more often.”

She also said that the disruption in this project was impacted by the presence of traffic around the Roslyn school zone and “should improve” once school was out for the summer. The work, she said, “was certainly having a big impact on the neighbourhood.”

Shawn Aloysius, the city’s Engineering assistant director, told the *Independent* last



Grosvenor was blocked to vehicles and pedestrians halfway between Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard when the *Independent* visited June 16. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

week that he had spoken with some Grosvenor residents as well as the contractor, whose water truck was now passing more frequently as a result.

### ‘Reality’ of construction

Dust, he acknowledged, especially during hot, dry periods without rain, “is the reality of construction sites, but we have asked the contractor for increased presence of the water truck.”

The work has been contracted out, as are most of the city’s major projects, and therefore will likely not be impacted by a strike of city blue-collar workers starting June 22. This is expected to be the same scenario for most of the city’s other projects that have been contracted out, he added.

If some involve input from the city’s water works or Hydro personnel, ways will be found to work around it.

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Beyond her corporate success, Nathalie demonstrates an authentic entrepreneurial spirit. She has navigated the complexities of owning and managing a family business for eight years and serving as a finance executive for owner-managed companies and a non-profit organization.

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*Agia delivers, literally*

## Donated goods reach refugees in Montreal



PHOTO COURTESY OF V. AGIA.

This spring, as she has often done in previous years, Westmounter Viviane Agia has been working hard to deliver donated goods, especially furniture and household items, to refugees starting their lives in Montreal.

She was described at a recent Rotary Club of Westmount meeting as "A force to be reckoned with."

An immigrant herself (in 1964, from Egypt), she uses space allocated by the 4300

apartment building on de Maisonneuve to store the items before delivery to refugees referred by the Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile (PRAIDA) on Tupper in Westmount. (For more on them, see November 20, 2018, p. 10.)

In April alone, she and the Rotary provided 10 families with beds, furniture, household items, bedding, clothing and more.

### *Blue-collar strike, cont'd from p. 1*

hours due to the strike, according library director Anne-Marie Lacombe.

A press release issued Friday, June 16 at 9:45 pm, stated that the bulky waste collection for the first week of July was cancelled, but the Belvedere depot would be open to contractors with city permits and residents with proof of residency.

The release also states that the city's pri-

ority was to reach "a fair and respectful agreement that recognizes the dedication and contributions of our blue-collar workers while considering the impact on their work-life balance and overall well-being." It asks for patience "as we diligently work towards a resolution that benefits all parties involved."

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*Cllr. Shamie votes to allow extension*

## Council denies minor exemption for 437 Argyle

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A request to build a one-storey extension at the rear of a semi-detached house at 437 Argyle was rejected by city council June 5 on a vote of 6-1. The item was presented as a minor exemption to the city's planning program, but had received an unfavourable recommendation from the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) at its meeting of April 20.

The denied extension was larger and higher than allowed, and did not conform to requirements as a minor exemption, explained Councillor Conrad Peart, whose commissioner'ship includes urban planning.

The lone vote in favour of granting the minor exemption came from District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie, who later told the *Independent*: "The owners, my residents, made a compelling case for the exemption. They have four children, and I can relate, and they are a household of six that require more living space."

It is rare – if ever – that an unfavourable recommendation for a minor exemption from the PAC reaches the city council's

approval stage.

Peart explained that criteria for granting a minor exemption under the city's By-law 1576 can be granted only if the current zoning or subdivision by-law might cause "a serious prejudice" to the applicant or neighbourhood, without negatively affecting the neighbourhood or causing risks to public safety, health and the general environment.

In this case, the requested rear exemption is for a one-storey addition at the rear measuring 11.9 feet deeper (longer) and 1.42 feet higher than allowable.

District 7 councillor Matt Aronson was absent from the council meeting.

### Overheard

Woman into cell phone: "It will be a disaster. You will end up just like your mother." – de Maisonneuve near Olivier, June 15 at 9:30 am

Two women talking: "She is a nice girl." "Yes, she seems like a nice girl – just [name omitted] likes people who are spunkier." – Victoria & de Maisonneuve, June 16, 9:10 am

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## Independent dental hygiene clinics – Something to smile about

By ROSHNI DESAI, RDH  
*Founder of Atelier Smile,  
dental hygiene clinic*

If you have visited dentists throughout your life, you have surely come across a dental hygienist who may have been a part of their dental team. Although dental hygiene is not a dental specialty in the technical sense, it is quite distinct from the practice of dentistry.

With a focus on prevention, dental hygienists promote wellness in its full sense. The idea that health is not an absence of disease, but rather an approach towards wellness, is what drives the practice of dental hygiene care. Dental hygienists work to prevent diseases and provide treatments to re-establish and maintain health.

### What do hygienists do?

A dental hygienist in independent practice carries out their professional activities without a dentist in the same practice. Although dentists and dental hygienists work closely together, modern practices dictate that a dental hygienist does not need a dentist to supervise or verify their work. Professional autonomy allows each of these professionals to focus on their own area of expertise while

trusting the other to focus on theirs. Dental hygienists are highly trained and qualified to promote and provide preventive healthcare through education and by offering treatments and services, as allowed by law. These services include dental health evaluation, dental scaling, polishing, anti-cavity and de-sensitizing treatments, preventive sealants, temporary fillings, sports guards and other activities with a prescription from a dentist.

Dental hygienists have existed in Quebec since the 1970s. Since the very beginning, they have been self regulated. Licensing and professional conduct is overseen by a professional order like many other healthcare professionals. Legislation, however, prevented a dental hygienist from working independently of a dentist.

### Hygienists now allowed to practise apart from dentists

In September 2020, modernization of laws changed how Quebecers could access oral healthcare.

Today, there are over 60 dental hygienists in Quebec offering oral healthcare outside of dentist owned clinics. Some have set up mobile

practices, allowing them to go into people's homes, long-term residences and communities without adequate access to dental care. Some dental hygienists have set up clinics, and others offer courses and workshops in different settings to promote oral health and overall health.

Independent practice has existed in other parts of the country for decades. In Quebec, the need for separating dental hygiene care from dental care arose based on demographics, oral health status and global healthcare modernization trends. Many parts of Quebec have a shortage of dentists in their communities, and even in metropolitan areas such as Montreal, there are accessibility issues. Accessibility issues can be things such as phobias, fear of judgement, mobility problems, and financial barriers.

### Lifetime of healthy smiles

Dental hygiene clinics offer a stress-free environment where patients see the same professional at every visit and have a follow-up in a timely manner, while paying only for services they need. Educating patients on the best products and best techniques for their individual

needs, and providing high-quality treatments to prevent further intervention means that fewer Quebecers will end up with extensive dental treatments and keep more of their natural teeth. Having children learn hygiene habits young and have preventive treatments at affordable rates means they will grow up to be healthier adults.

Helping seniors maintain their oral healthcare so they can eat as they wish and continue to get the nutrition they need will mean healthier communities.

Every year, Quebecers continue to lose teeth due to gum and bone diseases, children continue to get cavities, and thousands of people end up in hospital emergency rooms, costing the government millions of dollars in emergency dental treatments.

Quebecers seek dental advice from medical doctors and pharmacists to avoid the cost associated with seeing dentists. Dental hygiene clinics will help alleviate the burden placed on these professionals, and offer a channel to direct patients to the right professionals.

If you haven't seen your dental hygienist in their own practice yet, why not give it a chance and see what all the fuss is about?

# Another reprieve for Ville Marie Expressway campers



Jacco, who has been living under the Ville Marie Expressway near Atwater for the past decade, is seen at the site on June 14.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As the *Independent's* deadline approached last week, the occupants of an encampment beneath the Ville Marie Expressway

in lower Westmount were waiting for yet another court decision on whether they must vacate the site to allow highway repairs to proceed.

Although a Quebec Superior Court

judge sided with Transports Québec's request to be allowed to expel the occupiers by June 15, lawyers for the homeless appealed the decision and are now hoping the order will be delayed until July 15.

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## Mountainside retains identity without amalgamating

# Congregation marks one year at new McGill home

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the greystone landmark building on The Boulevard formerly owned by Mountainside United Church stands vacant and unused, the congregation June 11 marked the anniversary of its first year in its new venue at McGill University's Birks Chapel on University St.

The decision to relocate rather than amalgamate with another church had been approved unanimously by the congregation, explained church treasurer Julie Dawson, a longtime Westmount resident.

"It's proving to have been a good decision in light of preserving the congregation and has resulted in stabilizing membership and even reaching out through technology to former members," she explained. The broadcasting of services is viewed on Zoom and YouTube by church members in Ontario, Nova Scotia "and even one during the winter in North Carolina."

Along with the move of services to the Birks chapel, the church now also maintains a business office across the street at McGill's Presbyterian College.

Church minister Douglas Throop has been "instrumental in making the move possible," Dawson said.

Part of the relocation includes the sale of Mountainside's historic Von Beckerath organ to McGill for installation in the chapel once it can be reassembled. For now, an electronic organ is used by the ongoing organist Alberto Santos, who directs the same 14-member choir, four of whom are McGill music students.

They, even with a similar interior of the chapel to the vacated church, help make the services "feel like home," Dawson said.

### Sold for some \$4 million

The Mountainside property had been sold for a reported \$4 million to real estate developer Daniel Revah of Core Immobilier, who proposed creating a condo project (see story October 9, 2018).

The congregation was given an extended three years to vacate the premises and the actual moving date took place May 2, 2022.

In the moving period, the congregation had planned to be online only for at least five services (see May 3, 2022, p. 26).

No plans or permits from the city have yet been announced and it is understood that the site's Category 1 heritage rating has been a stumbling block in terms of re-development.

Revah has also squabbled with the city about whether the site's zoning is residential or mixed, and whether it has been



Mountainside's first service at the Birks Chapel June 12, 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE DAWSON.

changed by the city (see stories November 10, 2020, p. 1/19 and May 3, 2022, p. 26).

Known for many years as Dominion-Douglas, the church has resulted from many amalgamations through the years resulting in the name change in 2005 to Mountainside United Church. Interestingly, this still also applies to the current

geographical venue. The Boulevard location dates back to 1914 resulting from the amalgamation between Dominion Square Methodist Church and Douglas Methodist Church. Subsequent mergers include those with the St. Andrew's of Westmount in 1985 and downtown's Erskine and American United churches in 2004.

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Les bureaux de Westmount seront fermés le 26 juin et le 3 juillet en raison de la Fête nationale du Québec et la Fête du Canada. La Bibliothèque publique et le Conservatoire de Westmount seront fermés du 24 au 26 juin inclusivement.

Les collectes de résidus auront lieu selon l'horaire habituel.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED Monday, June 26 and Monday, July 3, 2023

Westmount's municipal offices will be closed June 26 and July 3 for the Fête nationale du Québec and Canada Day holidays. The Westmount Public Library and the Westmount Conservatory will be closed June 24 to 26 inclusively.

Waste collections will take place according to the usual schedule.

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## EDITORIAL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Go Senator Tony!

Should we only choose federal politicians called “Anthony” from now on? They seem to be the only ones with sense and backbone.

Federal Bill C-13 passed the senate last week with only five senators dissenting, including Westmounter Tony Loffreda, who has often been in our pages, usually supporting good causes. He joins MP Anthony Housefather in opposing this bill (the sole one to do so).

The bill brings asymmetrical federalism and Quebec’s Bill 22-101-178-96 into federal law. As if we didn’t have enough unnecessary hassles, expenses and conflicts due to the province’s misguided, provocative language laws and approach, which hurt old, poor, unilingual, isolated anglos first; and young, poor, unilingual, isolated francos second, and then almost everyone else – except the bilingual Québécois political elite, whose accents and overall proficiency in English just keep getting better. “We love bilingualism – for us” should be their motto.

Thank you, Tony.

Quebec senators Judith Seidman and Larry Smith, and Victor Oh of Ontario and David Richards of New Brunswick also voted against. Good show! Last week, the senate was five times better than the house of commons.

*David Price is the editor of the Independent.*

## FORGET ‘CANADA 2040’ – FIX ELECTRICS DOORS HERE, NOW

Oh, the irony.

For over a month, the automatic opener for the exterior greenhouse doors has not worked. For those unable to pull open the doors without help, the other entrance to the library during its exterior renovations is a side door that relies on manpower and is accessible only by a flight of stairs.

Meanwhile, the city of Westmount’s website is notifying us of a search for candidates to the board of Accessibility Standards Canada, whose ambitious mandate is “to contribute to a Canada without barriers by 2040.”

Closer to home, if opening an exterior door on your own steam is difficult, especially with an armload of books, the automatic door opener is one of life’s sweetest inventions; more so its usefulness for library patrons with walking aids, arthritis or a bulky baby stroller to manoeuvre inside.

On May 8, I found the outside door opener of the greenhouse not working and notified Councillor Elisabeth Roux, who has the library portfolio, shortly after. She kindly responded that outside repair experts were called.

Message received. But is over a month without a fix reasonable for a heavily-used public service open 11 hours on weekdays, and on weekends with shorter hours. True, there’s another entrance to the library, but what if someone with compromised mobil-

## Pampered pet, after a visit to Pampered Pets



© Lise Gallant

ity can’t climb the stairs to the side door?

Accessibility doesn’t function on talking points or good intentions; Westmount’s website says the city is “committed to offering its residents a welcoming and accessible environment in which to live,” and council in 2020 convened an advisory committee to brainstorm the issue.

Why not aim for small victories, like ensuring timely repairs to mechanical solutions that ease the way? Push-button door openers are among the easiest, most practical of commitments to improve physical access to Westmount services, whether your arm is in a sling or you get around with a walker. Remember: needing a bit of help comes to us all, eventually.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

## LOCAL BIRDS STAVE OFF BALD EAGLES

This morning, 11 June, at about 9 am above our house we noticed a pair of bald eagles circling low and looking for prey. Within a few moments they started to be “buzzed” by the local crows, who were worried their lunch supply might disappear.

Shortly after, the resident Roslyn hawk joined in dive-bombing the eagles from above.

The eagles then responded by circling higher and higher in the sky, preventing the hawk from its attacks but making it

more difficult for them to spot food.

Finally, despairing of food in Westmount, the eagles headed off downtown where they could no doubt find better game.

SIMON ELLIS & MYLENE FRANCESCON,  
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Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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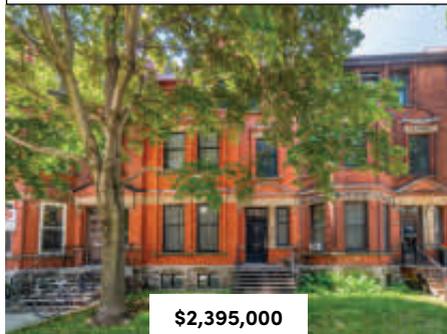
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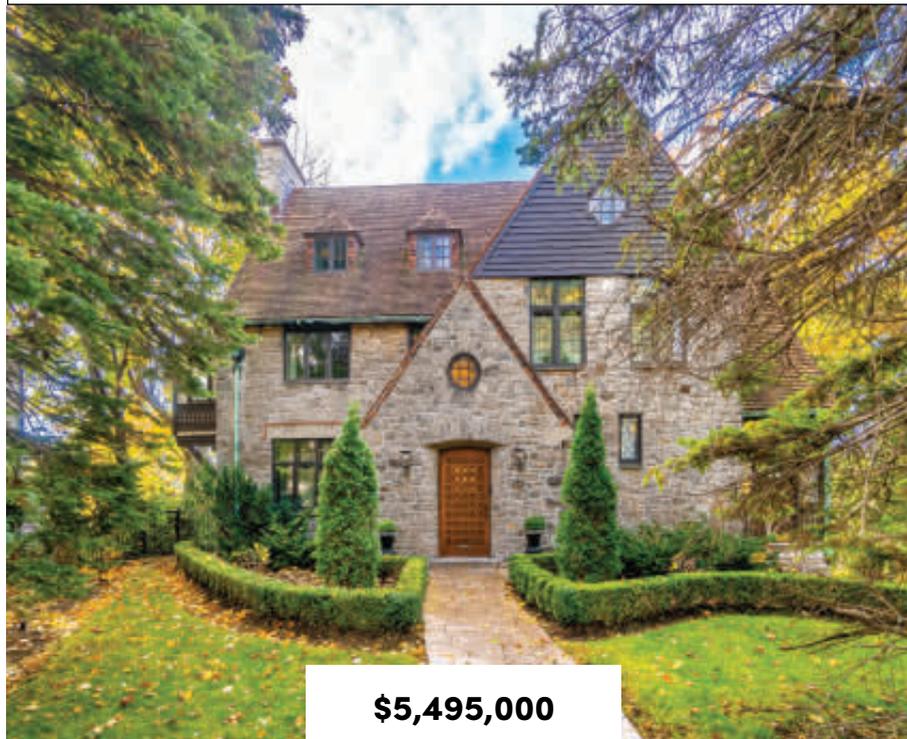
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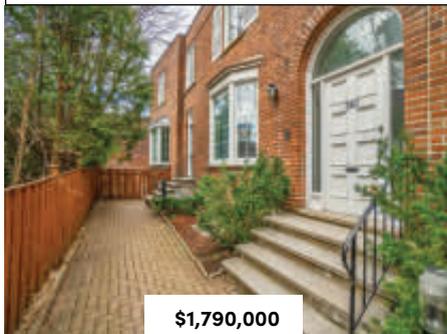
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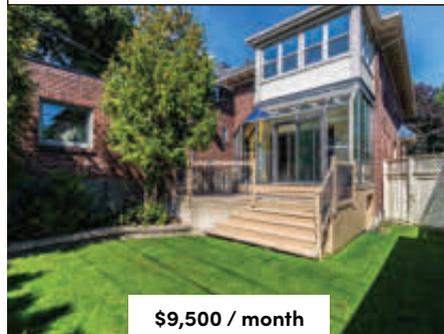
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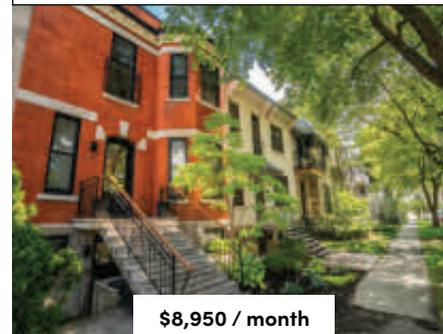
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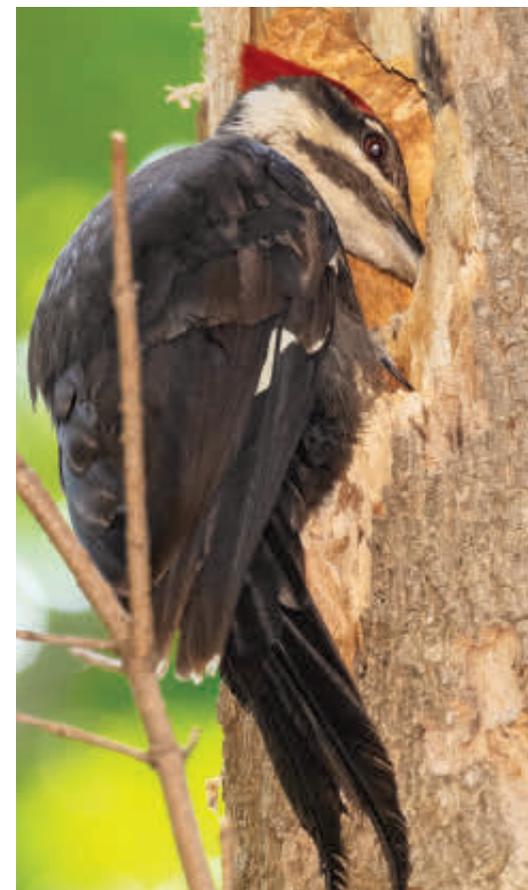


## Westmount wildlife



The northern cardinal has between three and four eggs that incubate for 12 to 13 days. Nestlings leave the nest within 9 to 11 days, according to Audubon, and they can have two to three broods a year. All photographed June 16.

Westmounters know squirrels, but do they know chipmunks? This particular one lives in a mid-level Westmount yard, most likely attracted by a pond and seed droppings from a bird-feeder. Photographed June 16.



A female pileated woodpecker was spending a lot of time at this large hole in a tree in Summit Woods June 16. But "it may not be a nest. Maybe just storing food," said Mireille Forget, a masters student of environmental sciences at UQAM. She is part of a group looking at the nesting and breeding habits of the pileated woodpeckers.

The rain didn't dampen the interest in food of these downy woodpecker chicks in Summit Woods June 17. The downy woodpecker is the smallest woodpecker in North America. The male has the distinctive red nuchal patch at the back of its head. Both the female and the male parents were darting to and from the nest, while the anxious nestlings poked their heads out to get their share of insects. The downy can be confused with the hairy woodpecker, which is very similar but a few inches larger.



A red-eyed vireo June 16 in Summit Woods, where they can be heard everywhere. They "often sing nearly nonstop throughout the day," according to the Cornell Labs Merlin app. They are hard to see because they normally perch high in the trees hidden by leaves at this time of the year, but this little fellow obliged and spent a few seconds perched on a lower branch..

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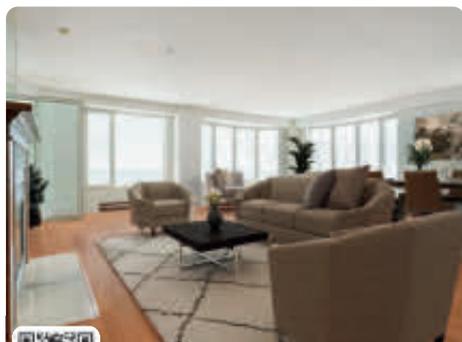
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## FROM OUR TUREEN

Mushroom Soup w/Truffle Oil • Butternut Squash Soup w/Maple Syrup • Lobster Bisque w/Sherry Wine • Clam Chowder (New England-style) • Fish Soup (Bouillabaisse-style)

## PASTA DISHES

Seasonal Vegetable Pasta w/homemade Tomato Sauce or Garlic Butter • Linguine w/Basil Pesto and Parmesan Cheese w/Butterfly Shrimp or broiled Scallops • Seafood Pasta w/Tomato or Cream Sauce

## BURGERS & ROLLS

Salmon Burger w/Avocado, Tomatoes and Tartar Sauce • Lobster Roll (Tarragon Mayonnaise) • Fresh Grouper Filet Burger w/Avocado, Tomatoes and Spicy Mayonnaise

## FRESH VEGETABLES & SALADS

Sautéed Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Broccoli or Rapini • Roasted Cauliflower w/Turmeric • Lobster or

Shrimp Salad w/Avocado • Mixed Tomato Salad w/House Blue Cheese Dressing • Chef Salad w/House Vinaigrette

## CHEF PAUL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Tuna or Salmon Tataki w/Sesame Sauce • Sesame Tuna w/Yuzu Sauce • Tuna or Salmon Tartare • Shrimp or Wild Mushroom Dumplings • Oysters Rockefeller (5)

## FRIED FISH SPECIALTIES

Fish & Chips w/Spicy Mayonnaise • Fried Fillet of Sole w/Tartar Sauce • Fried Calamari w/Wasabi Sauce

## FISH & SEAFOOD PLATES

Grilled Atlantic Salmon Fillet w/Fresh Herbs • Atlantic Salmon w/Douglas Sauce • Dover Sole Fillet w/Champagne Sauce • Black Tiger Shrimp (grilled or w/Creole Sauce) • Provençale-style or grilled Scallops • Supreme of Halibut Corsican-style • Swordfish w/Roasted Garlic or Olive & Sun-Dried Tomato Tapenade

## CHILLED SPECIALTIES

Florida Shrimp Cocktail • Gaspé Smoked Salmon • Seafood Platter: Lobster Tails, Oysters, Scallops, Crab Legs, Shrimp

## CHEF PAUL'S SIGNATURE DISHES

Broiled or Boiled Lobster • Lobster Thermidor, Cardinale or Newburg • Mussels Marinara w/homemade Tomato Sauce or Cream Sauce • Seafood Paella • Crab or Salmon Cake w/Spicy Mayonnaise • Grilled Fresh Fish (whole of fillet)

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## Mark Céré - Seafoodfaring Entrepreneur: A Tale of Love and Seafood

It's fitting, we begin Mark's seafood tale back in 1999, when he met Julie (his wife) nearly 25 years ago. They met right here in Montreal, but her family was from Gaspé. He keenly described his first visit to eastern Québec, in which his (now) mother-in-law brought them to a local fish market. Mark was impressed as she strolled to the back, and grabbed lobsters straight from the tanks themselves. Upon having their lobster feast that night; he couldn't get over the difference in freshness, and quality - which unsurprisingly; struck a chord!

Also of note, his father-in-law fished for cod, sole, turbot and even Nordic shrimp (known in Québec as Matane shrimp). Mark's voyage into the business began as he started bringing seafood products back from Gaspé. Soon after sharing his 'imported' treasures with friends and family, they started asking for more! This prompted the need for volume, so Mark ingeniously outfitted his Dodge Caravan with insulated boxes.

Over time, these trips swelled in number, and geography; growing to include a wholesale customer base which stretched into Ontario. Mark described doing the run (from Gaspé to Toronto with a stopover in Montreal) every two weeks, and sometimes twice a week. He did this for close to 10 years, during which he supplied Poissonnerie Sherbrooke with fish and lobster. Eventually Mark's adventure headed into retail, as on May 13, 2019 - he bought the market. While hearing the story, I pictured Han Solo (famed Star Wars space pirate) in the Millennium Falcon, running seafood instead of spice. However, Mark wasn't doing the 'Kessel Run' in under 12 parsecs - he drove the St. Lawrence Seaway in two days flat. Now that's Gaspé direct!

Back in our universe, Mark attributes the vibrancy of Poissonnerie Sherbrooke to several things. One, his 'people person' personality. Another, his philosophy to treat others the same way he likes to be treated. Moreover, there is a great respect for

customers, whereby everyone is greeted in a friendly manner. Finally, they do enjoy a lighthearted 'kibbitz'! If someone's been away, they'll quip, "Where were you? Did you forget us?"

As a business practice, they strive to continuously improve, but freshness is never an afterthought. Their seafood displays are stocked and checked every morning - whereby, "if we wouldn't eat it, we don't serve it!" Another rule; they don't overbuy just for a great price. With that, no one can deny great seafood comes with a cost. They offer top quality, and value - your taste buds can confirm!

Mark's passion for seafood sprang from trips to Gaspé, and that strong connection lasts to this day. He has built a life and family with Julie, and

made Poissonnerie Sherbrooke into the epitome of a fine seafood market.

BY JEFF SHOER



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# A Whale of a Chef's Tale: Treasures of the Sea Worth Pillaging for at Poissonnerie Sherbooke

## The secret is out! Chez Paul's Kitchen is a seafood lover's dream – where every plate is a signature dish!

Who hasn't dreamt of finding buried treasure? In the same way a food writer does about finding an exceptional meal (in an unexpected place). In this case, the discovery happened to be the Holy Grail of Westmount food finds, and the loot was a trove of seafood fit for royalty.

Thankfully, there weren't any real pirates guarding the loot, when I uncovered the improved version of Poissonnerie Sherbrooke; a long-standing bastion of quality fish and seafood. As delicious memories emerged, I recalled visits back in my teens. They've since moved, expanded, and modernized – featuring a plethora of fresh seafood in pristinely kept display cases (with a chef driven *prêt à manger* section), fine imported provisions, and a colourful produce section.

Then my sonar pinged with delight, as I spied an open professional kitchen, and an extensive menu including: soups, salads, pastas, seafood paella, fish & chips, crab cakes, calamari, tartares, tataki, to exquisite creations featuring; lobster, scallops, shrimp, mussels, oysters; and even whole grilled fish. All these sumptuous gems of the seas are prepared with the veritable complexity that only comes with experience; à la Chef Paul.

When I first met Paul, I discovered his career spanned 40 years in some of the Montreal's most renowned kitchens – 40 Westt Steakhouse & Raw Bar, Rib'n Reef Steakhouse, Estiatorio Milos, Mythos Ouzeri Estiatorio, Restaurant Damas, Desjardins, and the original Moïse's Steakhouse.

Needless to say, I had hit the food writer's jackpot. His captivating career was indeed worthy of a deeper dive. Thus happily, our serendipitous meeting turned into an interview over lunch, where I attempted to go between bites off my thali platter, and a notebook filled with questions. Firstly, we transported back to his youth, where he told me he spent his formative years in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and came to Canada in August 1983 – with no experience or resume.

As luck would have it, he did have a friend working as a busboy at Desjardins Seafood (a then fixture of Montreal's restaurant scene established in 1892 located at 1175 Mackay). Fate on his side, he got Paul a job as a dishwasher. He did this conscientiously, until a chef named Johnny witnessed his potential, work ethic and sponge-like learning. Soon after being 'discovered' he became a cook from '84 to '86 – then building up confidence, he became their sous-chef from '87 to '88.

In the next scene imagine it's 1987 – with the Stanley Cup still freshly in mind. Then picture a famous restaurant critic dining chez Desjardins (undercover as was typical prior to internet review platforms, and social media) with Chef Paul steadfast in the kitchen. As this storyboard plays out, this woman was none other than legendary dining critic Helen Rochester – who feasted on scallops prepared in a white wine and chive sauce. Later, when the review was published the dish received high praise, and despite not being mentioned; the dish was in fact prepared by Chef Paul himself – certainly that added another jewel to his toque.

Another story that still makes Paul chuckle, is one which no instructor would want to hear, but after this long he doesn't appear concerned – in this case it was about Head Chef Philip Morris. During his time learning the ropes and mastering their repertoire of soups and sauces, results would be critiqued by those in sky-high toques and bright white chef's attire. Those critiques included the usual suspects of high end cooking; add a touch of sherry, Pernod or brandy; and a pinch of this, or that. Then Paul would touch up the dish and have it re-tasted for final approval. This went on, until one day – something unique happened. Upon tasting the response; "yes, it's better now!" turned out to be a joke on him! Chef Paul hadn't added a pinch of anything!

In this real life screenplay, he has mastered more than proper seasoning.

One valuable lesson he attributes to Desjardins' owner Peter Hellas, "if you don't like it, don't serve it!" – a mentality that stuck with him for his entire career, further developing his thoughtful preparations, and culinary skills at other restaurants like; The Old Spaghetti Factory, Ferrari, Napoleon, Ouzeri Mykonos, Firegrill, Skara, Tao 380, and Moe's Deli in Laval.

Certainly, I was intrigued to uncover what he loved about seafood, to which he proudly added; you can create, change, alter, and elevate it. Moreover, his recipes are infused with a level of sophistication that only develops with experience. Surprisingly, he rarely uses butter or cream, but the dishes don't lack from it. To solidify this point, while watching Chef Paul assemble a masterful salmon with Douglas sauce, he pointed out there were several versions, but this was his! After ogling it hungrily, I stated, "so it must be a signature dish!" To which he added with a wry smile, and the confidence of a seasoned chef, "all my dishes are signatures!"

On that note, you may wonder which dishes Chef Paul enjoys – to which he referred to Mediterranean dishes like; Bouillabaisse and Corsican-style fish, plus Mushrooms Duxelles and Oysters Rockefeller. When the subject turned to lobster I felt like Tom Hank's Forrest Gump character listening to Bubba passionately discuss shrimp, but instead he recounted ways to prepare; Lobster Newburg; Lobster Thermidor; Lobster Cardinale...

Regarding his legacy, he didn't puff out his chest and exclaim; I should be remembered for this dish or that prestigious restaurant he'd worked at – his answer was subtle, like the nuances of his dishes – continuously being refined and simmered towards perfection. I'm no Helen Rochester, but I'd say his recipes are 'fait accompli'.

In the end my notepad was totally splattered with sauce (apropos in telling the story of a chef). For the final question, I asked with genuine interest. Would he do it all over again? Incredibly, his answer was



Chef Paul

ALL PHOTOS: JEFF SHOER

yes! Surely, he deserves to be proud of the many accomplishments, in many kitchens, over the many decades.

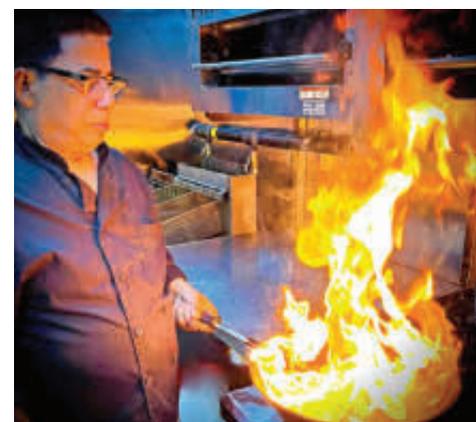
Perhaps it's appropriate we serve a few surprising fun facts for dessert. The first, despite all the restaurants he worked at, he never had an actual resume. The second, I discovered loyal customers call while on vacation because they miss his food, and to confirm their crave-worthy dishes are on-hand upon their return.

Lastly, he has never been fired, and made it clear, if he didn't like a place; he left! Profoundly, he promised owner Mark Céré – as long as he works as a chef it will be for him!

Since we may have all eaten food prepared by Chef Paul without knowing it! How lucky are we that Chef Paul is still creating seafood masterpieces at Poissonnerie Sherbooke. To that end, I like Bouillabaisse too. Hint, hint!

BY JEFF SHOER

Jeff is a well travelled food writer, with a passion for tasty discoveries. To read tasting notes for Chef Paul's dishes visit [www.foodintravel.com](http://www.foodintravel.com) or visit his new Instagram @food.in.travel for more delicious content.



Chef Paul Flambé



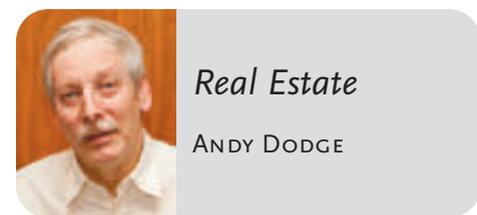
Seafood Paella



Salmon Tartare



Sesame Tuna



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

# April-May sales: Coming alive?

year, but since February 2016, as a house (admittedly in deplorable condition) on Burton Ave. sold for \$560,000.

(This was the house which, for the past several months, was the only one asking less than \$1 million in our monthly reports.)

Then in May, one upper-Westmount house sold for \$4,245,000 – though evaluated at \$4,762,900 – while another on Lansdowne Ave. above Sherbrooke St. went for \$1,095,000, still about 10 percent below valuation.

In fact, the May list shows seven of the 17 sales were for less than valuation, and the total (unadjusted) sale price is only half of one percent above the total valuation. But once the extreme sales are removed, the average comes to 3.7 percent, which is the highest average mark-up so far this year, when the new valuation roll came into force.

## Condos

The burst in sales also applies to the condominium list, which had only one condo sold in April; now we have 10 sales for the second quarter of 2023, including three in April and seven in May, for prices ranging from \$599,000 to \$2,175,000; three of the 10 were for more than \$1,000,000, and the median price was \$764,000. The average mark-up (with June sales still pending for the second quarter) is 7.9 percent, with only two of the sales less than their valuation.

In adjacent-Westmount, the most active area was the Square Mile east of Côte des Neiges Rd., where four house sales were logged in May, including one house on Redpath Crescent that sold for \$7,000,000, almost 42 percent above valuation.

While sales volume increased dramatically in April-May, the number of available house listings in Westmount in mid-June dropped by only five, to 101, in a price range from \$1,148,000 to \$25,000,000 – the

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2018 to May 2023, based on accepted offer dates



latter price held by two local houses. There are also 25 houses for rent in Westmount, and already this year 23 houses have been rented, compared to 33 in all of last year.



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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, July 20



## Grève illimitée des travailleurs cols bleus à partir du 22 juin

Les travailleurs cols bleus de Westmount déclencheront une grève le jeudi 22 juin. Les collectes d'ordures, de recyclage et de compost auront lieu comme d'habitude, mais d'autres services seront touchés.



## Indefinite strike by blue-collar workers beginning June 22

Westmount's blue-collar workers will go on strike beginning Thursday, June 22. Garbage, recycling and compost collections will take place as usual, but some other City services will be affected.

## ÉVÉNEMENTS ANNULÉS : Fête nationale du Québec et fête du Canada

La Ville a le malheur d'annoncer l'annulation des festivités prévues à Westmount pour le 23 juin et le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet en raison de la grève prévue des travailleurs cols bleus. Nous regrettons cette situation et travaillons vers une résolution dans l'intérêt de tous. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## Activités de sports et de loisirs

Inscrivez-vous maintenant pour les activités d'été. Consultez le guide à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Cours de loisirs gratuits au parc

**Du 4 juillet au 24 août**, le Service des sports et loisirs vous offre des cours de yoga, tai-chi, conditionnement physique et plus tous les mardis et les jeudis de 10 h à 11 h au parc Westmount. Consultez l'horaire à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Vous déménagez?

**Avisez Hydro Westmount au préalable.** Veuillez nous contacter au moins 7 jours avant votre déménagement. Vous pouvez activer, fermer ou modifier votre compte en utilisant le formulaire en ligne à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## EVENT CANCELLATIONS: Fête nationale du Québec and Canada Day

The City regrets to announce the cancellation of festivities that were scheduled in Westmount for June 23 and July 1 due to the announced strike by blue-collar workers. We regret the situation and are working towards a resolution for the benefit of everyone. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Sports and recreation activities

Sign up now for summer activities. Consult the activity guide at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Free leisure classes in the park

**From July 4 to August 24**, the Sports & Recreation Department is offering yoga, tai chi, fitness and other classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. in Westmount Park. Consult the schedule at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Are you moving?

**Tell Hydro Westmount in advance.** Please contact us at least 7 days before your move. You can open, close or modify your account using the online form at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



## Club de lecture d'été TD 2023

Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org) ! Les membres du club peuvent participer à des activités, dont la Bataille des livres, rencontrer des auteurs, écouter des histoires et dénicher le livre parfait !

## Concours littéraire McEntyre 2023

Bravo à tous les participants ! Lisez les histoires, poèmes et essais gagnants à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

## Bibliothèque de semences

Empruntez des semences en présentant votre carte de bibliothèque au comptoir du prêt. Consultez l'inventaire à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

## Exposition — Mon monde miniature

**Jusqu'au 31 août**, Bibliothèque. Un monde miniature magique par l'artiste Tamar Cohen.

## Bricolage — Coffre au trésor (4 ans et +)

**Vendredi 23 juin, 16 h**, Bibliothèque. Inscription requise. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

## TDSRC StoryWalk® — Trésor

**À partir du vendredi 23 juin** au parc Westmount. Découvrez le livre *Trésor* des auteures Mireille Messier et Irene Luxbacher. Disponible tout l'été.

## Ciné-club d'été

**Les mardis, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. Regardez des grands films sur un grand écran.

4 juillet : *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955)

11 juillet : *Women Talking* (2022)

18 juillet : *My Old School* (2022)

25 juillet : *I Love You Again* (1940)

## Visite de l'apiculteur

**Mercredi 5 juillet, 13 h 45**, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque. Venez poser vos questions et observer l'apiculteur et les abeilles au travail.

## Art et histoires (3 à 6 ans)

**Mercredi 5 juillet, 16 h**, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque. Es-tu curieux d'en savoir plus sur les créatures mythiques? Inscription : [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

## 2023 TD Summer Reading Club

Sign up now at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)! Club members can participate in activities, including the Battle of the Books, meet authors, enjoy storytimes, and find the perfect book!

## 2023 McEntyre Writing Competition

Kudos to all of the participants. Read the winning stories, poems and essays at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

## Seed Lending Library

Check out vegetable, herb and flower seeds using your Library card. See the list at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

## Exhibition — My Miniature World

**Until August 31**, Library. A magical miniature world created by local artist Tamar Cohen.

## Craft — treasure box (4 yrs +)

**Friday, June 23, 4 p.m.**, Library. Registration required. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

## TDSRC StoryWalk® — Treasure

**Begins Friday, June 23** in Westmount Park. Discover *Treasure* by Mireille Messier and Irene Luxbacher. Available all summer.



## Summer Film Club

**Tuesdays, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Watch great movies on a large screen.

July 4: *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955)

July 11: *Women Talking* (2022)

July 18: *My Old School* (2022)

July 25 : *I Love You Again* (1940)

## Beekeeper Visit

**Wednesday, July 5, 1:45 p.m.**, Library Storytelling Garden. Stop by with your questions and watch the beekeeper and the bees at work.

## Art & stories (3-6 yrs)

**Wednesday, July 5, 4 p.m.**, Library Storytelling Garden. Are you curious about mythical creatures? Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)





## Westmount A-dog-tions

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Mila is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

For more information on Mila, please do not hesitate to refer to the Bri Cares Adoption group by following them on Facebook and contacting Briana at their email [bricaresadoption@gmail.com](mailto:bricaresadoption@gmail.com) to start a conversation on adoption.

International adoption for dogs in precarious situations and street existence is a great commitment. It is wonderful for our neighborhood to support by adopting a rescue. Please reach out and welcome a dog who did not have a good start in life.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

A glossy-coated Black Labrador, Mila is simply gorgeous. Her beautiful brown eyes are so soft and curious and she is a delightful three-year-old.

Mila did not have an easy start in life. Saved by a rescue organization off the streets of Lebanon, she is now in foster care for Bri Cares Adoptions with a foster brother who is from Mexico and is also looking for a home.

Miss Mila is very intelligent, enjoying interactive play with other dogs or going on long walks. She is still a bit nervous, so reassurance and consistency are a must in a new adoptive family.

A young Labrador with a lot of energy,



## 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

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He is a funny, playful kitten who enjoys watching the world go by from the windows and being brushed to enhance his beautiful coat.

Felix is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

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Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

### We welcome your letters

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



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# The Good Doctor arrives at Victoria Hall



From left, Malcolm McRae and Karen Sauder in *The Good Doctor* at Victoria Hall. On June 11.



Malcolm McRae in *The Good Doctor* at Victoria Hall on June 11.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Inappropriate speeches, stinginess, self-satisfaction and childishness were all on display at Victoria Hall recently. No, this was not emanating from the temporary by-election voting office that was set up there. It was playwright Neil Simon's creative voice.

Self-described as Westmount's community theatre, Dramatis Personae was founded by Ann Page in 1985 and has been staging productions ever since.

Traditionally, it has produced two shows a year and the latest play that they have chosen to stage is Simon's *The Good Doctor*.

It ran at Victoria Hall on June 19, 11, 14 and 15.

*The Good Doctor* consists of a series of short plays based on short stories and other works of the Russian writer Anton Chekhov, bracketed by a writer who interjects thoughts on the action, while proffering alternative endings. Sometimes, these alternative endings contort the character's narrative arc.

*The Good Doctor* premiered on Broadway at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre on November 27, 1973, and closed on May 25, 1974, after 208 performances and eight previews.

In Dramatis Personae's production,

which was directed by Victor Vasuto, an unnamed writer (suspected to represent Chekhov himself) suffers from writer's block and an artistic temperament. Vasuto chose to make the writer a woman and Karen Sauder played the part.

- Included in the rapid-pace vignettes are:
- *The Sneeze* (based on *The Death of a Government Clerk*) – A government clerk (played by Malcolm McRae) over-apologizes and has a nervous breakdown after accidentally sneezing on a general (played by Clive Brawer) during a night out at the opera;
  - *The Governess* (based on *The Nincompoop*) – A mother (played by Ellen

Rubin) tries to cheat her children's governess (played by Bruna Perussello) out of her pay but then tells her it was all just a test to see if she would stand up for herself. She doesn't;

- *Surgery* (based on the eponymous title) – A sexton (Ann Elbourne) visits a dentist (Shaine Adler) after roiling in agony over dental decay but the dentist's overzealousness combined with inexperience frightens her;
- *The Seduction* – A notorious playboy (Ian Knowles) only has eyes for a married woman (Sandra Lee) and attempts to cuckold her naïve husband (Malcolm McRae) before finding his moral compass.

The second act, which is briefer than the first, featured an entrepreneurial tramp who pretends to drown himself to make money, an actress auditioning for a play and an ill woman harassing a sick banker to extort money for her husband.

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## The Independent is everywhere!



Reader Evan Hughes sent us this photo of our May 23 edition, saying "I had a delicious meal at Bistro La Franquette last night on Victoria and thought you'd get a kick out of the newsprint plate liner for their shrimp rolls. Keeping it local!" The *Independent's* editor David Price did get a kick out of it: "Always happy to be of service."

PHOTO COURTESY OF E. HUGHES.

# xomed

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## Police Report

# Smash-and-grab burglars steal \$27,000 of gear from Arc'teryx

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A high-end Sherbrooke St. apparel retailer selling coats and other expensive outdoor gear was robbed of \$27,000 worth of merchandise in the early hours of June 15, after thieves smashed the glass front door and grabbed everything they could within a few minutes.

According to data captured by security cameras at the Arc'teryx store at 4868 Sherbrooke St. W., it was 2:48 am when two suspects pulled off the daring overnight heist.

"Two rocks were thrown through the door," said Montreal police spokesperson Cst. Mike Yigit, while adding that it was "a smash-and-grab" operation. "They broke the window, went in and grabbed jackets, then ran off," he said.

Although the store was equipped with a burglar alarm, which went off as soon as the incident started, it didn't stop the suspects, who were in and out quickly.

"The alarm went off," said Yigit. "So, when the officers arrived on the scene, they saw the broken glass." He said the officers immediately contacted the store's manager to begin an investigation as well as to arrange for the broken door to be boarded up or replaced.

It was not the first time that a luxury retailer along Sherbrooke St. between Clare-

mont and Victoria has been broken into and robbed overnight.

While the police have for years been telling merchants to remove money from their cash registers and leave the drawers open before closing to minimize temptation for burglars, they also recommend the installation of protective door and window grates to effectively stop burglars from getting in.

### Theft thwarted by witness

The early hours of June 15 were apparently a busy time for criminals in Westmount, as well as for the police mandated to catch them. Around 3:25 am, car thieves were actively targeting luxury vehicles parked on upper Westmount streets – although in one instance at least, they weren't getting their way.

According to an incident report released by Station 12 on Stanton St., two suspects made an apparent attempt to break into or steal a BMW SUV parked near the corner of Roxborough and Shorncliffe avenues on the summit

"Someone was seen around the vehicle," Yigit said, adding that the would-be perpetrator decided to run off after being spotted by a witness. He said it wasn't clear whether it was an attempt to steal the vehicle or to break in to steal the contents within.

## Wear & tear at St. Stephen's



The construction fencing and a snow barrier on the roof of the former St. Stephen's Church on Dorchester at Atwater were looking rough June 14. To the best of the *Independent's* knowledge, there has been no work on its proposed conversion to 17 residences after some digging last year (see May 16, p. SL-13, September 27, 2022, p. SL-3).

PHOTOS: MARTIN C. BARRY.

# Schweitzer donates pieces for Mt. Sinai's 50th



BY JENNIFER BALL

To celebrate 50 years of operation, the Mount Sinai Hospital received a gift to mark the occasion.

As an artist, collector, critic and curator, John Schweitzer has embraced a pluralist perspective in a career spanning over 40 years. He has a masters in fine arts from York University in Toronto and he opened the fine art Galerie John A. Schweitzer in 1984.

In this province – his studio is in Westmount – his original commissioned works are hung at the Montreal General Hospital as well as at Astral Media and Restaurant Toqué, among others.

A triptych by Schweitzer was unveiled at the Mount Sinai Hospital on 5690 Cavendish Blvd. in Côte St. Luc earlier this spring and was commissioned to mark the 50th anniversary of the institution. The plaque denoting the artist and the information about the work was installed in May.

## Commissions are different

“A commission affords me the opportunity of making a singular statement,” Schweitzer told Heather Black in the April

30, 2013 *Independent* (p. 8).

For the Mount Sinai Hospital commission, he created a triptych that is specifically to be read from left to right, where we have past, present and future. He later donated the work, as philanthropy has played an important part during his career.

Schweitzer was approached by Wendy Corn in 2020, just as COVID-19 was entering our common lexicon. Corn was CEO of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation, where she raised over \$28 million in funding and served from 2008 until 2022.

“The genesis was that she was very much interested in filling a prominent wall in the elevator atrium at the Mount Sinai Hospital here in Montreal, having of course seen or heard about the Mount Sinai, Toronto...,” Schweitzer said, where he has a prominent collage installation titled “Mt Sinai: The Primal Mountain,” that was produced on St. Armand paper using acrylics.

## Montreal's Mount Sinai

“The Mount at 50” is the title of the work here and it is an assemblage of acrylic, collage, gouache and graphite on paper.

John A. Schweitzer in front of “The Mount at 50” on May 8 at the Mount Sinai Hospital on 5690 Cavendish Blvd in Côte St. Luc.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD-MAX TREMBLAY.

The artist himself has described the work as “using a tripartite structure” to narrate “the dual history of the hospital and the foundation, alluding to a communal hive as a symbiotic nexus to the past, present and failure,” while using “collaged juxtaposition of vintage architectural plans with contemporary ephemera.”

The resulting triptych is in a neutral palette punctuated by painterly passages in blue and in gold.

Schweitzer cites the abstract expressionist Robert Motherwell as his spiritual father. Like Motherwell, accidental elements are embraced and in the case of this artwork, it is the blueprints that Schweitzer’s romantic partner of 45 years, Robert Poirier, discovered at the initial planning meeting that provided inspiration.

“He espied these rolled-up architectural plans when I met with Wendy and various members of the committee at the original meeting...”

“At that time, the theme was still in gestation, rather a nebulous notion. The plans were about to be discarded. They were meaningful because they were architectural plans of the hospital itself, which was of course dating back to over 50 years ago,” Schweitzer said.

Schweitzer works in series and the one that he has currently just completed is entitled “Sedna and other goddesses” that centres on female empowerment. It was created using acrylic, collage and pastels.

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### Art Show: Griffintown

Artist Martin Dansky invites you to an art show at the Montreal Art Center, 1844 William Street in Griffintown from 11am June 24 to July 1st. Free entrance. Check website for other details.

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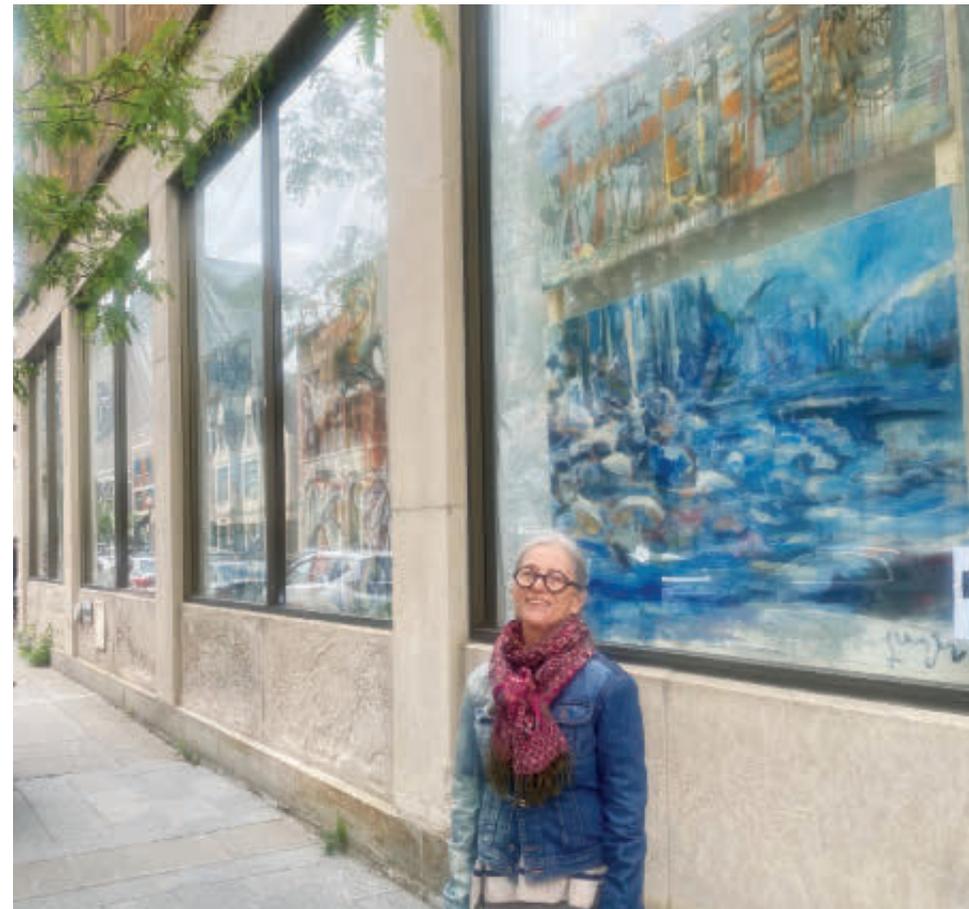
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# Quartier Greene Festival welcomes *Bruce on the Greene*



Anna Gedalof on June 9 outside 1394 Greene Ave., at Sherbrooke St., in front of “Quantum Flow,” above, and “Horse Obsession” and “Traffic Cacophonie,” right.

BY JENNIFER BALL

The Quartier Greene Festival, which ran from June 9 to 11, had artist Anna Gedalof on the threshold of the event, as she had curated a mini-exposition of the work of her late husband, the artist Bruce Roberts. The exposition was titled *Bruce on the Greene* and it featured a collection of unseen art work that captured his distinctive line and movement.

The former Lululemon store at 1394 Greene Ave. has remained empty since the sport-apparel company moved its franchise

to the Victoria village nine years ago (see August 12, 2014, p. 23). It was special, therefore, to see mustangs, bold primary colours and the chiaroscuro of a women’s naked body against the perpetual white drapery of a shuttered store.

In discussing the artwork that Gedalof chose, she said, “They have a lot of vibrancy. He was a very good artist.”

The works were all for sale and she was showing her own artwork as well. Gedalof is an accomplished painter who graduated from McGill University in English literature and then bought a one-way ticket to



France. She won an art scholarship at Université d’Aix-en-Provence, but chose Paris and La Sorbonne instead, to study art history and cinema. Upon her return to Montreal in the late 1970s, she worked in publishing to promote artists, including Roberts.

“Bruce always believed that artists should be out there in the street!” Gedalof said. “He would carry a four-foot-by-six-foot canvas through Westmount on his bicycle. Many people saw him do that. He took a lot of different subjects and he had a certain energy to his paintings.”

*For more on Roberts, see “Remembering Roberts” (September 20, 2022, p. 13).*



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*Social Notes*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Recently La rue des Femmes celebrated both the 20th anniversary of Olga House, providing shelter and care for homeless women, and the more than 20-year involvement of the Velan family, The Westmount philanthropists are the organization's founding patrons. Their commitment began in 2000 when Léonie Couture, president of La rue des Femmes, first met Karel Velan and explained the needs of homeless women.

"In 2002, Olga, Karel's life companion, honoured us with the gift of her name for our first house: Olga House."

During the celebration, Olga and Karel's son Tom Velan presented Couture with the family's annual donation as part of the More than a Roof... Healing Homelessness major fundraising campaign. The gift reaffirmed the family's support and conviction that homelessness is a condition that can be healed.

Although the founding sponsors of La Rue de la Femme, Olga and Karel Velan, have passed away, their support lives on with their children and daughters in law:

# Velan family's support of La rue des Femmes reaches 4th generation



From left, front: Emily Bekins, Léonie Couture and Katherine Velan; back: Corey Velan, Rob Velan, Dan Velan, Michelle Velan, Dana and Tom Velan, Kristina Velan, Ivan and Penny Velan.

Tom and his wife Dana Velan; Ivan and his wife Penny; and Peter and his wife Karen Velan.

And carrying on the tradition into the next generation are Olga and Karel's grandchildren Dan and Michelle; Corey, Kristina and Rob, and Katherine, as well as great grand-daughter Emily Bekins, daughter of Katherine.

La rue des Femmes, a non-profit organization, is a relational health institute

founded by Léonie Couture in 1994 and dedicated to care, research, teaching, prevention, rehabilitation and the promotion of relational health.

Every year, La rue des Femmes welcomes more than 1,500 women, providing 4,000 hours of specialized care (counselling, psychotherapy, art therapy and more), 55,821 hours of relational intervention, 107,395 meals and 22,432 overnight stays.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!**



# Shaar hosts fundraiser for Magen David Adom emergency services



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Barry Pascal, Arieh Rossdeutscher, Joseph Amzallag, ambassador Gilad Erdan, Arlene Madar Abitan and Sidney Benizri.

Westmount's Shaar Hashomoyim synagogue welcomed 450 guests to a Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA) soirée, the organization's most successful Montreal gala to date. CMDA is the sole authorized fundraising organization in Canada dedicated to supplying ambulances, medical equipment and supplies for Magen David Adom's life-saving efforts in Israel and abroad.

The event was enriched by Miami chef **Yaniv Cohen**, "The Spice Detective." Cohen created unique Israeli cocktails and *hors d'oeuvres*. One table was a luscious "still life" – adorned with sculptural artichokes, gorgeous pomegranates and super slices of watermelon. Yaniv used pomegranates in his delicious braised short-rib recipe.

Master of ceremonies **Barry Pascal** carried the evening with his deep passion for Magen David Adom (MDA) and his love of Israel and the Jewish community. He attended with his wife .....  
**Susan Libman**. Touching *continued on p. 26*



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Chef Yaniv Cohen, "The Spice Detective."



Vivian and Howard Stotland, and Merle and Bernie Stotland.



Noam Gershony.



Violinist Alexandre Da Costa.



Yan Liao, Raphael Perez, Henri Abitan and Jean-François Prince.

**Social notes, cont'd from p. 25**

images and videos set the stage for the night.

Noam Gershony, a former Israeli army helicopter pilot, was saved by MDA in 2006. After his helicopter crashed, it took him two and a half years to begin walking again. Against all odds, Noam would go on to win gold representing Israel in Paralympic tennis in London, England.

Gershony's unique story of heroism drew several standing ovations. Ambassador Gilad Erdan, Israel's permanent representative to the UN, addressed the crowd. His powerful speech stressed the importance of MDA in its role as Israel's national emergency medical services organization. Commenting on his defense of Israel in the international arena, Erdan

stressed that MDA ensures the very survival and continuity of the people of Israel.

To close the night, guests were treated to a world-class performance by virtuoso violinist Alexandre Da Costa, who performed with his 1701 Stradivarius violin and 11 musicians. From classical to rock & roll and back to a classical rendition of Israel's national anthem, it was a moving and memorable show.

Campaign chair was local res Arlene Madar Abitan, there with her husband Henri Abitan. Other guests included Vivian and Howard Stotland, Merle and Bernie Stotland, Evelyn Bloomfield-Schachter, Anita Gabbay, Yan Liao, Raphael Perez, Jean-François Prince, Arieh Rossdeutscher, Joseph Amzallag, Sidney Benizri and Samuel Moyal.

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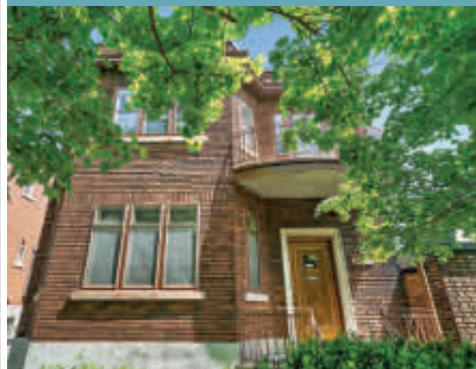
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*Homeowner Tip*

*Curb appeal and backyard landscaping can increase your home's value by up to 3%! Remove the weeds and plant some perennials!*

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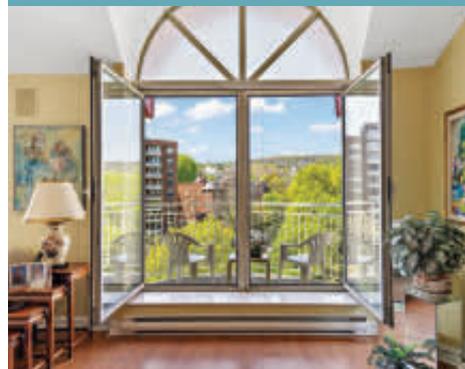
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**P.A.T.**



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