

## Tentative agreement reached to end strike of city's blue-collar workers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A tentative agreement appeared to have been reached June 29 in the strike by the city's blue-collar workers, pending a vote at a general meeting expected this week. This was reported as possibly the same day as the city council meeting July 4.

The news was announced by both the union and Mayor Christina Smith, who suggested the council would adopt a resolution at its meeting concerning the contract.

The workers were expected to remain on strike until a vote to ratify a new work contract.

"We're very pleased for the employees and the citizens," Mayor Smith told the *Independent*. "We respect the work that our blue collars do and are very pleased to be moving forward."

An agreement in principle was also

announced by Jean-Pierre Lauzon, president of local 301. The last contract expired December 31, 2019.

The workers, who belong to the Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal – CUPE local 301, have been on strike since June 22.

As a result, many department management personnel undertook some of roles of the blue collars to keep many services and activities functioning such as the pool. The city, however, cancelled celebrations for both St. Jean/Fête Nationale and Canada Day.

Statements concerning the strike were also carried on the city's website.

**This issue is the second-to-last one before our usual summer break**

**July 11: issue**

**July 18 & 25 and**

**August 1 & 8: no issues**

**August 15 until Christmas: issues**

**Coverage of June 19 city council question period, p. 20**

**Dodge takes first look at new real estate evaluation roll vs. actual prices (hint: market is lower) p. 16**

## Animals invade southwest, northeast



This rabbit, left, was spotted June 27 near Prince Albert and St. Catherine in the southwest of the city, with this wild turkey, right, being spotted the next day near The Boulevard and Belvedere.

LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY MIETKIEWICZ; RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN.

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**See p. 6**



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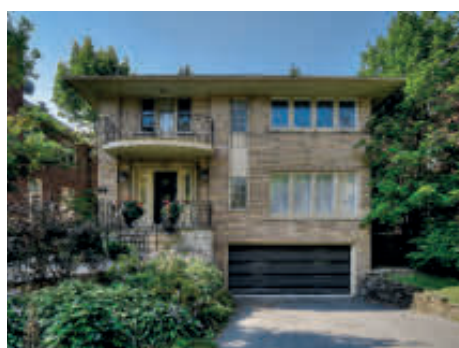
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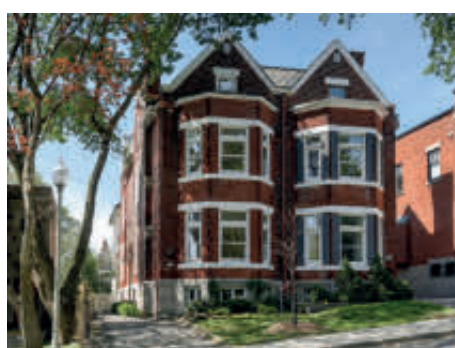
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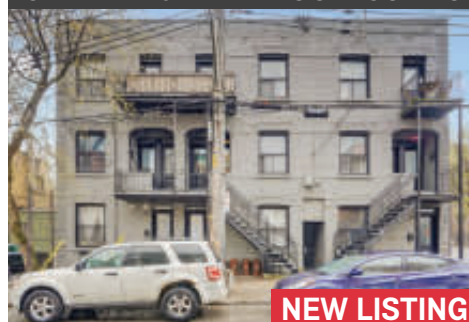
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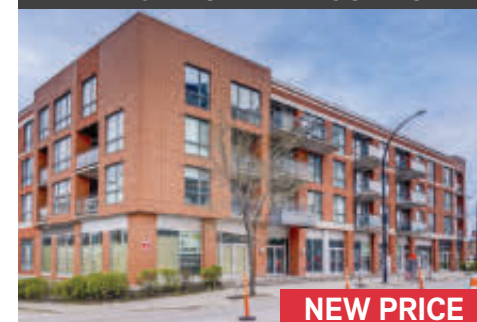
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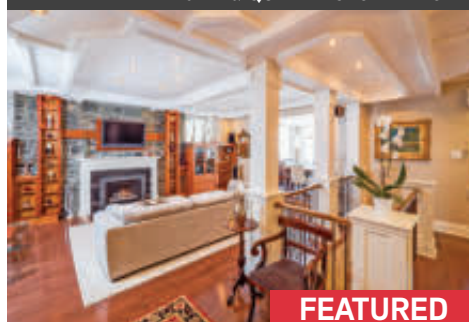
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# Signs warn against cycling in Summit Woods

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three cyclists were issued \$80 tickets recently for failing to walk their bikes through Summit Woods, Public Security officials said. The three were spotted riding on the gravel pedestrian walkway by foot patrollers.

Public Security director Greg McBain told the *Independent* in reporting the tickets that a crackdown on illegal cycling in the park has been under way along with a check of dog licences and leash violations.

"There are large, visible signs against cycling at both entrances to the gravel path," he said. "We do have a lot of complaints about cycling on this gravel section." One of these was voiced at the council meeting June 19 by John Fretz, a regular user of the nature reserve, who asked for more foot patrollers to help enforce the cycling regulations. The three recently ticketed were identified as city of Montreal residents.

## Illegally parked car hit by recycling truck

A Ricova recycling truck hit an illegally parked Hyundai Elantra in the lane behind 315 Prince Albert June 28, according to Public Security officials. The damage was extensive to the front, driver's side fender, wheel and bumper in what was described as the truck trying to pass a car that should not have been parked where it was. The car, which belonged to a resident of Laval, had to be towed. *See photo on p. 4.*

## Cyclist hit on bike path after failing to stop at sign

A 73-year-old cyclist using the bike path on de Maisonneuve was taken to the hospital June 27 after being hit by a car at the intersection of Grosvenor, Public Security officials said. The man was reported to have failed to stop at the stop sign.

Responding patrollers blocked traffic at

Roslyn and de Maisonneuve as well as at St. Catherine and Grosvenor while the man was tended to by fire department first responders before being taken to the nearby Glen hospital by Urgences Santé. No other details were available.

## Dog with lost licence tag found in park

A black-and-white dog found walking alone in Prince Albert Park June 26 was taken to a veterinarian clinic by Public Security to be identified through a microchip before being claimed by its owner, a resident of Claremont. The dog was reported to have a valid licence but the tag had been lost. The owner was told to get a replacement tag.

## Black Labs escape when door blows open

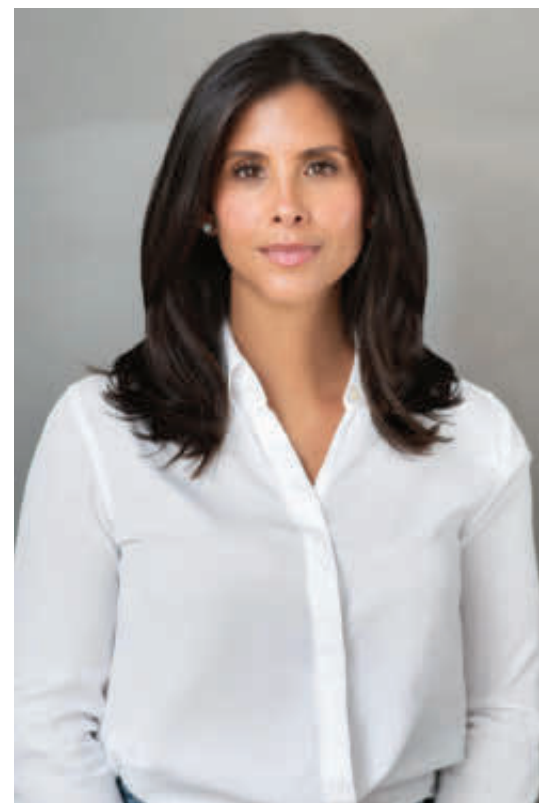
Two black Labs were found walking alone in front of Chez Nick's restaurant on Greene Ave. June 26 at 11:26 am, according to Public Security officials. The restaurant's owner offered to post information on the internet and the dog's owner, a nearby resident of Sherbrooke, came by to pick them up soon after, saying the dogs had escaped when a door blew open.

## Barefooted man assisted and taken to hospital

Public Security officials said they were called June 21 at 5:23 pm for assistance to a man walking into stores barefooted and disturbing merchants.

Responding patrollers to one of the stores asked the man to go outside to talk and described him as seeming incoherent. He was found to have an open cut on the stomach. Police and Urgences Santé were called.

The man was left in their charge and reported to have been taken to the nearby hospital at the Glen.



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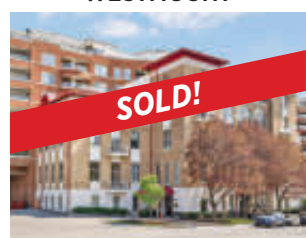
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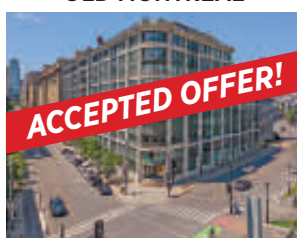
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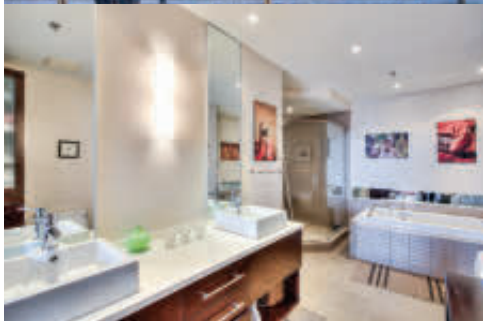
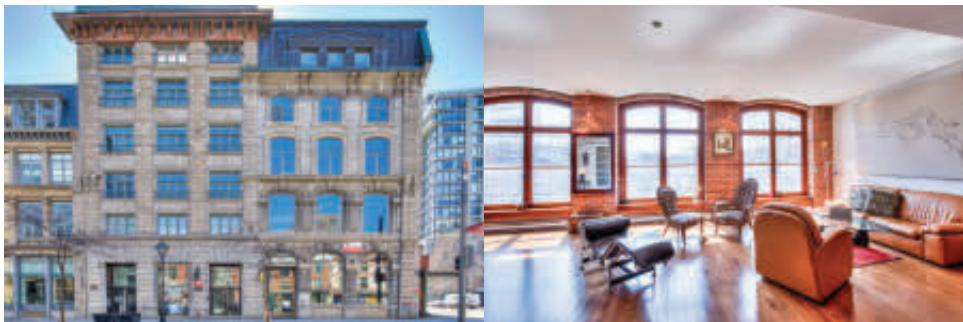
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Car hit in Victoria Ave. alley



This parked car was involved in an incident June 28 in the alley west of Victoria that leads north from de Maisonneuve. Westmount Public Security was seen talking to the driver of a refuse truck soon after. After that, two police officers arrived and were seen talking to someone who seemed to be the car's owner.

PHOTO: BETH HUDSON.



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Also coming: movies and Shakespeare in the Park

# Summer concerts kick off July 9 in Westmount Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The tent is set up in Westmount Park and ready to go for the city’s summer concert series, Shakespeare in the Park and Movies under the Stars.

“What better way to enjoy the summer



The tent on the peninsula at the Westmount Park lagoon, as seen June 30. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

weather than by attending some of these community events in the park this summer?” said Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and Community Events. “Look for the big white tent by the lagoon and come and enjoy a variety of music and performances in Westmount Park but don’t forget to bring your chair or blanket.”

The season kicks off with the Sunday concerts at 2 pm as follows:

- July 9: Chifto (flamenco fusion),
- July 16: Lynne Hanson (Americana),
- July 23: Apéro Trio (jazz),
- July 30: The PMR Ska Collective (pop, ska, R&B),
- August 6: Backwater Township (jazz).

Shakespeare in the Park is back again “after drawing huge crowds last year,” Lach said. Four performances of William Shakespeare’s *Cymbeline* are to take place, at 7 pm on Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21, as well as at 7 pm on Saturday and Sunday August 5 and 6.

Lach describes *Cymbeline* as “part fairytale, part historical fiction and part tragic-comedy including a troubled kingdom, forbidden love, betrayal, battles, deception, disguises, revelations and reunion.”

Movies under the Stars are scheduled for Thursdays at 8 pm on August 17 for *Dirty Dancing* (1987) and on August 24 for *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023).

‘Discover Victoria Village’ blitz to attract new clientele

# ‘Sundays in the Square’ to start July 9 in Vic village

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the Vic village sidewalk sale and related events were postponed from June

16-18 by rainy weather to July 21-23, something new is now also coming to the area starting July 9. It’s a series of special activities planned for Prince Albert square and called “Sundays in the Square.”

Announced last week by Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the merchants’ association, this will be accompanied by a “Discover Victoria Village” media blitz to attract new clientele to the area, she said. This outreach will be focused on a 40-mile radius using regular and social media.

“Westmounters love the shops and charm of Victoria village,” Lulham said. “Time to share this special place.”

Of the activities proposed, those listed include some originally planned to coincide with the sidewalk sale such as face painting, dog grooming, musicians and food sampling.

Next week, back to Prince Albert square

# Farmers’ market moves to alternating Greene site July 6



On June 29 at Prince Albert square, from left, Amélie and Karine of Complètement Légume, whose business card describes it as a “Ferme maraîchère biologique” (organic market farm).

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

The city’s farmers’ market organized by its Community Events division moves to its Greene site on the municipal parking lot July 6 from 2 to 6 pm. It opened for the summer June 29 at Prince Albert square, its Victoria village location. Held by Complètement Légume, the Thursday markets will alternate between the two sites.

Visitors will have an opportunity to stock up on organic vegetables and meet the farmers.

The market will be cancelled in event of bad weather, and shoppers are reminded to bring their own bags.

It was launched near the end of the summer in 2021.



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# Last remnants of Murray Park tree gone



Photo contributor JP Rohen wrote to the *Independent* June 28: “This was a favourite place for children. Also a favourite Instagram spot, a simple search by location show a lot of great pictures in that spot. It is a sad thing indeed.”

LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF JP ROHEN; RIGHT (JUNE 30): INDEPENDENT.

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## Overheard

Adult man (father?) to young girl (five? six?) as she walks into a rain puddle at Victoria and Sherbrooke June 29 4:30 pm:

“Get out of the water!”

Girl: “I am just rinsing my shoes.”

\*

Young boy to another young boy (seven and nine? brothers?) at Lansdowne and Sherbrooke June 30 at 11:15 am:

“You look like a crazy person.”

## Police Report

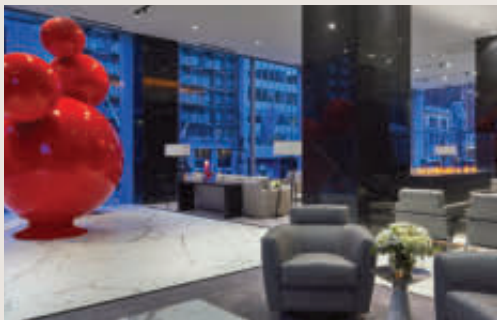
The *Independent* was unable to reach the police last week. – DP

### 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.

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# Minor exemption granted for 398 Roslyn re: building line



398 Roslyn Ave. on June 29. The view is west along Sherbrooke towards Grosvenor.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council June 19 approved a request for a minor exemption for a property at 398 Roslyn to “regularize” its position from the front property line that has existed since it was built in 1921. It does not comply under later zoning.

The request was accepted unanimously based on a recommendation from the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) at its meeting May 16. The house is at the southwest corner with Sherbrooke.

Prior to the city’s by-law regarding minor exemptions, “we would have issued letters of tolerance” for such a situation, which “was not the best practice,” said Councillor Conrad Peart, whose commissionership includes urban planning and architecture. The house is at 16.70 feet from the property line but it is deemed “ineligible” for an acquired right.

The minor exemption “aims to rectify a non-confirming situation,” Peart explained.

Mayor Christina Smith added that the

exemption would not affect the streetscape of the neighbourhood. This is one of the conditions required for granting a minor exemption. Another is that to deny a request would cause “serious prejudice” to the person requesting it.

This request is to allow the front distance of the building from the main building to be maintained at 16.70 feet.

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# Council agrees to gasoline pick-up, electric model unavailable



Two city vehicles on June 30 near Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city council contract awarded for a pick-up truck June 19 generated a lone “No” vote from Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes sustainability. The Public Works vehicle was described as a full-sized pick-up truck that uses gasoline.

Aronson explained that “unfortunately” the council ended up voting for a gasoline truck after it had asked for tenders for an electric model. No such bids were received and it was reported that no electric model was available.

He contended that the city should no longer invest in gasoline vehicles considering the phasing out of such vehicles in 2035.

The approved purchase of the gasoline model was a Joliette Ford Lincoln pick-up from Automobiles PM St-Jean at a cost including taxes of \$65,103.45. It was described as the only quote received despite being sought on Journal Constructo and Quebec’s SEAO website. The latter is an electronic tendering system presenting information on contracts.

The separate tender call for an electric

model was cancelled by council at the same meeting in the absence of bids received.

It has been stated on several occasions that the types of batteries required for Public Works and Hydro Westmount vehicles to carry heavy loads on Westmount’s hills were not yet available. Even Public Security’s hybrid patrol vehicles a few years ago experienced difficulties in this regard and were replaced.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No FIREWORKS, PLEASE

As I sit here with two dogs shaking like leaves, I am wondering about the mentality of the people setting off fireworks in Westmount Park.

Upon discussion with Public Security, whom I thank with all my heart for being on top of things so quickly, I wonder at the mindset of these people who are doing this. Public Security opined that it is students celebrating the end of the school year, however this is not the first time there have been complaints of fireworks being set off in the park.

Fireworks are illegal in the city, except for those controlled by the fireworks competitions held. So where are they coming from? How are these children getting hold of the fireworks? Where is the parental supervision? I am sorry if you disagree with this, but this is disruptive to both wild-life and domestic animals, as well as to residents in the area. To see my dogs literally shivering in terror is not something I appreciate.

I have a child, grown now. I won't say he was perfect, but he never did anything like this. In all the years I have lived here, this is the first year that I have had multiple times of fireworks being set off in the park. I have also found many empty firework casings on my morning walks.

I would ask, please, to think of the animals, both wild and domestic, as well as residents, before setting off any fireworks.

I understand that you would like to celebrate some life event, but there are many other ways of doing this, legally.

Thank you for your understanding.  
BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

THINGS TO WORK ON

One thing missing on Greene Ave. is Nick's terrace. It was a lovely place to sit and enjoy a lunch. I hope it comes back soon before the summer is gone.

Another thing: the roads in Westmount. I understand doing major repair on one street, but is there no way you can pave over the holes in the road on Côte St. Antoine. Or smooth over some of the ruts on Claremont Ave. It's in terrible condition on both sides. The Boulevard could also do with a little maintenance as well.

I love living in Westmount but driving and walking is becoming a real adventure,  
SUE KHAN, MONTROSE AVE.

LET'S HAVE MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION

At the June 19 council meeting, Mayor Smith announced the likely construction of a synthetic turf field for spring 2024 as part of a renewed partnership with Marianopolis (see June 27, p. 1). Her firm determination to move forward on this was evident in her delivery. However, she also added that she was absolutely willing to hold a public consultation.

My question is "for what purpose?" To discuss the green colour tone of the syn-

thetic field?

Two recent consultations on other proposals have both been useless in providing residents with any assurance that their concerns and ideas will be taken into account. Basically, they were charades designed to allow residents to participate in participation, nothing more.

This is what I foresee occurring during the consultation on the synthetic field. Many residents will object to the turf for obvious reasons of environmental damage such as the creation of a heat island, loss of biodiversity and the introduction of toxic PFAS (forever chemicals). These citizens would then be viewed as uninformed people at best and, at worst, a group complicit in setting children up for a lifetime of obesity and depression. Four years ago, this was the argument used by the pro-turf lobby (see November 12, 2019, p. 1). They would be lectured to and admonished for their shortsightedness.

Synthetic turf is a polarizing issue. We do not know the consensus view for or against. We don't even know the available alternatives and options.

Independent third-party facilitation will be absolutely essential to build trust and ensure acceptance by our community regardless of the final outcome. We don't need another pseudo-participation program. Let's bring back Isaac Gauthier, from Transfert Consulting, to facilitate this consultation. Four years ago, Mr. Gauthier was masterful during the Imagine Westmount 2040 public engagement process. Let's get it right.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

BREAK OUT IN PRAISE

Your Police Report (June 27, p. 19) tells us that the police have had a "break-through" with local "break-ins" and "break-and-enters." For the thieves, them's the breaks.

Good to hear that the cops have been able to break up those responsible. Time to break out a bottle and drink to their success.

Let's hope the judge doesn't break down and give those criminals a break.

ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

Correction

In "Schweitzer donates pieces for Mt. Sinai's 50th" (May 22, p. 22), artist John Schweitzer should have been quoted as follows: the tripartite structure of the installation narrates "the dual history of the hospital and the foundation, alluding to a communal hive as a symbiotic nexus to the past, present and future."

HARD TO CELEBRATE FÊTE NATIONALE

*This press release was received June 23*

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy is pointing out this year's *Fête Nationale* will be difficult to celebrate for English-speaking Quebecers in the face of the spiteful implementation of Quebec's Bill 96 and royal assent of the federal Bill C-13. Bill 96 comprises changes to the Charter of the French Language, which undermine individual rights, create two classes of English-speaking Quebecers and encourage anonymous complaints to businesses who operate in English. Bill C-13, the new Official Languages Act, includes the Charter of the French Language in three key provisions and fails to recognize Quebec English-speakers as a minority needing protection.

"The combination of these two pieces of legislation is to place our community's future in jeopardy," said Andrew Caddell, president of the Task Force. "They are an attack on each and every Quebecer whose common language is English. This is even more severe for those who most require government services in English: the elderly, rural poor, indigenous peoples, visible minorities, and people with disabilities."

Caddell added "When the name of St. Jean Baptiste Day was changed to La Fête Nationale in the 1970s, I was a reporter at the National Assembly. I remember Premier René Lévesque saying the name change would encourage Quebecers of all backgrounds to celebrate. Today, that promise seems hollow."

Quebec's English-speaking community consists of a diverse population of 1.25 million people who share institutions, values, history and culture.

We live here because we share a love for Quebec, and have worked with our fellow Quebecers for the betterment of our province. We have built bridges within Quebec and opened doors to the world. Andrew Caddell says "Our community needs to express its anger about Bill 96 and Bill C-13 to our fellow Quebecers, Canadians outside Quebec and around the world. We normally have much to celebrate as Quebecers; instead, today we are objects of discrimination."

*The Task Force on Linguistic Policy/Comité spécial sur la politique linguistique was formed in June of 2021 to fight Bill 96 and Bill C-13, the federal Official Languages Act. It boasts over a thousand subscribers and many more followers and members on social media. It is active in the community and has filed a crowd-funded lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Bill 96. Learn more at [www.TheTaskForce.ca](http://www.TheTaskForce.ca)*

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Audited statements show total \$34.9M surplus

City ends 2022 with confirmed operating \$4.9M surplus

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s audited financial statement presented at the council meeting June 19 confirmed an operating surplus from the 2022 financial year of \$4.9 million. This increased the total net accumulated surplus to \$34.9 million, of which \$23.7 million had already been appropriated by council to various projects leaving \$11.2 million unappropriated.

“As in each year, the surplus will be analyzed by council in order to determine

appropriate usage,” said Councillor Antonio D’Amico, in presenting the audited statement as finance commissioner.

The \$23.7 million in appropriated surplus, D’Amico told the *Independent*, includes \$9.3 million for debt reimbursement, \$10.6 million for pay-as-you-go (PAYG) and \$1.8 million unspent from Quebec’s COVID contribution (see table at left).

The city’s operating surplus generated in 2022 was explained as “primarily due” to unforeseen factors. These included \$2.6 million from additional welcome tax, \$1.2 million in increased interest revenues and just over \$1 million in net revenue from Hydro Westmount.

This resulted from increased commercial activity and a colder winter, he explained.

While total departmental spending of \$16.3 million exceeded the budget of \$15.6 million, lower expenditures were realized in remuneration owing in part to vacant positions and sick leaves.

As well, PAYG expenditures were \$9 million lower than budgeted. These were attributed to disruptions in supply chain,

work force, delivery delays and some projects that went out to tender that did not obtain bids.

The city’s net worth when factoring in

non-financial assets such as buildings, sewers, machinery and equipment was confirmed at \$233.8 million, an increase from \$225.6 in 2021.

April ice storm claim

Council approves \$123,390 for emergency services



This tree on de Maisonneuve near Roslyn was photographed April 6, the day after the ice storm.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

More than two months after the ice storm April 5 brought down many trees and branches and caused some homes to lose electricity, city council June 19 authorized a request for reimbursement from the Montreal agglomeration’s emergency coordination centre for those tasks that had to be contracted out. They totalled \$123,389.65 including taxes.

These resulted when the city’s internal services were already occupied and had to be carried out under emergency conditions. They are now being authorized by the council after the fact.

They were identified as the transportation of branches to a depot site by Vicolo

Excavation and Transvac, as well as emergency tree pruning and cutting by Arbo-Design, as well as chipping and disposal of branches to Hometree Inc. tree service.

Numerous falling trees and branches from heavy ice loads damaged cars, caused some power outages and kept Public Security patrollers on overtime (see photos, April 11 and separate stories April 18, p. 1, 3).

This compares with \$2.9 million (in 1998 dollars) that was reported as the total municipal cost from the January ice storm of 1998 when the city’s actual claim to Quebec for reimbursement was \$2.7 million. This included tree pruning (\$859,803), electrical repairs (\$134,210), labour overtime (\$674,270) and road cleaning (\$716,273).

Surplus appropriation at Dec. 31, 2022	
	\$
Debt reimbursement	9,276,000
PAYG	10,629,414
Actuarial deficit	1,162,000
Trees replacement	100,859
Donation received	50,000
Urban design projects	495,000
Commercial revitalization	200,024
Covid-19	1,827,056
	<b>\$23,740,353</b>
Unappropriated surplus	11,200,000*
	<b>\$34,940,353*</b>

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Social Notes  
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Once again, the Cummings Centre Foundation's Sports Celebrity Breakfast was a great success. It was the 19th edition of the foundation's signature fundraising event. The annual celebration broke records, raising over \$400,000 for seniors in crisis.

The theme of "30 years since the Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup" attracted community leaders, sports heroes and legends. It featured as "Sports Personality of the Year" former Habs captain, Habs coach and Hockey Hall of Famer **Guy Carbonneau**, attending with former teammates **Benoit Brunet** and **Vincent Damphousse**, former GM **Serge Savard**, and former president **Ronald Corey**.

Other honourees included guest of honour **Sylvan Adams**, philanthropist, businessman and community leader, who sent a special video message from Israel; **Dennis "El Presidente" Martinez**, Expos baseball legend; and **Chantal Machabée**, Larry Fredericks Media Award recipient, vp of communications for the Canadiens.

Among the sold-out crowd were the

# Sports celebrities raise \$400k for seniors in crisis



Montreal Alouettes cheerleaders surround Roslyn Wiener and Morton Minc.

Cummings Centre Foundation's **Morton Minc**, president, and **Roslyn Wiener**, immediate past co-president, and the Cummings Centre's **Gloria Steinberg**, president; **Pauline Grunberg**, executive director; **Shelley Paris**, vice-president and **Michael Beigleman**, communications supervisor.



Guy Carbonneau and Serge Savard.



Gloria Steinberg, Pauline Grunberg and Shelley Paris.



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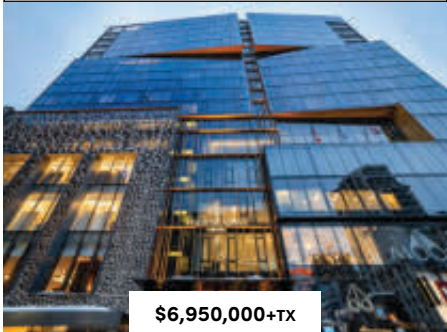


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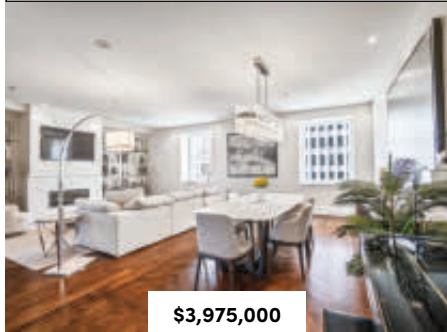
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“RITZ-CARLTON”, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

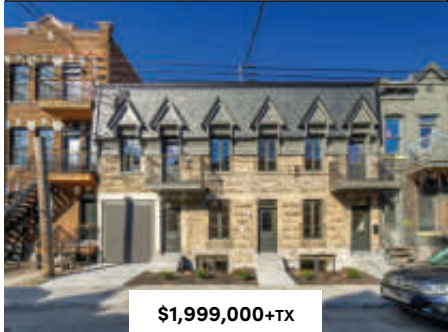
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“RITZ-CARLTON”, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

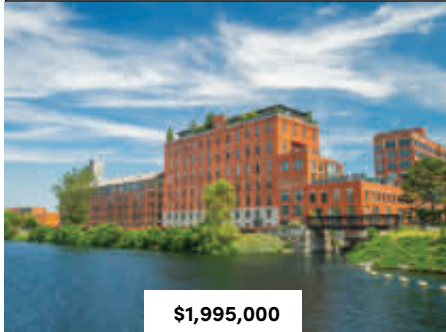
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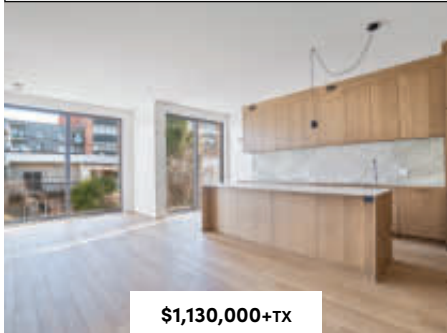
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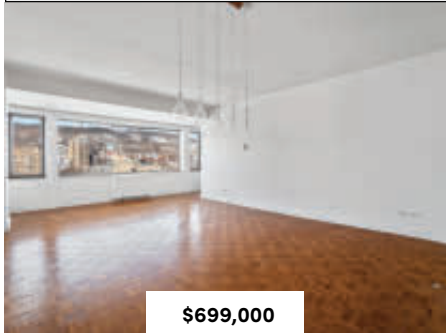
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

*Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in January, gleaned from city transfer tax lists. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.*

The start of a new year and the introduction of the 2023 valuation roll has meant an important new relationship between the sale prices and municipal tax values, with the average house price in January below the corresponding municipal evaluation. This has happened in previous Januaries, often considered a “rump month” by market analysts, including both 2020 and 2017 when new evaluations came

# January transfers: New Year, new (low) ratios

into force. This year, buyers paid out \$15,975,000 in January for seven properties – six houses and a duplex – evaluated at \$16,453,500, thus 2.9 percent less than the valuation figure, with three mark-downs and four mark-ups.

The highest of the mark-ups was the only duplex to sell in the month, at 443-45 Mount Stephen, which sold for 12 percent more than valuation, while the biggest mark-down was just four blocks away at 432 Roslyn Ave., 20 percent less than its \$3,717,900 valuation. Prices ranged from a low of \$1,250,000 at 50 Windsor Ave. to \$3,200,000 for 7 Summit Circle.

The difference, of course, is the 31-percent increase in the new (2023) municipal valuation roll, which has moved the average one- and two-family dwelling valuation

up from \$1,936,003 to \$2,545,642, the latter of which is supposed to represent the average value of the “typical” Westmount one- or two-family dwelling as of July 1, 2021.

Since then, of course, the pandemic surge that had buyers snapping up larger houses where they could have home offices, spend more time at home or otherwise change their daily routine, died off as the pandemic wound down. The result is that the average prices had not moved much at all in the year and a half since the evaluation date.

## 2 condos, one curiosity

Only two condominium sales were registered in January, both among the smallest ground-floor apartments in their respective buildings: Apt.1A at 399 Clarke Ave. sold about 2 percent above valuation,

while Apt 101 at 1 Wood Ave. went for a full 37 percent less, the biggest mark-down among January sales.

Most of the ground floor at 1 Wood (but not Apt. 101) is made up of small commercial condominiums which have access from 4055 St. Catherine St. Two of those sold in January, in two deeds, both from the same vendors to the same buyer and each for \$85,000, which is well above their municipal tax value.

One other sale registered in January involved a very small portion of Westmount land that belongs to the new 4500 Côte des Neiges Rd. apartment building, and because a second-storey apartment was purchased, the city was allowed to charge \$13.50 in transfer tax for the Westmount portion of the land, valued at \$2,700.



7 Summit Circle, highest price, \$3,200,000



50 Windsor, lowest price, \$1,250,000

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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in January 2023

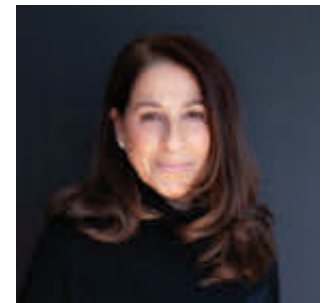
ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
432 Lansdowne	Hugh John McMillan & Joseph Paul Bruno Rodrigue	\$1,730,000	\$1,962,400	-11.8%
622 Murray Hill	Daria Denissova & Philip Stasiak	\$2,575,000	\$2,367,000	8.8%
432 Roslyn	Xuri Tang	\$2,975,000	\$3,717,900	-20.0%
7 Summit Circle	Jesse Lee Kaminski	\$3,200,000	\$3,110,500	2.9%
522 Victoria	Eric Leblanc	\$2,045,000	\$1,963,500	4.2%
50 Windsor	Patricia McLane-Davey	\$1,250,000	\$1,367,600	-8.6%
<b>DUPLEXES</b>				
443-45 Mount Stephen	Monique Gougeon	\$2,200,000	\$1,964,600	12.0%
<b>CONDOMINIUMS</b>				
399 Clarke #1A	Laura Aileen Marler	\$280,000	\$275,100	1.8%
1 Wood # 101	Louise Lespérance	\$535,000	\$849,700	-37.0%
<b>COMMERCIAL CONDOMINIUMS</b>				
1 Wood # 113	Mahmoud Sepehri & Esmat Maskani	\$85,000	\$49,600	71.4%
1 Wood # 119	Mahmoud Sepehri & Esmat Maskani	\$85,000	\$50,100	69.7%

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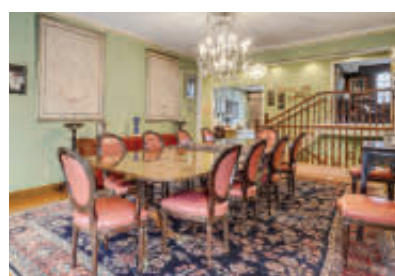
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## McKenzie launches Have you seen her



Westmounter Catherine McKenzie launched her 15th novel, *Have you seen her*, June 27 downtown at Indigo. The thriller, published by Atria, a division of Simon & Schuster, is set in California's Yosemite National Park. McKenzie is the wife of the *Independent's* editor.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Summer heat can mean naps



© Lise Gallant

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# Xolo, a new family life



## Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

mind cats.

After only a few months, he is getting pride of place at home with men and women (a bit more comfortable with women still as this was probably his primary human at the shelter). He is a shy boy, in need of nurturing and socializing on a routine, which gives him predictability and accomplishment. He is on a harness and leash during walks, and is still unsure of the new neighbourhood environment.

Xolo is adapting fast, bonding quite well, receiving and giving so much contact and affection in his foster-family home. He is now playing interactive games and joining in the dynamics of the household.

Handsome young Xolo is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. For more information on him and the Bri Cares Adoptions volunteer group, please do not hesitate to follow them on Facebook and Instagram. You can also write to Briana at their email [bri-caresadoption@gmail.com](mailto:bri-caresadoption@gmail.com) and she will get back to you promptly with more information and photographs of Xolo.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



We take the nurturance we give our dogs for granted, and that they will be chosen and placed as puppies and, unless there are difficult circumstances, will be living their best family lives in a stable home.

Xolo did not have this beginning. He was born and spent his whole life with his siblings and 60 other dogs in an animal shelter in Mexico. He was brought to our country through an international rescue group and is now in foster care for the Bri Cares Adoption volunteer group.

Xolo is a young fellow, almost three years old, a very handsome boxer mix. At the moment, he is getting to bask in a home dog's routine with a buddy from another country's international adoption project. He is used to other dogs – all sizes and ages – which is great, and doesn't

# Alan, in tailcoat tuxedo



## 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

has a laid-back personality and outgoing nature. He is a cuddly lap cat who is not shy to ask for attention or snacks. He enjoys company, as he is quite friendly with people and would bond with another cat.

Alan is three years old, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. If you would like more information on him and a peek at his foster family's photos of him, please contact the dedicated volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



## Farewell, Alice

Alice, the cat who has her image on the 9 Lives column heading at left, has died at 16. Born in a garden in Huntingdon southwest of Montreal, she soon relocated, with her brother, to St. Henri. She moved up in the world to Grosvenor, a bit north of the border, and so almost a Westmounter and then down again to NDG to a very cat-, and raccoon-, friendly neighbourhood.

For the last year, she has been in semi-retirement in Lachine, and although she never went to the waterfront, she enjoyed the many waterfowl and other birds in the air overhead and was content chasing low-flying bugs. – TS

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At city council June 19

# Questions include Summit Woods, The Blvd., website info

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A number of questions on several different subjects were asked by questioners during the two question periods at the council meeting June 19. Among them were those ranging from the city’s surplus to more summer patrolling in Summit Woods as well as website information, reconstruction of The Boulevard and the city’s partnership with Marianopolis to create a soccer field (see story June 27, p. 1).

No questions were raised concerning the ongoing strike by city blue-collar workers.

Dorothy Lipovenko, of York St., asked Mayor Christina Smith why recent postings on the city’s website failed to carry specific information on a number of items of interest to residents of District 5, where she lives. These included overnight work on the train tracks, closure of water and information meetings. “Time and again,” she said, there was missing information.

“Your feedback is noted,” Mayor Smith said, saying that a “new communications” structure was in process.

Lipovenko was followed to the mic by Janis Kraut of The Boulevard on topics about which she has written many emails to the council. She questioned the value of Westmount having its own electric utility and a need for reconstruction of The Boulevard. She likened its condition to a street in Kabul.

“You say you want to make our street safe,” Kraut said, “then it falls into a deep hole.”

### Consultation to come

The city will “embark on a re-design of The Boulevard this year,” for which there would be public consultation, the mayor explained.

“It’s a very busy road that requires a massive investment,” she added. It was one



The eastern entrance to Summit Woods on June 30.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

of other major streets for which “I have a very long list.”

Kraut then deviated from the question period process by approaching the council table, distributing printed material and speaking directly to council members with her back turned to the audience and the cameras. The mayor reacted strongly to this paper hand-out and approach, stating angrily: “You have made a serious accusation against me.”

At this point, Public Security director Greg McBain “escorted” Kraut back to her seat while John Fretz, of Lansdowne, took another turn at the mic, asking about more summer patrolling by “people in blue” in

Summit Woods, possible by summer cadets. “It gets really busy,” he said.

“I think it’s a great idea,” Mayor Smith said.

Having already asked about the city’s surpluses based on the audited financial report (see separate story, p. 12), he now

repeated his frequent call for more attention to Summit Woods and increased patrolling.

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## Maccarone supports McGill collective's initiative

# Petition asking province for tests targetting date-rape drugs falls short of goal, will likely be processed this fall

BY ALICE MYERS

COVID-19 was not the only pandemic that spread over the last three years. The Canadian Red Cross reports that rape cases, domestic violence and sexual assault saw a global spike during quarantine. Despite the estimate by the World Health Organization that one in three women have experienced sexual or intimate-partner violence in their lifetimes, the topic continues to be ignored in some people's view.

This is the sentiment of both provincial politician Jennifer Maccarone and fourth-year McGill University student Solenne Trequesser, who were involved in a recent McGill Collective for Gender Equality petition campaigning for free and accessible drug tests to tell whether or not one's drink has been spiked – an act that frequently precedes date rape or sexual assault.

Westmount-St. Louis legislator Maccarone, with whom the *Independent* spoke by

phone on June 8, explains that “the [recently deposited] petition is currently waiting for a legislative working session in the provincial government,” which will most likely occur in September or October. The politician, who notes that all her past petitions have been rejected, is doubtful about her most recent one's success, saying that approving it could make the government “look bad.”

The *Independent* spoke with Trequesser, an international development studies student, by phone on June 16. Trequesser explains that the petition was a project that took place outside of a McGill semester, so it was only signed by 425 people, a number significantly below Trequesser's goal of 700. The student notes that although the overall response to the petition was positive, it “could have been better.”

### Close to home

For Trequesser, the issue surrounding this petition “hits close to home,” as she

has seen several of her friends drugged. Her proposal is to have “free, readily available drug tests in every health establishment and university campus around the city,” for drink testing.

And this objective is not an impossible one – according to Maccarone, this project would cost around \$500,000, an “almost insignificant amount on a multibillion-dollar [provincial] budget.” The provincial government is already working on distributing 10,000 drink covers to various Montreal bars, but Maccarone points out that because most drugging these days actually happens behind the bar, this pilot project will not be so useful. Even if it were, Trequesser notes that when resources (like drink covers) are available, they are not “well advertised” or made known to the general population.

Without drug tests, gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), the primary drug used in date rape, is almost impossible to catch. Therefore, it is difficult to arrest perpetra-

tors. After being convicted, the assailant faces a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of only six months, according to the website criminalnotebook.ca. Maccarone believes that penalties need to be increased.

Another challenge is that some victims choose not to press charges against their assailant because, as both Maccarone and Trequesser emphasize, reliving such an event can be extremely traumatic, and, Maccarone says, “unworthy of such a small sentence.”

If their petition is rejected, Maccarone and Trequesser agree that the most important thing the general population can do is to spread awareness and to stop keeping this subject taboo.

With UNwomen.org estimating the global number of women having experienced sexual assault at 736 million, the petition's initiators agree that the topic should be spoken about much more without shame or stigma attached.

## Longtime resident Jacco appeals for Westmounters' help

# Expressway squatters waiting for eviction order to be executed

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled that an eviction order against some campers living under the Ville Marie Expressway must stand, the unofficial mayor of the squatters' village remained optimistic last week – while waiting for the other shoe to drop.

“They haven't given us a date yet,” said Jacco, who has lived in the encampment the longest – about 10 years – in a group of up to 20 people.

Although he acknowledged the looming ultimatum, the original date for eviction has long since passed. “We will see what happens next,” he said.

Last week, after several months of court-ordered postponements, the court ruled that an eviction order obtained by Transports Québec last November for execution in March could finally be carried out so that the provincial highways ministry can make repairs on the expressway's structure.

Intervening on the campers' behalf, a legal defence group for the poor known as the Mobile Legal Clinic had been asking for the eviction to be postponed to July 15. This was after several postponements had been granted previously on the premise that appropriate lodging would be found



Seen here on June 30, part of the squatters' encampment is filled with recyclable materials that have been accumulated over time.

for the squatters.

When asked what plans he and those remaining were making, Jacco replied, “We want to leave and are looking for ways. We are looking for help.” He is appealing

to Westmounters to lend a hand in helping to move the squatters, while also possibly storing their belongings until a permanent place for them to live is found.

## R. E. Mitchell named to Order of Canada

Westmounter Robert Edward Mitchell was made a member of the Order of Canada by Governor General Mary Simon last month for “his many decades of contributions to the field of intellectual property, both nationally and internationally.” The three levels of the recognition, in ascending order, are: member, officer and companion.

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Greene Ave. is at the junction of bus routes, the Atwater Metro station (via the Westmount Square-Alexis Nihon tunnel), the de Maisonneuve bike path and major streets like Sherbrooke, St. Catherine and Greene itself.

Victoria village is similarly sited near major streets, bus routes, the bike path and the Vendôme Metro station, as well as the Glen super-hospital.

It is hard to say what services and products aren't available in these shopping districts. Looking for general

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David Price, editor



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# Words & Deeds honours France Chrétien Desmarais, André Desmarais



The Words & Deeds Leadership Award was presented June 20 to **France Chrétien Desmarais** and **André Desmarais** by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, honouring them for their contribution to humanitarian causes.

Co-Chaired by **Claudine and Stephen Bronfman**, the dînatore was held in the oval room of the Ritz-Carlton Montreal, where leaders of the Montreal, Quebec and Canadian business, academic, not-for-profit and governmental sectors celebrated the Desmarais family.

Proceeds from the event will support the advocacy work of CIJA in Quebec and across Canada.

Attendees included CIJA Chair **Gail Adelson-Marcovitz**; committee chairs **Brenda Gewurz** and **Jonathan Goldbloom**; CIJA local chair **Martin Rosenthal**; businessman and philanthropist **Sylvan Adams**; **David Goodman**, Goodman Foundation, and representatives of the **Azrieli**



Gail Adelson-Marcovitz, Brenda Gewurz, Jonathan Goldbloom, Claudine Bronfman, France Chrétien Desmarais, André Desmarais and Stephen Bronfman.

**Foundation.**

A live performance featured **Tymisha Harris** and **Taurey Butler** from *Josephine – A Musical Cabaret*, the recent hit show at the Segal Centre celebrating the life of jazz

legend and human rights advocate **Josephine Baker**.

The Words & Deeds Leadership Award was established in 2006 by CIJA, advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada,

as a national award that recognizes leaders whose contributions to humanitarian causes, and to tolerance, inclusion and civil discourse are truly remarkable.



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## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# MUHC's Bal Rouge raises \$1.7 million



Emily Schwartzman, Matthew Schwartzman, Christine Legler and Kevin Schwartzman.



Julie Quenneville and Nadine Renaud-Tinker.

Scott Fitzgerald would have been proud.

Total Events transformed massive Windsor Station into a Great Gatsby garden of deco design for the MUHC Foundation's Le Bal Rouge gala. Guests entered by two large doors delineated by 1920s architectural elements, a theme carried out in the table settings. Sculptural lighting was shock and awe. Massive chandeliers of twinkling icicles twirled over the black-tie-clad guests.

MUHC Foundation outgoing president **Julie Quenneville**, lovely in a bouffant-skirted strapless gown, greeted guests with incoming interim president **Harris Poulis**.

The soirée honoured **Dr. Kevin Schwartzman**, director respiratory medicine MUHC and the Montreal Chest Institute (MCI) of the MUHC. The local res attended with his children **Emily Schwartzman** and **Matthew Schwartzman**, and his wife **Dr. Christine Legler**.

Also seen were the MUHC Foundation's Dream Big Campaign co-chairs **Marc Parent**, CEO of CAE; and **Jean Charest**, McCarthy Tétrault, attending with his wife

**Michelle Dionne**.

Amidst the chic crowd were **Norman Steinberg**, vice-chair BFL Canada, with **Renée Kessler**; **David Hewitt**, president, Hewitt Group; **Michael Goodman**, president Orange Phoenix Holdings; **Jane Craighead**; **Alexandre Viau**, director general Deragon; **Patrick Shea**, McCarthy Tétrault; **Anna Martini**, Psycho Bunny; **Marie Josée Lamothe**, president Tandem Int'l, and **Bryan Fitzpatrick**, director business

development, Pomerleau, Inc., there with his wife **Nancy Fitzpatrick**.

MUHC Foundation Respiratory Campaign co-chairs were **Scott Jones**, CEO Nova Steel, **Paul Beattie**, founder BT Global Growth; and **John Kaladijan**, senior portfolio manager RBC.

Gala co-chairs were **Lisa Giannone**, president/COO BFL Canada, and MUHC Foundation board members **Lucie Guillemette**, executive vp/CCO Air Canada;

**Sacha Haque**, partner Sagard; **Maria Della Posta**, president Pratt & Whitney Canada.

MUHC guests included **Peter Kruyt**, board chair, with **Claire Kruyt**; **Dr. Lucie Opatrny**, president and executive director; **Sarah Pritchard** RI-MUHC board chair; **Kheng Ly**, Briva Group and his wife **Kinh Bang**; and **Julie Snyder**.

Politicians enjoying the jazzy night were former Quebec premier ..... **Philippe Couillard**, provin- *continued on p. 26*



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Lucie Guillemette, Lisa Giannone, Sacha Haque and Maria Della Posta.



Michèle Dionne, Jean Charest, Julie Snyder and Monsef Derraji.



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

cial legislators **Monsef Derraji**, **Désirée McGraw** and **Jennifer Maccarone**, and soon to be elected MP **Anna Gainey**.

The 1920s-inspired dinner was created by **Armando Arruda**, director catering Fairmont Queen Elizabeth. The amazing four-course meal included tiger shrimp, smoked salmon, lobster Newburg and tournedos Rossini. Dessert disappeared quickly and was danced away to performances by Paul Chacra's 1945 The Banc and DJ Fafa Khan. The fun gala raised \$1.68 million for MUHC Foundation Dream Big: Breathe Easier Campaign.



A 1920s Cinderella moment.

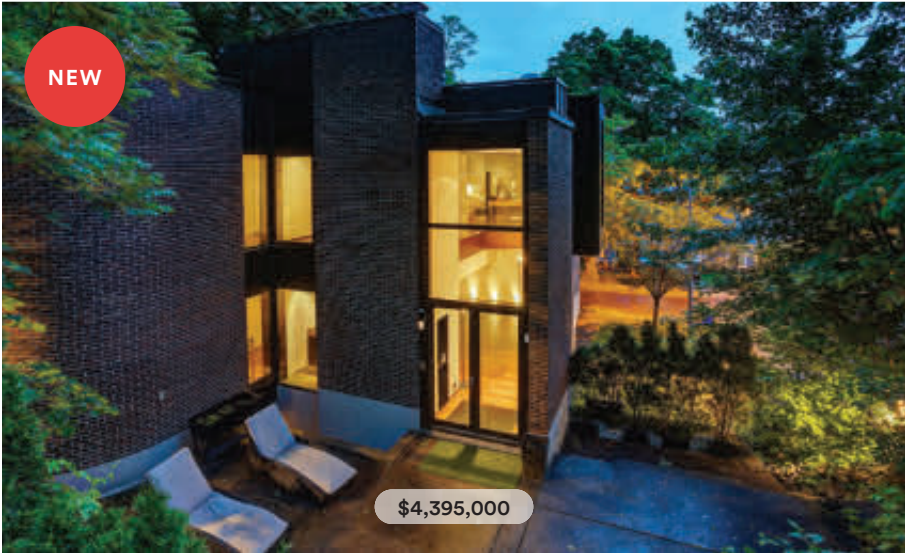




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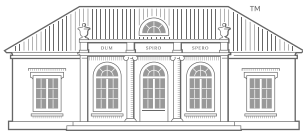
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