

As of press time (July 10, 10:30 am): Strike to go on City's blue collars vote down tentative agreement

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's blue-collar workers July 4 voted down a tentative agreement that had been announced five days earlier by both the city and the union, Mayor Christina Smith said in opening the council meeting, which was held the day of the vote.

"Unfortunately, it is with regret that I

announce a majority of Westmount blue-collar workers have voted to reject this tentative agreement," she said reading from a prepared statement. "Therefore, the ongoing unlimited strike that began on June 22 is likely to continue for an extended period and may impact some of the activities and services provided by the city."

While it's a set-back, "we're not discouraged," she said. Despite a few stumbling blocks, "We are committed to continuing negotiations in order to achieve a fair, equitable, and responsible agreement."

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Next issue: August 15

This issue is the last one before
our usual summer break

July 18 & 25 and

August 1 & 8: no issues

August 15 until Christmas: issues

**City's white collars vote for
pressure, strike – See p. 4**

Shade becomes important!



Gayle Haney and eight-year-old Célian sought shade under a tree by the lagoon in Westmount Park around noon July 6. It was 29°C, but felt like 36°C after factoring in the humidity. Haney fell in love with Célian, a White Swiss Shepherd, when she saw him as a puppy in France. The owner was selling him, but he stipulated that Célian must retain his name. Promise kept. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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'It will probably be July 26': city clerk

Date not set for register on Vic village medical offices

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The date for a register to oppose a by-law lifting restrictions on the size and number of medical offices in Victoria village had not been set, Denis Ferland, Legal Services director and city clerk, said last week, but "It will probably be July 26 (with) the public notice probably appearing July 18."

In addition to eligible voters in the six

concerned zones who would automatically be able to vote in a potential referendum, valid petitions were received from three of the 10 contiguous zones (R3-16-01, R3-27-01, R3-29-01). The number of eligible voters is not known "because we haven't yet received the electoral list from the Directeur général des élections," he said. (See also stories June 13, 2023, p. 1, 12).

continued on p. 10



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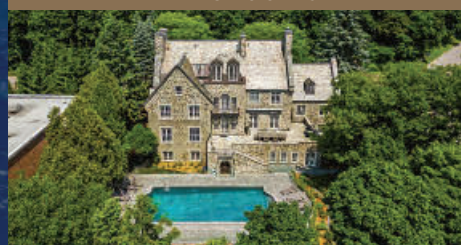
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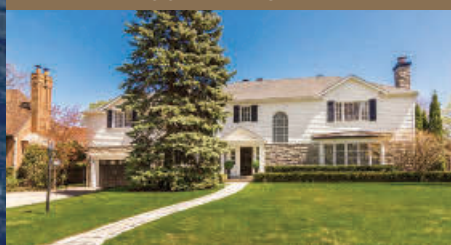
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Suspicious overnight activity spotted by Public Security

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An overnight patroller spotted a man wandering around suspiciously looking into cars July 5 at 12:50 am, Public Security officials said. When he turned onto Redfern and went onto private property, he was “engaged in communication.”

When he was spotted nearby a second time, he provided the officer with a date of birth, name and address, which was checked out with police. He was found to have a criminal record and was followed as he made his way out of Westmount while his photo was shared with other officers. He was identified as a 29-year-old living on Lionel Groulx Ave. in St. Henri. The street runs east from the Metro station of the same name.

“This was a good preventive measure by the patroller in the overnight hours,” said department director Greg McBain.

No fires permitted in Summit Woods

District 1 councillor Antonio D’Amico expressed concern last week over the remnants of a small fire found in Summit Woods, saying he hoped people would pay special attention to how these could easily

spread.

The woods, he pointed out, are a very valuable resource for residents and the prohibition of so-called campfires must be observed, just as the need for people to keep to the already designated paths and keep dogs on leash as explained by signs at the entrances to the park.

Bike riding is also prohibited, not only on the paths but on the gravelled stretch of what used to be the northern portion Summit Circle. This has been closed to traffic and now forms part of the park (see story July 4, p. 3).

Vacationers can register homes for special attention

As holiday season moves into high gear, residents are reminded of a program provided by Public Security to register their home for Special Passing Attention (SPA). While this has been available for many years, Councillor Kathleen Kez reminded the council meeting of it July 4 as commissioner of public security.

Patrolling officers verify the outside of homes to check for signs of possible attempts to gain entry, pick up material or newspapers that may have been left at the door and other preventive actions against

evidence indicating no one is home.

Residents are advised to provide Public Security with the name of a contact person as well as to arrange for someone to check out the interior for possible issues with heating/cooling systems or water problems.

Among usual items for vacationers to prepare before leaving a house are lights connected to timers and lawn mowing if the absence is over an extended period. It is also suggested to remove ladders that can be easily accessed.

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City's white-collar workers vote for pressure tactics, incl. strike

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's white-collar workers voted 88 percent July 5 to give their union a mandate to proceed with pressure tactics up to and including an unlimited general strike, according to a statement by the union representing Montreal's municipal public servants and those of 11 demerged municipalities.

This is the Syndicat des fonctionnaires municipaux de Montréal (SFMM), CUPE local 429. It states that their contract expired December 31, 2022.

Most of the city's approximately 150 white-collar workers work in administrative offices such as Finance, Sports and Recreation and the library.

"We've been negotiating relentlessly since February 20, but unfortunately, we've noted that Westmount's favourable financial situation has not translated into offers

that its employees find acceptable," the statement said.

Among a number of points, it includes "the oversight of those working remotely, wage increases during difficult economic times and the establishment of various premiums." The city, they claim "is one of the few cities that has not offered any premiums to some of its employees working atypical schedules."

The *Independent* asked Mayor Christina Smith for a comment but none was received at press time Monday.

Éliane Scofield-Lamarche, vice president of union, spoke briefly at the council meeting July 4 in advance of the vote.

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City surveys citizens on safety, mobility in city hall zone

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A survey of residents by the city as part of a study on mobility and safety around city hall was launched June 28. The zone includes four schools as well as the Public Security, fire and police stations on Stanton St.

Bounded roughly between Westmount Ave. and Montrose to the north, Sherbrooke to the south, Metcalfe to the west and Argyle to the east, congestion in this area is known to increase greatly during school drop-off and pick-up times. The relevant schools are Selwyn House, École International de Montréal, Akiva and Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's (ECS).

The survey, available on the home page of the city's website, has a deadline of September 22 and will be available online only, according to Communications director Sebastian Samuel. "It was a very soft launch and will be fully advertised near the end of August, when most people are in the city."

Among a series of questions that the survey asks of respondents are their travel

habits to, from, around and through this survey zone.

How often does this occur? When? Reason? Method used (car, foot bike, taxi, bus).

The survey comes on the heels of the council's approval May 15 of a contract to look at the study's area with a perspective that includes what potentialities might be for biking and walking, for example (see story May 23, p. 5).

Part of mobility study

The conclusions of the survey are expected to form part of this report to be submitted to the city in autumn 2023 commissioned from Intervia Group, a firm of civil engineers.

After the contract had been awarded, Councillor Kathleen Kez, commissioner of public security, said it would provide an independent assessment of how the streets conform to government requirements around school zones. This is an item that had been discussed at the city's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), she said.

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Agreement on Marianopolis campus reached between CEGEP, CND

Congrégation de Notre Dame ‘just beginning’ process of selling Villa Maria site

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A spokesperson for the Congrégation de Notre Dame (CND), which recently announced the pending sale of the Marianopolis College site as well as adjacent properties, says they are currently waiting for an authorization from the Vatican before proceeding.

In an open letter to Marianopolis officials published on the CND’s website last month, the general superior of the order, Sister Ona Bessette, announced the nuns’ intention “to leave the Villa Maria Domain within the next seven years as the task of

managing this vast domain is proving far too onerous for our community, whose average age is over 86.”

While noting that the congregation and the Marianopolis board of governors have agreed to the sale of the Marianopolis College building and grounds to the non-profit organization that manages the CEGEP, nothing was said regarding the fate of the rest of the vast property, which includes Villa Maria school, a retirement residence, an infirmary for the nuns and an administrative centre.

In a phone interview with the *Independent*, CND director of communications

Stéphanie Manseau referred to the Vatican authorization as a “different part of the process and it should not be an issue, but we have to go through the motions.”

As for the sale of the remaining portions of the congregation’s property, which is located partly in NDG and partly in Westmount, Manseau said the congregation’s members have no real idea at this point where this will lead.

“We’re just beginning the process right now,” she said.

“It was important to announce the intention to sell, so that everyone could get their bearings and get organized. I believe

we have not even hired a real estate agent yet or any of that. It was important to give the news to the sisters first, and from there we’re moving on.”

The Congrégation de Notre Dame was founded in Montreal in 1658 when the city was known as Ville Marie within the former colony of New France.

Some of the remains of the founder, Marguerite Bourgeoys, which were kept as relics for many years at the CND’s former Mother House (now Dawson College) on Sherbrooke St. in Westmount, were transferred in 2005 to the Chapelle Notre Dame de Bon Secours in Old Montreal.

Online ‘information meeting’ June 29

Sidewalk, traffic calming featured in Grosvenor re-do

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

In opening comments at the July 4 city council meeting, Councillor Conrad Peart reported on an online “public consultation meeting” held June 29 on the project to completely reconstruct Grosvenor from Westmount Ave. to The Boulevard.

While he said he would “ideally” have liked the meeting to have taken place ear-

lier (i.e. before the work had started), he singled out several main items from the presentation that included the narrowing of the street, widening of sidewalks to two meters and traffic calming measures that include bump-outs.

There is also to be a change in the configuration of the new wider sidewalks at some driveway entrances so that one half of the wider sidewalk would be flat to

reduce undulation. This would allow for easier accessibility for people pushing a stroller or having mobility issues. This design has been done in Toronto and Ottawa, he said.

Billed as an “information” session, the presentation describes the project as allowing for the reconstruction of the water main conduit, along with the replacement of all the household water service connec-

tions on public domain. It also allows for reconstruction of the underground Hydro-Westmount infrastructure.

Plans can be accessed on the Engage website accessed from the city’s home page, where the work is described as preventive action to introduce safer street design “in the context of increased collisions in school zones overall.”



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Gas leak in Vic village



A major gas leak occurred on Burton Ave. in Victoria village July 6 causing the evacuation of homes for up to two hours, according to resident Denis Biro. This photo was taken looking north on Prince Albert towards Burton.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Why is wading pool closed?

Slippery splash pad cleaned after council told of injuries



Karl and his mother (not pictured) were enjoying the Westmount Park splash pad at Sherbrooke and Melville on July 6, after the cleaning. Another boy had slipped earlier that day on some mud at the edge of the water's reach. He was not hurt.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A resident of Victoria Ave. asked city council during the question period July 4 to clean the splash pad in Westmount Park, which had become very slippery causing several children to fall and injure themselves.

"The splash pad has not been cleaned or signed [as slippery], possibly due to the strike by blue-collar workers," said Diana Anderson.

"The Public Works team will be cleaning it tomorrow morning (July 5)," Mayor Christina Smith said, adding they were attending the meeting and were aware of the concerns. The splash pad "is always slimy like that when it gets hot," she explained. Skateboarders using the pad at

night add wax to the wheels of their boards.

"In my opinion, it's not an ideal splash pad," Mayor Smith said of the installation, which was originally a sailing pond. A new splash pad was among proposals for refurbishment of the park in 2020.

At 1:30 pm on July 5, the day after the council meeting, Public Works director Robert Talarico informed the *Independent* that "the splash pad has been cleaned and re-opened."

In another question, Anderson said that "people are wanting to know, why the wading pool at King George (Murray) Park" had not opened for the second year. Mayor Smith said it was not a safe wading pool given its accesses in and out and "was on the re-design agenda for the whole park."

Back to normal at Greene rail bridge?



Tall trucks frequently hit the rail bridge over Greene below Dorchester, even when a warning boom is in place. After its first two documented cases of the warning sign working, the *Independent* – in a rare moment of (mild) editorial optimism – asked June 27 (p. 1): "Is a trend emerging?" Reader Denis Boucher pithily punctured that balloon in an email about this June 30 strike: "The trend that was not." PHOTO COURTESY OF D. BOUCHER.

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EDITORIAL

Put artificial field to a referendum

Since before this newspaper was founded in May 2007, Westmount has been considering an artificial turf field.

The arguments for and against are well known. A turf field can be used *a lot* more often and stays in much better shape than a natural one. On the other hand, artificial fields are – by definition – not natural, leading to concerns about their effect on plant and insect life, and in the creation of heat islands. Also, people question creating another space devoted to one activity and whether harmful forever chemicals will seep into the surrounding area, or even directly into users’ bodies.

It is interesting to see Mayor Christina Smith (June 27, p. 1/4) and letter writer Denis Biro (July 4, p. 10) both calling for consultation before the planned artificial turf field at Marianopolis is finalized. To disagree cordially with both of them, what good would consultation do in this case? Given the entrenched views of both sides, even the well-moderated consultation that Biro desires would not magically create consensus.

The arguments are out there and people have made up their minds, or at least have the information to do so.

City council has the power to decide this issue on its own, but no particular mandate or expertise. Given that it is a major issue (we can’t do this for every stop sign), why

not have a binding referendum on the matter?

City council could share all the details (including upfront and running costs) about the proposed field. Residents could have lots of notice and so time to make their case, in these pages and elsewhere. Nevertheless, everyone should recognize that these arguments can’t be mathematically or logically resolved. How does one compare *forecasted* children who *might* be 3.7 percent more obese (on *average*) in a Westmount without this field with some chemical that most people have never heard of *perhaps* increasing by 0.7 percent in the groundwater? Apples and oranges. (For clarity, these specific numbers are completely made up by me.)

But we do live in a democracy, so why not let the people, in their wisdom, decide? It would give the decision a final authority and take the heat off of council members so they can focus on other stuff that is more routine, technical and managerial – and less preference-based, bitter and binary.

*

The *Independent* is now on break until its August 15 issue. Enjoy the summer. Stay cool.

David Price is the editor of the Independent. He has no strong views on artificial turf.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WESTMOUNT STACKS UP WELL AGAINST OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

A few weeks ago, I noticed that the pedestrian crossing of the bike path near the gazebo in Westmount Park only had the proper signage for bicyclists going west. I called Mary Gallery, the city councillor responsible for parks *et cetera*, and within 36 hours, a sign for those going east was installed.

This is in contrast to a situation in Outremont where the lights in Outremont Park have been on all day and night for the last four months. In spite of my reporting it to them (and being thanked for it), nothing has been done.

In addition to the above, the town of Hampstead charges residents \$180 for a season pool pass for seniors (\$48 in Westmount) and \$375 for a family pass (\$120 in Westmount) and our pass includes participating in hockey *et cetera*.

Go Westmount!!!

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

FANTASTIC FIELD FOR FUTURE

It is fantastic to hear that the city council has unanimously voted to create a partnership with Marianopolis to build a synthetic turf field with organic infill (June 27, p. 1). This will allow Westmount residents and young athletes in CEGEP to pursue their athletic goals, without taking away any green space in Westmount.

After over a decade of discussion on creating a synthetic field, several years ago the Westmount Soccer Club suggested that the city partner with Marianopolis to build a synthetic field. This collaboration would allow athletic clubs to have a much-needed upgrade to their fields, without comprising access to the city’s green space.

The creation of an environmentally sustainable and safe synthetic field will not only extend our city’s athletes access to fields, but will prevent countless injuries and cancelled games due to field conditions; not to mention bring us up to date with the rest of the island of Montreal, where most communities already have synthetic fields.

More importantly, it is wonderful that we can give our community a sports facility that will provide both physical and mental health benefits and where kids can learn to work as a team, develop self-esteem and

interact socially without technology.

SUZANNE VAILLANCOURT, ARLINGTON AVE.

ARTIFICIAL FIELD AT MARIANOPOLIS POSITIVE, WELCOME

I write simply to express my heartfelt gratitude for the recent decision to build an artificial turf with lights on the Marianopolis campus (June 27, p. 1). Mayor Smith showed tremendous leadership and the council recognized the value and practical nature of this hybrid solution by voting unanimously for it.

The investment in this modern sports facility will undoubtedly have a positive and lasting impact on our community, particularly our children and their sporting endeavors.

Sports play a crucial role in the development of our children: fostering teamwork, discipline and a healthy lifestyle, both mental and physical. In Westmount alone, well over 1,000 kids play soccer every year and in recent years, the field conditions and the lack of proper lighting led to cancelled games, injuries and the loss of players to other municipalities. The status quo was simply unacceptable. The introduction of an artificial turf will provide a safe and accessible playing surface that can withstand heavy use and diverse weather conditions. This means that our young athletes will have more opportunities to engage in physical activities and pursue their passion for sports throughout the year.

Once again, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Westmount city council for prioritizing the well-being of our youth and the overall development of our community. This decision will undoubtedly have a far-reaching and positive impact for years to come.

Thank you for your commitment to creating a vibrant and active environment for our residents and let’s build something that will make our children proud to play in Westmount!

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN GRISÉ, COLUMBIA AVE.

CONGRATS TO MAYOR, COUNCIL ON TURF FIELD

I read with great interest your article of June 27 (p. 1), announcing a new turf field at Marianopolis. This is fabulous news for the city and its residents.

It is curiously difficult to advance as a community, noting the travails of establishing the Westmount recreation centre. Even obviously positive improvements don’t achieve 100 percent or even 90 percent support. I attended the public hearings at that

continued on p. 10

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Blue collars, cont'd from p. 1

While both sides had returned to the negotiating table July 6, no breakthrough appeared imminent by press time July 10 and the start of the *Independent's* summer break until its August 15 issue.

The city's blue-collar workers – some 125 in total – belong to the Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal, CUPE local 301. They have been without a contract since December 31, 2019.

Many of the city's services that impact residents such as the regular pick-up of garbage, recycling and kitchen compost are done by contractors. Others, however, such

as operation of the pool and the Zamboni for hockey, are being maintained by management staff on a week-by-week basis.

Medical offices, cont'd from p. 1

The concerned zones along Sherbrooke from Claremont to Grosvenor and down Victoria are C5-20-01, C5-20-02, C5-20-03, C5-20-04, C5-20-05, and C17-20-06.

The Independent's editor lives in a contiguous zone, opposes the by-law change, signed the petition for his area and solicited signatures from his neighbours.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

..... time and was surprised
continued from p. 8 by the things that people came up with to be against improvement of sports infrastructure. It was especially odd to me as that project was promoting health and community, and betterment of an aging and decaying piece of existing infrastructure.

As a parent who has been to many of the island's turf fields to watch my kids' soccer and rugby games, I was always frustrated that Westmount with its relatively sound financial situation would be the last part of the island to get a turf field. Sure, it's not actual photosynthesizing grass, but there are so many advantages, including longer playing seasons and better field conditions, that it seemed so obvious. Yet so hard to make happen in reality!

Situated, as Westmount is, in one of the world's most livable nations, in such a special province, and benefitting from one of the world's best cities around us, Westmount has a case to be the best place to live in the world. But to achieve that together we need to advance and take action on some things that don't have unanimous support. Congrats to the mayor and council, and indeed the citizens who shared perspectives on the project, for making this happen.

JEREMY JONAS, KENSINGTON AVE.

**WESTMOUNT HYDRO
MAKES US POWER SECURE**

It is hard not to reply to Janis Kraut's lengthy letter (June 27, p. 8) in which she attacks Westmount Hydro. I think she is the same person who was against the flower conservatory next to Victoria Hall, which so many residents enjoy today.*

But attacking the Westmount Hydro is something else again, especially when one sees what happened during the ice storm as so many people in Montreal lost their power for over a week. Westmount had disruptions but they were short in compari-

son. Recently during the heat wave, power was going out in NDG and other parts of Montreal, but we in Westmount were power secure. It is at times like this I give thanks to Westmount Hydro.

She claims we are keeping it going for "nostalgia" reasons. Nothing could be further from the truth. We want Westmount Hydro to continue so we as citizens are not left in the dark during heat waves and ice storms, which will become more frequent in the future.

GRAHAM WRIGHT, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.
*Editor's note: Yes, it is the same person. See October 18, 2022, p. 6. – DP.

NO 'SPLAT PADS,' PLEASE

The Westmount Park splash pad was noted on the Everything Westmount Facebook page to be slippery, which I noticed too when my toddler and I almost slipped using it. As it turns out, based on comments to the online post, at least several children have fallen due to the slippery surface, which requires periodic cleaning.

This is a dangerous set-up and could lead to major injuries that are most certainly preventable. Both the Westmount Park and Murray Hill Park wading pools were not designed as splash pads, and therefore may not be safe to be used in this way, as current events demonstrate.

I propose that the city makes it a priority to renovate them to modern-day material standards to ensure safety and make them more fun (let's face it – many other splash pads around Montreal are colourful, have necessary shade canopies and interactive elements).

Keeping cool with climate change bringing us hotter days is a public health initiative that should be of high priority. Also, everyone can use a splash pad to cool off, no matter their age or ability!

We just don't want our "splash pads" to become "splat pads"!

DIANA ANDERSON, VICTORIA AVE.



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infoWESTMOUNT

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Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 17 juillet

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, July 17



Retour du kiosque du fermier hebdomadaire

Le kiosque de la ferme Complètement Légume aura lieu tous les jeudis de 14 h à 18 h en alternance au Square Prince-Albert et dans le stationnement public sur l'av. Greene. westmount.org



The weekly farmer's stand returns to Westmount

The Complètement Légume farm stand will take place every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., alternating between Prince Albert Square and the Greene Ave. public parking lot. westmount.org

Cours de loisirs gratuits au parc

D'ici le 24 août, le Service des sports et loisirs vous offre des cours de conditionnement physique, yoga, tai-chi et plus les mardis et les jeudis de 10 h à 11 h au parc Westmount. Consultez l'horaire à 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.

Vous venez d'emménager à Westmount?

Bienvenue à la communauté ! Visitez notre page web pour nouveaux résidents à westmount.org.

Activités de sports et de loisirs

Inscrivez-vous maintenant ! westmount.org.

Free leisure classes in the park

From now until August 24, the Sports & Recreation Department is offering fitness, yoga, tai chi, and other classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. in Westmount Park. Consult the schedule at 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.

New to Westmount?

Welcome to the community! Check out our web page for new residents at westmount.org.

Sports and recreation activities

Sign up now! westmount.org.

Travaux sur Sherbrooke O. entre Décarie et Claremont à partir du 10 juillet

La Ville de Montréal effectuera des travaux d'asphaltage sur la rue Shebrooke O. pour une durée d'environ 3 semaines à partir du 10 juillet. Des entraves de circulation sont à prévoir.

Work on Sherbrooke O. between Décarie and Claremont beginning July 10

The Ville de Montreal will carry out paving work on Rue Sherbrooke O. for about 3 weeks starting July 10. Expect traffic congestion.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Club de lecture d'été TD 2023

Inscris-toi à westlib.org pour participer à des rencontres d'auteurs, des histoires et plus !

Bibliothèque de semences

Empruntez des semences de fleurs, fines herbes et légumes avec votre carte de Bibliothèque.

TDSRC StoryWalk® — Trésor

Tout l'été au parc Westmount. Découvrez Trésor des auteures Mireille Messier et Irene Luxbacher.

Exposition — Mon monde miniature

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

Ciné-club d'été

Les mardis, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Regardez des grands films sur un grand écran.
18 juillet : *My Old School* (2022)
25 juillet : *I Love You Again* (1940)

Série concerts d'été

Les dimanches, 14 h, parc Westmount. Apportez votre chaise ou couverture. Annulé en cas de pluie.
16 juillet : Lynne Hanson
23 juillet : Apéro Trio
30 juillet : PMR Ska Collective
6 août : Backwater Township

Exposition d'été de groupe

Du 13 juillet au 19 août, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Vernissage le 12 juillet à 18 h. Bienvenue à tous.

Shakespeare-in-the-Park : Cymbeline

20 et 21 juillet; 5 et 6 août, 19 h, parc Westmount. repercussiontheatre.com

Film dans le parc — Dirty Dancing

17 août, 20 h, parc Westmount. En anglais.

Film sous les étoiles

24 août, 20 h, parc Westmount. *Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). En anglais.

Visite de l'apiculteur

Mercredi 26 juillet, 13 h 45, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

2023 TD Summer Reading Club

Sign up at westlib.org to participate in author events, storytimes, and more!

Seed Lending Library

Borrow vegetable, herb and flower seeds using your Library card.



TDSRC StoryWalk® — Treasure

All summer in Westmount Park. Discover *Treasure* by Mireille Messier and Irene Luxbacher.

Exhibition — My Miniature World

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

Summer Film Club

Tuesdays, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Watch great movies on a large screen.
July 18: *My Old School* (2022)
July 25: *I Love You Again* (1940)

Summer concert series

Sundays, 2 p.m., Westmount Park. Bring a chair or blanket. Cancelled if rain.
July 16: Lynne Hanson
July 23: Apéro Trio
July 30: PMR Ska Collective
August 6: Backwater Township

Summer Group Exhibition

July 13 to August 19, Gallery at Victoria Hall. Vernissage July 12 at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Shakespeare-in-the-Park: Cymbeline

July 20 & 21; August 5 & 6, 7 p.m., Westmount Park. repercussiontheatre.com

Movie in the Park — Dirty Dancing

August 17, 8 p.m., Westmount Park.

Movie Under the Stars

August 24, 8 p.m., Westmount Park.

Beekeeper Visit

Wednesday, July 26, 1:45 p.m., Library Storytelling Garden.

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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Gentle Oz

A gentle soul and a friend to all, handsome Oz is doing well in foster care for the volunteer rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. He is a gentleman with his canine foster siblings and carries himself well with dogs he meets on his walks.

He came from a family environment where there were older children and two cats, so he is used to their company. Oz is an adorable little Morkie, with great energy and curiosity. A happy companion who enjoys cuddles, he is ready to fall into step with activities in his foster household, including walks and car rides.

Oz is a healthy and curious 14-year-old whose demeanor belies his age, as he is more of a middle-aged buddy than a senior.

He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is becoming hard of hearing, yet compensates surprisingly well with his other senses, so his daily routine is not affected.

For more information on Oz, please do not hesitate to send an email to the volunteers at info@gerdysrescue.org and refer to their website at www.gerdysrescue.org. Oz is a great little fellow, with a wonderful personality.

This is his time to become a character loved by all in our neighbourhood!

Your neighbour,

Lysanne

Mama Kala needs rescuing too



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Kala was the adorable rescue mother cat whom I featured with her kittens Love and Joy a few weeks ago. She was being fed off a shed built on the outdoor balcony of a third-floor walk-up.

Her kittens were adopted by my dear friend who accompanied us on the rescue. Those two wee girls went into a carrier and were fostered in what is now their forever home.

Kala has now been in her own foster home for a few weeks, gaining strength and attending the pictured second veterinary visit to catch up on her basic inoculation and treatment program. Here she is, a lovely beauty, having just been lifted from the scale and glancing at the kind veterinarian who is giving her a booster shot.

She is a very healthy 18 months old, will be spayed soon, and is basically ready for adoption in a loving home.

If you would like more information on beautiful Kala, please email me at lys-fow@gmail.com or call me at 514.909.7186. I will be pleased to share more information

and send you additional photographs.

Kala is a survivor. She had her litter of two outside, while occasionally taking refuge in the shed. She deserves the very best. Let's give her a wonderful future in a nurturing family.

Your neighbour,

Lysanne



Police Report

Police report four more car thefts, but no break-ins

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Car thieves targeting high-end vehicles continued to plague Westmount in recent weeks, with four thefts recorded by police between June 30 and July 6.

Out of the four vehicles stolen, three were luxury models.

During the early morning hours of June 30, a compact Toyota Prius hybrid electric was stolen from a parking spot on Lansdowne Ave.

Then on July 3, again in the middle of the night, a Lexus SUV was stolen on Prince Albert Ave.

On that same date during the early morning hours, a Range Rover was stolen on Gordon Crescent near the summit.

Finally, under the cover of darkness early on July 6, a GMC Yukon was stolen on Roslyn Ave.

While car thieves have been on a spree in many parts of the Montreal region since the beginning of the year, Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit noted that they've been targeting small

trucks and sports utility vehicles in particular.

As part of the current pattern, the perpetrators have committed all their recent car thefts in Westmount in the middle of the night. "The scenario is that the owner parks the car, then wakes up in the morning and it's gone," said Yigit.

Although the Montreal police and other law enforcement authorities are coordinating efforts to counter the surge, Cst. Yigit said he wasn't free to talk in detail about the operations.

"That I can't discuss because it's an ongoing investigation," he said. However, he acknowledged that the Montreal police has assigned undercover police officers to shadow "targets."

"Sometimes we get information this way and sometimes we have police officers who will stake out a location," said Yigit.

No break-ins

On a more upbeat note, Cst. Yigit said there have been no household break-ins or burglaries in Westmount since the recent

arrests of several suspects believed to have been responsible for those incidents.

Vacation advice

With the summer vacation period about to begin, he offered the following advice to home owners.

"When you do leave, perhaps advise the neighbours, make sure they have contact

numbers that are up to date."

He said special attention should be paid to ensure that garage doors, which sometimes are forgotten, get properly locked.

As well, it would be wise to check around the property to make sure items such as ladders haven't inadvertently been left where they could be found and used by intruders.

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Retail Review
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Greene Ave. is growing. The 100-year-old building on the southeast corner with St. Catherine, a former bank that was once the location of Henrietta Antony antiques, has a new tenant. Brothers Darren and Clifford Naimer have just launched Déca. The three-floor shop features gorgeous lighting, decorative architectural hardware and fabulous furniture. Helpful trained professionals Jean-Jacques Cricoveanu, Anne Seccia and Charles Seraiocco guide shoppers through the elegant collections. Déca, 4192 St. Catherine St. (corner Greene)
Monday to Friday: 10 am to 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Decaltg.com

Mexican steak, Colombian masks

Montreal is renowned as a foodie city and has been covered with accolades by *The New York Times* (among many others). And Westmount offers delicious choices. The latest is Hogar Steak House, “a steak house with a Mexican twist.” It opened “just in time for Grand Prix,” explained



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Henrietta Antony site in use again for home décor

Sebastian Torres, co-owner with his brother Santiago Torres, the super chef. “Hogar means ‘home.’ Not ‘house’ but ‘home’... there’s a difference.” Smack in the centre of Westmounters’ fave food destinations, the restaurant is opposite Westmount Square on St. Catherine. Not only is the food fabulous, the décor is fun: hand-made Colombian masks share walls with art.
HOGAR STEAK HOUSE
4124 St. Catherine St. (east of Greene)
Lunch: Wednesday to Friday
Dinner: Wednesday to Saturday
Sunday brunch
Hogarsteakhouse.com
514.504.4124

More eyewear options

“The better to see you with my dear.” Famed words from a story about a red riding hood. Now a new chic choice of glasses is in our ‘hood. Optical Center is our newest neighbour, offering eye exams and “our in-house creations at great prices,” said Mathilde Leconte, manager. They also carry on-trend couture lines. Go now. Glasses are 50 percent off and sunglasses are 30 percent off; on sale for just a few more weeks. The store also offers hearing exams, as well as prescribed hearing aids. The Westmount location is the 10th store in Montreal.
OPTICAL CENTER
5008 Sherbrooke St. (west of Claremont)
514.379.0400

Optical-center.com
Monday to Friday: 10 to 7 pm
Saturday: 10 to 5 pm

Décor on a budget, in a book

For those Westmounters who have downsized and perhaps ponder over a smaller kitchen, your queries are answered: in style. A new neighbour, just arrived from New York, Sophie Donelson, former editor in chief at *House Beautiful*, has published *Uncommon Kitchens*. A speaker and author – this is her second design book – renowned and sought after for her style, Sophie spills her secrets for décor on a budget. She offers killer advice for renters and renovators. Pick up your new kitchen at Amazon.

‘We need our lanes done’: Cllr. Kez

Council approves work on Clandeboye-Weredale lane

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents south of Dorchester who have been requesting work on various laneways in the area will soon find one getting particular attention. This is with work described in a city council resolution June 19 as “the reconstruction of the alley” between Weredale Park and Clandeboye. Ventec Construction was awarded the contract for the work at a maximum amount of \$397,323. This was listed as the lowest of three bids, with the highest being \$630,040. “This has long been awaited,” said Mayor Christina Smith after the motion was moved by Councillor Conrad Peart, whose commissionership includes infrastructure, and seconded by District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez, who said, “I’m just happy it’s getting done.” After the meeting, Kez said: “I’ve pushed very hard to get our lanes fixed, so this



Looking south down the Clandeboye/Weredale alley on July 10.
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

is a start. Definitely. We need our lanes done.” The state of the lanes in her district was one of the planks in her election and re-election platforms.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

No one could be accused of speeding to get to Place des Arts for the Temple Gala. On the contrary. It took almost one hour to drive there from Westmount's Wood Ave.

(Even perky bright construction cones were bilious about the blockage: they wore Pepto-Bismol pink stripes!)

But everyone agreed: Temple Together, the fundraising eve for Temple Emau-El-Beth-Sholom, was fabulous. The cocktail-dinatoire at Espace Place des Arts featured mouth-watering smoked salmon and sushi (Wolfe Montcalm Catering), paired with Prosecco and wines.

The delicious moment also starred homemade delights: brownies (the best!) and cookies made by Temple member **Janice Weiss** and Temple in-house caterer

Temple Gala honours the late Bruce Kent



The committee.

Maria. Then guests went next door to the OSM Maison Symphonique to hear Mahler's famous 3rd Symphony performed magnificently by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

Guests included incoming Temple president **David Moll**, Rabbi **Lisa Grus-**

chow and her wife **Shelley Gruschow**, and **Joëlle Kent**. The evening was held "in loving memory of Bruce Kent," Joëlle's late husband.

Patrons were **Marci and Brian Bronfman**, **Penny and Gordon Echenberg**, **Fasken**, the **Samuels family**, **Nancy Cummings-Gold** and Senator **Marc Gold**, **Lillian Vineberg Goodman** and **Morris Goodman**, **Amy and Michael Kornik**, **Jewel and Paul Lowenstein**, **Bunny Berke** and **Larry Lusko**, **Betty and Michael Prupas**, **Julia and Stephen Reitman**, **Lillian and Bryant Shiller**, **Nancy Maklan** and **Martin Smith**,

and **Susan and Jonathan Wener**.

Guests noted included **Betsy Pomerantz** and **Sam Berliner**, **Madonna** and **Jean-Claude Levy**, **Louise** and **Michael Taub**, **Betty Goldwarg**, **Denise Grossman**, **Pnina** and **Marcel Pinchevsky**, **Valeria Rosenbloom**, **Stephen Rotman**, **Sandy and David Martz**, and **Neil Wiener**, immediate past president Temple board of trustees, attending with his wife **Sylvi Plante**.

Annie Boisclair, director philanthropic development OSM, mingled with Temple guests.

Committee members continued on p. 16



Janice Greenberg and Joëlle Kent.

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Neil Wiener, Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, David Moll, Marcel & Pnina Pinchevsky, Jewel Lowenstein, Sam Berliner and Betsy Pomerantz.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 15
were Leslie Alcorn, Felicity Blatt, Nancy Cummings-Gold, Penny Echenberg, France Ellyson, Uline Glenna, Marilyn Green, Susan Greenberg, Marcy Kastner, Joëlle Kent, Amy Kornik, Susan Levine, Jewel Lowenstein, Nancy Maklan, Sandy Martz, Lillian Mauer, Martha Oppenheim, Julia Reitman, Risa Scherzer, Lillian Shiller, Nancy Strohl, Risa Szalpeter and Lillian Vineberg.
Shoes ranged from sparkle-studded trainers to red-soled high heels. The “it” dress – frocks with florals à la Gucci – was worn by many. Others were chic in spring’s other trend: the pant suit.



Vivian Silver, Rabbi Lillian Kowalski, Marilyn Green, Nancy Strohl, Jean Claude & Madonna Levy.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Chez Doris: ‘Gimme Shelter – Day and Night’



Satinder and Bash Shetty, Carole Croteau, Marina Boulos-Winton and Sonali Karnick.

Chez Doris recently hosted its second annual benefit “Gimme Shelter – Day and Night” at Le Salon Richmond.

The cocktail was co-chaired by **Elizabeth Wirth**, chair Wirth Rail, and **Jacques Maurice**, senior wealth advisor at the Jacques Maurice Group, Scotia Wealth Management, the major sponsor.

The evening was held in honour of **Bash Shetty**, whose recent donation to Chez Doris was leveraged to obtain a Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation grant from the city of Montreal in order to purchase and renovate a permanent residence on St. André St. This will be the first of three residences to be launched by Chez Doris.

Shetty attended the event with his wife, **Satinder**. The magical Indian theme was brought to life with music, captivating performances, and a line-up delectable buffet.

Colourful cushions, carpets and tropical plants added a vibrant touch to the ambience. **Sonali Karnick**, the host of *All in a Weekend* on CBC Radio One and *Our Montreal* on CBC TV, skillfully served as MC.

During the event, **Marina Boulos-Winton**, executive director of Chez Doris, and **Carole Croteau**, board president, poignantly emphasized the critical need for sup-

port for homeless women.

Guests were dressed for summer, with outfits ranging from midi-length prints to mini-short frocks. The dominant trend for

shoes was sneakers, although a few stalwart stilettos stood out proudly.

Notable figures in the packed room included *continued on p. 18*



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Marina Boulos-Winton, Elizabeth Wirth, Mila and Brian Mulroney.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 17

Mila and Brian Mulroney, Pascale Bourbeau, Patrick Corrigan (general director of the Opera de Montreal), Jennifer Maccarone (provincial legislator), Alexandre Da Costa (conductor/violinist), Tim Ricketts, Mo Abdulai, Diane and Jamie Heward, Linda Smith, Lillian Simpson, Jason Tsadilas, Véronique Arsenault, Karina Sieres,

Christina Lazarova, Tom Ireland and Robert Poirier, who accessorized with Chanel's renowned camellia pin from his new boutique. Instead of the ubiquitous "loot bag," guests departed with a "Merci" gift – a lovely potted plant.



Véronique Arsenault, Karina Sieres and Christina Lazarova.



Jason Tsadilas, Mo Abdulai and Tim Ricketts.

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Pascale Bourbeau and Jacques Maurice.



Diane and Jamie Heward.



Linda Smith and Robert Poirier.

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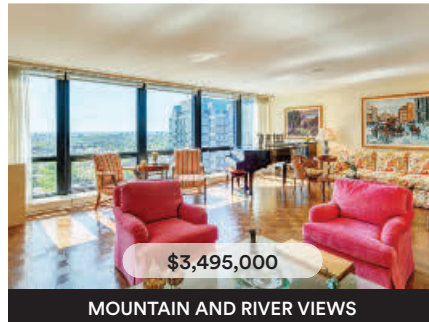
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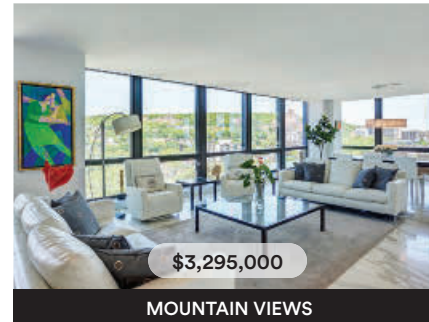
Enjoy your summer holidays!



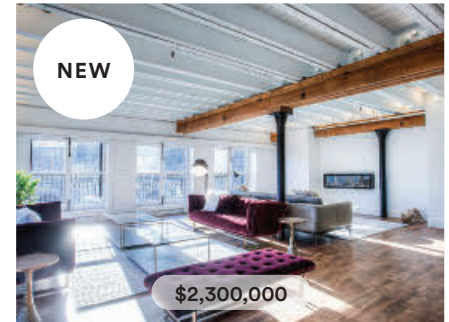
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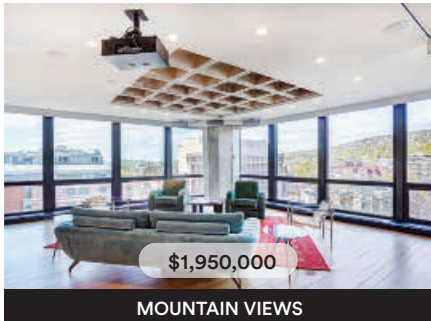
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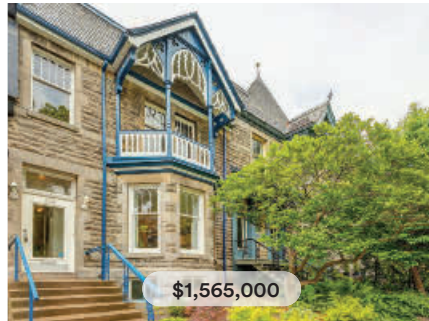
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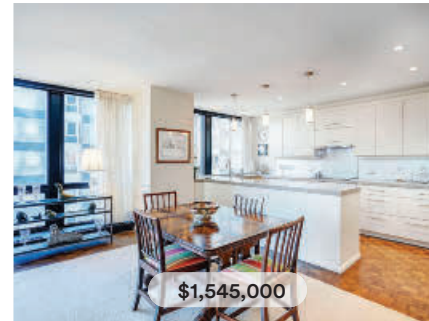
Old Montreal
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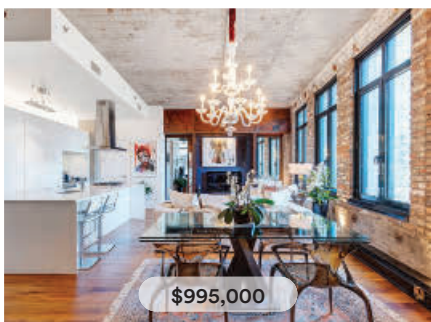
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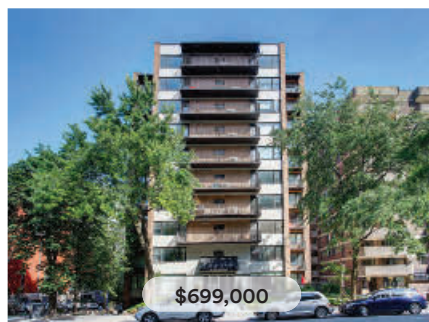
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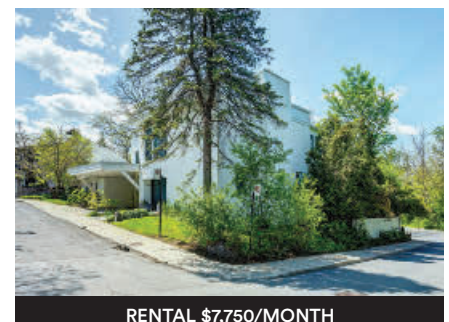
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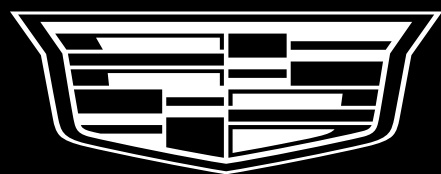
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