

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 17 No. 8ab

We are Westmount

August 15, 2023

Westmount Soccer Club wins first tournament



The Westmount Soccer Club's U11 team on August 6 in TMR. Top left: coach Alejandro Cardot; second row: Cristobal Cardot, David Patriquin, Lucas Simon-Padilla, Noah Richards, Yanis Bensouda, Jules Parnet, Henry Hunter and Teo Parnet; first row: Samir Alrefai, Felix Christou, Campbell Bailey, Leonardo Rojo de la Vega, Justin Stamos, Liam BeauLieu and William Ghattas. See story on p. 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEJANDRA RODRIGUEZ.

Temple marches in Pride Parade



A contingent of approximately 30 congregants from Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, located at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Wood Ave., marched in Montreal's Pride Parade on August 13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY DAVIS/TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM.

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Workers back to work August 9 City's 'blue collars' vote 90% to end 7-week strike

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

"The strike is over."

With these words, August 9, Mayor Christina Smith announced the ending of the blue-collar workers' strike shortly after 90 percent voted earlier in the day to approve an agreement in principle.

The workers, who belong to the Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal

(CUPE) – local 301, were back at work the next day.

The new collective agreement is for seven years from January 1, 2020, and is to be finalized "over the next few weeks." Following this, the city will have 60 days to pay retroactive amounts.

In a statement July 27 on the city's website, Mayor Smith said that the city's offer to the *continued on p. 4*



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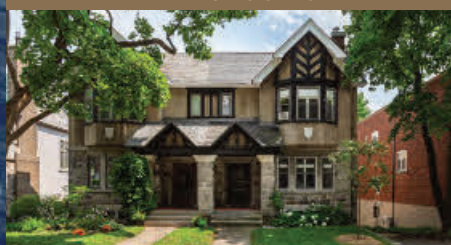
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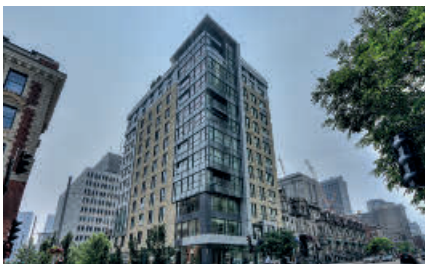


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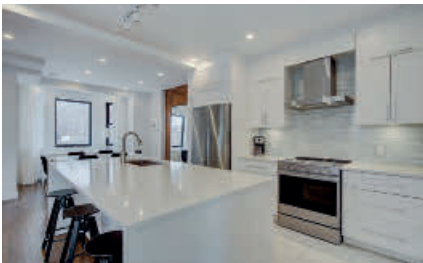
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Graffiti removal under way – again

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security launched a semi-annual graffiti-removal project over the last two weeks in its bid to keep the city “clean” and discourage the vandalism that reportedly begets even more when left in place. The hiring of a graffiti-cleaning contractor has been paying off, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

“Patrollers have been assigned to different sectors to look for even small instances of the vandalism,” he said, adding that “the amount of graffiti has been going down over the past five years.” It’s also important for residents to report graffiti so that all can be recorded for removal, he added.

Car hits 4 others exiting gas station in ‘complicated’ incident

The driver of a car leaving the Esso gas station on Sherbrooke at Grosvenor August 5 was reported to have mistaken what was described as “a median” for an exit. This was thought to have caused her

to hit the car’s accelerator and subsequently collide with four parked cars.

These damaged cars were described as in front of 4859 Sherbrooke. The suspect car eventually stopped at Claremont, but “the incident was complicated and confusing,” said Public Security director Greg McBain. “It was initially reported as a hit-and-run.”

As it unfolded, even the location changed from originally occurring at Claremont at 4:47 pm. Police were called to investigate while Public Security controlled traffic, he said. No other details were available.

Dodge on real estate:

Recent, older history tell different stories

February transfers flat vs. valuations, p. 16

July acceptances rocket to new high, p. 19

Conservatory door-opener fixed

‘Accessible’ building now fully accessible

The automatic push-button door-opener to the city’s otherwise accessible conservatory has now been fixed, Engineering director Shawn Aloyisius told the *Independent* August 11.

The non-functioning opener had been awaiting new parts which were delayed, Mayor Christina Smith had told questioner Dorothy Lipovenko at the city council meeting July 17. A resident of York St., Lipovenko had been asking about the operation of the door for some time. “It is 10 weeks,” she said in a repeated question. (See also

Letter to the Editor, June 20, p. 10).

Mayor Smith added in her council answer that “we went to great lengths to make that building universally accessible.”

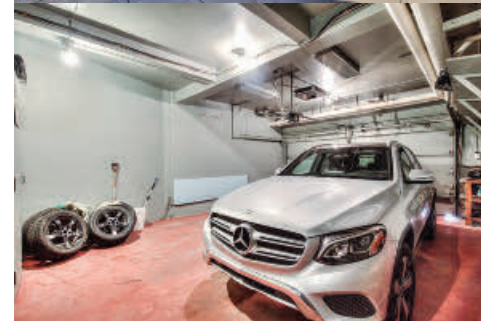
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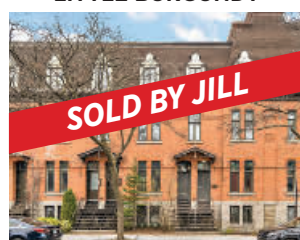
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Strike, cont'd from p. 1
workers had granted their requests for “better work scheduling,” salary increases and adjustment of several bonuses. She also said that “our salary offers are far superior to those of the past and compare favourably with other cities.” As well, renovation of the workers’ mess hall remained a priority.

A union statement said that a pilot project on a four-day work week would also be undertaken.

The 124 blue-collar workers had been on unlimited strike since June 22 but had been reported last week to have reached a “tentative” agreement with the city August 4 pending the outcome of the vote. Their previous collective agreement had expired December 31, 2019.

Until the vote, the city’s management personnel had been taking over many of the blue-collar functions. “It’s thanks to them that we have kept the city running,” Mayor Smith said.

“Architects and engineers have been keeping the parks clean,” while others have been driving the Zamboni, testing water in the pool and doing double duty to provide as many essential services as possible.

Disappointed by behaviour: mayor

“We are disappointed,” she said by the behaviour of the workers that had included



Two of the most visible effects of the blue-collar strike have the “re-wilding” of Murray Park, above, as seen August 8, and the build-up of garden refuse bags on curbsides, inset as seen August 8 on Belmont Crescent.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

relentless noise as well as the use of blow horns in public spaces and the parading through public streets.

An initial tentative agreement that had been recommended by the union leaders

had been voted down by the membership (see story July 11). As a result, the ongoing unlimited strike that had begun June 22 continued. City celebrations for St. Jean and Canada Day had been cancelled.

Despite the work by the city’s management, the strike did cause some restrictions on pool use as well as those for skating hours, as well as limiting some other city services.

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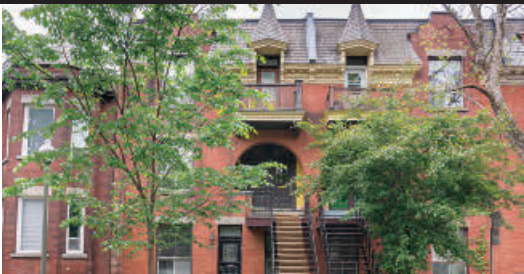
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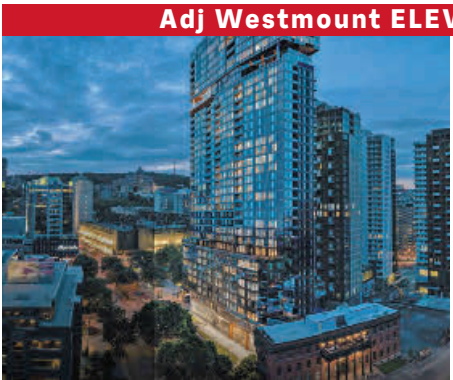
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181 opposing signatures required to force referendum

36 signed register against Vic village medical offices

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Some 36 of 1,696 qualified voters signed the referendum register that took place July 19 and 20 on lifting restrictions on the number and size of medical offices in Victoria village, according to the city clerk's office. A total of 181 had been required to "force" a referendum.

A decision on whether or not to proceed with lifting restrictions is expected to be made and announced at the next city council meeting slated for August 21.

The changes in a draft by-law are aimed at revitalizing Victoria village by repealing the previous quota and maximum area standards imposed nine years ago. This had been to pre-empt an anticipated influx in parking once the new MUHC super-

hospital opened (see story February 11, 2014, p. 1).

Since this did not materialize, the city council moved to scrap the restrictions despite concerns from residents expressed by a handful who spoke at a recent public consultation meeting May 9 (see story May 16, p. 19). One of six who spoke suggested that an impact study be made before lifting the restrictions.

Despite this request, however, council members said the parking concerns could be addressed through special resident permits and proceeded with the referendum register.

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

Mt. Pleasant, Weredale-Clandeboyé alley

Road, lane work costs increased to include contingencies

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The increased costs of two city road reconstruction projects – on Mount Pleasant between Sherbrooke and Rosemount Crescent and reconstruction of the lane between Weredale Park and Clandeboyé – were approved by city council at its regular meeting July 17.

These included a variety of work including in some cases water mains, hydro lines, rebuilding of the road bed, sidewalk and a variety of reconfiguration work where applicable.

Councillor Conrad Peart, as commissioner of infrastructure, architecture and

urban planning, explained that in both projects, initial approval did not include a cost for contingencies that had been discovered as the projects evolved.

The contract for the Mount Pleasant work by Cojalac Inc. was increased by some \$54,856 including taxes from the previously approved \$3,735,777 including taxes whereas an equivalent amount of \$3,790,634 is needed.

Work by Ventec Inc. on reconstruction of the laneway between Weredale Park and Clandeboyé was also increased to a maximum of \$446,103 from \$397,239, both including taxes.

City's Sports & Rec activities

Sign-up under way for season's hockey and other programs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Fall registration for the city's Sports and Recreation programs kicked off August 1, prioritizing residents with an advance sign-up. This continues until August 29. A hallmark of this period is the start of the hockey season and try-outs for inter-city teams.

While "instructional" hockey is listed separately for girls, boys and co-ed programs, the inter-city competitive youth leagues, coordinated by Andrew Maislin will be provided at various AA, BB, A, B, and C levels starting with under age 9 (M9).

"I am very excited with the registration numbers thus far for inter-city hockey," Maislin said last week. "We are well on the way to hit our growth goal of three additional teams from last year. These include a new M13 girls' team, which is already nearing its goal while the M7 girls' team is

halfway at the numbers hoped for," he explained.

"Try-outs begin after Labour Day, but seeing how many players are advancing in our program means we are on the right track." Maislin predicts "an explosion in the girls double- and triple-letter programs resulting from all the hard work the coaches have put in over the past few years since the programs began."

For adults, the city will offer hockey teams at the Senior, Executive A and B, and Old Timers' levels, all as listed in the program brochure on the city website.

Many other activities listed

Among some of the many other activities also now registering are babysitting, ballet and basketball as well as art, drama, fitness and yoga. Indoor soccer and pickleball are also offered for the coming season. Most of those at the seniors' level will also be provided on YouTube.

Two dog owners ticketed for off-leash dogs

A public safety officer was patrolling on Wood Ave. August 3 at 7:35 am when spotting a woman tossing a ball to two dogs in Queen Elizabeth Gardens, Public Security officials said. When questioned about a lack of licence tags, the woman pulled them out of her purse and was told the tags needed to be fastened to the dogs' collars. She was found to have been warned last year about allowing the dogs to be off leash and was ticketed this time for \$230.

Spotted in Murray Park

Another dog owner was also ticketed for a similar offence in King George (Murray) Park, August 2 after being spotted by a police cadet. The cadet requested assis-

tance from a nearby public safety officer at 7:51 am, who recalled having previously ticketed the dog owner himself. The Westmount resident was ticketed \$230.

Watch out for street sweeper signs

Now that the city's blue-collar workers are back on the job after their seven-week strike, residents need to keep a sharp lookout for street maintenance signs when parking vehicles, Public Security officials said last week. The street-cleaning times had not been enforced when the street sweeper was not in operation but tickets are now being issued.



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Fair, balanced labour deal will allow for city's work to get done

Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH



While walking in the city centre for most of the summer, it was hard to avoid the protests of our striking blue-collar workers. All of us were deafened by the honking vuvuzelas and heavy metal music played at ear-splitting levels through speakers.

The unbearable noise was just one of the inconveniences stemming from the labour dispute. Residents will undoubtedly have noticed our parks had longer grass, the hours of operation of our pool and rinks were shortened and some of our most beloved summer activities had to be cancelled.

The good news is that we have reached a fair and financially responsible agreement bringing the strike to an end, and I would like to thank all Westmounters for their patience and cooperation over a challenging seven-week period.

On behalf of all of the council, I wish to extend a special thank you to city managers

for their extra effort during the strike. They were out cleaning streets, emptying garbage bins, cleaning parks, driving the Zamboni and testing the pool, amongst other duties.

The small group of managers were the only ones allowed to do the work of the blue-collar employees. This meant long days, late nights, weekends worked and holidays not taken. Just like they did during the pandemic, our managers went the extra mile, and we are indeed grateful. The management team were true public servants during a difficult summer.

You cannot negotiate a labour agreement through the media. This is the right approach because it respects the negotiation process, but it meant that we did not have the opportunity to frame the issues, pro-actively put positions forward or respond to misinformation. This was frustrating, particularly since much of the misinformation was directed at me, and I was not in position to respond fully to the messages I received.

I would therefore like to provide context for the agreement.

Firstly, the labour climate post-pandemic has changed across Canada, as demonstrated most recently by the roller-coaster negotiations with workers at the

BC ports.

Secondly, the main issues in our negotiations were salaries for blue collars in comparison to other cities, work schedules and some benefits. We are pleased that the agreement addresses those concerns.

Our core business is to deliver reliable and effective services to residents, and many of those services are delivered by our blue-collar employees. We appreciate that their work is critical to our success, and we take pride in the fact that Westmount is considered a great place to work. At the same time, we are committed to being financially responsible. With the new col-

lective agreement, we believe that we have achieved the right balance and that it is a fair deal for all parties.

While the next few weeks will be intense as our team plays catch-up, we are confident that we will get the job done. Leaf bags will be picked up, the parks will get the maintenance they need and other services and programs will be fully restored.

We thank you once again for your understanding and hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Christina M. Smith is the mayor of Westmount.

Back-to-school prevention safety under way

While back-to-school may still be a few weeks away for many, public safety officers are carrying out an annual safety check of school zones. This is to ensure that signage in these areas and at crosswalks in particu-

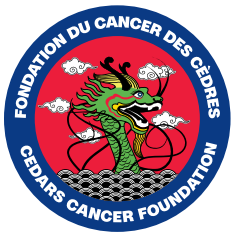
lar is fully visible, freed of foliage and that potholes are filled to prevent falls and any other safety hindrances are dealt with by Public Works before school re-opens. –LS

Woman taken to hospital in fall outside Metro store

An 80-year-old Westmount resident was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé August 6 after falling at the Victoria Ave. entrance to the Metro grocery store, Public Security officials said.

Reported by a city parking inspector at

1:52 pm, the woman fell on her back, hitting her head. Responding officers found her seated on a walker, cleaned a bleeding wound on the back of the head and laid her down while awaiting Urgences Santé. She was taken to hospital in Verdun. –LS



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EDITORIAL

Registry on Vic village medical offices should be re-done

What did I do on my summer vacation? See below. (So far, only provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone has asked for the email-able attachments mentioned at the end of my letter.)

An English version follows the French one.

*
Traduit avec www.DeepL.com/Translator (version gratuite) avec de légères modifications apportées par l’auteur

28 juillet 2023
Chère Commission municipale du Québec

(cc Jennifer Maccarone, députée de Westmount–Saint-Louis et Andrée Laforest, Ministre des Affaires municipales),

Je suis à la fois un résident de la ville de Westmount, au Québec, et le rédacteur en chef d’un hebdomadaire gratuit – le *Westmount Independent* – qui circule dans cette ville. Cette double identité a été bien décrite au cours du conflit décrit dans cette lettre, y compris dans notre édition la plus récente (voir 11 juillet, p. 10 – disponible en ligne à l’adresse www.westmountindependent.com).

Avec son règlement 1601, la ville tente de modifier son règlement 1303 qui interdisait les cliniques médicales dans le “village Victoria” – une zone commerciale centrée autour de l’avenue Victoria et de la

rue Sherbrooke (voir le 28 mars, p. 1). Le résultat souhaité par la ville est d’autoriser les cliniques médicales dans ce secteur.

Conformément à la loi québécoise sur le zonage municipal, les résidents ont réussi à obtenir un registre pour s’opposer au changement de zonage proposé (voir 13 juin, p. 1), de sorte que la ville a été obligée d’ouvrir un registre pour voir s’il y avait suffisamment d’appui pour un référendum (11 juillet, p. 1).

Publication en été, pendant les vacances de l’Independent

À ce stade, la Ville a pris des décisions que je reconnais être parfaitement légales, mais qui acquièrent une plus grande importance compte tenu de ses actions ultérieures.

L’édition du 11 juillet du *Westmount Independent* était la dernière avant les vacances d’été habituelles. Ce congé de publication a lieu chaque année et les détails du congé de cette année avaient été bien annoncés (voir le 4 juillet, p. 1).

La décision de tenir le registre au cœur de l’été, alors que l’*Independent* ne publiait pas, est importante compte tenu de son effet probable sur le taux de participation des électeurs et des inscrits. L’*Independent* est le seul journal axé exclusivement sur Westmount. Il est principalement distribué

par la poste et chaque adresse dans la ville (condo, appartement, maison, duplex, entreprise) reçoit son propre exemplaire.

L’*Independent* publie de nombreux avis juridiques et informatifs de la ville, y compris un premier avis relatif à la séance d’information sur cette question de zonage (voir le 25 avril, p. 22) et un autre relatif à la pétition pour l’ouverture d’un registre sur la même question (voir le 13 juin, p. 22).

Il est intéressant de noter que lors d’un conflit similaire concernant un bâtiment situé sur l’avenue Mount Pleasant à l’angle de la rue Sherbrooke, la ville a publié un avis dans l’*Independent* au sujet de ce registre (voir 11 octobre 2022, p. 8), ce qu’elle n’a pas pu faire dans ce cas-ci parce que le journal était en vacances.

Choisir de répondre à une question prospective

En raison des vacances imminentes du journal, la journaliste en chef Laureen Sweeney a demandé de manière proactive au greffier Denis Ferland quand le registre serait tenu.

La décision de M. Ferland de répondre à la question de la journaliste Sweeney de la manière dont il l’a fait est également significative à la lumière des événements ultérieurs. Il a déclaré : “Ce sera probablement le 26 juillet (et) l’avis public sera probablement publié le 18 juillet” (11 juillet, p. 1).

Annoncer de nombreuses dates contradictoires, mauvaise représentation de la presse

Ensuite, le 14 juillet, la ville a publié sur son site web deux avis annonçant la date du registre, l’un annonçant la date du 19 juillet et l’autre celle du 20 juillet. À la suite de cette erreur, et conformément à un avis municipal du 17 juillet, la ville a ouvert le registre pendant deux jours (les 19 et 20 juillet).

Entre-temps, en réponse à un courriel du 17 juillet de Michel Wertheimer, résident de Westmount (dont j’ai reçu copie – voir pièce jointe no 1), le greffier Ferland a écrit un courriel le 19 juillet (dont j’ai reçu copie – voir pièce jointe no 2) qui contenait deux éléments dignes de mention :

- 1. Il a annoncé que la date du registre était “les 19 et 20 août” et
 - 2. Il a écrit : “Nous reconnaissons que certaines informations mal rapportées dans le *Westmount Independent* ont pu induire les lecteurs en erreur”.
- Rappelons que ce courriel du greffier

répondait au courriel d’un résident et que ce résident, Michel Wertheimer, était connu pour être un leader dans l’effort pour bloquer le règlement proposé.

Par l’intermédiaire de sa directrice générale, Julie Mandeville, la ville a depuis annulé la remarque du greffier concernant de prétendues “informations erronées”, comme prévu dans son courriel du 21 juillet adressé à de nombreuses personnes (et dont j’ai reçu une copie – voir pièce jointe n° 3).

À ma connaissance, la ville n’est pas revenue sur ses remarques concernant la tenue du registre en août.

Conclusions

À mon avis, le greffier n’a pas agi comme un bon arbitre, responsable et bien informé, et il n’a pas non plus informé correctement les résidents sur le registre afin qu’ils puissent exercer leurs droits démocratiques et légaux.

Les résidents n’ont pas reçu d’information véritable et fiable ni d’avis de la ville sur lesquels fonder leurs actions.

Compte tenu de tous ces faits et de l’atmosphère de confusion totale qu’ils ont créée, je soutiens respectueusement qu’un registre légal et correct n’a pas été tenu, que le maintien du registre des 19 et 20 juillet jetterait le discrédit sur la démocratie québécoise et qu’un nouveau registre devrait être tenu à une date ultérieure, avec un avis adéquat aux résidents de Westmount et des zones d’aménagement concernées.

Je vous prie d’agréer, Madame, Monsieur, l’expression de mes salutations distinguées,

David Price
Rédacteur en chef, hebdomadaire *Westmount Independent*
Résident, ville de Westmount, Québec
editor@westmountindependent.com
514-935-4537

Pièces jointes disponibles par courriel
#1 – Courriel du résident Michel Wertheimer au greffier Denis Ferland (17 juillet) avec en pièces jointes les avis de registre du 19 juillet et du 20 juillet.

#2 – Chaîne de courriels se terminant par un courriel du greffier Denis Ferland (19 juillet)

#3 – Chaîne de courriels se terminant par un courriel de la directrice générale de la Ville de Montréal [*sic* – DeepL, and David’s checking of it, aren’t perfect], Julie Mandeville (21 juillet)

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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Editorial, cont'd from p. 8

Translation into English by me (since some parts of the original input were tweaked after the translation by the DeepL website).

July 28, 2023

Dear Commission Municipale du Québec,

I am both a resident of the city of Westmount, Quebec and the editor of a free weekly newspaper – the *Westmount Independent* – that circulates here. This dual identity has been well described during the dispute described in this letter, including in our most recent edition (see July 11, p. 10 – available online at www.westmountindependent.com).

The city is attempting with its By-Law 1601 to amend its By-law 1303 that disallowed medical clinics in “Victoria village” – a commercial area centred around Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St. (see March 28, p. 1). The city’s desired result is to allow medical clinics in this area.

Following Quebec municipal zoning law, residents successfully petitioned for a registry to oppose the proposed zoning change (see June 13, p. 1), so the city was obliged to open a registry to see if there was enough support for a referendum (July 11, p. 1).

Publishing in summer, during Independent’s holiday

At this point, the city made some decisions that I acknowledge are perfectly legal, but that acquire greater significance given its later actions.

The *Westmount Independent’s* July 11 edition was its final one before its usual summer holiday. This publishing holiday occurs every year and the specifics of this year’s holiday had been well publicized (see July 4, p. 1).

The decision to hold the registry in deep summer, when the *Independent* was not publishing, is significant given its likely effect on voter/registrant turnout. The *Independent* is the only newspaper focused exclusively on Westmount. It is primarily distributed by mail and every address in the city (condo unit, apartment unit, house, duplex unit, business) gets its own copy.

The *Independent* carries many of the city’s legal and informational notices, including an initial notice related to the information session on this zoning question (see April 25, p. 22) and one related to the petition to open a registry on the same issue (see June 13, p. 22).

Interestingly, during a similar dispute regarding a building on Mount Pleasant Ave. at Sherbrooke St., the city ran a notice in the *Independent* about that registry (see October 11, 2022, p. 8), which it could not do in this case because the newspaper was on vacation.

Choosing to answer a prospective question

Due to the newspaper’s upcoming holiday, chief reporter Laureen Sweeney proactively asked city clerk Denis Ferland when the registry would be.

Mr. Ferland’s decision to answer reporter Sweeney’s question in the way that he did is also significant in light of subsequent events. He said, “It will probably be July 26 (with) the public notice probably appearing July 18” (July 11, p. 1).

Announcing many conflicting dates, misrepresenting the press

Then, on July 14, the city published two notices on its website announcing the registry date, with one announcing the date as July 19 and other as July 20. As a result of this error, and as per a city notice of July 17, the city opened the registry for two days (July 19 and 20).

Meanwhile, in reply to a July 17 email from Westmount resident Michel Wertheimer (on which I was copied – see Enclosure #1), city clerk Ferland wrote a July 19 email (on which I was copied – see Enclosure #2) that contained two noteworthy items:

1. He announced the registry date as “August 19th and 20th” and
2. He wrote: “We acknowledge that some misreported information in the *Westmount Independent* may have led to misleading readers.”

Please remember that this email from the city clerk was in reply to a resident’s email and that this resident, Michel Wertheimer, was known to be a leader in the effort to block the proposed by-law.

Through its director general, Julie Mandeville, the city has since rescinded the city clerk’s remark about alleged “misreported information,” as previewed in her email to many people of July 21 (on which I was copied – see Enclosure #3).

To the best of my knowledge, the city has not retracted its remarks about having the registry in August.

Conclusions

In my view, the city clerk has not acted as a good, responsible and well-informed arbiter, nor has he properly and correctly informed residents about the registry so that they could exercise their democratic and legal rights. The residents have not had true, reliable information or notice from the city on which to base their actions.

Given all these facts, and the atmosphere of total confusion that they have created, I respectfully submit that a legal and correct registry has not been held, that allowing the July 19-20 registry to stand would bring Quebec democracy into disrepute and that a fresh registry should be

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CLINICS)

VIC VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINICS RATIONALE KEEPS CHANGING

What is the city’s real reason for lifting various zoning restrictions on medical offices in Vic village? The by-law wording described it as aimed at “encouraging the occupancy of certain vacant premises” (March 28, p. 1). However, it was not until the July 17 council meeting that Councillor Conrad Peart acknowledged another possible reason behind the change – that the administration of the by-law had “become unmanageable.” Was this the true reason?

If this had been disclosed to residents on Day One, rather than four months later, our conversation would have been vastly different, far more productive and focused on implications. Why did the city refuse to undertake an impact study as proposed at the public consultation meeting?

After pushback from Vic village residents on grounds of traffic and parking, Mayor Smith and Councillor Peart launched their arguments in defense of the by-law change, none of them supported by evidence. Their key argument was that the mayor and councillors have heard from many doctors that they desire to relocate to Westmount and Vic village but are unable to do so because “they are limited to where they can move.” Then Mayor Smith also implied that if commercial space was to be freed up, we might have more family doctors moving to Westmount.

A quick review of the real estate situation in Westmount and Vic village shows this to be false. Space is not an issue.

Greene area: near the Atwater Metro station:

- 4141 Sherbrooke, mostly medical, 25,000 sq.ft. available or 28 percent of the building, with indoor parking.
- 4060, 4150 St. Catherine, large office buildings with vacancies, underground parking at Tupper.

held at some future date with adequate notice to residents of Westmount and of the affected planning zones.

Best regards,

David Price
Editor, *Westmount Independent* weekly newspaper
Resident, city of Westmount, Quebec
editor@westmountindependent.com
514-935-4537

Enclosures available by email

#1 – Email to city clerk Denis Ferland from resident Michel Wertheimer (July 17) with attachments of the July 19 and July 20 registry notices

• Westmount Square, extensive availability, indoor parking.
Vic village: near the Vendôme Metro station:

- 5025 Sherbrooke, Westmount Medical Building, 3,000 sq. ft. available, with underground parking, family practice of eight doctors relocated late last year to 4150 St. Catherine.
- Château Maisonneuve, corner of de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine, four commercial floors totalling 80,000 sq. ft. proposed now for conversion to residential, indoor parking.
- 4920 de Maisonneuve, just east of Château Maisonneuve, 4,095 sq. ft. available, indoor parking.

On July 17, two days before the referendum registry, Mayor Smith and Councillor Peart abruptly revised their stories to:

- “no mad rush for doctors to come to Westmount,”
- “doesn’t mean that all of a sudden there will be 50 new doctors,”
- we “don’t expect a flood.”

Finally, at this same July meeting, Councillor Peart detailed the plausible reason for the by-law change: “Urban Planning couldn’t tell you how many clinics you have” i.e. in Vic village. Over the years, for various reasons, Urban Planning had lost count. My interpretation of this statement is that the restrictive by-law had become unenforceable and perhaps even subject to legal challenge. The city, apparently, had no choice but to scrap it. It took four months for residents to hear this.

This debate on the medical office rezoning in Vic village has made clear that a casual relationship with facts has now become normalized within our present council. Residents need reliable facts, not misinformation. Unfortunately, I don’t see that changing anytime soon. The next election in two years has become critical.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

#2 – Email chain ending with email from city clerk Denis Ferland (July 19)

#3– Email chain ending with email from city director general Julie Mandeville (July 21)

*

David Price is the editor of the *Independent*.

**Letters to the editor
(general mail)
See p. 14**



In this photo taken August 7 at sunset on the Sanmangaum Scouting jamboree site in South Korea, from left, Venturer advisor Chris Hosein and Venturers River Acre-Hosein and Seth Holeger hold the Westmount city flag with the Canadian, Quebec and Nova Scotia ones flying in the background. Venturers are Scouters in the 15-to-17 age category.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ELLIOTT.

Westmounters among 39,000 attendees

Scouting ‘jamboree’ in South Korea ends early due to typhoon

The 25th World Scout Jamboree in Buan, South Korea, was held starting August 1 and welcomed 39,000 Scouting participants from around the world, including three members of Westmount’s St. Andrew’s Venturer company.

“Advisor Chris Hosein and youth members River Acre-Hosein and Seth Holeger have been meeting new people and participating in Scouting activities at this once-in-a-lifetime event,” Scouting volunteer Virginia Elliott told the *Independent* by email August 8, but “It has not been without challenges. Soaring temperatures have driven some groups to seek refuge in air-conditioned hotels.

“Organizers quickly responded to improve conditions on site, and the Canadians and specifically our Westmounters have done an excellent job of keeping cool and staying healthy! They have shown admirer resilience in the face of challeng-

ing conditions. “Hosein also had to manage with no personal gear for 12 days until his missing bag finally arrived!”

Although they were committed to staying on site and continuing with the jamboree activities, the prospect of typhoon Khanun heading their way with 200 mm of predicted rain and winds gusting up to 80 km/hr led the organizers to end the jamboree on August 8, four days early. The Westmount Venturers were to head back to Seoul to spend time touring around until their planned return home on August 12.

Elliott also extended her thanks to Westmount city councillor Matt Aronson and Dave Lapointe, the city’s Sports and Recreation director, for arranging for the Venturers to have a Westmount city flag to fly at the jamboree.

Westmount Soccer wins first tourney

The Westmount Soccer Club’s U11 (under age 11) team won the club’s first tournament August 4 to 6. This club is separate from the soccer program run by the city’s Sports and Recreation department. The event was hosted in TMR by the MRO Mount Royal Outremont team.

The team played host MRO in the semi-finals, winning 2-1 in overtime, and played the final against Laval, winning 3-0.

“They did an amazing job!” said parent Alejandra Rodriguez. “Our wonderful

coach, Alejandro Cardot – the best coach ever – and his assistant coach, Theo Parnet, led our team to their first championship.

“Suzie, the volunteer manager of the team, did a great job dedicating her time to manage the team and deal with the registration process.”

See photo on p. 1.

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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 the following week. Eemail us at:
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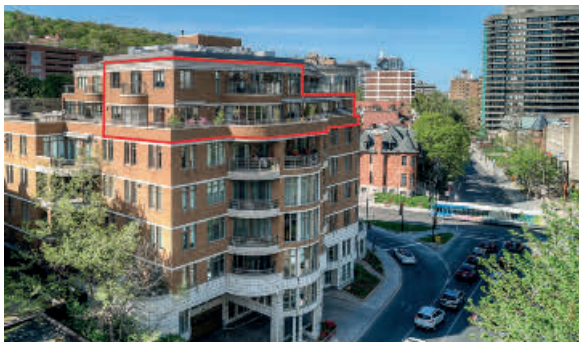


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WESTMOUNT AT ITS BEST, TRUE SELF

You may remember the late afternoon downpour, followed by some flooding and talk of a tornado or two, on July 13, two days after the last *Independent* before its summer break. I had walked to the Metro grocery store, but it was in the midst of the deluge when I went to the exit on Sherbrooke St.

I and another stranger were waiting for a break to make a run for it, which didn't happen. There was a huge puddle growing up to curb height as the rain pelted down. Another lady emerged ready to leave the store and, without a pause, urged us to follow her into her car, which was the first one at the corner, just steps away. She taxied each of us home.

Her comment was that this is how we should all react in such a situation and just be helpful, no discussion. Thank you, Irvine Ave. lady!

Westmounters tend to get bogged down in how to upgrade park designs and in "turf wars," for example, but when the chips are down...

ERIN HOGG, WINDSOR AVE.

WOOD CHIPS EASY FIX FOR FLOODING

I just noticed while walking in and around Westmount Park after a rain that anywhere that is hilly that has wood chips there is no run-off of earth leading to muddy sidewalks! What an easy solution to the issue in so many areas of Westmount Park.

I am hoping this will be brought to the attention of the right individual.

I know our mayor does not read the *Independent** or look at suggestions and opinions on social media, but I am hopeful someone in the administration will see this and respond. The fact is that they have not invested in other methods to prevent erosion, which is very dangerous as I have slipped and almost fallen many times, and witnessed other people, including the elderly, slipping on our muddy paths. Perhaps this is the answer to avoid serious accidents and solve this problem for our changing world.

Here are the facts. Overall, in comparison to the zero-cover treatment, the small wood chip treatment reduced erosion by 22 percent, the large wood chips reduced erosion by 78 percent, and the mixture of chip sizes reduced erosion by 86 percent.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

**Editor's note:* I know that she does read the *Independent* (or did). For instance, look at her complaint (July 12, 2022, p. 7), along

with the whole council, about this very section, the letters to the editor. – DP.

MAKE PARKS CURFEW EARLIER TO COMBAT FIREWORKS, PARTYING

I very much sympathize with Ms. Bowes' letter regarding fireworks in Westmount Park (July 4. p. 10).

I too have a dog, and both of us were (yet again) wakened July 15 by the sound of fireworks in one of the two parks situated at either end of my street. While we may have a by-law prohibiting fireworks, it is illusory to think that it can be enforced.

The culprits do not exactly advertise their intentions beforehand, so prevention is hardly realistic. Moreover, these are very large spaces to police: according to the Westmount website, Westmount Park covers 26 acres and Murray Park covers 14.

Unless we have an army of Public Security officers equipped with night vision goggles or binoculars patrolling these areas or proceed with the installation of hundreds of video cameras throughout, it is going to be virtually impossible to apprehend the culprits in the act or identify them after the fact, as would be required for prosecution.

One possibility, however, would be to change the curfew in these parks from midnight to 10 pm (except for dog walkers). After all, who *needs* to be in a park after 10 pm if not to party, in itself a frequent source of noise and disturbance throughout the summer. I appreciate that this measure might not stop fireworks or parties occurring before 10 pm, but it would, at the very least, prevent them waking us up so late in the evening and facilitate the apprehension of those setting them off or partying after curfew, since they could then be fined for a straightforward violation of curfew – not a difficult offence to prove.

Could this (or any other possible measure to prevent fireworks in our parks) not be discussed at an upcoming council meeting?

CLAUDETTE BELLEMARE, STRATHCONA AVE.

GREENS' VOTE INCREASE SHOWS PEOPLE'S CONCERNS

With regard to the editor's reply to a reader's question ("Where was the Green, Bloc coverage?" June 27, p. 8), referring to the increase in the federal by-election Green vote to 13.4 percent from four percent as "a barely visible cloud" maybe misses the point. It is a significant indicator of where voters' concerns are, even in the face of the Liberal juggernaut.

MARJORIE GRIFFIN, DORCHESTER BLVD.

PLEASE PREP OUTDOOR CATS PROPERLY, INCL. BELLS

I am resident in Côte St. Antoine near Murray Ave. and there is a domestic cat walking freely around here. He is constantly killing and eating small rabbits in my backyard.

Despite being in the nature of cats to hunt rabbits – which is comprehensible – it's totally disturbing for me and for my little kids to find rabbits in our backyard with their guts sticking out and their heads separated from their bodies.

I could not approach the cat to check if there is the contact phone number of his owner on his tag because he gets really mad when I try.

I also contacted SPCA and they said as it's a domestic cat and there are no signs of cruelty or negligence, there is nothing they can do because there are no currently regulations in Montreal restricting cats from going outside freely.

According Ms. Eva Eichler from SPCA: "It is still not recommended for cats to be let outdoors freely, as it disrupts our natural ecosystems, increases the number of cats in animal shelters, contributes to stray animal populations and increases the risks of injury and sickness, especially if the cats are not vaccinated, microchipped and sterilized."

So, I would like to ask to all cat owners who go outside freely to follow the SPCA's recommendation and put a bell in their collars. This often warns wildlife as other animals get scared from the noise and are then less likely to be attacked.

After all, your neighbours don't need to see disturbing scenes in their yards or be responsible for collecting the remains of the animals your cat hunts.

RENATA GAUDIN,
CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

PRAISE FOR WESTMOUNT HYDRO

On July 6 at around 9 am, as I was about to leave the house for the office, the lights flickered, and the motor of the refrigerator changed its hum. There was a brief moment of normalcy as the lights stabilized and the motor resumed its usual purr, only to have the flickering repetition of uncertainty return, and for it to ultimately be replaced with darkness and silence.

The house was without electricity. A call to Hydro Westmount raised some concerns as we were the only ones reporting a problem. A quick survey of the neighbours confirmed that only our house was affected.

A representative of Hydro was on site

within the hour, and he was quickly followed by an emergency team as regular workers were on strike. The crew of two worked diligently to investigate the problem, of which there were three possibilities: the connection to our house, the underground cable or the connection at the transformer. The worst scenario would have been the underground cable, and as Murphy's law continued to kindly bestow itself upon us that day, it was in fact the case.

We were told that a temporary pole would have to be installed on our land and a new cable run. The crew worked during the hottest part of the day into the late hours of the evening to lay a cable from the transformer to the house, and the cable was lifted the next day when the pole was installed. We were told that a subcontractor to Hydro would arrive as early as 7 am the next day to install the pole, and we received an email late that afternoon advising us that they would only do the work if we had a master electrician install a specific bracket on the house. Like all prudent Canadians, we of course have a master electrician on stand-by, whom we called (and begged) to install the bracket at 6 am, which he did.

The pole was up by 10 am on July 7, and around 1 pm the emergency crew from Hydro Westmount arrived and set to work anchoring the cable to the pole and the two ends. The crew worked hard in the extreme heat and humidity, and the electricity was restored around 3 pm. In the space of 15 hours, under severe weather conditions, Hydro Westmount investigated the issue, installed a temporary pole, anchored a cable from the transformer to the pole and to the house, and solved the power outage, all with emergency crews.

A heartfelt thank-you to the Hydro Westmount team.

NICK VOULOUMANOS,
CLARKE AVE.

Stolen Acura recovered by Public Security on Olivier Ave.

A stolen car was recovered by a public safety officer patrolling on Olivier July 26, according to Public Security officials. The officer noticed the illegally parked car at 9:22 pm with two rear windows open. Police were contacted and confirmed it had been stolen, though no details were included in the Public Security report. The patroller stayed with the car until police arrived.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in February 2023, gleaned from city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.

Eight homes changed hands in February this year, including three with prices over \$3 million, though five of the eight sold for less than their new municipal valuation and the average price was just about in line with the corresponding average tax value.

The highest price was registered for a 1954-built house at 3641 The Boulevard, which had been sold in August of 2018 for \$1,820,000, then re-sold a year later for \$1,780,000, now with extensive renovations and additions, sold for \$4,100,000, not only the highest price for the month but also by far the highest mark-up over valuation, at 53.8 percent.

Two more summit-area houses sold for nearly identical prices in the \$3,600,000 range, but both sold below their municipal valuations.

On the low side, 61 Windsor Ave, sold out of an estate for both the lowest price of

February transfers: High prices lead the way

the month, \$1,625,000, and the biggest mark-down from valuation, at 22.7 percent.

The volume was definitely low on the basis of 15 registered sales in February last year or 14 in the same month of 2021, but actually is about even with the number of sales in each of the previous four months, all either seven or eight sales.

Overall, the eight single-family sales brought their owners a total of \$22,008,000 for property with municipal valuation of \$22,012,000, thus just about even, an indication that by February (on the basis of valuations) there had been no change in the Westmount real estate market since July of 2021, the effective date for the values on the latest assessment roll.

Four condominium sales were registered in February, bringing to six sales so far in the first quarter of 2023. Of the four in February, three were over \$1 million prices and included a penthouse apartment at 1 Wood Ave. that went for \$2,300,000.

The two January sales were for much lower prices and brought down the quarterly average for condos (again, so far) to \$1,067,000, with an average mark-down of 13.1 percent.

Only two of the six sold for more than their valuation.



61 Windsor on August 4.



3641 The Boulevard, in 2020, left, and on August 4.



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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in February 2023

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
654 Lansdowne	Dinorah Gomez Rosales	\$2,940,000	\$2,562,500	14.7%
4338 Montrose	Susan Pilson	\$1,715,000	\$2,015,400	-14.9%
60 Sunnyside	André Pelletier & Samuel Ramsey	\$3,650,000	\$3,875,200	-5.8%
43 Surrey Gardens	Lucette Marchand & estate Jacques Zahlan de Cayetti	\$3,668,000	\$4,288,700	-14.5%
3641 The Boulevard	Tiffany Joseph & Mark Shefner	\$4,100,000	\$2,666,000	53.8%
746 Upper Belmont	Mike Discenza & Lolita Ricci	\$1,960,000	\$1,905,100	2.9%
781 Upper Belmont	estate Norman Macfarlane	\$2,350,000	\$2,597,800	-9.5%
61 Windsor	estate Edith Paton	\$1,625,000	\$2,101,300	-22.7%
CONDOMINIUMS				
200 Lansdowne #405	Jehangir Guzder	\$670,000	\$745,800	-10.2%
215 Redfern #102	Emmanuel Pereque	\$1,450,000	\$1,239,700	17.0%
1 Wood # 304	estate Edith Zelman (Turner)	\$1,167,000	\$1,220,100	-4.4%
1 Wood #1901	Michael Carick	\$2,300,000	\$3,037,200	-24.3%

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL
Lundi 21 août

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING
Monday, August 21



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Les publications de Westmount sur Facebook avec des liens vers le site web de la Ville ne sont plus visibles au Canada. Abonnez-vous à l'infolettre et aux autres médias de la Ville à westmount.org.



Westmount Facebook posts blocked in Canada

The City's Facebook posts with links to the municipal website can no longer be viewed in Canada. Sign up to the City's e-newsletter and other media by visiting westmount.org.

Fin de la grève des travailleurs cols bleus

Suite au vote en faveur de l'adoption d'une nouvelle entente, les travailleurs cols bleus de Westmount ont repris le travail le 10 août.

Reprise de la collecte des résidus de jardin

Veuillez placer vos matières en bordure de rue dans des sacs en papier ou en vrac dans un contenant ouvert. Ils seront ramassés aussitôt que possible. N.B. : l'horaire habituel de collecte n'est pas encore en vigueur. westmount.org

Piscine et patinoire : reprise des horaires

Les horaires habituels pour les activités de la piscine et de la patinoire du CLW sont de nouveau en vigueur. westmount.org

Période d'inscription d'automne en cours

Inscrivez-vous maintenant à vos activités préférées de sports et de loisirs. westmount.org

Cours de loisirs gratuits au parc

Jusqu'au 24 août - les mardis et jeudis, de 10 h à 11 h, parc Westmount. westmount.org

Herbe à poux : coupez-la!

Une personne sur 10 éprouve des symptômes d'allergie à l'herbe à poux. Apprenez à identifier et à enlever cette plante. westmount.org

Vous venez d'emménager à Westmount?

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

End of strike by blue-collar workers

Following the vote for the adoption of a new agreement, Westmount's blue-collar workers resumed work on August 10.

Return of garden waste collection

Please place your materials at the curbside in paper bags or loose in an open container. They will be collected as soon as possible. Please note that the usual collection schedule is not yet in effect. westmount.org

Return of pool and rink schedules

The usual schedules for the WRC pool and rink activities are once again in effect. westmount.org

Fall registration period underway

Sign up now for your favourite sports and recreation activities. westmount.org

Free leisure classes in the park

Until August 24 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., Westmount Park. westmount.org

Ragweed: pull it out!

One out of 10 people experiences allergy symptoms from ragweed. Learn how to identify and remove this plant. westmount.org

New to Westmount?

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

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!

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.

Exposition estivale de groupe

Jusqu'au 19 août, Galerie du Victoria Hall.

Heure du conte et chansons (6-36 mois)

Mercredi 16 août, 10 h 30 à 11 h, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque.

Art et histoires (3-6 ans)

Mercredi 16 août, 16 h à 16 h 45, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque.

Film dans le parc — Dirty Dancing

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

Visite de l'apiculteur

Mercredi 23 août, 13 h 45, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque.



Film sous les étoiles

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

Club de lecture d'été : fête de clôture

Samedi 9 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Réservez la date!

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

2023 TD Summer Reading Club

You can still sign up at westlib.org to participate in author events, storytimes, and more!

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 Group Exhibition

Until August 19, Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Family Storytime & Songs (6-36 mos)

Wednesday, August 16, 10:30 to 11 a.m., Library Storytelling Garden.

Art & Stories (3-6 yr olds)

Wednesday, August 16, 4-4:45 p.m., Library Storytelling Garden.



Movie in the Park — Dirty Dancing

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

Beekeeper Visit

Wednesday, August 23, 1:45 p.m., Library Storytelling Garden.

Movie Under the Stars

Thursday, August 24, 8 p.m., Westmount Park. *Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023).

Summer Reading Club

Closing Party
Saturday, September 9, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Save the date!

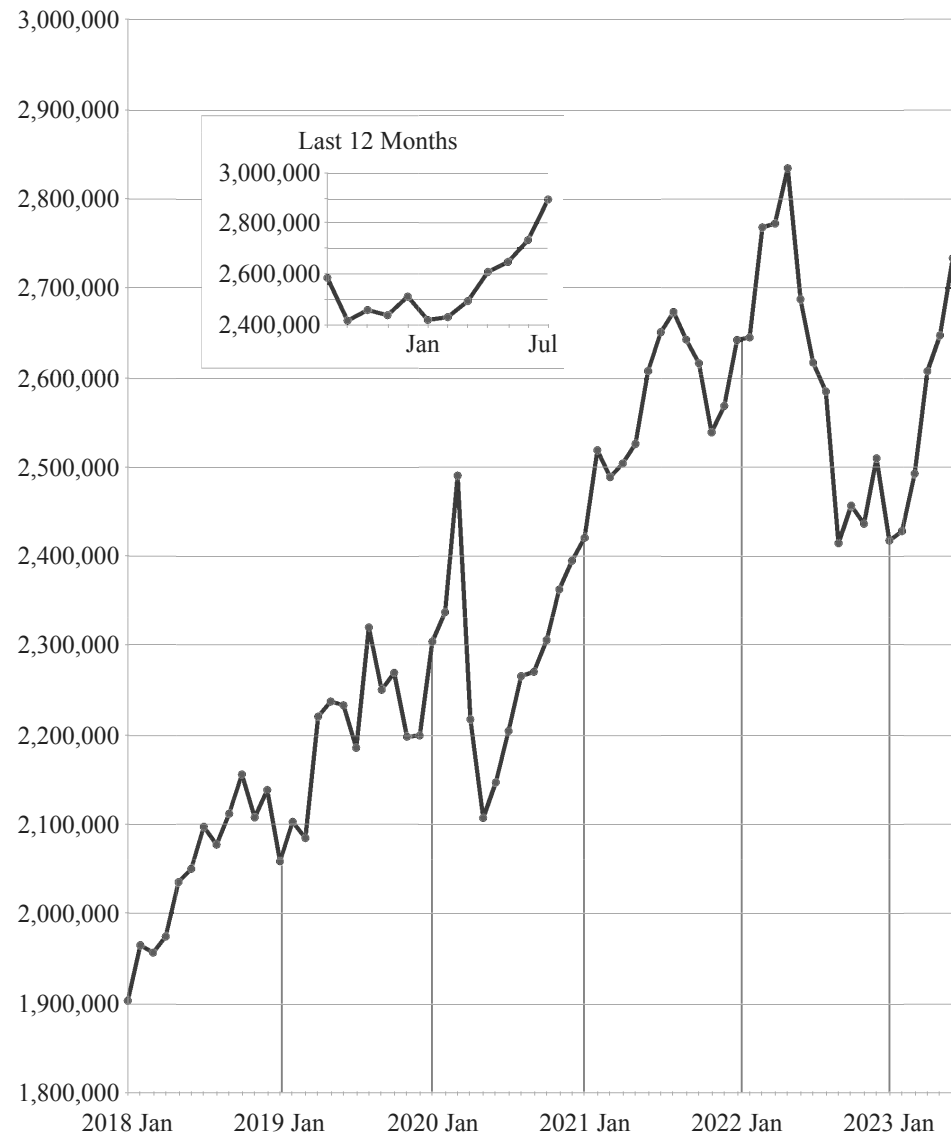


July sales: Back on track (for sellers, owners)

Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

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



Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in July 2023. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount's real estate market reached for new heights in July, after turning around a dismal June sales list both in terms of volume and prices. Realtors posted 11 sales in July, which is on average the slowest month for sales; four of those brought more than \$3 million, while none of the eight June sales topped \$2,750,000 and the average was barely \$2 million.

Average up!

The July average price reached back up to \$2,722,091, the average mark-up over municipal valuation was 10.8 percent, and the top price was \$6,250,000 for a stately mid-level mansion.

Olivier Ave. has become something of a "go-to" street, it seems, with two sales of row-houses hovering around the \$3-million mark, and the two highest mark-ups of the month at 65 and 56 percent.

Another row-house on Prospect St. brought the lowest price of the month, \$1,250,000, just four percent above valuation.

There were four sales below valuation, with a house on The Boulevard earning the biggest mark-down of the month at 11.9 percent.

Condos

Only one condominium graced the Westmount sales list after 17 sales were posted in the second quarter of the year, between April and June. That list had a price range from \$599,000 to \$3,295,000 and an average 7.5 percent mark-up over valuation, but it seems to have stopped when we reached July.

Westmount Adj.

The same might be said for the adjacent-Westmount market, which saw two eastern NDG houses sell along with one on Trafalgar Ave. and a condo-townhouse on Grosvenor Ave. north of the city limits.

Only 85 listings were on the market in mid-August, down 10 since mid-July com-

pared to 106 in mid-May, and 41 since mid-July. The biggest drop in the latest count was among those priced between \$2 million and \$3 million.

Another five house rentals were posted

in the last month, including one as high as \$15,700 per month. Some 33 rentals have been posted this year, and there are still 27 houses for rent for rates between \$3,600 and \$18,000 per month.

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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Fun and curious, Rufus is very affectionate and companionable. As you can see, he is a handsome black, tan and white hound type, with the softest dark silky ears and warmest brown eyes.

Sporting Rufus is at the Montreal SPCA kennel, ready to join a loving family and fit in the household routine. Rufus is active and ready for play, very healthy at five years of age. He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Blanche is very pretty, a black-and-brown tabby with huge green eyes. She enjoys cuddles and playtime, being focused on purring, stretching for a tummy rub, a brushing and a fish-on-a-pole game.

Blanche is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, ready to bask in the good life in a loving home environment. She is a senior at 11 years of age, and qualifies for a reduced adoption fee as a humanitarian adoption category placement.

Blanche is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She was taken into the shelter as de-clawed on her front paws, which makes her an indoor-only cat.

Please do not hesitate to consult the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com to find out more about her, referring to her information page from her identification number, 48743446.

Blanche is affectionate and attentive, a

Playful Rufus

You can find out more about Rufus by going to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then referring to his information page through his identification number, A2000007599, in order to make plans to visit the shelter to discuss adoption with the coordinators.

The SPCA is open every day as of 10 am, and they are located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges.

Please drop by to visit Rufus for adoption, he would fit in so well with the other active family dogs in our daily neighborhood routines.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne




Affectionate Blanche

sweet friend to all in the home. Please do not hesitate to drop by the shelter to visit with the her and the coordinators to discuss her adoption.

The SPCA is open every day as of 10 am and it is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges. Please bring a carrier or you can select one from the accessories boutique on-site.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Families celebrate shabbat *en plein air* in Westmount Parak

By JENNIFER BALL

It hinted of rain on Friday, July 28 but that did not deter families from gathering at the northeast corner of Westmount Park to celebrate “Shabbat in the Park.” The event was in conjunction with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom of Westmount and was the fifth Shabbat in the Park event in the month of July at various locations in and around Montreal.

Lions and tigers and dinosaurs were set loose before associate rabbi Lillian Kowalski courtesy of Doodlebug face painters. It was part of the many activities associated with the series of events.

“Take a break from the busy work week and welcome shabbat with a casual, fun and family-friendly Friday evening in the park, and don’t forget to invite grandparents too!” This was the call to action from the Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA), which co-presented the event with PJ Library. (According to its website, “PJ” stands for “Pajamas!”)

In-person gatherings, that were halted during the years of the pandemic, are now deemed pressing.

Westmount resident Jeremy Laufer was an event co-organizer. “...doing Shabbat in



Associate rabbi Lillian Kowalski holding *Koala Challah* from PJ library at Shabbat in the Park on July 28 near the northeast corner of Westmount Park. One child’s face obscured by *Independent*.

the Park here, with CJA and Temple and supporting interfaith marriage and interfaith families... you realize how creative the thought, by these creative organizations, is. It’s really admirable.”

“In friendship and as a community, we share this interfaith commonality where the norm is not Jewish by birth.”

Laufer considered the outcomes that would make him feel that the event was a success. He said, “honestly, I would love to see kids just plain laughing and parents mingling and having a smile on their face...”

“I think what would be interesting is

when the rabbi does choose to deliver a message or a story, a sign of success would be how many people are gathering around her and listening, how many people are interested in what she has to say.”

Associate rabbi Lillian Kowalski chose the book *Koala Challah*, from PJ library, for her reading.

The story is about a family of koala bears and the youngest koala is looking for her own way to contribute to shabbat. Sometimes her attempts to help result in unwanted outcomes for her family.

“She eventually settles on trying to help make *challah*: the traditional bread that’s

eaten on shabbat, so she spends the entire week preparing to make it special for her family,” Rabbi Kowalski said.

“Which is one of the things that we try to encourage with Shabbat in the Park. How do you make shabbat special for yourself? How do you make it special for your family? How do you make it separate and distinct from what you do the rest of the week and the rest of the year?”

Alexandra Kirsh is a mother who recently settled locally after having lived in Toronto. Having a son born during COVID was limiting, she said. She wanted to attend because “it’s a great way to connect with the community and to meet new families. It’s also creating opportunities to connect in other ways. To talk about community, about Jewish faith. The Jewish community is so much about connections.”

Marcy Kastner is director of community services at the Temple. She said they are opening up more doors to community programming in the hopes that the global pandemic is in the rear-view mirror.

Upcoming events at the Temple will include knitting groups, apple-picking, cooking classes for young couples and many, many more.

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Québec

'Critical Mass' cycles to Westmount Park to support bike paths



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZVI LEVE.

Tempting fate?



PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

This car was parked June 30 in the alley west of Victoria that runs north from de Maisonneuve. Another car was struck by a recycling truck in the same alley about 10 yards to the south on June 28. (See story, July 4, p. 3.)

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Gloria Steinberg named president of Cummings board

Westmounter Gloria Steinberg was named president of the Cummings Centre’s 2023-2025 board of directors at the organization’s recent annual general meeting. For the last two years, she served as the first vice-president of the organization, which is located on Westbury Ave. in Côte des Neiges.

“I am honoured to serve as president of the Cummings Centre and extend a special welcome to the incoming board of directors. I also extend my respect and admiration for outgoing president Nancy Cooperberg and executive director Pauline Grunberg for their incredible direction throughout the pandemic.”

As a psychotherapist and consultant, Gloria’s involvement with the Cummings Centre began approximately eight years ago with her exploration of post-retirement activities for senior clients. Steinberg was recruited to lead workshops in leadership training followed by varied committee



work as well as chairing the marketing and communications committee.

Prior to her Cummings involvement Steinberg was involved in the Social Action Committee of Federation CJA and provincial legislator Raymond Bachand’s cultural communities council for Outremont. She was also president of the Montreal Multicultural Women’s Coalition and clinical director of Alternatives, the first

Quebec government-funded drug rehabilitation centre.

The Cummings Centre’s mission is to empower and enhance the quality of life of adults aged 50+ by providing dynamic and innovative programs, social services, and volunteer opportunities in a vibrant, respectful, inclusive and compassionate environment.

Building on its Jewish heritage, Cummings embraces people from all ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

– VR

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Hellenic ladies' society gets ready for October fundraiser



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Recently **Belle** and **Ernie Grivakis** launched Ilios Dînatoire 2023 at their elegant Westmount home, announcing that the fundraising event will be held at Estiatorio Milos on Sunday, October 15.

The Grivakis' evening was under the distinguished patronage of **Katerina Varvarigou**, consul general of Greece. President of the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society (HLBS), Belle welcomed guests to the cocktail eve, featuring delicious bites by Davide Bazzali, he of the eponymous restaurant, with wines graciously donated by **Chris Dedes**. Celebrating over 100 years, the HLBS organization provides community assistance to people in need, offering educational bursaries, medical necessities, children's school lunches, books and camps. Present were honorary co-chairs **Sandra Dampolias**, regional vp BMO, there with her husband **Chris Farfaras**, RBC Dominion Securities, and **Helen Tyros** of Pear Tree *continued on p. 26*



Belle Grivakis, Sandra Dampolias, Miriam Roland, Ekaterina Timbers, Helen Tyros and Michelle Miu.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 25

Financial attending with her husband **Bill Kampouris**.

Ilios committee members were co-chairs **Katie Papoutsis** and **Maria Korogiannis** working with **Jane Lekas**, **Yiota Papadopoulos**, **Belle Grivakis**, **Nitza Melas**, **Bernice Tzikas**, **Sandra Khoury**, **Dina Kefallinos** and **Maggie Pagonis**.

Other guests included federal judge **Miriam Roland**; **Ekaterina Tsimberis** and her husband **Marc-André Huot**; Park Extension city councillor **Mary Deros** with her husband **Peter Deros**; **Jean-François Prince**, regional vp RBC and his wife **Chantal Prince**. Also present were radio host **Orla Johannes** and her husband **Chris Konstantopoulos**, **Peter Mammias** (Food-tastic) and his wife **Niki Mammias**, **Pat Savoia** RBC Dominion Securities, and his wife **Lia Savoia**; **Tina** and **Andy Kragaris** (Au Vieux Duluth); **Mary Pagonis** (McCarthy Tétrault) and **Vince Simeone** (Kilo Beaux Gateaux); **George Alexopoulos** (Belden inc); **Micelle Liu** (CIBC), **Mike Sayig** (president Centre-Ville Volkswagen), and long-time supporters **Mary Karamanos** and her husband **Nick Tsatsoulis**.

Sponsorships for the sure-to-be-sold-out eve are platinum \$10K (10 guests); gold \$5,500 (8 guests) and silver \$3,500 (4).

Please send information on your upcoming events to: veronica@redgravepr.com.



Vince Simeone, Mary Pagonis, Niki and Peter Mammias, Orla Johannes, Chris Konstantopoulos, Ekaterina Tsimberis and Marc-André Huot.



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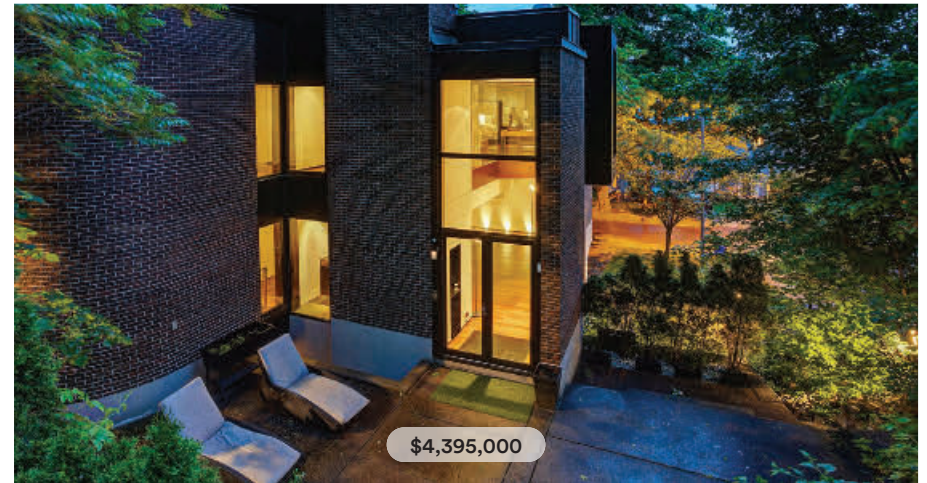
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