

Westmount Historical Association announces fall series

Program kicks off Sept. 21 on library's 125-year celebrations

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Next year's 125th anniversary of the Westmount Public Library is being kicked off Thursday, September 21 with the first of three monthly programs to be presented by the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) as a prelude to the celebration year.

These will feature the role the municipal library has played throughout the years as the first publicly funded one in Quebec in 1899. They are to take place at Victoria Hall from 7 to 9 pm as well as being offered in free real-time Zoom attendance for which registration can be made at wha-wpl-architecture.eventbrite.ca.

"We wanted to present a background to where the library is today, showing the building additions as well as the changing nature and growth of the collections over

the years," said series coordinator Caroline Breslaw in announcing the program with WHA president Louise Carpentier.

This opening segment will feature retired mayor Peter Trent, who steered the library through its major building and restoration project in 1995, at which time it added many internet services.

With him will be architects Julia Gersovitz and Rosanne Moss, founding partners of EVOQ Architecture, who played key roles in the project to refurbish the grandeur of the 1899 library.

Looking at the next programs

The second program follows on Thursday, October 19, with a rundown of 125 years of collection, programs and services. This will be presented by Peter McNally, professor *continued on p. 16*

Lightning hits house near summit



A fire broke out at 10 Bellevue Ave., located between Aberdeen and Sunnyside, on August 30 when lightning struck the house. Photo contributor Patrick Martin counted 17 trucks and 60 firefighters. The fire did not spread. Westmount Public Security was first on the scene, followed by Montreal firefighters. See p. 3 for story.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY, LEFT, & P. MARTIN, RIGHT.

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New signage coming for Greene rail underpass

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For many years now, oversized trucks on Greene Ave. have been hitting the Canadian Pacific railway overpass despite a variety of warning signs and deterrents.

In a motion at the Westmount city council meeting August 21, however, an agreement between the city and the Réseau de transport métropolitain (EXO) was approved unanimously to "reduce the

number of collisions."

The motion refers to "plans to install a protection system including several infrastructures and equipment in the vicinity of the Greene overpass on part of the lots owned by the city of Westmount," though the type of warning equipment was not specified.

Despite this, District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez, who moved the motion, said the equip- *continued on p. 8*



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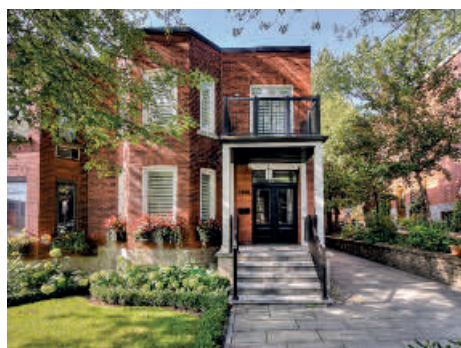
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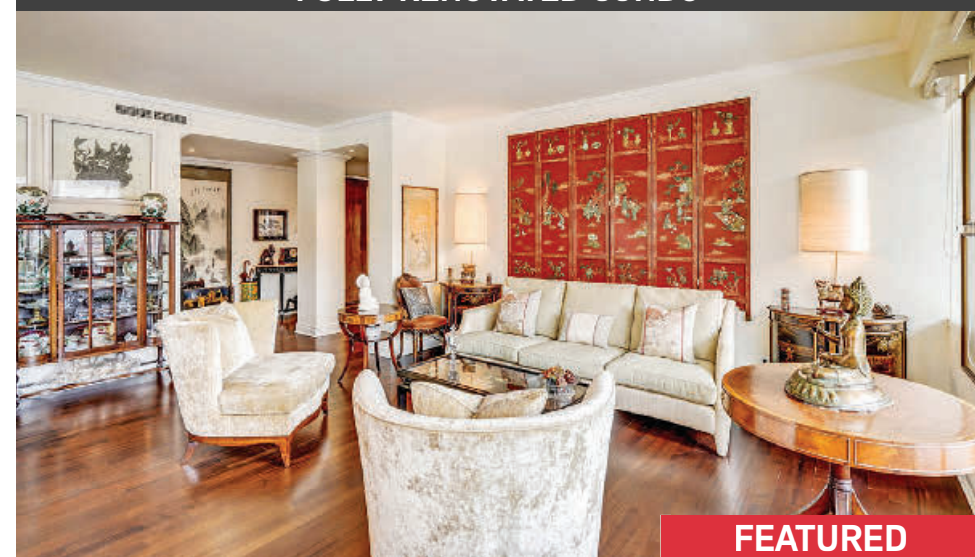


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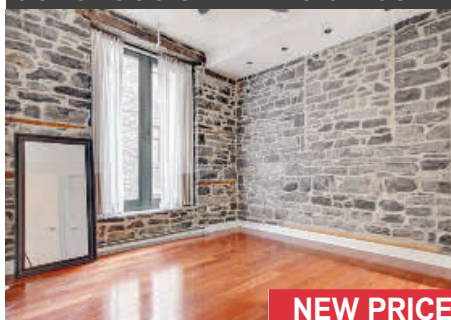
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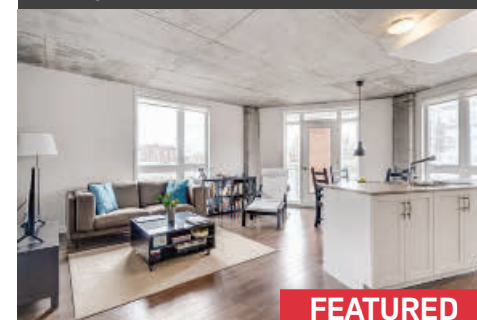
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Everyone already out after lightning strike

Public Security searches for baby in smoke-filled house

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public safety officers took two fire extinguishers from patrol vehicles to enter a smoke-filled house at 10 Upper Bellevue August 30 in search of a baby they were told was inside, Public Security director Greg McBain said. The house was reported to have been struck by lightning in a sudden thunderstorm.

First to arrive on the scene after being

flagged down by a passer-by at 2:06 pm, the officers found heavy smoke billowing from the house and spoke to a caretaker found outside. Confronted by a language barrier, they managed to get in through an open front door.

A quick search from what turned out to be “misinformation,” McBain said, revealed no one inside and no injuries were reported.

A subsequent call to residents of the

house confirmed that no one would have been inside and all information was relayed to firefighters on their subsequent arrival, McBain said. “Workers across the street had heard a big bang.”

The fire department was reported to have left by 4:21 pm.

The incident brought to memory a lightning strike on the chimney of the house on Edgehill some years ago.

See photos on p. 1.

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Arrested, charged with theft of bicycle

PSOs catch suspect during pursuit in dead of night

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public safety officer on the overnight shift August 28 noticed a suspicious-looking man coming out of a lane at 376-378 Clarke at 2:30 am. He was riding a bicycle and holding onto a second one, Public Security officials said.

As the man rode south on Clarke to the bike path on de Maisonneuve, the officer called for back-up as well as police while the suspect continued east on the bike path.

Appearing to be “spooked” after spotting officers, the man moved to a lane off Olivier. As he was followed, the suspect dropped the second bicycle on Westmount Square property. He was found on St. Catherine turning onto Gladstone and into a laneway. He ended up jumping off the first bicycle but stopped for the patrollers as police arrived.

Police took him into custody and placed him under arrest while PSOs went back to pick up the stolen bike and the one the suspect had been riding.

Identified as a 33-year-old resident of

the city of Montreal, the man was released on a summons to appear in court for theft. He was also issued two tickets by Public Security: one for \$155 for trespassing on private property on Clarke; another for \$230 for obstructing the work of a public safety officer.

Gas leak on Clandeboye shuts off power



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM RICHARDS.

A gas leak at 132 Clandeboye August 31 resulted in power being shut down and traffic blocked on the street, Public Security officials said. Reported at 8:10 am, required repair work was reported completed at 9:40 am.

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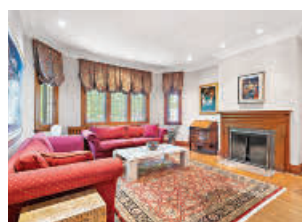
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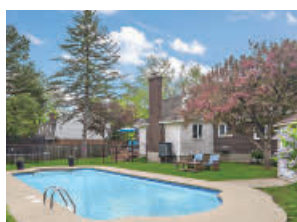
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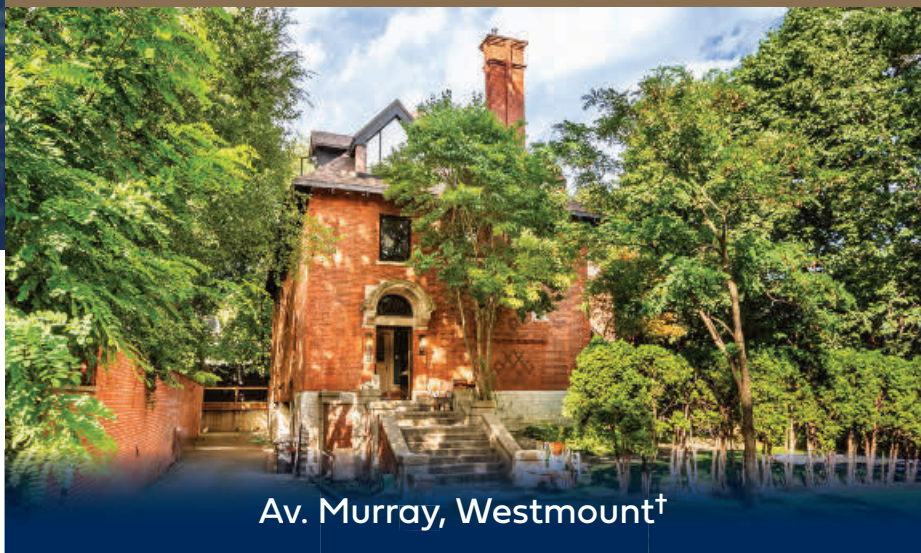
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRAY FOR THE FOREST-FIRE VICTIMS

All affected by the fires are in our thoughts and prayers. “Go to Joseph,” (Genesis 41:55). Quebec, please pray the Litany of Saint Joseph every day.

MATTHEW R. DUNNIGAN, ITALY

WHY STOP AT FIREPLACES?

- The city of Westmount adopted a new by-law on solid-fuel appliances and fireplaces (see August 21, p. 1).
- In the same line of thought, I think that I will propose more by-laws:
1. It will be prohibited to have power failures lasting longer than 2.5 minutes, so that citizens will not be inconvenienced or left to freeze in the cold,
 2. Unnecessary roadwork as was done on Lexington Ave. will be prohibited to save on highly polluting concrete-making, save on trucks coming and going, and thus reduce the city’s carbon footprint,
 3. Temporary garages will be allowed in winter, to save on snow removal by private contractors, save on gas, and reduce residents’ carbon footprint,
 4. Outdoor clotheslines will be allowed to dry clothes and save electricity, and thus reduce residents’ carbon footprint,
 5. Plastic drainpipes will be allowed in houses to save on highly energy-intensive manufacturing of copper or cast-iron pipes,
 6. Above-ground swimming pools will

be allowed, to save on highly polluting concrete-making, save on trucks coming and going, and thus reduce residents’ carbon footprint.

LOUIS CAOUCETTE, UPPER ROSLYN AVE.

THANKS BRAVE COMIX, KAL

Recently, the awesome comic book store, Brave Comix, at 4154 St. Catherine St. in Westmount, closed its doors for the last time. I discovered the literary treasures in Brave Comix when I was a grade 5 student (I am now 12) and proceeded to spend most of my allowance (and probably more!) on Saturday mornings at Bagels on Greene, followed by a stop to see Kal.

I really love Star Wars comic books, and Kal always had the latest installments. Green Lantern was his favourite series, but he encouraged me to keep reading my favourites, and told me about his preferred comic book stores in NY.

Kal, thanks for having a great store. I wish you the best of luck.

HARRY GARSCHAGEN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

PLEASE DEAL WITH STAYNER PARK SAFETY ISSUE

The city of Westmount needs to address a growing problem in its parks. Take Stayner Park as a case study. There has been a clear increase in the number of homeless people loitering in Stayner Park throughout the summer. With more homeless people, there has been an increase in

crime, leaving the residents feeling unsafe. In the week of August 21 alone, a homeless man suffered a very loud breakdown – screaming obscenities and attacking a fence by the comfort station; there was an overnight camper who set up a lean-to; and on Prospect St., which abuts Stayner Park, a car window was smashed, likely for a thief to steal a briefcase.

When residents speak with city councillors or Public Safety, we are told to remain vigilant and call security if we see anything suspicious. We want the city to deal with this issue before it becomes more widespread. Staying attentive is not a solution to this safety problem. As it now stands, we are asked to watch idly while the problem gets bigger, albeit we are asked to watch with vigilance.

MICHAEL POLAK, PENELOPE KERSHAW,
ANNA & PHILIP BELEC, GIUSEPPE CHIOVITTI, ALICIA FALCONE, FRANK CANDIDO, OLIVIA CANDIDO, JULIAN CANDIDO, HEATHER WYER, ADEELA ARSHAD-AYAZ, M. AYAZ NASEEM, SHAUN MCMAHON, ANITA CHANDAN, ALEX OPPEN AND SAM SUTHERLAND, MORAG AND PETER HOWLETT, PROSPECT ST. & NINA SILVERSTONE, ROBERT KORNE, DR. CAROLINE REINHOLD, DR. ELRIC WINTER, AND TOBY MORANTZ, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

Editor’s note: While the city of Westmount has undoubtedly taken on a public-safety role by having a Public Safety department, residents should be aware that criminal law enforcement is primarily the role of the Montreal police, which they pay for through the Montreal agglomeration (roughly one half of Westmount’s spending and taxing). – DP.

LONG COURT BATTLE AGAINST BILL 96 BEGINS

The Independent received this press release August 27.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy’s fight against the Legault government’s oppressive Bill 96 has begun! On August 29, lawyers from the Bergman law firm [were to] appear on behalf of the Task Force to contest the impact of the law.

Task Force president Andrew Caddell points out that while this hearing is a formality, it is significant for the Task Force. “Just as crossing the Rubicon was an important moment in history, this hearing is the beginning of a journey that will likely end in the Supreme Court of Canada.”

Caddell is one of six plaintiffs. They also include:

- General plaintiffs acting as public interest litigants, as a constitutional question.
- A teacher concerned about his status due

to education provisions in Bill 96.

- A businessperson whose commercial affairs are affected by Bill 96.
- A permanent resident with an autoimmune disease who cannot receive communications in English.
- A mother whose autistic child has not been able to receive proper specialized care because his first language is English.

Michael Bergman, who leads a team of lawyers, will face lawyers from the attorneys general of Quebec and Canada. He has taken on this case with great determination. He promises to “pursue this case with diligence, dispatch and to the fullest extent possible.”

The Task Force has been busy these last few months. It all began with advertising to ensure bilingual municipalities kept their status and adopted resolutions, a very important step needed under Bill 96 to permit continued services and communications to residents in English.

We launched a “Tell Us Your Story” program, which gives a platform for those persecuted under Bill 96 to report their stories via www.TheTaskForce.ca so we can tell the world what is happening in Quebec.

We also began collaborating with Bridging Ethnic Communities (RCE.BEC.org) for protests in the form of rolling processions. An event will be planned each month with each event getting bigger and bigger.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy/Comité spécial sur la politique linguistique was formed in June of 2021 to fight Bill 96 and Bill C-13, the federal Official Languages Act. It boasts thousands of subscribers and followers on social media. It is active in the community and uses crowd sourcing to finance its efforts and lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Bill 96. Learn more at www.TheTaskForce.ca.

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

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Children log 7,100 hours of reading

Closing party Sept. 9 to wind up annual summer club

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A closing party for this year's annual TD Summer Reading Club for the Westmount children's library takes place September 9 at Victoria Hall for the 210 who registered for this year's events under the theme of "Check this out."

Designed to encourage reading, the theme focused on "cool stuff, amazing facts, exploring the world around us and everything that makes us curious," said children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

In announcing that participants logged a total of 7,100 hours of reading "and counting," she said the closing party would feature Ensemble La Cigale, a musical group specializing in performing the music of the Renaissance and Baroque eras on period instruments.

"Come and discover some amazing ancient instruments and unusual music in La Cigale's Cabinet of Curiosities. The interactive event will feature pieces from the Baroque period, along with a battle of instruments, musical puzzles, and more," she said.

All the many events that took place this year as part of the club were "full" Wayling said. Many were held in the garden along with some 400 attendees at the "Movie Night under the Stars" August 28. This fea-



Children's librarian Wendy Wayling reads about forest animals July 12 as part of the summer reading club.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

tured a showing of the Super Mario Bros. comedy.



A beekeeper from Aveole shows young readers a sample of the beeswax August 17.

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REFERRED FOR A REASON

Contractor hired to groom and prepare 3 dog runs

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Dog owners will likely be pleased with news from the city council on August 21 that the city was awarding a contract described in the resolution as “maintenance of dog runs,” but turns out to be far more.

Greene underpass, cont'd from p. 1

ment would not affect Selby Park – “a good thing.” She later emphasized the need to protect the park area.

Previous warnings have included booms as well as signs designed to warn drivers of the height clearance of 3.5 meters (10 feet, 11 inches). Nevertheless, especially when trucks climb the hill northbound from St. Antoine, collisions are so frequent that nearby residents often send photos of another strike to the *Independent*.

To sign on city's behalf

While the Quebec government, through the transport minister, is prepared to authorize the new warning project by EXO, the motion states, the city will proceed with the agreement to be signed by the mayor and city clerk/director of legal services on behalf of the city.

“This is not really a maintenance contract,” Public Works director Robert Talarico told the *Independent*. “This contract was awarded to add material to the three dog parks in Westmount. The contractor needs to pull the weeds and fix the geo-textile in certain areas before adding the materials.”

The contract was approved at a cost of \$67,088.73, including tax credits, from Pelouse Santé Inc., listed as the only bid received in a call for tenders by invitation. The fenced-in dog runs are located in Westmount Park, King George (Murray) Park and the Westmount Athletic Grounds.

These are covered with a granite/sand mix, which some users had complained can be dusty and be difficult for the dogs’ owners/guardians to walk on (see story October 5, 2021, p.7). It was tested, however, and reported to be safe when inhaled.



The current northbound/uphill Greene underpass signage, as seen September 1.

The *Independent* has chronicled at least 18 hits of the overpass since November 2020 (see July 11, p. 7 and December 13, 2022, p. 23). Many more have been reported over more than at least 20 or 30 years.

When trucks hit the overpass, the city’s public safety officers are usually called to the scene to control traffic and help the trucks back down the hill when possible. This is often accomplished by deflating

tires. The collisions tie up traffic and delay the commuter trains while CP police or other officials are called and attend.



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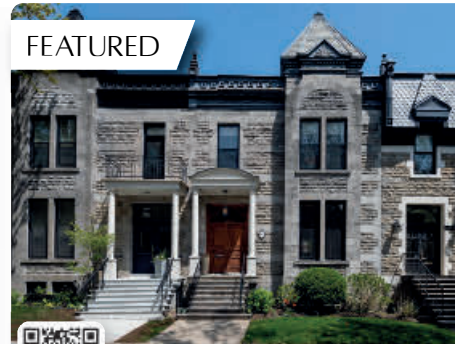


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Sale price: \$8 million – school looks to future Villa Sainte-Marcelline closes deal for its campus

By JENNIFER BALL

Villa Sainte-Marcelline is writing a new chapter in its 64-year history while welcoming a new cohort of girls for the start of the 2023 school year.

The August 28 back-to-school date marked a major milestone in the history of the school. Last June, the corporation of the school purchased the school's land and buildings belonging to the Congrégation des Soeurs de Sainte-Marcelline for \$8 million after a long and blustery negotiation (see June 6 issue, p. 10).

The focus of the 2023-2024 school year can now be academics and sports rather than rescue committees, parent protests and media relations.

A new, entirely lay board of directors has been formed, committed to educational work. The congregation does not have representatives on the board, nor have they placed any conditions on the sale. They will be removed from school governance entirely.

Co-president of the school corporation Michael Gentile wants to focus now on the future, the positivity of the opening of school and the hope they have going forward.

He said a deal was authored because "...above everything else [the congregation] wanted certainty..."

"It was disclosed in various meetings with the parents that their original asking price was \$12-\$13 million, so their move to lower their ask in June was a major concession and key in allowing us to come to a deal. Helped by the fact that we had 100 percent certainty on financing and funds available to close the deal on our side," Gentile summarized.

In discussing the school's immediate goals and needs, he said that there used to

be a two-year waiting list and now young women can get a spot this year or next year, without a delay.

According to Gentile, the issues mentioned in an October 6, 2022 email from Sister Marielle Dion, indicating that "...approximately 12 to 16 million dollars must be invested to ensure the conformity and modernity of the buildings..." have been addressed.

Is the school unsafe? "No, not at all," Gentile affirmed.

"I don't want to speak out of turn because the [Régie du bâtiment du Québec, which enacts construction, safety and professional qualification standards and which oversees the enforcement of these standards] may have other thoughts, but the work was elongating the hallways of the school, adding coverage for the balcony in the gymnasium..."

"The RBQ would never let any kids attend school if [they were in danger]." Gentile says that all those repairs were done during the summer and that they have no worries about the safety of the school.

The school had approximately 539 students before the negotiations began and enrollment is at 430 for the current year, so they are down somewhat on revenue.

But the bottom line could soon improve. "We got a bank loan, to partially purchase the school. We are very happy to say that we're well ahead of our projections. We have more students coming back than we expected. I think the fact that we purchased the school convinced a lot of parents..."

"We've done the fundraising necessary to have a nice buffer. We projected losses – obviously for a year or two as we built the school back up – but the losses are less than we thought and we're in a good position to continued on p. 16

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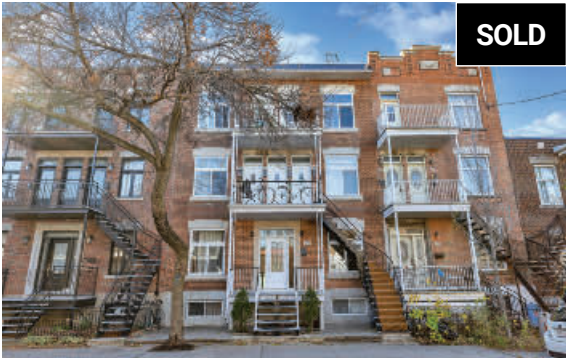
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Victoria village is similarly sited near major streets, bus routes, the bike path and the Vendôme Metro station, as well as the Glen super-hospital.

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David Price, editor



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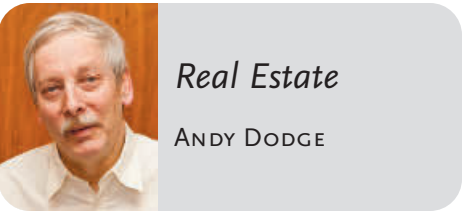
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Real Estate
ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2023 gleaned from city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

Only two of 10 one- and two-family sales registered in March this year had prices higher than their municipal value, and with the average price some seven percent below valuation, it becomes clear that the Westmount real estate market is definitely down from where it was in 2021, the year that formed the basis for the 2023 valuation roll.

The list of transfers includes only one house price above \$3 million, that being the large bungalow at 14 Ramezay Rd. that brought its owner \$4,000,000, though that was eight percent under its municipal valuation.

The lowest price was \$1,550,000 paid out for a small house at 533 Grosvenor Ave., again six percent under tax value, and the average for nine single-family homes and one duplex in March was \$2,345,450, while the average for all of 2022 was

March transfers: Mainly under water



14 Ramezay, the highest March transfer at \$4 million, on August 25.

\$2,985,644, and for 2021 it was still \$2,577,152.

The highest mark-up over valuation was 10.7 percent, for 14 de Casson Rd., while mark-downs tumbled as low as 24 percent for a semi-detached house at 471 Clarke Ave., corner Anwoth Rd.

Only one condominium sold in March, a second-floor flat in the made-over triplex

on Claremont Ave. north of Sherbrooke St., which sold for \$670,000. That sale joins six other apartment units to make up the first quarter of 2023, with the seven sales averaging \$1,010,286, a hefty 12 percent lower than their respective valuations.

Prices ranged from \$2,300,000 for a 19th-floor apartment at 1 Wood Ave. in February, to only \$280,000 for a ground-floor

apartment at 399 Clarke Ave. in January.

The only other sale reported in March was a co-op sale involving Apt. 7 at 388 Olivier Ave., a three-storey, 17-unit apartment building, which turned co-op last June. This is the first re-sale of one of the co-op apartments, with a substantial mark-down from the proportional valuation for that apartment.



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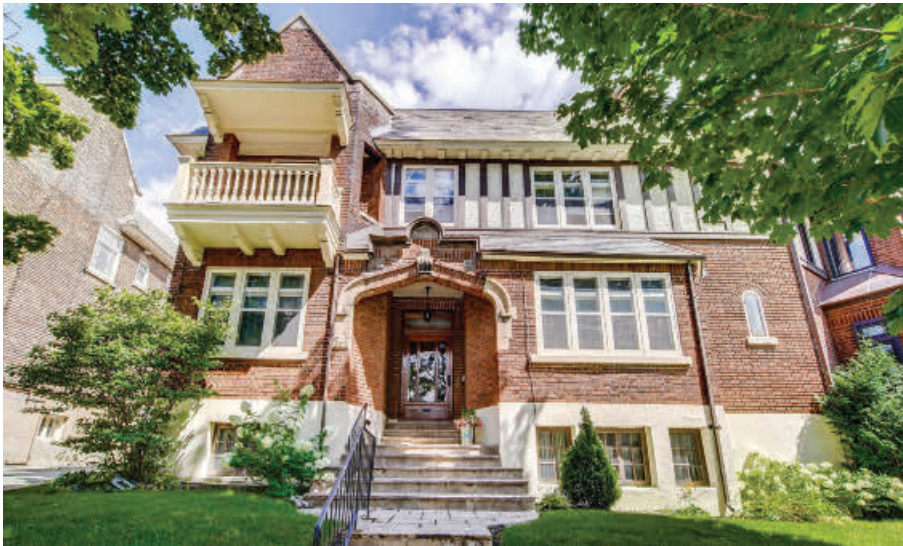
Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in March 2023

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
611 Belmont	David Furlong & Claudiane Boulay	\$2,300,000	\$2,322,000	-0.9%
471 Clarke	B. Guadalupe Montero	\$2,025,000	\$2,664,800	-24.0%
594 Côte St. Antoine	Marc Missonnier	\$1,750,000	\$2,179,800	-19.7%
14 de Casson	Guyline Jacques	\$1,825,000	\$1,648,600	10.7%
369 Elm	Marie-Christine Bergeron & Martin Picard	\$1,959,500	\$2,030,700	-3.5%
533 Grosvenor	Mira Katnick Trust & Julia Katnick Trust	\$1,550,000	\$1,649,100	-6.0%
594 Lansdowne	Ralph Beaveridge & Linda Allen	\$2,830,000	\$2,823,800	0.2%
14 Ramezay	Michael Bitensky	\$4,000,000	\$4,356,000	-8.2%
432 Strathcona	Donna Doherty	\$2,715,000	\$2,883,800	-5.9%
DUPLEXES				
384-86 Olivier	Judith Falussy	\$2,500,000	\$2,613,800	-4.4%
CONDOMINIUMS				
438 Claremont	Five members of the Lequettier family	\$670,000	\$670,400	-0.1%
SHARE SALES				
388 Olivier, 7.22%	Richard Edge	\$510,000	\$735,155 ¹	-30.6%

¹Valuation is 7.22 percent of \$10,182,200. Exclusive use of Apt. 7.

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The interior and exterior of the Westmount Public Library August 30 and 31.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Library, *cont'd from p. 1*

emeritus of the McGill School of Information Studies along with Donna Lach, assistant library director, and Wendy Wayling, children's librarian.

In the third program, November 23, Lora Baiocco, Westmount's online services and archives librarian, will shine a light on the library's special collections featuring its world-class postcard and art collections that have been treasured over the years.

Villa Sainte-Marcelline, *cont'd from p. 10*

actually be going forward."

Gentile himself has three daughters at Sainte-Marcelline. As they start their new grades, the *Independent* wondered what he thought their mood might be? "Oh, they're ecstatic," he avouched.

"Obviously, the nicest thing about being involved in this project... not only from my daughters, but from alumni, from parents, kids, teachers, supporters of the school district...there has been such huge outpouring of emotion..."

"It's hard to explain, but people really love this school, myself included."

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Watch your step on Grosvenor



This rebar is protruding from the sidewalk on the east side Grosvenor below Côte St. Antoine, as seen August 29.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



Andy Warhol, *Mick Jagger*, 1975

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Your neighbour,
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

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Please do not hesitate to go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and refer to her information page under her identification number, 2000020267. You can then plan a visit to the shelter, as they are open every day from 10 am. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges, H4P 1X4.

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Police Report

Police see pattern emerging in recent string of retail break-ins

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 say two burglaries committed last week at retail businesses on Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St. in Westmount were similar in execution to a pair of break-ins that took place on Greene Ave. a week or so before.

On August 28 around 2:45 am, the front door of a business on Victoria was forced open with a crowbar or a screwdriver.

The perpetrator, whose actions were recorded by the video surveillance system, proceeded to the cash register, which was also broken open although there was apparently no cash in it.

However, a computer tablet lying on a countertop was stolen, according to the police report.

Clothing store burgled

In the second burglary incident, a women's wear store on Sherbrooke was broken into during the early morning hours on August 30.

"Someone called us around a quarter to six in the morning to report that a front window had been shattered," said Yigit. High-end women's clothing was reported

to have been removed by the perpetrator from the store, the police summary of the incident stated.

Again, video surveillance cameras captured images of the suspect. But perhaps more importantly, blood was found by the investigators at the crime scene, leading them to surmise the suspect cut himself on pieces of the shattered window.

"We had to send the crime scene investigation squad in to take samples," added Yigit, while noting that blood was also found at the scene of the burglaries on Greene, which were on August 18 and 19.

A crowbar is also believed to have been

used in those incidents. The additional blood evidence could lead to the suspect being positively identified and the current spree of break-ins being stopped.

Public Security foils bikes' theft

Westmount Public Security officers played an instrumental role recently in helping to foil the apparent theft of two high-end road bicycles (see p. 3 for more detail).

On August 20 on Clarke Ave. around 2:30 am, two PSO's while out on patrol notified the Montreal police that they had spotted a suspicious-looking male who was

walking along Clarke with two bicycles.

As one of the PSO's approached him to ask a few questions, the suspect dropped the two bikes and ran off, according to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

"So, they called in police for assistance," he continued. "He was found and placed under arrest. He's now being investigated in the hopes of finding the owners of the two bikes."

The allegedly stolen bicycles in question were high-end Scott and Specialized brands, with a retail value of up to \$3,000 each, said Yigit.

Desmarais, Amizlev bring pop art MMFA



Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE

There's a new "pop" in town! The Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal just launched *The Pop of Life! Pop Art in the Collection of the MMFA*.

The exhibition was officially launched by the museum's chief curator, Westmounter Mary-Dailey Desmarais, and Iris Amizlev, MMFA community engagement and projects, and curator of the show. Also present was Stéphane Aquin, director MMFA.

The rotational presentation features iconic 1960s and 1970s work by more than 30 artists and designers. The exciting show is full of fun. A bright green Verner Pantone (1974) chair sits near a look-at-me red lamp by Gruppo Architetti Urbanisti Città Nuova (1962).

Andy Warhol's famed *Mao 1972* and Pierre Ayot's *Ma mère revenant de son shop-*



Mary-Dailey Desmarais, Iris Amizlev and Stéphane Aquin.

ping 1967 offer intriguing approaches to portraiture. Adults and children alike will love the energy.

Even though decades old, the artists' colourful takes on consumer culture "still res-

onate today," reflected Mary-Dailey Desmarais. The exhibition is "laced with humour and critical commentary," added Iris Amizlev. A must-see.

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City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Nova Scotia, part two: Annapolis valley

Moving away from Monet-misted mornings, it was time to visit a little town called Annapolis Royal, once the capital of Nova Scotia until the founding of Halifax in 1749.

Tucked in the charming Annapolis valley, it is famed for one of Canada’s oldest historic sites: Fort Anne. The hotly contested land changed hands seven times between 1605 and 1710.

Fought over by the Scots, French and British, battles often involved the Mi’kmaq too. Today, the fort is under Parks Canada administration. The beautifully manicured grounds have un-discovered areas that possibly housed garrison housing, now lost in time beneath gently mounded hills.

Old cannon face the eternal tides. Guided ghost tours are popular. With their poignant epitaphs barely visible, centuries-old tilted gravestones sit under ancient spreading oaks and elms.

The little village is renowned for its Saturday market. Here, not only is locally grown produce sold out within minutes, but vin- continued on p. 22



Fort Anne.



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City views, cont'd from p. 21

tage stalls attract fashion-seekers of all ages.

Look down. For those who live for barista coffee, next door Arch & Po Café offers indoor and outdoor seating. That is, if you can get there before the line-ups. Far-Fetched Art Gallery offers an awesome selection of Asian antiques. And they ship around the world.

Another lure of Annapolis Royal is “Paint the Town,” an annual August art event. Celebrating over 25 successful years, it attracts local and national collectors.

Artists set up their easels *en plein air*

throughout the town and art lovers rush to grab the piece of their dreams. (A fundraiser for the local contemporary gallery ArtsPlace, proceeds are shared 50/50.)

Stay awhile in this tranquil place. There is a wide selection of inns and hotels. You can look for sea glass and treasures in the sandy tidal beach of Hedley House by the Sea, where rooms have outside decks with Adirondack chairs for sunset viewing. (Full disclosure. My brother owns Hedley.) Or stay at the historic Queen Anne Inn, a gorgeous 1865 heritage property.

All ages enjoy the famous Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. Among many fascinating areas, the landscaped park features a rose maze, elephant grasses and a knot garden, offering hours of discovery.

Or you can take a path less travelled. Wander the local French Basin Trail. A well-marked, 1.2-km path loops around a constructed wetland where birds can be viewed by small, medium and tall explorers.

Here is the sound of silence.



Viewing station at French Basin.

Chinese Works of Art WANTED



Paintings



Jade



Snuff Bottles



Porcelain



Buddha Figures



Censors



Porcelain Plaque



Porcelain

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Correction

In my recent article on the HLBS’ Ilios gala, the honorable Ekaterina Tsimberis is a federal judge, not Miriam Roland, a renowned philanthropist.

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



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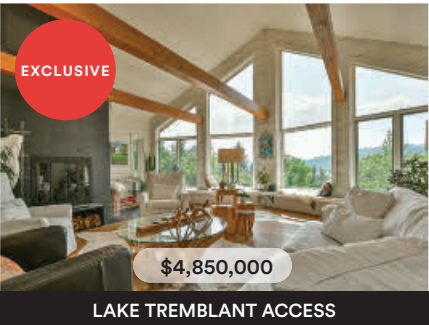
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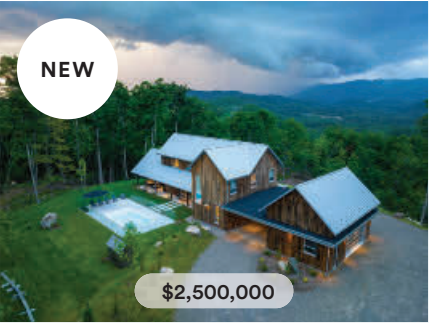
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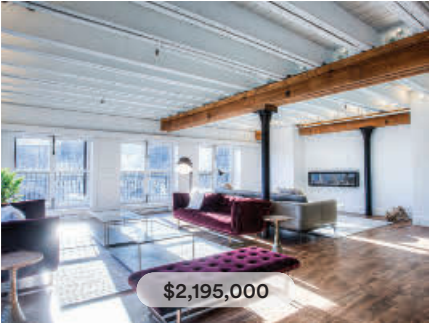
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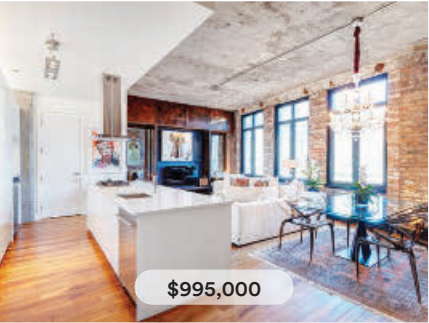
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