

Sports and Rec registration requires new 2024 account

Head start for residents: Spring sign-up opens February 13

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's Sports and Recreation programs and activities open for spring registration Tuesday, February 13 for Westmount residents.

This gives them a chance at some of the city's favourites that fill up quickly such as

ballet and the Saturday Kidnastix for toddlers.

Three new programs introduced this spring – April through June – are flag football, a running club and a writing program, all for adults. The new running club is described as “a great tool to boost cardiovascular health, improve your running abilities or start from the ground up.”

The new writers' program is the “next step” for people who have already created something and want to prepare it for publishing.

This is also the season to sign up for tennis and pickleball instruction as well as youth soccer, baseball, rugby, spring hockey, safe cycling and babysitting.

“What's very important for people wanting to register is to make sure their account has *continued on p. 13*

City of Westmount's Winter Carnival wraps up at Murray Park



The final day of Westmount's 39th Winter Carnival – February 3 at King George (Murray) Park – did not disappoint attendees with a number of activities, including advanced figure skaters demonstrating their moves to an enthusiastic crowd. For more, see p. 10-11.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Inside

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City joins with 3 others, takes leading role

New recycling contract awarded to new collector

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new contractor will be picking up recycling material from blue boxes following the city council's approval February 5 of a new three-year contract. This is for the collection and transportation of the material awarded for the first time on a group basis involving the city and three other de-merged municipalities.

While the others are Pointe Claire, Côte St. Luc and Dollard des Ormeaux, Westmount has been designated to “lead the pack” concerning this contract, said Councillor Matt Aronson, who moved the resolution as commissioner of sustainability.

It was awarded on a three-year basis to WM Quebec Inc., described as the lowest conforming bidder, at a collective total of \$3,228,268 *continued on p. 13*

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Theme inspired by library's 125th anniversary

52nd McEntyre writing competition under way

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In keeping with this year's 125th anniversary of the Westmount Public Library, the McEntyre Writing Competition is being launched with a library theme.

"For this special year, we are asking students to write about the importance of the library in a community," said chief judge Liz McCallum.

"Some ideas may be: What does the library mean to you? What is your favourite place in the library and why? What would your dream library look like?"

With a deadline of March 24, the competition is open to students in grades 1 through 11 (Secondary 5) who live in, or attend school, in Westmount. Written entries will be accepted for Grades 1 and 2 while electronic entries are accepted for Grades 3 to 11.

While a number of entries are being received almost daily, the first ones came from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, McCallum said.

She and children's librarian Wendy Wayling visited Roslyn School February 6 as one of many they are going to in order to explain the competition. Some class



Chief judge Liz McCallum and children's librarian Wendy Wayling with this year's McEntyre Writing Competition poster.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

tours have been arranged, she said, "and it has been interesting to see how much time the students spend looking around and talking to the librarians."

Last year, the competition received 1,100 entries, for which 65 judges were needed along with many other volunteers.

The annual competition is in its 52nd year after being originally launched in 1972

as the Westmount Scholarship Trust Fund by former mayor Peter McEntyre (1970-1971).

McEntyre, who refused to accept his provincially imposed mayoral salary, donated it to create the competition and use for prizes. He maintained that being on city council should be considered to be community service.



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Neighbours opposed more delay for 45 Roxborough City allows post-demolition owners to build house to new plan



The approved house design.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Additional time was given February 5 at a demolition hearing to new owners of an “empty” lot at 45 Roxborough to build a house “to their tastes.” This is rather than executing a plan submitted to the city by the former owner as part of a previous demolition request.

The 1956 one-storey house had, in fact, gone through two previous demolition hearings: the first to remove the roof to allow for a second storey (see June 25, 2019, p. 5); the second when the first demolition had exceeded the permitted amount (see story May 17, 2022, p. 10).

Last week’s hearing to extend the time was met by strong opposition from two neighbours fed up with how the vacant lot’s “ugly” condition had already been allowed to drag on.

“I am trying to sell my house,” explained one. But who would want to buy it, he said, given the current eyesore, new house plans that nobody has seen, and another 12-month delay?

A deposit guarantee was paid by the original owners and has been confiscated by the city, explained Urban Planning director Frédéric Nault. Two items remained February 5 for the city council, sitting as the demolition committee, to consider: a delay to build and the new plan.

Nault offered to show the neighbours the new plans that had already been recommended for approval by the city Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), though these were not presented at the meeting.

Back and forth since September

Councillor Mary Gallery, who sits on the PAC, explained that the new plans had gone back and forth between the PAC and the new owners since September.

Councillor Matt Aronson, who also spoke, said he understood the frustration felt by the neighbours. “The (previous)

owners took down the house and then did nothing. To me, it makes no sense.”

After Nault’s offer to share the plans with the neighbours, Councillor Elisabeth Roux, who had chaired the meeting as pro-mayor, adjourned the session, saying that “we’ll all try to make [the new house] move forward” to the enjoyment of the neighbourhood.

Looking back

The demolition process had started in 2019 with the first of the two demolition hearings. This was for a partial demolition application (68.3 percent) authorized on June 17, 2019. When the demolition work exceeded what had been authorized, a second demolition application hearing took place in May 2022 to endorse the 89.9 percent demolition work already completed.

Present-day

In a written explanation of the somewhat complicated situation, Nault explained that “in the decision of May 5, 2022 authorizing the demolition, a period of 12 months was allowed to build the new house. In the meantime, the property had been sold and the new owners wished to build their home to their own taste.”

Discussions ensued with the new owners throughout 2023 “and culminated in a favorable decision by the council on the new plans last November. With the approval of the construction plans, the current owners are now able to establish a realistic construction schedule and undertake the work as required.”

As a result, two conditions are being added to the 2022 demolition resolution: namely that “the demolition committee accept the modification to the replacement program, in accordance with the plans of the revised replacement program” and that an extension be granted for the start of construction of the new building to be undertaken within a 12-month period.

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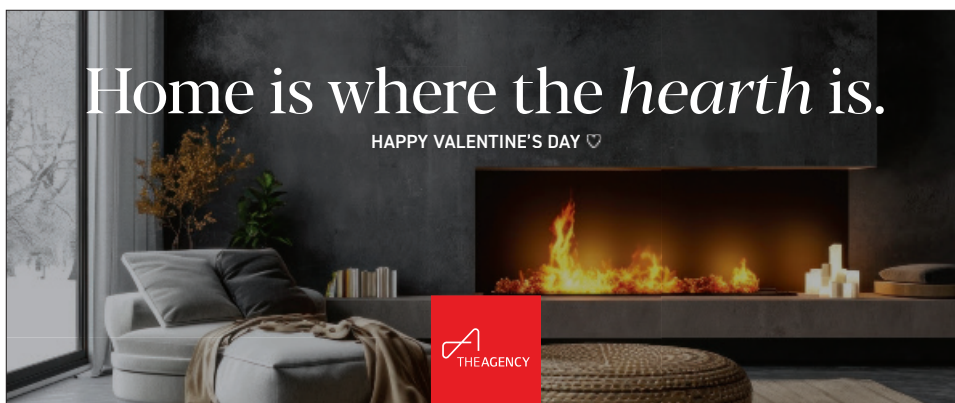
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Parking inspector finds woman in distress after ski accident

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city parking inspector was walking past a parked car at Somerville and Victoria on January 31 at 5 pm when he noticed a woman in the passenger seat “in distress.” Public Security officials said.

He spoke to her husband, in the driver’s seat, who explained she had hurt her hip when they had been skiing. The pain had been increasing to the point where she had briefly fainted, he explained.

Given what was described as her weakened condition, the parking inspector called for Urgences Santé, whose personnel evaluated her and transported her to hospital in Verdun. Aged 37, the woman was a Westmount resident.

Heated argument over fender-bender blocks public way

A parking inspector came across a two-car accident January 26 at 2:14 pm near 351 Melville Ave., according to Public Security officials. Two people appeared to be in a heated argument over the incident, each having a different opinion as to how the

fender-bender had occurred. Meanwhile, the vehicles were blocking the public way. As a result, the small Ford Transit truck and a Toyota Prius were moved to unblock the street.

Man spotted lying on ground and in car

An officer who happened to look out a window at 11:45 pm from the Public Security station on Stanton St. January 28 spotted a man lying on the ground with his feet in a parked car. Rushing down to help him, he requested help from a police officer. The man’s vital signs were checked and Urgences Santé was called. He was left in their hands. Few details were reported though Public Security officials said the man, a local resident, was known to suffer seizures.

PSO finds Prince Albert worksite ‘wide open,’ creates makeshift barricade



The Prince Albert Ave. side of the 4898 de Maisonneuve development on February 12.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

A public safety officer checking construction worksites at night January 31 found the large site at 4898 de Maisonneuve “wide open” on the Prince Albert side, Public Security officials said. A portion of the security fencing was missing, leaving the site and its building accessible.

Attempting to reach a contact person without success at 10:43 pm, the patroller managed to find material and pieces of fencing to create a temporary barricade.

A statement of offence for \$1,326 was sent for leaving the site unsecured.

Overheard

One man to another, Prince Albert and de Maisonneuve, February 9, 7:30 am:

“C’est votre génération qui pense: ... [pause] ... ‘Everything is bullshit.’”

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*Heart on your sleeve?
Or is it heels and toes?*



In time for Valentine's Day, these items were for sale at Charlotte & Gabrielle on Prince Albert February 10.

PHOTO: VERONICA REDGRAVE.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAEL AT WAR WITH HAMAS,
NOT GAZA

I am writing to comment on your policy regarding the characterization of the Israel-Hamas war. In the February 6 edition of the *Independent*, your headline uses the term “pro-Gaza demo” and in the article you refer to “pro-Gaza activists” and the “Israel/Gaza war.”

In fact, Israel is not at war with Gaza, it's at war with Hamas terrorists who attacked Israeli citizens on October 7. It appears from the photo accompanying the piece that the activists you report on were demanding an immediate ceasefire, so it

probably would have been more accurate to call them “pro-ceasefire activists.” Personally, I support the state of Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism and believe that the sooner Hamas is eliminated, the better it will be for both Israelis and the people living in Gaza.

Therefore, I don't support a ceasefire, but to me that's a pro-Gaza position. Of course, the most “pro-Gaza” position, one that would end hostilities instantly, is for Hamas to release the hostages and surrender.

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Condolences to
Mayor Smith

At the opening of the council meeting February 5, condolences were extended on behalf of the council and residents to Mayor Christina Smith and her family on the death of her father, James Joseph Smith, earlier in the day. A longtime resident of the West Island, he had recently been living at a long-term care residence, about which she had written in an opinion piece about the caring staff. A funeral is scheduled for February 17.

The news was relayed by Councillor Elisabeth Roux, who chaired the usual council meeting as acting mayor as well as a demolition hearing 30 minutes earlier.

Library workshop:
Preparing children
for kindergarten

A parent workshop to prepare children for kindergarten will take place February 21 at 6:30 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library.

To be presented by the Montreal Fluency Centre, a non-profit organization, speech pathologists Gillian Nyberg and Sophia Passarelli will discuss which speech, language, and literacy skills are expected of children entering kindergarten, explained children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

The centre is a non-profit organization located on St. Catherine, immediately east of Blenheim Place. Registration is free but requested at westlib.org or 514.989.5530.

Let's celebrate
Westmount's 150th anniversary!



Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

As you may have already noticed – with the banners that are being installed on some of our streets – Westmount is celebrating its 150th anniversary. I encourage you to follow our events through the city's website and social media platforms. Our positive events sometimes get lost in the complaints of these pages.

Our municipality was founded in 1874 (with present-day NDG) as the “village of Notre Dame de Grâce,” then named the “village of Côte St. Antoine” in 1876 when the current area formed its own entity, and renamed “the town of Westmount” in 1895. It became a city in 1908.

Our municipality has grown to become a dynamic and inclusive community, deeply attached to its heritage, but also looking ahead. The strength of its community and the beauty of its green spaces and architecture are just a few examples of what has made Westmount a great place to live.

Although our city was incorporated 150 years ago, we acknowledge that this territory was inhabited long before 1874. Therefore, I would also like to respectfully recognize the diverse histories and cultures of all the First Nations peoples who have inhabited this territory.

Events start February 22

Events and activities will take place to celebrate this important milestone in our collective history and envision our shared future. These festivities will kick off with a first official event on Thursday, February 22, at Victoria Hall starting at 6:30 pm.

Circus performances, music, comedy and plenty of surprises will be on the menu for this family-friendly show. Everyone is invited to attend. Visit westmount.org/150 for more information and to purchase your tickets.

Several other events will take place throughout the year. We are planning exhibitions, visits, conferences, a tea-tasting

at the greenhouse, a celebration gala, and many other activities for Westmounters of all ages.

Family Day this summer will also be an opportunity to celebrate our 150th anniversary. These events are also an opportunity to learn about our community's history, culture and achievements.

This important milestone for our community makes me feel humble, proud and grateful. Indeed, it is important to reflect on the achievements of our predecessors

over 150 years of history.

But this anniversary is not only a reflection on our past. It is also a celebration of the present and a look towards the future we will build together. In that sense, I am also proud to belong to this community and to have represented it as a councillor since 2013 and mayor since 2017. I am proud of the work we have done and what we hope to accomplish. Of course, there is still much work to be done, but I am confident in our commitment to a future where Westmount continues to thrive as a sustainable, inclusive and dynamic city, where every resident is empowered to contribute to its growth and development.

Grateful to past leaders &
community members

Celebrating our sesquicentennial anniversary also fills me with a deep sense of gratitude. I am grateful to these men and women, the leaders, who laid the foundations of our city and guided its progress. I am grateful to the members of the community whose energy and commitment have fostered a positive and dynamic environment. It is thanks to your collective efforts that Westmount has prospered.

Finally, I am also grateful to the volunteer members of the 150th anniversary committee led by Nicole Forbes and Mitch Joel, with Barry Garber, Tori Schofield, Christian Matossian and Anne Garschagen and councillors Mary Gallery, Jeff Shamie and city employees who have been working for months to make these celebrations moments of joy.

Let us come together to honour our past, celebrate our present and look to the future of this great city.

Christina M. Smith is the
mayor of Westmount.



A “Westmount 150” banner on Sherbrooke near Claremont, as seen February 12.
PHOTO & CAPTION: INDEPENDENT.

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Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads

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Winter means Winter Carnival



Dad John and Jude roasted marshmallows on new-fangled gas fires. Wood fires are no longer permitted, so Scouts Canada brought gas ones. This didn't seem to bother the kids.



Mascots Findlay (left), Bee Safe and Olaf pose with the kids.

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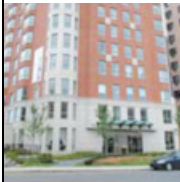
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▲ “Chuck-a-puck” looks easy, but to win a prize, the puck had to land on the ice and not skid too far.

► Getting the puck past the goalie can be difficult, but getting closer helps.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

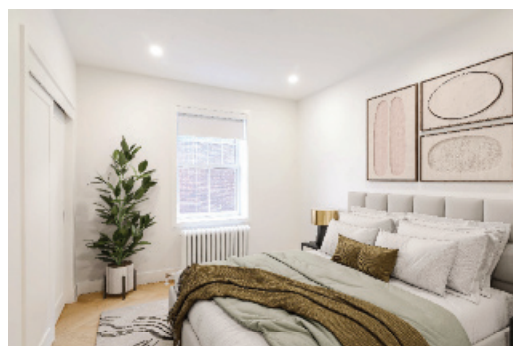
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PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 18 mars

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, March 18



Premier événement officiel

Le 22 février, 18 h 30, Victoria Hall. Une soirée en compagnie de l'artiste du cirque Sarah Louis-Jean, le violoniste Eric Speed et le duo Bowser and Blue. Musique, bouchées, bar payant et plus ! 20 \$ Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.



First official event

February 22, 6:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. A fun evening with circus artist Sarah Louis-Jean, violinist Eric Speed and the iconic duo Bowser and Blue. Music, appetizers, cash bar & more! \$20. Register at westmount.org.

Nouveau portail citoyen le 26 février

La Ville lancera sa nouvelle plateforme en ligne le lundi 26 février. Cette porte d'entrée à tous les services municipaux vous permettra de trouver des informations, obtenir des services et signaler tout incident facilement. westmount.org.

Mois de l'histoire des Noirs

Visitez westmount.org pour en savoir plus à propos des musiciens canadiens Noirs qui ont joué au Victoria Hall dans les années 1940 et qui ont marqué l'histoire de la musique canadienne, visitez westmount.org. Pour des suggestions de lecture pour le MHN, visitez westlib.org.

Inscriptions du printemps en cours

Inscrivez-vous maintenant pour vos activités préférées. Consultez le guide à westmount.org.

Ville de Montréal : Séance d'information virtuelle — REV St-Antoine / St-Jacques

Lundi 26 février de 19 h à 20 h 30, via Zoom. Participez à une séance d'information en ligne au sujet de l'aménagement du Réseau express vélo sur les rues Saint-Antoine et Saint-Jacques. Visitez montreal.ca ou westmount.org pour vous inscrire.

Carte d'accès aux installations

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New citizen portal February 26

The City will launch its new online platform on Monday, February 26. This new portal will allow you to find information, obtain services and report incidents quickly and easily. westmount.org.

Black History Month

Visit westmount.org to learn more about the black Canadian musicians that made their mark on the music scene during the 1940s with their performances at Victoria Hall. In addition, consult westlib.org for Black History Month reading suggestions for readers of all ages.

Spring registration underway

Sign up now for your favourite spring activities. Check the activity guide at westmount.org.

Ville de Montréal: Virtual information session — REV St-Antoine / St-Jacques

Monday, February 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom. Take part in an online information session about the Express Bike Network on Saint-Antoine and Saint-Jacques Streets. Sign up at montreal.ca or visit westmount.org.

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Appel de dossiers 2024

La Galerie du Victoria Hall

Du 15 février au 15 avril. Les artistes de Westmount sont invité.e.s à soumettre leur candidature pour la prochaine saison d'exposition. Informations et formulaire : westmount.org.

125^e anniversaire de la Bibliothèque

Restez à l'affût des annonces d'événements spéciaux et préparez-vous à célébrer avec nous !

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2024

Nous t'invitons à écrire au sujet des bibliothèques, des livres et des mots, comme si la bibliothèque nous parlait. **Date limite : le dimanche 24 mars.**

Galerie du Victoria Hall — exposition

Jusqu'au 16 février. Œuvres de Sara Colby.

Projection spéciale : *Moonstruck* (1987)

Mercredi 14 février, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Rencontre d'auteur.e.s :

Ann Lambert et Russell Fralich

Mardi 20 février, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Deux écrivains montréalais de suspense et de thriller. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Ciné-club — *L'immensità* (2022)

Mardi 27 février, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Réalisé par Emanuele Crialese avec Penélope Cruz. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Galerie du Victoria Hall — vernissage

Mardi 27 février, 18 h. Œuvres de Tina Louise Jones et Wendy Hayden. westmount.org

Soirée pub quiz : édition culture pop

Mercredi 28 février, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Venez en équipe ou solo. 5 \$, boisson incluse. Prix à gagner. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Club de films documentaires

Mercredi 6 mars, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Flee* (2021). Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Call for proposals 2024

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

February 15 to April 15. Westmount artists are invited to submit proposals for the next exhibition season. Information and form: westmount.org.

125th Anniversary of the Library

Watch for special event announcements and get ready to celebrate with us!

2024 McEntyre Literary Competition

We invite you to write about libraries, books, and words, as if the library is actually speaking to us. **Deadline: Sunday, March 24.**

Gallery at Victoria Hall — exhibition

Until February 16. Works by Sara Colby.

Special screening: *Moonstruck* (1987)

Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Register at westlib.org.

Author event:

Ann Lambert & Russell Fralich

Tuesday, February 20, 7 p.m., Library. Montreal thriller & suspense writers. Register: westlib.org.

Film Club — *L'immensità* (2022)

Tuesday, February 27, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Directed by Emanuele Crialese and featuring Penélope Cruz. Register at westmount.org.

Gallery at Victoria Hall — vernissage

Tuesday, February 27, 6 p.m. Works by Tina Louise Jones and Wendy Hayden. westmount.org



Pub Quiz: Pop Culture Edition

Wednesday, February 28, Victoria Hall. Bring a team or go solo. \$5, drink included. Prizes to be won. Register at westmount.org.

Documentary Film

Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m., Library. *Flee* (2021). Register at westlib.org.



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VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

Batshaw Adoption Column

Malik requires a long-term foster home

BY MELVIN CRAWFORD T.T.S.

Malik is a baby who is loving, warm and easy to care for. He is of bi-racial heritage from the Latino community. Malik would require a long-term foster home.

Malik is a baby who sleeps well and eats well. He appears to be developing age appropriately and meeting his milestones, however he was born premature and requires additional medical follow-up and monitoring of his medical needs.

Potential foster parents would need to be available to devote time to meeting his

medical needs, which include multiple medical appointments on a regular basis.

Potential foster parents should be open to supporting child-and-parents contacts on a regular basis.

The ideal foster family would be that of a single parent or couple from the Latino community that could make a long-term commitment to caring for Malik as well as support any contacts between the child and his parents.

Interested persons should contact Batshaw Youth and Family centres at: 514.932.7161 ext. 1139 and inquire about Malik.

Sports and Rec registration, cont'd from p. 1

been activated for this year because the accounts were all suspended at the end of the year," said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator. "Don't wait for the morning of registration."

This information can be found on p. 3 of the spring guide on the city's website.

Among special programs for seniors that also take place on Zoom are low-intensity fitness, gentle stretch and gentle yoga as well as tai chi for ages 50+.

Tennis, pickleball options

With the approach of spring comes tennis instruction offered to youth by age

groups in a Saturday program as well as in seven after-school sessions. Many adult tennis sessions are also provided at optional times.

Adult pickleball is divided into beginner and intermediate instruction in different sessions through May and June.

Residents wanting to prepare for summer swimming are reminded that, in a special arrangement with the city, the Westmount YMCA offers use of its indoor pool throughout the year on a continuing basis: Tuesdays 1:15 to 2:10 pm, aquafit for seniors age 60+ on Fridays 10:25 to 11:25 am and family swim on Sundays 8:35 to 9:55 am.

Recycling contract, cont'd from p. 1

including tax credits, for which Westmount's portion will be \$499,964. The contract runs from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027 with two renewable 12-month options.

No changes in pick-up

The pick-up times in Westmount are to remain unchanged and Westmount will not be "giving up anything" by taking advantage of lower costs provided by being part of a larger contract, Aronson told questioner John Fretz of Lansdowne.

He also told Richard Dufour, of Anwoth, that because the contractor's role is to collect and transport the material to the recycling centre in Lachine, "Westmount has no say after that. Once it leaves the centre, it's the responsibility of the agglomeration."

Westmount's previous contract with Ricova had been questioned previously after "questionable practices" had been raised regarding glass being sent to landfill (see story April 26, 2022, p. 10).

Batshaw Adoption Column

Sisters Carol & Juana need a long-term foster home

BY MELVIN CRAWFORD T.T.S.

A long-term foster home is being sought for siblings from the Latino community. Carol is seven years old and her sister Juana is nine. Juana has always taken her big-sister role quite seriously, often protecting Carol (e.g. by speaking up for her little sister) and in doing so demonstrating the love they share. The siblings are presently in separate homes and are in need of a permanent home, where it is imperative that they continue to live together until they are able to be re-united with their family.

Carol is a considerate, thoughtful and kind-hearted seven-year-old who adores her older sister. Carol thrives on routine, joins her sister for story time and is very good at following instructions. She struggles with confidence, which may be the residual effects of coming from a chaotic, unstructured home environment.

She needs lively encouragement to fully participate in play. However, with coaxing, she is able to love playing in the park, splashing in pools and walks.

Carol has a good appetite and eats a variety of foods. She does well with one-on-one interactions and feels helpful to be included in household chores, e.g., making her bed and tidying up her toys.

Juana is an adorable, energetic lively nine-year-old who is definitely a people person. In that, she loves to talk and always has something to add to the conversation. While developmentally on track in most respects, she needs help in school and continues to struggle with homework and bringing home her required assignments, thus, it is important that the caregiver has patience and is able to structure and monitor homework time and provide assistance and support to help her complete her school work.

The ideal family would be a two-parent,

inter-racial (Caucasian and Latino) or Latino family that can make the commitment for as long as the children would require a foster home placement. Potential family should be open to structured visits from their parents with whom they have a good relationship.

For more information about Carol and Juana, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514-932-7161, extension 1139.



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LYSANNE FOWLER

There has been such a change in Jojo's life. She had been with her owner since she was a puppy and now her special person has had to move to a seniors' residence.

A middle-aged dog in spirit even though she is 13 years young, this stunning little America Eskimo dog is in a temporary home until a permanent family comes



forth for her to join their daily life.

Jojo is a most affectionate girlie with all, and is keen on initiating play with other dogs. She also gets along very well with the household rabbit in her foster family.

A great companion for cuddling while relaxing on the sofa with everyone, Jojo is also interested in active outdoor routines, such as walking and car riding.

Jolo is very interested in exploring the

Adorable Jojo

backyard, doing her zoomies there, and sniffing in the garden. Jojo has come from a routine of having someone around at the home so she would be best suited to a family where hybrid work or having someone at home all the time would ensure a presence.

She enjoys children and, if they are around 10 years of age, it would be lovely as she weighs only about 10 pounds. She enjoys a playmate and would fit in well with another active mature dog for glorious days together.

Jojo is healthy, up to date with her

inoculations, spayed and microchipped. If you would like more information on her, please do not hesitate to contact the adoption volunteers at the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions email info@gerdysrescue.org. You can refer to their website at www.gerdysrescue.org and follow them on their social media postings.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Lily and Tattoune, a loving duo



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

They have been together since their initial adoption and have now been taken into foster care further to the death of their mistress.

This adorable bonded pair, Lily and Tattoune, are showing their wonderful per-



sonalities and are receiving all their foster family's attentions on behalf of the non-profit cat rescue group Moustache Adoptions.

Lily is a stunning long-haired blue with memorable yellow eyes. After settling in, she is interested in attention and exploring. Tattoune is a marbled Torbie, with bright water-green eyes. She is friendly and enjoys all the toys in her new domain.

Both are seven years old, very healthy, up to date with their inoculations, completely vetted for treatments, and spayed. You can find out more about these lovelies by referring to the Moustache Adoptions section of the Petfinder site at www.moustache@petfinder.com.

You can then download the information questionnaire to provide volunteers with your contact information. You can also email them at moustacheadoptiondechats@outlook.ca.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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'Nous sommes ici et nous sommes libres'



Two Cocaine Anonymous sobriety chips were seen hanging from a tree on the front lawn of the Royal Montreal Regiment armoury on St. Catherine February 2. They marked one week and 30 days. The motto of the group is "Nous sommes ici et nous sommes libres/We're here and we're free." The *Independent* does not know in what context they were put up: Celebration? Distress? Re-using found items? According to the group's website (www.caquebec.org), there are currently two weekly events in Westmount, but none is at the armoury.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The everyday is easily elevated to elegance with flowers. For the past four months, iconic Westmount Florist has been largely closed for construction, but the staff of petal pushers did not stop: business flowered via the back entrance.

I dropped by just before Valentine’s Day as the shop re-opened. Family owners Era Gerussi and her husband Brent Pickrell explained that, yes, the most popular Valentine’s bouquet is still red roses. (The famed *fleur* dates to Greek mythology, when people believed that the flower was created by the love goddess Aphrodite, “Venus” to the Romans).

Although the shop was super busy with Valentine’s deliveries, curiously it “is smaller, but we have more working area,” noted Brent. The working area, where florists prepare bouquets, whimsically signed “The Potting Shed,” was bustling, eagerly assisted by friendly furry friends: dogs happily played amidst the gardening.

Along with the masses of ready-to-be-delivered roses, other gorgeous blooms sat

Westmount Florist re-opens – ‘smaller with more area’



Brent Pickrell and Esa Gerussi.

proudly in a large flower fridge. I noted always-wonderful hydrangeas, cheerful mimosa and a Crayola crowd of cut-stemmed beauties.

And, of course, orchids. The graceful plant was amassed in huge groups of whites (my favourite!) and fabulous fuchsias. Before leaving, I admired an array of look-at-me ever-hopeful bright spring pots.

And on a leaden windswept day, I enjoyed the powerful pull of the regal purple hyacinth’s scent.



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St. Mary's Ball raises \$1.5M, gets supporters ready for hospital's 100th



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The St. Mary's Ball recently celebrated its 86th anniversary. Ball president **Mirko Bibic**, CEO Bell Canada, joined 600 guests at Windsor Station's Salle des pas perdus. Elegantly attired black-tie-and-ball-gown-clad arrivals made their way through a tunnel of hanging ribbons and were enveloped in a dazzling décor of blue and green lights. Towering floral creations cascading from Roman busts completed the artistic ambiance.

Ball committee members included fundraising chair **Curtis Millen**, executive vp and CFO Bell Canada; Foundation CEO **Cynda Heward**; décor and design, **Brigitte Fetterly**, silent auction designer **Dorine Perron**, **Sylvie Chagnon**, **Terry Didus**, **Mary Gallery**, **Stephen Kelly**, **Marjolaine Lachance**, **Guy Laframboise**, **Arielle Meloul-Wechsler**, **Geoff Molson**, **Richard Renaud**, **Mario Rigante**, **Paul Scardera** and **Arthur Wechsler**.

The evening was expertly emceed by



foundation board chair **Arthur Wechsler**, managing partner **Kugler Kandestin**, and **Rachel Renaud**, executive member of the foundation board and board of governors.

Mirko Bibic shared his personal connection to St. Mary's and explained why supporting mental health is important.

St. Mary's co-chiefs of psychiatry, doctors **Michel Elie** and **Hannah Schwartz**, thanked everyone for their support, pointing out how their generosity impacts the thousands of people facing mental health challenges every year.

Guests included **Michelle Setlakwe**, Liberal member of the Quebec legislature for Mont Royal-Outremont, and **Michael Fortier**, vice-chair RBC Capital Markets; **Mary Deacon**, chair Bell Let's Talk; **Marjolaine Lachance**, Bell Canada senior manager, Commu- continued on p. 18



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 17

nity Investment Quebec; **Robyn Dalton**, executive director LOVE; **Gillian Donvito**, regional vp, Advanced Advisor Practices; **Scott Jones**, CEO Nova Steel; **Larry Cannon**, CFO Nova Steel and SMHF member; **Sylvie** and **Jean Chagnon**, director Lallemand Inc.; doctors **Ron Dimentberg**, chief of Surgery SMHC and the CIUSSS ODIM with his wife **Tami**; the SMHC's **Mathieu Walker**, chief of Cardiology; **Nathalie Ng Cheong**, Nephrology and member of SMHF Board of Governors; **David Chang**, SMHC ENT specialist; **Alexandra Bunting**; **Rhodri Harries**, executive vp, CFO Gildan; **Sophie Laframboise**, global brand manager Ski-doo and Lynx; **Paolo Bassi**, and **Patricia Harries**.

Also present were **Mary Gallery**, city of Westmount city councillor, **Stewart Guthrie**, senior vp PSP Investments; **Doug Buchanan**, president-Investment Counselor Rempart Asset Management and member of SMHF board; **Nicklas Ronning**, **Sarah Ivory**, **Tom Godber**, **Marion Lefebvre**; **Lisa** and **Neil Freder**, CEO and co-founder Nelmar Security Packaging Systems; **Lise** and **Don Bastien**, president of St. Mary's board of governors; **Richard Legault**, CIUSSS ODIM board president; **Ilana Nixon** and **Dan Gabay**, CEO CIUSSS ODIM; **Elana** and **Joseph Adamo**, president Transat Distribution Canada; **Louise** and **John Mancini**, Finance Consultant; **Jenny** and **Terry Didus**, partner Dentons; **Katherine Didus** and **Luigi Morelli**, corporate controller DNE Resources and Link

Energy; **Lindsay Matthews** and **Stephen Kelly**, partner Norton Rose Fulbright Canada; **Paul Scardera**, executive vp Assistenza International; **Sara Pedersen** vice-chair Rossy Family Foundation; **Leslie Silver** and **Laurent Ferreira**, CEO National Bank; and **Deep Khosla**, head managing director, Quebec Regional Operations Bank of America.

Montreal's celebrated chef **Adele Forgone**, Ristorante Beatrice, created an amazing four-course menu. Each course was paired with specialty wines selected and donated by the SAQ.

The evening's entertainment opened with a remarkable sound bowl performance by **Christine Boudrias**. Electric violinist, **Dr. Draw**, together with dancers from the **Sonia Balazovjeh Dance Company**, led

the audience in an emotional interpretation of the challenges of mental health.

Throughout the night, the sounds of **Paul Chacra** with **1945 The Band** and **DJ Psychology** kept the dance floor alive. One of the night's highlights was the raffle and silent auction, ably assisted by young volunteers dressed in blue by **Le Château**.

The unforgettable soirée raised \$1,503,965 (net) for mental health. The CIUSSS ODIM used the opportunity to announce an additional \$500,000 contribution. The sponsors assisting the cause were **Assistenza International** and **The Rossy Foundation** (Emperor Level) and **BGIS**, **EY** and **Desjardins** (Imperial level)

PS: Save the date **November 1, 2024** for the next St. Mary's Ball and the hospital's 100th centennial.



Scott Jones, Arthur Wechsler and Larry Cannon.



Michael Fortier and Michelle Setlakwe.



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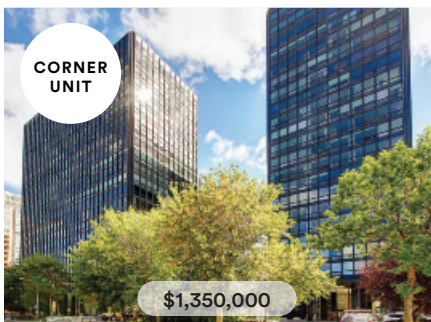


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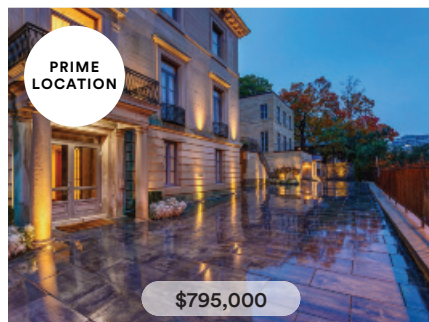
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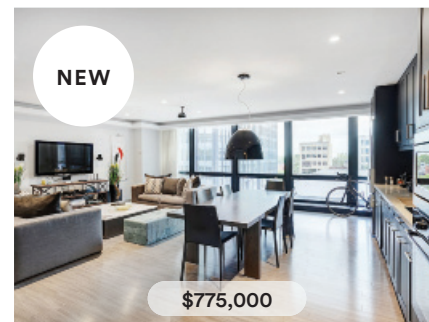
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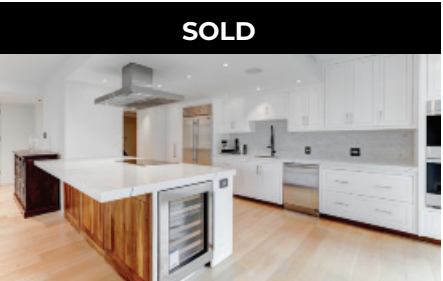
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1455 RUE SHERBROOKE O., APP. 1503
MONTRÉAL VILLE-MARIE



\$599,900
441 AV. DU PRÉSIDENT-KENNEDY, APP. 1801
MONTRÉAL VILLE-MARIE



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crfontaine@profusion.global

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