

## It was Hanukkah



## It will be Christmas



The city of Westmount celebrated both Hanukkah and Christmas with events that started at the Westmount lawn bowling club. Photo at left, on December 6 Rabbi Lisa Grushcow of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom (under the menorah) and Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold (to the right), director of education and spiritual enrichment at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, led a gathering in song outside the main entrance to city hall, where the group went next. Photo at right, the city held its carolling event on December 9 at 1 pm, "to try to avoid all our many evening commitments," according to the organizer, city Community Events agent Ashley Baker. There was hot chocolate, cookies and several tasty contributions from participants, including homemade pumpkin muffins by Leah Hammond. A craft table was available for restless kids. Scott Bradford, musical director at St Matthias' Anglican Church (right) provided piano accompaniment. Baker stood in the background.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## Indie now on Christmas break

This is the *Independent's* last issue of 2018. We are back in the office on a regular basis the week of January 7 to work on the January 15 edition.

Thank you, Westmount, for a great 2018.

**500 Claremont update, p. 6**

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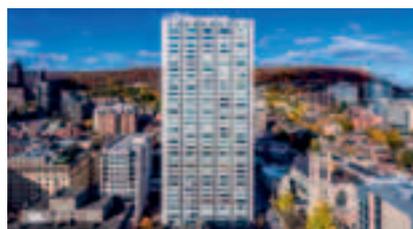
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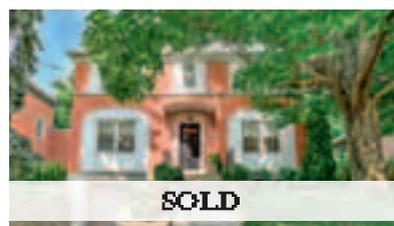
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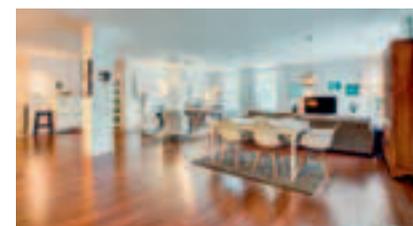
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## Combined 70 years of employment at city

# Estevez, Lawrence retiring from high-profile positions

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two well-known figures – at the Westmount Public Library and Sports and Recreation – are retiring with the end of this year, Councillor Mary Gallery announced at the December 3 council meeting.

She is commissioner of both departments.

The two are Laurie Estevez, after 42 years of service to the library, and Sheila Lawrence, who has taught adult classical and jazz ballet for 28 years.

Estevez was initially hired in 1976 as a part-time page before being promoted two

years later to part-time clerk and then as a technician entering the library's holdings into its data base.

She was hired full time as a library clerk in 1986, becoming the support services clerk in 1998. This has been known over the years as the cataloging department or technical services.

"Laurie is known as the anchor of the technical services team and is an asset to the library due to her deep understanding and respect for the library, its functions and its history," Gallery explains.

"We wish her and her husband, retired Public Security officer Patrick Sheehan, nothing but the best in this next chapter of their lives."

### Grown ballet program to full capacity

Lawrence began working for Sports and Rec in 1990 under Beverly Adams, the well-known socio-cultural coordinator at that time.

"Through her many years with the city, Sheila has grown our adult ballet to full capacity," Gallery explained.

Coming from Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Lawrence's reputation and professionalism went well beyond Westmount's borders. She became involved in the community in the 1990s, helping organize Arts Westmount events.

She has also produced and choreographed a number of professional "soirées de danse" events, with her last one being in November 2016.

"Despite her ongoing health issues and reduced teaching schedule, Sheila has continued to be a figure of grace and dedication. She will be greatly missed by all her students and by the city staff who know her," Gallery said.

## First council meeting of new year set for January 14

The first city council meeting of 2019 will take place January 14 at 7:30 pm, it was reported at the December 3 meeting.

An entire schedule was presented for the year.

Most of the regular public sessions are listed for the usual first Monday of the month except for September 2, the Tuesday after Labour Day and July 2, the Tuesday after Canada Day.

The brief mid-month public meetings to approve building permits at 5:30 pm will take place as usual on the third Monday of the month except for Tuesday, May 21 after the Victoria Day holiday and Wednesday, October 23 because of the federal election on Monday, October 21.

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We wish you the happiest of holidays, full of joy and cheer, and to top it off, a wonderful 2019 year!







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— Pierre Schneider, *Yale French Studies*, No. 19/20, *Contemporary Art*, 1957



### Exhibitions

Hannover, Germany, Kestner-Gesellschaft (Kestner Society), [Jean Paul] Riopelle, 13 September - 19 October 1958, cat. no. 43.;  
 Basel, Switzerland, Kunsthalle Basel, Karel Appel, Georges Mathieu, Mattia Moreni, Jean-Paul Riopelle, 24 January - 1 March 1959;  
 Neuchâtel, Switzerland, Musée des Beaux-Arts (now Museum of Art and History), 14 March - 12 April 1959, cat. no. 98, as “verkäuflich (for sale)”.

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## Second SCAOPI process for 500 Claremont

# Developer asks to add units, remove & rebuild top floor

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In an unexpected case of *déjà-vu*, the century-old building at 500 Claremont is now facing a second round of deliberation under the city's process for properties to over-ride zoning called SCAOPI, the acronym for Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposal for an Immoveable.

This time, the development project to create high-end apartment units seeks to demolish and rebuild the top storey, whose structure has been found to be unsound, according to a new submission.

As a result, the requested changes were to be presented to a public meeting of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Tuesday, December 11 at 8:30 am. This was announced last week.

To make the project "viable" and to adjust to the current market, requests from developer Gideon Pollack also include increasing the number of units from 16 to up to 20 by reducing the size of four very large ones. Basement parking spaces

would increase by 10.

The value of the evolving development is now listed by the developer as "an investment of more than \$18 million," up from \$13 million (see story December 6, 2016, p. 1).

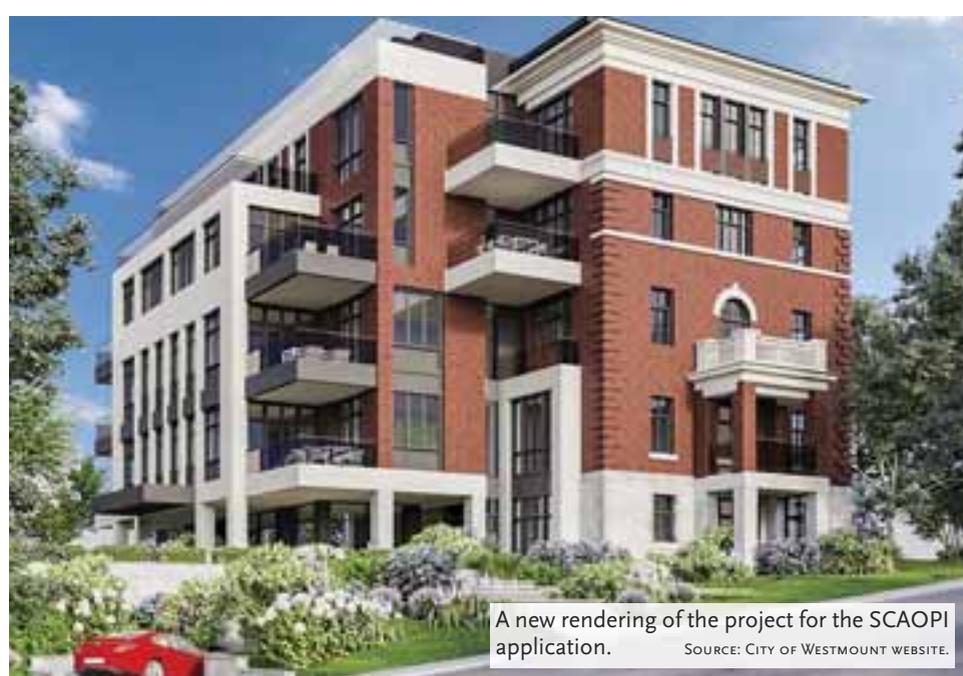
"Once changes like this are made in a SCAOPI project, our by-law states the request must come back through the approval process," explained city Urban Planning director Tom Flies.

### **Flies, Cllr. Peart: Quicker but not to be fast tracked**

"Because it's not a completely new proposal and has already gone through the process to a favourable conclusion, we will probably be able to do it more quickly this time," he said.

The city has already prepared a schedule for various aspects now posted on the city website.

On the other hand, the process will not be "fast tracked," Urban Planning commissioner Conrad Peart told the council meeting December 3.



A new rendering of the project for the SCAOPI application. SOURCE: CITY OF WESTMOUNT WEBSITE.

An updated traffic impact study, also newly submitted, states one more additional car would be added to the road network per morning and afternoon rush-hour.

The required demolition results from water infiltration and deterioration of "interlocking" bricks that had been used in the 1950s when the fifth (top) floor was added to the 1908 Category II heritage-rated building, Flies said. "While building techniques change with time, it's not always for the better."

The condition of the top-floor masonry was only apparent once the interior walls had been stripped, he added.

Because 69 percent of the building would now require demolition, compared to the previous 49 percent, the project will also require a demolition hearing. This is expected to be integrated into the SCAOPI schedule, Flies said.

Due to the ensuing holiday season, the deadline for written comments on the project following the presentation to the PAC is January 18.

*Daisy*  
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## Cllr. Kez casts opposing vote over author of AGIL report New era ushered in as urban planners named to PAC

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three urban planners were appointed to the city's Planning Advisory Committee at the council meeting December 3. Previously, members of the design review committee were architects, though occasionally it happened that one might also be an urban planner as well.

The new members selected for two-year terms as urban planners are Clément Demers (also an architect) and Brian Karasick, as permanent members, while Amélie Castaing is to be a substitute. All are Westmount residents.

Architects reappointed for another term are long-time chair Julia Gersovitz and Erik Marosi. Mehdi Ghafouri, was also re-appointed as a substitute. The remaining PAC architects whose terms had not expired are Gerald Soiferman, Samantha Hayes (substitute) and Mira Katnick (substitute).

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-1, with Councillor Kathleen Kez, who represents District 8 in the southeast, op-

posing.

"I have some reservations regarding the nomination of one, Mr. Demers, who wrote the AGIL report," she said. "Therefore I cannot support his nomination for the simple reason that despite formal resident input," he seemed to be in favour of the Montreal approach of high-rises for "the entire southeast sector, including the Tupper lots."

She later commented that: "His proposition as indicated in his report reveals a predisposition for density and height, which does not seem to reflect the characteristics of the neighbourhood. This downtown approach concerns me as it does not seem to reflect the characteristics of the neighbourhood."

**Cllr. Lulham 'very pleased'**

The resolution was presented by Councillor Conrad Peart, Urban Planning commissioner for architecture and permits, seconded by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who did not speak at the ..... meeting but told the *Inde-* continued on p. 18

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**SCOUTING, CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ALIVE ON MELVILLE AVE.**

A big shout-out to the passer-by on Melville last Saturday who saw a Scout leader struggling to carry a Christmas tree up to the second floor and came back to lend a hand. Without her help, it would have been a tough job. Thank you! This is the spirit Scouting encourages in our members so it is wonderful to see it present in our community.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, 2ND WESTMOUNT SCOUTING GROUP (MOUNTAINSIDE UNITED CHURCH)

**IS A PINT EQUAL TO A PINT?**

On November 29, I donated blood at the Bell Centre, and for the most part it was a very positive experience.

People were in a festive mood as some members of the Montreal Canadiens went around speaking to the donors and giving out autographs.

That said, I found it annoying (though I am aware of the law) when bilingual comments were displayed on the large board and the English was half the size as the French.

I am quite certain I donated a full pint....not half.

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

**TRUE TRIALS, TRUE ERRORS**

As an occasional cyclist in the summer, I agree with Westmount and its effort to make cycling safe. But there is less lighting in Westmount than in Montreal, thus putting cyclists in danger and adding to drivers' remorse in the event of an acci-

dent. Bike paths should be painted green. I agree on trial bike paths, if they really are "trial."

Westmount Ave.'s bike path, in my view, is successful. Côte St. Antoine, which is most convenient for me, this year was the most deserted that I have ever seen it, and NDG still has not continued it.

If very few cyclists use the paths and traffic is congested as a result of them, we are polluting, and residents on or near more congested streets will always close their windows for health issues.

Trial and error, Happy Holidays.

KIRK POLYMENAKOS, CLAREMONT AVE.

**CONGRATULATIONS, TOUGHIE!**

I am proud to write our weekly 9 Lives column for cat adoption, but today I would like to share with you the honour bestowed on Toughie, for neighborhood pride. This sweet shih-tsu has just received the 2018 Veterinary Mascot Award presented by the Association des médecins vétérinaires praticiens du Québec. He lives and works proudly at the Westmount Animal Hospital with Dr. J. Marc Vaillancourt and his team.

This prize aims to promote the exceptional path or actions of a companion animal within the daily activities of a veterinary clinic. The fact that this prize exists and that there are contestants every year brings forth the fact that, after some animals are left by their owners or taken in by the clinics, there are stories where they make the clinics their homes, and the staff and clients their families.



This year, Toughie went up against 15 other candidates (cats, dogs and a fish) to be acclaimed as Mascot 2018! This black-and-white shih-tsu has been a long-time patient of Dr. Vaillancourt's clinic and in 2016, at the age of 15, came to be boarded at the clinic as his owner was unwell and could no longer care for him. Instead of being adopted, he found his place in the daily routine and became the clinic greeter, incredibly successful at receiving cuddles and treats. He loves everyone: the staff, the delivery people, other boarders, the owners and their pets. In difficult times, he has consoled the saddened and come running to those who needed a cuddle. He is currently having a doggy love affair with a 12-year-old golden by the name of Babe and is a very happy fellow.

So, from all the pets in Westmount and their families, congratulations to Toughie, pride of all his friends!

LYSANNE FOWLER, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

**DISTRICT 8 – NO GARDEN OF EDEN, BUT COULD BE**

There is an opportunity to create an outstanding project in District 8 that could distinguish us from the city of Montreal while helping to support our higher real estate prices and improve the community spirit by increasing the amount of green-friendly public spaces where people can gather, similar to what has been done in New York.

District 8 has approximately only 2.3 m<sup>2</sup> of green space per inhabitant while the World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 9.2 m<sup>2</sup> per inhabitant.

The latest report, done by AGIL, an urban planning company, commissioned by the city in 2017, is a little old school and does not promote community spirit. It envisions our district to become an extension of downtown Montreal by increasing our population density because of our proximity to Metro stations, as suggested by the different governmental planning frameworks.

This would be achieved by:

1. Narrowing of Dorchester, Tupper and Gladstone,
  2. Removal of the median, representing approximately 300m<sup>2</sup> of green space,
  3. No bike paths,
- thus creating large blocks of land along the north side of Dorchester from Atwater to Clarke Ave. for development. The narrowing of Dorchester will also have a negative impact on traffic throughout lower Westmount and on streets such as Metcalfe, Redfern, etc., according to the first Stantec traffic report.

I really hope that the residents of the city of Westmount will unite to help develop and support a vision for our district that will enhance our community and differentiate us from the city of Montreal while increasing our green space. After all, we are the second most densely populated city in Canada, therefore we must surely have a sufficient tax base to be able to do something that benefits residents and businesses.

ANDREW BURLONE, GREENE AVE.

**SOUTHEAST? LET'S START ANEW**

I want to thank Ms. Samiotis (a two-term councillor for District 8) for explaining (letter to the editor, November 27, p. 8) the AGIL debacle and enlightening us on how to create "a small energetic group with a narrow interest."

Something I did find missing in her support\* of AGIL was the mention made by the report that informs us that District 8 has the least amount of green space (2.3 m<sup>2</sup> per person) in all of Westmount and well below the recommended level of the World Health Organization of 9.2 m<sup>2</sup> per person.

The narrowing of both Dorchester and its median to increase the available building space will force us, I fear, to continue to both "work and play" on the kiddy swings in Stayner Park, our district's only green area. I guess that no one is aware of Concordia's climate clock or worried about global warming, which increases with green-space elimination and the cutting down of trees. Our citizens in better served areas of the city, with due respect, may have difficulty identifying with our problem because it is not theirs. How many Westmount residents visit District 8 other than using it as an access? Without a sign, would they know they were not still in Montreal?

Now that it seems that no one is pleased with the plans, what about starting anew? Beginning with the city consulting with its citizens and ending its hostility towards a concerned neighbourhood. If the city's real intentions are to make

**WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT**

*We are Westmount*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

money with the Tupper lots, a credible option, we should stop wasting time and be told the truth before we spend more taxpayer money on another discarded study.

Ms. Samiotis enumerates the development going on in this area without mentioning the condo development approved (with demolition permission) by Westmount for St. Catherine St. Might it not be more prudent to see the impact of this project before we proceed to further develop Dorchester and the Tupper lots?

HONOR ROBERTSON, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

*\*Editor's note:* In my reading of her letter, Samiotis seemed fairly critical of AGIL, e.g. "Despite the formal resident input having been provided as a starting point to AGIL, this firm treated the project as a *de novo* study on the southeast, and sought to bring a high-density downtown Montreal approach to it. Seeing this, I stated clearly to the previous council that I would not support the preliminary report because it did not respond to the concerns of the residents who participated in the consultative process." – DP.

*\*\*Editor's note:* The current mayor has now said a few times that the council will now be focusing on the rejuvenation of St. Catherine St. first (e.g. In "City to prioritize St. Catherine before Dorchester, Tupper lots" (October 30, p. 1), our reporter Lauren Sweeney wrote: "'Our priority will be improving the design of St. Catherine,' she [Mayor Christina Smith] explained, repeating a need expressed at council meetings. This includes making the street more 'livable' and with a focus on outdoor terraces and economic development."). Maybe this focus counts as "anew"? – DP.

### ELEVATE THE SPIRIT, SPEND ON HOUSES OF WORSHIP

The letter in your December 4 issue (p. 8) from Roger Jochym ("Money for merchants, but not musicians?") brings up current discussions, including a city-wide online survey, regarding the refitting of local houses of worship, which figure so prominently among Westmount's historical and architectural gems.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a theatre rehearsal at the home office of the Conseil des Arts de Montréal, a magnificent building built in 1914-1917, and which served as the city's main library until 2009. Included in the Conseil's mission statement is a promise "to bring the city's artists and financial planners together." Its own home office is proof of the fulfillment of this promise – the old library building offers conference facilities, artists' expositions, rehearsal space and studios for dancers and musicians, among

other amenities.

My point, as Mr. Jochym himself suggests in his letter, is that instead of spending hundreds of thousands solely on commercial signs and branding in order to make "our shopping streets a 'destination,'" perhaps we should consider sharing such vast sums of money to refurbish our magnificent landmark buildings as places to elevate our spirit, which in fact was, and is, their purpose in the first place.

RICHARD ORLANDO, SHERBROOKE ST.

### THE (500) MONSTER AWAKES

Congratulations to Westmount city council for realizing that affected citizens could oppose yet further expansion of the plans for 500 Claremont!

After council failed to react to the opinions of 85 immediate citizens, [as contained] in the January 29 registry, it is gratifying that citizens' voices *might be heeded* for this new proposal for yet more expansion.

Increasing the number of parked cars might be appropriate in a city centre – but in a residential area?

Is even more expansion than the 38 percent already approved suitable in a building already oversized for the community?

And what about the roof? Can residents of Parkman Place expect to observe a sun deck on the roof?

Neighbours are bracing for the already-approved massive excavation, and the glut of unwanted cars from a narrow entrance/exit on Claremont, competing with two bus routes!

Residents do not want more expansion!  
Yours impatiently,

FRANK PHILPOTT, CLAREMONT AVE.

### HOSTILITY, EVEN IN A GOOD CAUSE, NOT THE WAY

To the "gentleman" advocating for the rights of my dog at the Greene Ave. Jean Coutu on November 22.

As an animal lover, animal rights advocate, and someone in the middle of building a career working with animals, I'm taking this opportunity to explain why the aggression and verbal abuse you displayed that day is far from the best way to defend the rights of animals, or anything for that matter.

When you came into Jean Coutu to find the owner of the dog left out in front of the store, I initially applauded your efforts. When your well-placed concern for my dog immediately turned into a store-stopping scene by loudly and aggressively criticizing me, your efforts were lost in hostility. Had you taken the ..... time to ask a question or *continued on p. 32*

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## Fjällräven, Pendleton, Deus Ex Machina arrive in Westmount

### Blankets, parkas, capes coming to Au Sommet

New merchandise continues to arrive at Au Sommet's Sherbrooke St. pop-up store (4927 Sherbrooke St., on the north side, just east of Claremont Ave., upstairs).

From Fjällräven, the store is expecting a anorak capes for women. "It's a little bit like a pullover and it's definitely winter wear," said creative and e-commerce director Claire McCulloch, "but with more space around the body."

From Pendleton, the store is expecting native-themed trade blankets, "the perfect heirloom gift for the holidays" – or for someone who has everything else.

### »» Buyers guide ««

**Fjällräven** is "very Swedish," said creative and e-commerce director Claire McCulloch, and very environmentally conscious, "with a negative carbon footprint." In terms of look? Not unlike Han Solo on Hoth.

**Deus Ex Machina** "comes of out Australian surf and moto culture," said McCulloch, with a corresponding aesthetic. Net effect? Think Marlon Brando in *The Wild One*.

**Pendleton** is a traditional North American brand offering clothing and accessories with native art themes, including trade blankets. What's this look like to the average North American consumer? Navajo chic. Drop by to find out more.

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PENDLETON



## Higher incomes, more mortgages

# Ups and downs in demographics presented to council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the composition of Westmount's population and households remained nominally unchanged between 2011 and 2016, significant increases were reported in people who cycled or walked to work and in the number of seniors.

The median household income rose 25 percent to \$100,153 and the number of dwelling owners with a mortgage increased 19 percent.

These and a host of interesting information in many areas were relayed to city council in an analysis of Statistics Canada census results, according to recently released minutes of its closed-door general committee session October 15.

"It is also worth noting that while roughly the same as in 2011, the percentage of renters at 47 percent remains a significant demographic," stated market research and strategy consultant Mark Wilkins, who presented his findings from the census figures.

His analysis was based on both short- and long-form census results, but when it comes to considering smaller populations such as the city's, he stated, information

from the long form tended to be less "reliable" than that from the short one.

When comparing results between 2011 and 2016, most statistics were "only nominally changed," he reported. This means more or less than 2 percent.

Gender proportions remained the same at 46 percent male, 54 percent female. The median age remained the same at 46.8 years. The percentage of population with a bachelor's degree or higher rose from 59 percent in 2011 to 61 percent (compared with 33 percent of the Quebec population).

The percent of the married population (74 percent) remained relatively the same, rising from only from 46 to 47 percent. The number of couples having children (usually one or two) was 60 percent. The overall family household of the three- and four-person census family increased about 6 percent but was referred to as "essentially the same."

There was an increase in the number of residents living in condos and apartment buildings of four storeys or less, and a decrease in those in duplexes. There was 5-percent increase in the number of dwellings owned to 53 percent in 2016.

English was the mother tongue of 51 percent of residents, down from 55 percent while the number of francophones and allophones increased by 7 and 9 percent.

Bilingual residents remained unchanged at 76 percent but a percentage of residents without a functional knowledge of either English or French increased by 37 percent. Use of Mandarin had the largest increase at 109 percent.

While use of both English and French at work rose by 22 percent, use of another language rose 163, although the absolute number was described as "albeit small," the minutes state.

The leading origins of immigrants were: US at 8.4 percent, France at 8.1 percent, the UK 8 percent, followed closely by China at 7.7 percent.

Increases in the mode of transit used to commute to work showed a 57-percent jump in residents who cycled, 18 percent who walked and 19 percent who were passengers in cars, which Wilkins suggested was "perhaps" use of Uber. There was, however, no change in public transit use.

Minutes from the meeting said the presentation took place "as an understanding

of the city's demographics and their evolution is essential to ensuring the city best serves its residents."

## St. George's head announces departure

St. George's School's head of school, Sharon Klein, has informed its board of directors that the 2018-19 academic year will be her last at the Westmount and Westmount-adjacent institution. She has been at the post since 2014. In a letter to the school community, board president Jason Levine said, "Ms. Klein has infused our school with amazing energy and has propelled the school community to new heights. ... We are indebted and grateful for Ms. Klein's service to our school and for her influence and strong leadership in nurturing such a vibrant and strong community."

She will be taking the post of head at St. Margaret's School in Victoria, British Columbia. The school's current assistant head of curriculum and centre for learning enrichment, Nathalie Bossé, will become the interim head of school beginning in August 2019.

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## Kiely: contractors given grief but 'were right' City to rethink plan to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city will be going back to the drawing board over a proposal to prohibit gasoline-powered leaf blowers, considered for the coming year, Mayor Christina Smith told the council meeting December 3.

City workers had been trying out electric blowers to clean up the leaves in Westmount Park but found the batteries did not last long enough and had to resort to two gasoline-powered ones.

Smith acknowledged the experiment had encountered complications during the fall clean-up when Maureen Kiely of The Boulevard noted during question period that the general committee of city council minutes from November 5 recorded that the devices had been "ineffective."

"I'm a little upset," Kiely said, adding that that like many residents, she too disliked the noise and pollution caused by the gasoline-powered models. "But there's a trade-off. A lot of older people can't rake."

Mayor Smith said there were many large cities that use electric models. "We tried it and so (the city workers) had a tough time in some areas of Westmount Park so we will take a look at it. I think we should go back to the drawing boards and look at concrete measures to reduce greenhouse gases. The goal is not to stick it to the landscapers."

### 'They were right'

Kiely persisted, recalling the gardeners had "tried to tell the city" the electric models were not strong enough when they met with the mayor and city officials last February (see story March 6, p. 1). "What bothers me is they were given a lot of hard grief" by the city, she said. "They were right."

"We tried to do the right thing," Mayor



Maureen Kiely asks the council about the ineffective use of the city's electric leaf blowers.

Smith explained. "This is an evolving technology," she noted. When Kiely continued to pursue her point, Smith finally said: "We could debate this for hours," and recognized the next person waiting at the mic.

Recently made public, minutes of the November 5 general committee meeting state that Public Works director Robert Talarico informed council members that "electric leaf blowers are not effective." He is quoted as saying that "in order to ensure that the work will be completed before winter, it was necessary to use two gas leaf blowers. The batteries do not last sufficiently long enough, which results in time being wasted to recharge them."

The issue was reported to have been "further discussed" at the meeting along with the need "to ensure safe working conditions" for the city's employees.

## Budget meeting December 17 to reveal 2019 tax rate

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount taxpayers will have to wait until December 17 to learn what the city's tax rates will be for 2019. That's when the operating budget is to be presented at a special meeting at 7 pm.

This year, when Westmount's share of agglomeration expenses for island-wide services in 2019 has been increased 3.6 percent compared with the raise of 6.7 percent for 2018, it is expected the overall tax rate in the new budget might reflect a smaller increase than the 3.09 percent for 2018.

The city's portion of the operating bud-

get to provide local services – generally some 50 percent of the budget – is expected to hover around a 2-percent inflation level, while the impact of the 3.6-percent agglomeration increase from the other 50 percent remains unknown at this point.

Mayor Smith said she was reluctant to provide any hints about the upcoming budget but had said the council's guidelines to the administration were to bring in the city's own controllable expenses at the cost of inflation.

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# 4313 Montrose Ave: part of the Reekie estate



*History by  
the House*

ANDY DODGE

Sir James Monk in 1804.

In 1861, Robert James Reekie, who worked with Young both on the Victoria bridge and the establishment of the Grand Trunk Railway, bought a piece of land from Young to build his own mansion, which is now 5 Rosemount Ave.

When Young was forced into bankruptcy in 1872, Reekie purchased the rest of Young's property and started creating subdivisions of the land north of the Rosemount mansion, just as the new municipalities of Notre Dame de Grâce and Côte St. Antoine were being formed (1874 and 1876 respectively – "Côte St. Antoine" became Westmount in 1895). Reekie died in 1881 and the estate gradually sold off the land, starting with lots between Mountain and Rosemount avenues.

### *Campbell Ave./Montrose Ave.*

The 1890 Goad's Atlas shows that planners had anticipated very large homes along "Campbell Avenue," which was soon to become Montrose Ave., to the west of Mountain Ave. The estate of Robert Reekie didn't sell off the land until 1909, when Lillian Elizabeth Spencer, the wife of a grain merchant named James Claude Hanna, bought the entire Lot 331 plus a portion of Lot 332 – reaching back about



4313 Montrose on November 1, All Saints' Day.

135 feet from Mountain Ave. on the north-east corner of Montrose Ave., then sold off half of that to her sister-in-law and started building a large house at the corner.

Lovell's Directory lists 14 Hannas in the Montreal phone directory in 1910, and that number had almost quadrupled by the time Hanna sold the property in 1947.

The 1910 Lovell's says James Hanna was working with Alex McFee & Co., grain merchants, and the purchase deed for the property describes him as a "book-keeper." Over the next 27 years, he is described with various other jobs, and during the Great Depression at times Lovell's lists

other residents in the house, until, in 1937, Lovell's lists "Mrs. L.S. Hanna wid J.C." as the occupant, indicating her husband had died. During World War II, she apparently took in some tenants, and at times other members of the Hanna family are listed as occupants, until finally she sold the property in 1947.

Barbara Carrique, wife of lawyer Roger R. Cordeau, purchased the property for \$23,500 in 1947. At the time he worked with a powerful, Westmount-connected law firm, Heward Holden Hutchison Cliff Meredith & Ballantyne (at the time the bar association required that all partners be in-

## HISTORY OF 4313 MONTROSE (since construction)

Date	Buyer	Price
30-Sep-1947	Barbara Carrique	\$23,500
18-Jun-1953	Alan Victor Lennox Mills	\$38,000
14-Jun-1976	Allan Archibald Hodgson	\$1
4-Jul-1977	Aluminum Company of Canada	\$1
16-Jan-1978	Alain Brosseau & Maureen Habesch	\$82,000
30-May-2002	Cheryl Cooke	\$1,297,750
27-Jun-2006	David Martin Tait & Taylor Ingraham	\$2,850,000
31-Oct-2008	Royal LePage Relocation Services	\$2,895,000
12-Dec-2008	Laurence Duguay	\$2,850,000



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# SWAT wins SWAT – for first time in 28 years!



The winners and their well-wishers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS DODSON.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For the first time in the 28-year history of the Westmount Old Timers Hockey Tournament, Westmount's SWAT (Senior Westmount All-Star Team) team succeeded in winning the tournament trophy, winning the final 3-2 against the Old Puckers.

"Since this started, it was the first time they've ever won," said Jim West, who co-chaired this year's tournament with Adam

Cutler.

In recognition for this effort and other work on the event over many years, the SWAT organization awarded West with the Ken Sinclair Sportsmanship trophy this year.

West attributed SWAT's victory to the fact the team had a strong line-up this year. "Good players," he said, laughing.

In addition to hockey action on the ice, a silent auction raised money for the

cause. Proceeds from the three-day hockey tournament will be presented to the Montreal Children's and St. Justine's hospitals, said West.

The tournament has raised up to \$40,000 per year, added West, who didn't know the amounts raised this year when contacted last week by the *Independent*. He said the tournament has raised more than \$275,000 since its beginning nearly three decades ago.



Seen here on December 2, from left, Westmount recreation centre support staff Fernando Paredes, Robert White and Bob Parent made bids for silent auction items during the 2018 Westmount Old Timers Hockey Tournament.



Tournament volunteers Larry Dionne, left, and Arlene Lutter Hoppenheim are seen here on December 2 with one of the items in the silent auction: a Montreal Canadiens jersey autographed by current members of the team.

cluded in the firm's title). By the time he became a partner in 1967, the name had changed to McMaster, Meighen, Minnion, Patch & Cordeau. Apparently he retired in 1977 and the bar association removed the names requirement two years later, so the firm became "McMaster Meighen."

## Divorce by parliament

In February 1953, a divorce between Carrique and Cordeau was approved in parliament (as was then required), and in June of that year the house was sold to A.V. Lennox Mills, who worked for the estate division of Royal Trust. He eventually reached the position of corporate secretary before retiring in 1978, though by then he had sold the house to Allan Hodgson.

Hodgson was assistant secretary at the Aluminum Company of Canada (which later became Alcan) when he bought the house, but soon afterwards the company appointed him chief financial officer of Alcan of India, so took over the house while listing it on the open market. It must be remembered that the Westmount market was very weak following the Parti Québécois election of 1976, but the house caught the attention of Alain Brosseau, at the time a senior engineer with Bell Northern Research, and his wife, Maureen Habesch Brosseau. The couple was transferred out by Bell for two years in Saudi Arabia (1980-82) but held onto the house and when they returned Maureen took up a job as a real estate agent with Royal LePage in Westmount. She is now with Sotheby's.

## Accounting, airlines and politics

After bringing up their family on Montrose, in 2002 the Brosseaus sold the house to Cheryl Cooke, a business consultant and wife of Michael McFaul, a partner at Deloitte Canada, who was returning to Montreal after a brief stint with Deloitte Europe in Brussels. They stayed only four years but carried out extensive renovations and sold to David Tait, OBE, and his wife, Taylor Ingraham, for more than double what the McFauls had paid for it in 2002. Tait became known as executive director and executive vice president for Virgin Atlantic Airways, but he was at the time (2006) senior vice president of Air Canada.

Two years later, they moved to Connecticut, turning over the house to Royal LePage Relocations who sold it to Laurence Duguay, daughter-in-law of Paul Martin, former prime minister of Canada. She is now CEO of the Martin Family Initiative, which offers support for indigenous youth and their communities. They added an extension to the garage and rear sunroom in 2016.

The house has a 2017 municipal evaluation of \$4,070,400.

## Music at St. Matthias' Christmas Season 2018

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### Police Report

## Office break-in attempted, fails to succeed

An office located in a building near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Wood Ave. was the target of an attempted break-in between 4 and 5:15 pm on November 22, although nothing was stolen.

According to the Montreal Police's Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, officers were summoned to the scene by the building superintendent. The office tenant had left at 4 pm after locking up.

"The suspects had forced the lock and then tried to break down the door by using kicks," Pimentel said.

Although they succeeded in damaging the door's lock, the door itself was only damaged by the kicks and they didn't get into the office, he added.

Although investigators found traces of fingerprints, they weren't enough to provide leads to the suspects.

However, images captured by a video surveillance camera at the main entrance of the building may identify the perpetrators, said Pimentel.

#### Storage locker looted

A storage locker located in the basement of an apartment building on Park Place was broken into sometime between Nov. 15 and 24.

The plaintiff in the case didn't check on his locker very often and had last checked on Nov. 15.

When he finally looked again on the evening of November 24, he saw that two bicycles normally stored there were missing. As well, a padlock had been broken. "The lock was cut and removed," said Pimentel.

#### Mugging

On November 30 around 6:15 pm, a teenage boy walking through the parking lot of the Bureau en Gros store on Saint

Catherine St. towards an alley just behind was confronted by two other youths who robbed him.

"They proceeded to take away from him certain items," said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, adding that when the suspects asked to look inside the victim's backpack he refused and they ran off.

According to Laperrière, there is an ongoing investigation and a good description was provided by the victim. He said the incident was not typical.

"It's an isolated incident that happened in that area. We don't usually have these types of incidents. But we do suggest to people that if they don't feel safe walking in a certain area, they should perhaps stay where it's better lit and where they'll feel more safe."

He also suggested that when walking in potentially unsafe areas to always do so while accompanied by another person. "And unless you absolutely have to, it might be best not to stop to talk with strangers," he added.

#### Identity theft

A man complained to police in mid-November that someone misappropriated his identity to modify his personal information in credit agency reports in order to obtain a Costco Capital One credit card.

"He had a problem with his Costco Capital One credit card," said Laperrière. "The reason why I mention the name of the credit card is because it's not the first time that the person who took this report had heard of people having problems with the Costco Capital One."

According to the police report, the complainant, who already had a Costco Capital One credit card, received a notice that a second card account had ..... been opened in his name, *continued on p. 27*

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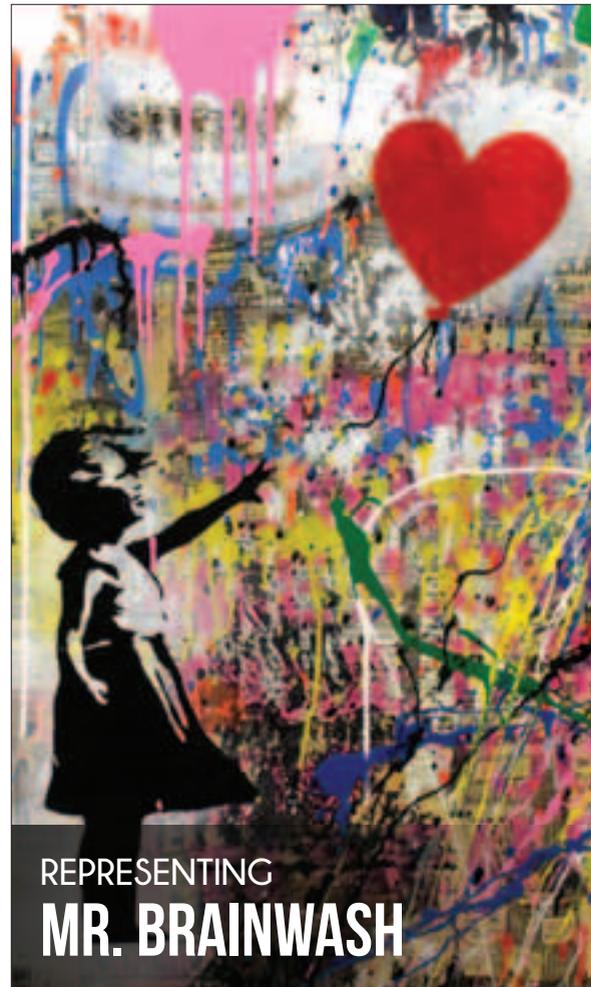
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## Illuminated stop sign seems to be a one-off



The *Independent* had all sorts of questions about the history and future of illuminated stop signs in Westmount after noticing this one at de Maisonneuve and Melville, photographed on October 29. According to city Public Works director Robert Talarico, the sign has been there “as far back as we can remember,” and he also implied that it is the only one and that there are no plans to put similar signs up elsewhere. He did relate one piece of history: last year, the city replaced the old incandescent light bulbs with LED ones.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Evi Ho

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## PSU's 'pack a patrol vehicle' raises \$538 for food drive

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A new Public Security food drive initiative brought in a combined total of \$537.41 on Giving Tuesday (November 27) and December 1 as well as more than seven blue bins of food each day, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

A patrol vehicle was stationed outside the Victoria entrance to the Metro grocery store these two days and people were encouraged to fill it with non-perishable food and make cash donations.

The generosity of passers-by and shoppers was mentioned at the city council meeting December 3 by Councillor Mary

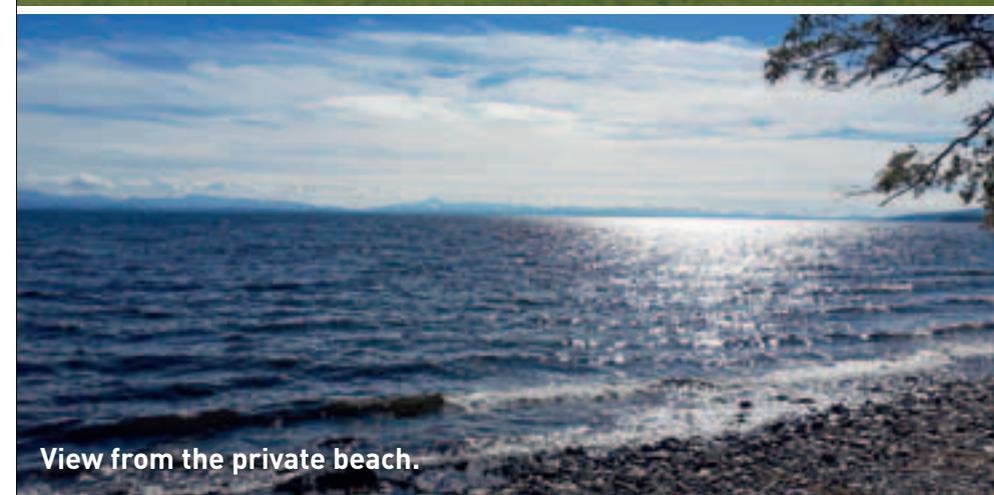


Among the many participants in the Giving Tuesday initiative were, from left, Public Security director Greg McBain, two passers-by, parking inspector Richard Lamer and District 5 councillor Marina Brzeski.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PUBLIC SECURITY.



View from the front deck.



View from the private beach.



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At Giving Tuesday are, from left, public safety officer Stephanie Rodrigues, a donor and parking inspector Richard Lamer.

Gallery in opening reports.

Despite wet snow on Giving Tuesday and a cold week, people also stopped to talk with officers and parking inspectors on duty, which provided a good opportunity for communication between them, McBain said.

“On Saturday, one woman brought out one of the small grocery carts full of food. It was nice to see the participation.”

Added to a revised total of \$1,912 from the Artisans’ Festival held two weeks earlier, the total amount of close to \$2,500 by last week had been raised for the purchases of turkeys, hams and food vouchers. More donations as well as food are expected to follow.

Distribution of the food hampers to 68 people in need is set to start December 11.

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## 'F-Men' raise money for Tyndale St. Georges



The Westmount F-Men hockey team and its challengers, Westmount's Heller's Angels (wearing St. John's Ice Caps), took to the ice on December 7 at the Westmount recreation centre to raise funds for the Tyndale St. Georges Community Centre in Little Burgundy. According to the group's press release, "The F-Men, as gracious hosts, allowed their opponents to win both games, but the big winners are the Tyndale kids." Last year the event raised over \$9,000, including matching donations for Tyndale's High School Perseverance Program, and "this year's tally is expected to be even higher," said the release. Pictured, from left, are shootout winners Angels Paul Yatrou and Spencer Goodman, and F-Men Martin Vasalek, Yann Jodoin and co-organizer John Carr.

## Girouard entrance to Champlain bridge closed



The Girouard entrance to the 15 south and the Champlain bridge was closed on December 8, as seen here on December 10, and will remain so until the end of 2019. Martin Girard, a spokesman for the provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ), told the *Independent* in October that its main suggestion for Westmounters to access the 15 south is the Côte St. Luc Rd. entrance, although the Atwater entrance will also be open. The highway south of Côte St. Luc Rd. will be fully open even as it goes through the Turcot construction area, he confirmed at that time. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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*PAC, cont'd. from p. 7*

pendent she was "very pleased" that the urban planners had been added to the committee.

"It's something I've worked hard on for a year," as Urban Planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks. She said she hopes to have the first meeting with the urban planners in January to get a start on creating a "global" planning vision for the whole city.

She said she believes appointee Clément Demers to be "a great addition to PAC given his extensive background." The candidates were chosen by a selection committee made up of people from the city's administration, she said.

Development of the southeast is only one part of the work ahead but when it comes time to consider it, "St. Catherine St. will be looked at first."

As for concerns by some residents in the southeast about proposals for narrowing of Dorchester as illustrated in the AGIL report, Lulham said that narrowing the arterial was "going backward to the 1960s. We need a fresh start. With urban planning, we need to be proactive in working for the future rather than being reactive."

Demers is described by the city as "widely recognized as an expert in his

field." His career includes 15 years with the city of Montreal, where he held positions such as deputy director of urban planning and assistant director of housing and urban development. "He has been a driving force in some of Montreal's most highly regarded urban planning initiatives, including the Quartier international and the Quartier des spectacles."

Brian Karasick is described as having nearly 30 years' experience working in heritage and urban sensitive environments and has developed "a strong expertise in consultation with the community and in coordination of multidisciplinary teams." These include development of the McGill University campuses, expansion of Molson Stadium and the future re-use of the former Royal Victoria Hospital.

Amélie Castaing joined the Vivre en Ville team in 2013 as communications officer in Montreal, following eight years in Paris working in urban project communications. "She will provide the PAC with expert knowledge on issues of sustainable transport and the design of walkable living environments, as well as communications and social acceptability."

All candidates for the new PAC positions were required to be members of the Order of Urban Planners.

# 2018



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# THANK YOU

CLASS OF 2018

## FOR PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN US

**SOLD** catherine & steven happily head out of holton to heavenly hudson **SOLD** kind and charismatic carol calls it quits on trafalgar picking something cozy on sherbrooke **SOLD** the green gang along with bentley bounce into a new abode on belfrage **SOLD** tarik, virginie & their cutie-pie kids noodle out of their northcliffe nest **SOLD** alain decide de 'downsizer' et de quitter ndg **SOLD** merveilleux georges & johanne se retirent de la ville pour la vie de campagne **SOLD** the terrific tritts wander into retirement and wiggle out of wonderful willow **SOLD** the heathcotes sell their happy home on upper-roslyn and head down the hill enjoying their retirement high life **SOLD** sparkling stephen skips out of isabella into something snazzy on sherbrooke to dwell with delightful dora **SOLD** sunshine suzy sells her sublime casita choosing to move closer to her charity work crew **SOLD** yahya, yasmine, anniken & salah say 'salut!' to their sweet st-sauveur ski chalet **SOLD** the daufenbachs, who skidaddled nearly a decade ago, finally decide to divest of their den **SOLD** the rotchin brothers collaborate as a crew to close on their mom's designer dwelling **SOLD** mel means business and successfully manages to move his mom's beloved maison **SOLD** jd & jennifer sell their fabulous cote-st-antoine flat in five seconds **SOLD** niko & gael neatly move out of their nest into something new that meets their needs **SOLD** formidable doctor ferdinand sells her delightful domicile **SOLD** following a most significant sale, francine finds beauty on beaconsfield **SOLD** bernard hops out of holton and heads for higher grounds **SOLD** vincent & cécile choisissent de céder leur chez-soi and stay overseas **SOLD** helena & pierre make a major move to the mystic island **SOLD** delightful domenica decides to divest of the dwelling on decarie **SOLD** pino & tina prepare to pack up their precious posse and head up the hill **SOLD** michèle & larry leave their lovely lair, lightening their load along the way **SOLD** content in casablanca, chafika closes the deal on her cool condo **SOLD** marvellous augusto & flavia manage a major european move with their minions **SOLD** the walpoles wanting to wander, move out of their westmount maison **SOLD** content in california, chris & libby decide to cash out of their canadian casa **SOLD** lovable lilly lists her lovely lair to land in something larger **SOLD** gentle gen & jarrod jointly decide to search for something special in st-lambert **SOLD** with mixed feelings, andré & francine flee the fabulous home that's been in the family for three generations **SOLD** feeling squeezed on springfield, dan & jackie settle on selling, hoping to find something suitable **SOLD** doctor hugh & his darling decide to downsize from his formidable dwelling **SOLD** sarah & jonas reach out to find a fabulous fixer upper **SOLD** charlotte & jean-philippe are amazed with the crazy cachet of their cozy new condo **SOLD** lovely linda remodels a luxurious new lair in the alluring port royal **SOLD** eduardo's parents are pleased as punch with their new pied-à-terre **SOLD** the williamsons willingly board a plane to purchase the perfect property **SOLD** karina & grant capture something cool in tmr for their crew of chiquitas **SOLD** the windalls wind up with a wonderful waterfront on beautiful bark lake **SOLD** the stars get starry-eyed over a sensational ste-anne-des-lacs acquisition **SOLD** david swoops in



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## LOOKING TO BE PART OF CLASS OF 2019? CALL US FOR AN APPRAISAL

for a snazzy set-up on sherbrooke **SOLD** macy, john & juliette jump for joy **SOLD** anissa & alexis décident de s'acheter a quiet condo **SOLD** jeremy & vinita, seeking a super sabbatical, find suitable tenants for their sizable strathcona semi **SOLD** the loveliest landlord on lansdowne lands reliable locataires **SOLD** bettina & bruce trade their trendy townhouse for something beautiful in le basin **SOLD** jp & andreanne ayant du goût choisissent une demeure distinguée à outremont **SOLD** robert se désiste de st-lambert pour s'installer dans la cité **SOLD** andré & danielle help parents bid bye-bye to bessborough **SOLD** andrée-anne & françois crush it and catch a classic canadiana **SOLD** lyka & adam finally buy their first condo, having kept hope in this hopping market **SOLD** michel & ewa make the move and migrate to a mighty property **SOLD** louise & pierre finally find a fantastic project for their future home **SOLD** tanya & justin make the move from mackle and choose a charming cottage **SOLD** anna & jonathan pack up their pad and purchase a perfect place **SOLD** from grocery god to real estate empire, joey takes over tupper **SOLD** alex & marianne, from bc, buy a banging income property **SOLD** jess & bram don't miss a beat and jump on vendome before exchanging vows **SOLD** thierry, vanessa & the squirts snag something sublime on somerville **SOLD** the paek brothers keep building their business buying condos **SOLD** michael & erika find their perfect place on prince albert **SOLD** valerie bought her first sweet place on st-antoine and is settling in **SOLD** alain bids farewell to his great pad on des pins **SOLD** michael & lezlie say ciao to charlevoix and hello to bouncing baby boy **SOLD** the caprios come back to les cours mont royal **SOLD** katherine & ghislain high tail out of hampton and race to a new residence on roslyn **SOLD** after an awesome year for aurora, they expand offices **SOLD** keith snags a sunny sud ouest condo on the canal **SOLD** erwin & angeles say goodbye northcliffe and hello germany **SOLD** anthony & heddi land a lair on lansdowne **SOLD** craig & valerie move on over to melrose **SOLD** david & meggie pull out of the plateau for a pad on ponsard **SOLD** jason & rube nab a dreamy duplex on draper **SOLD** julie & robert make their homestead on hingston **SOLD** christian & olivier bolt from beaconsfield for a nest on northcliffe **SOLD** alan bids adieu to peel and aloha to hawaii **SOLD** holly & brett bail on bleury and get down on grosvenor **SOLD** gary hits the flats with a great townhouse on grosvenor **SOLD** erik claims a sweet crib on claremont **SOLD** iain & renee leg it from logan to merry mount stephen **SOLD** annie bids goodbye to beautiful belgrave and makes move to monk-land **SOLD** benoit & nathalie say farewell to marlowe for family and fun in france **SOLD** andrew, stephanie & new baby create a nest on nifty northcliffe **SOLD** john & leigh-ann practice patience to design dream home in hip st-henri hood **SOLD** gillian grabs gorgeous loft on stylish st-laurent **SOLD** larissa & paulo pick the perfect pad for their fabulous family **SOLD** susan sails seamlessly into her stupendous site on chic st-andré **SOLD** lise & benoit bid goodbye to the boonies and bring their brood to beautiful upper-belmont **SOLD** zhen, wyatt & the big boys bolt out of their boulevard abode **SOLD** nadia & simon flee from their flat and snag a super space on beautiful burton **SOLD** luca, tina & the girls transit out of toronto and land on lovely lansdowne **SOLD** joyous José hits a high note & heads out of hôtel-de-ville | **SPECIAL THANKS** to our buyers whose perfect place has yet to be picked, to our sellers whose homes are still to be sold, to our classy colleagues who offer consistent capable collaboration **AND** finally to our precious group for being every year, the team that tames every tangle | **CONGRATULATIONS** to all our kind clients and **THANK YOU AGAIN** for your continued confidence in our crew!



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2017 vs 2018

	2017	2018	% CHANGE
AVG. SALE PRICE	\$1.7M	\$1.9M	↑13%
AVG. DAY ON MARKET	99	69	↓30%
# OF LISTINGS SOLD			
OVER \$2M	35	46	↑31%
UNDER \$2M	136	92	↓32%
# OF NEW LISTINGS			
OVER \$2M	58	108	↑86%
UNDER \$2M	125	138	↑10%

## CHRISTINA MILLER REAL ESTATE GROUP 2018 AT A GLANCE



**127**  
TRANSACTIONS



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Source: Centris.ca and Christina Miller Group data @ Nov 30th, 2018

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## Vic village violators



The *Independent* noticed this truck going the wrong way (east) against the one-way on de Maisonneuve after turning left from southbound Prince Albert on December 7 (photo at left). Around the corner, on December 4, this car parked for hours on a private parking pad without the property owner's permission (photo at right).

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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## Winter is here – and so are outdoor rinks



City workers were preparing the outdoor rink at King George (Murray) Park on November 5 at around 9:30 am.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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# infoWestmount

## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Période des fêtes : modifications aux services

Les bureaux administratifs de Westmount seront fermés du 24 au 26 décembre et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier. Voir l'horaire plus bas pour tous les services.

### Message du conseil municipal

La mairesse Christina M. Smith, les conseillers municipaux et le personnel de Westmount souhaitent à tous et chacun une joyeuse période des fêtes en toute sécurité.

### Projet Turcot : comité de bon voisinage

Le mercredi 12 décembre, 19 h, Hôtel de Ville.

## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Collecte d'aliments à Westmount : merci!

L'équipe de la Sécurité publique tient à remercier la communauté de Westmount pour sa générosité, qui a permis de venir en aide à des dizaines de familles dans le besoin. Joyeuses fêtes à tous.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Le mercredi 19 décembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. 514 989-5299.

### Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 12 décembre, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5229.

### Conférences de 14 heures

Le mercredi 12 décembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Grace Powell, Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal. *Alexander Calder: Radical Inventor*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### Films pour les fêtes à la Bibliothèque

Le jeudi 27 décembre, 14 h : *Incredibles 2*. (6 ans et +)  
Le jeudi 3 janvier, 14 h : *Smallfoot*. (5 ans et +)  
Projection en anglais. Salle Westmount. 514 989-5299.

## Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 14 janvier 2019

### Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 9 janvier, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque.

### Club de films documentaires

Le mercredi 9 janvier, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Three Identical Strangers* (2018). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

Jusqu'au 14 décembre. Œuvres d'Anthony Hobbs.

### Illumination de l'arbre de Noël

Le mercredi 12 décembre, 18 h 30 à 20 h, Hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux pour des activités et du chocolat chaud. 514 989-5226.

### Concert Ensemble Caprice : *Le Messie*

Le vendredi 14 décembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Ce groupe primé Montréalais présentera *Le Messie* de Händel. Billets 10 \$. 514 989-5226.

## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Collectes du mardi devancées à lundi

Pendant les deux semaines des fêtes, les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures qui ont lieu normalement le mardi sont devancées au **lundi 24 décembre et lundi 31 décembre**. La collecte sélective commerciale est **remise au jeudi**. Il n'y a aucune autre modification à l'horaire des collectes.

### Collecte de sapins

Au cours du mois de janvier. Placez votre sapin de Noël en arrière du trottoir à tout moment pour la cueillette. SVP faites preuve de patience pendant les périodes d'opérations de déneigement. 514 989-5390.

## CITY HALL

### Holiday period: modified services

Westmount's administrative offices will be closed from December 24 to 26 and from December 31 to January 2. See the calendar below for all services.

### Message from municipal council

Mayor Christina M. Smith, City Council members and Westmount personnel wish everyone a festive and safe holiday season.

### Turcot Project: comité de bon voisinage

Wednesday, December 12, 7 p.m., City Hall.

## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Westmount Food Drive: thank you!

The Public Safety team wishes to thank the Westmount community for its generosity in providing help to dozens for local families in need. Happy holidays to everyone.

## LIBRARY

### Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Wednesday, December 19, 7 p.m., Library. Bring a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

### Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, December 12, 10:15 a.m., Library. Everyone welcome. 514 989-5229.

### 2 O'clock Lecture Series

Wednesday, December 12, 2 p.m., Library. Grace Powell, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. *Alexander Calder: Radical Inventor*. Tickets req'd. 514 989-5299.

### Holiday films at the Library

Thursday, December 27, 2 p.m.: *Incredibles 2* (6+)  
Thursday, January 3, 2 p.m.: *Smallfoot* (5+)  
In English. Westmount Room. 514 989-5299.

## Next Council Meeting

# Monday, January 14, 2019

### Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, January 9, 10:15 a.m., Library.

### Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, January 9, 7 p.m., Library. *Three Identical Strangers* (2018). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

Until December 14. Works by Anthony Hobbs.

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30-8 p.m., City Hall. Join City Council members for activities, hot chocolate, and treats. 514 989-5226.

### Ensemble Caprice concert: *The Messiah*

Le samedi 8 décembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. This award-winning Montreal group presents Händel's *Messiah*. Tickets \$10. 514 989-5226.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Tuesday collections moved to Monday

During the two holiday weeks, the usual Tuesday kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place the day before, on **Monday for December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Commercial recycling is **moved to Thursday**. There are no other changes to the collection schedule.

### Christmas tree collection

Throughout January. Place your Christmas tree behind the sidewalk anytime for collection. Please be patient during snow removal operations. 514 989-5390.



HORAIRE DES FÊTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	JEU / THU 20	VEN / FRI 21	SAM / SAT 22	DIM / SUN 23	LUN / MON 24	MAR / TUE 25	MER / WED 26	JEU / THU 27	VEN / FRI 28	SAM / SAT 29	DIM / SUN 30	LUN / MON 31	MAR / TUE 1	MER / WED 2	JEU / THU 3	VEN / FRI 4
BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermés - closed								fermés - closed		8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30		
BIBLIOTHÈQUE - LIBRARY	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	fermée - closed						10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	fermée - closed		10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h
VICTORIA HALL							fermé - closed								8 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h
CENTRE DES LOISIRS RECREATION CENTRE	7 h - 23 h 30	7 h - 23 h 30	8 - 22 h	8 - 22 h	11 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermé closed	12 h - 19 h 30	8 h - 22 h	12 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h	11 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermé closed	12 h - 19 h 30	8 h - 22 h	8 h - 22 h
CONSERVATOIRE - CONSERVATORY	fermé pour une période indéterminée en raison de travaux majeurs de restauration						-				closed for an undetermined period due to major renovation work					
POLICE : PDQ / STATION 12	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 19 h		

SERVICES DE COLLECTE  
COLLECTION SERVICES



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# Hobbs shares his secrets at Gallery at Victoria Hall



Anthony Hobbs on November 20.

BY HEATHER BLACK

Westmount artist Anthony Hobbs spoke at the November 20 Artist's Talk held at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. Held in conjunction with his solo landscape exhibition *Perspectives*, Hobbs was introduced to the attentive audience by curator Victoria LeBlanc.

She commented, "In this exhibition, abstraction meets realism and Tony has successfully brought the two together."

Hobbs explained that the title *Perspectives* was chosen "not as a linear definition,

but as a way of seeing things different than traditional landscape." He also remarked that the goal of his work – many painted in the Eastern Townships and the south of France – is to portray the essence of place rather than a particular setting.

During the talk, Hobbs also described in detail his painting technique – whether oil, acrylic or watercolour – for many of the 40 landscapes displayed. Well known as a graphic designer, this is Hobbs' third exhibition at the gallery. *Perspectives* continues until December 14 at the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St.

## Police report, cont'd. from p.14

although he hadn't done so himself.

"He verified with Equifax and Trans-Union and the information they had was changed," Laperrière said, referring to the two credit reporting agencies. "His real e-mail address had been changed and his address had been changed. Someone had been able to go and present themselves as him, change the information and get a new card."

## Purse snatched from car

While Westmount's Summit Woods are a favourite destination for dog owners when they want to take Fido out for a brisk walk, a recent case suggests that parking on the Summit is not without risks.

On the morning of November 10 between 8:40 and 9:40 am, a car that was left in a parking area while the owner went to walk their dog in the woods found upon returning that one of the vehicle's windows had been smashed and a purse left inside with personal items was missing.

"Once again, as we've been saying for so long, please keep your personal items out of view," Laperrière said. "This is especially true in an isolated area where there aren't many people milling around. So even though it may be broad daylight, you never know who's lurking. Smash-and-grab thefts happen quickly."

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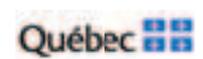
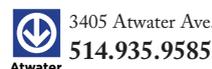


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## Bates, Freeman, Hornyak, Safdie join fellow artists to support Famijeunes



On December 3, from left, Susan Lovell, Shelley Freeman, Rae Marie Taylor, Gabriel Safdie, Leiba Rustin, Bev Farley, Shaune Thompson, Marja Hogan, Mario Bonin from Famijeunes, Catherine Young Bates, Shirley Katz, and Michèle Atkinson.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS DODSON.

Westmount artists Catherine Young Bates, Shelley Freeman, Jennifer Hornyak and Gabriel Safdie exhibited their paintings at the E.K. Volland Gallery along with 21 other artists in “Whats New – Quoi de neuf,” a fundraiser for Famijeunes in St. Henri held from November 28 to December 3. The artists, all of whom have studios in the Lachine Canal Complexe, raised

\$1,145 by raffling off two gourmet gift baskets contributed by the artists and local merchants: Café St-Henri, The Sports Vault, Katia Samson Real Estate, Le Vrac du Marché Atwater, Quo Vadis and the Unscented Company.

According to the groups’s press release, Mario Bonin, who works as a psycho-educator at Famijeunes, “was delighted to re-

ceive the cheque on behalf of the centre, and he explained that the money will be used to brighten the lives of many struggling single-parents and young families during the holiday season.”

Given the success of the event, the artists plan to have another fundraiser next year.

Also participating were artists Michèle

Atkinson, Yolande Boulanger, Myrna Cohen, Andras Csazar, Bev Farley, Holly Friesen, Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo, Élène Gamache, Dorothy Grostern, Marja Hogan, Shirley Katz, Pearl Levy, Susan Lovell, Theresa Passarello, Marilyn Rubenstein, Sue Rusk, Leiba Rustin, Rae Marie Taylor, Shaune Thompson, and Jackie Wexler.

### BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

## Council approves 9 building projects Dec. 3

The following 9 permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the De-

cember 3 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

#### Approved

**4335 de Maisonneuve:** to replace windows;

**372 Kitchener:** to build a new addition at the rear as well as a new deck;

**10 Rosemount:** to install a building sign at the apartment building on condition the posts are not visible and are hidden by vegetation;

**1 Rosemount:** at a Category I apartment building, to install a building sign on condition the posts are not visible and are hidden by vegetation;

**446 Lansdowne:** to make a patio door opening on the rear façade;

**4221 St. Catherine:** to remove a marquis and modify the parking;

**4479 St. Catherine:** to renovate the entire façade of the building;

**50 Holton:** make an opening in the rear façade for a new patio door on condition it comprises three doors of equal width;

**612 Belmont:** to build an addition at the rear provided an arched lintel is incorporated in the brickwork above the triple window to match those of the other openings.



1 (left) and 10 Rosemount on December 8, viewed from the south side of Sherbrooke.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

# In Conversation with Marie-Élaine Cusson

BY HEATHER BLACK

As a tribute to holiday traditions, the Royal Canadian Mint recently released a festive new coin “Murano Holiday Wreath.” It was illustrated by Westmounter Marie-Élaine Cusson. I spoke to the artist about her work and upcoming painting exhibition.

## Commissioned illustrations

A recognized illustrator and member of the Association des illustrateurs et illustratrices du Québec, Cusson was delighted with the new coin – a fireside scene with a coloured Christmas tree, rocking horse and a wreath created from Murano glass. “Each coin,” she explained, “has an individual glass sculpture, handcrafted by Italian glassmakers.” Released on November 6, this is Cusson’s third illustration commissioned by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Last year, she illustrated a poinsettia for “Holiday Splendour,” which featured a raised, red Murano glass poinsettia set within the engraved flower.

Cusson said, “When I saw the coin, I was happily surprised to see the red poinsettia sparkle with gold leaf.” She also illustrated the large maple leaf for the four-piece coin set, “A Royal Wedding Anniversary,” which included the royal monograms of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip.

## Stamp design too

A few years ago, Cusson was approached by a Toronto design firm to illustrate a stamp for Canada Post. “They saw my portfolio on the website of the Association des illustrateurs et illustratrices du Québec and asked whether I would be interested,” she said. Their first collaboration resulted in two stamp designs – “Hydrangea” – released in March 2016. “These

are commissioned pieces,” Cusson explained. “I’m given the subject and follow strict design guidelines.”

## Painting series

As an artist, Cusson enjoys experimenting with various subject matter and techniques. Although the coin designs are drawn in ink and the stamps drawn in ink with coloured pencils, she prefers a freer style for her paintings.

“I like to leave room for interpretation,” she said. “I trust the viewer to complete the composition.”

For her city scenes of townhouses and bistros, Cusson starts with an idea and “patches” together a painting reference in Photoshop. As motion is important in her work – flowers toss in the wind or sunlight flickers through leaves – she chooses lively acrylic colours applied with a palette knife in an impressionistic style. Cusson is inspired by nature – “the shapes and colours of flowers and leaves” – viewed on walks through Summit Park with her dogs.

A recent animal series, which includes a deer, highland cow and white stallion, also communicates her love of animals. Here, Cusson applies graphite to a textured background before creating positive areas with a gum eraser. “I want viewers to feel the movement,” she said. The result is a style that is fluid and realistic. Both painting series will be exhibited at her upcoming show.

## Immersed in art

Although a recognized illustrator, this is Cusson’s first show as a painter. She explained that the exhibition’s name “Immersion” was chosen to reflect her “dive full time into the art world”. A dual exhibition with painter Marc Drouin, *Immersion* ran from November 20 to 25 at Galerie le 1040, 1040 Marie Anne East.



Marie-Élaine Cusson readies paintings for her first exhibition.

## Prince Albert square tree lit up



Local merchants gathered on December 7 for the official lighting of the Prince Albert square Christmas tree. “There was a very good turnout, despite the cold,” according to Silvia Bortoluzzi of Boutique Sisi. “David’s Tea provided hot chocolate and tea, and Metro food store, Pizza 900, Aux Vivres, Le Fournil and Leonidas Chocolate all donated food, drink and serving items. We had a choir, too: The Burton Street Singers. It was a fantastic event.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF S. BORTOLUZZI

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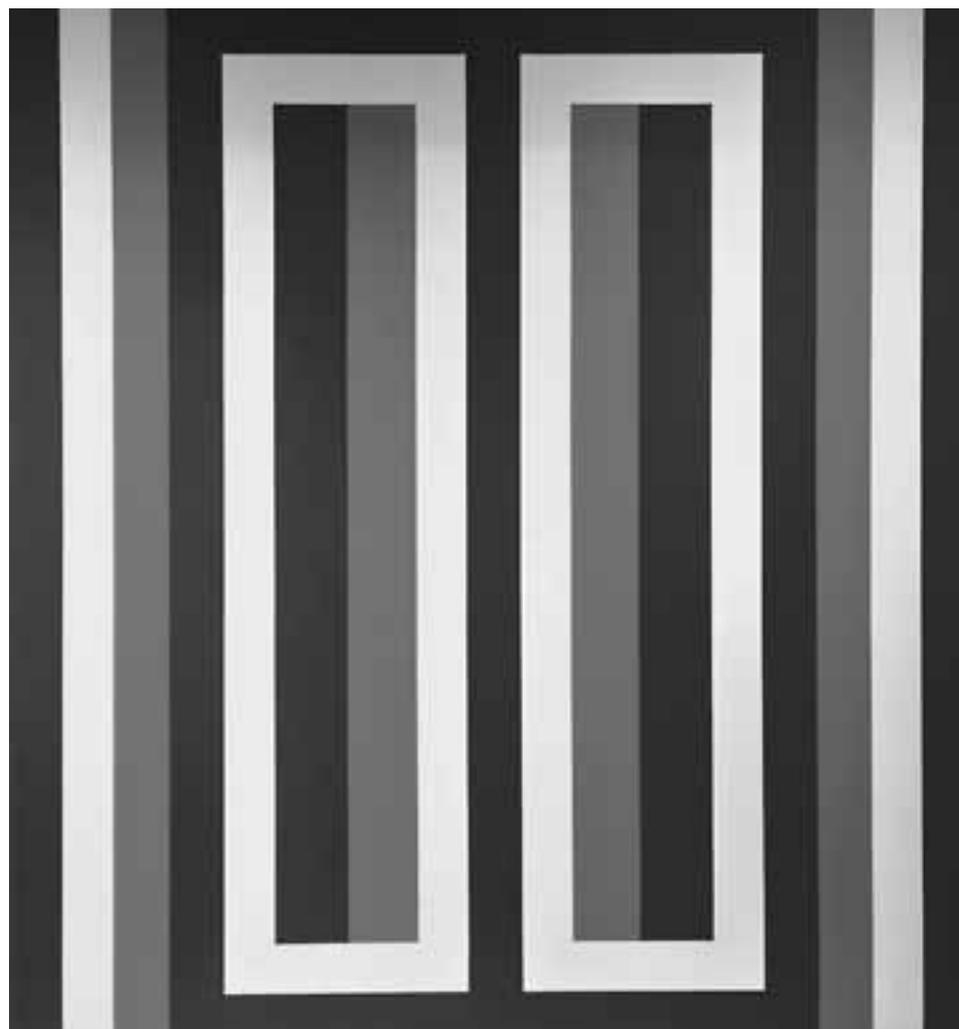
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merci et Joyeuses Fêtes. – Viviane Agia  
**agia@videotron.ca – 514.577.1242**



## Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

# Added dimensions: VAC's 573° and *Guido Molinari*



Guido Molinari "Bi-structure."

Work by Quebec artists dominated recent exhibitions at the Visual Art Centre and at Galerie de Bellefeuille. Innovative works by five contemporary Quebec sculptors comprised 573° – 3rd Virginia McClure Ceramic Biennale, while a painting retrospective of the well-known Montreal artist, Guido Molinari, took place at GdB's Sherbrooke St. gallery. In these exhibitions, dimension – whether sculptural volume or painterly 3D illusions – is dominant.

### McClure Gallery's biennale

The exhibition 573° – 3rd Virginia McClure Ceramic Biennale featured the work of Catherine De Abreu, Veronika Horlik, Julie Lavoie, Guy Simoneau and Vera Vicente.

Entitled 573° – the temperature when clay becomes ceramic – the exhibition included layered or curved sculpture as well as painted bowls, plates and candy jars. Some were novel forms crafted with traditional techniques, while others presented a novel approach to traditional forms.

Julie Lavoie evokes the play of light on snow in the rolled-clay composition "Dans la Toundra." Nature's curvilinear forms also dominate Vera Vicente's graceful earthenware sculpture. Catherine De Abreu's painted dome "Anthropocène" depicts a planet in environmental flux while

the green and rust "Borderline" plates recall topographical maps. Guy Simoneau's skill as an abstract artist – seen in his black, cyan and yellow porcelain bowls – rivals most contemporary painters.

In contrast, Veronika Horlik's colourful wall plaques "Sugar Lips" or candy-jar sculptures "Séduction" and "Forbidden" are an interesting commentary on contemporary life.

Curated by Luc Delavigne – outgoing president of the Conseil des métiers d'arts du Québec – the biennale featured both innovation and craft excellence. The third in a series of five exhibitions, 573° ran until November 24 at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave.

### Molinari's optical illusions

The "Guido Molinari" exhibition of work from 1951 to 2002 revealed the artist's distinctive vision and style.

Composed with fluid brushstrokes, his early work evolved to precise geometric forms painted in acrylic on canvas. For the 1959 painting "Vertical noir," red, yellow, black, and white stripes – bordered by a tricolour band – create a three-dimensional effect.

A master of colour harmony, red and blue stripes – framed in yellow – twist acrobatically in "Bi-structure," while in "Mutation rouge-ocre," equal bands of yellow, ochre and red appear as an accordion fold. Triangles replace stripes in the 1974 work "Triangulaire Jaune – Orange." Here a large, central yellow and orange triangle interacts with smaller triangles in a harmonious dance.

The artist's geometric mastery is also evident in the 1998 checkerboard painting "Yellow, Red, Blue Continuum."

A stylistic innovator, Molinari (1933-2004) is one of Quebec's best known contemporary painters.

The exhibition – organized in cooperation with the Fondation Guido Molinari – continued until November 26 at 1455 Sherbrooke St.

### Dimension as innovation

At the McClure Gallery novel sculptural forms – with tactile mass or surface detail – created an immediacy that draws the viewer in.

Similarly, Molinari's painterly 3D illusions at Galerie de Bellefeuille were beguiling and dynamic. Representative of both current and past innovation, these exhibitions reminds viewers of the eloquence of form and colour.



Guido Molinari "Bi-structure."

# Vernissage celebrates the work of John Fox

BY HEATHER BLACK

The vernissage of the exhibition *John Fox Works on Paper* took place on November 15 at the Centre d'art E.K. Voland. The exhibition of work by John Fox, RCA (1927-2008) included watercolours and drawings in pencil, charcoal, conté and chalk completed since 1990.

Curated by his widow, art historian Sandra Paikowsky, CM, the exhibition is significant as the artist maintained a studio at the artist complex for twenty years. Paikowsky said, "The studio and canal scenes as well as the figurative works were all created here. Works on paper are an important part of his production and John always drew from the model several times a week."

The exhibition also included watercolours of Venice painted near where the couple lived during their annual stay.

Among those in attendance colleagues, former students, and friends. Westmounter Gabriel Safdie said, "John was a dear, dear friend since 1970 when [former Westmount mayor] May Cutler introduced us to collaborate on a project."

Victoria LeBlanc – who organized the 2010 exhibition *John Fox / Refiguration* as director of the Visual Arts Centre – also helped to hang the exhibition. She commented, "John was a master of secondary and tertiary colour. His work has a beautiful, rich quality achieved through the duality of drawing and painting."

A recognized figurative and abstract colourist with work in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Fox was a



Curator Sandra Paikowsky and Gabriel Safdie on November 15.

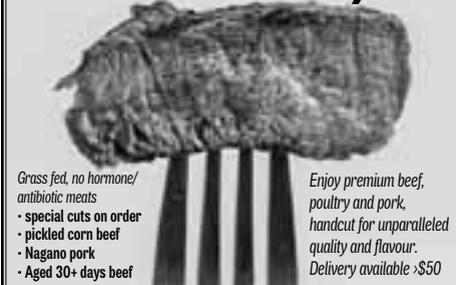
member of the Canadian Group of Painters. The son of banker James W. Fox, the artist grew up on Mountain Ave. in Westmount and attended St. Leo's School (now St. Léon's) before art studies at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, School of Art and Design. A respected teacher and mentor, Fox taught at the Saidye Bronfman Centre in the late 1960s and at Concordia University from 1970 to 1998.

Paikowsky presented a talk on his work

at the gallery on November 21.

Paikowsky is well known in the Montreal art community as cofounder of the *Journal of Canadian Art History* and as a former art-history professor and curator of the Concordia University Art Gallery. The exhibition continued until November 27 at the Complexe du Canal Lachine, 4710 St. Ambroise, with proceeds donated to the organization Big Brothers Big Sisters.

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**City: No permit issued yet****No change at 4014-22 St. Catherine since February demolition hearing**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The owner of a St. Catherine St. convenience store in a commercial block slated for demolition continues to refuse to leave before his lease expires in 2020 and the developer behind the project to replace the yet-to-be torn down building could not be reached for comment.

In February, Westmount city council gave its permission for the almost vacant three-storey building at 4014-4022 just west of Atwater Ave. to be torn down.

This was in anticipation of a new 10-storey, \$21-million mixed-use project that would replace the old building, which is across the street from Alexis Nihon Plaza.

During a demolition committee hearing on February 19, the remaining tenant, Xiaobing Fan, strongly objected to the demolition, saying that his business supports his family, while offering 24-hour service to the surrounding neighbourhood.

During the same meeting, building owner Ron Basal of Groupe BSR said the company had tried to negotiate to buy the convenience store business. “We offered a substantial sum for him to walk away [but] his prices went up,” Basal said at the time (February 27, p. 16).

When contacted by the *Independent* at his store recently, Xiaobing Fan said his position hadn’t changed and that he and his family were determined to occupy 4014 St. Catherine until the end of the lease.

The *Independent* made several unsuccessful attempts to reach Basal.

A Groupe BSR web page, which lists an

Seen here on December 8, 4014-4022 St. Catherine St. was approved last February by the city of Westmount for demolition, although a demolition permit hasn’t yet been issued.



address on Ferrier St. in Montreal where the *Independent* could find no trace of the company, is currently down, while a telephone number visible from old search results of the site leads to a voice mail box that is full and no longer accepts messages.

Yellow Pages online phone directory lists Groupe BSR as being at 5757 Cavendish Blvd. in Côte St. Luc, although the company’s fourth floor office in the building was vacant of people and furniture when the *Independent* recently visited.

In the meantime, an April 2018 file from the Quebec government database lists Groupe BSR’s latest address at 1 Westmount Square in Westmount. That address corresponds to a firm of notaries

and title attorneys.

While the demolition committee ruled in favour of Basal’s demolition application, Westmount city manager Benoit Hurtubise told the *Independent* that a demolition permit has not been issued so far. “The conditions haven’t been met to issue the permit and therefore no permit has

been issued,” he said.

According to Hurtubise, the city of Westmount’s most recent records (which are publicly available) list Groupe BSR’s address as 5757 Cavendish. However, he pointed out that the company isn’t necessarily obliged to inform the city of any changes of address.

**Ella and Kiwi, and festive catnip mice**

To close our 2018 year, we are featuring the most adorable bonded pair of lovely grey domestic shorthairs. Six-month-old Ella and two-year-old Kiwi are half-brother and sister, born a year and a half apart. They are stunning, healthy and up to date with their healthcare for their respective ages. Ella and Kiwi are very well socialized in foster care for Gerdy’s Rescue, so please don’t hesitate to contact this grassroots volunteer group at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) for more information on them for adoption in a forever family.

As playful young cats, you can imagine how difficult it was to stop them from enjoying themselves with this array of festive catnip mice, just long enough to take our photograph! A moment later and the wool mice were all scattered, then kittens were rolling with the chubby toys and batting them around ...

This Gerdy’s Rescue classic festive selection of hand-made catnip mice is now

available for gift-giving and stocking-stuffing from a number of locations in our neighbourhood, including veterinarians and pet-loving boutiques, so head out early for the most selection: Animalerie Little Bear, Baker Animal Hospital, Ben and Tournesol, Clinique Vétérinaire Sud-Ouest, Côte St. Luc Animal Hospital, Dog Haus, Hôpital Vétérinaire Général M.B. and Pampered Pets of Westmount. If you would like to order a custom-style mouse or two, please don’t hesitate to drop a note to the volunteers at Gerdy’s Rescue at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) and have unique creations for your special little ones.

Happy Holidays to all, wishing you health and happiness in the New Year.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

**Letters, cont’d. from p. 9**

to let me speak, you would have gotten the full story.

I am neither an abusive nor careless dog owner. My dog is a rescue with separation anxiety, who quivers and cries the second I am out of sight, but who is being cared for and slowly trained out of this. While I would agree that it was too cold to leave a dog outside for a long period of time, I had made sure that my dog was warm before arriving at the store, that he was sheltered from the wind and salt, and that he would not be left for long. He was in fact outside for only a few minutes before you arrived.

I am not writing this to defend myself. Rather, I am using this unfortunate event – which left me quite shaken – as an opportunity to underscore that firing off with few of the facts at hand and leaving no room for dialogue, is an assault not only on the person you are attacking, but on your cause as a whole.

I welcome criticism of my choice and dialogue. I – and I doubt anyone – don’t appreciate or condone the nature of criticism that you displayed that day. While we should never accept a behaviour or situation that puts another human or animal in harm’s way, you would have made your case far stronger had you expressed the concern, found the “culprit,” and had a rational dialogue about it. Instead, your approach shifted the focus from animal care and well-being to you.

In closing, I will say thank you for taking the time to ensure the well-being of my dog. It is a reminder that winter is here and that our animals deserve to be well taken care of. I appreciate you giving me an opportunity to remind you and others of the importance of standing up for those in need, but doing so in a productive and respectful way. I just ask that the next time you approach someone in a similar situation you don’t [do it like that].

HILLARY CHARRON, DE MAISONNEUVE



## Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount is sprinkled with more than twinkling lights. There are fun pop-up shops whose openings are perfectly timed for holiday shopping.

### Evolve Toys

What a wonderful shop! Yes, it is full of toys, but the educational kind. And what a fabulous array for future leaders.

Owned by Keren Besner and her husband Mitchell Besner, Evolve carries educational toys inspiring curiosity. Many are STEM, which Keren enthusiastically explained stands for “Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.” A teaching method now used in many schools, this holistic approach integrates the different fields, and is a “fast growing sector in the toy industry.”

Although they are for children, the store’s offerings are so fascinating, adults will be intrigued.

One toy can link to smart phones – once coded by the child to do so.

ArchiTech is a far cry from clicking blocks together: There are 75 different houses possible. The child has to wire the circuitry – it runs on batteries – which can power a tiny fan or even an elevator.

I was blown away at how the selection powers critical thinking and encourages creativity. Hopefully, these kinds of toys

# It’s Christmas – think pop-ups

would have children break their habit of staring at their computer screens, and engage their minds in a totally innovative way. Hurry. Evolve is open every day, but only until December 27.

Evolve  
4926 Sherbrooke St.  
Open every day  
Evolvetoys.com

### Au Sommet

This shop is a super source for fabulous urban wear. Engagingly helpful store manager Claire McCulloch – wearing the coolest sneakers ever – showed me the Fjällräven collection. I loved their Kanken line of backpacks and carry-on bags. “They are next to waterproof and super durable,” McCulloch explained. (I know, having carried my books in one for weeks in Florence.)

There are also Fjällräven snug sweaters, and flannel and wool pieces. Au Sommet has an online presence, but this bricks-and-mortar location is a must-see destination to feel the quality and to get an impression of the store’s positioning: A fun vintage sleigh and a hefty TV set from the 1950s in a cumbersome wooden cabinet set the tone.

Deus Ex Machina, the surf and motorcycle line from Australia, is already a great seller. Warm hooded winter jackets sit ready for Montreal’s renowned wind-blown wintry days. Although most of the merchandise is for men, some lines are

unisex and women’s separates are carried. Soon the world-famous and wonderfully warm Pendleton blankets will arrive. Yeah!

Au Sommet  
Open every day, Until the end of March or longer – Ausommet.ca

### La Galerie Daisy

As the international art market presents exciting new works almost weekly – not to mention the stratospheric auction house prices – many collectors would love to buy new art. The only problem? No more wall space.

Daisy Exclusive, the “gently used jewellery” shop, has expanded. They now have La Galerie Daisy, also on the main floor of Westmount Square. “We carry mostly Canadian,” explained owner/manager Jeff Pollock. The shop’s secondary-market boutique has oil paintings, prints and bronzes.

La Galerie Daisy  
Westmount Square – Main floor (C300)  
Open Monday- Saturday  
11 am – 6 pm.  
Daisyexclusive.com

### Royal Sparkle

Greene Ave. sparkles in more ways than one. New boutique Royal Sparkle offers a glistening collection, “with holiday prices of 25 to 50 percent less than retail,” explained manager Zoubida Zahzouhi. Gold glimmers – 8 and 14 karat. “We

have special silver pieces for children, women and men – who love them, by the way.”

The diamond and gem store is elegantly European, not only with private service (“for all budgets: \$40 to \$40,000”), but during the holidays customers have enjoyed a sip and snack while making their choices calmly, far from the madding crowd. All pieces are one of a kind, unique.

I couldn’t drag my eyes off the tennis bracelets. In zircons and gems, they make a perfect gift. My favourite? Emerald-studded: to match Wimbledon’s green grass.

1303 Greene. Go inside to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.  
Open Monday – Wednesday 10 – 5 pm  
Thursday and Fridays 10 -7 pm.  
Royalsparkle.ca

### Kombi

Westmount’s beloved Dairy Queen is closed for the winter. Now Kombi is there. Unlike the neighbourhood shops about which Retail Review has written, the manager was not allowed to give any information. I was sent a press release from the company’s PR firm. “Kombi carries tuques, mitts, insulated base layers and socks.” There are stores in over 20 countries worldwide. (I can only hope staff there is permitted to enthuse to shoppers about the merchandise in their own words.)

4890 Sherbrooke St.  
Until February 17, Open every day.  
Kombicanada.com

## August to December

# Westmount Bridge Club results

BY DON HUFFMAN

A list of tally bridge players from the Westmount Bridge Club’s last four months of play (August to December). The scores speak for themselves!!!

- #1 Jim Richards with 16,350 points
- #2 Anthony Moffat with 15,920 points
- #3 Sandra Meehan with 15,660 points.
- #4 Lise Beauchemin with 15,610 points
- #5 Viviane Agia with 15,290 points.
- #6 Nida Koudsi with 14,250 points.
- #7 Victor Murciano with 12,670 points.
- #8 Gerald Ratter with 11,110 points.
- #9 Dael Perry with 11,070 points.
- #10 Janis Morelli with 9,830 points.
- #11 Donald Huffman with 9,380 points.
- #12 Frances Lortie with 5,510 points.
- #13 Virginia Elliott with 1,800 points.

In “tally bridge” everyone has a score card, which is collected at the end of the evening. The above scores are taken from these cards. We play at Victoria Hall Mon-

day evenings from 6:45 pm to 9:45 pm.

No partner is required, only a good knowledge of the game of bridge. Players arrive before 6:45 pm and join any table with a free seat. Discuss the conventions you play with your partner and then proceed.

Cards are shuffled and each player draws a card. High card is first to deal. Partner shuffles cards for the next deal. Conventional bid starts with dealer.

You have 30 minutes to play four hands and “tally” up your scores.

At 27 minutes into game, there will be a bell for you to stop and tally up your hands. If a game is not finished on time, there is a reward of 200 points to the opposition.

The losing team will move to the next table and play with a new partner. The winners will stay at their table, but will also play with new partners.

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## Italian Business & Professional Association honours Loffreda



Left photo, from left, Loffreda's son David, his wife and "high-school sweetheart" Angelina Loffreda and Loffreda. Right photo, from left, Sam Scalia, Canadian Italian Business & Professional Association Foundation president, Loffreda, Alessandra Tropeano, the association's executive director, and Domenic Diaco, its president.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF T. LOFFREDA.

The Canadian Italian Business & Professional Association honoured Westmounter Tony Loffreda December 5 with a cocktail dinatoire and recognition as its "person of the year." The sold-out event for 400 took place at Scena in Old Montreal.

Loffreda's parents arrived in Montreal from the Rome area in 1962 and he was born soon after that same year. "What a great country Canada is and what a great journey our family has had," he told the

*Independent*. "[I have had] numerous awards and medals, but when it's from your own community, it's special."

According to a press release, "Tony is a proud Westmounter and vice-chairman at RBC, besides being an active philanthropist and dear friend to many communities for numerous years."

The group's first person of the year was then-Montreal mayor Jean Drapeau in 1967.

## Comin' Up

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

City of Westmount's Christmas tree lighting. City hall. 6:30-8 pm.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

► First performance of *Imagine This*, six short plays presented by Dramatis Personae. Admission by donation, \$10 to \$15 suggested. Reserve at [www.theatrewestmount.com](http://www.theatrewestmount.com) or by phone 514.484.2016. Lodge Room, Victoria Hall. 7:30 pm. Also *Monday, Dec. 17, 7:30 pm; and Saturday, Dec. 15 & Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 pm.*

► The Westmount Historical Association will hold its December Social 2018 on "Projecting the WHA's Image." See how the WHA's image is projected visually through its website, newsletters and posters. The Gallery at Victoria Hall. \$5.7 to 9 pm.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

► Demolition hearing re: 65 Hillside. City hall. 5:30 pm.

► 2019 city operating budget meeting. City hall. 7 pm.



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# MMFA – the glamest gala of them all

## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' (MMFA) annual eve is the *ne plus ultra* of galas. The 2018 soirée was themed "nuit couture." The very word *couture* conjures up images of gorgeous gowns of luxury fabrics, the result of long hours in fashion ateliers where *les petites mains* sew intricate details.

As the MMFA evening paid homage to Quebec designers – **Philippe Dubuc**, **Denis Gagnon**, **Helmer Joseph**, **Nathon Kong**, **Marie-Ève Lecavalier**, **Markantoine**, **Atelier New Regime**, **Marie Saint Pierre** and **Fecal Matter** – outfits were fiercely fun.

Wow-worthy looks were Dolce & Gabbana siren sexy, jumpsuit cool and obviously ornamental. The artistic direction of the surreal night was by Cirque du Soleil, ensuring over-the-top entertainment. MMFA's executive director and chief curator **Nathalie Bondil** was Euro-cool in an original outfit (black) by **Denis Gagnon**.

Tuxedo flair was the chic choice of MMFA Foundation pres **Danielle Champagne** (navy and black) and **Tanya Dupont**



Nathalie Bondil and Nathalie Roy.



Danielle Champagne and Mitch Garber.



Aldo and Dianne Bensadoun.

(fire-engine red) with **Éric Michaud**. Blogger **Lolitta Dandoy** was candyfloss personified in a frothy confection of pink tulle.

Westmounter **Dominique Bertrand**, with husband **Jacques Maurice**, wore sure-to-stand-out scarlet lined with fuchsia. In from Paris, **Thierry-Maxime Lorient**, MMFA curator, shone in a midnight blue sequinned *le smoking*.

Welcoming guests along with Nathalie Bondil *continued on p. 36*

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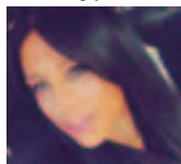
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**MMFA, cont'd. from p. 35**

were Jacques Parisien, MMFA president (with his wife Johanne Champoux) and gala co-presidents Westmounters Mitch Garber, board chair Cirque du Soleil and Invest in Canada (with his wife Anne-Marie Boucher); Mark Pathy, president Mavrik Corp (with Jessica), along with co-president Isabelle Chevalier, CEO Bio-K+ (with Christian Larose).

The museum toasted local res Aldo Bensadoun, founder of his eponymous global shoe store chain, attending with his wife Dianne Bibeau.

Ball advisory committee members were Westmount res Louise Racine, Caroline Deitcher, Willamina Leus Martire and Julie Moisan along with Debbie Zakaib.

Noted amidst the sold-out crowd were Westmounters Mary-Dailey Desmarais and Paul Desmarais III, Niki and Karl Schwarz, and Michaela and Michael Penner as well as Michel de la Chenelière, vp MMFA, Elizabeth-Ann Doyle, co-founder, artistic director, MU; Bita and Paolo Cattelan; Karolyne and Nicolas Duvernois, founder/CEO Pur vodka and Romeo's gin; Nathalie Roy, Denis Coderre, MMFA Young Philanthropists' Circle co-chairs Isabelle Gauthier Brancoli and Emmanuel Philippe, Julie Snyder and Louis Aucoin, Alexandre Taillefer, and Tourisme Mon-



Isabelle Gauthier Brancoli, Denis Coderre, and Emmanuel Philippe.



Dominique Bertrand.



Julie Snyder and Louis Aucoin.

trepreneurial CEO Yves Lalumière and Melanie Charbonneau.

The epic eve, which raised \$1.5 million

net (!), concluded with a preview of *Thierry Mugler: Couturissime*, the exhibition at the MMFA from March 2 to September 8,

2019.

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# Montreal Music Festival features elegant ensemble



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Another note-worthy night organized by the Montreal Music Festival. As a grey, gauzy twilight fell on cobbled streets, guests entered a private residence for an evening of cocktails and concert. Hosted by **Phyllis Lambert**, the *Concerts dans les grandes maisons* featured Vivaldi's *Quatre*

*Saisons*. Musicians were award-winning violin soloist **Blake Pouliot**, who, as laureate of the 2018 competition, played on a 1729 Guarneri del Gesù on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.

**man**, viola, who made his début with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at age 15, currently associate dean of Toronto's Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory, and artistic director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival; and harpsichordist **Hank Knox**, founding member of the Arion Baroque Orchestra, and professor of Early Music at McGill University.

Playing alongside him in a virtuoso performance were violinists **Jeanne Côté**, first prize winner in the Concerto Competition at Sherbrooke's Festival-Concours musique; and **Abby Walsh**, 2018 soloist with the Conservatoire de Montréal Symphony Orchestra; along with **Barry Shiff-**

The young musicians were joined by **Denis Brott**, founder and artistic director of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival and profes- *continued on p. 38*



Charles Lapointe, Gilles Bengle, Phyllis Lambert and Denis Brott.



Paolo and Bitia Cattelan, Jonathan Burnham and David Levy.

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*Wishing you & yours a lovely holiday season. All the best for 2019.*



Richard and Sylvia Creuss.

**Music Festival, cont'd. from p. 37**

sor at the Conservatoire de musique du Québec. The award-winning cellist played on a 1706 David Tecchler cello, lent for his lifetime use by the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank. During cocktails, music lovers admired black-and-white images of Montreal buildings and a wonderful video by **Kent Monkman**, in which the artist appears as his alter-ego, Miss Chief, her glamorous black-feathered headdress reaching down to red-soled stiletto heels.

Then guests moved into a sky-lit room complete with a tall tree to listen enraptured to the music.



Blake Pouliot, Abby Walsh, Hank Knox, Jeanne Côté and Barry Shiffman.



Lieve Perneel, André Poulin, Elourdes Pierre, Alain Simard and Chantal Bouvier.

Board members noted were **Michael Boer** (president emeritus), **Marissa Nuss**, **Louis Chasles** and **Mark Saucier**, who attended with his wife **Teresa Germano Saucier**. Also seen were Westmounters **Michael McAdoo** (former board member), **Reuben Croll**, **Minna Shulman** and **Stephen Rotman** along with Israel's consul general **David Levy** and director of cultural affairs **Jonathan Burnham**, **André Poulin**, executive director Destination

Tourism Montreal's former head honcho **Charles Lapointe** and **Gilles Bengle** (former communications director), doctors **Sylvia** and **Richard Cruess**, **Bita** and **Paolo Cattelan**, **Brenda Gewurz**, **Gaetan Lang**, **Dénique Leblanc**, **Céline** and **Jacques Lamarre**, **Lyne Tremblay**, **Alain Simard** of Spectra and his wife **Elourdes Pierre**, **Charles Kaufmann** of Kaufmann de Suisse, and **Davis Joachim**, former executive director of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival, and his wife **Cinthya Joachim**.

**From all of us at Coiffure Jean John, we wish everyone all the best for the holiday season**



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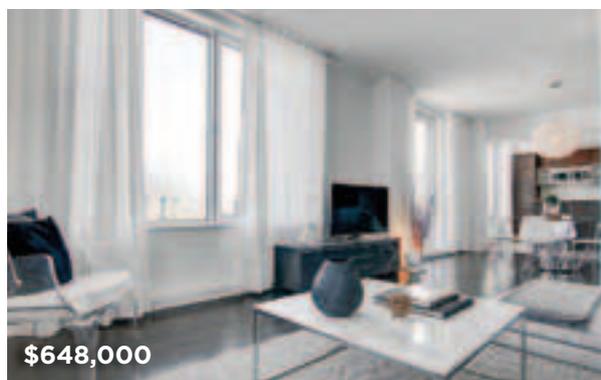
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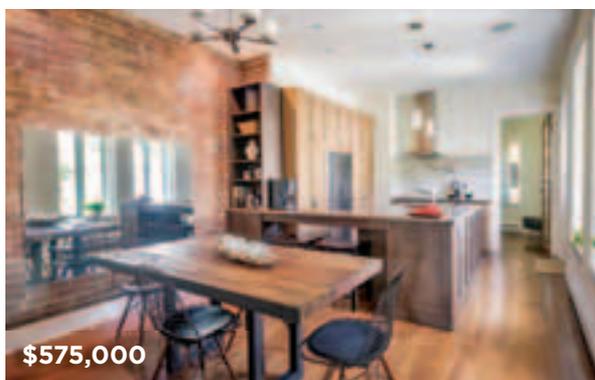
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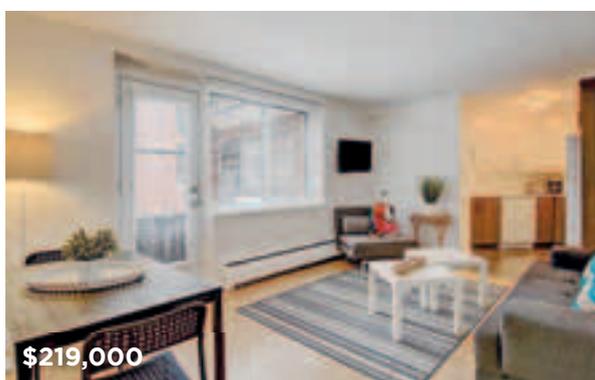
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