

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 13 No. 5c

We are Westmount

May 21, 2019

E-bikes to be rolled out with those in Montreal

New by-law to clear way for dockless bikes, scooters

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

They're on the way. Dockless electric-assisted bikes and scooters are coming to Westmount this summer, Councillor Philip Cutler announced last week. The bikes are expected to be rolled out first to coincide with their launch in the downtown area of Montreal expected in June.

"The boost will be great for hills such as Côte St. Antoine," he said. "It's just like riding a bike but with a little oomph."

To make it happen in Westmount, city council is set to table a regulating by-law

May 21 (after press time) so it can be adopted at the meeting June 3, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

This will be similar to Montreal's recent by-law but adapted to Westmount, he explained. It will allow any dockless bike sharing service to operate in the municipality.

"We can't discriminate between these companies," Hurtubise explained.

So far, only one has expressed interest in Westmount, he said. This is Jump, owned by Uber, which wants its e-bikes in Westmount to be launched at the same time as its business in Montreal, for which the city has to have regulations in place.

"Quebec is preparing a decree that will regulate the use of scooters," Hurtubise ex-

continued on p. 11

Don't Miss It

Family Day, Saturday, May 25 from 10 am to 4 pm in Westmount Park.

Ask and ye shall receive



In last week's paper (p. 7), letter writer Nathalie Allard decried the state of the gazebo in Westmount Park. No sooner had the issue been printed than the *Independent* noticed the steps had been repaired, as seen here (at bottom right) on May 16.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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City opens two outdoor courts for pickleball this summer

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Pickleball is becoming so popular that the city has made two courts available for outdoor play this summer in Westmount Park, according to Andrew Maislin, operations manager for Sports and Recreation.

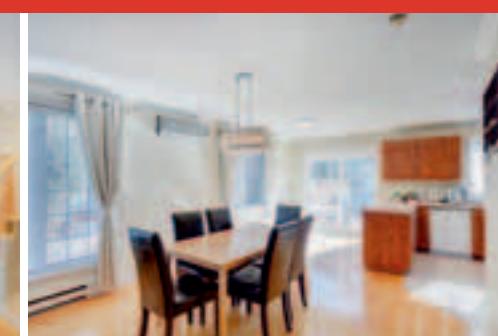
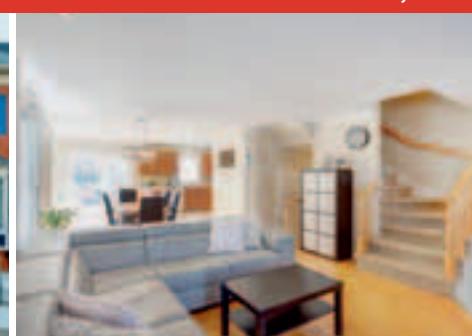
The two courts have been marked out on the junior tennis court outside the Westmount recreation centre bordering the bike path.

"We've turned it into a multi-use court," Maislin said. It can accommodate either two smaller pickleball courts or one for tennis with flexible nets that can be pulled into place.

As a result, the courts are available for pickleball seven days a week, from 7 am to 10 am, except during city tennis lessons from 4 to 7 pm Monday to Thursday, and 9 am to noon on Saturday.

continued on p. 13

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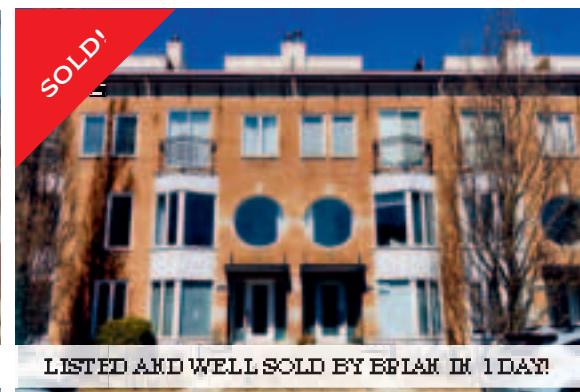




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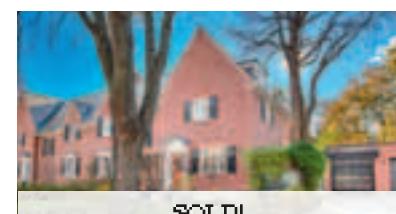
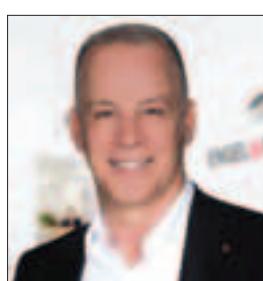
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Sofia Goddard asks for kids to be consulted ‘Unhappy’ with new play structure and scarcity of swings

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 10-year-old resident of Irvine Ave. asked city council at its meeting May 6 to add more swings for children her age and “if you are going to make changes to the structures in [Westmount Park], to please ask us kids what we would like to see.”

The previous “blue structure was fun,” she said, “and I had many happy years playing on it. I thought the city would have fixed it. I was unhappy to see that it had been taken away. The new structure is higher and feels more dangerous to play on.” As well, where there used to be six swings, she pointed out, “there are two.”

Sofia, who was accompanied by her father Nigel Goddard, suggested the city send photos of proposed new play equipment to parents so their children could weigh in on what they like. She was given a round of applause when she left the mic.

“Well done,” Mayor Christina Smith said. “Thank you for sharing your ideas.” She explained that equipment sometimes wears out, becomes unsafe and needs to be replaced. Rules have changed and whereas “in the seventies” swings could be placed virtually “on top of each other,” they now have to be further apart.

More space is also required for the addition of a universally accessible swing. She also said it was important to have equipment for older kids. Adding more swings is, however, part of the long-term



Sofia Goddard speaks to council about playground equipment.

plan.

The playground needs to be enlarged, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks. In the plan to redo the park, there will be a special public consultation devoted to the play area to which users such as Sofia will be welcome to attend.

Update

Castonguay wins a silver at regionals

Westmounter Laurence Castonguay competed at the eastern Canadian gymnastics championships in PEI May 8 to 12. She won a silver medal at the vault, a 4th place at the uneven bars, a 5th place at the floor and a 6th place at the beam. Overall, she finished 5th and she was the best gymnast on the Quebec team in her category.

The Quebec team came second, after “power house Ontario,” according to her mother, Stéphanie Séguin.

Letters to the Editor, p. 8

Classifieds, p. 13

 **Social Notes (Bal Rouge), p. 18**
City page, p. 12

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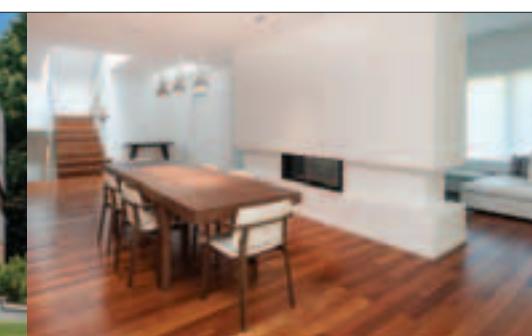
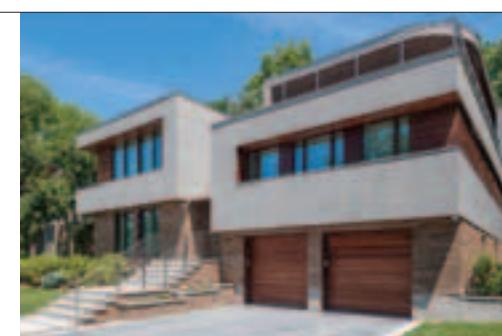
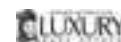
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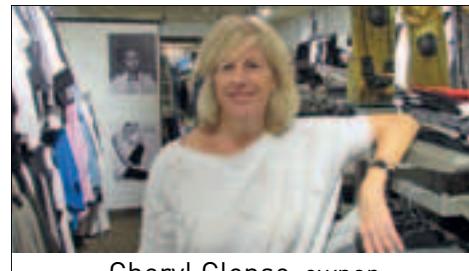
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Westmount Park School relocating 2019-21

Mayor: Students to remain members of Westmount community

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the approach of a two-year temporary relocation of classes at Westmount Park School for major renovations, its pupils will still be regarded as local students, Mayor Christina Smith said at the council meeting May 6.

She was responding to a question by Sophie Antippa, chairperson of the governing board at the school, who said she hoped “our family will still be part of the Westmount community” during the relocation period. The school is set to re-open in August 2021, in the event of “all going well.”

Antippa also said she apologized in advance for any inconvenient side effects the extensive work may have on nearby residents as it becomes transformed into what she said is being called “the jewel of the



Sophie Antippa speaks for Westmount Park School's "family."

English Montreal School Board.”

Smith said the students would still be accorded their traditional use of the municipal library and recreation facilities. She also said she hoped the impact on the reconstruction work would be minimal. She noted that the building, which was once underused, is now “bursting at the seams.”

The school of 700 will close at the end of the school year for \$12.5 million of updating and renovation, during which students will be relocated to the Marymount building in NDG and the former St. John Bosco School in Ville Émard that had been closed in 2012.

Antippa invited council members to drop by at a farewell event – “a low-key family gathering picnic” to be held on the school playground on June 7.

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Council appoints Frederic Isabel

Public Works beefs up staff, gets assistant director

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the first time in two years, Public Works has an assistant director. The position at the city's largest department was filled May 6 with city council's appointment of Frederic Isabel.

Presented by Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, Isabel comes from Beauharnois, where he served as a division head for water management in public works after also working in St. Rémi and Châteauguay.

A graduate in forest management from the University of Moncton, he will help manage the daily operations of Public Works. He starts May 27.

"We've invested a lot into Public Works and I think we needed the manpower and additional resources," Cutler told the *Independent*.

Director Robert Talarico, who was at the council meeting, has been without an assistant director since his own appointment in February 2017.

"We've been struggling with retirements and turnover," Talarico said, "but I think now we have a team in place that can help grow our goal toward providing cus-



Councillor Philip Cutler congratulates Frederic Isabel.

tomer service, which is what the council wants. Everyone is on board. We need to improve in certain areas, work hard to move forward and keep Westmount 'first on the list' among municipalities."

So far in 2019, he said, five other key

positions have either been filled or added.

Patricia Racette was hired as the new environmental coordinator after the retirement last year of Marina Peter after some 30 years. She had helped implement many new city programs for composting, organic

and recycling collections.

Another new hire is Anna Polspoel as horticultural technician looking after some of the work regarding parks, trees and playgrounds, similar to the role carried out for many years by the late Claudette Savaria as city horticulturist, who left the city several years ago on sick leave after more than 25 years of service.

That position was changed and filled by Nick Mory as superintendent of horticulture and arboriculture. He left the city after some two years.

Reinstatement of the previous horticultural position held by Savaria "will bring us back to the way it used to work," Talarico explained.

As well, Benjamin Dutremble has also been hired as tree inspector along with a new timekeeper, Jason Hlopasko.

Public Works is also benefitting from a new accounting position particularly needed for expenditures related to tenders and snow removal expenditures, Talarico said. It is being shared with Engineering and Hydro Westmount.

A vacancy created by the retirement of longtime administrative assistant Ena Guciardi is yet to be filled.



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Demolition meeting for 45 Roxborough June 17

Second-storey request to be heard



A rendering of the proposed two-storey house from the city's website.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition hearing is to take place June 17 for removal of a roof and solarium at 45 Roxborough in order to add a second floor. It will take place at 5:30 pm at city hall.

A notice posted by the city outside the bungalow last week shows plans to enlarge the home.

The house, a Category III building resembling a traditional bungalow design from the 1950s, is to be transformed into the two-storey family home like its neighbours on both sides. On one side, the house has a higher sloping roof.

The houses are on the west side of the street just south of Devon and in the shadow of St. Joseph's Oratory.

The solarium to be removed is at one side on the rear. It was built in the 1980s and the original roof in 1955.

According to recommendations by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the demolition "is not warranted by poor building condition" but that the replacement project on two floors will "better integrate" the house into the neighbourhood and streetscape.

As a result, the PAC at a meeting last October recommended the demolition of the roof and parts of the wall, provided the replacement project received a favourable



The existing one-storey house on May 17.

recommendation, which it did at the PAC meeting of March 19.

A posting of the plans outside the house as well as a legal notice, which stated that written comments could be received by the city no later than May 24.

Westmount Rugby puts one in the 'win' column

The Westmount Rugby Club played its first league game, away, on May 11 against the St. Lambert Locks. It won 3-0. "It was a hard-won game in muddy conditions, which was won with a penalty kick by Westmount player Aaron Sharp in the final minutes. We are now looking for a second win in Ottawa on May 18 against the Ottawa Ospreys," said team member Charles Fabi Allaire.

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ATWATER MONSTROSITY WOULD BLOCK OFF SUNRISE

I'm glad the developer interviewed in the article on p. 18 of last week's *Independent* ("Council okays small 'wedge' of tower at 1111 Atwater...") appears to be jumping for joy with the amazement that "the Montreal market is on fire" and that he never imagined selling condos at \$1,600 per square foot. I am quite sure he likes to plant a foot into Westmount with his bricks and mortar, but in reality probably lives many miles away somewhere else.

As a resident of Westmount who has the Atwater/Dawson College area as my neighborhood, I cannot express the same glee to see an artist's rendition of this absolute monstrosity of a building that will block off the sunrise and blight the area for decades to come.

From what I can gather from this image, we can expect to see Audi R8s and brand new Mini Coopers zipping past and all the bus stops will have been moved out of the way. Can we also expect the local homeless people and most vulnerable members of our society to be edited out, to make way for \$5 espresso coffee carts and outdoor yoga classes?

Development is development, I know, but to dump this blight of a building on our doorstep, when this area, with its socio-economic challenges for some of its residents, just feels as though we as a community can just be sold like cattle to the highest bidder.

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WILLOW PHOTOS WANTED

I have just completed the text for a children's book inspired by the old willow

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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Laureen Sweeney

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Ted Sancton

PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am

(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

tree that used to grow by the pond in Westmount Park. I invite residents and readers to send in any memorable photographs, whether they be of yourselves upon the willow, archival material of the park, or just the tree itself!

Depending on the quantity of submissions received, I hope to have enough images to include in the book. It would be greatly appreciated if you would scan your photos at the highest resolution before e-mailing them in large jpeg format to: photograffista@bell.net. Thank you so much for your co-operation,

LISA ELIN, PIERREFONDS

ADVICE FOR CYCLING PARENTS

As I was walking along de Maisonneuve today, I saw a father and young son cycling towards me on the bicycle path. I heard the father say to the son, "There is a stop sign coming up – just slow down a little bit when you get to it." This father was explicitly teaching his son that the road signs and rules DO NOT apply to cyclists.

In my view, this is one of the major difficulties in trying to integrate bicycles into the traffic system. Tickets need to be issued to cyclists who do not obey traffic signs and rules. Hopefully, this will go some way to making the roads safer for everyone.

Parents need to behave responsibly and teach the next generation that the rules of the road apply to EVERYONE.

Please note that I do not underestimate the serious need to reduce vehicle emissions, and applaud bicycles as an important part of the solution to this problem. I currently drive a hybrid, and will be trading

it in for a fully electric vehicle next week.

KATE MARIEN, IRVINE AVE.

MOVE THE 'TENNIS BENCHES' PLEASE

I play tennis in the mornings on the clay courts near the library. There are two benches near court #4 that should be moved.

As you can see from the attached photos, there is lots of drinking, smoking and marijuana smoking that happens there, often early in the morning right before school.

The debris is an eyesore and the secluded nature of the spot makes it difficult to police.



I'm also concerned that it could easily be an area where assaults occur in the park. We have a beautiful park but for this spot and there's an easy solution that will keep it clean and safe.

CATHERINE MCKENZIE,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Note: McKenzie is the wife of the Independent's editor.

Municipal politics covers a spectrum of details, concerns

BY AMANDA YOUSSEFI,
GUEST COLUMNIST

Over the course of the past few weeks, I had the opportunity to intern with Mayor Christina Smith. Montreal agglomeration meetings, city council meetings and an information meeting on TMR's Royalmount project, to name only a few, were some of the many events that were on the agenda during this time.

Despite my deep-rooted interest in politics, I learned and experienced a variety of new things under Mayor Smith's wing. I can easily say that I have a new-found appreciation for municipal affairs and for what they entail. The spectrum of what this level of government covers really astonished me. In fact, the issues can range from details such as the benches in Victoria village to major projects like Bill 21. As an independent city, Westmount does have the authority to make its own decisions but has to adhere to provincial resolutions. However, for the majority of these projects, ranging through different levels of significance, Mayor Smith seemed to be aware of most all of them, which is something that I didn't expect, considering her demanding schedule. The level of involvement and of thoroughness when it came to all the projects was impressive.

Another surprising takeaway, derived from my participation, is the importance of communication in a small city. This does not only include the concerns of vocal residents to the elected officials, but also



From left, Amanda Youssefi, Montreal mayor Valérie Plante and Westmount mayor Christina Smith.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE RENAUD, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, WESTMOUNT MAYOR'S OFFICE.

the information given by the mayor and her councillors to the residents. For instance, major points from the last aggro meeting were always relayed to the individuals attending the city council meeting.

Overall, this was an amazing experience; it not only allowed me to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the way our city functions on a day-to-day basis, but also helped me notice the importance of taking action and staying involved.

At the end of the day, making sure the needs of the community are met, to the best of the council's ability, is what became evident to me as being the mayor and her team's main priority.

In fact, I met Mayor Smith through the city's soccer program, where I was volunteering as a coach. She approached my friends and me to talk to us about the importance of taking part in our community and that eventually led to this opportunity.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Smith for this opportunity as well as her guidance.

Westmounter Amanda Youssefi interned with Mayor Smith as part of a social sciences course in her last term of CEGEP at Collège Brébeuf.



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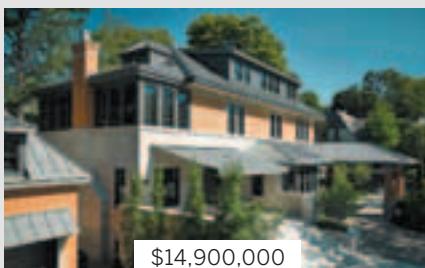
Bright and spacious residence perched in Upper Westmount. MLS 9515571



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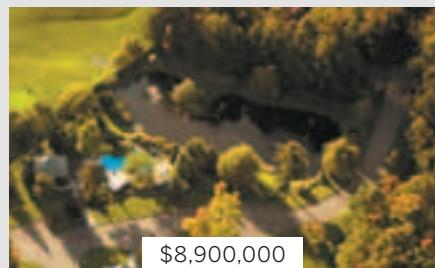
Magnificent turn key home with views and pool sized lot. MLS 21999082



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\$8,900,000

SAINT-MATHIEU-DE-BELOEIL

Sprawling 73 acre estate close to golf course & private airport. MLS 23644011



\$7,200,000

WESTMOUNT

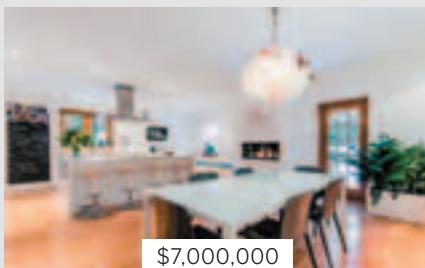
Villeneuve residence | State of the art residence with views MLS 27355301



\$12,000,000

WESTMOUNT

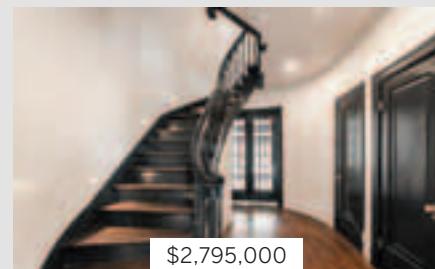
Spectacular estate on immense private lot with pool. MLS 11780148



\$7,000,000

WESTMOUNT

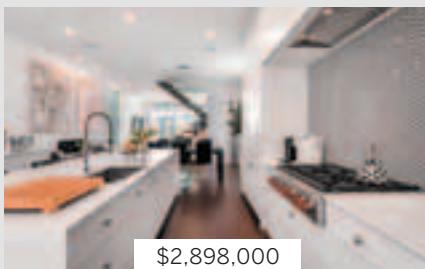
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\$2,898,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ.

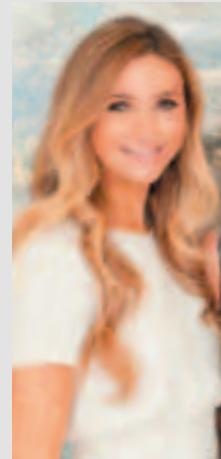
Stunning custom built detached home. 2 car integrated garage. MLS 22982114

Metcalfe redux

Work was under way on Metcalfe May 14. This photo shows five sections of broken-up sidewalk on the east side between Melbourne and de Maisonneuve. A crew was also working on the west side between Sherbrooke and Melbourne. The street was closed to vehicles at de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke at times last week. This part of Metcalfe was re-done last year and “The contractor that did the work on that street is repairing deficiencies at his cost,” city director general Benoit Hurtubise told the Independent May 16.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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City won't change rule

Existing by-law: No bikes on sidewalks with wheel diameter over 20 inches

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Despite changes in Quebec's Highway Safety Code a year ago that enable general bike riding on any appropriately signed sidewalk of an authorizing municipality, Westmount will not change its longstanding by-law to allow this.

"We have too high a volume of pedestrians," director general Benoit Hurtubise told the *Independent* last week.

The city's traffic by-law 726, section 66,

E-bikes, cont'd. from p. 1

plained. "Montreal has already adopted its by-law but deployment of scooters cannot occur until the decree is adopted because there needs to be amendments to the Highway Safety Code to regulate the use of these devices."

Cutler, who has been advocating for their introduction as commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, says that "in terms of mobility, it's good for Westmount to have as many options as possible."

The Jump system is to be introduced at no cost to the city, he said. But it will have to buy a permit from the city. It will provide the city with data on the origin and destination of trips that might be useful to the city in its planning of future bike routes.

The Jump bikes are equipped with GPS and can be rented from a smartphone app. "If you have an Uber app, you can use it," Cutler said.

To be in line with Quebec and Montreal

states: "No bicycle shall be ridden on a sidewalk."

Bicycle, however, is defined as having a wheel measuring more than 20 inches in diameter.

This is separate from, and not to be confused with, the draft by-law Westmount is to introduce May 21 regulating electric-assisted bikes and e-scooters operated by bike-sharing companies. It is also expected to prohibit their use on sidewalks (see separate story p. 1).

regulations, Westmount's by-law is expected to prohibit the riding of e-bikes on sidewalks. They will also be required to be left only at designated drop-off havens.

While the business model for these e-bikes is for leaving them anywhere they can be attached to a public bike stand, Cutler said he hopes the city will be able to find ways to include locations up the hill.

He proposed adapting various city poles to which the bikes can be locked in the same manner the city converted old parking meter poles for attaching regular bicycles.

Cutler, who uses these bikes when visiting his office in Santa Monica, California, presented his experience and proposals to council in general committee in March (see story March 26, p. 1).

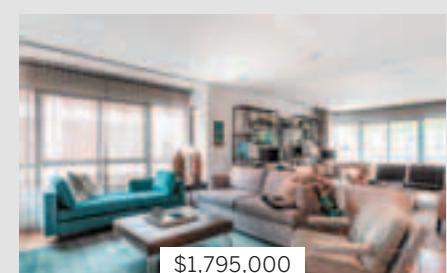
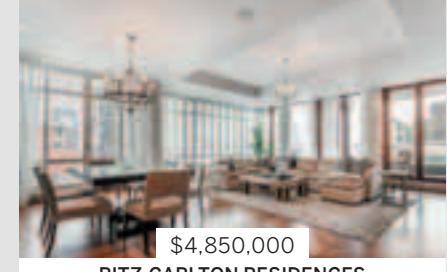
Though the council is also in favour of e-scooters, he said the main focus is getting the bicycles up and running as soon as possible.

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<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCING</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$608,800 OLD MONTREAL Beautiful one-bedroom loft. MLS 14285968</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;">  <p style="text-align: center;">\$1,550,000 DOWNTOWN Ideally located Victorian townhouse. MLS 12380427</p> </div>
<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW PRICE</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$749,000 NDG Family home on a large lot. MLS 10813436</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;">  <p style="text-align: center;">\$775,000 NDG Large duplex with renovated upper unit. MLS 22900283</p> </div>
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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Avenue Greene : fermeture du passage piétonnier

Le passage piétonnier de l'avenue Greene est fermé jusqu'en début juin 2019. Cette fermeture est nécessaire pour assurer la sécurité des piétons pendant les travaux sur la route 136 dans le cadre du projet Turcot.

Horaire d'été en vigueur à partir du 27 mai

Du lundi 27 mai au vendredi 30 août, les bureaux administratifs de la Ville seront ouverts du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h. La Bibliothèque sera fermée le dimanche de la mi-juin à la mi-septembre.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Conférences-midi

Le mardi 21 mai, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *A Life in Stories* avec Alix Ohlin. En collaboration avec le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10 \$. 514 989-5226.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

Du 24 mai au 14 juin. La Galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter une exposition jeunesse. Du lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi 10 h à 17 h. Info : 514 989-5521.

Série Récits de voyages

Les vendredis entre 24 mai et 21 juin, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire qui simule le fait de voyager dans un pays étranger pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. Info : dmiguez@westmount.org ou 514 989-5530.

Ciné-club

Le mardi 28 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Maria by Callas* (2017). Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 28 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *The Things They Carried* par Tim O'Brien. Info : 514 989-5299.

Rencontres d'auteurs : Kathleen Winter
Le mercredi 29 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Lost in September* et *Annabel*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 3 juin

Club de films documentaires

Le mercredi 5 juin, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Sundance : The Transfer of a Ceremony* (2008). Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Art Westmount 2019 : appel aux artistes et auteurs

Date limite : le vendredi 24 mai. Art Westmount 2019 aura lieu les 5 et 6 octobre. Inscrivez-vous au westmount.org/artwestmount ou 514 989-5265.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Deux écocentres fermés

Les écocentres Saint-Laurent et LaSalle sont fermés pour une période indéterminée. Les résidents sont invités à utiliser l'un des cinq autres écocentres de la Ville de Montréal, dont Côte-des-Neiges et Petite-Patrie. westmount.org.

Distribution de compost

Le compost issu du ramassage des résidus verts sera offert gratuitement aux résidents de Westmount **du 17 au 22 mai** à l'entrepôt du Service des travaux publics au coin du chemin Belvédère et du chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges. Apportez un contenant et une pelle. Interdit aux camions et aux remorques. 514 989-5311.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Rappel : chiens en laisse au bois Summit

Pendant la période de migration des oiseaux, soit **du 16 avril au 15 juin**, les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au Bois Summit. Les agents de la sécurité publique appliqueront le règlement municipal. westmount.org.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Journée familiale

Le samedi 25 mai, 10 h à 16 h, parc Westmount. Amenez vos enfants et petits-enfants et profitez des activités, jeux et kiosques tout au long de la journée.



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CITY HALL

Greene Avenue: closure of the pedestrian passage until early June

The Greene Avenue pedestrian crossing will be closed until early June 2019. This closure is required to ensure pedestrian safety during work on route 136 as part of the Turcot project.

Summer office schedule in effect May 27

From Monday, May 27 to Friday, August 30, the City's administrative offices will be open Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The library will be closed on Sundays from mid-June until mid-September.

LIBRARY

Afternoon lecture series

Tuesday, May 21, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *A Life in Stories* with Alix Ohlin. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10. 514 989-5226.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

May 24 to June 14. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present a youth art exhibition. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 514 989-5226.

Tales and Travels Series

Fridays, May 24 - June 21, 1 p.m., Library A. weekly activity that simulates the act of travelling to a foreign country for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required. Info: dmiguez@westmount.org or 514 989-5530.

Film Club

Tuesday, May 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *xtara by Callas* (2017). Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m., Library. *xtara by Tim O'Brien's The Things They Carried*. Info: 514 989-5299.

Author Lecture Series: Kathleen Winter

Wednesday, May 29, 7 p.m., Library. *Lost in September* and *Annabel*. Tickets Required. Info: 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting Monday, June 3

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, June 5, 7 p.m., Library. *Sundance : The Transfer of a Ceremony* (2008). Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Art Westmount 2019 call for artists & authors

Deadline: Friday, May 24. Art Westmount 2019 will take place October 5 and 6. Register at westmount.org/artwestmount or 514 989-5265.

PUBLIC WORKS

Two écocentres closed

Montreal's Saint-Laurent and LaSalle écocentres are currently closed for an undetermined period. Residents are invited to any of the five other écocentres in Montreal, including Côte-des-Neiges and Petite-Patrie. westmount.org.

Compost distribution

Compost from the collection of green waste will be available for free to Westmount residents from May 17 to 22 at the Belvedere Road Public Works warehouse near Côte-des-Neiges Road. Bring a container and a shovel. Trucks and trailers refused. 514 989-5311.



PUBLIC SECURITY

Reminder: dogs on leash at Summit Woods

During the annual bird migration period between April 16 and June 15, dogs must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES in Summit Woods. Public Safety officers will enforce the City by-law. westmount.org.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Family day in Westmount Park

Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westmount Park. There's been no better way to start off your summer in Westmount. Bring your children and grandchildren and enjoy activities, games and displays throughout the day.





LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Notice of Closure of Inventory

Notice is hereby given that Alvin Joseph GUTTMAN (the "Deceased"), during his lifetime domiciled and residing at 3577 Atwater Ave., Westmount, Quebec, H3B 2R2, died in the city of Westmount, Quebec, Canada on the twenty-first day of September, two thousand fifteen (2015) An inventory of the Deceased's property has been made in accordance with the law and can be consulted by interested parties at the offices of Mr. Manfred Wolf situated at Ernst & Young 900 De Maisonneuve O. bureau 2300, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 0A8 given at Westmount on this fifteenth day of May, 2019.

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One of the city's courts, and its pickleball (narrower box, in foreground) and tennis lines (wider box), on May 16. The lines are different colours. The pickleball nets are at left, waiting for deployment. "I hate the pickleball lines," an adult tennis player told the *Independent* just before this photo was taken. Inset: the new rules.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT

Pickleball, cont'd. from p. 1
pate much conflict between the tennis lesson times and demand for pickleball since the latter typically attracts older players and retirees, he said, who tend to have the time to play in the morning.

All that is required to play pickleball is a city facility card, a paddle and a ball.

Signs post priority use

When not in demand for tennis lessons or pickleball in that order of priority, the full court can be used for youth tennis. Signs at the court have been posted listing that order.

"Pickleball is hugely popular in the US and is moving into Canada so we're jumping on the bandwagon," Maislin pointed out. It's described as a combination of ten-

nis, badminton and ping-pong.

Westmount joined the growing craze last year by launching a drop-in pilot project indoors May 14 when the ice was removed from the recreation centre's Desmarais rink (see story May 22, 2018, p. 1).

This was followed by the introduction of a regular program for fall and winter (2018-2019) for players aged 18 and over; 30 registered to play Tuesday evenings at Westmount High School. This is where the city also rents space for its badminton program.

Summer use of the two outdoor courts becomes the third phase in the city's pickleball program, he said. It will be offered once again as an indoor program at Westmount High for the upcoming 2019-2020 season.

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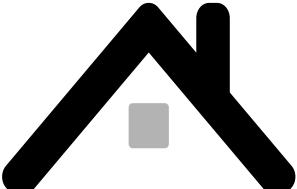
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Author of Street Art Gallery: The Best of the City's Graffiti and Wall-Art Rotarians get a primer on 'street art' from Fineberg



Archie Fineberg, author of *Montreal's Street Art Gallery: The Best of the City's Graffiti and Wall-Art*, spoke to members of the Rotary Club of Westmount on April 17.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount's Rotarians were given an introductory course on graffiti and "street art" in Montreal when author and photographer Archie Fineberg was the service club's guest speaker during its weekly noon-hour gathering on April 17.

Fineberg is a retired watch business executive and one-time Westmount Rotarian. His self-published book, *Montreal's Street Art Gallery: The Best of the City's Graffiti and Wall-Art*, was published in July two years ago.

The lavishly illustrated volume features 140 full-colour, high-definition photos of street artworks created with spray paint as well as with brushes. In addition, there are examples of works made with ceramics, wood, paper and knitting yarn.

"I was fascinated when I saw the works on the walls in Montreal," said Fineberg. "I was fascinated by the skill and the aesthetic sensibility that were evident in the works. And I was much taken with the adeptness with which large images, often of great intricacy, were created on a variety of surfaces."

During the summer of 2007, when he first began photographing Montreal's street art, he criss-crossed the island, photographing scores of images. In the process, he

gained a familiarity with neighbourhoods he had scarcely been aware of before.

By 2017, the photos he took had grown to such a sizeable collection that he brought them all together in his book. This was followed the following year by a French-language translation. Fineberg said the beginnings of street art in Montreal followed a pattern similar to the spread of graffiti in Philadelphia, where the movement first took root during the late 1960s.

As graffiti tags and scrawls spread here during the following decades, municipal officials decided to respond proactively by creating "wall art" programs to channel the talents of street artists in a positive way.

While large painted murals continue to predominate on Montreal's wall art scene due to their size and pervasiveness, Fineberg pointed out a relatively new graffiti phenomenon, known as "yarn bombing." Knitted yarn is wrapped around hydro and telephone poles as well as tree trunks, which "transforms these objects into fanciful creations," he said.

Some other media used by graffiti artists whose methods he researched included wheatpaste posters, self-adhesive stickers, spray-painted stencils and mosaic tiles. Despite the growing public acceptance of wall art, Fineberg noted it has a tendency to be impermanent.

Although there is general tendency among graffiti taggers not to mar well done work, it doesn't always hold, he said. As an example, he showed a photo of a colourful wall mural on the side of a strip mall in NDG near Montreal West that was unblemished when first photographed in 2007.

However, by the time he photographed it again in 2014, it had been badly defaced. "Vandalism is one reason for the temporary nature of street art," he said.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE,
CRA (RET.)

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in April 2019. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph on at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

The Westmount real estate market made a strong recovery at the end of March and appears to be back on track for new heights in coming months, with four new postings in late March (including one sale at \$4 million) and eight more in April, though volume still has to improve before we can say the market is "normal."

The price of Westmount's "typical" house evaluated by the city at \$1,575,722 (theoretically) is now pushing the \$2,200,000 level. The number selling for less than \$1 million since last June is exactly one (\$965,000, negotiated in January), and the number of sales below valuation during the same time period is three. Volume for the first four months of 2019

April sales: Back on track

is exactly the same as a year ago, but that was the lowest year-to-date since we began keeping records in 1986.

In April, the eight sales ranged between \$1,055,000 and \$2,590,000, with four prices over \$2 million. Mark-ups over valuation ranged from 18.7 percent to 65.8 percent, averaging 44.3 percent, which is 17 percentage points over the average for March, though slightly lower than the average for January. The January and April statistics helped pull the average so far this year to 33.5 percent over valuation, and the

average price of 41 sales is \$2,040,615.

Condos surge

Condominium prices and mark-ups surged forward as well, with seven sales in April, including two over \$2 million, and the highest price of \$2,700,000 also representing the highest mark-up over valuation of 84.3 percent, for a lower-floor unit at 1 Wood Ave. The average mark-up for the April sales was 40.5 percent, while in the first quarter of the year the average for condos was *continued on p. 19*

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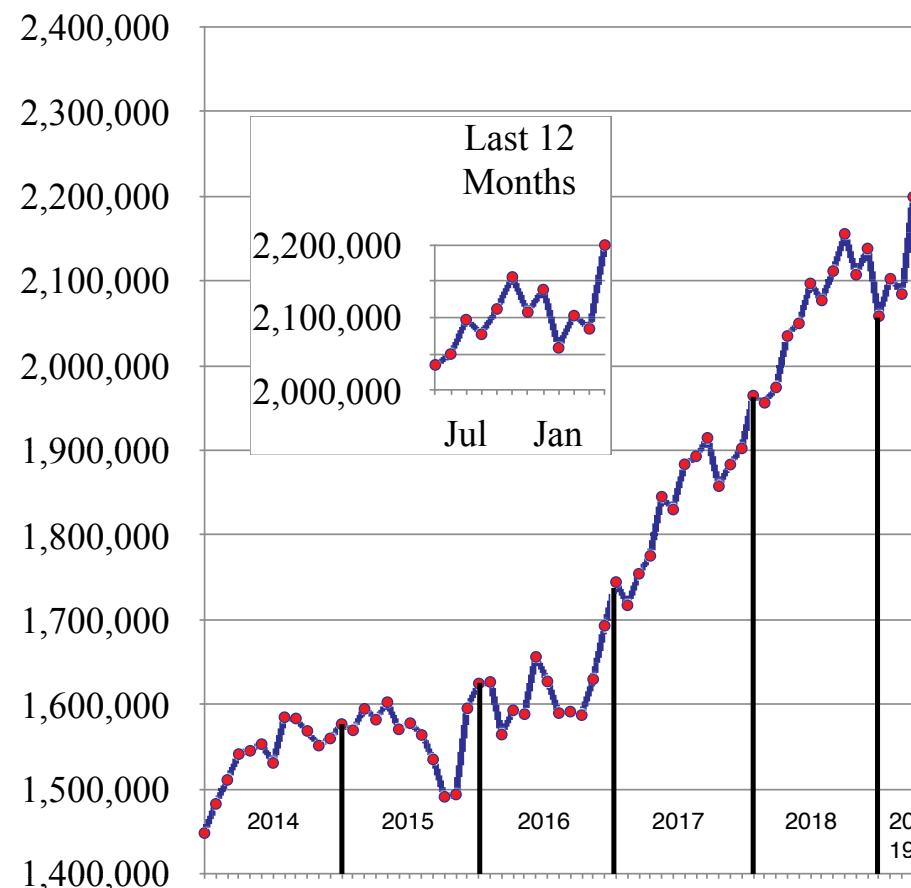
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Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2014 to March 2019, based on accepted offer dates



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Application to open a registry in view of approval by way of referendum – SCAOPI – 4160 Sherbrooke Street West – Second Draft Resolution

1. At its regular meeting held on Monday, May 6, 2019, the Municipal Council adopted, by resolution, the second draft resolution No. 2019-05-110 concerning an immovable bearing the civic address 4160 Sherbrooke Street West located on lots 1 580 552 and 1 580 555 of the Quebec cadaster.
2. This second draft resolution contains one (1) provision subject to approval by way of referendum:
 - a) grant a variance to Section 6.7.2 of By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, to allow residential use in the existing roof structure.
3. Interested persons may submit to the City Clerk's Office, no later than **Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.**, an application to open a registry in view of submitting the provision of the second draft resolution to the approval of certain qualified votes.
4. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

www.westmount.org

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McCall exhibits at Circulaire



Westmounter Ann McCall, left, showed her latest work at a reception hosted by Atelier Circulaire. The artistic centre, celebrating over 35 years, is dedicated to the production, training and dissemination of printed art. Guests were welcomed by Circulaire executive director Larry Silberman and president Jean Mailloux, right, and spokespersons actress Pascale Bussières and artist Marc Séguin. – VR.

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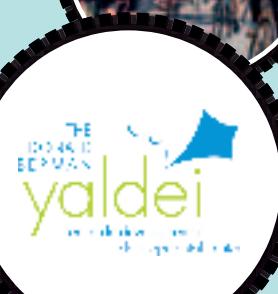


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Lufty, Hazan help launch new Four Seasons



On May 8, local residents Andrew Lufty, left, and Philip Hazan welcomed guests to the official opening of the Four Seasons Hotel, the new Montreal site of the international chain. Lufty is the CEO of Carbonleo, the Quebec-based property development and management company behind the hotel. Architect-designer Hazan created the interiors in collaboration with Paris-based Gilles Boissier. Also launched at the event was MARCUS, celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson's restaurant, whose heated terrace overlooks the iconic mural of Leonard Cohen. The hotel is linked to Ogilvy-Holt Renfrew both from the massive underground garage with its chic waiting lounge, and from the hotel itself. – VR

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Hosted by the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Foundation, the third edition of Le Bal Rouge was held at the Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth. This year's gala celebrated the achievements of Dr. Miguel Burnier, director of the MUHC's ocular pathology laboratory and the first Canadian president of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology.

The Westmount res was accompanied

Le Bal Rouge raises \$1 million

by his wife, **Nora Burnier**, and his daughter **Dr. Julia Burnier**, scientist at the Research Institute of the MUHC, attending with her husband Alexander Banks. Burnier's eldest daughter **Dr. Carolina Burnier** flew in from Washington, D.C. with her husband **John Mann**. His son **Eugenio Burnier** made the trip from Los Angeles with his wife **Alexis Bowie**. His youngest son **Miguel Burnier** was also in attendance with his wife **Emanuela Polifroni**.

Dr. Miguel Burnier's leadership in the advancement of ophthalmology was highlighted at the elegant evening emceed by

comedian and former Westmounter **Jessica Salomon**, there with her wife comedian **Eman El-Husseini**. Jessica's mother **Rita Mayo Bronfman** attended with her husband **Charles Bronfman**.

The event was co-chaired by Michael Denham, CEO of the BDC (attending with his wife Lorna MacDougall Denham) and Brian Hannasch, CEO of Couche-Tard, there with his wife Patricia Hannasch.

Noted amidst the glamorous guests were Quebec's health minister **Danielle McCann**, NDG Liberal provincial legislator **Kath-** *continued on p. 19*



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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 18

Ileen Weil and her husband Michael Novak, and Nelligan provincial legislator Monsef Derraji.

Also attending were MUHC's executive director Dr. Pierre Gfeller, with his wife Dr. Michelle Dansereau; Foundation board chair Norman Steinberg and Renée Kessler, and president Julie Quenneville.

Other guests included doctors Nikole and Karl Schwarz, Caroline and Mark Fletcher, Catherine and Adam Turner, and Tatiana Londono and David Atler.

Patient Shawn Maloney spoke about his *retinitis pigmentosa*. Formerly, as a masters student in the MUHC's ocular pathology laboratory headed by Dr. Burnier, Maloney studied his own rare eye condition and

shared his research with the medical community. He completed his PhD and spent four months training at Harvard University in their retinal stem cell laboratory, which is conducting some of the most promising research on this rare condition.

Now legally blind, Maloney expressed his appreciation to Dr. Burnier "for giving me an opportunity to join his lab – an amazing environment in which students can thrive."

This year's edition of Le Bal Rouge raised \$1 million for the laboratory, a world-class facility leading cutting-edge research into rare eye diseases. A total of \$5 million has been raised during the past 15 months in support of the Ocular Pathology Laboratory through the Dr. Miguel Burnier 20/20 Campaign.

Real estate, cont'd. from p. 15

only 16.5 percent.

Adjacent-Westmount sales flourished as well, particularly in eastern NDG, though things are still very slow in southern Côte des Neiges, including mainly the Circle Rd. and Cedar Crescent homes. So far this year, we have had 13 sales in the NDG area with prices ranging from \$945,000 to \$2,200,000, while in Côte des Neiges there have been only three sales, ranging from \$985,000 to \$1,300,000.

While the pace of sales is still slow, the number of listings on the market is pick-

ing up, now 110 Westmount homes available, up from 100 a month ago and 85 in mid-January. And the fact that only one sale has been transacted at less than \$1 million ignored the fact that six houses are listed below that mark; five more are listed over \$10 million.

Seven new house rentals were posted in the last month, bringing the total for the year to 16. The range of rentals this year is between \$3,500 and \$9,000 per month, though nine of the 25 being offered are listed at more than \$10,000.

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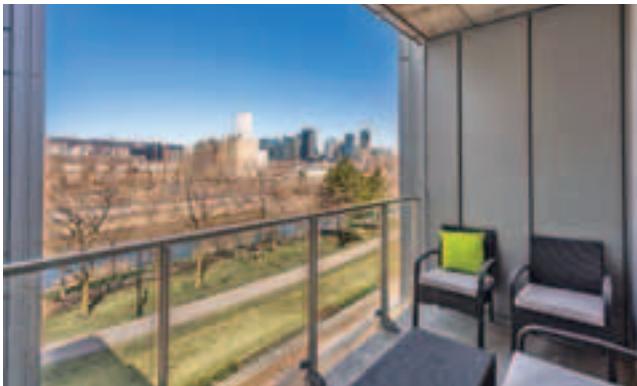
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