

Survey deadline Friday, June 21

Sports and Rec seeks opinions on programming, facilities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's survey on Sports and Recreation activities and facilities is fast approaching its deadline of Friday, June 21 for residents to offer their satisfaction level with current programs and suggest new ones.

The online survey was launched by an external company June 3, the same week that Canada Post began delivering customized log-in numbers to all households.

The deadline was set to coincide with the last day of most schools before summer holidays, according to department director Dave Lapointe. Printed surveys were available at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and Westmount Public Library.

"Data will be based on replies received

at June 21, he said, but anything that comes in after that will be read. "We didn't want the deadline to drag on."

The aim of the survey "is really to gauge satisfaction from the community with what we're offering and what we might offer," Lapointe explained.

Among the questions asked are which activities the household participates in, or did, and at what level of satisfaction. If dissatisfied, why?

Youth and adult activities

It also asks for opinions on both youth and adult activities for team, individual sports and recreational activities as well as with the Westmount recreation centre, indoor and outdoor rinks, the outdoor pool, fitness rooms, Victoria Hall, playing fields and *continued on p. 14*

STM's Sureté rushes to aid of driver



Traffic paused briefly at Sherbrooke near Lansdowne June 12 at around 5 pm as a westbound "Sureté" car of the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) deployed its rooftop lights to make use of an eastbound lane. According to STM spokesperson Amélie Régis on June 14, the agents were responding to an emergency call from a bus driver to make sure "everything was under control." She provided no other details.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

'Needs study' for indoor pool complete

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's "needs assessment" study on an indoor pool has wrapped up. The consultants' report was to be presented to the council in general committee June 17, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

It will have to be translated into English before being made public, he explained, so he does not know what this timeline will be.

The professional study was reported as

the first step in the city's consideration of an indoor pool. It is also the basis for a potential feasibility study on costs, sites and other required information on which a decision might be made, and a requirement should higher-level government grants be sought (see story October 9, 2018).

A previous survey of residents two years ago revealed that of some 1,100 returned, 80 percent were generally in favour of an indoor pool (see August 8, 2017, p. 1). This turned into a municipal election position for some candidates.



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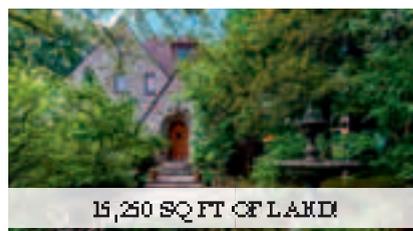


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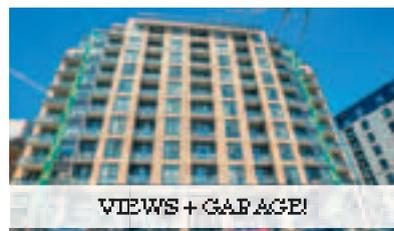
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Manoir Westmount turns 40



The party included some dancing.

The Manoir Westmount seniors' residence at Sherbrooke and Lansdowne celebrates its "birthday" every year, but this one was a milestone. It has been 40 years since its founding. The Rotary Club of Westmount organized the residence, but it is now a separate institution. Nevertheless, Rotarians have continued to be active on its board and at events, including this one, at which former and current Rotarians were spotted.

The Manoir's 125 units are for autonomous seniors. Meals are provided in its dining room. There are currently 98 female and 22 male residents, including six

couples, some of whom have more than one unit.

The average age of the residents is 89.6 and the oldest resident is 103, although she did not want to be photographed for this story.

Tom Thompson has been the residence's manager since 1995.

The late Bob Layton is widely credited as a driving force in fundraising for the Manoir and getting it built. He was later a Conservative MP (1984-93). His son was the late Jack Layton, head of the federal NDP (2003-11) and leader of the opposition (2011).



From left, Simona Buth, leisure department supervisor; Gina D'Angelo, assistant manager, Tom Thompson, manager, and Haagen Kierulff, Rotarian.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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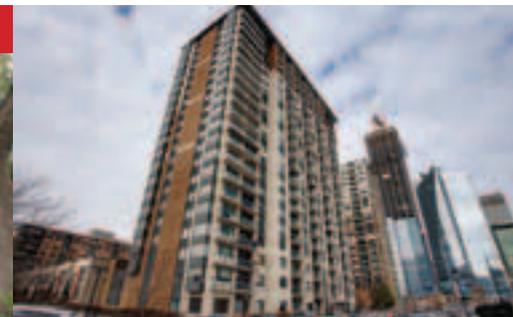


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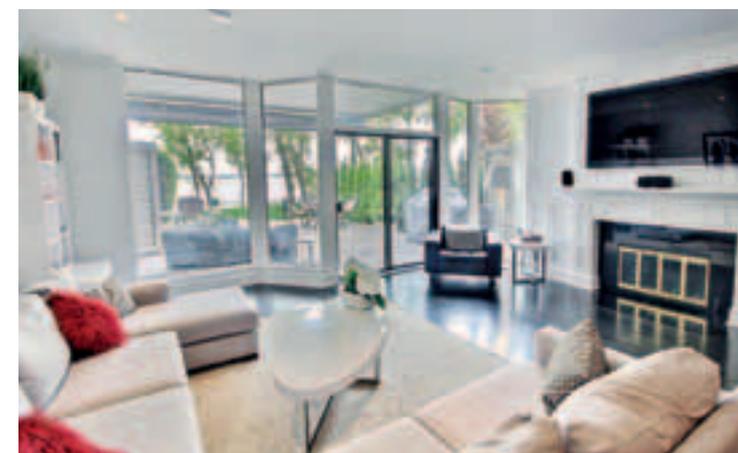
One of the lions of the Flore flower shop on Sherbrooke at Grosvenor was knocked down overnight June 11-12 (left). Owner Denis D'Etcheverry told the *Independent* in a phone call it had been moved a little the night before, leading him to conclude the event was an attempted theft. The lion ap-

pears to be damaged, he said. The lions are from Belgium and were purchased at auction for the store's former site on Sherbrooke near Claremont, where Zone is now. The *Independent* covered their "migration" from that location to one in between there and the store's current one

("The great lion migration," October 7, 2014, p. 1). They each weigh about one short ton.

A sculpture in front of the Visual Arts Centre on Victoria Ave. (right), pictured here on May 14 and totally gone by last week, was *not* vandalized. "It was basically

time, weather and moisture that made the welded joints fail," assistant director Joanne Chase told the *Independent* in an email. The artist, Jean-Louis Émond, has taken the sculpture back to his studio. The centre does not have plans for another sculpture outside the building, Chase said.



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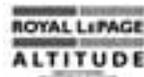
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Sun shines on the event

Gardeners exchange 300 perennials, raise \$231

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

After a string of cloudy, showery and cool days, the sun shone on this year's perennial plant exchange June 6 in front of the library and greenhouses. The event generated such response from residents that a total of 300 plants were exchanged, organizers said last week.

"We were so lucky with the weather," said Gabrielle Pilot, who also announced that a total of \$231 was realized from the additional sale of plants. A few that remained were donated for planting at Manoir Westmount, Belvedere Residence and the Atwater Library.

The event had been put together at the proverbial last minute by Pilot, Margaret Gundara and a group of volunteers from the Westmount Horticultural Society and the Horticultural Advisory Committee after the long-standing event had been on the brink of being cancelled by the city (see story March 28, p. 5).

"We were disappointed this year not to have received any plants that usually come from the city because they always provided us with different varieties," Pilot said.

"Everyone also liked them so this was



PHOTO COURTESY OF M. GUNDARA.

the first year there was not a line-up waiting to buy them" once the exchange portion was opened up for general purchasing, she explained. The city-grown or city-purchased plants had not been available this year, apparently because the city greenhouses remain closed, she said.

At the conclusion, volunteers Judy Clark, Lily Lam and Julie Dawson took those for donation to the three locations.

A decision has not yet been made as to where to donate the proceeds, Pilot said. Previously, larger amounts, mainly from

the city plants, went to the city for horticultural projects such as enhancing the greenhouses, starting up a bee hive on the library roof and launching the library's seed-lending library.

Pilot, who had dug up and potted some 60 plants for exchange from her country garden in East Bolton, said she was gratified at the response from volunteers and others determined to ensure the event survived. It has been ongoing since about 1994, originally in the former arena.

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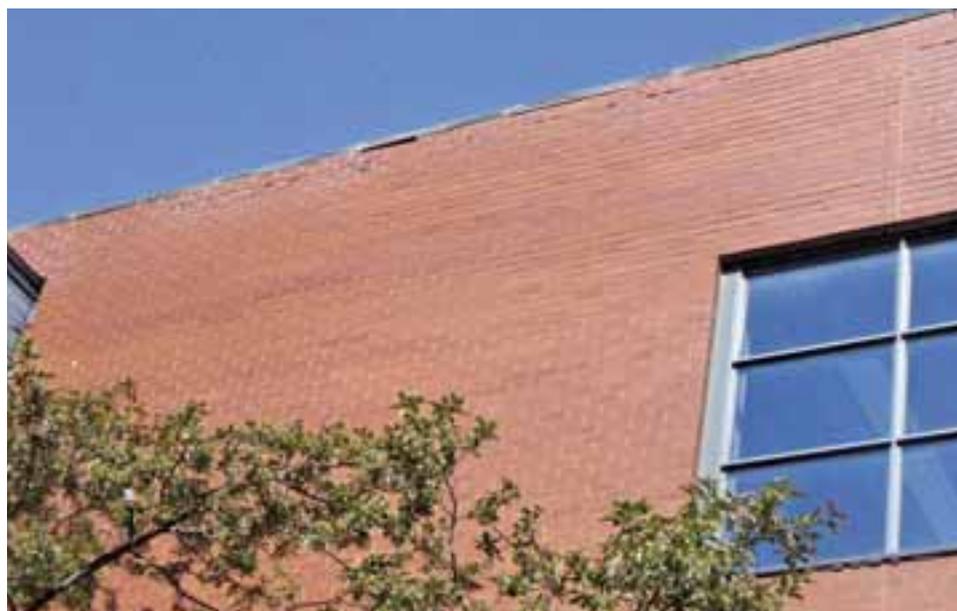
Much work needed for next year: DG

Library's 1995 brick work in need of maintenance?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As council grapples with costly repairs and restoration of some of the city's historic buildings, the much newer 1995 addition to the Westmount Public Library may have become a victim of a so-called lack of maintenance, council heard June 3.

"The library has serious water infiltration behind the façade," brickwork as well as flashing at the top of the south side, said



The library extension's southern wall earlier this month.

Denis Biro of Burton. He stated he had been bringing the matter to the council's attention for a year in the hopes that further damage could be prevented.

Director general Benoit Hurtubise, who was away for the week and did not attend

the council meeting to reply, told the *Independent* he was not aware of that specific problem but knew there were many repairs needed to the library and "I know our building team is working to put them together into one contract for next year."

Biro said he feared that because it appeared that the condition of the brick and flashing was not being tended to at an early stage it was getting "worse and worse." He said it was evident there had been previous repointing of the area below the flashing so the problem had been given some attention at an earlier point.

Lack of maintenance acknowledged

Mayor Christina Smith acknowledged the city's lack of investment and maintenance over the years has led to serious damage at municipal buildings, specifically the greenhouse complex and city hall, which are now needing multi-million-dollar work. "This is why we are now left with ex-



Denis Biro, of Burton, at council June 3. Brick work at the library's south wall needs more attention, he said.

orbitant bills," she said.

Interestingly, she had reported in her delivery of the city's 2018 financial results that the city had spent \$148,000 less on building maintenance than what had been budgetted (\$331,500), which contributed, in a sense, to the \$2.4-million surplus (see story June 11, p. 3).

Biro challenged the city's policy of paying down the debt at a time of low interest rates when use of the money for regular maintenance could prevent further deterioration of buildings as construction costs have kept inflating. "The logic to this is staggering."

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To remember 'beloved' residents

City launches memorial bench program for four parks

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council presented details of a promised memorial bench program last week following the adoption by city council June 3 of the governing policy. It replaces the previous memorial tree program that has not functioned for at least a couple of years.

The anchored benches will be per-

mitted at King George (Murray) Park, Westmount Park, the Westmount Athletic Grounds and Queen Elizabeth Gardens, and will be installed by the city.

While varying memorial bench programs are offered in many local municipalities, Westmount's offers the opportunity for people to purchase either a new bench with commemorative plaque in

memory of a loved one who was once a resident of the community or optionally a plaque alone to be affixed to one of the city's new benches.

This can be done through Public Works at a cost of \$3,000 for the outright purchase of a new "exclusive" bench of the current city model and a plaque. Otherwise, a plaque can be purchased for \$1,500 for a shared memorial bench on which only two plaques will be permitted.

"I'm very pleased," said Kenneth Toye of Claremont, who attended the council meeting after asking repeatedly over the past year for a bench or plaque in memory of his late wife (see story March 12, p. 6).

"It's taken a long time," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks, and who also says she is very pleased the program is now a reality.

She said one of the problems with the memorial trees was that "everyone" wanted decorative species that tend to be susceptible to disease, and wanted them planted in Westmount Park.

The program is now in force with details and an application form to be posted on the city website this week at Environment/ *continued on p. 13*

story October 16, p. 15).

A cake will be served at 7 pm followed by folk dancing and, when the sun goes down, a free outdoor concert.

Canada Day, July 1, will start off with a Canadian citizenship ceremony at 11 am at Victoria Hall.

At noon, activities move to the Westmount recreation centre for a barbecue lunch of hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages organized by the Teen Zone. The traditional "Splash Bash" follows at 2 pm with games and prizes at the pool.

The Canada Day cake is to be served at 3 pm.

City celebrations set for two upcoming holiday weekends

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The two approaching holiday weekends are being celebrated in Westmount by city events in Westmount Park.

St. Jean-Fête Nationale will be marked Friday, June 21, between 5 and 10 pm, south of the playground, starting off with a magic show, face painting, games and a picnic including food trucks.

This to be followed by the unveiling at 6:30 pm of a new bilingual StoryWalk outside the library. This features *How to Catch a Bear Who Loves to Read* with authors Andrew Katz and Juliana Léveillé-Trudel (see

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED Monday, June 24th and Monday, July 1st, 2019

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOVERNMENT PENALIZES ITS MINORITY COMMUNITY

The Independent received the following press release on June 11

The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is appalled at the lack of consideration and respect towards our students, parents, teachers and community at the forced removal of three buildings from the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) in favour of Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île (CSPI), the French school board covering a portion of the EMSB territory.

The EMSB council of commissioners has been working on viable solutions to help the overcrowding at CSPI but both the French board and the minister have decided that these solutions won't work for the French community at the expense of our students and communities.

"This is a very sad day for Québec's English-speaking minority community, the government has decided that our voices don't matter and that our students don't matter," said QESBA president Dan Lamoureux.

"It is our estimation that the government of Québec is penalizing their minority community. We have always been ready to sit and discuss with our French neighbours and successive governments for appropriate and smart solutions that will benefit all students and communities. This is a sad day in our history," concluded the president.

QESBA is the voice of English public education in Québec and represents 100,000 stu-

dents in 340 elementary, high schools, and adult and vocational centres across Québec.

SUMMIT TRAILS NEED MAINTENANCE, WHICH WOULD COST LESS THAN ALTERNATIVE

The "gully trail" of Summit Woods borders a ravine that offers a sweeping view of the woods. Tree holes often delight us with glimpses of nesting birds like the eastern screech owl.

Alas, the trail built on an infrastructure of boulders has become weakened by erosion. In the early 1990s, landscape architect Sandra Donaldson was commissioned by the city to undertake a restoration of the woods. The project tackled issues like erosion and preserved biodiversity by closing off redundant paths. At the time, Donaldson said that hillside erosion would necessitate a new intervention in 20 years' time. This has not yet happened.

In 2014, Fauteux et associés remitted an excellent study to the city that led to The



Recently, a flagstone bordering the steep grade has "slipped anchor" and tumbled downhill.



When wet and slippery, the exposed surface rocks of the trail pose a risk to strollers. Flagstones embedded in the trail for safe footing currently look like "erosion toadstools".

Summit Woods Master Plan adopted by council on June 3 of that year. Urgently cited: the gully's erosion exacerbated by off-leash dogs running up and down the steep grade.

Following Donaldson's report, a crew of four to eight Public Works employees was seen in springtime fixing the trail edges and helping to maintain the urban forest's natural environment. Long ago such attentiveness fell "by the wayside."

Recently, one of the gully's flagstones "slipped anchor" and tumbled downhill. Protracted neglect often ends up costing taxpayers more than what routine maintenance accomplishes.

Summit Woods necessitates a landscape architect with a sufficient annual budget to immediately undertake work. We must maintain this bird and wild flower sanctuary. Its beauty welcomes a variety of users.

For a comprehensive look at how little the on-going deterioration has improved, please refer to Laureen Sweeney's articles of 2011: "Spring reveals erosion of Summit Woods" and "SWAC survey identifies immediate needs for Summit Woods," May 3-4, 2011.

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE POSTED, NOT LEFT TO ONE PERSON

The article (May 28, p. 1) in the *Independent* regarding the Albert Square project at 4898 de Maisonneuve, corner Prince Albert, demonstrates possible problems with revisions to the permit system being considered by the city.

The city has recently released the 2019-2024 *Strategic Plan*, which proposes revisions to the permit process that we are currently familiar, albeit sometimes frustrated, with.

The *Plan* is a conceptual and aspirational document to make the process more efficient and it outlines certain orientations

that require comment and public discussion.

I have limited my comments at this time to "Section 3. Action plan and how will we get there" (p. 6) and the "Summary of the short-term actions 2019" (p. 10).

The 4898 project is being reviewed under the current procedures, in that the Urban Planning director confirms that a project conforms to existing zoning and it then goes to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for review.

We usually find out about projects at the council meetings that review permits. At present, there is no discussion of the projects at the meeting. Council usually just ratifies the list of approved projects. The rejected permits are noted.

I discovered the submission for 4898 on the website of Renwick, the developer of 4898, by accident just prior to the *Independent's* article.

The *Plan* introduces the concept of projects, with or without minor deviations and tolerances, that will not need to have a PAC review, and proposes that the Urban Planning director may make such decisions, unilaterally.

These decisions should not be left to one individual and, at a minimum, at least one PAC architect should review the permit applications with the director and conclude which projects need not go to the PAC. In the event of an impasse, the city council member who is the commissioner of urban planning at that time could break the tie.

In addition, all projects, especially contentious ones like the 4898 (based on its two previously rejected submissions), should be posted online beforehand and should have commenting pages where resident observations, both positive and negative, can be submitted.

All permits should be posted online beforehand, as well as a list of projects to be discussed at the next monthly council meeting. It should also be indicated whether they are the type (in a theoretical future) that can be approved by the Urban Planning director alone and whether any conditions have been affixed to the permit.

In addition, the city has a "good neighbours practice" on its website, which it should ensure is a document given to the owner at the same time as a building permit.

KEN LONDON, ARCHITECT,
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XYLOPHONES, DUCKLINGS AND POTHOLE

I have three items I would like to bring to the table, so to speak.

First, whoever thought *continued on p. 9*

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Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
david.price@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to put those xylophones (for want of a better word) in the playground was brilliant. The sound, even when someone is just pounding away on them, is beautiful to hear. I love the tones of them.

Second, as to the ducklings getting sucked down the drain in Westmount Park (see letters, June 11, p. 6). I called Public Works either last year or the year before when the ducklings kept disappearing. I mentioned that the cage around the drain was too large and the ducklings were getting very close to it. I am sure that is what happened to many of them. Sad that nothing was ever done to correct this and now we have this horrendous incident of losing this year's babies.

Third, while walking through Westmount Park with the dogs, I noticed the fencing around the area with the ping-pong table. There was a sign that read "Coming June 21, exercise equipment for adults." While this is a wonderful idea, what about the infrastructure of the city? The paths in the park are cracked in many places. The roads are a joke. I ride my bike on Sherbrooke St. and I call the space between Atwater and Westmount Park the butt-break mile, and St. Catherine is not much better. When are the roads going to

be repaired? One can only dream in our lifetime.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

PLEASE TELL US WHEN WE MUST BOIL WATER

I just informed a friend who lives on Windsor that the city issued a warning to boil water until Monday, June 17. I saw the notification on Facebook. She was not notified in any way by the city. How is that even possible? Is it an oversight or negligence on the city's part? Can someone please explain?

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

PLEASE RETURN THE FLOWER POTS

To whomever "borrowed" my two big blue pots filled with my large pink hydrangeas on either side of my front door, I would love you to now return them. I can appreciate you may have had a celebration you were hosting or needed a little spring in your life with our recent mediocre weather and, as happy as I am to share, I would now like them back, hopefully in as great condition as when I last saw them on June 16.

Thanking you in advance.

KIM DRUMMOND, PARKMAN PLACE



Joyeuse fête nationale!
Happy National Holiday!

Jennifer Maccarone

Députée de Westmount–Saint-Louis

514 395-2929

jennifer.maccarone.WSL@assnat.qc.ca

1134, Sainte-Catherine Ouest,
bureau 801
Montréal, Québec J3B 1H45



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BEGINNINGS

A GROUP EXHIBITION



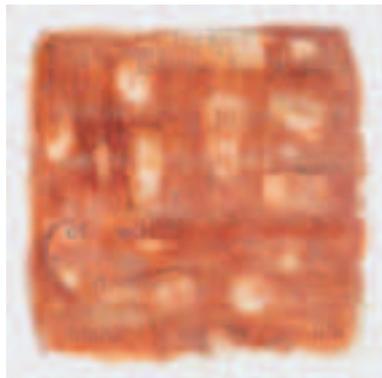
Artist submissions for future shows may be directed to info@christinamiller.ca

WHERE ART MEETS REAL ESTATE

The Christina Miller Real Estate Group is delighted to announce a new initiative, Vernissage 326, a series of art shows featuring works by local artists on display throughout the year at our brand new office space. 'Beginnings' is a group exposition showcasing pieces by Julie Couture, Nadine Hennelly, Theresa Passarello & Robert Rahal.

Our company's motto 'Love where you live' is an aspirational call to action for us all to love where we live, within our four walls, and in the community beyond. Vernissage 326 is part of this mission

Please drop by to say hello and see our show presented until mid-August at 326 Victoria Ave. in Westmount.



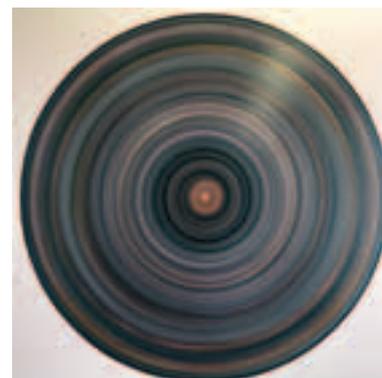
THERESA PASSARELLO

"LACUNA 1" | OIL ON MYLAR | 36" X 36"



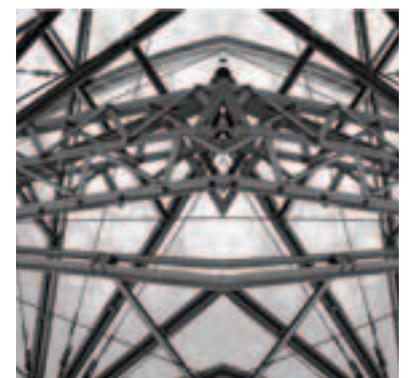
JULIE COUTURE

"SICILY_13" | ARCHIVAL PRINT UNDER PLEXI | 60" X 60"



ROBERT RAHAL

"CORAL CORAL" | ACRYLIC ON CANVAS | 48" X 48"



NADINE HENNELLY

"CONSTELLATION" | PAPER UNDER PLEXI | 2' X 8'

A portion of the proceeds from any works sold will be donated to the Sarah Cook Fund of the Cedar's Cancer Foundation, proudly supported by The Christina Miller Group.



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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Bureaux fermés les 24 juin et 1^{er} juillet

Les bureaux municipaux seront fermés les jours de la Fête nationale du Québec et de la Fête du Canada. Les collectes auront lieu selon l'horaire normal.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture d'été TD 2019

Du 17 juin au 31 août, Bibliothèque. Demandez votre trousse du club de lecture d'été au comptoir des enfants. Le thème 2019 est : *C'est ta nature!* Participez à une foule d'activités, dont *Lire, c'est payant!*, *Crée un mini-jardin*, *StoryWalk®* et plus! Ne manquez pas le lancement spécial du Club de lecture au parc Westmount dans le cadre des célébrations de la Fête nationale **le vendredi 21 juin à 17 h**. Plus de détails à westlib.org.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The boaters and sifters of Alp*

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

Célébrez 120 années de la Bibliothèque

Le jeudi 20 juin, 15 h à 16 h, cour de la Bibliothèque. Vous êtes invités à nous joindre à l'occasion du 120^e anniversaire de votre bibliothèque! Gâteau et limonade seront servis. 514 989-5299.

Série Récits de voyages

Les vendredis jusqu'au 21 juin, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. 514 989-5530 ou dmiguez@westmount.org.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 25 juin, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Never Let Me Go* de Kazuo Ishiguro. 514 989-5299.

Ciné-club d'été

Le mardi 9 juillet, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Love & Friendship* (2016). Aucun billet requis. 514 989-5226.

ÉVÈNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Fête nationale du Québec

Le vendredi 21 juin, 17 h, parc Westmount, au sud de l'aire de jeu. Célébrez la Fête nationale du Québec avec un spectacle de magie, un concert, du maquillage pour enfants, des camions de cuisine de rue et plus encore. 514 989-5226.

Prochaine séance du conseil le mardi 2 juillet

Cérémonie de citoyenneté canadienne

Le lundi 1^{er} juillet, 11 h, Victoria Hall. Venez accueillir de nouveaux canadiens alors qu'ils prêtent leur serment de citoyenneté. 514 989-5226.

Les concerts d'été au parc Westmount

Les dimanches, du 7 juillet au 11 août, 14 h, parc Westmount, près de l'étang. Concerts gratuits de musique jazz, classique et populaire. 514 989-5226.
Le 7 juillet – Juliana & Jesse
Le 14 juillet – Handmade Journey / Marcel A Trio
Le 21 juillet – Sam Kirmayer Trio
Le 28 juillet – Duo Contra-Danza
Le 4 août – Lady and the Tramps
Le 11 août – Mots et musique

Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

Du 11 juillet au 16 août. La Galerie est fière de présenter les œuvres de **Carlos Angel, Hala Farhat, Jaroslava Miler, Lisa Osterland, Tom Thompson et Maureen Tracey**. Lun-ven 10 h - 21 h; sam 10 h - 17 h.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Gravure de vélo gratuite - SPVM

Tous les jeudis du 27 juin au 1^{er} août, 13 h 30 à 15 h 30, Gazebo du parc Westmount. Cliniques de burinage par les agents du PDQ 12. westmount.org

Turcot : fermeture de Greene prolongée

Le passage piéton au niveau de la route 136 demeure fermée **jusqu'à la fin juillet** pour des raisons de sécurité pendant les travaux actuels. westmount.org.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscriptions automne-hiver en cours

Du 11 au 21 juin, inscrivez-vous en ligne, ou en personne au CLW. westmount.org/inscriptionenligne.

Sondage sur les sports et loisirs

Jusqu'au 21 juin. Partagez vos idées, vos suggestions et vos commentaires concernant les activités et les installations de la Ville. Utilisez le NIP unique qui paraît sur le carton qui vous est parvenu par la poste. westmount.org/sondageloisirs

Fête du Canada : BBQ et Splash Bash!

Le lundi 1^{er} juillet, dès midi, CLW. Des activités pour tous; gâteau, musique et divertissements!

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Distribution d'arbres : retard de livraison

Les résidents qui ont commandé un arbre au mois d'avril peuvent s'attendre à le recevoir dans les prochaines 2 à 3 semaines. Ce délai est hors de l'ordinaire et nous vous remercions de votre patience.

Sign up TO WESTMOUNT E-NEWSLETTER

Visit westmount.org/ewestmount to subscribe and receive the latest news by email from your City!

CITY HALL

Offices closed June 24th and July 1st

Municipal offices will close for the Fête nationale du Québec and Canada Day holidays. Collections will take place according to the usual schedule.

LIBRARY

TD Summer Reading Club 2019

June 17 to August 31, Library. Ask for your Summer Reading Club kit at the Children's Desk. This year's theme is *The Natural World!* Take part in all kinds of activities, including *Read Away Your Fines!*, *Make a Mini-Garden*, *StoryWalk®* and more! Don't miss the special Reading Club launch in Westmount Park as part of the Fête nationale event on **Friday, June 21 at 5 p.m.** Find out more at westlib.org.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The boaters and sifters of Alp*

Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m., Library. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

Celebrate the Library's 120th Birthday

Thursday, June 20, 3-4 p.m., Library Courtyard. Join us for cake and lemonade to mark the 120th birthday of your library! 514 989-5299.

Tales and Travels Series

Fridays until June 21, 1 p.m., Library. A weekly activity for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required. 514 989-5530 or dmiguez@westmount.org.

English Book Club

Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m. Library. *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. 514 989-5299.

Summer Film Club

Tuesday, July 9, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Love & Friendship* (2016). No ticket required. 514 989-5226.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fête nationale du Québec

Friday, June 21, 5 p.m., Westmount Park, south of the playground. Celebrate Quebec's national holiday with a magic show, live music, face painting, food trucks, and more. 514 989-5226.

Canadian Citizenship Ceremony

Monday, July 1, 11 a.m., Victoria Hall. Welcome new Canadians as they take their oath of citizenship. 514 989-5226.

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, July 2

Summer Concerts in Westmount Park

Sundays, July 7 to August 11, 2 p.m., Westmount Park, near the lagoon. Enjoy free jazz, classical and popular music concerts. 514 989-5226.
July 7 – Juliana & Jesse
July 14 – Handmade Journey / Marcel A Trio
July 21 – Sam Kirmayer Trio
July 28 – Duo Contra-Danza
August 4 – Lady and the Tramps
August 11 – Words and Music

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

July 11 to August 16. The Gallery is pleased to present works by **Carlos Angel, Hala Farhat, Jaroslava Miler, Lisa Osterland, Tom Thompson and Maureen Tracey**. Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Free bike engraving - SPVM

Thursdays from June 27 to August 1st, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Westmount Park Gazebo. Bike engraving clinics by Station 12 officers. westmount.org

Turcot: Greene Ave. closure extended

The pedestrian passageway under Route 136 will remain closed **until the end of July** for safety reasons due to the ongoing work. westmount.org.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Fall-winter registration underway

June 11 to June 21: register online or in person at the WRC. westmount.org/onlineeregistration.

Sports and recreation survey

Until June 21. Share your ideas, suggestions and comments concerning the City's programmes, activities and facilities. Use the unique login number that appears on the card sent to you by mail. westmount.org/surveyrecreation.

Canada Day BBQ & Splash Bash!

Monday, July 1st, as of noon, WRC. Activities for the whole family, cake, music and entertainment!

PUBLIC WORKS

Tree distribution: delivery delays

Residents who ordered a tree in April may expect to receive it within 2 to 3 weeks. This delay is unusual and we thank you for your patience.





Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Plus pour Moins

Love rainbows? Choose your hue. The best and the brightest sneakers – including the classic Converse – are available at a just-opened store called Plus pour Moins: More for Less, which – as the name suggests – offers “more” for less money. The popular Toms line of shoes is displayed in all colours (including look-at-me silver!) as are fun and funky Spaldings.

Bottom line? A range of “it” shoes (not only sneakers) for adults and children are offered at excellent prices. (The teeny Ralph Lauren ones are precious!). While you are there, grab a pair of jeans – denims and whites – and a T.

Oh. And they carry delicious Lindt chocolates at a good price, shampoos and perfumes. Makes scents! Friendly helpful staff.

Plus pour Moins
4032 St. Catherine St.
Open every day 10 am to 5 pm

Sneakers, vaping, second-hand clothing and brows

V3 Boutique de Vapotage

Alexis Nihon Plaza boasts a new, shiny black block, outlined with cool white neon lighting. The V3 Boutique de Vapotage is a cool place to hang out while you are, well, vaping. Nice idea: It's also considerate for those in the mall.

Monday, Tuesday 10 am to 6 pm.
Wednesday, Thursday 10 am to 9 pm.
Saturday 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday 10 am to 5 pm

Consignment Chic(k)

Many of us have read stories of piles of clothes being burnt. Sad but true. The multi-billion dollar fashion industry churns out too much unsalable stuff as consumers jump on the next trend. One balancing touch to all this waste and future landfill bundles is the number of “gently-used” clothing consignment shops that are quickly becoming successful. Westmount's latest is on Victoria Ave. Owned by stylist Nancy Trocchia, Consignment Chic(k) is totally new. The day I went in, pairs of shoes were prettily paired – gold heels and sandals beckoning. Racks of jeans were being perused by daughters, while mothers checked out the dresses and blazers. The shop is small but totally worth a visit.

344A Victoria
Tuesday – Friday 11 am to 6 pm
Saturday 11 am to 5 pm
Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm

Le Brow Bar

Le Brow Bar is a huge surprise – and a new discovery. I thought it would be, well, about brows. It is. But it is so much more. First, the boutique, a spin-off from the successful Monkland location, does, indeed, “handle” brows. Store manager Sheral Dhanani explained that they do threading

(as well as on the face) for the overgrown brow, but also offer advice for the “older” brow, where hair is sometimes more sparse. The shop offers products that help hair growth. For example, Moon Boost targets growth in both eyelashes and brows. They also offer organic and natural products for the face and body. And then there is jade. Allegedly the jade rollers/facial massage tools are beneficial due to the stone itself. But the shop is not just a beauty bar. Jewelry made by Montrealers and bamboo clothing by C'est moi are offered, as are bath salts addressing different needs. And the team offers waxing. My fave? The relaxing and very pretty pink Himalayan salt bath. Ahh!

PS: They also carry Marvis toothpaste, which I buy when I am studying in Italy simply for the gorgeous packaging.

Brow Bar
4224 St. Catherine St.
Weekdays 10 am to 5 pm
Weekends 10 am to 7 pm

.....
Memorial, cont'd. from p. 7
parks.

Replaces memorial trees

The fees cover the 10-year life span of a bench, after which it is to be removed and the plaque returned. The purchaser is to receive “first priority” to re-purchase a new bench in the same location under terms of the policy at that time.

According to the current policy, while reviews of applications will take place throughout the year, benches will be installed in the spring or summer or the following year at the discretion of Public Works, which is in charge of the program.

Vandalized or stolen plaques “are not guaranteed” and must be replaced at the purchaser's cost. Stolen or damaged benches will be replaced by the city at no cost.

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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 May 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 at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Yes, Virginia, there are high-priced buyers out there.

Announcement of the sale of a house on Braeside Place for \$9 million offered hope that many Westmount homes on the market now for prices upward of \$5 million might actually find buyers, though obviously the market is still quite thin.

The next-highest sale prices in May included two for \$3 million each and two more over \$2 million, bringing the average price for 15 sales to \$2,239,000. That average also included one sale for a house on Lansdowne Ave. for only \$640,000 and another on Lewis Ave. for \$999,000, meaning this May was the first month since May of 2018 to tally more than one transaction

May sales: Nine million for one house

under \$1 million. One house sold in February 2018, for \$579,000, but otherwise we would have to go back to August 2016, to find another house price lower than \$640,000.

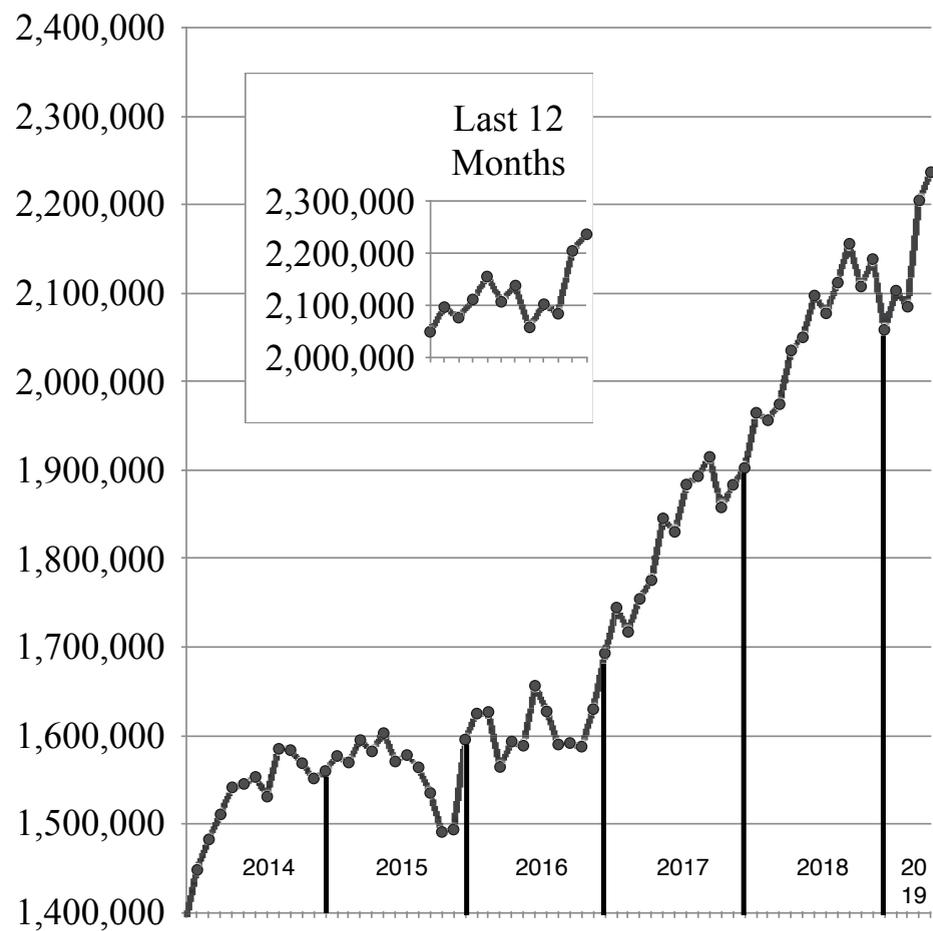
The average mark-up over valuation in May was 42 percent, about the same as in April, with individual mark-ups between 16 and 65 percent. The last time a Westmount house sold for less than tax value was in March, and before that in June of 2018. Three houses sold for more than their asking price, and five sales were double-ended, that is, one agent served both to list the house and present a buyer. The average time on the market was 97 days, but in fact five houses sold in less than 10 days and another three between 10 and 20 days.

Condos less strong

The market for condominiums was not quite as strong, with four sales in May added to nine in April, which brings the total so far for the second quarter of 2019 to 13, with June still to come. Already this is slightly above average volume and the average condo price so far this year is \$818,180; in the second quarter (again, so far) there were two sales over \$2 million and two more over \$1 million and the average mark-up was 35 percent, not quite as high as for one- and two-family dwellings.

Eight new sales in adjacent-Westmount areas show that, for some reason, buyers clearly prefer eastern NDG (basically, Grey through Northcliffe avenues) to Côte des Neiges (Circle Rd. and Cedar Crescent areas), with 17 sales in NDG and only five so far in Côte des Neiges, while last year there were slightly more sales in Côte des Neiges (32) compared to NDG (28). In both cases the average price is between \$1.2 million and \$1.3 million, while the Trafalgar-Daulac area and the Square Mile have averages over \$2 million each, though only six sales have been recorded so far in the two areas combined.

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



The number of available listings surged to 117 as of mid-June, the highest number of houses on the market since mid-September of 2016, 23 asking more than \$5 million and only seven less than \$1 million.

tember of 2016, 23 asking more than \$5 million and only seven less than \$1 million.

Survey, cont'd. from p. 1

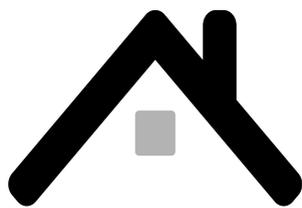
tennis courts.

Interestingly, however, no question relates specifically to the potential use by the respondent of an indoor pool, which Lapointe said is "a separate issue." A residents' survey on the issue had taken place

two years ago (see story August 8, 2017, p. 1).

A user-needs assessment on an indoor pool has been under way for which a report is expected to be publicized as soon as it is translated (see separate story, p. 1).

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OVER 20 YEARS PAINTING EXPERIENCE

Atwater Ave., Wed. morning

Man threatens woman with metal pipe

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Montreal police could be taking measures to remove a homeless persons' camp from beneath the Atwater Ave. overpass on the eastern edge of Westmount following a complaint last week by a Westmount woman who said a homeless person who might be living there threatened her with violence.

In an interview with the *Independent*, the de Maisonneuve Blvd. resident who did not want to be identified said she was taking her dog on June 12 to a canine daycare at the corner of St. Antoine St. and Greene Ave.

She said she wouldn't ordinarily walk down Atwater Ave., except that the Greene Ave. underpass is currently closed to pedestrians and cars because of continuing work on the Ville Marie expressway and Turcot reconstruction project.

"He was in the middle of the sidewalk ahead of me," she said, referring to the suspect. "I had nowhere to go. He was weaving a little bit, and he had two pieces of metal bar that he was carrying. I didn't know if those metal bars were something he found or something he carried around to protect himself because he'd lost his mind."

She maintained that after he reluctantly allowed her and the dog to pass, he addressed her, saying, "You want to pass? I'm going to hit you," while making barking sounds. She said that as she tried to evade him, he followed her, saying, "I'm going to get your dog," while also allegedly starting to swing the objects.

The police report confirmed that the woman was walking south on the west side of Atwater Ave. around 10:30 am when she passed a man who had just crossed the street from the east through traffic.

She told the investigators that he followed her, after which, she said, he threatened to strike her and the dog with an object described in the police report as a metal pipe. Taking refuge in a nearby building, she called the police, who turned up a short time later.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the suspect would have been arrested for making threats "if the plaintiff wanted to and was willing to press charges and go to court," he said.

He said a Montreal police sergeant from the Stanton St. station later accompanied an official from the city of Westmount to see the squatters' encampment, which is located on land owned by the Quebec ministry of Transport.



Seen here on June 14, this space behind a concrete column under the overpass at Atwater Ave. was being used as a living space by the homeless.



"There were a few people who had personal items there," Pimentel said of the encampment. "That being said, it's a private property. It belongs to the MTQ. They were informed and we're waiting for them to verify that it's private property and what procedures they want to take."

Pimentel said Station 12's commanding officer got in touch with a special Montreal police unit known as the *Brigade des espaces publics* that is mandated to deal with the homeless, and it would be visiting the site with a social worker to see if alternative accommodation could be found for the occupant or occupants.

"What they're trying to do is an intervention with social workers to try and find a long-term solution, and whether there's anybody who needs any mental or physical health care for substance abuse and if they need follow-up," Pimentel said.

During a visit to the site by a photographer from the *Independent* the morning of June 14, no squatters were seen, although there was ample evidence that the entrance to the UMQ's property had been converted into an improvised living space.

Among the many items gathered into the spot surrounded by UMQ safety fencing behind one of the overpass's concrete columns were old couches, chairs, blankets, pillows and covers, as well as two gas barbecues, bicycle parts and old paperback books by Tolstoy and Nietzsche.

It may also be worth noting that the

Police Report

Determined burglars rob Westmount home of heavy safe

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Burglars who broke into an upper Westmount house during the late evening of June 1 were so determined to remove a safe, they ended up damaging the stairs while carrying the heavy object off.

The owners returned to their hillside home near Forde Ave. around 10:10 pm after an evening out. They found that the alarm system had gone off during their absence and the security company had sent

a patrol officer, who reported everything as being normal. However, upon entering their home, the owners found things weren't normal, such as an open door that should have been closed, and footprints from dirt or earth tracked on the floor. As well, flower pots just outside the home were displaced or were knocked over.

There were also the usual tell-tale signs of a break-in – drawer, cupboard and closet doors *continued on p. 16*



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Police report, cont'd. from p. 15

flung open in virtually all rooms. The intruders apparently got in through a second-storey sliding window that was found open in the split-level house, leading out to a patio area.

Most startling of all to the owners was the fact that a small and portable – but apparently quite heavy – safe containing valuables was missing. According to the police report, it contained an unspecified amount of cash as well as a watch and a ring.

“There was damage to the stairs – probably from the safe – because they were damaged,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

“The police officers believe that it was the safe that caused the damage to the stairs while the suspects were leaving. The safe must have been heavy enough that if it was dropped it would have damaged the stairs.”

He agreed the burglars seemed exceptionally determined to make off with the safe. “Anybody would assume that if there’s a safe that there’s something valuable in it,” he said. “You’re not going to put popcorn in there.”

On a more positive note, Pimentel added, the Montreal police department’s identification unit was able to obtain good quality foot, finger and hand prints at the

New school/CEGEP campus to open March 2020

Centennial’s head of school Angela Burgos and chair of the board Howard Rosenoff with students in front of the school’s new home on Sherbrooke St. near Fort.

crime scene.

While noting that the owners did their best to safeguard their home with an alarm system, Pimentel suggested they might have had a better chance of preventing this break-in with video cameras and motion sensors.

“They did have an alarm system, but they didn’t have a motion detector light and they did not have a camera,” he said. “It’s about layers of protection: the more layers you have, the better your protection.”

The ‘Centennials’ to hop over Westmount to Grand Séminaire on Sherbrooke St.

Centennial Academy and Centennial College held a ground-breaking ceremony June 6 to mark the beginning of construction of their new home, which is located in the west wing of the Grand Séminaire de Montréal on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Fort, just east of the Westmount-downtown border.

The schools’ long time, previous site was on Prud’homme, just west of the Westmount-NDG border. Their current temporary sites are, for the school, in the Marymount building on Côte St. Luc Rd., just west of the Westmount-NDG border, and,

for the CEGEP, the James Lyng building on Notre Dame St. West, near Côte St. Paul. Rd. in St. Henri.

“In addition to celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, we are celebrating our move to our new building in March 2020,” said Angela Burgos, head of Centennial, in a press release of June 11.

“Moving into our new, permanent home is a major turning point for Centennial,” added the chair of Centennial, Howard Rosenoff. “It is going to allow us to pursue our important mission and serve an even larger population.”

Should all votes be equal in Quebec?

In 2017, Quebec’s director general of elections reversed an earlier decision and suddenly removed one of the three provincial ridings in our part of Montreal.

The local councils of Cote St. Luc, Hampstead, Town of Mount Royal, Outremont and Côte des Neiges-NDG protested. Over 500 West End residents took part in a rally and a legal contestation was launched. With Bill 21 on the table, it is even more important that the island of Montreal carry its proper weight in the National Assembly. While the ridings in our part of town now have an average of nearly 58,000 voters each, six ridings in the regions of Quebec have fewer than the minimum number of voters allowed by law. One riding actually has just 28,000 voters.

This is unfair and gives some rural areas twice the political weight of residents of our part of the province.

Minority communities in Quebec tend to be concentrated in some parts of the island of Montreal and the current electoral map particularly devalues their votes. On December 3 and 4, the court will hear the complaint against the director general of elections. However, the ability to see the case through resides on the continued support from ordinary citizens such as yourself. I am seeking contributions from residents and supporters to help win this struggle.

Your contribution to help this cause can be made by making out your cheque to our lawyer, Julius Grey: “Julius Grey in Trust.”

Mail your cheque to: 5160 Decarie #710, Montréal (Québec) H3X 2H9
Attention: Marvin Rotrand, City Councillor

**Big Boy**

935.1888 for information. You can also make an appointment to visit them at 3400 St. Antoine St. West, corner Greene Ave., where the clinic is open seven days a week.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Yes, he is a Big Boy, a cobby softie at heart. This teddy bear was found abandoned in our neighborhood and is now boarding at Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB, where he has received all his vetting, inoculations, treatments and neutering.

He was shy when he arrived but is coming around quite well. He is always pleased when there are dogs around, which is quite interesting as they are friendly with him as well. Big Boy is around three years old, very handsome in his white formal-wear tuxedo and gloves, in contrast to his ever-so-soft grey coat. What a face when he smiles, he lights up!

Big Boy is now ready for adoption in a forever family, and you can find out more about him by contacting clinic staff at 514.



Inspired by a vintage era, McCord Ball was groovy



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Welcome to the 1960s! Party-goers arriving at Arsenal Contemporary for the Annual McCord Museum Ball were confronted with a sit-in.

Inspired by a decade of foment, event planning guru **Dick Walsh** created a Woodstock moment, complete with seated hip-

pies in tie-dye T-shirts. The group of groovy youngsters bore signs of the times: “Make Peace not War” and “Love.”

Iconic vintage Volkswagen camper vans complemented the mood, energetically enhanced by a star-studded, cape-wearing Elvis and a “mini-me” Elvis.

And then there was the dining room décor: fabulous! Walsh, renowned for his creativity, designed an elegant disco-themed room, complete with classic mirrored disco balls twinkling in a Caravaggio mood of light and dark.

Black-tie-and-gorgeous-gowned-guests were greeted by **Suzanne Sauvage**, CEO McCord. (Sauvage, with mayor **Valérie Plante**, just announced a major expansion for the museum, greatly assisted by a \$15-million donation from **Emmanuelle Gattuso**.)

Honorary ball co-presidents were **Grégoire Baillargeon**, co-head of BMO Capital Markets Quebec; **Édith Cloutier**, president Rogers Communications Quebec, and **Robert Coallier**, CEO Agropur Dairy Cooperative. *continued on p. 18*



Pierre Fitzgibbon, Nathalie Roy, Christian Dubé, Monique Jérôme-Forget, and Suzanne Sauvage.



Committee members Charlotte Routhier, Bente Christensen, Grace Di Meo, Nathalie Brunet, Anick Beaubien, Roseline Guevremont, Nathalie Lévesque, Jean-Michel Lavoie, Bita Cattelan, Julie-Anne Coyle, Nathalie Deshaies and Sandrine Bohbot.



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UNIQUE LIVES & EXPERIENCES



Pomade pens autobiographical work on her *Sea Odyssey*

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Some of the most memorable books written in English as well as in other languages are set on the ocean – a blank landscape where the imagination can run wild and a writer's mind can roam freely.

We have only to think of 19th century American author Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, or Malcolm Lowry's first novel, *Ultramarine*.

Well-travelled Westmounter Rita Pomade has taken an important part of her

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 17

Committee members, led by **Bita Cattelan** and **Nathalie Lévesque**, were Westmounter **Bente Christensen** along with **Charlotte Routhier**, **Grace Di Meo**, **Nathalie Brunet**, **Anick Beaubien**, **Roseline Guevremont**, **Nathalie Lévesque**, **Jean-Michel Lavoie**, **Julie-Anne Coyle**, **Nathalie Deshaies** and **Sandrine Bohbot**.

Champagne-sipping couples admired the Arsenal's avant-garde art, including pieces from collector **François Odermatt**, who flew in from Paris for the event.

Amidst the glitter and glamour were Westmounters **David Levy**, Israel consul general for Quebec, with his wife **Maya**, **Jennifer Campbell**, **Vanessa** and **Guy Laframboise**.



Guy and Vanessa Laframboise.



Dick Walsh and Jean-François Fervais.

life with a nautical backdrop and transformed it into a book that was recently published by Toronto publishing firm Guernica under its MiroLand imprint.

In *Seeker: A Sea Odyssey*, the Redfern Ave. resident tells a story that begins around 1980 when she sets off to live aboard an ocean-plying sailboat with Bernard, the seafaring man she's married, only to discover as they travel a large swath of the globe over six years that the marriage is falling apart.

A retired teacher of English as a second language in Montreal and around the

boise, and **Gerry Shadeed** as well as **Paolo Cattelan**, **Jean-François Gervais**, **Daniel Ethier**, **Isabelle Marcoux**, **Carmen Robinson**, **Scott Yetman**, **Catherine Pogonat** and **Valentin Callipel**, and fashion designers **Denis Gagnon** and **Marie Saint Pierre**.

Monique Jérôme-Forget, chair McCord Stewart Museum board of trustees, addressed the sold-out crowd.

Creative caterer **Franka Mazza** served Epicurean delights. The tunes of the 60s and 70s meant that the dance floor was seldom empty thanks to **Chubb**, **D.J. Thomas** and **VJ Video Girl**. Along with the McCord's Sugar Ball held a few nights later, the events raised \$1 million for the McCord Museum.

world, Pomade spent many years living in Mexico, where she was a contributor and staffer for travel industry publications and web sites.

Though Pomade spent many years as a freelancer grinding out copy for business clients, her previously-published literary output amounted to little more than a short story in an anthology, as well as some contributions to a publishing project mounted by a Westmount-based poetry group.

In an interview with the *Independent*, she described the impact that life on the boat had on her way of seeing things. "We lived in a space that was like from that wall," motioning, "to that wall. It's 24 hours a day," she said.

"You cannot get away from that person. They are never out of your sight. If you have any tension, you can't talk to a friend, you can't go for a walk, you can't go to the movies. You have to learn how to resolve that. And it's important. Because your life depends on that other person."

However, as time went on, she gradually



Seen here at her Redfern Ave. home on May 26, Westmounter Rita Pomade wrote *Seeker: A Sea Odyssey*, recently published by Guernica.

Comin' Up

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

City's St. Jean celebrations. Westmount Park, south of the playground. 5 to 10 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Sundays at the Shaar. Mini-concert by Andrew Mangal, \$5 per person. Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. Registration required 514.937.9474 x 139. 12 noon.

MONDAY, JULY 1

City's Canada Day celebrations. 11 am: Canadian citizenship ceremony at Victoria Hall. 12 noon: lunch at the Westmount recreation centre. 2 pm: Splash Bash at the pool.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

Westmount city council meeting. City hall. 7:30 pm.

became more aware of how fundamentally different she and her husband were. While Pomade enjoyed the countries they visited, with their diverse languages, foods and cultures, he seemed only interested in sailing.

"So it created a lot of tension," she said. "In the end, we couldn't resolve that. And it's basically what split the relationship." Pomade is full of anecdotes – including a particularly interesting one on how she was influenced once and for all to set off on the ocean-going trip by an astrologer.

"Trudeau, the father, had an astrologer in Montreal – Donatien Gravel," she said, maintaining that the former prime minister used to consult Gravel on personal finance issues. "Or so I heard," Pomade added. "And I said that if that astrologer is good enough for Pierre, he's good enough for me."

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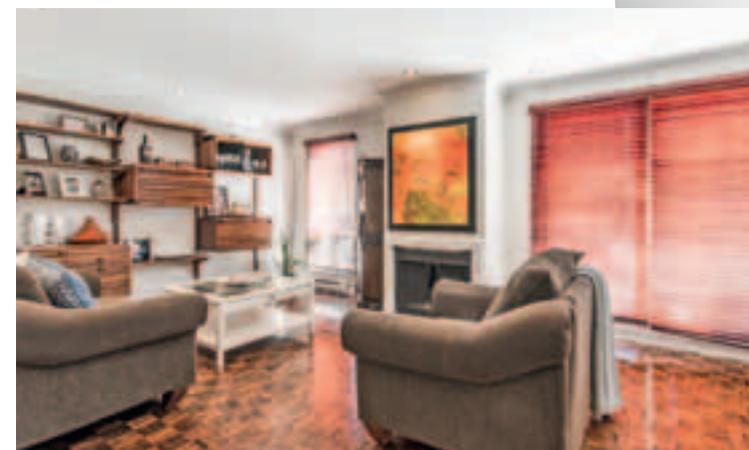
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