

Westmount Park refurbishment Citizens call for more info on public consultation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Citizens September 3 asked city council for more information on how public consultations will proceed on the refurbishment of Westmount Park planned to take place in phases over the next few years.

“Everyone is concerned,” stated Marilyn Gillies, of Melville, one of those who spoke.

A professional services mandate to conduct the public consultations was part of a wide-ranging feasibility study on updating the park awarded April 1 to Stantec (see story April 16, p. 4).

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks, has consistently said that consultations on what people appreciate about the park and

want it to provide would help determine its future needs.

“(Stantec) will be doing different types of consultation,” Lulham told Patrick Barnard of Melville, who asked what people can expect.

The first one would be a general survey of residents to find out if people go to the park. If so, what do they like about it and what would they like to see? Some parents she knows want a bigger playground, for example, she explained. Some people want a more natural waterway.

Lulham said she would have “lots of information” about the consultations after she and the city administration meet this week with Stantec and she shares the plan with the council in general
continued on p. 8

Darrell Fox supports Terry's local run



Westmount's Terry Fox run took place September 15 in Westmount Park. Organizer Spencer Halickman, a Concordia graphics design student (centre), welcomed Darrell Fox (right), Terry's brother and Terry Fox Research Institute board member, who was introduced by Halickman's father, Mitch. Darrell accompanied Terry on his Marathon of Hope almost 40 years ago. He thanked participants and acknowledged the \$150-million commitment to cancer research of the federal government, giving a nod to MP Marc Garneau (back row). “If Terry was here today, he'd have had an 80-percent chance of survival, it was only 20 percent back then,” said Darrell.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

But what about the sidewalks? Lambert persists

Trying to get ahead of winter with more new snow contracts

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Snow is coming and city council awarded contracts September 3 for the third consecutive month related to dealing with it. This time it was for the rental of snow blowers and loaders, and the clearing of lanes.

“It's with the intention of being ‘in

front’ of the snow before it falls,” said Councillor Philip Cutler. “We really want to make snow removal as optimal as possible.”

Snow removal is a work in progress and subject to major storms, but the city “is open to feedback,” he told those attending. “If you have ideas, don't
hesitate to share them continued on p. 7

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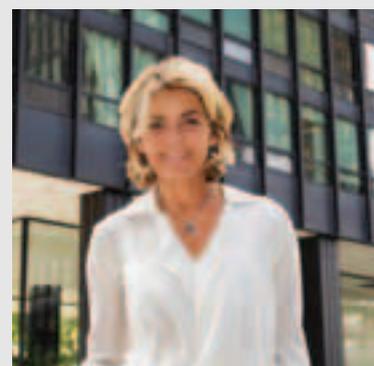
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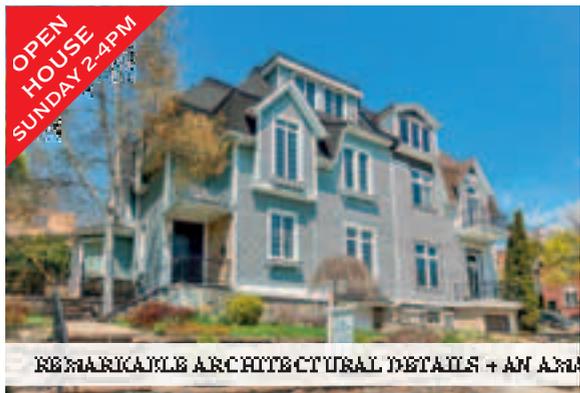
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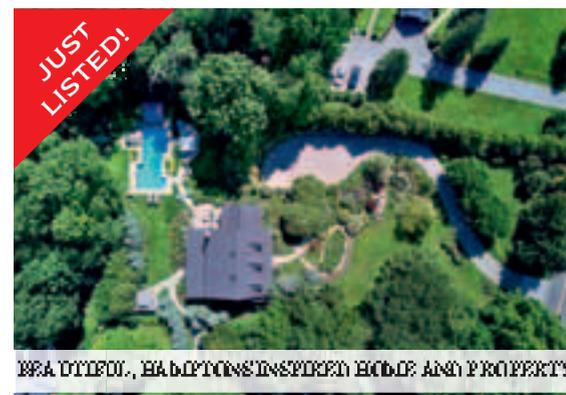


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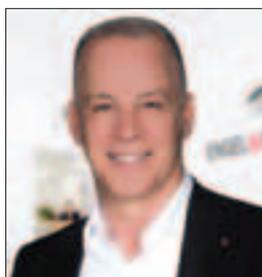


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Winner is 1 of 2 bidding on greenhouse project

Bank of architects 'hired' for various city buildings

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a new policy to help with ongoing professional assistance "as needed," city council awarded a contract September 3 for a "bank of professional services in architecture" for various municipal buildings in 2019 and 2020.

This was in keeping with a similar bank of services that was awarded August 5 for engineering consulting related to various buildings (see story August 27, p. 4).

The architectural services conforming contract costing between \$83,990 for this year and a maximum of \$284,218 went to Nadeau, Nadeau, Blondin architects, the only bidder. This is the same firm that had been working on the greenhouse restoration project and created the renovation option preferred by the council. Its layout was pictured June 4, p. 10.

The firm's greenhouse contract with the city had been cancelled according to law when the projected cost of the project es-



The entrance city's (currently closed) greenhouse on September 13. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

calated to \$4.3 million from \$2.5 million, pushing the fees beyond those approved in the original contract. This forced the city to call for new tenders, which have not yet been awarded.

Greenhouse excluded, tender award possible in October

When asked if the firm's new role in providing overall architectural services as needed would include the greenhouse, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said it did not. The new tenders for greenhouse professional services were separate and were subsequently opened September 6.

"We have two bidders including Nadeau and Nadeau," Hurtubise said after the opening. "We are planning to award the contract at the October council if all goes as planned and we have at least one conforming bid."

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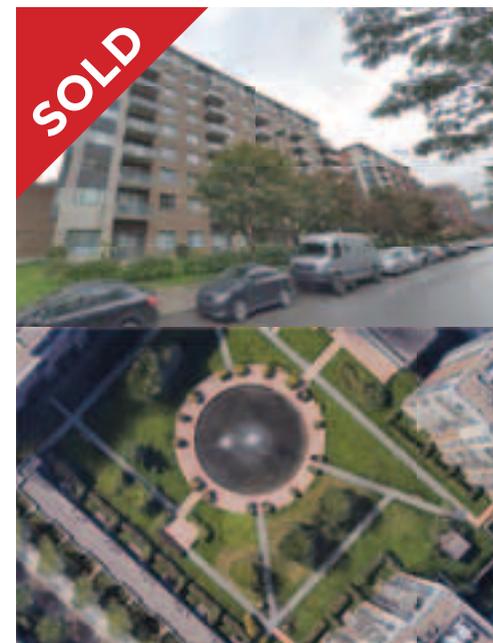


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Getting ready for 2020 construction

Bumpy Sunnyside gets head start on reconstruction

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

It may have been a long time coming for people who've been bumping their way along Sunnyside, but the long stretch between Upper Bellevue around to Belvedere is up for reconstruction next year, Councillor Philip Cutler announced at the council meeting September 3.

In fact, in an unusual move, council awarded a professional services contract for geotechnical studies and preparation of engineering plans and specifications for the reconstruction tender.

"If you know that stretch, you know it needs a lot of work," Cutler said.

This advance head-start on the process was awarded to Le Groupe Conseil Genipur Inc. This was listed as the lowest conforming bidder at a maximum amount of \$82,782, though no other bidders were listed.

"This is a 2020 project," Cutler stated, explaining that doing the tender specs well in advance would also enable the city to get as many streets done as possible next year. Sunnyside with heaves and humps and

cuts in pavement has long been considered overdue for reconstruction.

While the east-west street was repaved in 2014 from Lexington to Upper Bellevue, the remaining stretch was voted one of the seven worst streets in Westmount in 2015 in an informal poll conducted by then District 1 councillor Patrick Martin as commissioner of Public Works (see story June, 30, 2015, p. 1, 4 and 5).

Coiffure Jean John

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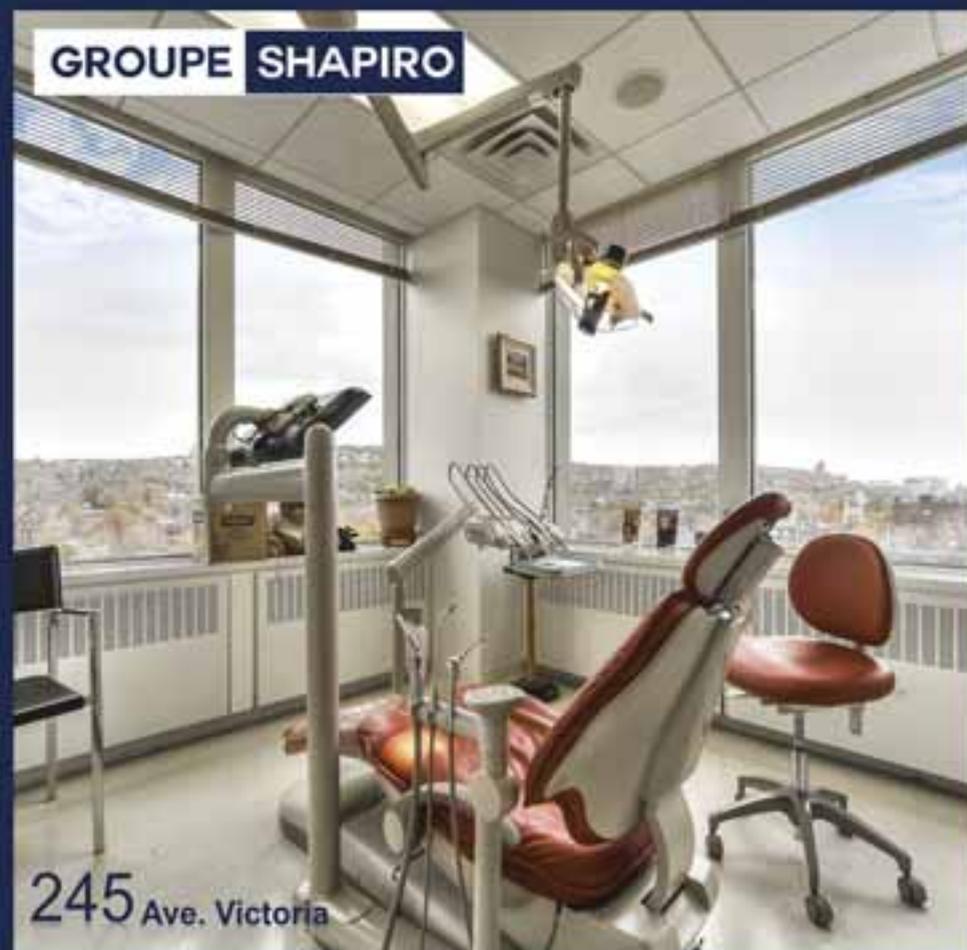
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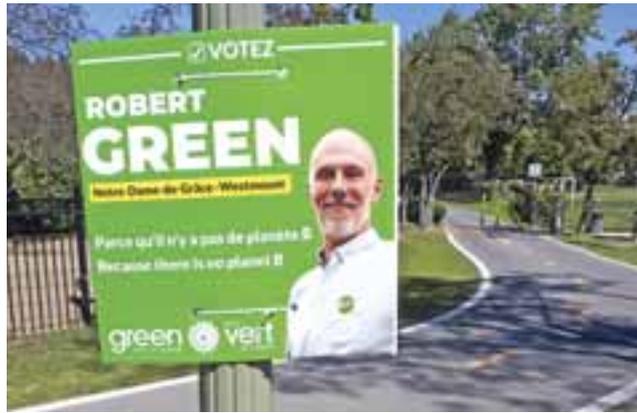
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It's election time



Looking around in Victoria village, on Greene Ave. and in between, the *Independent* noticed last week that three of the parties running candidates in the October 21 federal election had signs up.

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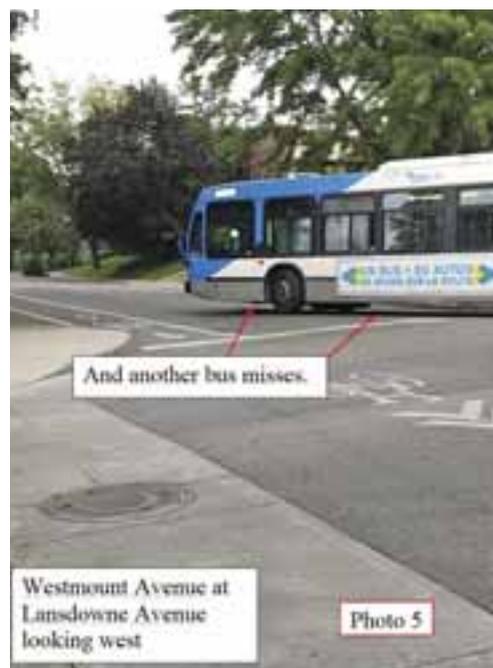
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR SMITH ON TRAFFIC, WESTMOUNT'S ROAD-DESIGN CHOICES



PHOTOS, NOTES AND MARKINGS BY A. EDEL.

Regarding our traffic chaos here in Westmount, the city of Westmount has done an admirable job of making traffic worse and more dangerous as well as increasing the pollution levels.

1. Streets are narrowed so now every morning and afternoon, here on Victoria Ave. and Westmount Ave., we have a parking lot of cars constantly spewing out exhaust. Instead of two lanes in each direction on Westmount Ave. plus two lanes south on Victoria Ave., they are all now only one lane.

2. Many roads have speed bumps. Cars

brake before the speed bump, roll over the bump and then of course they have to accelerate to get up to speed again. A great waste of fuel and also, so much extra pollution, not to mention the cars' long-suffering suspensions. Note this year I have had to spend over \$2,500 to recondition my car's suspension. I admit the potholes we have on the island of Montreal have surely also done their bit, but?

3. Some of the sidewalk extensions around some street corners where two streets intersect force buses to enter the opposing traffic lane in order to be able to

complete their turns. An accident waiting to happen. Please see photos.

4. Having the street's centre line offset from one block to the next is a great way to encourage accidents.

5. Bicycle paths that are located right next to the driver's side of parked cars. Does nobody think about dooring?

So how about doing something for the people?

1. While the flower pots and plantings on our streets are beautiful, please return our car lanes. After all, how are parents supposed to bring their young children to Roslyn School – on bicycles? Note that I actually saw this the other day! I shudder to think what happens in case of an accident!

2. Instead of speed bumps, why not ensure that speed limits are enforced? All sorts of machines are available to detect and ticket speeders.

3. Re-adjust the street intersections so car drivers do not have a bus coming at them, or do we have to wait for a serious accident before anything is done to permit bus drivers to make proper turns? Note that as my wife and I are retired we frequently go for walks to Murray Park. We have not yet seen a single bus that could make the turn on to Westmount Ave. [from Lansdowne] without encroaching on the opposing lane. Please also note that buses going from Westmount Ave. north on to Lansdowne Ave. also infringe on the south-bound lane of Lansdowne Ave.

4. Kindly have the centre lines on roads adjusted so that they are again in line and not potential crash sites. Would a very good lawyer be able to plead that the people in-

involved in a head-on crash were the victims of a malicious act perpetrated by the city of Westmount encouraging people to have accidents?

5. Provide safe bicycle paths as apparently [the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG] has realized. Or do we have to wait for a series of accidents such as the city of Montreal now realizes on de Maisonneuve Blvd. ("Changes in the works to benefit cyclists, pedestrians," *The Gazette*, September 7), before our bicycle paths are made safer?

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

RESPECTFUL DRIVING, DECENT PARENTING

A couple of Fridays ago, I was driving up Mount Pleasant toward The Boulevard and was passed by a speeding, dark SUV with a Westmount parking sticker on the back window – someone from the neighborhood! It turned out that we were both dropping our kids off at school: two teenagers popped out of the dark SUV.

This isn't the first time I've experienced impolite, dangerous driving by fellow neighbours and parents. Shortly after moving here, I was cut off on The Boulevard while going through a green light by a driver who went through a red coming out of Belvedere. This hurried parent also dropped his kid off at school!

My shock has turned into concern. Our kids are most impacted by our actions. We can tell them to be respectful, polite and to follow laws and rules to keep themselves and others safe; but if we don't, they won't. Please think about the subtle messages you send your kids. Of course, we don't want them learning dangerous driving habits, but we also don't want them believing they are entitled or more important than their fellow neighbours and peers.

DEBORAH BURROWS, CLARKE AVE.

EPIC ACTIVITY NEEDS A SKATEPARK

Westmount is in serious need of a good skatepark. As a skateboarder, let me tell you, a neighbourhood without a skatepark is like an alphabet without letters: something's rather incomplete about it. I hear there's a skatepark behind Westmount High, but you've got to give me break here. The thing's depressing, to be quite frank. I'm not going to mention the ramp until you make the thing at least 40 centimeters. It reaches 39.5 centimetres, people! This is an outrage. Could you not spare the extra five millimeters?

Anyway, to get straight to the point, the summer's coming to an end. Winter will pass, and then I trust you to make the wisest decision possible.
As much as this seems *continued on p. 7*

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Searle speaks out**Dead trees need removing, felled ones need replacing**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

“What is going to happen with our trees, and when?” It was a question asked by David Searle of Kensington at the council meeting September 3.

He noted a number of very conspicuously dead trees and empty tree spots especially around his street, de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke. In his block alone, there were four that had been cut down and not replaced.

Acknowledging that council was probably aware of the problem, he said his concern was part of a wider environmental discussion but for now he was focussing on the trees.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks, explained that the city had lost its arborist who had been doing a “top notch” job re-

Letters, cont'd. from p. 6

like a joke to you all, I'm dead serious.

1. There are skaters everywhere, especially in Westmount. We need a sanctuary.

2. With the rise of e-scooters and motor-powered longboards, walking is the past. And with scooters and skateboards coming to the foreground, I think it's time we adapt.

3. Skateboards are – let's be honest – pretty epic.

With that being said, and to whoever's in charge, please consider it.

FINNEGAN PRINCE, REDFERN AVE.

Winter is coming, cont'd. from p. 1

with us.”

In this respect, Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, asked Mayor Christina Smith if there was any news about his suggestion August 5 for the city to run a test project to clean certain sidewalks to the same degree as adjacent streets (see story August 20, p. 1).

“We have prepared a list,” he added.

The idea of a test “was discussed briefly with (Public Works director) Robert Talarico tonight,” she replied, asking Lambert to send her a list of the sidewalks.

While Lambert told the *Independent* he wanted to fine-tune the list, “it will certainly include the following busy pedestrian sidewalks”:

- Sherbrooke from Melville to Claremont,
- Victoria from Sherbrooke to de Maisonneuve,
- Greene,



David Searle of Kensington Ave. addresses council September 5.

moving dead trees, replacing them and planting “sister” trees between aging ones whose remaining years appeared to be numbered.

The city has now hired a new arborist and there will be more trimming, tree cutting and planting to be done this fall, she said.

“Tree replacement is behind schedule,” Mayor Christina Smith explained, pointing out the city's tree canopy is an older one and that “we have a lot of catching up to do.” People, she said, are very distraught and “there are huge complaints” whenever a tree is taken down.

The city has previously stated that this is likely to be when one is found to be weakened and unstable through disease or age even though it may appear to be alive.

- de Maisonneuve,
- Lansdowne.

In the business session of the council meeting, a contract for two snow blowers with operators was awarded to Monti Landscaping Inc. for three winter seasons (2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022) at a minimum of \$331,990 and a maximum of \$569,126.

Contracts for loaders with operators were split between two bidders, also over three years. One went to Monti Landscaping for three loaders at a minimum of \$353,117 and a maximum of \$603,343. The other was given to Compagnie d'excavation Victoria ltée for one loader and operator for minimum-maximum prices of \$117,706 and \$201,781.

The clearing of lanes was contracted to Les Excavations Super inc., for the 2019-2020 season for a minimum guaranteed amount of \$204,981 (100 cm) and a maximum of \$341,635.74.

HONG KONG**United We Stand, For All Five Demands**

You may have heard that our Chief Executive Carrie Lam has “formally withdrawn” the Extradition Bill and that the people of Hong Kong has won.

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A few points we would like to reveal about their media manipulation tactics:

- As Chief Executive, Lam has full authority to veto the bill immediately. Yet she deliberately delayed the formal withdrawal to October by submitting it as a motion to the Legislature.
- As a PR stunt, our government placed ads in overseas newspapers and social media to claim that Hong Kong remains a safe and free society with a high degree of autonomy. In reality, Lam admitted she cannot resign in a leaked recording. Corporations and institutions were bullied into dismissing pro-democracy employees. The Secretary of Justice is prosecuting arbitrarily arrested citizens as rioters. The police beat up and arrest anyone they please and deny them medical treatment and legal representation. Many are tortured, sexually harassed and humiliated while in custody. Some are still missing.

A few points we would like to make:

- The promise of “One Country, Two Systems” policy is broken even with the withdrawal of the bill. To protect the high degree of autonomy in executive, legislative and judicial power, universal suffrage must be implemented.
- Lam offers a ‘platform for dialogue’ but she is not to be trusted. We have been deceived many times - the last dialogue between her and the student leaders during the Umbrella Movement landed 4 of the 5 student leaders in jail.
- Our faith in justice and the rule of law is shattered and lost over the past 13 weeks. An independent commission of inquiry to investigate police brutality is the least Lam could do as a first step towards restoring trust in the government.

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Police Report

Burglars make off with student passports and IDs

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Burglars who broke into a St. Catherine St. store where a centre for international students is based made off with passports, identification documents and visitor permits belonging to the students.

The perpetrators gained entry on the night of September 10-11 by forcing the front door, after which they also forced open desk drawers where the passports and documents were kept.

Westmount Park, cont'd. from p. 1

"The goal is to reach out to the community," Mayor Christina Smith said of the consultations.

Lulham said she had delayed plans to write a column about the park in the *Independent* because people were away for the summer. "I wanted it to roll out in connection with the survey."

Special beauty

Brigitte St. Laurent asked how much the city was "pre-occupied with maintaining the original essence" of the park and its "very special beauty," which includes the hedges and shrubbery.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the Montreal police's identification unit has been assigned to locate fingerprints belonging to the crime suspects.

Pimentel was reluctant to speculate on what might have been the perpetrators' motive, although he agreed that identity theft could be one. "There could be many motives why somebody would do that," he said.

Lulham explained how originally it had been very rustic. This had changed in the 1960s with the addition of concrete and undulating pathways. The hedges are old and need replacing. The goal will be about "keeping yesterday and functioning for today."

"We'll look at all the different aspects," she said, adding: "We're not looking to change but to update."

She assured St. Laurent the consultations would be well advertised in "the local newspaper, on the website and social media. They will be everywhere." The next step in the process would be to tender for a landscape architect.

John Fretz, of Lansdowne, asked about possible "naturalizing" of the watercourse by developing it into a bioswale as well as related costs of infrastructure work as analyzed in a separate engineering assessment on the park's underground utilities the previous year (see stories March 13, 2018, p. 1 and May 29, 2018 p. 8).

"We don't have a cost," replied city director general Benoit Hurtubise. "It all depends on what we need."

Brigitte St. Laurent, of de Maisonneuve, asks council to preserve the original essence of the park.

Wine theft thwarted by public

A shoplifter who attempted to steal several bottles of wine from a Greene Ave. food store around 4:30 pm on September 11 was stopped when a conscientious shopper advised him to pay.

The suspect was spotted by the shopper placing several bottles of wine in a shoulder bag. The shopper decided to intervene and led the suspect towards a point of *continued on p. 16*



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Summer reading club winds up



The Westmount Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club wound up September 7 with a party at Victoria Hall. "There were about 250 children and parents ... Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre performed "Owl at Home" and then the library staff played some interactive games (including a mud pie bake-off) with the audience before handing out prizes and enjoying cake!" said children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF W. WAYLING.



From left, library staff Dawna Hobbs, Rachelle Burke, Zoe Morin, Emily Jaeger-McEnroe, Rachel Conover (with Albert the Frog), Emily Gamble, Wendy Wayling and Faith Holness.



La Cucina Di Tony

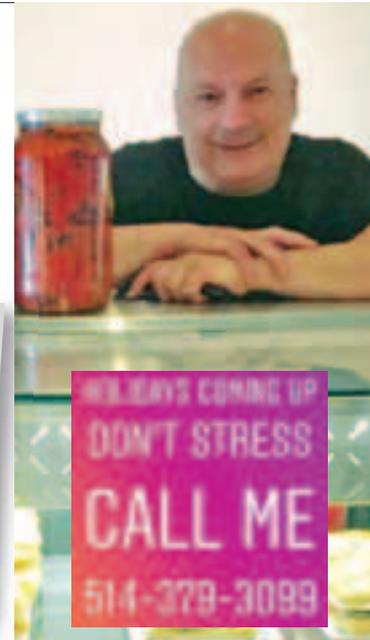
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Cuttler speaks at first Art Gallery Club

BY HEATHER BLACK

Westmount artist Maxine Cuttler launched the Art Gallery Club on September 10 with a talk on her work at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. The club – an afternoon speaker series of exhibiting artists – drew art enthusiasts to Cuttler's current exhibition of paintings and prints on paper. The show – the artist's first solo exhibition at the gallery – includes figurative, landscape and abstract works rendered in a strong signature style of vibrant shapes.

During the talk, Cuttler discussed her range of subjects from abstract or semi-abstract beach scenes or plants to realistic renditions of her mother or kitchen. In response to questions from the audience, Cuttler said: "I'm interested in form and shape. Something in a composition grabs me." The exhibition also reveals a unifying palette of turquoise and red, and Cuttler's eye for contrasting colour.

During the gallery tour, Cuttler also spoke on her technique for many of the 40 works displayed including "a happy accident." Some – such as a recent sculpture made from such disparate items as plugs, cardboard and jewellery – were inspired by courses taken at the Visual Arts Centre. Cuttler said "Assemblage is a new dis-



Maxine Cuttler at the Gallery at Victoria Hall

covery for me. I love building it and, if it needs something, I add or move it."

Organized by the city's Library & Community Events division, Méliissa Denis-Daigneault said: "It's great to have an artist like Maxine who is open about her work and process. We wanted something more interactive to help others understand art

and connect."

Also enthusiastic about the new gallery-library initiative, curator Victoria LeBlanc commented: "The Art Gallery Club is an opportunity to bring in the whole community."

The exhibition continues at Victoria Hall until September 21.

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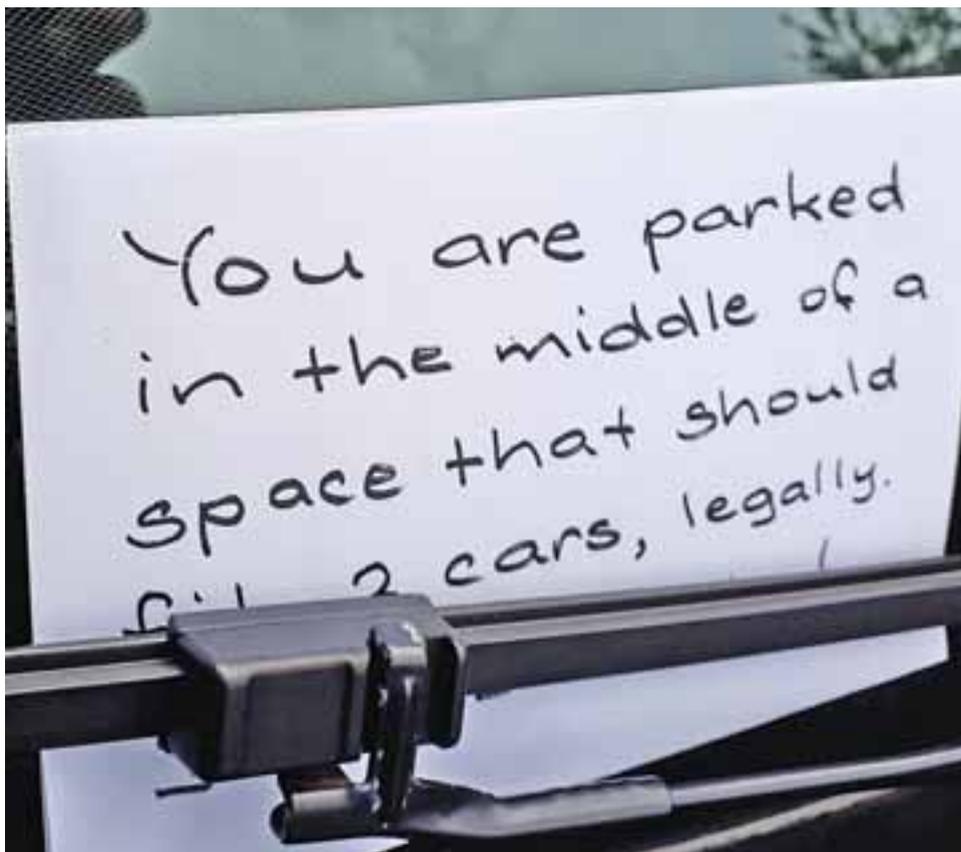


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This note was seen on a car on Claremont near Somerville September 8. The visible portion says, "You are parked in the middle of a space that should fill 2 cars, legally." PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

City marks Park(ing) Day September 20

The annual Park(ing) Day in Westmount takes place Friday, September 20 as part of the international celebration of exploring new environmental uses for on-street parking spaces. The date was announced by Councillor Marina Brzeski, commissioner of sustainability and accessibility, at the city council meeting September 3.

"We invite community organizations to submit applications and residents to come around" and speak to participants about their displays and ideas, she said. The event takes place from 10 am to 3 pm.

Among those participating as of last week are the Westmount Healthy City Project, the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount and Scouts Canada. They will be set up mainly on the south side of Sherbrooke east of Prince Albert Square. In the past they also occupied space on the east side of Victoria at Sherbrooke.

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Rôle d'évaluation foncière 2020-2021-2022

Le nouveau rôle triennal d'évaluation foncière a été déposé le 11 septembre. Consultez-le en ligne ou en personne à l'hôtel de ville. westmount.org.

Concours de photo Expocity

Félicitations à Margaret White : ses photographies seront exposés pour la prochaine année dans l'aire de réception de l'Hôtel de Ville. Merci à tous les talentueux Westmontais qui ont participé au concours.

Des agents de la sécurité publique de Westmount reconnus par la police

Félicitations au directeur Gregory McBain et aux agents de la sécurité publique Patrice Dion, Richard Lamer, Marie-Ève Parent, Stephen Payne et Pierre Thibault, qui ont reçu une Mention de la SPVM le 11 septembre pour leur courage et professionnalisme lors d'un incident survenu en juin 2019. westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Inscriptions aux activités d'automne

En cours. Veuillez vous inscrire en personne au comptoir des enfants avec la carte de bibliothèque de l'enfant. westlib.org.

Série Récits de voyages

Les jeudis à 10 h 30 ou vendredis à 13 h, du 19 septembre au 18 octobre, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire pour les individus atteints de démence. Inscription requise. 514 989-5530 ou dmiguez@westmount.org.

Conférences à 14 heures

Le mercredi 18 septembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *The Eloquence of Things: Indigenous Artists and Activists in Vatican City.* Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Club de tricot

Le lundi 23 septembre, 16 h à 18 h, Bibliothèque. Inscription requise. 514 989-5530.

Ciné-club

Le mardi 24 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Capernaum* (2018). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 24 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* de Jesmyn Ward. 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil
le lundi 7 octobre

Atelier de poésie

Le mercredi 2 octobre, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Dirigé par Ann Lloyd. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

Rencontres d'auteurs

Le mercredi 2 octobre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Diana Bruno, auteure de *Lexique français-anglais de la cuisine et de la restauration.* Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

Du 5 au 28 septembre. La Galerie est fière de présenter des œuvres de **Maxine Cuttler.** Lundi à vendredi, 10 h à 21 h, samedi, 10 h à 17 h.

Film : *Ce silence qui tue* (2018)

Le mercredi 18 septembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Présenté en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.

Park(ing) Day 2019 à Westmount

Le vendredi 20 septembre, 10 h à 15 h, rue Sherbrooke près du Square Prince-Albert. Visitez les espaces de stationnement transformés en parcs lors de cet événement international. 514 989-5226.

Samedi cinéma

Le samedi 21 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Love, Gilda* (2018). 514 989-5226.

Soirée quiz

Le mercredi 25 septembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Venez en équipe lors d'une soirée amusante de jeux-questionnaires. Ne soyez pas timide – les joueurs en solo seront jumelés à d'autres participants! Prix à gagner, bar payant. Inscription requise. 514 989-5226.

Concert : Reflets d'automne

Le samedi 28 septembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. La violoncelliste Leah Plave et le pianiste Tong Wang vous feront la sérénade avec des pièces choisies de Louise Farrenc, Arvo Pärt et Dvorák. 514 989-5226.

Art Westmount 2019

Les samedi 5 octobre et dimanche 6 octobre, 11 h à 17 h, Victoria Hall. Célébrez les artistes et les auteurs de Westmount qui exposeront leurs œuvres lors de la 7^e édition d'Art Westmount. 514 989-5226.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux

Le samedi 5 octobre, 9 h à 17 h, Bibliothèque. Apportez vos restants de peinture, solvants, piles usagées, etc. pour leur élimination sécuritaire.

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CITY HALL

2020-2021-2022 Valuation roll

The new three-year valuation roll was tabled on September 11. Consult it online, or in person at City Hall. westmount.org.

Expocity photo contest

Congratulations to Margaret White, whose photographs were selected to be displayed in the reception area of City Hall for the next year. Thank you to all the talented Westmounters who took part in the contest.

Westmount Public Safety officers receive recognition from the Police Department

Congratulations to PS Director Gregory McBain and officers Patrice Dion, Richard Lamer, Marie-Ève Parent, Stephen Payne and Pierre Thibault, who received an SPVM Mention for their courage and professionalism during an incident in June 2019. westmount.org.

LIBRARY

Registration for fall activities

Ongoing. Please register in person at the Children's Desk with your child's library card. westlib.org.

Tales and Travels Series

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. or Fridays, 1 p.m. from September 19 to October 18, Library. A weekly activity for individuals with dementia. Registration required. 514 989-5530 / dmiguez@westmount.org.

2 O'clock Lecture Series

Wednesday, September 18, 2 p.m., Library. *The Eloquence of Things: Indigenous Artists and Activists in Vatican City.* Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Knitting Club

Monday, September 23, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Library. Registration required. 514 989-5530.

Film Club

Tuesday, September 24, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Capernaum* (2018). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Tuesday, September 24, 7 p.m., Library. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. 514 989-5299.

Poetry Workshop

Wednesday, October 2, 10:15 a.m., Library. Led by Ann Lloyd. Everyone welcome. 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting
Monday, October 7

Author Lecture Series

Wednesday, October 2, 7 p.m., Library. Diana Bruno, author of *Lexique français-anglais de la cuisine et de la restauration.* Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

September 5 to 28. The Gallery is pleased to present works by **Maxine Cuttler.** Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Film: *Ce silence qui tue* (2018)

Wednesday, September 18, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Presented in collaboration with the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.*

Park(ing) Day 2019 in Westmount

Friday, September 20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sherbrooke Street near Prince Albert Square. Visit parking spaces transformed into parks as part of this international event. 514 989-5226.

Saturday Cinema

Saturday, September 21, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Love, Gilda* (2018). 514 989-5226.

Pub Quiz

Wednesday, September 25, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Bring a team and join others for a fun night testing your trivia skills. Don't be shy – solo players will be matched with new friends! Prizes offered, cash bar. Registration required. 514 989-5226.

Concert: Autumn Reflections

Saturday, September 28, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Cellist Leah Plave and pianist Tong Wang will serenade you with select pieces by Louise Farrenc, Arvo Pärt, and Dvorák. 514 989-5226.

Art Westmount 2019

Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Celebrate Westmount's artists and authors as they display their work at the 7th edition of this two-day event. 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC WORKS

Household Hazardous Waste collection

Saturday, October 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library. Dispose of leftover paint, solvents, used batteries, etc. safely.



Public Safety officers recognized by Montreal police



Seen here on September 11 at Westmount city hall, from left, are Lieutenant Meunier (SPVM), parking inspector Lamer, parking inspector Thibault, assistant director of Public Safety Payne, PSO Dion, PSO Parent, Public Safety director McBain, Commander Dubuc (SPVM) and Sergeant Joseph (SPVM).

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Six members of Westmount's Public Safety department were presented with citations of honour by the commander of the Montreal police's Station 12 on September 11 as a gesture of thanks for providing assistance during an incident in June when a construction van was stolen on Grosvenor Ave.

"We felt it was important to present them with Mention of Quality certificates," Commander Martine Dubuc said during a presentation ceremony held at city hall that was attended by Mayor Christina Smith, several city councillors and members of city hall staff.

Director Bain: 'We take pride'

"We take pride in increasing the protection afforded to the residents of Westmount by aiding in the reduction of crime within in the city," said Westmount Public Safety director Gregory McBain. "Being recognized by the SPVM [Service de police de la Ville de Montréal] is an honour and we will continue to work together to keep the Westmount community safe."

On June 11, a man from Laval was ar-

rested and charged with assault, vehicle theft and impaired driving during the early afternoon of June 11 after a Ford Econoline van belonging to a construction company was stolen outside a residence on Grosvenor.

PSOs spot vehicle

Westmount PSOs spotted the suspect entering the vehicle, then driving off in an erratic fashion along Côte St. Antoine Rd. When the PSOs intercepted him, the suspect struggled, leading to an altercation with the officers. He was finally arrested when the Montreal police arrived on the scene.

A breathalyser test revealed the suspect was more than two times above the legal limit for blood alcohol.

As well, he was found to be operating a motor vehicle with a driver's licence on which conditions were imposed that he had violated.

Dubuc called it an example of "excellent cooperation between the police department and Public Security," as well as an excellent piece of intervention work by the public safety officers (PSOs).



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2019 Low-Beer Memorial Lecture: 'Family, Medicine and Madness'

What was it like growing up surrounded by depression and psychosis in a time when no one talked about mental illness?

James FitzGerald, author of *What Disturbs Our Blood: A Son's Quest to Redeem the Past*, is the 2019 Low-Beer Memorial Lecture guest speaker. Don't miss his talk about the legacy of his grandfather and father, both prominent figures in Canadian health care, who, despite their remarkable achievements, were tormented by depression and psychosis in times when such experiences were largely hidden.

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New valuation roll shows Westmount on rise

By ANDY DODGE

Westmount's new valuation roll, deposited last Wednesday by the city of Montreal's valuation department, is probably going to mean higher taxes for most homeowners and apartment-building owners, as valuations are going up 21.9 percent for single-family dwellings and 32.3 percent for apartment buildings (6 units and

more). Overall, Westmount's valuation roll is up 20.6 percent compared to an average 13.7 percent for the island of Montreal, which means Westmount's share of the agglomeration taxes will be going up.

The average single-family dwelling in Westmount will have a valuation of \$1,980,500, some 43 percent higher than the \$1,381,200 average for the Town of Mount Royal, which stands in second place among municipalities. The only other city to clear the \$1-million average is Hampstead, at \$1,379,100. The average condominium in Westmount will have a 2020 valuation of \$1,162,400, more than double the average \$483,400 in TMR and three times the average \$365,000 for condos throughout the island.

Other municipalities

Except for tiny Dorval Island, Beaconsfield led the way in valuation increases among the island municipalities with an overall 25.9-percent increase, followed by Hampstead, TMR and Kirkland before Westmount's 20.6-percent valuation hike. But among single-family dwellings, six other municipalities experienced higher increases. For condos, Westmount's total is up only 14.6 percent, but in fact that ranks the city in third place, behind only Kirkland (20.8 percent) and Baie d'Urfé (15.9 percent).

For apartment buildings, Westmount's 32.3-percent increase is way above Hampstead, Kirkland, TMR and Montreal whose hikes are all in the range of 21 to 25 percent. This may mean that those buildings end up paying a bigger share of the city budget, but the city gets to charge different rates for them.

A breakdown of increases within the city will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Independent*.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

"Toward the sea" by Projet iso. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. 7 pm.

"Ce silence qui tue" by Fondation Québec Cinéma. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. 7 pm.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

The Westmount Historical Association presents "Joan Rothman on Supporting Protestant Public Schools." Speaker Claire Holden Rothman will talk about her mother Joan Rothman's life and accomplishments. Joan Rothman pushed for the first French immersion programme in Quebec and went on to serve as a school commissioner in the Protestant school board, as well as sitting on Westmount city council. \$5. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library. 7 to 9 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

► Sundays at the Shaar. Prof. Irving Wolfe, associate professor, literature & world languages, University of Montreal, "Why I Am A Jew?" \$5. 425 Metcalfe Ave. Registration required 514.937.9474 ext. 139. 12 noon.

► The Westmount Municipal Association's meet-the-candidates night for the 2019 Canadian federal election. Victoria Hall. 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Books valuation roadshow with antiquarian booksellers Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin in support of the Atwater Library. \$3 per book for members; \$5 for others. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. 4 to 7 pm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Music at Westmount classical music concert series. Free will donation. St. Matthias Anglican Church, 131 Côte St. Antoine. 2 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Guitar recital & lesson information by Daniel Karrasch. Westmount Piano Studio, 4910 Sherbrooke St. 3 pm.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Open house by Jennifer Maccarone,

provincial representative for Westmount-St. Louis. 1134 St. Catherine St. West (at Stanley St.), downtown, #801. 10 am to 4 pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Presentation by Doug Bellevue, co-author of *Montreal's Golden Square Mile - A Neighborhood*. \$5. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 10:30 am.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

"An Introduction to Alzheimer's disease and communication strategies," by Jessica Gozlan of the Alzheimer Society of Montreal. Free, but register at 514.369.3000. Château Westmount, 4860 de Maison-neuve. 6 pm.

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Traffic!



The intersection of Claremont, de Maison-neuve and St. Catherine St. is one busy place. The photo above is from September 10 at 4:40 pm. In addition to the busy intersection, traffic was backed up in all four directions, as seen from Prince Albert the next day at 5:13 pm (left).

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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 LYSANNE FOWLER

Galaxy and Galactea have been in foster care for the SPCA Montréal since they were found abandoned as wee kittens in a bucket and in urgent need of nurturing. These sweet sisters are affectionate and playful, happy to spend time with family members and other pets. They are sporting black-and-white shorthaired tuxedo kittens, all ears and legs at this growth stage. They are very healthy and have received all the vaccinations and treatments that are required at this stage of their vetting.

If you would like more information on them, please do not hesitate to contact Hélène at their foster family at coezdazur@gmail.com. The SPCA Montréal is a devoted grassroots animal protection organization located in picturesque St. Angèle de Monnoir. Please refer to their website at www.spcamontregie.com to find out more about the wonderful work they do.

Your neighbour,
 Lyssanne

Galaxy and Galactea, kitten sisters



Police report, cont'd. from p. 8

sale while advising him that he should pay or return the wine to the shelf.

A confrontation ensued between the suspect and store staff. When he fled, two employees gave chase. However, he outran them and was last seen by witnesses running south on Greene Ave. then east along St. Catherine St.

Bike stolen

A friend of a Kitchener Ave. family who stowed a bicycle behind their house during a visit on the evening of August 31 found out the hard way there's no safe place to

park a bike if it's going to be left unlocked.

"They placed the bike in the back yard and later that evening when they stepped outside they noticed it had vanished," said Pimentel.

He noted that the back yard of the home had no locking gate and anyone could easily enter and leave.

"If your gate's not locked and your bike's not locked, this is what can happen," added Pimentel.

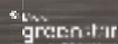
"And since some bikes have considerable value, people should consider bringing their bikes into the house or locking them in the back. A locked gate also helps."

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Harper gives to Canadian Friends of Hebrew University



Asher Cohen, Monette Malowski and Andrew Harper.

Vago Italien, Greene Ave.'s famed foodie destination, hosted an amazing lunch honouring Westmounter **Andrew Harper**, whose major philanthropic gift of \$1.3 million to the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHU) was announced.

Harper, who attended Hebrew University, made his gracious contribution to benefit the Institute for Medical Research Israel Canada (IMRIC). His gift will create The Carole and Andrew Harper Research Complex in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at IMRIC, which Canadian funds help build. The bequest, given in honour of his late wife Carole, will fund IMRIC research laboratories at Hebrew University's Ein Kerem Medical Campus.

In particular, it will support the work of four key department members including that of IMRIC chair professor Haya Lorboum-Galski, who sent Harper a congratulatory letter, read by **Monette Malowski**, VIP national chair, CFHU. The IMRIC medical campus is the only one of its kind in Israel, bringing together biomedical re- *continued on p. 18*



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Liaise For Children Whose Parents Are Transitioning Into Residence

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 17

searchers, pharmacy and pharmaceutical scientists, and clinicians.

Debbie Dankoff, vp national development CFHU, welcomed a host of well-wishers. Local res Ari Brojde, chair Montreal Chapter Canadian Friends Hebrew University, addressed the group, commenting that the luncheon was a “celebration of leadership,” and introducing the president of Hebrew University, Asher Cohen, who had arrived from Israel. Cohen presented Harper with a beautifully bound bible, the version used to swear in all the presidents of Israel.



Ari Brojde.

Westmounters noted included Susan Nichol, Dani Pollack, Lewis Dobrin, Carol Koffler, Nancy Cleman, Bernie Shuster and Andrew Lipper, as well as CFHU CEO Rami Kleinmann, Lillian and Bryant Shiller, Josh Rubin, Bernard Grant, April Rosenfeld and Robert Kleinman, executive vp, Jewish Community Foundation.

Photos of the stylish guests were taken by Spencer Halikman, organizer of Westmount's Terry Fox run.

Vago partners Tommaso Mule, Nikolai

Anissimov, chef Angelo Mercuri and Shaun Leslie Turriff created the perfect early fall menu: perfectly delicious, ending with famed Italian dolce.

Correction

In “Miriam Foundation Lori Black Memorial golf tournament” (September 10, p. 35), the names of David and Ricky Black were mixed up, and Olivia Black was identified with an incorrect first name. I apologize for the errors.



Bernard Grant and Bernie Shuster.



Nancy Cleman and April Rosenfeld.



Lewis Dobrin, Robert Kleinman and Joshua Rubin.



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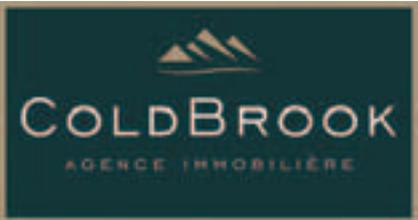
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**- Michael,
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