

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 14 No. 10d

We are Westmount

October 27, 2020

Train track replacement to cause overnight noise

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just as the year's road work subsides, now residents close to the CP tracks are in line to experience overnight work to install new rails in the Westmount subdivision between the Lucien L'Allier and Montreal West stations.

The current work will affect local residents living near the tracks in both Districts 7 and 8, according to District 7 councillor Cynthia Lulham.

The work is scheduled to take place Oc-

tober 26 to November 12, Monday to Friday, from 8 pm to 6 am. This overnight time, as in other years, is to avoid disrupting the commuter train service.

It is described as involving heavy machinery and railway equipment, which could cause a lot of noise (bangs, engines idling, voices and traffic alarms when reversing), and dust, according to information posted on the city's website and received by Mayor Christina Smith from a CP official.

For any questions or concerns, residents are directed to call CP's free "Community Connect" line 24/7 at 1.800.766.7912 or email community_connect@cpr.ca. To report an emergency, residents can contact CP police at 1.800.716.9132, also 24/7.

City: Developer can't demo building



According to Groupeimmo Élite, its proposal to demolish and replace the Hillside armoury near Westmount High, pictured here on October 22, with condos has been rejected by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and it hopes to file a new proposal by the end of the year. According to the city, it is already looking at a new proposal. See p. RE-3 for story. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Mayor's, family's COVID-19 remains mild, p. 7

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Citizens urged to complete 'Imagine 2040' poll Survey asks about city's current strengths, weaknesses

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Is new construction a threat to Westmount's identity? Are house values a strength or weakness? How about parking availability and the current tree canopy?

These are some of the 30 questions that residents and people who work in the city are being asked to answer in an online survey launched October 16 for one month as

part of the city's "Imagine Westmount 2040" process to review and update its master plan.

"Since the key to the project's success is participation, I hope everyone will participate in the survey," Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week.

The survey follows on the heels of a recent webinar presentation by well-known urban *continued on p. 7*

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Janitorial contract increased to deal with COVID

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

How much does pandemic disinfecting cost? Insight into one of Westmount's cost increases over COVID-19 came October 17 when the city council approved a hike in the contract for janitorial services at "various municipal buildings" other than the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). A separate one was awarded for it.

The three-year contract for various buildings awarded September 4, 2018 to Axia services (the only conforming bidder) at a maximum of \$2,229,453, was boosted

by \$311,171 to comply with "the disinfection of buildings recommended by the CNESST [the workers' health and safety board]." This was described as "necessary to reduce the risk of contamination."

Councillor Philip Cutler, who moved the increase, referred to this as being an example of the type of pandemic expenses the city was incurring and for which (among other things) it is to receive \$4.2 million from the Quebec government to help with pandemic expenses (see story October 20, p. 1).

A separate WRC contract for janitorial

services for 10 months also went to Axia services at a maximum of \$125,046.

IN THE **Spotlight**

pull-out section after p. 10

Dodge on September real estate, p. RE-16

History by the House, p. RE-24

Return to Retail (U Beautiful), p. RE-22

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Victoria Hall, pictured October 23, won't be the site of flu vaccinations this year (see below right), but it will need extra cleaning, due in both cases to the pandemic. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

City: No flu vaccination at Victoria Hall

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be a mobile clinic in Westmount this fall for the vaccine against influenza," the city of Westmount's website noted on October 19.

"Anyone seeking to be vaccinated will be able to make an appointment with CLSC Métro," it continued. It is located at 1801 de Maisonneuve West, downtown at St. Matthew.

Please see the CIUSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal's advertisement on p. 12 for its message on flu vaccine appointments.

Letters, p. 14

Return to Retail (Iris Setlakwe), p. 16

Fundraiser Profile: Kassie & Decker, p. 17

9 Lives, p. 14

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 14

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What Happens After the Holidays?

- ★ Inventory of available homes starts to increase
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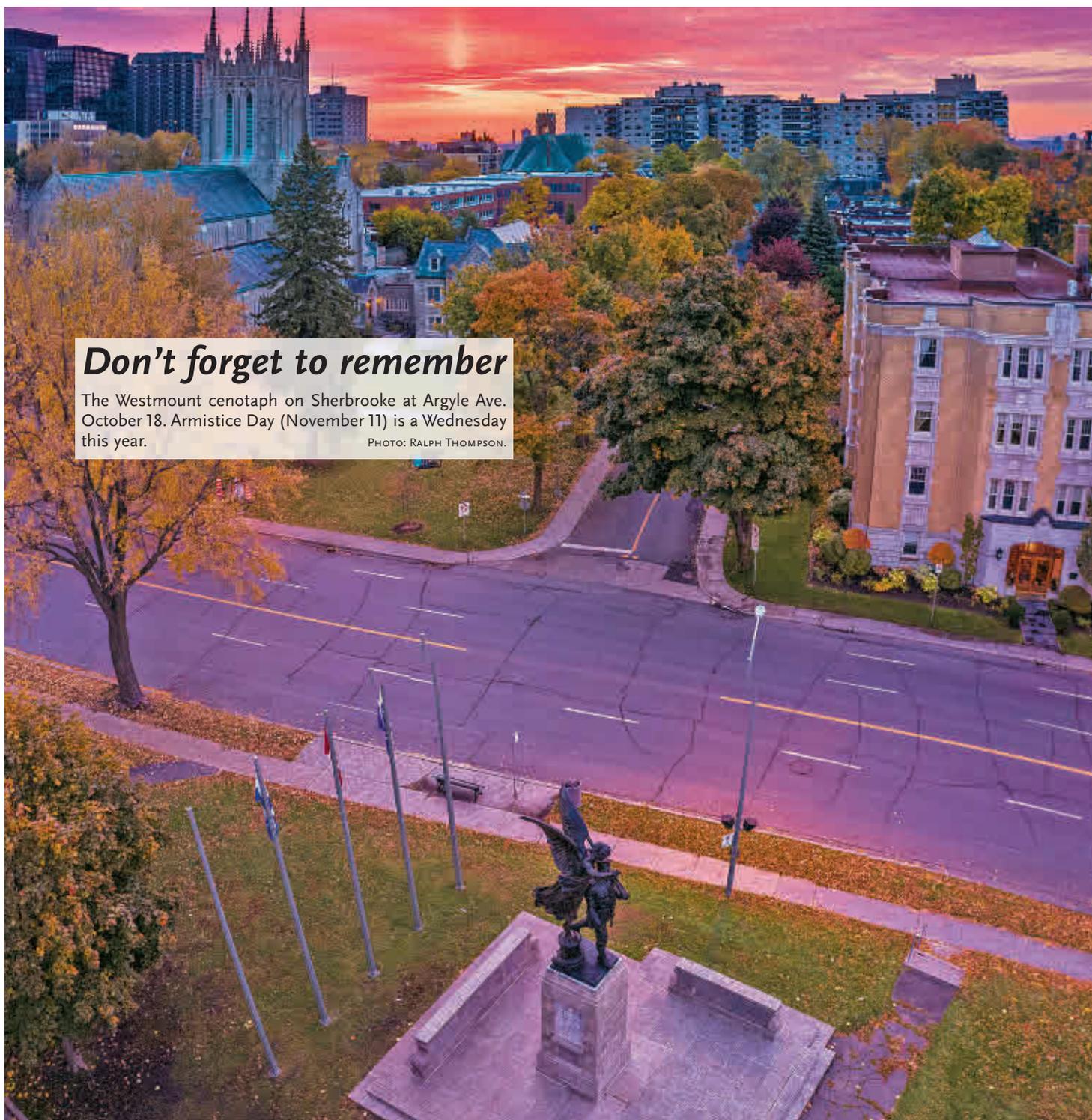
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Don't forget to remember

The Westmount cenotaph on Sherbrooke at Argyle Ave. October 18. Armistice Day (November 11) is a Wednesday this year.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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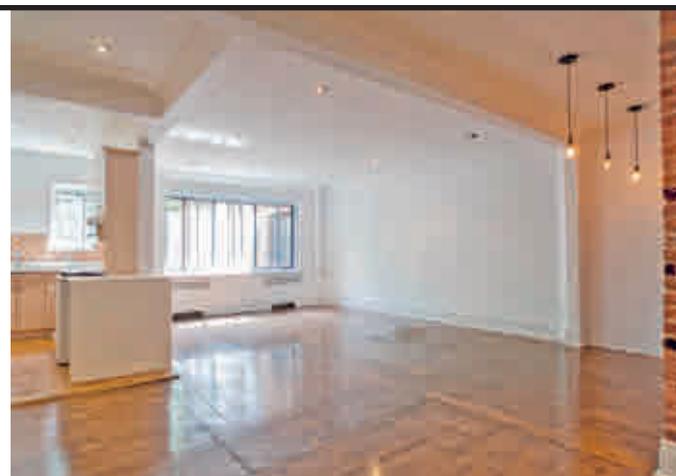
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Council told of positive COVID testing

Mayor, family plan to be out of quarantine this week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith announced at the virtual council meeting October 19 that she and her family would be isolating “for the prescribed” time following positive testing for COVID-19 October 16.

Later last week, she told the *Independent* that her symptoms had remained mild and she and her family “would be coming out of quarantine as of the night of Monday [October 26, after the *Independent's* press time].” She said that she would not go into city hall for the remainder of this week, however.

Symptoms had remained mild except for “intense fatigue,” she said.

She reports that her three children have been asymptomatic.

She had told the council meeting that “unfortunately I and my children and husband tested positive Friday [October 16] after very mild symptoms. She said that “as usual” she would be working remotely “as many of you have.”

◀▼ COVID-19 has affected nearly all aspects of municipal operations, as seen October 23, now including the mayoralty. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Her news came at the opening of the meeting and just before she announced that the city was being given \$4.2 million from the Quebec government as part of its \$800-million distribution to help municipalities balance their budgets after pandemic losses and additional expense (see

story October 20, p. 1).

In a statement October 21, modified from one on the city website the night before, she said she expected to isolate for 10 to 14 days. “I encourage people who have been in contact with me or a member of my family to get tested. Please stay safe.”

Survey, cont'd. from p. 1

planner Larry Beasley October 1. Beasley touched on many of the areas to be considered by residents in creating and developing the kind of city they would like to live in for the next 20 years (see story October 13, p. 9).

The survey's questions not only provide many multiple-choice answers, but in many cases ask for explanations of the respondent's answer. As a result, it can require well over 30 minutes, depending on how long it takes one to provide additional input.

Called “Land diagnosis online activity,” the survey is divided into six sections. These are: housing and social fabric, transportation and mobility, local shops and services, environment, identity and heritage, and public amenities and public spaces.

Fact sheets providing background data can be accessed by clicking on each of the six themes.

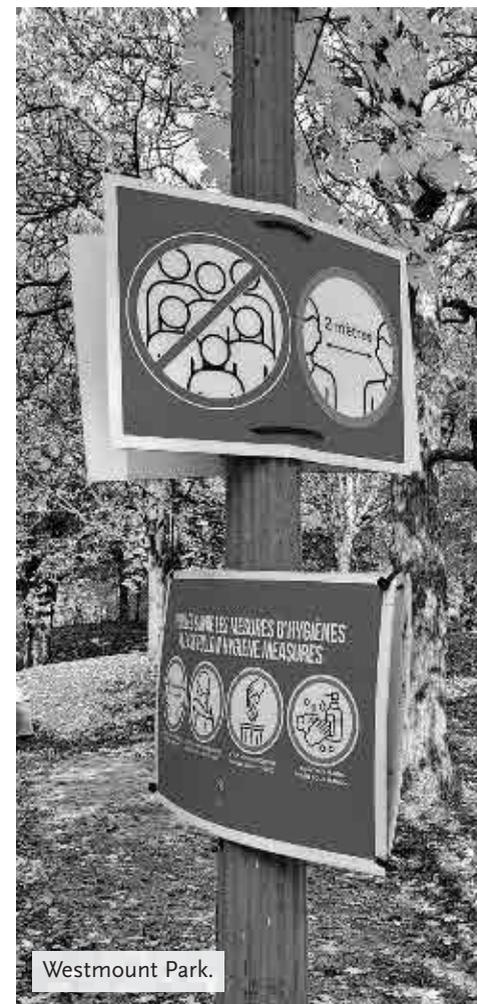
Current understanding

The survey's aim is “to enrich the current understanding of Westmount's territory by identifying its strengths and weaknesses.”

A detailed report of the results is to be made public two weeks after its deadline November 16.

The survey is introduced as being anonymous. Respondents are asked to fill in their postal codes, which presumably will help to determine which areas of the city may feel a particular way.

A last question, however, provides respondents with an identification number and asks them for their email address.



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Extra Public Security patrols planned**COVID trick-or-treating protocol emphasized for Hallowe'en**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the municipal government plans to follow the Quebec government's pandemic safety protocols for this year's trick-or-treating on Saturday, October 31, the city's Public Security Unit is also reiterating the new guidelines for both those going door to door as well as residents deciding to give out treats.

"Many families with young children have decided to do something different this year by only going to friends' front doors or setting up special activities at home," said Kimberley Colquhoun, the department's assistant director.

Such at-home activities could include a special treasure hunt or movie night with treats, she said.

"There will be fewer kids participating this year and crowding must be avoided where residents have decided to hand out candy. Our collective goal is to keep the children safe as well as anyone else participating this Hallowe'en."

This means parents who choose to allow their children to go trick-or-treating

should keep their outings short. "Incorporating a protective mask should be an easy task this year and keep your distance from others, including residents who answer the door.

"Please keep this in mind and plan your activities accordingly, and follow the most recent public health recommendations."

As usual, extra public safety officers will be on patrol and will have reflective stickers that can be handed out to children throughout the evening. There will be six patrols covering the city.

Colquhoun also reminded residents that the annual haunted house next to city hall has been cancelled (see story October 20, p. 23). In its place, a special movie called "Westmount 2020-The Haunted Hiatus" will be posted on October 31 at Westmount.org.



Freddy Krueger, from the *A Nightmare on Elm Street* films, reads the *Westmount Independent* near Westmount's Elm Ave. He will be in the Public Security Unit's movie, the *Independent* has learned.

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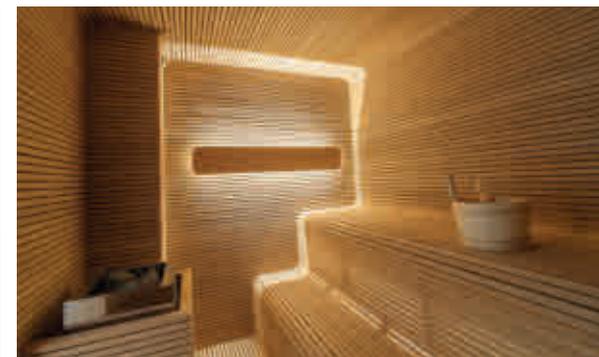
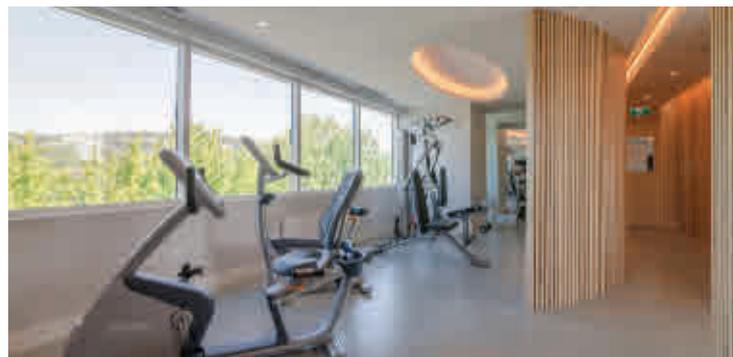
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Understanding Red Zone Restrictions

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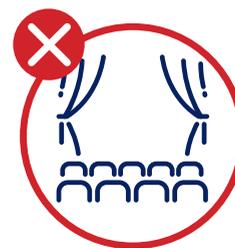
In red zones, where the situation is critical, stricter measures must be enacted because the number of cases is rapidly increasing. People in these zones must limit social contact as much as possible to prevent virus transmission. By applying all measures, we can fight COVID-19 more effectively. No single measure is sufficient on its own.

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Why are restaurants and bars considered high-risk places for spreading COVID-19?

We usually gather in places like bars and restaurants to socialize with friends, family, and colleagues. In these places, we are often close to other people. Both talking and eating greatly increase the risk of virus transmission. Restrictive measures in red zones are meant to minimize close contact between people who do not live at the same address.



Why ban activities and audiences in public places?

Large gatherings are an opportunity for people to socialize, often in close proximity to one another. This can increase the risk of virus transmission. The ban on activities and audiences in public places in red zones is meant to minimize social contact between people who do not live at the same address.



Why close gyms and stop team sports?

Gyms provide an opportunity for people to socialize with others, and so do many sports and leisure activities. Group sports generally involve social contact with teammates. Some sports are difficult to play while maintaining physical distance. Stricter measures in red zones are meant to reduce close contact between individuals and thus slow the spread of COVID-19.



Why must face coverings be worn in high school classrooms in red zones?

Young people are currently overrepresented in COVID-19 case counts and a number of outbreaks have occurred in the school system, mainly in red zones. According to field observations and what we know about how the virus spreads, high schools pose more risk than primary schools.

High school students are older and capable of wearing masks or face coverings for longer periods of time. Therefore, in red zones, face coverings must be worn by all high school students at all times in common areas, including in stable class groups, on school grounds, and during electives with different class groups.

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To find out the alert level in your region, consult the map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at [Québec.ca/alertlevels](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels)

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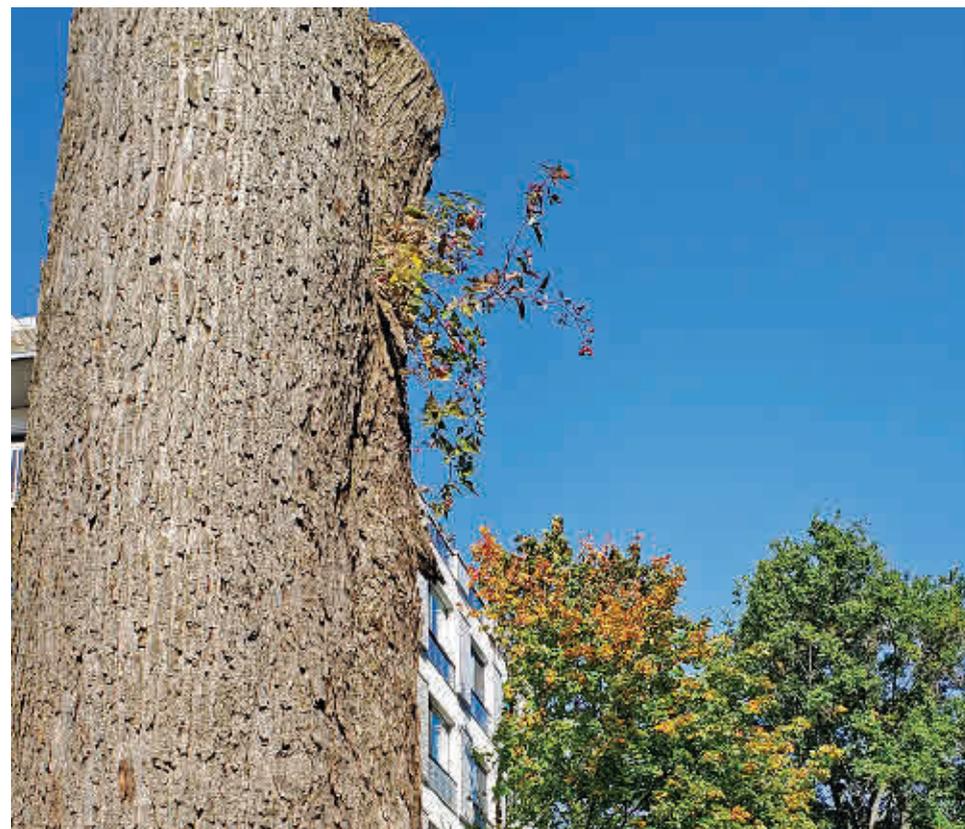


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A bush grows in Westmount



This bush is growing in a crook of a tree on the north side of de Maisonneuve between Lansdowne and Roslyn, as seen October 15. The *Independent* thanks the anonymous caller for telling us about this development.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Champagne now at another CSSM school

École St. Léon loses a beloved, long-time employee

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The principal of École St. Léon de Westmount was apologetic last week as she told the *Independent* that the school administration had no choice but to allow a popular and long-time employee to be transferred to another Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSM) school because demand for his services fell drastically during the COVID-19 pandemic.

An online petition was launched on the change.org website after parents at St. Léon were informed that Patrick Champagne's position at the school was being phased out by the newly-created CSSM, which replaced the Commission scolaire de Montréal.

According to the petition, Champagne had 25 years experience as a child-care worker at École St. Léon and was well-liked by everyone. His last day of work at St. Léon was on October 21.

The petition, which was started by Benoit Moreau, noted that once an upcoming building and extension project at St. Léon



Seen here on October 22, École St. Léon de Westmount on Clarke Ave. has at least one employee less following the loss of long-time child care worker Patrick Champagne who was transferred to another CSSM school.

is completed, there is almost certain to be a need for someone like Patrick Champagne as the school again reaches its full capacity.

"In the current pandemic situation, we need qualified personnel like Patrick to help the children and families," said the petition, which had been signed by 159 people by last Friday. It said cutting personnel is "counter productive."

In an interview, St. Léon principal Tania Genzardi pointed out that Champagne, who was a full-time employee, wasn't actually terminated by the CSSM, but was moved to another school.

"Since the employer is the school services centre, and there are of course several schools, this is a change of position and not a termination," said Genzardi. However, she said she fully understood the reaction among the parents and pupils.

"Mr. Champagne was truly someone exceptional – a really good person who did his job really well – and liked by everyone. But this is, unfortunately, something that is outside our control."

Genzardi noted that since École St. Léon had at least 200 pupils enrolled in its child care program at one point, the school met the requirements to have an employee assigned for that specific type of work.

"But because of COVID, the parents – and I understand it's not their fault – didn't register their children for the child care service because they were probably afraid of COVID," she said.

"So, we lost an enormous number of children and that dropped under the level of 200 students.

"And when that happened, the position wasn't being paid for anymore. There wasn't any budgetary envelope anymore to pay

the salary."

Genzardi did not rule out the possibility that École St. Léon could "re-acquire" Patrick Champagne in the future if enrolment for the child care service were to increase.

"I would tend to say yes," she said. "And since he has a lot of seniority at the school commission, he'd be better able to choose positions and his chances of returning would be very good."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRUDEAU'S CHARTER, THE FLQ AND IRONY

Seeing the marchers for the FLQ in Westmount (October 23, p. 22), I'm reminded of Skokie, the Chicago suburb that was to be the theatre of a neo-Nazi march in the late 1970s. It was chosen by the marchers because of the great number of resident Holocaust survivors. The most vocal support for the marchers came from the ACLU (the American Civil Liberties Union). Ultimately, the march was rerouted by the courts to Chicago.

Today, Jeunesse Debout marches in Westmount in support of the "right" to assassinate cabinet ministers and maim constables who attempted to defuse would-be assassins' bombs. The marchers bestir themselves with their merry sloganeering against Pierre Trudeau, the root and branch of all evil, don't you know? To think that, were it not for his Charter of Rights, these blithe [people] could have easily been denied a permit by the city.

As the late civil libertarian Alan Borovoy said: defending civil liberties often requires that we invoke the highest of principles on behalf of the lowest of people.

HOWARD GREENFIELD, HILLSIDE AVE.

MOTORISTS NEED VOICE, TO BE HEARD

I had prepared the following before seeing the letter in your last issue (p. 6) from Mr. Steve Myro (whom I have never met nor spoken with) headlined "Questions remain about APCW" in which he

answers Mr. Roger Jochym better than I could. Here goes anyway.

In Mr. Jochym's reply (October 13, p. 6) to my letter in your September 29 issue (p. 6) on the substance of the APCW as an advocate for cyclists' demands, he accuses me of "belittling" his friend Mr. Dan Lambert. He takes the opportunity to enumerate a number of good deeds performed by Mr. Lambert personally.

There is not a single word disparaging Mr. Lambert personally or otherwise in my letter, which was simply a follow-up on your reporter Martin C. Barry's earlier excellent piece of journalism (September 15, p. 16) on the structure (or, as it turns out, non-structure) of the APCW.

Contrary to the inference in the third paragraph of Mr. Jochym's letter that I am endorsing climate heating, the gist of my previous correspondence consists simply of pleas (1) on behalf of residents, particularly elderly ones who cannot ride bicycles on steep hills, for a fair share of the use of our roads and (2) for the sake of all, better behaviour and respect for traffic regulations by cyclists.

As for my facetiously self-styling myself as "Founder, President and Sole Member of The Westmount Association of Motorists for a Fair Voice in Reasonable Traffic Regulation," Mr. Jochym evidently failed to see the humour. We do need, however, whether through an organization or individual voices like Mr. Myro and myself, to be vigilant about disproportionate privileges for cyclists.

ROBERT COWLING, PARKMAN PLACE

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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Tank needs a buddy, standing there wagging his tail, pushing his toy forward and looking to dig in his heels for a pulling contest. Let's agree that he is quite the handsome guy with his sleek short white coat and brown markings, adorable nose and soulful eyes.

He is such an affectionate and cozy fellow, looking for a family to share all his time with. Tank is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, dreaming of a warm cozy bed and lots of playtime.

He is a very healthy four-year old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please note his identification number 45358891 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption ap-



Playing with Tank

plication for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

A beauty! Stunning with her perfect colouring of cream and pearl grey, such a Persian way to her. She is so sweet, looking to be petted and brushed. She purrs relaxingly for herself and everyone around her.

What a delightful Padfoot, grace and warmth to bring to a family. She is a healthy twelve-year-old senior, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

It is sad to see a senior pet at the Montreal SPCA, yet she is waiting right now with hope at the cattery for the loving home you can give her.

Please think of Padfoot for adoption, referring to her identification number 45493573 and emailing the Montreal SPCA at its website at www.sPCA.com in order to fill out the adoption ap-



Gracious Padfoot

plication for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

La Cookery coming to high-profile Sherbrooke storefront

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Preparations were ongoing last week for the opening of a kitchenware store called La Cookery on Sherbrooke at Victoria, beside Hogg Hardware. Previously occupied by David's Tea, the space is being outfitted to provide an array of cooking and baking equipment.

"In a crisis comes opportunity," said owner Melissa Perrotte. Partnering with Alison Martin, a cousin and owner of three Cookery outlets in Toronto, the one here is to operate using a French-language version of the Toronto slogan "specialists in cookware."

"People are definitely spending more time at home and cooking more," Perrotte explained. As well, at the start of the pandemic, she lost her job in communications and advertising dealing with wine and food, and decided to pursue her passion and longtime experience in cooking.

"Now, the timing is right for me and it's



While La Cookery remained under renovation October 21, Melissa Perrotte displayed from her own kitchen samples of some of the kitchenware she has been receiving.

just in time for the Christmas season."

Why at this location?

"We explored all the potential areas

such as Pointe Claire village, St. Anne de Bellevue, Atwater market, Laurier St. and Monkland; and decided this was the best area. I was looking for a perfect pedestrian one with a neighbourhood feel and street traffic. When I found this space was available, I knew this was what I wanted."

As well, "I love Hogg's," she said, adding that her sister, Claudia Perrotte, lives nearby. "In full disclosure, my brother-in-law is [city councillor] Conrad Peart."

Range of stock

Now, as she keeps receiving deliveries of stock, she rhymes off a number of items. These include roasting pans ranging from \$35 to \$425, Dutch ovens, a bunch of small electric blenders, mixers, choppers, coffee makers, specialty pans and ceramic stoneware dishes for bread making. There will

also be crystal wine glasses and utensils such as garlic presses and lettuce spinners as well as napkins and highly absorbent

dish towels.

"I'm also specializing in the service aspect. I'm going to be very accessible and open, and provide information on the best way to use equipment and prepare certain dishes such as bread-baking."

"We're willing to open for private purchasing before and after hours for a personalized shopping experience. This is a service that we will maintain once the pandemic is over, but is especially pertinent right now."

Perrotte feels she's on track to open the store next week.



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Setlakwe opens third store, here



Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The times they are a-changin'. Indeed, our days – and nights – have changed emphatically.

One effect of this irritatingly enduring pandemic is that dressing is more casual. Sweat pants, in all derivatives and questionable glory, are seen everywhere – as are tights. Hoodies abound.

But there also creeps a rumour.

Tired of T-shirts and sweaters, some women would like to see a return of *chic*. And those appreciative of a complementary – and complimentary – style now have a fashionable new choice in Westmount.

Designer Iris Setlakwe has opened her third boutique. The others are at the Rockland Shopping Centre and in Knowlton. Her collection is also sold at retailers across Canada and in the US.

Launched in 2001, the brand is renowned for its mix-and-match items. Paralleling today's more casual mood of dressing, Iris' Travel Collection (yes, who knows

where and when, but still...) features easy but elegant knits.

Her wrap-and-cape dresses have a unique feel and her softer take on the blazer moves Zoom and bored/board room outfits in a comfortable yet still-sophisticated direction.

Iris' daughter Estelle, pictured at right, showed me around the fabulous Westmount shop, which opened on October 8. In the minimalist space, gleaming industrial ceiling lamps light an array of delectable knits. Sweaters, yes; but sharper rather than casual. A lovely misty grey sweater-shawl caught my eye. Perfect over anything and everything. Nothing steroidal, but clean classics with Iris' creative twist, heralding a new way of dressing.

Good to know? 90 percent of the collection is made in Montreal. Walk, don't run so you too can discover this beguiling beautiful line. No sartorial angst this season. The singular appeal of Iris Setlakwe's collection is imbued with wearable creativity.

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Cause: Just for Kids' Dancing with the Stars Fundraiser Profile: Kassie & Decker



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As Social Notes depends on social events, which depend on gatherings, times have changed. But we'll meet again. Until then, we profile the disappointed but determined supporters of great causes to see how they are faring in our smaller world and learn their event's new plans.

Westmounters Allyson Kassie and Arabella Decker co-chair the annual JFK (Just For Kids Foundation) Dancing with the Stars, normally a sold-out event held at Le Windsor. Due to the moment, it will now be online.

What is your event? Cause?

JFK Dancing with the Stars is set to host its 15th season in spring 2021.

Performers will spend the next several months raising funds for JFK Foundation and rehearsing their routines with dance pros from Juste Danse Studio.

The event gives locals a chance to shine on stage, the opportunity to work with professional dancers, and allows them to make a difference in the lives of countless children by supporting the foundation. Our dancers are prominent Montrealers, business professionals, doctors, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, influencers, and more – many of whom reside in Westmount.

Each year the show takes on a new theme that is showcased through the dancers' routines and the event as a whole. In normal times, it is paired with a cocktail *dinatoire*. This gala is one of JFK's flagship events.

Just for Kids Foundation raises funds to purchase high-priority medical equipment, and to support initiatives, that improve the quality of care for patients of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

At JFK Foundation, our vision is simple: To continually enhance the experience and care of every patient at the Montreal Children's Hospital.

It was to be held on what date?

Normally, the event is
held annually at Le Wind- *continued on p. 18*



Allyson Kassie and Arabella Decker at last year's event.

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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 17

sor, to a sold-out crowd of over 300 supporters, friends, and family members.

Have you planned a new date?

Planned for spring 2021.

How did you (personally) shelter in place during the lock-down?

Allyson: I took my dancing from the studio into my kitchen. Dancing with a broom is actually kind of fun!

Arabella: In the early days of lockdown, we brought it all inside. School, work, meetings, virtual workouts, dance, “nights out” on Zoom. You name it. To break up the monotony, I took to the kitchen and committed to making a different meal every day for four months. The spring and summer months brought some life to my garden, with small gatherings with my close “bubble” of friends and family.

Have you developed a daily routine?

Allyson: My new daily routine now includes making tons of Zoom meetings so our dance students can continue their classes. Other than that, I try not to whine/wine too much.

Arabella: Yes. Work, workouts,

trips to the market, school and homework... all part of the routine. During the summer, the Westmount pool was our one-hour daily slice of heaven. Didn't miss a day. However, refreshingly, it hasn't all been about routine. There's been a lot more spontaneity around staying “close” with good friends. From a random walk-by for a wave, calls and group chats to check-in with each other, walks to the summit on a nice day, to last-minute toasts on the patio.

How did you stay in touch during



At last year's Dancing with the Stars: Stan Borsh, Cory Garfinkle and Louise Guim.

the lock-down? With friends? With supporters?

Allyson: I stayed in touch with Arabella by safe backyard visits! I stayed in touch with friends and family through social media, outdoor walks and video chats. These were all helpful tools in staying in touch with friends, family and clients.

Arabella: Allyson and I had safe backyard visits; we even had a Dancing with the Stars meeting outdoors in a massive downpour... now that is dedication!

Zoom at first. Lots of messaging and texts with those near and far. During the spring and summer, it was about workouts, walks and sunny days at the Westmount pool. Outdoor cappuccino meet-ups. Small gatherings and dinners in the garden and patio.

Link for your event/cause supporters? www.jfkfoundation.ca

What do you miss the most living in our 'smaller world' today?

Allyson: The thing I miss the most is my freedom. Freedom to go to restaurants, freedom to invite my friends over, freedom to travel. Oh yeah...and freedom to “juste danse”!

Arabella: Hugs! There is nothing like a big hug.

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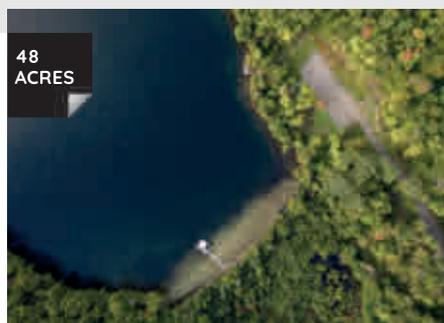
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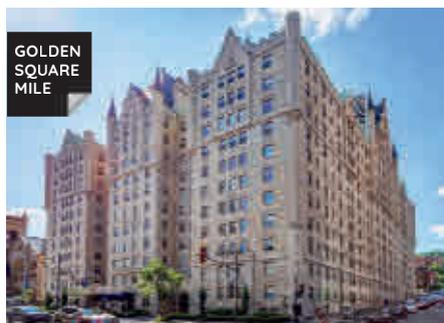
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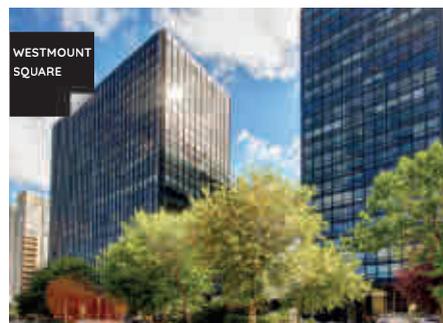
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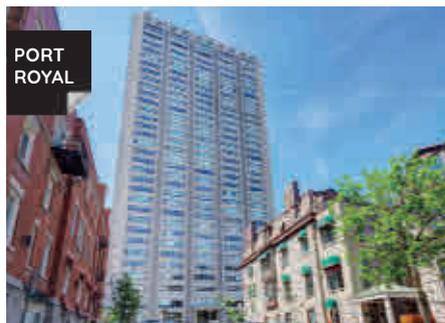
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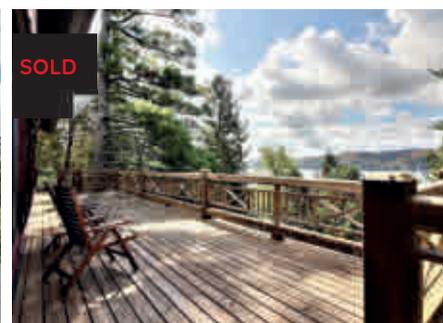
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