

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 14 No. 12b

We are Westmount

December 8, 2020

Providing more outdoor activities: Cllr. Gallery

City to build formal toboggan run on Murray Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just weeks after the city opened a refrigerated rink in Westmount Park, it is now preparing to create a formal toboggan run on the hill in King George (Murray) Park, the *Independent* learned last week.

To be on the east side of the park, the run is to be divided into four separate

moulded lanes, curving on the sides for greater safety and executed by a specialized firm that will blow the man-made snow in a noisy but one-time operation over December 17 and 18. (See story p. 28.)

“It will look the same as the toboggan run on Mount Royal at Beaver Lake,” Mayor Christina Smith said and is being undertaken as an outdoor option to help residents deal with COVID fatigue.

The new facility is in keeping with the council’s encouragement of such winter activities, according to Councillor Mary Gallery, whose commissionership includes sports *continued on p. 28*

We are now on our usual Christmas break and will be back on the job regularly the week of January 4 to prepare the January 12 issue.

Caring, Resilience and Sharing



From left, Margo Buchanan and Jared Grossman of the Resilience Montreal day shelter with three Caring Cooks from Temple Emanu-El-Beth-Sholom: back, Leslie Alcorn; front, Nancy Weiss; and, right, Judy Kronick, photographed December 3 outside Resilience’s temporary facilities at St. Catherine St. and Atwater. See p. 14 for story. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Library takes longer COVID break

Two-week holiday closure is first in many years: Cardella

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Public Library’s pandemic reservation and curbside pick-up service will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period from Thursday, December 24 through Monday, January 4 with even the book drop-off depot shut down.

“It’s the first time in many, many years that library services will be closed down

over that period,” library director Julie-Anne Cardella said last week.

As a result, only material reserved before or on December 20 will be available for pick-up by Wednesday, December 23 at 5 pm. This is also the time that the drop-off will shut down because of the need to quarantine returned items for 72 hours. “No fines will be applied during this period.” *continued on p. 9*

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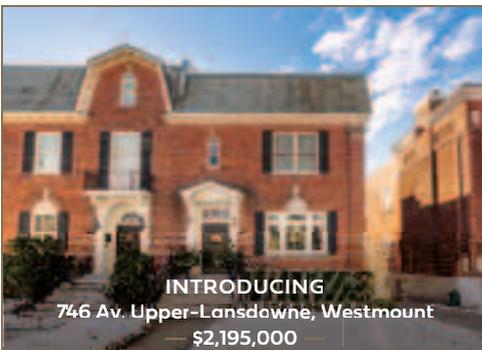
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Hanukah begins December 10



Hanukah begins the evening of Thursday, December 10 and runs until Friday, December 18. In past years, the city has collaborated with Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom to host a candle-lighting ceremony, which is not occurring this year due to COVID. At left, a menorah in the window of Lapidarius Jewellery and Antiques on Greene Ave. December 5. Owner Maged Taraboulsy said it was made by a silversmith in Portugal around 1960 and contains 2.5 kilos of silver.. At right, the Temple's Rabbi Lisa Grushcow (under the menorah) and Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold (to the right), director of education at the Shaar, led a gathering at city hall on December 6, 2018.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

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2021 budget to benefit from 2020 surplus: Hurtubise

Goal not to raise taxes beyond cost of living: Mayor Smith

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When the city's operating budget is presented December 21 at 5 pm, Mayor Christina Smith said she "hopes" it won't rise beyond the rate of inflation (forecasted for Montreal at 2.2 percent). This has been council's "goal," she explained, and is consistent with the city's increase of 2 percent in its shared cost of agglomeration services for the coming year.

She was unable to report on the likely tax rates last week before the *Independent's* Christmas break since the city's new

budget remained under preparation and needed review by the council.

"This has been a tough budget to prepare," she said, citing pandemic uncertainty. Among these unknowns are possible ongoing losses of revenue from sports and recreation activities and the need to embark on the \$27-million capital works budget for 2021 already adopted that contains some projects postponed from this year.

City director general Benoit Hurtubise said the new budget will be saved by the \$8.5-million surprise surplus from two un-

expected sources forecasted for 2020 (see story November 24, p. 1).

"It's highly welcome because we still foresee a lack of revenue." Nevertheless, "we're still budgeting conservatively."

The new budget will also be "the last one our council gets to vote on before the election," Mayor Smith added. This will be in November 2021. The current council will still be involved in preparing the budget to be proposed for the new council, she pointed out.

de Mais. at Atwater closed till June

Work by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) on the roof of the Atwater Metro station will continue until June 2021, the *Independent* learned last week when a spokesperson answered questions by directing us to an existing web posting. The work has closed de Maisonneuve in that block for many months.

On August 27, the STM was still predicting an on-time December finish (see September 1, p. 21).

Clarke returning to normal

Workers were seen December 4 picking up and moving aside pylons and signalling equipment on St. Catherine at Clarke. The intersection has been complicated due to the closure of Clarke north up to de Maisonneuve due to water main work there by the city of Montreal (see p. RE-2, September 22), which also closed westbound Dorchester from Greene for equipment parking and storage. All the affected streets and the intersection were working normally over the December 5-6 weekend, although parked equipment still closed some lanes.

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Dodge on November real estate, p. 26

Police Report, p. 26

9 Lives, p. 24

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 25

Permits, p. 34



infoWestmount, p. 22

Brief power interruptions in Vic village

Some short power outages reported in Victoria village in the last couple of weeks were attributed last week to line transfers following repair activities and the upgrade of electrical distribution equipment at the Glen substation. "Line transfers are done early in the morning when they can be planned," said city director general Benoit Hurtubise. "It causes a five-second interruption."



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EDITORIAL

GREAT NEWS: EAST-WEST FOOT PATH
PLANNED FOR WESTMOUNT PARK

Well, it turns out that the city's map of planned pedestrian paths for Westmount Park that we reproduced in our last two issues (November 24, p. 22 and December 1, p. 10) is not the final word.

The city is planning a more direct new east-west path, Councillor Cynthia Lulham shared with me by telephone December 3. It will run just south of the existing bike path.

This planned commuter path through the park did not appear on the map that we published, but, Lulham told me, another illustration created for the city by Stantec (reproduced at right) shows it in light grey, running horizontally east-west.

Great! I hope it ends up being relatively straight, level, dry and well main-

tained in all seasons. I can't wait to use it.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

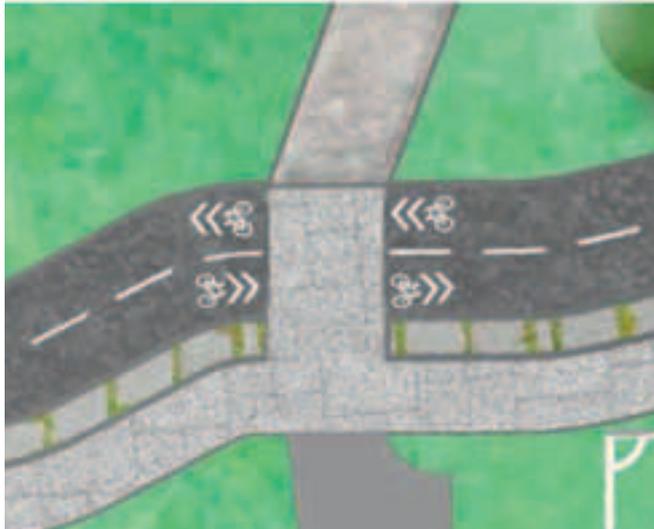
INTERSECTION TYPE
TYPICAL INTERSECTION

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

John Lehnert (1928-2020)

Late councillor helped steer
through library renewal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Former city councillor John Lehnert, who served from 1991 to 1995, died November 26 at CHSLD Château Westmount, several days after contracting COVID-19 and a day shy of his 92nd birthday.

"I have rarely met such a kind, gentle, and thoughtful man," said former mayor Peter Trent on whose council Lehnert represented District 7 as a resident of Lewis Ave.

"Despite what his Harvard law degree and service in the US Army might have suggested, John was someone who always looked out for the less fortunate," Trent explained. "He was active in the anti-war movement, and was constantly driven by the idea of doing what was right.

Opposition origin

"Unusually for Westmount local politics, he was a member of an opposition party" referring to Lehnert's role over the previous four years as a council critic as a director of the then Westmount Finance Action Committee (dedicated to cutting

taxes through good city management).

Adding that Lehnert had been "vehemently against the proposed Library Renewal Project," Trent said that "I stuck him on the library building committee, we became good friends, and John turned into a solid champion of the project, helping to see it through."

Fled in war

According to a family obituary, he was born in Vienna of a Jewish father and a Catholic mother and was sent to live with aunts in Switzerland when Austria was annexed by Germany in 1938. During World War II, at age 13, and after the death of his father in England, he made his way to New York to join his mother fleeing solo through France, Barcelona and Lisbon where he took the Clipper "flying boat," one of the largest aircraft at the time.

In 1973, he and his British wife, Shirley, moved to Westmount where Lehnert worked as legal counsel to various firms, including Bell Canada, from which he retired in 1992. A member of
Mountainside United *continued on p. 11*

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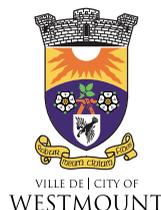
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MESSAGE DU TEMPS DES FÊTES DE LA MAIRESSE 2020-2021 HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR 2020-2021

À l'approche du temps des fêtes, le Conseil et moi vous souhaitons tous nos meilleurs vœux pour 2021. Nous vous remercions également pour le soutien et la compréhension dont vous avez fait preuve au cours de cette année éprouvante. Durant cette pandémie, les résidents de Westmount se sont serré les coudes, ils ont pris soin des personnes âgées, ils ont fait l'épicerie pour les personnes confinées à la maison et ils ont veillé à maintenir une distance physique et à porter leurs masques. Votre sens de la communauté est inspirant.

Nous sommes conscients que cette période des fêtes sera très différente. Tout comme vous, je ne pourrai pas me rassembler avec ma famille et mes amis. Notre table de Noël sera beaucoup plus petite cette année. Nous partageons le chagrin des grands-parents qui ne pourront pas voir leurs petits-enfants et de ceux qui vivent seuls. Je sais aussi combien cela est difficile pour les jeunes et je salue les sacrifices qu'ils font pour protéger leurs grands-parents et notre système de santé. L'interdiction de nombreuses activités sportives à un impact considérable sur la jeunesse. Je vous promets que la Ville réintroduira ces activités et ces services dès que nous aurons le feu vert.

En attendant, la Ville fait de son mieux pour apporter un peu de joie en cette période des fêtes.

Nous vous encourageons à profiter de notre nouvelle patinoire réfrigérée au parc Westmount, ainsi que de nos patinoires extérieures traditionnelles qui ouvriront dès que la météo le permettra. Au cours du mois de décembre, nous fabriquerons de la neige au parc King George et nous créerons des pistes de luge semblables à celles du lac aux Castors au Mont-Royal. Et, pour ceux qui aiment faire une marche, nous allons nettoyer la piste de course du terrain d'athlétisme de Westmount.

Notre équipe aux événements communautaires collabore avec nos commerçants locaux pour offrir des concerts éphémères en plein air. Joignez-vous à nous pour ces événements amusants qui soutiendront nos commerçants et restaurants locaux au cours de cette année très difficile. Notre équipe de la Sécurité publique recueille de la nourriture et des dons pour venir en aide aux familles de Westmount dans le besoin. Les dons de nourriture peuvent être livrés au Centre des loisirs de Westmount, et les dons en argent peuvent être faits sur notre site Web.

En conclusion, au nom de l'ensemble du Conseil, je tiens à remercier le personnel de santé, les enseignants, les employés des épiceries et tous les travailleurs de première ligne. Vous vous êtes mobilisés tout au long de la pandémie, et nous vous sommes à jamais redevables. J'aimerais également remercier les employés de la Ville pour leur dévouement et leur professionnalisme. Votre engagement envers Westmount et la sécurité de nos citoyens est grandement apprécié.

Alors que cette année difficile touche à sa fin, nous avons néanmoins de nombreuses raisons d'être reconnaissants. Nous vous souhaitons santé et bonheur, à vous et à vos proches, pour l'année 2021.

With the holiday season fast approaching, Council and I wish you all the best for 2021. We also wish to thank you for your support during this challenging year. Throughout the pandemic, Westmounters have been reaching out to one another, checking in on the elderly, buying groceries for shut-ins, and taking care to physically distance and wear masks. We are inspired by your community spirit.

We appreciate that this holiday season will be very different. Like you, I will miss gathering with family and friends, and our Christmas table will be much smaller this year. We all feel the heartache of grandparents who will not be able to see their grandchildren and of family members who live alone and are suffering. I also know how hard this is for young people and acknowledge the sacrifices that they are making to protect the well-being of their grandparents, so as not to overload the health care system. And I know all too well the impact that the ban on sports is having on children; I promise that the City will reintroduce these services as soon as we receive the green light.

In the interim, the City is doing its part to bring joy to the holiday season.

We encourage you to take advantage of our new refrigerated skating rink in Westmount Park, as well as our traditional outdoor rinks, which will open as soon as the weather permits. Also, this month we are making snow at King George Park and creating toboggan runs similar to those at Lac aux Castors on Mont-Royal. And, for those who enjoy taking walks, we will be clearing the track at the WAG.

Our Community Events team is collaborating with our local merchants to offer outdoor pop-up concerts. Please join us for these fun events, which support our local merchants and restaurants, in what has been a difficult year. As well, our Public Security team is collecting food for Westmount families in need. Food donations can be delivered to the Westmount Recreation Centre, and monetary donations can be made online via our website.

In closing, on behalf of Council, I wish to thank our health care workers, teachers, grocery store employees, and all who work on the frontlines. You have stepped up throughout the pandemic, and we are forever in your debt. I would also like to single out City employees and thank them for their dedication and professionalism. Your commitment to Westmount and to the safety of our citizens is greatly appreciated.

As this challenging year comes to an end, we nonetheless have much to be grateful for. In looking ahead, we wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2021.

Christina M. Smith
La mairesse de la Ville de Westmount
Mayor of the City of Westmount

DG Hurtubise recounts the main challenges

The city's COVID year: Frequent changes, short notice & distancing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY



“I think I will remember for the rest of my life that week after March break when the [provincial] government closed everything down without any guidelines or directives,” city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

“Within days, we were equipping staff with portable computers to work remotely and putting together a crisis team, including the mayor, which met daily to make decisions. We were sharing best practices with the DGs of the other de-merged municipalities and sorted things out between ourselves.

“Very, very importantly, all the [department] directors rolled up their sleeves and went above and beyond to continue functioning and provide the maximum number of services we were allowed to.”

As times and restrictions were gradually imposed or lifted – often quickly and with little warning or direction – the city began operating the pool and day camps “which a lot of municipalities decided not to,” Hurtubise said. “That’s a nice success.”

In outlining how the city had operated through the past nine months of uncertainty after Quebec’s spring lockdown starting March 13, the man whose challenge it was to hold the city together said that keeping the virus from spreading throughout the workforce was a critical effort.

Managing the virus

While five employees, plus Mayor Christina Smith, contracted the virus, he explained, “they all had mild cases, isolated, and it did not spread. “We’ve been very diligent in separating our crews and we’ve been very fortunate in containing any spread, from what I hear in other cities.”

Public Works has been divided into four separate teams that never interacted, something that will be vital to snow removal operations, Hurtubise explained.

Library, cont'd. from p. 1

The decision is consistent with that affecting all other municipal buildings, which will be closed tight except for the Westmount recreation centre (see separate story, p. 16).

“We looked at the time and staff numbers it takes to prepare the reservations for pick-up along with the quarantine issue and concluded there was no point opening between the two weeks,” Cardella explained. It also allows staff to have a longer break during COVID times.

She was quick to add, however, that this

When masks weren’t mandatory (and were rarely seen anywhere): Benoit Hurtubise in his office at city hall February 17, 2018, six months into his term as Westmount’s top employee.

The library operated with two teams to provide its curbside service and build up its digital collection.

Public Security, which works in shifts, were also separated from each other, enabling them to work with seniors “and the population in need.”

Most of the administrative staff has been working from home with minimum or rotating presence at city hall, he added.

New services

As the year progressed and with these fundamentals in place, the city moved into introducing new digital services such as permit applications and Zoom consultations as well as more options for residents to get outside. These included pedestrian space on streets and now the new, already open outdoor refrigerated rink and the new and upcoming toboggan run (see p. 1).

applies only to the “physical material” and does not affect digital items, which will continue to be available throughout the two weeks.

The library has been receiving 200-500 reservations a week under the curbside service though the facility has been closed to the public for browsing since March 13. The 500 reservations a day is the number the library deals with on a Monday after the weekend but usually decreases to about 200 as reservations are picked up. “People seem to return their loans every three weeks,” Cardella noted.

While the city has no direct control over its contractors, such as garbage and construction workers, the city’s contracts contain penalties for services not provided which, he said has enabled services to continue.

And as the uncertain year comes to a close, some things never

change. Now the city’s main effort is to produce the operating budget, Hurtubise said, and to move forward with whatever lies ahead, based on the pandemic prevention experiences and fundamentals that have already been tried and are already in place.



The Independent’s intense coverage of COVID began with our March 17 issue.

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WHAT'S THE RUSH ON WESTMOUNT PARK?

Why does city council wish to rush through the public consultation stage in order to go to tender for the refurbishment of Westmount Park by February 2021? The current timing for citizens to comment is too short! We need more discussion and time to re-work the vision. The Stantec proposal, entitled "A Walk in the Park," shows costly, superfluous changes, e.g. illuminated trees and fountain, expanded (slippery?) granite pathways, covered bike racks(!) and an "air" bridge (?).

The worst of the changes is this proposed construction of an unsightly air bridge/walkway destined to serve as an additional speedway for wheeled vehicles (bicycles, scooters, skate and hover boards, etc). Any pedestrian unlucky enough to be sharing the pathway is left with nowhere to go to avoid those who flout the existing, unenforceable "no biking in the park" rules, yet who are being given another walkway to ride pell mell through the park to the detriment of walkers? Fix what needs to be fixed! Don't turn our park into La Ronde.

Why would the citizens of Westmount pay for an elongated "spit-ball platform" that also risks becoming a misguided eyesore (graffiti vandals?) along with the potential danger of strollers being hit by apple cores and other garbage (and potentially sticks and stones) that might be dropped from above?

Our park is already grossly over-

crowded, overused (Stantec obviously wasn't walking around our park in 2020) with its vegetation severely denuded. We need soothing vistas, more plantings, greenery and more access to nature, not less. Don't add additional man-made constructions requiring constant upkeep (more money) that will block the views of the verdant greenery that we all deserve for health and well-being.

Westmount Park maintenance has been neglected for too long. This proposal doesn't address our needs but will cost us plenty. It needs re-thinking, although I do like the long promised "naturalization of the pond." Council, please delay going to tender. Citizens, do take the time to comment on the plan (see westmount.org website: engage.westmount.org/westmount-park). Current deadline: December 18, 2020. Email the commissioner for parks for an access code as no one replies to general website requests: clulham@westmount.org.

We're in the midst of a pandemic. We don't need to lose access to our park for this misguided, major refurbishment. Delay this decision until the pandemic is over and we can breathe comfortably again. I say a big resounding "No way!" to Stantec's vision of "A walk in *our* park."

WANDA POTRYKUS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPPORT FOR COWLING: CÔTE BIKE PATH = ACCIDENT- IN-WAITING

I support Robert Cowling (November 24, p. 14) when he objects to Mr. Lambert's wish for a further reduction of parking spaces to benefit cyclists on Côte St. Antoine. I drive frequently westward on this road and often observe cyclists travelling the wrong way on the bike path.

There is a synagogue, a church and a school located at the bottom of Côte St. Antoine where pedestrian traffic is particularly heavy. And the city does not seem intent on enforcing any sanctions that may exist.

This has been an ongoing problem and it is an accident waiting to happen.

TIM CARSLEY, BARAT RD.

CRITICISM OF COWLING (1): WHAT ABOUT CARS' PRIVILEGES?

It is interesting to consider the abundance of "privileges" urban cyclists are supposed to have accrued, according to Mr. Cowling (November 24, p. 14). He mentions the intersections of Claremont and Victoria with Sherbrooke as a stolen "privilege" that cyclists have taken in crossing with the pedestrian signal.

In fact, such a use is recognized as legal in Quebec Highway Safety Code.

He mentions the "privilege" of riding in the painted line bicycle path on Côte St. Antoine. But any cyclist concerned with personal safety is aware that this bicycle lane is no cycling path at all but an invitation to risk serious injury in the dooring zone.

In fact, all the bicycle paths since Mayor Trent had installed the first one on de Maisonneuve [in the 1990s] have been this painted-line variety.

In terms of cycling infrastructure there have been no "privileges" given since Mayor Trent.

There is something Old Guard about Mr. Cowling's continued attempts to belittle the volunteer work by Mr. Lambert to advance more sustainable and more human ways of getting about in Westmount.

One wonders if this is not actually a diversionary tactic so as to camouflage the sole recipient of "privileges" in Westmount. He is trying to hide the bull in the china shop.

For, if we exclude the parklands of Westmount, how close to complete dominance of our remaining urban space is taken up by the sacred bull, the privileged car? There are ever more of them on our streets, ever larger. Some have said that Sherbrooke St. is like a stream of running bulls.

But this need not be so. There are enlightened cities that are beginning to reclaim their urban streets, [including Paris and Oslo].

Of course, Westmount is not Paris and is not Oslo. But even Montreal in a most timid fashion has begun to do the same with the Réseau Express Vélo on St. Denis. In all these urban efforts, an enlightened electorate is needed who have a desire to live a more sustainable human lifestyle. But is not Mr. Cowling defending the opposite, the heavy-metal domination of every experience. Is it not a choir response to TV ads that the only way to climb mountain is in a four-wheel drive, the only way to ski downhill is in an SUV, the only way to enjoy Nature is to drive into her.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

CRITICISM OF COWLING (2): CARS KILL, CYCLISTS DON'T

Robert Cowling's letter of November 24 (p. 14) on behalf of The Association of Motorists for a Fair Voice in Traffic Regulation displays the sense of entitlement many motorists have.

He speaks of cyclist's preference for riding on sidewalks. As someone who rides a bicycle regularly, I know that when a cyclist rides on a rough concrete sidewalk rather than a smooth asphalt road, it is usually because they fear being run over by a beligerent car driver.

Mr. Cowling cites cyclists as being privileged because they "plough" through the intersections at Victoria and Claremont. He chooses to ignore that Quebec law permits cyclists to safely cross on the pedestrian signal. This sense of motorist entitlement allows him to also ignore the fact that while Westmount has multiple tragic examples of vulnerable cyclists and pedestrians being killed by moving vehicles, no pedestrian has died as a result of a bicycle collision. Is this the "fair" relationship his organization supports?

As for the existence of the Westmount Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists, it's news to me that for the past few years I have been participating in regular monthly meetings of six to eight people, all members of a non-existent organization.

MALCOLM MCRAE, SHERBROOKE ST.

CRITICISM OF COWLING (3): BICYCLES ARE SAFE, CLEAN AND SMALL

Re: Mr. President of the Westmount Association of Motorists For a Fair Voice in Traffic Regulation [i.e. Robert Cowling]

It must be known, by both the aggrieved individual – who in the November 24 *Independent* (p. 14) ludicrously demanded a larger voice for motorists – and by the general readership, that such indignation towards cyc- *continued on p. 12*

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The work in the eastern quarter of Prince Albert Park on December 3.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

POOR PLANS FOR PRINCE ALBERT PARK

I was shocked, saddened and disappointed when I saw the beautiful 100-year-old poplar tree cut down in Prince Albert Park after Thanksgiving.

This majestic, timeless tree was in good shape. No branches were falling down and it was safe. It was a landmark and a favour-

Lehnert, cont'd. from p. 7

Church (the former Dominion-Douglas), he worked with those who were incarcerated and staffed a thrift shop among many projects and pursuits.

Choosing not to seek a second term on city council, he was succeeded by Councilor Cynthia Lulham, who has continued to represent District 7 for the ensuing 25 years.

Lehnert is survived by his wife, two sons Tim (Heather) of Rhode Island, and Dominic (Joanne) of Toronto, and his grandchildren Nadya, Miko, Tabitha and Spencer.

ite place for many people of all ages to gather around, under and enjoy. I could not understand why the city would cut it down considering its very strict tree policy and always wanting to preserve old trees.

Not long after the tree was down, the children's climbing frame was torn down. This was in perfectly good shape and only about 10 years old. Then a poster was installed on the premises announcing the construction of a new children's climbing frame that would accommodate disabled children as well. That's great, but why couldn't the city have saved some money and installed something for disabled children behind it with a wheelchair access? There was ample space behind the existing frame.

In addition to looking quite ugly, the new frame appears to be built of plastic and metal and will have concrete all around the perimeter. About four feet of soil was excavated in a large area and filled in with gravel – a very un-environmentally friendly procedure.

This project has been very noisy for

more than a month now, so much so, that I was not able to work in my home office that faces the park.

Now the work has stopped for the winter and the entire area is cordoned off so kids and families are not able to use that space. This comes at a very inopportune time with COVID-19 forcing people to stay home or close to home. This is all very poorly planned with no thought for the people who live here in the area.

GAIL SKUTEZKY, WINDSOR AVE.

MORE PARK RUINATION COMING?

In your November 24 issue (p. 1 & 22), I read with some trepidation about further "improvements" to Westmount's parks [specifically Westmount Park]. The city ruined Prince Albert Park. Now it plans to take its hatchet to the other parks.

The beautiful, tall bushes behind the library were removed last summer, no doubt with the view that if global warming is increasing, we need more open and bare spaces for baking under the burning sun.

The plan to lay cement-and-asphalt paths adds insult to injury. They will attract heat. They look very ugly and encourage fast bicycle traffic.

Famous European parks have only pebble or gravel paths. It is a shame to waste taxpayers' money on unnecessary and hideous changes.

ANNA COATES, CLAREMONT AVE.

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..... lists is not representative of a public consensus. The notion that motorists lack any iota of voice is not only absurd, but insidious.

There are 8,679 residences in Westmount, and 10,500 automobiles. 58.4 percent of our city's transport is done by car, and only 19.5 percent by non-motorized vehicles. (Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain, *Enquête Origine-Destination*, juin 2020, 86.)

It has been three decades since the oil and gas industry deliberately hid scientific knowledge of their disastrous contributions to the glutting of our atmosphere with gases that continue to fuel the world's fires (both metaphorical and literal). It has been decades of corporate lobbying manipulating supposedly democratic institutions for the sake of the automobile over the human.

In fact, it is cyclists who ought to be extolled for their bravery amongst oversized vehicles that are wielded carelessly and dangerously, terrorizing our communal public space with their roaring motors, their overheating engines, their deadly masses and speeds, and their ruthless insistence on always demanding more parking. Our mere human bodies sacrifice our sacred public realm to the car's unfeeling demands far too much already. It is cyclists who choose to brave the elements, who take up one percentage of a car's mammoth space, who do not pour oil into our oceans and winds, who do not pour money into the pockets of oil barons.

If pedestrians are disgruntled by bikes, imagine how exasperated we must be by cars! The least we as a city can grant our bipedaled heroes is more road space where they aren't forced to precariously stay upright between certain death by automobile or near-miss pedestrian collisions.

Respectfully, Mr. President of Motorists for a Fair Voice, you have had the floor for far too long.

Nota bene: If the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount does ever organize, I will happily volunteer my membership.

JULIANA YANG, CLARKE AVE.

ANOTHER WESTMOUNT-WESTMOUNT CONNECTION

Reader Roger Ray, in his November 24 letter (p. 14), wondered whether the man-hole cover that reads "City of Westmont" contains a misspelling or whether it was obtained from Westmont, Illinois.

My daughter, who lived in Westmount, QC while studying urban planning at McGill, is now urban planner for the city of Westmont, Illinois. She might be able to tell us whether they have one of ours.

In fact, I have suggested to her that both cities, with a similar demographic base,

could become twins.

MAYA KHANKHOJE, METCALFE AVE.

TERRASSES WOULD HELP

I recently went to Victoria Ave to purchase a *latte* and a hot chocolate. I discovered all the outside tables and chairs had disappeared. I made an inquiry and learned a special licence is required for winter outdoor patios.

I asked the owner if sales would improve if they had a few tables and chairs outside. The answer was a definite "yes." Business has slowed considerably since they were forced to bring in their tables and chairs. I looked around and saw a customer sitting on the ledge of a store window and I ended up sitting on a cold marble step.

What is going on here? The city of Westmount should be doing everything it can to help the local store owners, not make their lives more difficult.

Please do not mention snow removal as on those days the chairs and tables just would not go out. In the winter, all a customer needs is a warm coat and a hot chocolate or *latte* in hand – and a seat.

GRAHAM WRIGHT,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Editor's note: At the moment, the main regulatory barrier to restaurant and café terrasses is not municipal.

The province's current red zone COVID prohibitions (which are enforced by police, not municipal public security) include restaurant terrasses. In the words of Marie-Hélène Émond, a spokesperson for the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, in an email to us on December 2: "*Les seuls activités permises pour les restaurants sont les 'take-out.' Il n'est pas permis de s'y attabler ou de s'y asseoir, même à l'extérieur, et ce, pour éviter les rassemblements.*"

Westmount Public Security will intervene if restaurants are using municipal land without a valid terrasse permit, which expired October 31 this year (as is usual), city director general Benoit Hurtubise told me by email December 3 and 4, but even if the city were to extend that period this winter, the province's law would still be in force. – DP.

HONOUR KAMALA WITH WHS PERMANENT DISPLAY

In lieu of renaming Westmount High School after newly-elected US vice president Kamala Harris, Westmount High School class of 1981, I suggest that Catherine Jondahl's eloquently written, over 350-word biographical homage to Harris and her achievements, published in the November 24 issue (p. 15) also be printed and displayed permanently beside a portrait of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kamala Harris in the hallway of Westmount High. It also deserves a full page in its 2020 yearbook.

RICHARD ORLANDO, SHERBROOKE ST.

HOW MANY WESTMOUNT ELECTRICIANS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHTBULB?

Unfortunately, the answer is – I do not know. There is a pedestrian passage at the end of Summit Crescent with three lamps for nighttime security – two at the ends and one in the middle. The middle one has gone off intermittently for at least six months. Despite many entreaties, the problem remains unresolved.

I will be sure to let you know the answer to this gnawing question as soon as I can, but please do not hold your breath...

G. ROBILLARD, SURREY GARDENS

'YES' TO BETTER FOOT PATH THROUGH WESTMOUNT PARK

Kudos to editor David Price for coming to the defence of pedestrians in the reconfiguration of Westmount Park and for his common-sense proposal (December 1, p. 10).

The highest concentration of active senior and super-senior residents in Westmount resides in the apartment buildings to the east and west of Westmount Park on de Maisonneuve Blvd. and several of its cross streets. As editor Price points out, they have been ill-served over the last 20 to 30 years when it comes to transiting through the park.

First, came the bike path, re-introducing the traffic previously eliminated by the closure of Western/de Maisonneuve Blvd.; second, the impulsive decision to situate the dog run smack in the middle of one of the park's most previously enchanting spots, either to listen to Sunday concerts or enjoy a Shakespeare play.

Reasonable alternatives exist for relocating both the bike path and the dog run. The question is, will council allow common sense to prevail or once again, as it has over the last 25 years, bend its ears and decisions to those who "lobby" (aka as "pester") the most?

DON TADDEO, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

KEEP THE CURVES IN WESTMOUNT PARK

RE: "Make-Westmount Park-easily-traversable-on-foot redux" (December 1, p. 10)

What is wrong with having some small curves to the Westmount Park paths? I walk them every day and appreciate the slight changes in direction that add to my enjoyment, while adding an insignificant few seconds.

The only correction that would be useful is the elimination of the low spot that sometimes fills with mud or slush. To avoid this, I walk the bike path which, in winter, has more walkers than cyclists.

CHRISTOPHER WINN, METCALFE AVE.

HOMAGE TO LYNCH-STAUNTON

Westmount recreation centre fitness instructor Johanne Lynch-Staunton runs more than just classes: participants are grateful that she can change your outlook on day-to-day life during trying times.

This fall, I signed up with Westmount Sports and Recreation for fitness classes offered either onsite or on Zoom. Shortly after classes commenced, we hit the red zone, forcing all classes to be offered on Zoom only. Well, here we are "together" again...

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, a good 16 to 20 participants meet on Zoom. Here, our screen opens, only to be greeted by Johanne, our instructor. A high spirited, mighty energetic and innately positive individual all geared up in her modified basement with yoga mat, barbells, music and an incredibly infectious smile complementing her bright blue eyes!

A colloquial conversation between Johanne and Claude Danis (programme & community services coordinator, who has been working with Johanne for over 15 years), open the sessions 10 minutes before class.

Together, we all share the unavoidable talk of the pandemic, family and weather, just to name a few examples. But what's really significant here is what Johanne does for us all.

Johanne is not your ordinary instructor; she imparts her Zen philosophy, inspires optimism and confidence and encourages us every step of the way – and she does so wholeheartedly.

She's very mindful of bettering overall wellness in body, mind and spirit and reminds us of how keeping fit is key to optimizing well-being, a fundamental factor during these times.

We are all too well aware how the pandemic has changed our lives and we are grateful for her contribution to the start of "a new day" rather than "just another day."

On behalf of all the participants, we thank you, Johanne, for adding an essential element in helping us make our days that much better!

A big thanks to the Westmount recreation centre team, who help to ensure that all participants are properly linked into Zoom, including Andrew Maislin, the brains of implementing the Zoom program, and Dave Lapointe, the captain ensuring that all goes smoothly.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a brighter New Year!

RUTH CARO, LANSDOWNE AVE.

Basket delivery starts December 16

People more generous this ‘rough’ year: Public Security

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security’s food drive had raised a total of \$2,370 in cash and online donations, of which \$1,500 came from collections outside 5 Saisons and Metro grocery stores, assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun said December 2.

This is in addition to the non-perishable food and hygiene products received on both occasions as well as from 60 Westmount households that registered to have these items picked up from their front porches on November 29.

There were 33 families known last week who would be benefitting, she said (see story November 10, p. 18). This compares with 29 last year. These deliveries are to be distributed starting December 16.

“People are more generous this year knowing it’s a rough one,” she explained. “It’s truly heartwarming to see residents coming together to help out these families. It has been such a difficult year for everyone. Thank you to everyone who had contributed.

“I get to see the recipients’ faces when we deliver the baskets,” she said, “and I can’t even put that moment into words.”

A Public Security vehicle parked outside the Victoria entrance to Metro the morning of December 1, “Giving Tuesday,” until 7 pm resulted in \$1,100 in cash as well as gift cards and a large contribution of food products (see story, below).

Another \$400 came from a similar collection the day before at 5 Saisons, which was cut short by “torrential rain.”

Groceries fresher

One advantage to these two collections outside the stores, she said, was that the groceries were newly purchased. In past

years, “we’ve thrown out about 10 percent of what we receive because people haven’t checked expiry dates.”

On the other hand, this year’s pandemic closures have made it more difficult to donate since the drive is usually kicked off at the annual Artisans Festival where the price of admission was either a donation of food or \$2.

As well, the donation bins were usually positioned in all municipal buildings. This year, the only one available is inside the Academy Rd. entrance to the Westmount recreation centre.

‘Giving Tuesday’ in Westmount

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Tuesday after “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday” is “Giving Tuesday,” according to the official Canadian Giving Tuesday website (givingtuesday.ca). This coincided nicely with the city of Westmount Public Safety department’s annual food drive kick-off, aimed at supporting needy Westmount families.

So, on a very pleasant Tuesday morning, December 1, Public Safety set up its canopy outside the Metro supermarket on Victoria Ave. Mayor Christina Smith and councillors Marina Brzeski, Mary Gallery and Cynthia Lulham were out very successfully twisting arms for donations of cash or non-perishable food items. Just before noon, a gentleman walked across Victoria Ave. and handed officers three large well-stuffed black bags marked “Park” (presumably for Park Restaurant) while a steady stream of



From left, Public Security officers Matthew Talarico and Marie-Eve Parent, councillors Cynthia Lulham and Mary Gallery and Public Security officer Jordan Ciampini “Pack the patrol car” with donations. This patrol car was already full by noontime, thanks to the generosity of passing shoppers.

people stopped, chatted and handed over food or money.

The motto for the food drive is to “pack the patrol car” full of goodies. That objective was quickly achieved and it looked as though several patrol cars would be required to cart away all the generous donations.

Assistant director of Public Safety Kimberley Colquhoun said “This year, we have four new families added to our list provided by the CLSC Metro. Our goal was to ask for products that the families truly

need in order to make complete meals. Many residents don’t know what to give and we hope the list posted in the *Independent* and online helped. So far, the food drive has been a success.”

“Let’s pack [the patrol car] with cereal, peanut butter, snack foods, toiletries, canned goods, ready-to-eat foods, cash donations, etc... (PLEASE NO EXPIRED GOODS),” said a press release on the city’s website.

How to give

All donations towards the food drive must be in by December 15 so that baskets can be prepared and delivered. The distribution is done a week before Christmas to allow turkeys time to defrost in the fridge. Monetary donations can be made online at westmount.org and food donations can be dropped off at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) at the Academy Rd. side door, Monday to Friday, 3 to 10 pm; and Saturdays and Sundays, 9 am to 4:30 pm..



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Dec. 9-19 in commercial districts

Merchants, city team up to provide festive activities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Starting this week, merchants in the Greene Ave., St. Catherine and Victoria village districts will be teaming up with the city to provide an array of festive activities, including trees to decorate, pop-up concerts and candy canes to be given out by “Santa” and “Olav.”

“These are being held by the merchants

in conjunction with the city, whose various departments and personnel are implanting the suggestions,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes economic development.

“There will be lots going on” when the attractions are planned for the two-week period December 9 to 19 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with details to be provided on the city’s website.

Lighted Christmas trees were to be installed by Public Works on Greene, St. Catherine, Sherbrooke and Victoria at street corners for the public to decorate using their own decorations. The pop-up concerts are being organized by the city’s Community Events department, featuring either singer Gary White, the former director of the Westmount YMCA; the Quara Varia Choir; or violinist Marc Angers.

“Council members will also participate and be on the streets,” Lulham said. “We want the festivities to bring people into our commercial zones to support our merchants,” she said, adding: “because of COVID, Santa and Olav will use tongs to hand out the candy canes!”



Emanu-El-Beth group adapts

Caring Cooks used to ‘Share,’ now they help with ‘Resilience’ too

The Caring Cooks of Westmount’s Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom had “to turn off their burners and stoves in the Temple kitchen in March,” explained a December 1 press release from the island of Montreal’s only Reform synagogue, “but that did not stop this committed group from creating tasty treats and meals for some of the city’s most vulnerable.”

For the previous eight years, members of the group had been meeting to cook hot meals for Share the Warmth, a local food bank.

“We would meet up Thursday mornings, set up our cutting stations, pour ourselves each a huge mug of coffee and cook. Together, we prepared 4,782 dishes of chili, soup and pasta sauce just last year,” volunteer coordinator Denise Grossman is quoted as saying.

But last April, in-person gatherings were suspended due to COVID and Share the Warmth had to suspend accepting meals cooked outside its premises.

The solution? Make cold food at home for Resilience Montreal, a day shelter located at 4000 St. Catherine St., the former

site of the Miso restaurant, and, many years ago, a McDonald’s.

“We have been delivering sandwiches here since then,” Nancy Weiss told the *Independent* December 3. “The idea was brought to us by another Temple member.”

Resilience was already distributing sandwiches, muffins and cookies to the Cabot Square community.

According to the press release, they have supplied Resilience with 11,066 sandwiches, 902 muffins and 992 cookies.

Share the Warmth

Share the Warmth is once again accepting hot meals, so the Caring Cooks are now serving both organizations on a rotating basis.

Resilience Montreal is a non-profit day shelter open to anyone on weekdays from 8 am to 3 pm. A sign on the rear door states it accepts donations between 9 am and 2 pm (resiliencemontreal.com).

See p. 1 for photo.

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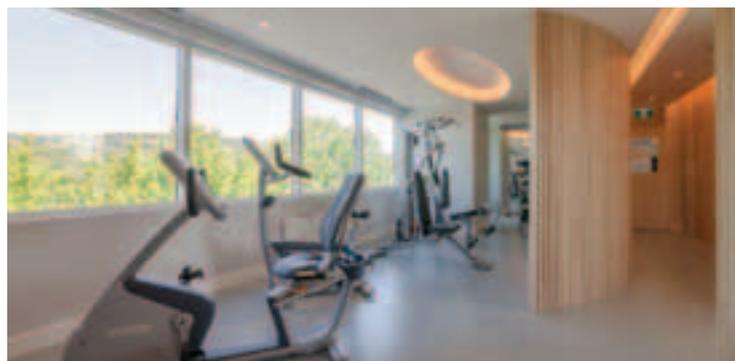
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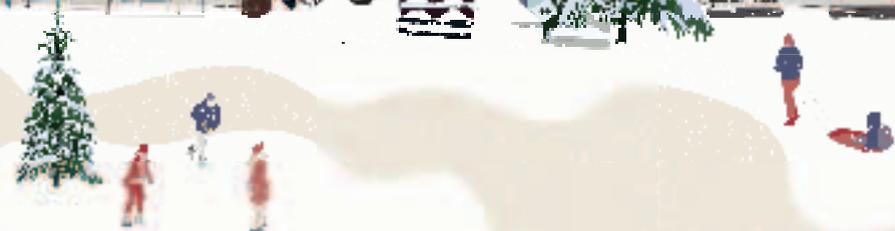
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Winter registration for online programs Dec. 8

WRC to be open for holiday skating, 'Stick and Puck'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount recreation centre's rink will remain open over the city's two-week holiday period December 21 to January 4, despite its current pandemic limited capacity, Sports and Recreation officials said last week.

This is to provide an opportunity for additional times for general skating and the recently launched "Stick & Puck" program for practising personal hockey skills, both by reserving times on the city's website where changes and details are to be posted.

"People are looking for something to do," said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. "Our staff is working full time" to maintain the arena and the ice as

the only municipal building to remain open, though the administrative office will be closed.

The rink will be closed December 25, Christmas Day, and January 1 for New Year's Day.

In the meantime, the department will launch a winter registration December 8 for online programs starting January 5. "We will be putting together a booklet of these offerings," he said. The department won't know until later in the month what "in-person" programs such as hockey might be permitted by the provincial government.

For now, anyone using the rink is required to change into and out of skates at rink side.

Dedication to cycling =



Sherbrooke St on November 25.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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You are always there when your loved ones are going through difficult times. But don't forget about yourself—solutions exist to help you feel better.

The current situation may cause you distress. Experiencing various levels of anxiety in some spheres of life is normal. When this happens, you may find it more challenging to deal with your thoughts, emotions, behaviour and relationships with others. Most people succeed in adapting, but listening to your needs is vital. **Don't hesitate to do whatever is necessary to help yourself.**

Take care of yourself

- Rely on your personal strengths and have confidence in your abilities.
- Remind yourself of the winning strategies you used in the past to overcome difficulties. There is no one-size-fits-all solution! Each and every one of us must take steps to foster our own well-being.
- Enjoy life's little pleasures, such as listening to music, taking a warm bath, reading, exercising, etc.
- If you live close to nature, make the most of it. Breathe deeply and slowly as you walk.
- Learn to delegate, and allow others to help you.
- Ask for help when you feel overwhelmed. **It is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strength when you are strong enough to do what is necessary to help yourself.**
- Lend a hand in your community in a way that respects your personal limits and public health directives. By helping others, you can improve their wellness and your own as well.
- Think about what has meaning and value for you. Reflect on the important things in your life that you can hold onto in hard times.
- Reduce the stressors in your life.
- While it is important to stay informed, limit the amount of time spent reading about COVID-19. Information overload can increase stress and anxiety, and even cause depression.



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WINTER 2020
Holiday Insert

The **Christina Miller Real Estate Group** is a client-centered real estate team that consistently delivers the highest level of customer care, integrity and expertise. Our unparalleled global marketing affiliations, combined with our extensive local experience allows us to serve our clients better. Period. Our concierge-style service, paired with our friendly approach allows our clients to relax and enjoy their move.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED CONFIDENCE.



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THANK YOU

CLASS OF 2020

FOR MAKING THIS A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR!

SOLD wishes are granted when tiffany, charlotte & their little woofers wind up in something wonderful on wood **SOLD** les demontignys décident de s'acheter une grosse demeure et s'évadent du 'downtown' **SOLD** a jovial time for anna & josh to jump into their jaw-dropping condo **SOLD** amélie & marc-antoine quittent des éclaircies en un coup d'éclair et s'enlignent vers de nouvelles aventures **SOLD** concluding that condos aren't convenient for kids, brian & patrice capture a crazy cool new casa **SOLD** the shines shimmy out of their superb three-storey residence into something simpler yet spectacular **SOLD** alex & gio virent d'bord et vont s'installer dans un véritable condo maravilloso à verdun **SOLD** carl & the kids decide it's time to sell their cozy cottage **SOLD** natasha & clayton hightail it from their happy household in toronto to a hip home on hampton **SOLD** nora & dan sell stellar st-henri and snatch up a stupendous estate in the calm countryside **SOLD** david & tamara pleasantly part with their pretty pied-a-terre in terrasse windsor **SOLD** deborah, ron & adorable asher acquire an new family abode making it absolutely awesome **SOLD** denis & cynthia pick up their parcels when they capture their perfect new pad **SOLD** devan & charles-antoine terminent leur vie en ville pour de nouveaux horizons perchés tout en hauteur **SOLD** diane dit bye bye à bannantyne et westmount lui dit bonjour & bienvenue! **SOLD** elsa pitches her pleasingly perfect pretty ponsard to take a terrific townhouse in sunny saint-laurent **SOLD** old country clients conclude a choice contract for a cool condo on old de la commune **SOLD** belinda & eric bid bye-bye to verdun and hello to their new boasting beauty on blenheim **SOLD** efficient andrew fancifully finalizes the sale of the family home on finchley **SOLD** andréa & david fuient la ville et volent vers une nouvelle vie au son du vent et des oiseaux **SOLD** gael longing for less lodging leaves her lair to lovely new lodgers & their jolly litter **SOLD** glorious ghalia is guided to her goal and grabs a great first condo **SOLD** henri-paul & aline dive into a daring new chapter on davaar **SOLD** jim & mary joyfully move out of their marvellous maison on de maisonneuve for a condo on the cote **SOLD** with modifications made to their marvelous new home, mara & jamie are more than merry **SOLD** jeffrey leaps from london and gets set with a condo on coloniale **SOLD** jill, a lovely lady, longing to live closer to her relatives leaves her downtown dwelling **SOLD** jim & liane hightail it out of their kensington castle into something comparable in connecticut **SOLD** joel's sweet st-pierre property provides a new peaceful panorama **SOLD** our upper-belmont beauty finds the best buyers **SOLD** joann prepares to pack up her perfect little pad as she prances into a promising new partnership **SOLD** junie & joe close the door on canning and land new digs on devon **SOLD** katleen cheerfully chooses her cool new condo on captivating claremont **SOLD** kind kim toodles out of toronto to be welcomed in westmount square **SOLD** gary & kim move on from mount-pleasant for elegance on elm **SOLD** setting records, lynne & jonathan swiftly sell the family's sumptuous residence **SOLD** the reichs successfully sell their father's snazzy house on summit **SOLD** laurent & fabienne wiggle their way out of willow onto a wonderful adventure with their wee ones **SOLD** the moquette family makes a major



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

LOOKING TO BE PART OF CLASS OF 2021? CALL US FOR AN APPRAISAL

move into something much more manageable **SOLD** alan & linda long to live on lansdowne but alas the stars don't align **SOLD** luc & line quittent 'cool' coleraine pour contempler de nouveaux challenges **SOLD** lydjie retrouve le luxe et la luminosité dans son nouvel espace de vie **SOLD** longing for a little less, lovely linda leaves her lair on metcalfe **SOLD** magali makes the move from marvellous melrose to beautiful brossard **SOLD** manuel dances with delight at how deftly we dealt with his deal on drolet **SOLD** marc & genevieve glide on out of grosvenor for a spread in the suburbs **SOLD** marie-france & jean quittent calgary le cœur gros et répondent à l'appel d'une nouvelle aventure à ndg **SOLD** marie-josé & james dispose of their darling dwelling to do the domestic downsize **SOLD** blissful marie-laure & dominic patiently pass on appin and with sophistication & style sweep up a sunny semi on springfield **SOLD** sellers successfully sell their trendy triplex to their triumphant tenant **SOLD** mark, beaming to begin anew, busts a brilliant move from memorable melrose **SOLD** stephanie & mark keep things simple by sliding down the street into something more spacious & super suitable **SOLD** martin seeking more manageable accommodation makes a momentous move **SOLD** matt, carol & the kids knock out of kensington for a whopper on wilson **SOLD** melanie & jeremy sell nifty notre-dame to cop a cool pad in the old port **SOLD** gentle judy joyfully jumps into her lovely new lair on lansdowne **SOLD** michael & mark magically score something super on sunny springfield **SOLD** francois & michelle pack up their mount-pleasant pad and prance into something more practical **SOLD** mike & his courageous crew break records registering multiple residential resales in just one year **SOLD** the khalids capture a beaconsfield beauty for them and their babes **SOLD** william & nancy prance out of parkman and land in a likeable new nest **SOLD** neil part en prospection et fait preuve de générosité avec cette petite perle pour ses parents **SOLD** paola & steve quit their cool condo in lovely little italy to live in the country **SOLD** pascal decides to depart and closes the deal on coursol **SOLD** peter & leanne pick up this topnotch townhouse when their first option goes topsy turvy **SOLD** the caissies pack up the kids and the contents of their casa to embark on escapades in oakville **SOLD** iain & renee rocked out of their rad pad on mount-stephen and flew further into the flats **SOLD** gabrielle & roméo trouvent leur nid douillet à boucherville à temps pour l'arrivée de bébé **SOLD** the remarkable robert & rosie retreat from their two floor residence opting for something on one floor **SOLD** the pariseaus pivot during the pandemic preferring to put some padding in their pockets **SOLD** sara se dit prête à quitter son cocon pour s'aventurer dans son superbe nouveau condo à lachine **SOLD** the dennis family decides with difficulty to divest of their lac manitou abode **SOLD** sophie & greg leap out of lansdowne to snag a sweet setup on strathcona **SOLD** stephanie sways out of st-pierre and says yes to a stunner on st-alexandre **SOLD** stéphanie ramène marc-antoine à son saint-lambert natal pour y créer leur nouveau chez-soi **SOLD** steve said so long to sunny springfield and sailed overseas **SOLD** sylvain & guylaine settle their sale and prepare to say a bittersweet goodbye to their victorian beauty **SOLD** thomas & savvas net a winner on wilson **SOLD** corey & tiffany say so long to pretty prince albert and soar serenely back to the states **SOLD** salome & tim sell their sumptuous space in the old port to wistfully head west **SOLD** the yangs yet again sell some sweet assets and say 'yesss!' to their yield **SOLD** lovely client leaves circle area to find new ventures elsewhere. | **SPECIAL THANKS** to our buyers whose perfect place has yet to be picked, to our sellers whose homes are still to be sold, to our classy colleagues who offer consistent capable collaboration | **WELCOME** to Carlos Martinez, Nathalie Mazloun and Julie Lacroix who joined our family in 2020 **AND** finally to our precious group for being every year, the team that **TRULY** tames every tangle | **CONGRATULATIONS** to all our kind clients and **THANK YOU AGAIN** for your continued confidence in our crew! | Despite the **PANDEMIC** we **PREVAILED!**



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WESTMOUNT CONDOMINIUMS

	2018	2019	2020 YTD	% CHANGE 2018 TO 2020	% CHANGE 2019 TO 2020
MEDIAN SALE PRICE	\$630,000	\$709,000	\$850,000	↑35%	↑20%
DAYS ON MARKET (MEDIAN)	40	54	37	↓8%	↓31%
# OF LISTINGS SOLD	71	73	56	↓21%	↓23%
OVER \$1M	20	18	22	↑10%	↑22%
UNDER \$1M	51	55	34	↓33%	↓38%
# OF NEW LISTINGS	93	94	115	↑24%	↑22%
OVER \$1M	34	35	48	↑41%	↑37%
UNDER \$1M	72	59	67	↓7%	↑14%

WESTMOUNT SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

	2018	2019	2020 YTD	%CHANGE 2018 TO 2020	% CHANGE 2019 TO 2020
MEDIAN SALE PRICE	\$1,700,000	\$1,795,000	\$2,002,500	↑18%	↑12%
DAYS ON MARKET (MEDIAN)	39	59	54	↑38%	↓8%
# OF LISTINGS SOLD	145	130	134	↓8%	↑3%
OVER \$2M	52	51	71	↑37%	↑39%
UNDER \$2M	93	79	63	↓32%	↓20%
# OF NEW LISTINGS	241	244	207	↓14%	↓15%
OVER \$2M	107	131	126	↑18%	↓4%
UNDER \$2M	134	113	81	↓40%	↓28%

Source: Centris.ca and Christina Miller Group data @ December 2nd, 2020



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since 2006



OVER
1200
transactions
since 2006



Highest sale in
Westmount
of 2020

15 YEARS
industry experience



Give voice to your feelings

- Keep in mind that having a range of emotions is normal. Feelings play an important role in life, and it is essential to experience them without passing judgment.
- Use words to express what you are going through. Do you feel alone? Are you worried?
- Allow yourself to share your feelings with a trusted friend or family member. It might also be helpful to write down how you're feeling or call a helpline. Find what works for you!
- Those closest to you may not necessarily be able to “read” you. Express your feelings.
- Leave space in your life for your feelings and those of your loved ones.



Make judicious use of social media

- Use critical thinking before sharing something on social media. Ill-advised information can have harmful effects and be detrimental to everyone's efforts in these times.
- Use social media to share positive actions.
- Watch videos that make you smile.



Choose healthy living habits

- Try to keep to a routine for eating, resting, sleeping and other daily activities.
- Take time to eat well.
- Go to bed at an hour that lets you get enough sleep.
- Be physically active on a regular basis, while complying with public health directives.
- Reduce your consumption of stimulants like coffee, tea, soft drinks, energy beverages, chocolate, etc.
- Drink lots of water.
- Lower your alcohol, drug and tobacco consumption, or simply say no to them entirely. The same goes for gambling.

Help and resources

We are all going through unprecedented times that can intensify our emotional reactions. For example, you might feel greater fatigue or have fears that you can't shake, or even have trouble just dealing with the day-to-day. Focus on these signs of a problem and, as soon as you can, contact resources that can help you to better manage your feelings and develop new coping strategies.

- **Info-Social 811**
Info-Social 811 is a free and confidential telephone consultation service available 24/7
- **Regroupement des services d'intervention de crise du Québec**
Provides 24/7 referral services for people in distress (French): centredecrise.ca/listecentres
- **Suicide prevention crisis helpline**
Crisis helpline that provides suicide prevention services 24/7:
1 866 APPELLE (277-3553)

For a host of other helpful resources, visit Quebec.ca/gettingbetter

[Québec.ca/Gettingbetter](http://Quebec.ca/Gettingbetter)

 Info-Social 811

Québec 

Grinch strikes?



These two decorative trees outside Victoria Hall were seen uprooted December 1. Vandals? Wind? Scrooge? The Grinch? We don't know.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Happy Holidays! Joyeuses Fêtes!

This holiday season is unlike any other. As we move into a new, and hopefully better year, I wish you moments of peace amid the difficulties, connections with family and friends, even if they can't be in person and the warmth of memories from holidays past. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a 2021 filled with peace, healing and health.



Jennifer Maccarone

MHA for Westmount-Saint-Louis
Official Opposition (Libs for Diversity and Inclusion,
L'opposition officielle (Libéraux pour la diversité et l'inclusion,
L'opposition officielle (Libéraux pour la diversité et l'inclusion)
Handicap et on the Autism Spectrum

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[jennifer.maccarone](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-maccarone) JMaccarone

RECEVEZ MES VOEUX LES PLUS CHALEUREUX À L'OCCASION DE NOËL ET DU NOUVEL AN

WITH WARMEST WISHES FOR A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Tremblay, Chevarie-Lessard: View from above, below and beyond

Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

picturesque scene “Monts en Charlevoix, Baie-St-Paul, QC.” In another image, golden fields and a riverside community define “Marée de richesse, Kamouraska, QC.” Although formally exhibited at Galerie de Bellefeuille’s Sherbrooke St. location, Tremblay’s photographs are also available online or at Greene Ave.

Painting sensation

The term “eye-catching” also describes Chevarie-Lessard’s abstract compositions at the Visual Arts Centre.

Colourful circles, rectangles and splashes are dramatic against a dark blue background in the painting series “Abysses” or are light and lyrical in the drawings “Sentiment océanique.” With views from the chasm or sea, a sense of immersion in nature – and the creative process – is suggested.

In “Abysses #1” a red acrylic splash – tinged with pink – vibrates against dark blue. Suggesting a heart or flame within blue depths, the composition evokes both the spark of romance and creativity as well as death or destruction. In “Abysses #12,” colourful design elements create a simulated universe with a revolving, wispy moon. This work conveys the notion of abyss as the gulf between people or irreconcilable differences.

“Sentiment océanique #5” includes pink splotches, blue-green squiggles, and fluid aqua washes on translucent mylar. In this work, Chevarie-Lessard evokes aquatic life, evolution, and immersion within

Yves Tremblay’s aerial photographs at Galerie de Bellefeuille III and Guylaine Chevarie-Lessard’s abstract paintings at the McClure Gallery immerse viewers in nature. Although using very different media – and perspectives – both exhibitions reveal the artists’ strong sense of design.

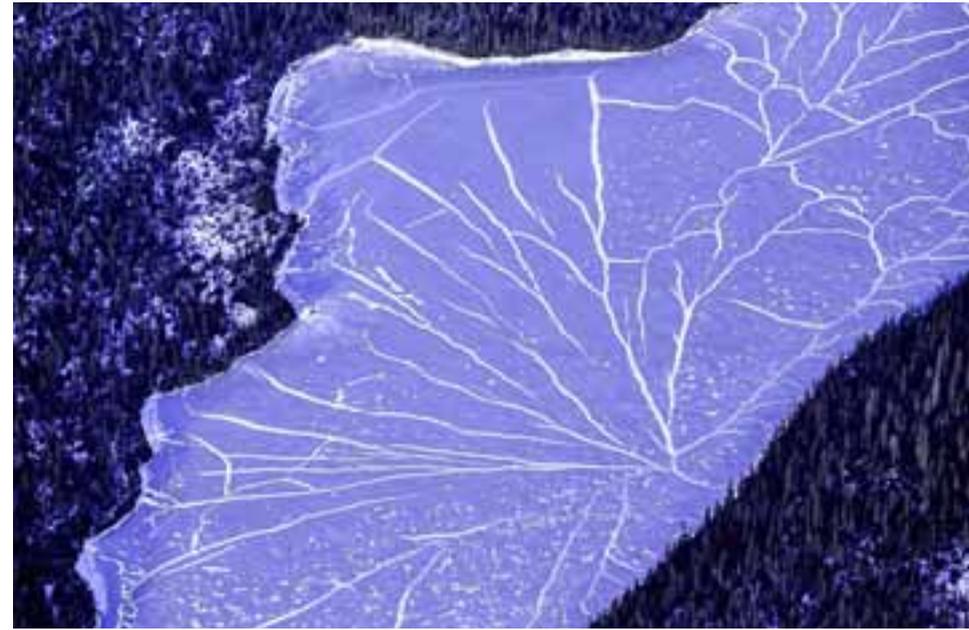
Bird’s-eye view

Tremblay’s *oeuvre* includes images of villages nestled in hills, rugged coastlines and nature’s intricate patterns. Pale ribbons of cracked ice spread out – like the veins of a leaf – against a frozen blue lake in “Veines de glace, La Romaines, QC.” An enchanting forest scene, this aerial view is both fresh and dramatic.

Linear bands of mist against green conifers create the beautiful atmospheric image “Matin de Brume, Rouyn-Noranda, QC.”

Tremblay’s sense of design is also seen in “Carpet tundra, Anticosti, QC.” In this work, warm colours of dried vegetation are dramatic against black terrain. Nature’s artistry is also captured in the pattern of migrating geese in “Multitude, St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, QC.”

White houses and picket fences nestled within red and golden foliage enhance the



“Veines de glace, La Romaines, QC” by Yves Tremblay

water – a metaphor for birth, rebirth and emotive or creative change. The exhibition *Abysse* continues until December 19. The related Virtual Art Hive will be presented online December 19 from 10 am to 12 pm.

Sensory adventure

These artists immerse – and delight –

viewers within unfamiliar vistas or surroundings. Tremblay’s aerial views convey nature’s grandeur and the sensation of looking down and beyond forests, rivers or villages. In contrast Chevarie-Lessard employs abstract elements and colour to create mood – dramatic or contemplative – and recreate the allure of nature.



“Abysses #12” by Guylaine Chevarie-Lessard



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

For your holiday meal, contact us

514-935-7337

info@fornowest.com

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infoWESTMOUNT

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 18 janvier

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, January 18



Bureaux municipaux fermés du 24 décembre au 4 janvier

Les bureaux administratifs de Ville ainsi que la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount seront fermés du 24 décembre au 4 janvier. Nous souhaitons à tous de joyeuses fêtes en santé. westmount.org



Municipal offices closed December 24 to January 4

The City's administrative offices and Westmount Public Library will be closed from December 24th to January 4th. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period. westmount.org

Collecte de denrées alimentaires

Appuyez l'équipe de la Sécurité publique dans sa campagne de paniers pour les familles dans le besoin. Tout don d'argent ou de denrées est fort apprécié. westmount.org

Patinoire réfrigérée au parc Westmount

La glace est maintenant ouverte pour le patinage libre. Les mesures sanitaires préventives sont en vigueur. westmount.org

Horaire des collectes: période des fêtes

Les collectes d'ordures du vendredi 25 décembre et 1er janvier seront reportées au samedi **26 décembre** et **2 janvier**. Les autres collectes ont lieu selon l'horaire habituel.

Bibliothèque fermée du 24 décembre au 4 janvier inclusivement

Restez bien au chaud pendant les fêtes! Réservez vos documents au plus tard le 20 décembre et ramassez-les avant le 24 décembre. Les chutes à livres seront également fermées et il n'y aura pas de frais de retard durant cette période. westlib.org

Illuminons Westmount

Envoyez-nous les photos de vos décorations des fêtes pour qu'elles soient partagées sur les réseaux sociaux de la Ville. Vous pourriez gagner un prix! westmount.org

Food Drive

Support the Public Safety team's holiday food basket campaign for families in need. All contributions of cash or food are very appreciated. westmount.org

Refrigerated Rink in Westmount Park

The ice rink is now open for general skating. Preventive sanitary measures are in effect. westmount.org

Holiday collection schedule

The garbage collection on Friday, December 25 and January 1st will be moved to Saturday, **December 26** and **January 2nd**. All other collections will follow the usual schedule.

Library closed from December 24 to January 4 inclusively

Get ready to get cozy! Reserve your items no later than December 20 and pick them up before December 24. The book return boxes will also be closed and no fines will be applied during that period. westlib.org

Light Up Westmount

Send us your holiday decoration photos to share on the City's social media. You could win a prize! westmount.org



Système d'alerte à la communauté : inscrivez-vous

Pannes d'électricité, fuites de gaz, avis d'ébullition d'eau : ne manquez pas les avertissements d'urgence de la Ville. Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant pour recevoir les alertes CodeRED de Westmount par téléphone, par courriel ou par texto. westmount.org

Community Alert System: sign up now

Power outages, gas leaks, boil water advisories: don't miss important emergency notifications from the City. Sign up now to receive CodeRED alerts from Westmount by phone, email or text. westmount.org

HORAIRE DES FÊTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	MAR / TUE 22	MER / WED 23	JEU / THU 24	VEN / FRI 25	SAM / SAT 26	DIM / SUN 27	LUN / MON 28	MAR / TUE 29	MER / WED 30	JEU / THU 31	VEN / FRI 1	SAM / SAT 2	DIM / SUN 3	LUN / MON 4	MAR / TUE 5	MER / WED 6
BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	tous les bureaux sont fermés du 24 décembre au 4 janvier										all offices closed from December 24 to January 4		8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30
BIBLIOTHÈQUE - LIBRARY	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	Bibliothèque et chutes à livres fermées du 24 décembre au 4 janvier										Library and book return boxes closed from December 24 to January 4		10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h
VICTORIA HALL	édifice fermé au public pour une période indéterminée										building closed to the public for an undetermined period					
CENTRE DES LOISIRS (PATINOIRES) RECREATION CENTRE (RINKS)	8 h 30 - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h	fermé closed	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	12 h - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h	fermé closed	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	12 h - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h	8 h 30 - 22 h
CONSERVATOIRE - CONSERVATORY	fermé pour une période indéterminée en raison de travaux majeurs de restauration										closed for an undetermined period due to major restoration work					
POLICE / POLI / STATION 12	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h		



SERVICES DE COLLECTE
COLLECTION SERVICES



Visit from above



"We had a nice visit in our backyard Nov 18. ... I don't know though what he is feasting on!" said resident Alexandre Vidal-Naquet.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. VIDAL-NAQUET

Leith, Jacobs awarded Order of Canada

Westmounters Linda Leith and Peter Jacobs were awarded the Order of Canada last month, according to an announcement on the governor general's website dated November 27.

Leith, the founder of the Blue Metropolis literary festival, was recognized as an officer (the second highest grade) for "connecting the country's anglophone and francophone communities, and for fostering creativity and intercultural understanding through a literary festival."

Jacobs was made a member (the third highest grade) for "his contributions to Canadian landscape architecture and for his commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable development." Jacobs was also recently awarded the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture (see October 27, p. RE-18).

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 2021

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Advent and Christmas 2020 online

Watch at youtube.com/standrewstpaul

Advent Chapel Services

Thurs., Nov. 26, Dec. 1, 10 & 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Thurs., Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Church School Christmas Pageant rebroadcast

Sun., Dec. 6 at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thurs., Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

Sun., Dec. 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Fri., Dec. 25 at 10:00 a.m.

All services are archived on YouTube.



The Church
 of St Andrew
 and St Paul

standrewstpaul.com



S.P. Diamant

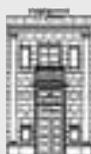
J E W E L L E R S



Happy Holidays

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Tux and his catnip mouse



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Tux is not letting that catnip mouse go. It's his bubble-gum-pink, white-and-aqua-blue buddy to cuddle and snuggle. How they love these handknitted toys to kick and toss around!

Young, one-year-old Tux is in boarding at the Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB at the moment, where he received all his veterinary care since arrival as a Westmount-area foundling, having been cared for every day and having received his inoculations, treatments and neutering.

He is a unique little fellow, sleek black with white paint strokes on his face and



booties. You can find out more about him by emailing the veterinary hospital at hvgaoptions@gmail.com or dropping by to visit at 3400 St. Antoine St. West, at the foot of Greene Ave. Its telephone number to obtain more information and make arrangements is 514.935.1888.

During this holiday season, we all want to make sure that Tux is not the only kitty to have his precious catnip mouse.

Others are available for purchase to benefit Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions in its tireless work to save and re-home cats and dogs in need. You can find out more about its wonderful mission at their website www.gerdysrescue.org. Such an abundance and variety of adorable handknit catnip creations exist. There are styles for Hanukkah, Christmas, the Canadiens, and also multiple colours, contrasting and striping galore. If you have your own designs, your unique mice can be custom-made by emailing auerpets@gmail.com.

Here are the locations in our area where you can buy the catnip mice: Little Bear (4152 St. Catherine St.), Dog Haus (5671 Sherbrooke St.), Pampered Pets (4937B Sherbrooke St.), Ben & Tournesol (4915 Sherbrooke St.) and Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB (3400 St. Antoine St.). Enjoy!

Your neighbour, Lysanne



la cookery

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Westmount Baptist, Bethel Gospel respond

Two Westmount churches say their real estate is not for sale

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With St. Stephen's Anglican Church on Dorchester Blvd. now just a memory as an operating establishment after the congregation left four years ago, and members of Mountainside United Church on Roslyn Ave. scheduled to vacate their building in 2021, speculation may be rising about the future of other places of worship in Westmount.

As reported in some previous coverage by the *Independent* on the fate of the two

churches, the St. Stephen's site at the corner of Atwater Ave., which served as the site of Open Door drop-in centre for the homeless until two years ago, was purchased by Stanford Properties Group in 2018 to be redeveloped into a residential project.

Since then, the company has said little about the site's future, despite being asked to comment on several occasions by the *Independent*. The Mountainside United building was purchased in the fall of 2018 by property developer xx, headed by Daniel

Revah.

His plans to redevelop the church into a residential project are currently on hold pending approval by the city of Westmount. In the meantime, he confirmed early last month that his company has been in discussions to lease the church out to a Muslim congregation.

The *Independent* reached out to the leadership at several churches in Westmount to ask whether they had been approached recently by buyers, or would consider selling and relocating. Two had responded by the end of last week as we were reaching deadline.

"To my knowledge since my time here, we haven't been approached by any real estate developers or anyone like that making an offer or anything like that," said Pastor Joel Kwadwo Okyere, the senior pastor at Westmount Baptist Church on Sherbrooke St. at Roslyn. He said he has been stationed at the church for around a year now.

While acknowledging that Westmount Baptist is facing challenges similar to those at many other places of worship, he said the congregation is committed to remaining at its current location for the foreseeable future.

The leadership at Bethel Gospel Chapel on de Maisonneuve Blvd. at the corner of Olivier Ave. also responded to us.

"We were never approached by real estate developers to sell," a spokesperson for the church, who did not identify himself, replied in a message sent through Facebook. "But a few years ago, we were looking to sell in order to purchase another building.

"We were looking for another church building in the Montreal area to purchase that also included an attached seniors' residence. However, when we inquired about how much we could get for our current property, we were told a number that wouldn't allow us to move into the type of



Bethel Gospel Chapel on December 3.

facility that we were looking for. (The leadership wouldn't tell me the number.) So, we dropped the idea."

Speaking independently, the spokesperson added: "I find it strange that a large Westmount property on a corner, five minutes walk from a Metro station, a block west of Westmount Square and Greene Ave., a block north of St. Catherine St., walking distance east from Westmount Park, a block east from an elementary school, a block north from a high school, and along the de Maisonneuve bikeway, is not worth enough money for us to be able to purchase a property away from the Westmount-downtown core. I find that very strange, very peculiar. I suspect people are undervaluing the property for some reason, and I will leave it at that..."



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Police Report

Crime suspects seen by security cams in recent incidents

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 are attempting to identify a suspect who was seen in a video taken by a security camera as he was breaking into a black Mercedes that was parked on Greene Ave. near the corner of Sherbrooke St.

According to an incident report, the car's owner parked on November 25 around 3 pm, and upon returning on November 26 around noon, he found that several boxed items that he had left inside his car were missing.

As there were no signs of damage to the car to suggest a forced entry, the vehicle may have been left unlocked accidentally.

After checking whether nearby store owners had security cameras pointed towards the crime scene, the investigators found a video showing the car owner parking and leaving, following which another vehicle pulls up, a suspect gets out, and he is seen entering the Mercedes and removing items.

"There is an active investigation on

this," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, while adding that security cameras as a tool for crime solving and law enforcement proved their usefulness once again.

Snatched purse

Another recent incident, this time involving a purse snatched at an office on Greene Ave., illustrates once more the value of video cam technology.

On November 24 around noon, a female office worker noticed that her purse was missing.

Examining footage captured by the office's security system, she saw an unidentified individual at one point in the recording entering the office.

It is believed the theft took place sometime between 9 am and noon. The office worker subsequently filed a complaint with the police at Station 12 and an investigation is under way.

Items taken from car

On November 19 around 5:20 am, a car parked in a garage at a building on Sher-

brooke St. near Melville Ave. was robbed of valuables.

Video cameras installed at the building's front door recorded two suspects entering. Before proceeding into the garage, they cut the power to another video camera.

In the garage, according to the police report, they opened a vehicle. Although the vehicle wasn't damaged, the suspects stole items found within, then left by the garage door.

Smash-and-grab on Greene

Although burglars managed to break into the front display window at a retailer on Greene Ave. and steal merchandise during the early morning hours of November 19, a protective steel grill separating the display space from the store's interior prevented them from going further.

According to a report on the incident filed by officers from Station 12 with the Montreal police department, an alarm was triggered at the store at 1:33 am.

"The police officers got there a few minutes later," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "They

noticed that the front window of the business was completely shattered and they could hear the alarm inside."

While it was clear that the grill had succeeded in keeping the intruders out of the store, the owner, who was summoned, told the police that certain items that had been in the display area were missing.

According to Pimentel, the perpetrators stole two portable merchandise carry-cases from the display. Although the investigators have little to go on since the store had no security cameras, he said that they are hoping cameras at other nearby stores may provide enough peripheral evidence to identify the burglars.

Pimentel described it as a classic "smash and grab" operation. "They smash, they grab, there's a minute's delay, and by the time the alarm company has called the police, they're gone," he said.

On a brighter note, Pimentel said steel grills like the one used at this store make it a lot harder for burglars to successfully pull off heists, since they are slowed down and are at greater risk of being caught should they linger too long.

November sales: Real high prices



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

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 November 2020. 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.

By far the highest price this year for a single-family dwelling was agreed to in early November, as one of the city's most prestigious bungalows sold for \$11,700,000, in a month that featured 10 sales agreements, all but three of them over \$2 million.

The price appears to be foreshadowing a release for some of Westmount's highest-priced properties, with other November sales reaching \$4.2 million and \$3.65 million, while in October only one of 12 sales was over \$3 million. The top price this month leaves it in second place in Westmount's real estate history; 12-14 Sunnyside Ave., including the coach house, sold for

\$13,500,000 in March 2017.

Even the lowest price in November came as something of a surprise, as a row-house on Blenheim Place cleared \$1.4 million. Two houses sold for less than their 2020 municipal evaluation – one almost 10 percent lower – and the highest mark-up over valuation was 45 percent, with six of the 10 sales scoring more than 20-percent mark-ups.

Because of the high-priced sales, the average price in November was \$3,415,050, the first time in Westmount's history that a monthly average has cleared \$3 million. Perhaps more indicative is the median price, \$2,340,000, which is way up from a median for October of \$1,850,000; in fact, the average mark-up over valuation actually went down between October and November, from 30.7 percent to 19.2 percent. After adjustments, the two months come out fairly even in their indication of the value of a "typical" Westmount house.

Condos

One very late October sale of a converted duplex-type condominium was the only addition to the list of condo sales, which have slowed down significantly, likely due to the COVID-19 scare. So far in the fourth quarter, we have counted only four condo sales in Westmount, though there were 15

in the third quarter of the year, so the market is not completely dead.

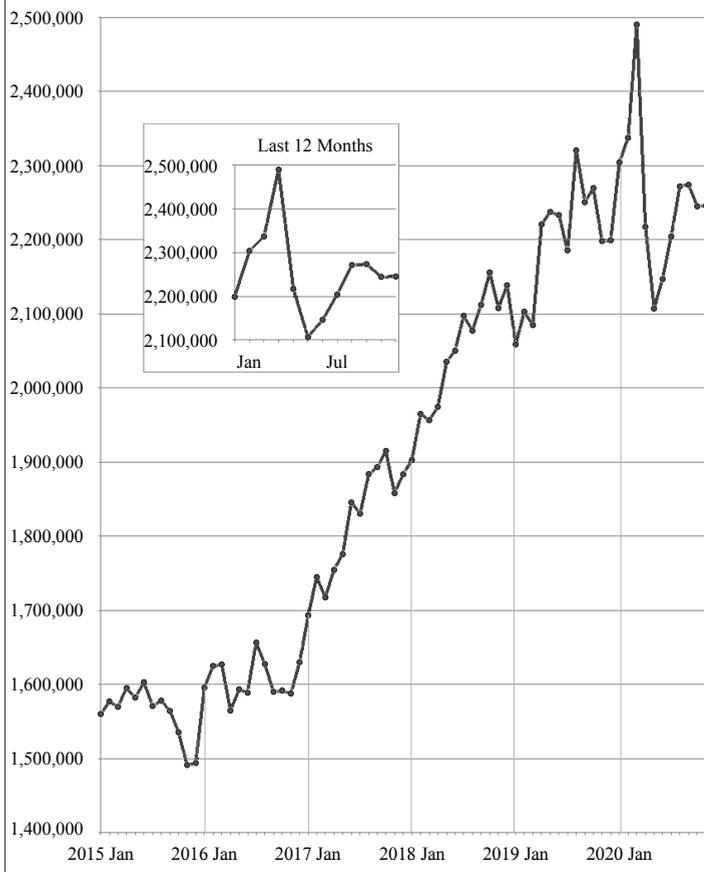
Perhaps most important in the condo field, the new apartments at 1111 Atwater Ave., including Westmount's piece of what used to be the Montreal Children's Hospital, came online in November and very quickly three penthouses were sold up for prices ranging from about \$1,250,000 to \$4 million.

Also sold was a triplex on de Maisonneuve Blvd. for almost double its valuation, and a commercial condo at 4055 St. Catherine St., which sold for 2.6 times its tax value.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all my readers a happy

– and above all safe – holiday season and all best wishes that we can defeat the pan-

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2015 to November 2020, based on accepted offer dates



demic in 2021 and begin to enjoy each other in person again!

STM: Tunnel linking Vendôme to MUHC will open in the spring

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After twice postponing the completion of a new pedestrian tunnel to create a link between the Vendôme Metro station on de Maisonneuve Blvd. in NDG and the McGill University Health Centre's Glen campus, the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) says the project is finally on track to being finished by early next year.

After work started in October 2017, the STM expected to have completed the tunnel under the Exo commuter railway line by the autumn of 2018.

But, for technical reasons that arose while excavating and building the tunnel, the work was delayed until the spring of 2019, after which completion was again postponed until the fall of 2020.

Now, according to updated information on the STM's website concerning Projet Vendôme, a new deadline has been set for the spring of 2021.

As part of the project, a new entrance pavilion is being created for

the Vendôme Metro station, since the current one, according to the STM, isn't easily accessible by persons with physical disabilities or limitations.

The new entranceway, as well as the train platforms, the pedestrian tunnel and surface infrastructures, are going to be equipped with elevators, and will be universally accessible thanks to the use of wing gates and wider motorized butterfly doors.

In total, says the STM, five elevators are being installed to make it easier for transit users to get around the Vendôme Metro station, which is also an intermodal transit hub.

However, there won't be any escalators in the new entrance pavilion, as it is nestled in a corner of the Metro site where existing infrastructure – such as nearby buildings, the Metro rail tunnel, the bus loop and the Exo train tracks – left insufficient room for escalators, which require additional space for mechanical equipment.



Seen here on December 3 is the site of a new entranceway to the Vendôme Metro on de Maisonneuve Blvd., which will link the station through a tunnel to the Glen hospital.

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Tobogganing last year



Toboggan, cont'd. from p. 1

and recreation.

Gallery was responding last week to why the council had tabled revisions to the city's parks by-law November 16 that introduced "rules of conduct" for tobogganing on the hill and limiting hours of the hill's use to between 8 am and 10 pm.

"It's all part of a new toboggan run," she explained, though the draft by-law was presented at the council meeting without mention of the run. The change in times is to be consistent with those for the refrigerated rink in Westmount Park, she said.

As well, enshrining the "rules of conduct" safety measures will enable public safety officers to enforce them by issuing the fines listed in the parks by-law, ranging from "at least" \$50 to \$1,000 for a first offence and \$100 to \$2,000 for subsequent ones.

The by-law changes, which are expected to be adopted December 7 (after press time), went without comment when tabled.

"It all comes together," she explained. "We will be creating a more formal run, adding protective barriers at the bottom, and defining the times and penalties."

Enforceable rules

Among the rules are: don't go head first or hold onto another sled or its occupants; don't take a pet or alcohol to the hill with

you; don't build jumps, moguls and ramps; and don't ski or snowboard on the park's hills. Children under 10 are required to be accompanied by an adult and use only the designated area.

Recommendations include wearing a protective helmet, tobogganing in the presence of another person and tucking in scarves, strings and loose ends.

While the rules state that the hill is "unsupervised," public safety officers will monitor it during regular patrols, Gallery said.

Looking back

Over the years, a number of accidents have been reported as toboggans hit icy bales of hay at the bottom to stop them going onto Côte St. Antoine, recalls Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissioner's jurisdiction includes parks.

Gallery, who grew up a block away from the hill also remembers how people used to be able to "use the hill right from the top, the steep part." This was some 20 years ago. The council endorsed re-locating the run to a lesser incline in 2000, according to the city's annual report.

In fact, many residents still recall trying out their new skis and skills on the hill or taking lessons there from Olympic skier Rhoda Wurtele Eaves, who grew up in Westmount with her twin sister Rhona, both pioneering the way for a Canadian women's ski team.

The Schumachers – David, Katharina, Jakob and Hannah – were out tobogganing November 17, 2019 – a colder start to winter than this year's.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

Rink requires 'a lot of maintenance'

New toboggan run to offer tracks geared to ability and age

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The four tracks to be made for the city's new toboggan run will provide options for different levels or competencies of users including a slow one, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

The technique to be used by the contracted firm at a cost of "just under \$23,000" is the same as what is used for ski hills and is expected to require a one-time spraying over 48 hours from the snow-making machines and guns. "It's artificial and more durable."

If, in the event of unusually warm weather or a lack of grooming, the run requires more snow, the contract could be renewed, he explained. A large hill of snow will be built up at the bottom of the run to slow down the sleighs and provide a safety barrier.

Refrigerated rink

The city's new refrigerated rink in Westmount Park is proving to require "a lot of maintenance" by the city's Public Works crews, Hurtubise said. While they were trained by the contractor's personnel, the rink is subject to additional upkeep and watering, up to two days after rain and a build-up of slush.

"Its advantage is that on a day like today [December 1], it was well used." The mercury was reported to have hit 10 Celsius with no rain.

While the rink is limited to a maximum of 20 skaters at a time, so far reservations are not being required. Students hired by the Sports and Recreation department are acting as monitors, according to department director Dave Lapointe.



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Schacter's 'Camp K9' pack



**What is a typical day at 'Camp K9'?
Is that the correct name?**

Actually, Camp K9 has no official name but I am proud that dog owners have started calling it that. My slice of paradise – and that of the dogs – is a short drive out-side of Montreal. There, we enjoy six acres

of forest and trails – even a stream – all within the safety of a dog fence installed along the perimeter of the property. We have lake access and complete privacy. Here dogs can simply be dogs: there are no cages, no leashes and no collars.

They can swim, play, and discover as

much or as little as they want. Some prefer to sit on the couch by the fire; others spend all day running around and swimming. Often, I introduce young puppies to water for the first time. We practise “recall” and “stay” commands. It sounds curious, but the dogs love the discipline.

Dog owners may see it as a “camp,” but I think the dogs might see this more as a wellness retreat.

Do you go up every day?

I go up as often as possible which is usually Thursday to Monday. My place can comfortably host 10 dogs, but I usually have a maximum of four in order to offer high-quality service. No day is the same; weather is always changing. But I ensure that every day we embark on some type of adventure. This is why we always go once a day to discover a new trail. It helps meet the dogs' physical and mental requirements. It encourages bonding within the pack, promotes a “following” state of mind and raises my value as a leader. There are many trails and hikes ... that allow for dogs to be off leash. They love it!

How do you stop them from fighting?

Fighting amongst the pack is extremely rare. Each dog is evaluated at home prior to my accepting them. However, if training is required then they must successfully finish training before they can be introduced into my *continued on p. 33*

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



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Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Schwarz succeeds, expands



Dr. Karl Schwarz, right, has just opened Clinique K, moving into a larger space. For five years, his private clinic was on Dorchester Blvd. Staying in Westmount, he expanded into a spacious light-filled floor with magnificent views. (The building itself – 1100 Atwater – has recently been completely renovated. See August 18, p. 1.)

“I love this area. It took us eight months longer for our move, due to COVID. But since COVID, we have 30 to 40 percent more patients, as do many of my colleagues,” he explained. “As travelling is restricted, it seems that people are spending more time on themselves.”

The local res trained at renowned Georgetown University, winning first prize in surgery. After acting as assistant professor at the McGill University Hospital Centre, teaching and performing reconstructive procedures to treat accident victims and those with birth deformities, he opened his own clinic, allowing him to train future plastic surgeons to perform the latest cutting-edge techniques.

His new state-of-the-art clinic has a team of specialists including a head nurse, Tanya Sarrazin, and Dr. Nikole Jecen, anesthesiologist. His clinical treatment hall has eight rooms where non-plastic surgery

procedures are done. There are two operating rooms and a recovery room, where patients could stay the night if they wished.

“However, that is rare. Most go home right away, and they can contact us as they

have the cell phone of the head nurse.”

There is a paradigm shift concerning cosmetic procedures. Although it has been said that the baby boomer generation drove interest – and developments – in this field, in general, this group was (and still is) discreet about any “work done.”

However, “today, not only is there an acceptance among young people, but it’s almost a celebration, with patients posting results on social media. This new generation is not only choosing to adjust what they don’t like about themselves. They talk openly about it, exchanging thoughts with their peers.”

For those who still relish privacy, Clinique K has a separate exit as well as direct access to the underground garage.

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which is an anatomic form cuddled by boiled wool, the famous source of warmth worn throughout Europe.

Although we have enjoyed unseasonably warm days to date this winter, we all know what is coming.

“Our North Face winter boots are already selling,” as are the classic Aigle boots, made of rubber, which not only looks and feels like leather, but doesn’t crack.

And of course, being from France, the line is *über*-graceful. (My rubber Aigle riding boots lasted for many, many years – but I digress.)

Glenn showed me Naturino’s children’s line, which is so good it is actually recommended by European podiatrists. Not only do the styles follow adult trends, the colours are child pleasing. And the shoe is deep enough to hold an orthotic if needed.

Other brands are Gabor: “comfort with a fashionable edge,” and Flower Mountain, “a hiking shoe with style.” The shop also carries Voile Blanche, a “great city walking shoe,” exclusively in Canada. Another best seller? SockWell compression socks. Made with alpaca-merino wool and bamboo rayon, they are available in moderate and firm, and help increase leg circulation. Perfect for long plane trips. Soon!

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Call of the north at MMFA



From left, Stéphane Aquin and Mary-Dailey Desmarais in front of "L'étang – Hommage à Grey Owl" by Riopelle.

At a virtual press conference held on November 25, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' (MMFA) Stéphane Aquin, director general, and local res Mary-Dailey Desmarais, director of its curatorial division, announced the museum's newest exhibition, *Riopelle: The Call of Northern Landscapes and Indigenous Cultures*.

It traces the travels and influences that

inspired the artist's interest in northern cultures. Guest curators are Andréanne Roy and Yseult Riopelle, Jean-Paul Riopelle's daughter, and the MMFA's Jacques Des Rochers, curator of Quebec and Canadian Art before 1945.

A virtual edition of the show can be viewed free until January 11: www.mbam.qc.ca/en/museums-gift-of-the-holidays/.

Camp K9, cont'd. from p. 29

pack. Although many dogs can learn a great deal from the pack and through social observation, I never use my pack as a platform for training other dogs. By doing this, I know all dogs I work with follow my lead and therefore eliminate fighting altogether. Of course, dogs disagree and communicate their dissatisfaction all the time. They may rumble or growl as one comes to try to steal their prized branch, but it never escalates past that. These dogs see each other often and have created a special bond over the years. Many even cuddle during their naps.

Could you please tell me about your training?

I am certified as a behaviour analyst from Companion Animal Sciences Institute, and in emergency first aid from St. John Ambulance. I also underwent private one-on-one training with Ceser Millan, the

"dog whisperer" himself. Thanks to all this I am also able to offer in-home private training for clients who want to learn how to be a better leader for their dog, advise them in raising a puppy or how to address and change problematic behaviour.

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BUILDING PERMITS 🏠 *What's permitted***City council approves 13 building permits, refuses 1 at Nov. 16 session**

The following 13 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the November 16 meeting of the city council. There was one refusal.

Approved

258 Metcalfe: to reconstruct the wooden deck and canopy on the rear facade;

14 Arlington: to build a raised terrace erected on wood;

375 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to add an addition to the rear facade, replace windows, replace the slate roof and re-point the brick facades replacing a previous permit approved at the council meeting of November 2;

4769 Sherbrooke: at a Category I house, to build an addition in order to enclose an exterior alcove between the garage and main building and do the adjacent landscaping work, including repaving the driveway – all provided the material of the garage windows matches that of the windows of the main house and that the facing of the low retaining wall by the driveway that is to be rebuilt is in natural stone;

3778 The Boulevard: to replace two doors provided the door on the balcony facing the street is made of wood (interior and exterior) without any cladding, and that the proposed doors are as per original doors, with divisions;

25 Holton: to do landscaping work in the front, side and rear yards, including re-configuring the front entry stairs and to build a rooftop deck on the garage at the rear provided the proposed stones in the front yard are reduced in height to not exceed 12 inches, that they are laid out in a more scattered pattern and that they are fully covered by vegetation;

8 de Casson: to replace windows provided they have a lighter tone in order to match the existing windows on the adjacent building, which is part of the architec-

tural ensemble;

368 Victoria: to install a new projecting sign for Foot Solutions provided the lighting is directed only onto the sign;

533 Victoria: to replace a door;

420 Mount Stephen lane: to create a new window opening on the rear façade and to block an existing one opening on the lateral façade provided the proposed window on the rear façade is composed of two distinct double-hung windows;

60 Summit Cresc.: to build a pool in the rear yard and landscape;

1 Rosemount: at a Category I apartment building, to accomplish Phase 1 of the code compliance work which involves mainly the replacement of the fire alarm system, the elevator cabin and engine, the introduction of two mechanical units on the roof, the addition of an exterior access stair to the roof elevator mechanical room, the introduction of a lateral exit door from the basement and the replacement of the closures opening onto the western portion of the common corridors provided the following information is submitted and approved: a master plan for the entire required code compliance works a mechanical distribution plan for the roof documentation for the screening of the mechanical units

771 Upper Belmont: to replace windows on the front façade provided the proposed windows are double hung with divisions as per the original windows and that the divisions must be SDL, including spacer bars between the muntins within the thermal glass.

Refused

3186 The Boulevard: to install a stone cladding on the foundation walls of the residence and garage for which the work was begun without a permit and for which the project was seen and judged unacceptable twice.

Feldman chairs 'Aging Well' in time of COVID

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

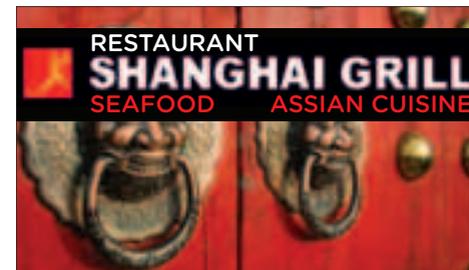
Westmounter Laya Feldman is chair of the upcoming Cummings Centre conference called "Aging Well: Adapting to the New Reality."

Feldman is working with local res committee members Asher Alcabetz, Gloria Steinberg, Roz Wiener, Therese Attias, Patricia McKinley and Gundie Robertson.

The centre's first-ever bilingual national conference, the virtual one-day program will be held on January 21, 2021.

The aim of the conference is to identify opportunities and generate concrete plans to address challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented to seniors.

Sessions will be held predominantly in English with simultaneous French translation. Registration: \$25 at cummingcentre.org/conference, or 514.343.3510.



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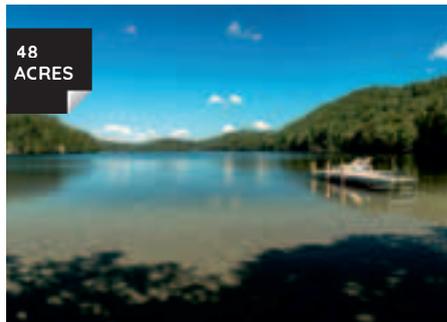
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MYST | LE SUD-OUEST \$3,195,000
Penthouse facing canal w/ 2 large terraces



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21 DEER HAVEN \$2,950,000
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48 ACRES

ROUTE DES ÉRABLES \$2,750,000
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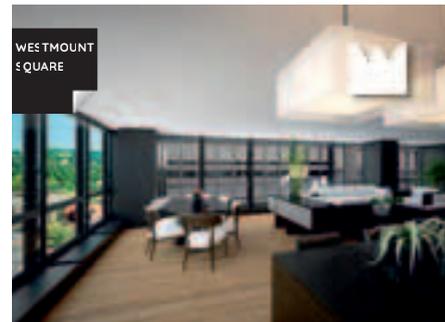
NEW

WESTMOUNT | BELMONT AVE \$2,335,000
4+1 Semi w/ garden overlooking Murray Park



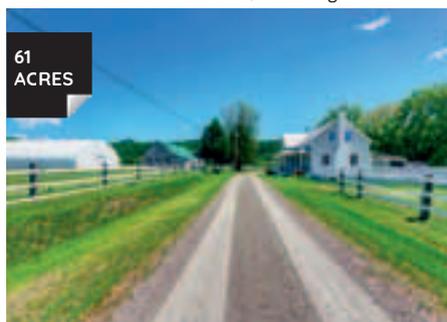
PRIME LOCATION

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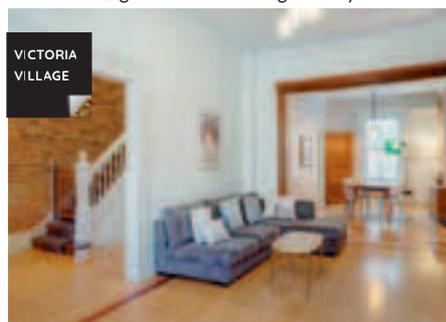
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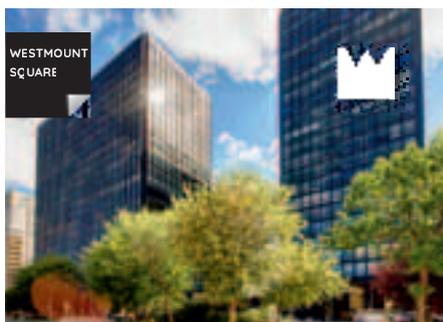
61 ACRES

LA CONCEPTION \$1,395,000
Magnificent estate along the Rouge River w/ beach



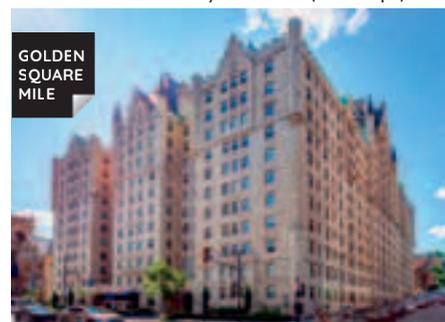
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WESTMOUNT \$1,390,000
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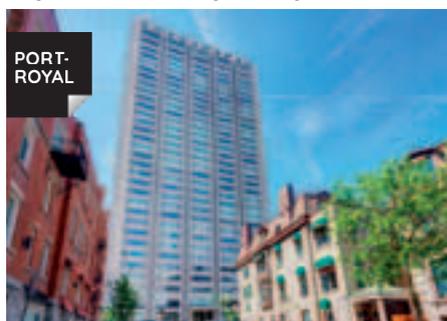
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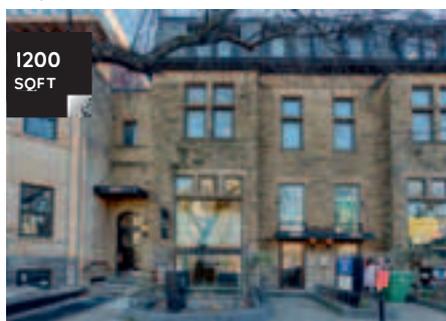
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