

COVID-19 decree used to bypass possible referendum

Council deems St. Léon extension a 'priority action'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Voting April 6 to designate École St. Léon's extension project a "priority," city council bypassed the referendum register process as enabled under the Quebec government's COVID-19 decree and replaced it with written comments. This means the procedure is not subject to approval by

City makes more space, one-way rule for walkers, p. 3

CITY COUNCIL:

- Meets remotely, p. 7
- Passes tax delay, p. 5
- Gives \$ to non-profits, p. 5

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qualified voters.

While the extraordinary move required a vote of two thirds, councillors voted unanimously to adopt the "priority action." The decree 2020-008 relates to the provincial ban on gatherings to mitigate the spread of the epidemic.

"The provincial government has given us some latitude, which we will adopt for this project," said Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for architecture and permits.

According to the council resolution, the project represents "an important investment for the community and a postponement of the (regular) procedures would cause considerable prejudice to the realization of this project." Its timing must "align with *continued on p. 13*

Spring training



Marc Felgar, left, throws a baseball with son Charlie on York St. April 7.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Physically closed – busy online, on phone

Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom adapts to COVID-19

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom began reaching out to its members in some 800 households March 16 by presenting many of its programs and services online via the video-conferencing platform Zoom now that the synagogue is closed in accordance with the coronavirus pandemic.

Among them are shabbat services, the Temple book club, the program "Wine at Nine" Monday nights and the "Lunch To-

gether" program Tuesdays at noon as well as weekly presentations of Torah connections on Wednesday evenings.

The synagogue is located on Sherbrooke St. between Wood and Elm.

"We're adapting by using the new technology in order to keep in touch with our community," Barbara Peisajovich, director of marketing and communications, said last week. "Since then, we've been working hard to create classes and programs for our members so we can be closer even when

we stay at home."

Mayor Christina Smith was to be featured April 14 on the "Lunch Together" conversation program. This had been previously scheduled but now was being presented remotely, and by registration only to limit its participation to members of the congregation.

It is promoted as "take an hour out of your week to see some friendly faces and engage with material which is both timely and *continued on p. 3*

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Thank you for taking care of our health.

Thank you for supporting us.

Thank you for reassuring us.

Thank you for being so devoted.

Thank you for being there for us.

Thank you for being
our guardian angels.

More asphalt transferred to pedestrians

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Following on the heels of several streets opened up recently to focus on pedestrian safe distancing while limiting vehicle traffic, Westmount added more traffic restraints last week aimed at encouraging physical distancing.

This means providing more space on narrow sidewalks for pedestrians to walk two meters apart using the roadway.

Effective April 9, increased pedestrian space will be created on Westmount Ave. between Lansdowne and Claremont avenues as well as on Lansdowne between Westmount Ave. and St. Catherine St.

The city is also asking all residents and visitors walking or running on pedestrian

walkways to move in the same direction, depending on which side of the street they use. This measure will prevent people from crossing each other on the same sidewalk and will promote the recommended minimum distance between people.

“Some of our streets and sidewalks are too narrow, or are configured in such a way that it can sometimes be difficult for pedestrians to strictly adhere to the two-metre distance when crossing paths on the same sidewalk,” Mayor Christina Smith is quoted as saying in a press release.

“We must try everything possible that will limit the risk of contagion. Let’s all move in the same direction to save lives.”

These measures are described as temporary.

Temple, cont'd. from p. 1

timeless. Join us on Zoom and have inspiring conversations on various topics.”

Next week, the program will present author and commentator Tommy Schnurmacher discussing “Make-up Tips from Auschwitz: How Vanity Saved My Mother’s Life.”

As part of a regular Community En-

gagement program, “volunteers are calling senior members once a week to check in on their needs, Peisajovich said. “We have over 500 names but some may be a couple.”

With the start of Passover last week April 8, “we delivered 65 seder plates and had 136 families registered for the online seder,” she said.

Hallowe'en on Kensington



Several residences on Kensington Ave. have dusted off their Hallowe'en decorations to chase away the COVID-19 blues. These witchy residents of the street were not social distancing and were defiantly forming an illegal gathering on April 8.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU TO PUBLIC WORKERS, PUBLIC SECURITY

Seeing the public workers over the last few weeks trying to secure our parks, still cleaning our streets and emptying the garbage cans is really appreciated.

It is in these difficult times that teamwork becomes even more productive and important! Thank you to all of those employees.

Last but not least, a huge thanks to our Public Security team that has been securing our city while keeping their eyes on our more at-risk citizens who need, more than ever, our support.

We will get through this together and be stronger as a community when this crisis is behind us.

Stay safe everyone.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS EMMANUEL,
WINDSOR AVE.



SHARING RAINBOWS

I wanted to share some of the rainbows that I've spotted around Westmount.

Keep well.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE.



IT'S OKAY TO WALK IN THE STREET (SOMETIMES)

While waiting in line at the Victoria Ave. Metro grocery store on April 8, I noticed that many people did not seem to understand that the city has taken pains to increase the width of the walking area by using cones to mark off an area of the asphalt in many places, including around where the Metro line forms (i.e. between the Victoria entrance and Sherbrooke).

Rather than go onto the street/new "sidewalk," many people chose instead to walk *through* the line of people waiting two meters apart, therefore undoing the very effect of the distancing in the line.

I would encourage all pedestrians to look for such areas and to pay attention to their environment. For us to get through this, it takes all of us doing our best to stay away from one another.

CATHERINE MCKENZIE,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Nota bene: This letter writer is the current editor's wife.

LOOK FOR MEANING, NOT HAPPINESS

As a follow-up to the April 7 letter (p. 4) from Rev. Neil Whitehouse that tells the story of the remarkable staying power of the ginkgo biloba trees of Hiroshima that continued to sprout leaves despite the carnage caused by the atom bomb, I would like to summarize two articles that focus on our own resilience during today's

pandemic.

Rev. Whitehouse echoes this fact when he says, "The power of life is real, beside us, beyond us, within us."

David Kessler, a grief expert and colleague of the late Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, author of the book, *On Death and Dying* (1969), was granted permission by her estate to add a sixth stage to her original five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Kessler calls his sixth stage "meaning," which he defines in a recent article in the *Harvard Business Review* that examines the grief felt by many in today's pandemic. Kessler says that "Even now, people are realizing they can connect through technology. They are not as remote as they thought. They are realizing they can use their phones for long conversations. They're appreciating walks. I believe we will continue to find meaning now and when this is over."

Kessler's words in turn are borne out by Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl's definition of "tragic optimism," which was recently discussed in a *New York Times* essay of April 7, "On Coronavirus Lockdown? Look for Meaning, Not Happiness."

Frankl is quoted as saying that "Tragic optimism is the ability to maintain hope and find meaning in life despite its inescapable pain, loss and suffering."

In short, we are encouraged by both Kessler and Frankl, and Rev. Whitehouse, to show resilience, to encourage ourselves to practise the positive emotions of love and gratitude, and turn life's negative aspects into something positive.

RICHARD ORLANDO, SHERBROOKE ST.

SIMPLIFYING FOOT TRAFFIC

We do appreciate all the good counsel, recommendations, help and work the city is providing us in these anxious times. However, the city's recent suggestions re walking are rather confusing:

"On two-way streets, pedestrians using the sidewalk are encouraged to follow the direction of traffic. For example, if you are walking eastward, use the sidewalk next to the eastbound traffic. On one-way streets, southbound pedestrians should use the west sidewalk. Pedestrians walking north should use the east sidewalk."

What happens on one-way streets going east or west and those few streets that meander or go on the diagonal?

A simple suggestion. When walking, ask everyone to always keep to their right regardless of street or direction. That is what works well for car drivers.

CARLA LAUFER & ALFRED EDEL,
VICTORIA AVE.

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Council grants to Contactivity, Atwater Library

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two non-profits in Westmount were awarded grants April 6 by city council, in what was described as the first portion for this year of those given to local organizations that provide important services to the community not offered by the city itself.

The first ones for 2020 went to the Con-

tactivity seniors' centre for \$65,000 to help it through its COVID-19 assistance. The second allocation went to the Atwater Library and Computer Centre to provide it with \$8,000 to improve accessibility and conservation of its heritage building.

Grants to some other groups whose activities or programs are currently on hold over the pandemic, will be reviewed "down

the road," said Councillor Mary Gallery, commissioner for sports and recreation, culture and community events.

Mayor Christina Smith acknowledged the important need that Contactivity Centre was playing. Last year, it had received \$50,000 from the city.

The Atwater Library is also filling an important role in assisting people by phone and internet to access digital technologies during the recommended "stay at home" measures in effect, said Lynn Verge, executive director, last week.

"We were expecting this \$8,000 award in April as a contribution towards ongoing upgrades and conservation to our heritage building in our 100th anniversary year," she explained.

It "offsets the permit fees we paid the city of Westmount for our elevator-accessibility project, due to be completed soon after construction resumes when COVID-19 restrictions are eased."

It will be used for urgently-wanted conservation work, including masonry repairs and re-roofing. "The contribution from the city makes us eligible for a large Legacy Fund grant from the government of Canada that is linked to the centenary of our building."



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2nd tax instalment postponed to June 29

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The deadline for paying the city's second installment of the 2020 property tax bills has been postponed a month to June 29, city council agreed April 6 in tabling a draft amending by-law.

"The measure is intended to support the city of Westmount taxpayers during this time of pandemic," Councillor Kathleen Kez stated in presenting it as commissioner of finance. Interest and penalty rates will be 0 percent from March 12 to June 29.

While various relief scenarios were worked out by the city's finance department, this was the one chosen by council. The measure is consistent with that being used by the Montreal agglomeration,

which is postponing to July 2 the second installment required by island municipalities for paying their portions of shared services (see story March 24, p. 3).

According to the city's website, it is incumbent on taxpayers who have scheduled the payment of taxes through the website of a financial institution to change the date themselves.

On the other hand, if the second installment had been sent by postdated cheque for May 25, the city will not deposit it until June 29. Likewise, if the second installment was to be paid through the ACCEO Transphère platform, the city will postpone the payment to June 29. If taxes are paid by a mortgagee, the city will contact them directly.

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Informal fundraising organized via WeChat

Local Chinese group raises \$40K for Jewish General, St. Justine

A group of approximately 50 Westmount households has donated money and supplies worth some \$40,000 to the Jewish General Hospital and Hôpital St. Justine to help with the fight against COVID-19.

The donors organized informally on a Chinese WeChat group and are not a formal association.

Participant and Marianopolis College student Laurel Xiang was "pretty sure" that members were "a mix" of Canadians of Chinese background and Chinese citizens resident in Westmount, although she did not know all the donors. The government of China was not involved, she answered in reply to a question from the *Independent* during a phone interview April 2, saying "This is a personal effort."

Two hours to raise money

The first phase of pledging money took only two hours on March 20.

"After a consulting with the hospital, it was clear that a monetary donation would not suffice," she wrote in an initial email to the *Independent*, "and the same [donors] worked overtime to procure medical equip-



ment to protect our frontline workers. On March 24, the first shipment of 1,000 medi-

cal visors was successfully delivered to the Jewish General, with shipments of medical

gowns, masks and other supplies to follow." - DP.

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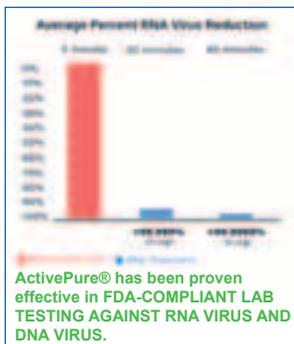
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Who's open – or closed but operating

City compiles, issues interactive map of local services

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Looking for take-out? Or how to obtain goods and services locally during the current pandemic?

To help residents and struggling merchants in Westmount during the public closure of retailers and restaurants, the city has put together a digital platform listing what types of services are available through phone orders, delivery or takeout. They also include essential services and reduced hours.

The initiative was announced at the council meeting April 6 by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, urban planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks.

The findings were carried out by Lulham and Anne Renaud, the mayor's executive secretary, going door to door. "We looked at all the signs. We want to support our local businesses," Lulham told the *Independent*.

Described on an interactive map are some 40 grocery stores, pharmacies and

dépanneurs, as well as restaurants and caterers offering take-out, and businesses offering e-commerce. These can be accessed at www.westmount.org/businesslist.

Some others included

Among them are a few immediately to the west of city limits (such as Pharmaprix) and to the east (in Alexis Nihon). "If we have missed a business, there is a form on the [website] platform to fill in to be included," said Lulham.

She also explained how on April 3, the Quebec government had announced a financial support program of \$40 million for small retail businesses through the Montreal agglomeration.

The fund will be administered by PME Montreal, with loans of a maximum of \$40,000.

"We are encouraging all Westmount businesses to list on the city's platform as well as the Quebec government's Panier Bleu at www.lepanierbleu.ca."

Remote council meeting handles 22 business items

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The second consecutive city council meeting to be held remotely to prevent a gathering of citizens due to the COVID-19 pandemic took place April 6.

And for the first time, this included 10 widely ranging, previously submitted questions in lieu of the regular live question period. The queries were answered remotely by the mayor and councillors while the council chamber sat empty but for three members of the city staff who had lots of safe distancing between them.

While the session had initially been reported to take place live on the city website, this did not materialize when technical difficulties were experienced.

The meeting opened with full reports by mayor and councillors on how regular business was being conducted from home while a lengthy agenda of 22 business items included a number of tender contracts, grants and the St. Léon school expansion project (see separate story, p. 1). There were no permit approvals, since none are being processed.

All council members, many speaking from home, thanked the employees also working from home as well as Public Security and others on the front line of essential service such as in grocery stores.

“It was really odd talking into a microphone when you had no one to look at and see the look on their face,” Councillor Cynthia Lulham said later.



Lots of space was available in the council chamber April 6 when the “head table” was participating remotely but for city clerk Andrew Brownstein, right, Méliissa Gareau, left, a member of his staff, and city director general Benoit Hurtubise, who took the historic photograph.

PHOTO COURTESY OF B. HURTUBISE, THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT'S DIRECTOR GENERAL.

No questioner present, but lots of questions anyway

What's on your mind, Westmounters?

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Questions submitted by residents the day of the April 6 council meeting were read out by city clerk Andrew Brownstein and answered by remote feed by council members. Many related to the current COVID-19 situation.

These included: a request to allow more space for pedestrians to walk on the roadway, including The Boulevard; regulations governing deliveries and visitors at 4300 de Maisonneuve; would subsequent council meetings be live-streamed and when would landscapers and gardeners be allowed to work?

Others included: was access to information affected, would these questions and answers be published on the city website; and what effect on the city's operating

budget, surpluses and greenhouse project would there be from a decrease in parking fees and fines and other revenue. Another questioner asked about council's review of artificial turf for soccer fields

Answers

Mayor Christina Smith said pedestrian access to certain streets had proved so successful on the three previously designated ones (de Maisonneuve, Côte St. Antoine and part of Greene) that others could be expected.

She also said that the large apartment building at 4300 de Maisonneuve was not a seniors' residence with visitor regulation, and that that deliveries and other areas of concerns were up to the tenants and building management.

Live streaming of meetings would be

considered, but the work of gardeners depended on the Quebec government's lifting of its essential-services-only rule. Access to information requests could still be made, but “no,” the questions and answers at council meetings would not be published on the website but can be heard on the recording of the meeting.

As for the financial impact of reduced revenue, finance commissioner Kathleen Kez said some capital works projects might have to be held over but there would be no impact on surpluses or operating budget. Surpluses had already been put aside to finance the greenhouse project at about \$5.1 million.

Concerning artificial turf, Councillor Marina Brzeski said the city was doing its due diligence to explore options as well as those concerning natural fields.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

October transfers: Volume regained strength

for upwards of 30 per cent above the 2017 municipal evaluation, and in fact the highest-priced residential property, at 32 Oakland Ave., was also the highest mark-up over the old valuation, more than 2½ times the city assessment.

By coincidence, the lowest price, \$800,000 paid for 47 Bruce Ave., was also the lowest mark-up, at only 6.8 percent, in a month where the average Westmount house sold for 51 percent more than the old evaluation, up from 41 percent in September. (Since the new – 2020 – valuation only kicked in at the start of this year, the 2019 sales are related to the 2017 valuation for comparison purposes.) This indicates that the “typi-

.....
continued on p. 14



32 Oakland Ave. on April 2.

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in October 2019, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found below.

Volume of real estate sales in Westmount re-surged in October last fall, after languishing the previous month, with 15 one- and two-family sales registrations in October compared to only six in September. All but one of the October sales sold

Editor's note: Unlike most periods of time covered by the *Independent*, real estate columnist's Andy Dodge's two styles of column (i.e. on historic, executed transfers, like the one on this page, and on more recent, negotiated-but-un-notarized sales) do not tell the same story. For this reason, on p. 14, we have reprinted his most recent negotiated-but-un-notarized sales column (from our March 24 issue) so readers can see the first impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local real estate market. – DP.

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in October 2019

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2017 VAL	RATIO (%)
57 Bruce	Guy Chagnon & Jana Chagnon	\$800,000	\$749,000	6.8%
61 Chesterfield	Jeffrey Morrow & Anne Maurine Tippit Morrow	\$1,775,000	\$1,254,000	41.5%
15 Grove Park	Benoit Hamel & Dominique-Ann Coffin	\$1,700,000	\$1,155,900	47.1%
24 Holton	Martin Dussault & Nathalie Seguin	\$1,650,000	\$1,120,700	47.2%
765 Lexington	Bertrand Namy & Rosemarie Postrach	\$2,400,000	\$1,683,500	42.6%
32 Oakland	Valentina Aguiar	\$4,350,000	\$1,646,500	164.2%
7 Springfield	Alexandra Dawson	\$1,202,500	\$889,600	35.2%
3781 The Boulevard	9205-3503 Québec Inc.	\$3,090,000	\$2,261,100	36.7%
554 Victoria	Kevin Robinson	\$1,560,000	\$979,400	59.3%
601 Victoria	Elan Cusiacc-Barr	\$1,830,285	\$1,100,400	66.3%
626 Victoria	Scott Brydges & Pamela Snow	\$2,007,000	\$1,505,400	33.3%
4 Winchester	Ruth Garland	\$1,050,000	\$717,300	46.4%
488 Wood + garage	Elliot Mechanic & Mireille Corriveau	\$2,595,000	\$1,972,700 ¹	31.5%
DUPLEXES				
353-55 Grosvenor	Shereef Elshafei & Yasmin Elshafei-Olenick	\$1,220,000	\$855,300	42.6%
131-33 Lewis	Behzad Rahimian-Bajgiran & Semiranis Sadi-Nejad	\$1,100,000	\$791,000	39.1%
CONDOMINIUMS				
343 Clarke #3	estate Marian Olynyk	\$676,000	\$571,000	18.4%
459 Grosvenor	François Bourbonnais	\$900,000	\$565,800	59.1%
83 Hallowell	Kayla Haines	\$560,000	\$490,800	14.1%
200 Lansdowne #504	Anne Fitzpatrick (née McCracken)	\$625,000	\$667,300	-6.3%
396B Lansdowne	estate John W. Hewitt	\$776,000	\$708,800	9.5%
4823A St. Catherine	Maureen Mullaly	\$437,000	\$303,700	43.9%
1 Wood #605	Joanne Garfinkle	\$2,700,000	\$1,465,000	84.3%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$1,862,200 for the house, \$110,500 for a garage on Holton Ave. between Wood and Elm Aves.



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GUIDE #3

Don't forget your children's mental health!

If your children are worried about the pandemic, the following advice can help you to better support them during the coronavirus COVID-19 events in Québec.

The current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the unprecedented preventive measures that have been implemented are a new reality, one that can be especially difficult to deal with. Just like you, your young children and teenagers may worry about what is happening.

Whatever your children's age, they need to be reassured and know that they can count on you and feel that you will protect them.



Listen to them

Allow your children to express their feelings in their own words or through play (dolls, drawings, etc.). Listen to their concerns and their need for reassurance. Respond to their fears with kindness and give them a lot of love and attention.



Speak to them frankly when explaining things

Use simple words that are age-appropriate. Explain that very easy-to-use hygienic measures are there to protect them, including regularly washing their hands, coughing into the crook of their elbow, etc. Show them how they work.

Keep a positive outlook and tell them that doctors and scientists are hard at work on solutions that include medicine and a vaccine. Respond to their questions and always tell them up front when you don't know the answer for now.

Avoid moralizing with your teenager. Ensure that the situation is well understood by your teens and correct any wrong information that they express. Do not minimize the situation and encourage them to call a telephone support hotline if they feel the need.



Keep to your family routine

A family routine and a stable environment are the best ways to maintain your children's sense of security. Ensure that the daily schedule includes wake-up, bedtime, eating, games and structured activities and leaves time for relaxation. Make a healthy lifestyle your priority: Eat right, drink a lot of water, stay active, and try to relax and sleep enough.



Make room for playtime and relaxation

It is so important for your children to find comfort by playing and doing activities they enjoy.

Short of solutions?

Physical activity: Dance, obstacle races, skipping rope, games of skill, stationary cycling, yoga, playing in the back yard, aerobics, bodybuilding, etc.

Creative pastimes: Drawing, crafts, painting, writing, singing, origami, plasticine, knitting, photography, etc.

Games: Board games, blocks, role-play, memory games, hide-and-seek, cards, and dress-up, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku, hidden word, etc.

Entertainment: Listen to music, watch movies and shows, podcasts, TV series, etc.

Relaxation: Read a book or a fairy tale, magazine or comic book; meditate, do relaxation exercises, etc.

Educational activities: Do homework, browse an educational website like ecoleouverte.ca, learn a new language, visit virtual museums, etc.

Other: Cook, help out with the housework, sort photos, etc.



Signs of stress in a younger child

- ✓ Trouble sleeping
- ✓ Displays concern, wants to be held, asks questions
- ✓ Complains of physical pain like tummy ache
- ✓ Behaviour is agitated and challenges you
- ✓ No longer wants to play and doesn't enjoy favourite activities anymore
- ✓ Displays regressive behaviour such as bedwetting



Signs of stress in a teenager

- ✓ Worries about the health of friends and themselves
- ✓ Feels unaffected by the situation or minimizes the danger
- ✓ No longer interested in favourite activities
- ✓ Trouble sleeping, appetite changes (eats too much or not enough)
- ✓ Wants to drink alcohol or take drugs
- ✓ Is aggressive, irritable and refuses to obey public health orders



Take care of yourself

Your children experience events through your eyes. Be attentive to their feelings, emotions and reactions. If you feel it necessary, take a few minutes off by yourself to calm down, in the bathroom, for example.



Maintain virtual social links

Allow the children to maintain their virtual links with friends and/or other family members, such as their grandparents. An active social network helps fight isolation. There are a variety of ways to communicate and even play without being physically present: telephone, chat rooms, video calls, social networks, email and the Web.



Stay informed

You need to stay well informed about what's going on to keep calm when interacting with your children. Always rely on trustworthy resources, like the Government of Québec website: [Quebec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

Do not let your children loop television reports about the pandemic, and avoid alarmist conversations about the number of deaths, the deterioration of the situation, pessimistic scenarios, etc. with them.

When should I seek help?

If you see no improvement in your child's outlook despite all your efforts at reassuring and comforting or if you observe that the negativity is persistent or even grows in intensity, contact Info-Social at 811 (option 2).

You will receive more information and be directed to a psychosocial health professional that can provide support and advice that meet your needs.

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons should dial 1 800 361-9596 (toll free).

Resources

Managing worry:

- inspq.qc.ca/en/tiny-tot
- ecolebranchee.com (French)
- carrefour-education.qc.ca (French)

Adopting healthy lifestyles:

- defisante.ca (French)
- force4.tv (French)

Managing family time:

- ecoleouverte.ca
- alloprof.qc.ca (French)
- teteamodeler.com (French)
- viedeparents.ca (French)
- naitreetgrandir.com (French)
- vifamagazine.ca (French)

Telephone resources for people needing support or a friendly ear:

- **Tel-Aide**
This listening centre provides help 24/7 to people suffering from solitude, distress or who need to have someone listen:
Go to www.acetdq.org for contact information on your regional listening centre.
- **Écoute Entraide**
Community organization that supports people who are emotionally suffering: 514 278-2130 or 1 855 EN LIGNE (365-4463)
- **Tel-Jeunes**
24/7 hotline for youngsters in need of support: 1 800 263-2266
- **LigneParents**
24/7 hotline for parents in need of support: 1 800 361-5085

Telephone hotlines for people in psychological distress or contemplating suicide:

- **Regroupement des services d'intervention de crise du Québec**
24/7 services for distressed people (French): centredecrise.ca/listecentres
- **Telephone assistance service**
1 866 APPELLE (277-3553)

Québec.ca/coronavirus

1 877 644-4545

Québec 



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



IMPORTANT NOTICE

To qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the concerned sector

1. The City of Westmount adopted, at its regular Council sitting held on April 6, 2020, pursuant to By-law 1489 entitled "By-law concerning specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposals for an immovable (S.C.A.O.P.I.) of the City of Westmount" and Order 2020-008, a resolution (No. 2020-04-74) designating the specific construction, alteration or occupancy project for an immovable bearing the civic address 360 Clarke Avenue on lot 2 626 404 of the Quebec cadaster, as described in the final resolution (Resolution No. 2020-03-60), as a priority action.
2. The concerned sector is comprised of the following zones: R3-23-01 (concerned zone) and R9-23-02. The sketch of the concerned sector is reproduced hereafter:



3. In accordance with Order 2020-008, the holding of the registry is being replaced by a written consultation during which written comments will be received by email or mail as follows:

By email at the following address: **By mail to the attention of:**

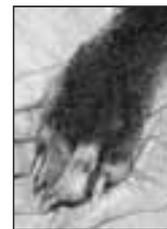
legal@Westmount.org

**Andrew Brownstein
City Clerk
4333, Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount (Quebec) H3Z 1E2**

4. In accordance with Order 2020-008, any action taken following this replacement procedure will not be subject to the approval of the qualified persons entitled to vote.
5. Any interested person from the concerned zone may submit written comments no later than **April 29, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.**
6. The legal notices relating to the foregoing are available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>.

www.westmount.org

Young Storm, cutie with style!



*Westmount
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here she comes, trotting along with such joy and energy!

Storm is a young 18-month-old mixed shepherd type who is bright as a whip and keen on a fun spring routine of outings and snoozing. Looking to please and integrate into home life, it would be best that she leave the Montreal SPCA kennel for adoption in order to come join the other active young dogs in our neighbourhood.

Storm is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations and treatments, spayed and microchipped. Her identification number is 43774886 and she is available for adoption now.

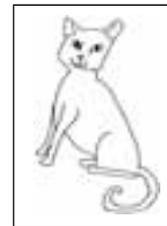
Please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and complete the



simple online application form for Storm's adoption. You will be contacted by a member of the adoption staff shortly for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment to the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Sweet artistic Penelope



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is artistic Penelope from the Montreal SPCA for adoption in a quiet affectionate home as soon as possible.

She is a delicate multi-coloured tortoiseshell domestic shorthair, very healthy and ever so sweet. She is an adorable senior who is up to date with her inoculations and treatments, spayed and microchipped.

Penelope is waiting at the Montreal SPCA cattery and her identification number is 44099572.

Please refer to their website at www.sPCA.com and complete the simple online application for for Penelope's adoption.



You will be contacted by a member of the adoption staff shortly for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

SPCA needs help after rescue of 25 cats

Penelope is up for adoption at a very busy time at the Montreal SPCA cattery.

Simply put, they need our help. Adoptions, fosters, donations, all help is very appreciated as they continue their mission every day, no matter what the circumstances.

On April 5, 25 cats were retrieved from a residence in a housing unit as an emergency rescue pursuant to a court decision. This was serious and the cats who were rescued were in need of new homes. Arriving at the shelter, all veterinary care was set in immediate motion: programs for examinations, tests, inoculations, sterilizations, microchipping began in earnest.

For some of the older cats, dental work was needed and a nutritional support program set in place. All this was done over and above the other animals in need of shelter, care, fostering and adoption. Donations are very much appreciated at this time, and it would be wonderful if you could refer to their website at www.sPCA.com for a direct online contribution or consider a monthly donor program that gives you the opportunity to contribute throughout the year.

Your neighbour, Lysanne, who thanks you for reading and helping those in need.

Ceremony postponed till after COVID-19

Vimy Park ‘officialized’ to mark 103rd battle anniversary



Vimy Park on April 10, one of the first photographs of it under its new name.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Just in time for the 103rd anniversary April 9 of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I, Westmount city council officially adopted the name of “Vimy” for the triangular greenspace just east of Argyle that includes the cenotaph.

While historically this has been part of Garden Point, the parkland in which city hall is located, the renaming of this triangular portion as Vimy Park had been initially announced three years ago in time for the 100th anniversary of the battle April 9, but never officialized (see story April 4, 2017, p. 1).

In presenting last week’s resolution, Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained that the city wished to commemorate the Canadians who served and died during the gruelling battle in northern France that is considered to have defined Canada as nation.

“We had planned to hold a ceremony and install the sign on April 9 this year but regrettably the decision had to be postponed” in keeping with COVID-19 prevention measures against gatherings, she said. “But we still want to move forward with the re-naming.”

The “De Vimy Park,” a name following Quebec’s toponomy directives, according

to city clerk Andrew Brownstein, is scheduled to be re-landscaped next year, Lulham said.

Poignant tribute

Councillor Jeff Shamie presented a poignant tribute to the 20,000 Canadians who fought in the fierce battle in heavy snow, including many members of Westmount’s Royal Montreal Regiment and local residents.

It was the first time all four Canadian divisions from coast to coast had fought together. “There were 10,600 casualties but the victory is a turning point for our country,” he explained.

St. Léon, cont’d. from p. 1

the school year,” Peart said.

The written comments to be received over a 15-day period will be well considered “to ensure everyone will have their voices heard,” Peart stated. The timing has yet to be announced.

“As this is a SCAOPI project, all comments will be made public,” Peart later told the *Independent*.

“Given that the city has identified this as a priority project and has opted to replace the referendum process with a written consultation, the city will be reaching out to the community by means of a direct mailing to all residents within the two zones. This will be in addition to the usual publication online, via local print media and across social media platforms.”

The Quebec decree suspends any municipal body’s procedure “that is part of the decision-making process except where it is

related to an action designated to be a priority by a majority vote of two thirds of council members.”

Three-storey wing

While residents from two eligible zones had already successfully petitioned the city council for a registry, no date had been set before the government decree was issued. The three-storey extension exceeds current zoning requirements that include volume, height and site density.

The project had raised the concerns of some residents near the over-capacity French elementary public school at 360 Clarke during a lengthy process for such non-conforming projects under the by-law called SCAOPI (Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposal for an Immoveable).

Over this period, the project had two

public consultations and was reviewed by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), which accorded it a rating of “high” in each of the nine SCAOPI criteria.

As well as zoning variances, these include: integration into the built environment, conservation and enhancement of the original architectural elements and preservation of a heritage building. Landscaping and high-quality construction are also considered as well as impact on the urban environment and a balance between individual and collective interests.

In the case of St. Léon, the council resolution grants zoning variances on several conditions. Among them are a plan for mitigation of traffic.

While Mayor Christina Smith did not vote on the resolution to bypass the referendum register, she told the *Independent*: “I absolutely stand by this decision. It’s been a long process for the school and the Quebec government did lay out a way forward (for the project). We’ve held the two public consultations and we can still hear residents’ comments.”

COVID-19 interrupts city’s Dorchester work

As previously reported, the western, entrance arm of Weredale Park road in southeast Westmount has been closed by the city since February 27 after bricks fell from the house at that corner, 4030 Dorchester.

On March 20, the city councillor for the district, Kathleen Kez, had told the *Independent* that “the city will be sending some inspectors [the week of March 25]” to look “inside and out” for “what needs to be done to make the building safe.”

On April 9, she told *Independent*, “The city was given a 10-day timeframe [by the court] to do this work. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, the engineering firm contracted by the city had to suspend their activities following government directives. Meanwhile the city’s lawyers are confident that we should be able to receive an extension to the original timeframe of 10 days. According to the engineer, the safety parameters around the building should stay in place until the work can be done.”

Three steps to challenge zoning changes

In general, there are three steps that residents must successfully go through to defeat a zoning change in their neighbourhood.

1 Petition for a registry via signatures, which the city then validates as those of legitimate voters. The St. Léon change was at this stage. Residents of the affected zone and contiguous ones are eligible to sign at this time, but only zones that meet a certain minimum number of signers advance to the registry stage. For all but the smallest zones, the required number is 12.

2 Garner enough registrants in a registry, which is held at city hall on one scheduled day. The process for establishing the minimum number of registrants is complex.

3 Obtain a majority of votes in a referendum.

The city can pull the proposed zoning change at any time, and historically has done so rather than face a costly referendum.



St. Léon on April 10.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

February sales: corona pause

homebuyers were interested in the value of their investment, not just the roof over their heads, and as with the 2008-09 recession, the return of a positive attitude in the financial market had a tremendous effect on the local real estate market.

The five February sales had an average mark-up of only 2.3 percent, way down from the 16.6 percent average in January, but of course much of this can be blamed on the low February volume. As well, we expect several late-posted sales for February, much as happened in January, when six late-month sales were not posted until mid-February.

**In 2008,
Westmount
real estate
followed the
stock market**

**Condo, Westmount adjacent,
inventory**

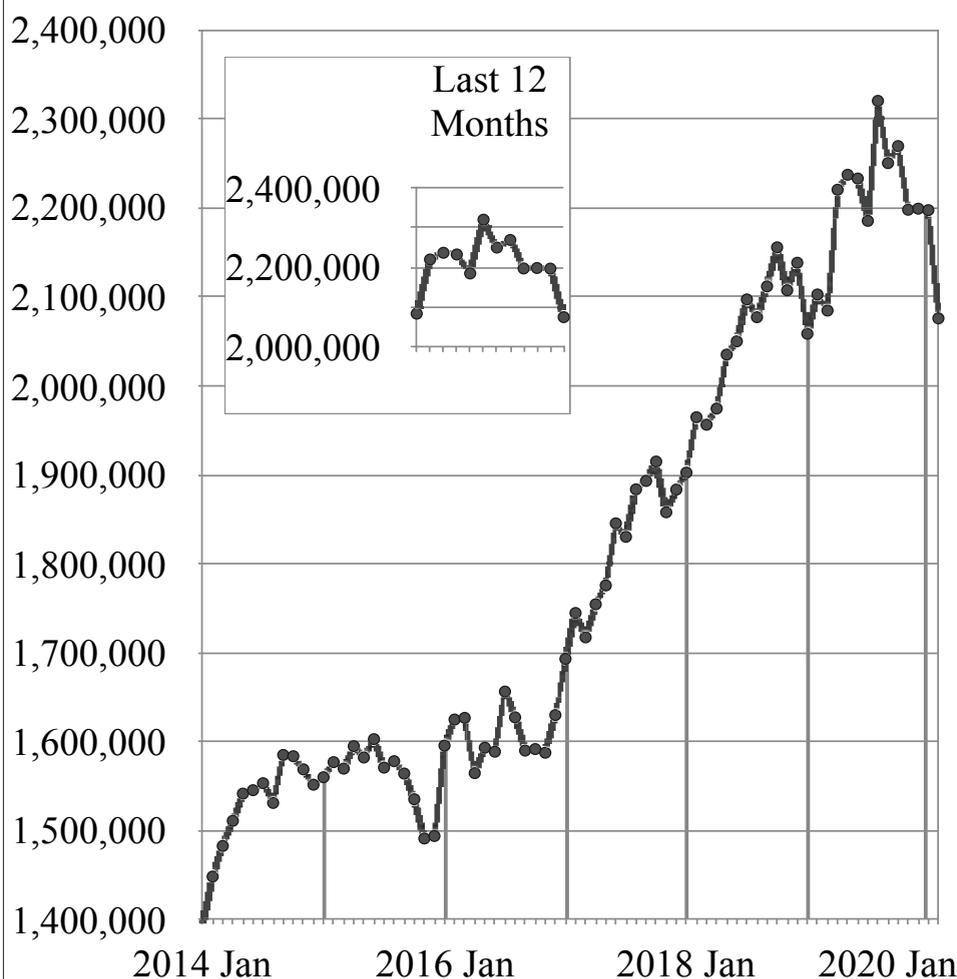
Only one extra condominium sale was posted in February, along with two adjacent Westmount houses, one on Redpath St. in the Square Mile and the other on Barat Rd., just east of the city limits. The early indication is that the adjacent-Westmount market is slow to start the year, with no more than two sales in any of the districts.

At last check, the number of active listings for Westmount houses crept up from 96 to 97, only one of which is asking less than \$1 million, four of which are asking over \$10 million.

Twenty-two houses are available for rent, with three of those asking more than \$10,000 per month.

Stay well, and we'll get through this together.

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2014 to February 2020, based on accepted offer dates



Westmount real estate, representing the top end of the Montreal real estate market, put itself on "pause" in February as the world began to hear about the coronavirus epidemic, with only five house sales posted by agents, in a range between \$900,000 and \$2,400,000. There does not appear to have been a flood of new homes coming on the market.

The slow start to 2020 can be expected to hesitate further as potential buyers worry about the available cash they are going to need to purchase a new property. On the other hand, some forward-thinking buyers may consider that real estate is a safer investment than the stock market, which has been tumbling since mid-February. In 2008, the Westmount market followed the Dow/TSX averages through the year, an indication that Westmount

Two full duplexes sold in October, for \$1,220,000 and \$1,100,000, both selling

above their respective asking prices. In fact, only one other full duplex sale has

been registered in 2019, as 4470 de Maison-neuve Blvd. sold for \$1,251,250 back in April. Many duplexes in Westmount have been converted to condominium status, while almost all the others sell in shares to co-owners.

◀ 57 Bruce on April 2.



We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com

Real estate transfers, cont'd. from p. 8
cal" Westmount house, with a 2017 valuation of \$1,575,722, theoretically would have been able to sell for well over \$2,300,000.

October was a busy month, too, for condominium sales, with seven sales matching the volumes for August and September, and averaging more than 41 percent mark-up over valuation, the same as for one- and two-family dwellings, while in the previous quarter the figure was only 27 percent.

Apartment 605 at 1 Wood Ave. topped the list with a price of \$2,700,000, which in fact was the highest price for all of 2019 (to date); none of the other condo sales in October cleared the \$1-million mark. The lowest price of the month was \$437,000 for a flat on St. Catherine St. just east of Victoria Ave. One condominium at 200 Lansdowne Ave., apt. 504, actually sold at less than its evaluation, while the apartment at 1 Wood Ave. cleared its evaluation by 84.3 percent, highest mark-up of the month.

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**RBC Wealth Management
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COVID-19: WALKING IN THE SAME DIRECTION TO SAVE LIVES

Encouraging physical distancing on pedestrian walkways

To increase space between pedestrians to encourage physical distancing, the City of Westmount is asking all residents and visitors walking or running on pedestrian walkways to move in the same direction, depending on which side of the street they use. This measure will prevent people from crossing each other on the same sidewalk and will promote the recommended minimum distance of two metres between people.

- On two-way streets, pedestrians using the sidewalk are encouraged to follow the direction of traffic. For example, if you are walking eastward, use the sidewalk next to the eastbound traffic.
- On one-way streets, southbound pedestrians should use the west sidewalk. Pedestrians walking north should use the east sidewalk.

Other measures taken this week to increase pedestrian space include:

- limiting vehicular access to local traffic and widening the pedestrian space on De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Summit Circle;
- eliminating parking spaces on Côte-Saint-Antoine Road;
- reserving a traffic and parking lane for pedestrians on Greene Avenue between Sherbrooke Street and De Maisonneuve Boulevard.

In addition, beginning Thursday, April 9, increased pedestrian space on:

- Westmount Avenue between Lansdowne and Claremont Avenues;
- and Lansdowne Avenue between Westmount Avenue and St-Catherine Street.

These measures are temporary and are intended to allow residents the opportunity to walk the streets of Westmount safely while respecting the physical distancing measures recommended by public health authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

Are you a
local business?



Offer your essential services and goods
by adding your business to our list at
westmount.org/businesslist



Due to the COVID-19 situation,
the City of Westmount has decided
to allow local traffic only on certain streets
so that a minimal physical distancing of
2m can be respected. The aim is to limit
the spread of COVID-19.



Le Panier Bleu, an initiative supported by the
Quebec government to boost local business.

lepanierbleu.ca



COVID-19 : MARCHER DANS LA MÊME DIRECTION POUR SAUVER DES VIES

Distanciation physique sur les voies piétonnières

Afin d'accroître l'espace entre les piétons pour favoriser la distanciation physique, la Ville de Westmount demande à tous ses résidents et visiteurs qui marchent ou courent sur les voies piétonnières de se déplacer dans la même direction en fonction du côté de la rue qu'ils empruntent. Cette mesure permettra d'empêcher les croisements sur un même trottoir et favorisera un rayon minimal de deux mètres entre les personnes.

- Sur les voies à double sens, les piétons qui marchent sur le trottoir sont invités à suivre le sens de la circulation routière. Par exemple, si les véhicules à côté du trottoir où vous marchez roulent vers l'est, marchez vers l'est.
- Sur les voies à sens unique : Les piétons qui marchent sur le côté ouest du trottoir devront marcher en direction sud. Les piétons qui marchent sur le côté est du trottoir devront marcher en direction nord.

D'autres mesures ont déjà été prises cette semaine pour accroître l'espace piétonnier :

- la circulation automobile sur le boulevard De Maisonneuve et la rue Summit Circle est maintenant réservée à la circulation locale uniquement;
- des espaces de stationnement sur le chemin de Côte-Saint-Antoine ont été supprimés;
- une voie de circulation et de stationnement est maintenant réservée aux piétons sur l'avenue Greene entre la rue Sherbrooke et le boulevard De Maisonneuve.

De plus, à partir du jeudi 9 avril, l'espace pour les piétons sera augmenté :

- sur l'avenue Lansdowne entre l'avenue Westmount et la rue Sainte-Catherine.
- sur l'avenue Westmount entre l'avenue Claremont et l'avenue Lansdowne.

Ces mesures sont temporaires et visent à permettre aux résidents de la Ville la possibilité de marcher dans les rues de Westmount de façon sécuritaire en appliquant les mesures de distanciation physiques recommandées par les autorités de la Santé publique en cette période de pandémie de la COVID-19.

Merci à tous pour votre collaboration.

**Vous êtes un
commerce local ?**



Offrez vos services et produits essentiels
en vous ajoutant à notre liste à
westmount.org/listedescommercants



En raison de la situation de COVID-19, la Ville de Westmount a décidé de permettre la circulation locale seulement, sur certaines rues, afin que la distanciation physique minimale de 2m soit respectée. Le but est de limiter la propagation de COVID-19.



Le Panier Bleu, une initiative soutenue par le
gouvernement du Québec, pour dynamiser
le commerce local.

lepanierbleu.ca

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Chabad, Weider Centre host 'Feast of the Nations'



Jonathan Pomerantz, Derick Pomerantz, Rabbi Abraham Cohen, Terry Pomerantz, Linda Dagenbach and Rosa Cohen.

A balmy fall eve on November 6 – yes, many months ago! – meant that many Westmounters walked to Congregation Shaar Hashomayim for the Chabad Seminary-Ben Weider Educational Centre 2019 Feast of the Nations Gala.

The Shaar's massive dining room – starring an enormous Versailles-inspired chandelier – sparkled. Sequined gold tablecloths glittered and "crystal" chairs twinkled in the light. Guests shone too. Elegance was everywhere, with ladies wearing the chicest cocktail suits in brocade, lace and satin.

The evening honoured **Terry Pomerantz** with the Chai Life-Time Achievement Award. A real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist, Pomerantz attended with **Linda Dagenbach** and sons **Derick** (with his wife **Kimberlee**) and **Jonathan** (with **Vanessa Daneau-Larivière**).

Joining them at the head table were **Robyn Pomerantz** (Terry's niece), **Audi** and **Greg Gattinger**, **Rorita** and **Frank Gattinger** and **Lena Daghelian** and **Shawn Potter**.

Gala chairman was **Norton Segal** attending with his wife **Mary**. Special guests included **David Levy**, consul general of Israel for Quebec and the Atlantic provinces; **Paul Genest**, senior vp Power Corporation and **Johanne Saltarelli**, executive director Sun Youth Organization.

Invitees were inspired by poignant speeches by speakers **Rabbi Abraham Cohen** from the Chabad-Chaya Mushka Seminary and **Deby Raichman**, Chabad Seminary alumna. Raichman is building and reinforcing the Jewish community in the Amazon rainforest, where she has set up a children's day school, community

centre and synagogue, as well as regularly organizing and leading sabbath and holiday activities.

For the Weider special eve, **Nadia Saputo** created a lavish decor and Blossom Catering offered an extravagant buffet dinner. Attendees watched videos showing the far-reaching effects the Chabad Seminary is having on young minds that pass through its doors. The finale featured a dynamic musical performance by the Kol Esperanza pop-opera trio, accompanied by the McGill University and University of Montreal alumni orchestra.

Local res noted included **Marnie and Richard Stern**, **Sylvia and Allan Vosko**, **Robin and Neil Gelber**, **Shirley Stern**, **Naomi and Eric Bissell**, **Andrew Hops**, **Steve Gross**, **Merilee and Sonny Merovitz**, **Jeremy Kornbluth**, **Michael Bergman**, **Marlene and Murray Dalfen**, **Stephen Shiller**, **Tina and Stan Leibner**, **Jerry Gross**, **Barry Gross-**

man, **Josie and David Kakon**, **Micki Keesal**, **Ronald Mayers**, **Frank Rana**, **Irene Wise**, **Hazel Zunenshine**, **Ben Cohen**, **Edith Greenberg**, **Linda and Terry Smith**, **Jeff Katz**, and platinum corporate sponsor **Zohar Krivorot** with his wife **Isabel**.

Witty former Westmounter **Andy Nul-**

man inspired competitive auction bidding from the packed room. The evening raised the expected goals for the seminary's scholarship fund, which enables the organization to give direction and mold character-building qualities for bright and motivated young ladies from all over the world.



Joel Goldman, Steve Moses, Raphael Barchichat and Laurie Brown.



Tina and Stan Leibner.



Zohar and Isabel Krivorot, and Marnie and Richard Stern.



Steve Gross and Kim Pomerantz.



Paul Genest.



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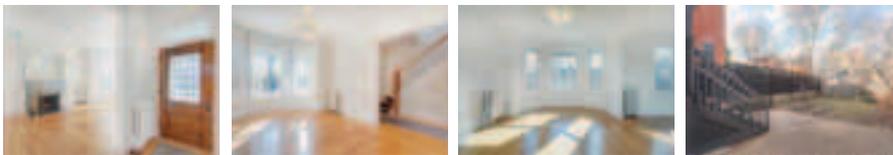


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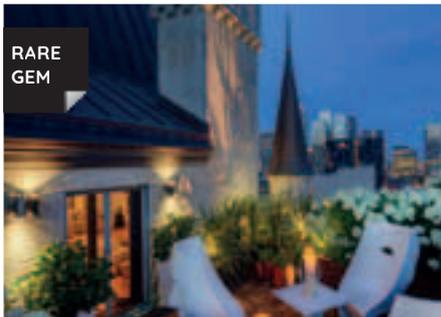


NEW



GOLDEN SQUARE MILE | LE CHÂTEAU
2 bdr condo in Le Château, in the heart of the city

\$995,000



**RARE
GEM**

LE CHÂTEAU | GOLDEN SQUARE MILE
Fully renovated PH w/ unique terrace + 360° views



**IDEAL
STREET**

52 ROSEMOUNT
Stunning historical home, best location on the flats!

\$2,490,000



EXCLUSIVE

ORO | VILLE-MARIE
2 bdr condo w/ large deck + Mountain views

\$1,895,000



**61 ACRE
ESTATE**

LA CONCEPTION
Equestrian estate with private beach

\$1,395,000



NEW

WESTMOUNT SQUARE
Fully renovated, open concept, 1bdr + garage 920ft²

\$795,000



**PRIME
LOCATION**

WESTMOUNT SQUARE
Mountain views, 1bdr + garage

\$740,000



**FOR
RENT**

12 WINDSOR | WESTMOUNT
Magnificent property in Victoria Village w/ garden

\$5,800/MO



TANIA KALECHEFF

514.992.6413

B.ARCH. CHARTERED REAL ESTATE BROKER

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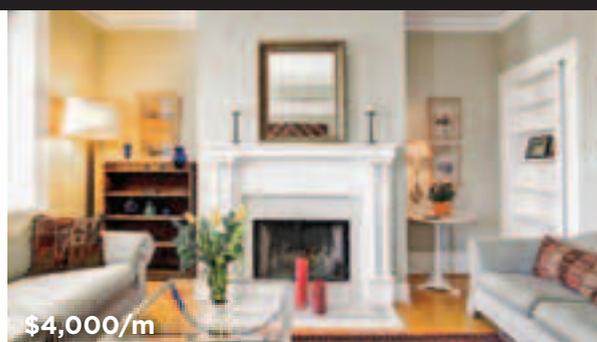


FURNISHED RENTALS: THE OPTION WHEN PURCHASING IS NOT AN OPTION FOR YOU



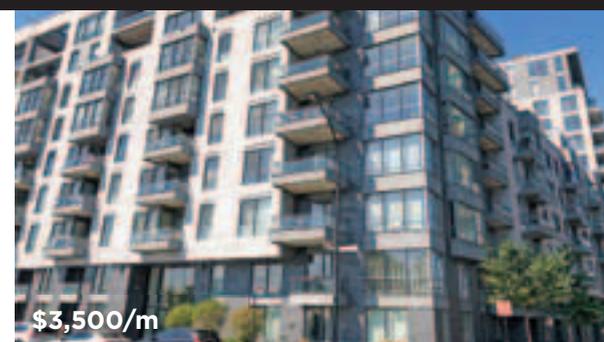
\$3,800/m

WESTMOUNT • VICTORIA VILLAGE



\$4,000/m

WESTMOUNT • GROSVENOR



\$3,500/m

OLD MONTREAL • DE LA COMMUNE E.

STAY HOME • WASH YOUR HANDS FOR 20 SECONDS • SOCIAL DISTANCE 2 METERS

During this difficult time, regardless of our personal or religious beliefs, we are all united in fighting a common cause, this unseen enemy that knows no boundaries, rank, nationality, color or race and is changing the way we live, work, love and think.

I invite you to look around you and see the beauty in our world and of what has been accomplished throughout the ages by humankind's determination, ingenuity, creativity, love, courage, sacrifice, patience ... and mostly,

the ability to work together.

Yes, we have what it takes to get through this, and success depends on our individual actions, on working together towards that common goal. Call upon your inner strength, we all have it.

SOME SUGGESTIONS WHILE STAYING HOME

KID'S CORNER

exploratorium.edu
kids.nationalgeographic.com
kidsactivitiesblog.com
keeplearning.khanacademy.org
coolmath4kids.com
geeringup.aspsc.ubc.ca
madsciencepromo.com
musement-coloring-book-cities-in-color

KEEPS THEM BUSY

GROWN-UP'S CORNER

broadwayhd.com
metopera.org
artsandculture.google.com
goodreads.com
online-learning.harvard.edu
mindbodyonline.com
marthastewart.com
ricardocuisine.com
blog.musement.com/us/category/muse-me

KEEPS YOU BUSY

HELPING OTHERS

Collecting non-perishable and dry goods for local FOOD BANKS.
Pick-up at your front door under safety guidelines
Call or email Tania for details or to arrange pick-up
Tuesday or Friday 12-3PM only

DOES EVERYONE GOOD