

## Summer uncertain

# City cancels soccer, other spring Sports and Rec programs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

All spring programming for the city's Sports and Recreation department has been cancelled, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

The decision was made April 20 by city council in response to directives from the provincial government regarding physical distancing and public gatherings related to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The cancellation applies to most of those programs listed as taking place in May and June such as ballet, but the main program is youth soccer, which typically attracts 1,000 players. This cancellation adds to those concerning the remainder of winter programs that could not be completed.

Residents registered for the spring programs will receive refunds totalling about \$140,000, Hurtubise said. Credits will be issued for the 20-percent portion of winter programs totalling some \$37,000. These will be applicable to future registrations. Any of those persons who do not re-register will be advised to contact the Sports and Recreation office.

A decision has been delayed on summer programs. These consist mainly of indoor hockey, swimming and day camps, with some tennis. "We don't know what will be allowed," Hurtubise said.

As for the fall, "we're not closing the door on augmenting programs to make up for those cancelled in the spring, such as soccer perhaps," Hurtubise said. "We'll have to see what will be allowed."

## 'Single row' walking



We've all heard of single file, but the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have given birth to a new type of walking: the single row. It is both social and socially distant. Enjoying a brisk morning walk in Westmount Park April 19 were, from left, Maxine Harrison, Pat Takohashi and Francie Montgomery.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Planning ahead for re-opening

# 'Storytime' now on library website – with pet guest appearances

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Westmount Public Library personnel continue to work from home expanding internet services, the staff is also planning ahead for an eventual and gradual reopening of the facility, possibly on a restricted basis.

"We are trying to come up with new ideas and find a way for residents to get

their books," interim library director Mai Jay said last week.

"Right now, we don't know when this will be. How far ahead do we plan? How much space will be needed for safety? Will we have to limit numbers to one person at a time? There was a library in Rimouski that was doing it by appointments but they were so overwhelmed by ..... the numbers that they had

*continued on p. 14*

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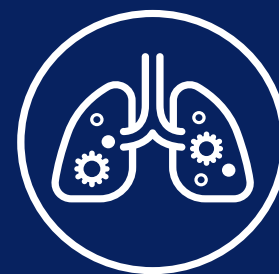
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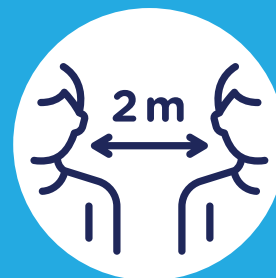
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## Half staff for Nova Scotia



The flags in front of the Westmount Public Library were at half staff April 22 in memory of the victims of the April 18-19 shootings in and around Portapique, Nova Scotia.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## City employee tests positive, had mild symptoms

One city employee tested positive for COVID-19 in early April, director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week. The person, who worked at city hall, had not been there since it was closed to the public in mid-March.

As a result, employees were informed that the person, whose identity cannot be disclosed, had not been in contact with colleagues or members of the public. The virus was transmitted at home and caused "very mild symptoms," he said.

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## COVID-19 claims life of Ann Claxton at St. Margaret's Irvine Ave. holds street party to lift son's spirits

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It gave Charles Marien of Irvine Ave. great pleasure to be able to visit his 93-year-old mother daily at St. Margaret's long-term care residence on nearby Hillside. He would wheel Ann Luke Claxton around the hallways or outside to sit on a bench at the

Westmount Athletic Grounds.

But all that changed in mid-March when, under Quebec government directives, no visitors or family members could visit these seniors' homes.

"She was a happy Alzheimer person," he recalled last week as his grieving continued after her COVID-19 death at the

residence April 14. A celebration of her life is on hold due to current pandemic restrictions.

Claxton had lived 70 years in Westmount. She was a graduate of McGill and the school of architecture in 1948 and was well-known as an artist, swimmer at the Y and for raising her family of four on Lansdowne: Stephen, Jennifer, Charles and Robin Marien. She had six grandchildren.

To lift Marien's spirits on not being able to hold a funeral, his wife, Kate Sutherland, organized a street party for his birthday the next week among a group of neighbours on Irvine who regularly contribute to the NDG Food Depot. They decorated windows and balconies with signs and balloons and turned out on porches and the street at safe distancing on a very sunny April 18.

"I had never felt so loved by the outpouring of birthday wishes and it made me feel closer to these awesome people," he said.

"I thought it was a great initiative to raise everybody's spirits and let Charlie know we cared during these tough times for him," said city councillor Cynthia Lulham, one of the participating neighbours.

Relating his mother's life, he told the *Independent* she had married his father,



A photo from approximately 10 years ago: Ann Claxton with her son, Charles Marien.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF C. MARIEN.

surgeon Breen Marien, and later lawyer John Brooke Claxton. She and he later lived at Place Kensington, where she continued to paint. Both predeceased her.

With the onset of dementia and a lengthy rehabilitation from a broken hip, Marien moved his mother about three years ago to St. Margaret's on Hillside to be within easy walking distance for his daily visits.

Over the two weeks that he was unable to visit, he said, "I communicated regularly with the staff and have no complaints."

But on Easter Sunday, April 12, he was informed she was having trouble breathing and was being given oxygen. She had specified she never wanted emergency medical measures, he said. Two days later, she died at the residence. She tested positive for the coronavirus before being transported to the Mount Royal Cemetery, he said. He had not been allowed to identify the body.

Marien does not know for how long she had had the symptoms, but suspects she was unable to tell the staff because of the Alzheimer's.

"It brings tears to my eyes that I could not be with her and able to perhaps find out what was troubling her," he said. "My mother was artistic, an amazing cook, athletic, musical and mostly beautiful," he added. "She was a woman who was very special."



A recent photo of Ann Claxton at St. Margaret's with her daughter, Jennifer Helston.

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## REQUESTS FROM A METRO GROCERY EMPLOYEE

As a front-line worker at the Metro grocery store, I have a few things to request from you lovely Westmount citizens. I am a cashier but I now usually spend my day on the phone and working on email orders sent in by seniors, so if this does not concern you, please feel free to ignore it.

First of all, to all of you calling in and emailing your orders, the wait time is usually anytime from 48 to 72 hours for them to be processed and done.

Please refrain from calling in and asking when your personal order will be done. We cannot keep track of all the orders that we have, as we have several people doing them at the same time. We get nearly 100+ orders a day and usually get about 40 to 50 done, which leaves an excess for the next day. Following that, when you do place an order, *specify* your articles properly. We can't do much with "pasta."

Secondly (this is an iffy one because I know it is technically part of the job as a cashier but...), if you see an employee walking down the aisle with a shopping cart and a clipboard, *please* refrain from asking them questions. We're simply trying to do our jobs and having to continuously answer your questions and show you where everything is is extremely frustrating and we eventually lose our own train of thought.

Thirdly, when you ask us where some specific things are in the store and we don't know where they are, and then tell you that we're going to ask a grocery department worker, *do not give us attitude*. The store is relatively big and it's not that easy to re-

member where the "homemade canned Portuguese octopus dipped in canola oil" is, sorry (I'm aware this isn't a real thing it's just a specific example).

Last but not least, please be mindful and *do not leave your gloves and masks in our shopping carts*. This is extremely unsanitary, rude, disrespectful and inconsiderate, considering someone eventually has to pick them up.

Thank you.

FLAVIE MERKLY, REDFERN AVE.

## CAN THE GOVERNMENT PLEASE GET OUT OF THE WAY?

I think we can all agree that the premiers and the prime minister and their respective teams have really done their best. They prevented a flood in hospital ERs and ICUs, but the pandemic swamped the CHLSDs anyway. A small sample of the known unintended consequences would include: small and medium size business devastation, chaos in the education sector, inexplicable choices between essential versus non-essential activities and daily additions of financial aid that add up to infinity (is anybody counting?).

The unknowns are on their way, including COVID-23.

I beg our elected officials in opposition to demand from the prime minister, the premiers and their experts to retreat immediately from making critical decisions for every sector of our society. For instance, now we learn that this group of experts is going to figure out on the fly how they can "... increase the probability of large-scale

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

natural immunity," (*Gazette*, April 24, p. A4)?

Government should get back to what it does best: define standards, then enforce them. Given our new normal, all institutions will have to individually adapt their environments.

This means each business, school, swimming pool, hockey arena and municipal park, etc. should devise its own best practices of hygiene and social distancing according to standards that we essentially already know: clean hands, six feet of separation, and an optional N95 mask. Government will eventually inspect all of these enterprises and will declare them fit or unfit, and we can all get our lives back before they are ruined.

GREG DUNNING, KITCHENER AVE.

## THANKFUL FOR ALL THE HELP

Just yesterday, I was young – on the giving end of life – today, quite suddenly, it seems, I am on the receiving end. How did that happen? There were signs that I ignored, but now I cannot ignore them!

I am so thankful for all the help I receive. Not having any family that could help me, I have had so many offers of help. They frequently pick up a few things for me. When I was getting low on all staples and needed a large order, I phoned Contactivity, which offers this service. Twice I have had groceries delivered by their cheery volunteers. A streamlined service, avoiding contact and respecting all the rules. What a service!

I gather Westmount Security offers the same service. We are blessed in Westmount! I will be forever grateful for the help and support they gave six years ago when I was caregiver to my late husband. It is such a comfort to know that they are just a phone call away.

I must not forget the *Independent*, where do we find out about these local services? The *Indie*, of course, thank you!

HONOR BARRETT, KENSINGTON AVE.

## HAPPY TO RECEIVE INDEPENDENT

I am so happy to receive my weekly copy of the *Independent*. It brings a touch of normalcy to our constrained lives, even if many articles have COVID-19 content.

Many of your advertisers have brought us up to date on how their services have been modified. Others have continued to support you by maintaining their ads. So hang in there and continue to keep us up to date on local information.

I would also mention that Lovell's household directory is due to be published in May. As someone who finds searching through electronic sources irksome, I find

it an easy way to access information on city and business services, street addresses and names of residents, together with a street map of the city and summary of city services on one page.

I hope residents will continue to support the *Independent* and Lovell's.

PATRICIA FORBES, DE CASSON RD.

## THANK YOU, INDEPENDENT

Thank you to the *Westmount Independent* team for continuing to deliver your fabulous newspaper into Westmounters' hands every week, even in this unprecedented time and despite reduced advertising revenue for the newspaper.

I am sure that I speak for many when I observe that reading though the *Independent* gives me an important sense of community, clarity and comfort. Thank you again, and take care of yourself and your team.

WILLEM WESTENBERG, STAYNER ST.

## PARKS ARE NOT DOG RUNS

*An open letter to fellow residents*

Our outdoor spaces have become that much more important as we are locked in our houses for most of the day in dealing with this pandemic. I have noticed a number of things in our parks as of late and I would like to remind residents and nearby residents of some basic rules.

- 1) Stayner Park is not a dog run. There are two small signs at either end of the park (perhaps not sufficient) and residents should respect these signs. The park is a place for adults and children to sit, play and enjoy. Prospect Park, which is a dedicated dog run,\* is less than a one-minute walk south.
- 2) The city garbage cans in Stayner Park and Prospect Park are not intended to be used for household waste and junk disposal. Please place your trash in your own garbage cans. The use of city garbage cans for personal use only invites rodents to our neighbourhood and makes our parks look dirty.
- 3) The WAG (Westmount Athletic Grounds) playing field behind Westmount High School is not a dog run. Residents should not have to resort to calling security to enforce the rules.

Thank you to all for respecting the rules and lets hope that we can all resume our regular outdoor activities in the not too distant future.

FRANK CANDIDO, PROSPECT ST.

\**Editor's note:* Prospect Park is not, strictly speaking, a dog run, even if the "common law" of the southeast may have made it seem so. According to city director general Benoit Hurtubise, "It is a small strip of land that is owned by the city ... It is not designated for a specific usage." The city's actual, fenced dog runs are closed. – DP.

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## POEMS TO THE EDITOR

### FROM ME TO YOU

Self-Isolate or Quarantine,  
What can the difference be?  
While kooties fly all through the air  
Affecting you and me.  
For forty days and forty nights  
I'll be quarantined, it's true  
But I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

I'll turn seventy-one in quarantine,  
While hiding from this "flu."  
The sun is shining brightly  
And I don't know what to do.  
The grocer will deliver,  
But he says my limit's two.  
Still I don't want this virus  
To jump from me to you.

My freezer's packed with groceries  
Like baked goods and the such;  
I could feed the neighborhood  
And still I'd have too much!  
I have enough of everything  
From soup to nuts, it's true.  
But I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

I have enough of paper stuff  
To last till Christmas day.  
But if I splurge and use two sheets

The thrill might go away.  
My liquor cupboard is all stocked  
And I'll have a drink or two.  
But I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

I'll stay at home and hunker down,  
And clean and dust and sweep.  
I'll watch a bunch of Netflix,  
And I'll get lots of sleep.  
I'll stay at home and isolate  
'Cause that's the thing to do.  
But I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

I wash my hands a very lot  
And cough into my sleeve.  
I've been at home so very long,  
That I think I'll never leave.  
I practise social distancing,  
This much I'll always do;  
'Cause I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

People wander in the streets  
Like zombies, to and fro.  
It's all the more peculiar  
'Cause there is no place to go.  
I'll stay at home and meditate  
And think about what's true.  
But I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

They march around six feet apart  
Some exercise to get.  
Two by two, through the park  
And wind up just as fit.  
Kids and dogs mill all about  
On every street and Rue.  
But I won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

The streets downtown are empty.  
There is no place to go.  
I can't go out for dinner  
Or even see a show.  
So I stay at home and twiddle thumbs  
'Cause there's nothing else to do.  
But I still won't let this virus  
Jump from me to you.

DAVID WITTMAN, ABBOTT AVE.

### FROM MY BALCONY

In their windows, children paint  
rainbows  
behind our masks, we nod hellos.  
A walk outdoors, the pace is slow  
the world has paused  
spring flowers grow.  
Canines strut as if they know  
they are in charge  
their masters in tow.  
Those who have

care for those who have not.  
When we meet again  
may this not be forgot.  
Time stands still  
and will until the deadly virus  
decides to tire of us.  
In their windows children paint  
rainbows.

RONA SHEFLER HEFT, KENSINGTON AVE.

### DEFEAT AND MEET

Amid this coronavirus pandemic  
Do we really deserve this awful endemic?  
That virus comes from far away  
And forces us in our house to stay.

And also to self-isolate  
In a very lonely state  
It spreads at an alarming rate  
When will it ever abate?

We order our groceries from the store  
Which are delivered at our door  
We get our drugs from the pharmacy  
In the hope they are germ free.

Meanwhile, sit down and have a beer  
Fill yourself with very good cheer  
This disease we'll soon defeat  
Once again we can all meet.

TIM CARSLEY, BARAT RD.

## The Spotlight is on!

Several times a year, the *Independent* publishes a **Spotlight** on Real Estate edition, including a special pull-out section on real estate and an increased distribution for advertisers by delivering the paper via Canada Post to houses in western downtown and eastern NDG.

With all the uncertainty of the current era, there is a lot that we don't know (including whether it will have a normal page count or not), but our

### May 12 Spotlight issue

will go on – with the usual, increased distribution.

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David Price, editor

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## Westmount Soccer Club expects a different type of season

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's shaping up to be a very different type of season due to COVID-19 for the Westmount Soccer Club (WSC), a parent-run organization independent of the city whose

### Playing fields being maintained

While the city has cancelled its spring youth soccer program, it's not because of a lack of field maintenance.

The city's field maintenance contract awarded close to two months ago can now be applied since landscapers have been allowed to work by the provincial government, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week. "We can't afford to let the fields deteriorate even if they aren't used," he explained.

These are the fields at Westmount Athletic Grounds, King George (Murray) Park and Westmount Park including the re-sodded junior fields and the Melville field, (see story March 17, p. 1).

teams play intercity soccer throughout the spring and summer, as opposed to the city's (now cancelled) spring program run by Sports and Recreation department.

It all depends on what proposals from the Quebec Soccer Federation can be worked out with the Quebec government to implement activities that respect COVID-19 directives for physical distancing and possibly the wearing of masks, according to WSC president Doug Hamilton.

The soccer club usually starts its practices on Westmount's fields overlapping the city's own May and June soccer program. This year, however, Hamilton doesn't expect activities to start until June.

"What is being proposed is that we focus on developing soccer skills rather than the competitive aspect. The main point is to be able to get the kids outside to exercise, have some fresh air and fun with the ball."

While last year, the club had 265 players registered at the start of the season, this year's registration had to be curtailed over implementation of COVID-19 restrictions.

The season now hinges on what the soccer federation can work out with the government, Hamilton said.

"Soccer Quebec still holds out hope the competitive soccer may be permitted at some point later, so the season is delayed rather than cancelled at this point. The social distancing soccer training they still hope is the first step towards games later in the summer."

*Promote walking on streets, playing space for kids*

## New parking limitations, pedestrian lanes, one-way streets

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There will be more orange cones this summer "but for a good reason," Mayor Christina Smith said last week in announcing more pedestrian lanes, limited parking and a new network of one-way streets.

"Our goal is to keep our parks open, provide more space to walk on the streets and for children to be able to play while having the space for physically distancing."

New pedestrian lanes are expected to be set up by this week on The Boulevard, possibly section by section.

Streets such as Strathcona "which has tons of children" and leads to King George (Murray) Park will become one-way for vehicles, probably including Mount Stephen

## COVID-19 cases rise to 33 at 2 seniors' residences

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to grow at seniors' residences in Westmount with a second facility affected since the *Independent's* last report April 21.

According to the Quebec government's listing at this week's press time April 27, there were 23 cases at St. Margaret's residence, representing 24 percent of its residents.

New on the list, however, were 10 cases at Place Kensington. These represent 6 percent of its residents.

Since the government's reported numbers change almost daily, updates at weekly publication times may no longer be applicable but are an indication of increases and/or which residences are affected.

At April 27, there were no COVID-19 cases recorded for Manoir Westmount or at CHSLD Château Westmount.

and Arlington to provide a one-way network, she said.

Additional bollards will be installed on various streets such as Lansdowne between The Boulevard and Westmount Ave. to slow cars and allow pedestrians to share the road.

Parking is to be limited on Summit Circle and prohibited on Oakland, where all residences have driveways. Caregivers will be accommodated by residents' requests to Public Security. Oakland has become a parking lot for people wanting to enjoy the mountain, Mayor Smith explained. "Now people will just have to walk a little further."

All changes are temporary and could be changed as required, she said.



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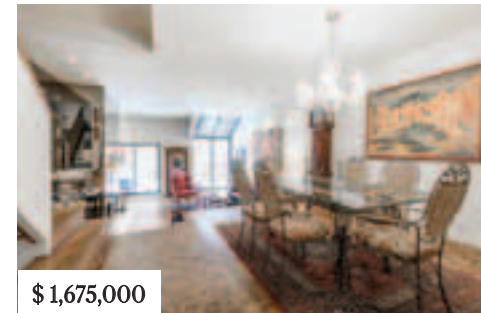
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 COVID-19

# Protect your own health and the health of others

## Decision Fact Sheet

### If you have COVID-19 symptoms

Follow the instructions on this poster to help you take the optimal decision for you and your close friends and family.

**Always** use proper hygienic and preventive measures to avoid contamination.

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow, onto your upper arm or into a paper facial tissue, not your hands
- Keep your environment clean

#### Adults & children

No fever (less than 38 °C/100.4 °F) but the following symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Sniffles
- Blocked nose
- Cough

#### DECISION

**I probably have a cold and need to rest.**

#### Adults at risk of severe respiratory symptoms

- I have a fever higher than 38 °C/100.4 °F.
- I am in an at-risk category for severe respiratory complications (senior or person with chronic cardiac and/or pulmonary problems, immune deficiency or diabetes).

#### Adults

I have a fever and/or some of the following symptoms:

- Sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion, with or without loss of taste
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme fatigue

**I am an elderly person** with geriatric symptoms (loss of autonomy, falling, confusion onset, agitation or sluggishness, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, etc.).

#### DECISION

**I stay at home and call the 1 877 644-4545 coronavirus hotline. Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.\***

**Follow instructions.**

\* Opening hours are subject to change.

#### Adults or children

I have a fever higher than 38 °C/100.4 °F and one or more of the following:

- Persistent and/or increasing difficulty in breathing
- Somnolence, confusion, disorientation, difficulty staying awake
- Blue lips
- No urine for 12 hours
- Difficulty moving
- Fever (baby less than three months of age)

#### DECISION

**Go to the emergency room immediately.**

**If help is needed, call 911.**





## Precautions and care if you have COVID-19 symptoms

### Rest

If you have coronavirus symptoms, feel weak and fatigued, rest will help you fight the disease. Limit your contact with others until you have no more symptoms. You can go back to your normal activities when your state of health allows you to.

### Drink frequently

Frequent drinking is important because fever causes perspiration and major loss of liquids.

You should drink **at least 1.5 litres of liquids every day.**

You can drink cold or warm liquids, as you prefer. Avoid alcoholic beverages and liquids like coffee or tea that contain caffeine, as well as soft drinks.

Alcohol and caffeine will cause you to urinate more often and increase loss of liquids.

Watch out for these signs of dehydration:

- Extreme thirst
- Dry mouth and tongue
- Infrequent and/or dark urine
- Dizziness, confusion and headaches

### Protect your entourage

Do the following to protect your entourage until you have no more symptoms (fever, cough, fatigue, sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion, with or without loss of taste):

- Self-isolate in a bedroom to avoid contaminating others
- Sleep and eat meals alone in your bedroom
- Only use one bathroom
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, ideally with a facial tissue. Wash your hands right after

- If you do not have any facial tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper arm, which are not in contact with people or objects
- Spit into a facial tissue
- Throw away facial tissues into a garbage bag in a trash can with a lid. Keep used tissues away from children
- Do not allow visitors in the house

### Keep your environment clean

The coronavirus (COVID-19) can survive for the following lengths of time on objects and surfaces:

- 3 hours on dry surfaces
- 6 days on moist surfaces

Therefore, it is important that you clean counters, sinks, door handles and all other surfaces frequently touched by hands. Cleaning and disinfecting are very efficient ways of eliminating the virus.

Use soap and water or household cleaners to clean surfaces.

Use a 1/9 bleach-water solution or disinfectants. For example, this means 10 ml of bleach to 90 ml of water.

If you are sick, your sheets, towels, cloths and dishware can be washed with those of others in the home using normal detergents.

### Seek help

While many of us have the necessary resources to deal with a COVID-19 situation, others may not. If you are concerned, do not hesitate to ask for or accept help. Talk about it with your close family members.

You can also dial 211 for help or ask your local CLSC to connect you with their home care and services resource.

### Stay informed

Listen to the radio, watch TV, read the newspaper and/or go to the following government website often:

**Québec.ca/coronavirus**

The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux will provide instructions for the population on health matters and to obtain care.

Always follow the government's current notices and instructions, since the situation can change.

### General information

#### Services Québec

#### Coronavirus hotline

1 877 644-4545 (toll free)

#### Deaf or hard-of-hearing persons

1 800 361-9596 (toll free)

The Self-Care Guide is available at [Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus). You can order your English hard copy online.

# Nothing says 'spring' like a kite



▲ It was a cold blustery afternoon April 22, but the conditions were good for kite flying. From left, Sarah, Lina and dad Tarek Sadani were having a great time with their rainbow-coloured kite and had plenty of space to run around.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## 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](mailto:editor@westmountindependent.com)*



*Westmount  
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Buddy Boo

by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Please support this SPCA petition to promote residential rental to families with animals – on their website: [www.sPCA.com/en/petition-rentals/](http://www.sPCA.com/en/petition-rentals/)

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Boo is such a sweet guy and is waiting patiently at the Montreal SPCA kennel for a home in our neighborhood, where spring walks and sunshine naps are the family dog routine in our area.

Boo is a great companion and friend, a seven-year-old pearl-grey shorthair with the softest brown eyes and adorable floppy ears. He is very healthy and active, up to date with his inoculations and treatments, and is neutered and microchipped.

Boo's identification number is 42960421 and you can find out more about him by referring to the SPCA's website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com). On its adoption page, you can then complete the simple online application for Boo's adoption. You will be contacted by a member of the adoption staff shortly for a telephone interview followed





*Has to be done, despite any later redevelopment: Cllr. Kez*

## New sidewalks, repaving on tap for Dorchester westbound

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The westbound lanes of Dorchester from Atwater to Greene are the latest addition to a string of infrastructure work tenders approved for this year. The east-bound portion was repaved in 2015.

At its meeting April 20, held remotely by video conferencing, city council awarded the reconstruction of sidewalks and asphalt repaving on this strip to Les entreprises de construction Ventec inc. at a maximum amount of \$784,072.01, including taxes. It was the highest of 10 bids ranging up to \$1,044,000.

It is the third contract won by Ventec for Westmount street work this year, following its bids for the reconstruction of

Springfield and St. Sulpice (see story April 21, p. 1),

In presenting the project, Councillor Philip Cutler said that the Dorchester section was last repaved in 1964 and, “as many of you know, was in very poor condition.” The work includes six new Hydro Westmount chambers.

“There is a strong possibility that the eastbound lanes will be converted to two-way traffic at least for a part of this summer’s work,” Engineering director Elisa Gaetano explained last week. Phase 2 will most likely be from Greene to St. Catherine and Clarke.

### Timing hard to predict

“It is very difficult to predict what restrictions the government will impose on

public sector construction sites,” she said. The nature of the Dorchester project is different from the Springfield and St. Sulpice contracts as it does not involve the reconstruction of the roadway, constituting instead the removal of the asphalt surface, base repairs and a new asphalt overlay.

Each of the three streets to be done by the same contractor carries a different project start and end date, and a minimum number of required weeks for completion and each will be reviewed as required.

Major work on Dorchester and the median had been virtually on hold since the public consultation meetings of 2016 on the creation of a vision for the potential development of the southeast sector, which included the current Tupper parking lots

immediately north of the street. It also involved the proposed narrowing of Dorchester (see story June 21, 2016, p. 1).

“The street and sidewalk are in such bad shape, it has to be done for at least a year or two because there is no decision (on development),” District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez told the *Independent* last week.

The council also awarded a contract for the rehabilitation of water mains by the insertion of a lining at several locations. Included are Devon, Lorraine, Parkman Place and Mount Pleasant though there are contingencies regarding start dates. The contract went to Sanexen Environmental Services Inc. for a maximum amount of \$3,677,877 including taxes. The only other submission was for \$4,307,848,

## Homeless drop-in centre set up on Dawson grounds



The shelter on April 23.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COUNCILLOR KATHLEEN KEZ.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A temporary indoor day centre to provide support to the homeless was set up by the city of Montreal last week at Dawson College as a coronavirus-related measure. It operates from 8 am to 3 pm.

The new Dawson *halte-répit*, as it is being called, is being managed by the city of Montreal and the Sécurité Civile and does not involve the city of Westmount, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week. The CEGEP’s property and building straddle the Westmount-down-town border.

The shelter is accessible from a separate entrance at 2100 Atwater in Montreal that opens directly into what is known as the third-floor cafeteria that can be closed off to the rest of the college. Mobile toilets and

sinks are set up outside.

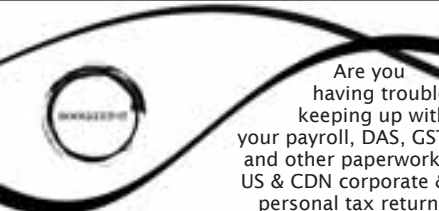
The new centre follows the recent closure of the Resilience Montreal centre that operated over the winter inside the vacant premises of the former MISO (and, before that, McDonald’s) restaurant at the southwest corner of St. Catherine and Atwater, which was located just within the Westmount territory.

When it closed, however, an outdoor day centre consisting of canopies was set up across the street at Cabot Square. Those working with the homeless contended that this set-up did not provide measures to facilitate social distancing or sufficient shelter from rain and heat.

The Dawson drop-in centre contains 25 chairs and 25 mattresses, according to Public Security director Greg McBain. West-

mount city councillor Kathleen Kez, who visited April 23, only two days after it

opened, said there were already people sleeping on the mattresses.





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## Westmount archaeology



This anchor for a signpost was photographed on St. Catherine near Blenheim Place on April 17.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here he is, so good looking and personable: young Domino was found last November and given outside shelter until March when he finally came into the home of the kind lady who had been caring for him.

He is in foster care through Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions and doing very well. He has received all his veterinary care, being up to date with his inoculations and treatments, and neutered.

Domino is three years old, a wonderful companion who also enjoys life with two small dogs in his foster family. As a debonair, white do-



## Handsome Domino

mestic shorthair with a black cap and cape, his huge golden eyes and pink nose are quite the contrast.

He comes over for attention after an initial shyness and looks forward to cuddles. Domino is playful and interactive, expecting the same in return.

If you would like more information on Domino, please do not hesitate to contact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their website [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) or email them directly at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Many thanks for your donations, adoptions, fosters, and rescues.

You make a huge difference.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

## Shorts – another sign of spring



This man was spotted on a beautiful April 25 on Sherbrooke at Strathcona. He was the first person the Independent has seen in shorts this year.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Online Guitar Lessons for Everyone

With what is going on these days, many of us are offered opportunities to pursue hobbies and interests that we might not otherwise have had time for.

Whether you are a practising musician who wants to improve your skills or a beginning player who has always wanted to learn the guitar, live online lessons are a personalized and fun way to help you achieve your goals.

With over 20 years' experience teaching pop, rock, jazz, blues and classical guitar, I tailor my lessons to the individual student's strengths and musical taste. Whatever your age or background, everyone can take part in the joy of learning and playing guitar.

If you are in the market to buy a guitar online or have an old one lying around, I can advise you.

### Chris van Soest

24 years' experience in Westmount, NDG, Hampstead & GSL  
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## Library, cont'd. from p. 1

to discontinue it!"

How the library will proceed depends on what the provincial government proposes and what limitation it might present, she explained. "We're used to having 900 people a day (through the turnstile) but we don't know how many we have at one time."

As well, the children's department poses a particular problem regarding physical distancing, because how do you control them? "These are some of the things we're thinking about," she said.

## Storytime continues

And concerning the children's department, she noted, now that the Storytime sessions are being held on the website, the sessions are being retained so parents can access all of them at any time. The Wednesday sessions are available from April 8, 15 and 22. The next one is April 29. They are available on line at [bit.ly/WPLstorytimeonline](http://bit.ly/WPLstorytimeonline).

The English books are read by Wendy Wayling, Dawna Hobbs and Faith Holness and French ones by Barbara Duchesne along "with guest appearances from their pets – dogs and cats!" Jay said.

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Are you a Westmount Senior who needs help with grocery shopping? Please call Linda (volunteer) at (514) 269-2724.

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*Nanji-Simard: 'We must share our resources'*

## Family foundation donates \$1.6 million to fight COVID-19

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

In 1972, thousands of South Asians were kicked out of Uganda by Idi Amin and, thanks to former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, were airlifted to Canada, where Pyarali and Gulshan Nanji and their four children settled.

Subsequently, the Nanjis founded the Nanji Family Foundation, which has donated large sums in support of hospitals in Toronto and Montreal.

This month, Westmount res Nimi Nanji-Simard and her family (her parents now live in Toronto) announced their foundation's donation of \$1.6 million to hospitals across the country to fight COVID-19.

In Montreal, they have given \$100,000 each to the CHUM and the MUHC. By their generous example, the Nanji family hopes to encourage other Canadian family foundations to make a contribution of their own.

"All of us who can should give in this challenging time," says Nimi Nanji-Simard. "We must share our resources."

Better days are yet to come, let's stay calm and believe that soon enough the sun will shine.

Be careful, be attentive, be safe!



**Bunny Berke**

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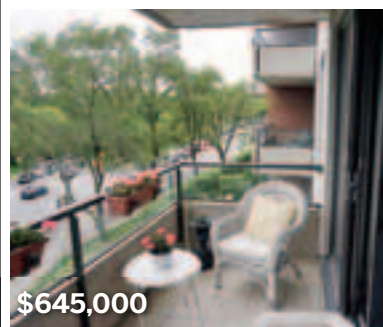
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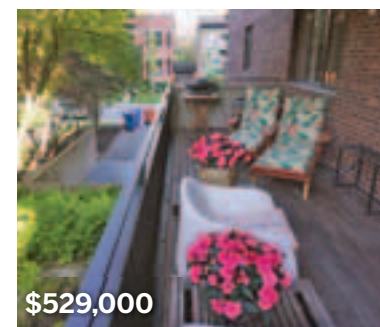
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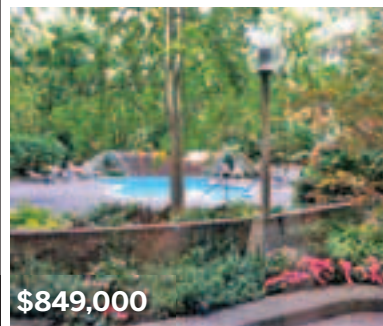
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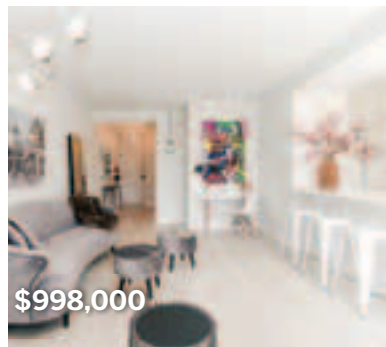
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COVID-19,  
special rules  
apply.**

\*Virtual Visit Video upon request





## MISE À JOUR DE LA MAIRESSE ET DU CONSEIL

Vous remarquerez quelques changements dans nos rues, notamment l'expansion de l'espace piétonnier. Afin de donner aux piétons plus d'espace pour circuler et leur permettre de respecter la distance de 2 mètres avec les autres, 27 % de nos rues ont maintenant un espace supplémentaire. Nous espérons que les résidents pourront continuer à profiter collectivement de nos rues pour marcher tout en gardant une distance physique, et que nos parcs pourront rester ouverts. Ainsi, dans ce contexte, la multitude de cônes orange que vous verrez dans les rues est donc une bonne nouvelle pour vous.

Cette semaine, nous avons annoncé que tous nos programmes de sports et loisirs pour le printemps, incluant le soccer, ont été annulés. Dès que la situation le permettra, nous ferons tout notre possible pour reprendre ces activités qui vous passionnent. Je me rends compte que ces temps d'incertitude sont difficiles pour tous. Aucune décision n'a encore été prise concernant nos programmes d'été, mais nous vous tiendrons informés dès que possible.

Notre Service de l'aménagement urbain est maintenant en mesure de traiter certaines demandes de permis en ligne et vous trouverez toutes les informations concernant les procédures à suivre sur notre site Web. Nous faisons tout notre possible pour continuer d'offrir les services de la Ville à tous les résidents en travaillant à distance, et en assurant la sécurité des employés qui vous fournissent des services essentiels.

Nous en sommes maintenant à la septième semaine de confinement en raison de la COVID-19 et, comme vous, je sais à quel point cela peut être éprouvant et difficile. Mais nous devons continuer à suivre ces mesures, à rester chez nous et à respecter la distance de 2 mètres. Ça va bien aller. Je tiens à remercier une fois de plus tous les travailleurs de la santé qui prennent soin de tant de personnes dans notre communauté, ainsi que toutes les personnes qui travaillent dans nos épiceries, nos pharmacies, nos restaurants et les autres entreprises qui servent nos résidents au quotidien. Prenez soin de vous, restez chez vous et prenez soin les uns des autres.

---

## UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A few changes you will see on our streets is the expansion of pedestrian space. With a view to give pedestrians more room to circulate and to allow them to more easily keep a 2-metre distance from others, 27% of our streets now have added space. Our hope is that residents can continue to collectively enjoy our streets for walking while still social distancing, and that our parks can remain open. The sea of orange cones may in this case be a welcome sight to all of you.

This week we announced that all our spring programs, including soccer, were canceled. As soon as it is safe we will make every effort to begin reinstating our activities that so many of you cherish. I realize that uncertain is very difficult for everyone. No decisions have been made yet regarding our summer programs but we will share any new information we have, as soon as it becomes available.

Our Urban Planning department is now able to review some permits online and you will find all the information regarding permit application on our website. We are trying to serve residents as best we can from all departments of the City while working remotely, and still ensure the safety of those employees who are providing you with essential services.

We are now in week 7 of confinement measures because of COVID-19 and, like you, I know just how overwhelming and challenging that can be. But we need to keep self-isolating, staying at home and respecting the 2-metre distance. Together, we will get through this. I once again want to thank all of the healthcare workers who are caring for so many in our community, as well as all the workers in our grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, and various other businesses, who are serving our residents on a daily basis. Be safe, stay home and check in on each other.

La mairesse Christina M. Smith et le Conseil  
Mayor Christina M. Smith and Council









## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Shield of Athena holds art auction, raises \$90k



Litsa Peloni, Geogia Gialis, Samantha Regimbal, Melpa Kamateros, Chris Ann Nakis, Neil Janna and Samara O'Gorman.

Westmounters **Jennifer Campbell** (*Diary of a Social Gal*) and **Tatiana Londono** (Londono Realty Group) were ambassadors for the Shield of Athena's Annual Art Auction.

Although neither was able to attend, co-chairs **Samantha Regimbal** (What's Up World) and **Gus Masoud**, president Pur-Lift, were very pleased with the event. The hard workers were ably assisted by amazing co-hosts: weather forecaster **Eramed-linda Boquer**, then with CJAD, and international comedian **Neil Janna**.

Held November 10 (last one from November, we promise!) at the now-closed but once-famous – if not infamous – Thursday's, the afternoon celebrated the 15th anniversary of the shelter Athena's House.

Participating artists included a variety of Canadian artists, as well as numerous works by **David Werner Feist** from the Bauhaus School Of Art, the most influential modernist art school of the 20th century.

Sponsors were the Air Canada Foundation, Bâton Rouge Complexe Desjardins,

CJAD, Global Montreal, Mercedes Benz Laval, Mike FM, Pantazis & Associés, Scotia Bank, Sir Winston Churchill Pub and Thursday's Montreal Bistro.

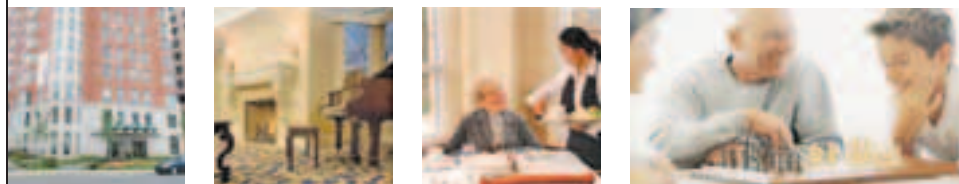
Thursday's then-owner and president Shield of Athena **Chris Ann Nakis** commented that "the lack of funding for services to victims of family violence, prompts us to hold this annual event."

Noted enjoying the delicious food were

**Litsa Pelonis, Georgia Gialis, Samantha Regimbal, Neil Janna, Samara O'Gorman, Shield board member Mark Grinberg and Fanis Mitronikas** from the Greek consulate, who chose the paintings auctioned.

The fun Sunday afternoon generated \$90,000 for Athena's House, which has two day centers, an emergency shelter and a community outreach program. Services are offered in 12 languages.

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MANAGEMENT

## Excellence in Portfolio Management: There is wealth in our approach.

Portfolio management expertise and excellence, depth, professionalism and consistency – this is what has defined our business approach for over 35 years. It is central to how we manage portfolios, control risk, identify opportunities and build relationships.

At the Bruce Kent Group, we customize each client portfolio so that it is specifically tailored to meet your needs and expectations. Our personal approach, combined with our outstanding portfolio management, is why the Bruce Kent Group is the largest discretionary portfolio management group at RBC Dominion Securities across Canada, with over \$4 billion in assets under management.

### It's time.

If you are seeking outstanding portfolio management and comprehensive wealth management, we would be pleased to discuss how we can put our experience to work for you.

**RBC Dominion Securities Inc.**

To meet with us, please call:  
Nathalie Roussin, Vice President & Wealth Advisor, or  
Jean-François Dion, Vice President & Portfolio Manager,  
at 514-878-7292  
1 Place Ville Marie, Montreal | [brucekentgroup.com](http://brucekentgroup.com)



**RBC Wealth Management  
Dominion Securities**



**MARIE SICOTTE**

REAL ESTATE BROKER

WELCOME TO THE *right* ADDRESS



514 953 9808

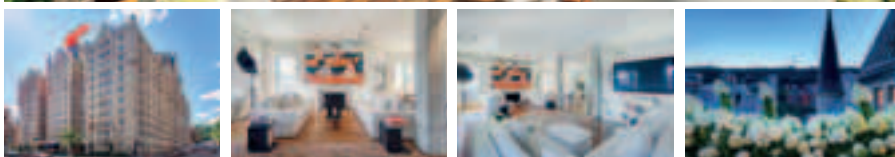
mariesicotte.com



GRUPE SUTTON CENTRE OUEST INC

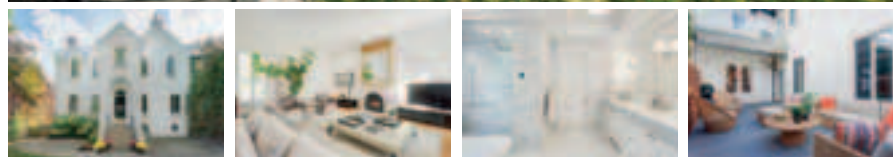
SICOTTE & CO

RARE GEM



GOLDEN SQUARE MILE, VILLE-MARIE | LE CHÂTEAU PENTHOUSE  
Fully renovated PH in landmark building w/ unique terrace, 360° views + 2 car garage

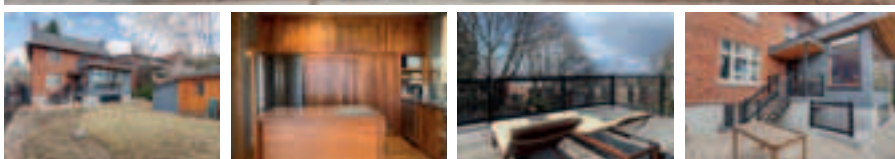
IDEAL STREET



WESTMOUNT | 52 ROSEMOUNT AVE.  
Stunning historical home, best location on the flats!

\$2,490,000

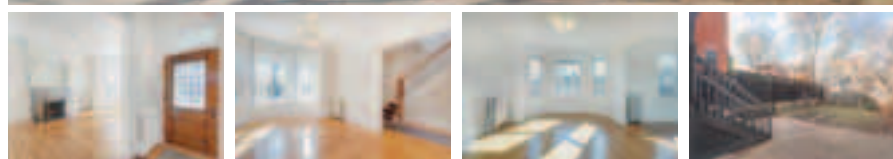
NEW



WESTMOUNT ADJ | 4800 ROSLYN AVE.  
Detached stately home w/ beautiful modern addition. 5+1 bdr, magnificent garden + stunning views

\$1,995,000

NEW



WESTMOUNT | 71 ARLINGTON AVE.  
Beautiful home on the flats w/ yard + parking. Ready for immediate occupancy.

\$1,595,000