

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 14 No. 6c

We are Westmount

June 16, 2020

Imagine green 'grass,' hammocks, terrasses

New summer space for Greene, traffic to use one lane

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A whole new reconfiguration and ambiance is planned this summer for Greene Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve, according to city plans revealed this week to encourage the economic recovery of the commercial street.

The usual parking lane on the east side is to be pushed out into one of the two existing traffic lanes on the one-way street, allowing the reclaimed space to be used for

Letters to the editor, p. 6

Dodge on May real estate, p. 19

Pet adoptions, p. 22

**Social Notes
(Marlene & Joel King), p. 21**

the safe distancing of café-terrasses, pedestrians, new seating areas and merchant or other public activities.

"The idea is to bring life to the commercial area and provide more space for shoppers and people who want to enjoy their own or take-out food," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes economic development.

"We are looking at green *faux*-grass carpeting and artistic painting along with street furnishing such as hammocks, seating and tables. The beauty of it is that we'll retain parking on both sides of the street."

Much of this is to be funded from the \$200,000 appropriated by council June 1 for use in revitalizing the commercial areas this summer (see story
continued on p. 22

Selwyn alumni play '6 FT APART'



Seen here on Saturday June 13 outside Selwyn House School, the band 6FT APART is made of Selwyn "old boys" who decided to lift people's spirits with lively rock music. See p. 19 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

Independent's summer schedule

- June 23 – issue
- June 30 – no issue
(Dominion Day observance)
- July 7 & 14 – issues
- July 21, 28 and August 4 – no issues
(usual summer break)
- August 11 till Christmas – weekly issues

Pool plan calls for 90-minute time slots

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans were evolving last week to open the city's pool – possibly this weekend or the day after, June 22 – so a proposal could be presented to city council members after press time on June 15, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week.

Second municipal property tax installment now deferred, see p. 19

"We're looking at dividing the pool into blocks (or sections) for which residents will be able to book 90-minute time slots online every day." If some remain unfilled, they would also be available for additional reservation.

The diving area would be reserved for diving, and lap lanes would be one-way to observe social distancing and prevent swimmers meeting.

Since access to changing rooms is not allowed, the plan would see the men's changing room used as
the entrance to the pool, continued on p. 19



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Household hazardous waste drop-off June 20

The semi-annual household hazardous waste collection takes place Saturday, June 20 at the city's library parking lot on Sherbrooke. Materials can be dropped off between 9 am and 5 pm.

The event was announced at the June 1 city council meeting by Councillor Marina Brzeski.

A long list of accepted material ranging

from paint and pesticides to batteries and fluorescent light tubes can be found on the city website along with a list of those items that are not accepted. These include medications, tires and asbestos.

At the same time, electronic waste such as computer equipment, will also be collected by EPRA-Quebec's "Recycle my electronics program."

Strange days indeed

City's day camps slower to fill up

How quickly times have changed even as the so-called de-confinement pandemic measures evolve.

The city's youth day camps, which usually fill up within the first 10 or 15 minutes of registration, still had space at all age levels on Day 2, even with the required reduced number, Sports and Recreation of-

ficials said June 10. Registration had opened the day before at 8 am.

"People may have found other avenues (for their children)," suggested department director Dave Lapointe. On the other hand, he said, many parents may not be back at work or are working from home, or are still "uncertain about COVID-19."

More winter prep!

Two new trucks purchased for snow removal

City council June 1 approved the purchase of two new trucks related to snow removal, continuing its purchases at the last two council meetings for the coming winter. "We're getting ahead of it," said Councillor Philip Cutler in moving the resolution.

The 4X4 cab-chassis trucks are to be purchased from International Rive Nord at a cost of \$385,546 including taxes. The bid from the truck dealer was described as the lowest conforming one but was the only one listed in supporting documents.

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Tennis lessons get sudden go-ahead

Now that the Quebec government has announced a decision to allow tennis lessons, Westmount was to open its online registration June 15.

Even though that was the same day as the first lesson, that should not deter someone from joining in a day late, said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. "It's short notice but we weren't given much time."

As well, the city is starting to issue day passes for guests to use the courts.

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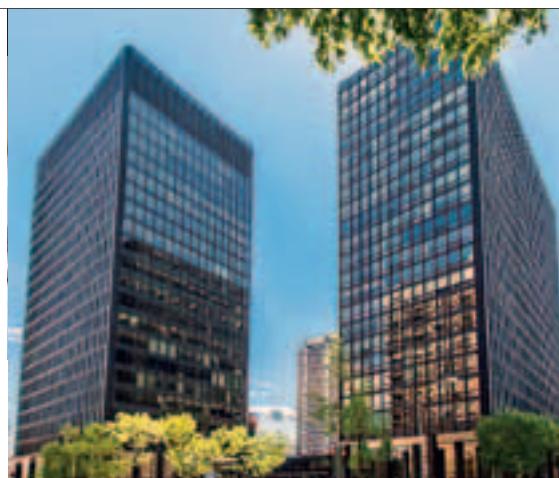
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Playground equipment now includes sanitizer dispensers



A stand with four hand-sanitizer dispensers has been set up in the children's playground in Westmount Park, as seen June 5.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON

For Prince Albert Park

New play structure delayed but expected this fall

One of the current play structures at the western edge of Prince Albert Park on June 15. There are also ones at the eastern edge. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It may be delayed, but the new play structure for Prince Albert Park is expected to be installed by the fall, city officials said last week. This results from the rejection by the council June 1 of all four bids received to an original call for tenders and a new one being called.

The four that had been opened May 8 were rejected as being non-conforming, Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained. It was the first time the city had used a new evaluation grid and all four bidders would

be contacted quickly and the grid explained.

While Mayor Christina Smith said "this is disappointing," Lulham said it just means the equipment will go in a little later but that she expects the bidders will re-tender quickly.

The tender call is "in the works and we are hoping for installation in the fall," said city director general Benoit Hurtubise. The bidders were missing a compulsory liability document, he said.

The four bids ranged from one at \$280,270 excluding taxes to the highest at \$331,392, including tax.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020.



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Demetrios Adamakakis
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Trevor Aitken
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Matt Avedesian
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Jacob Pimentel Roper
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Giancarlo Rachella
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Enoch Tamale
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Harris Woodward
Angus Wright

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"Goodbye, good luck and God bless."

"We will miss you so much."

*Hal Hannaford,
Headmaster*



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RACISM EXISTS IN WESTMOUNT

What a horrible, disgusting, tragic couple of weeks it has been with the terrible deaths of yet more persons of colour and yet we sit in our ivory towers thinking it couldn't happen in Westmount.

Whilst taking a walk along de Maisonneuve last week, I witnessed racism, not to myself but to an Asian gentleman walking along the street wearing a mask and going on his way.

A truck was stopped at the stop sign on Kensington and I could not believe my ears when the driver and his passenger called out the most derogatory words to this person.

They took off before I could confront them, which to be sure I would have done but it left me with a horrible feeling that we have this [kind of person] thinking they are better than others, even in Westmount.

We must not kid ourselves. Racism is here and if we want to live in a place that we can be proud of it is up to each and every one of us to stand up against this kind of people.

SPEAK OUT. Each voice can make a difference.

VIVIAN GRANT, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

GIVE US AN ADDRESS, AND WE'LL DELIVER THE COMPOST

We moved to Westmount two years ago from Côte des Neiges, where we had been composting (either in our back yard or city collection once started) for 40 years.

We are unable to do so in Westmount. We live in the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment block. I understand why it is ineligible until a solution can be found to the

storage in larger buildings. We even phoned the city to obtain an address where we would deliver our compost. To our dismay, there is none.

We are not alone in our building. Other former homeowners and environmentalists are also interested. Is there some way the city could set up a service for us to deliver our compost? This would increase our participation rate to which the Healthy City Project refers in its column "Composting survey results are in – improvement needed."

JOHN PETERS & ALETHA THOMPSON,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

POOL BADLY CONCEIVED, BUILT FROM START

I take issue with Ms. Sweeney's claim in her article "Council awards pool repairs to cost up to half-million" (June 2, p. 3) that the Westmount recreation centre pool opened in the fall of 2013.

It was due to open in 2014 as contracted, but was not completed until 2015.*

My first swim in the pool left me disbelieving that a pool with no membrane should be proffered to the citizens of Westmount as acceptable. Concrete pools were obsolescent in Quebec by the 1960s.

Through the decades, membranes have constantly improved. They were initially introduced to help prevent mould. A more cosmetic element is that they don't abrade the skin when rubbing up against the pool wall – important when young children are thrashing around at play in them.

I wrote to the *Independent* about my dismay in 2014 (July 8, p. 5 and August 19, p. 6).

Five years later, we're being burdened with a \$502,440.75 for repairs to a pool that has had an extremely short life.

As a matter of fact, I recall that within three months of the pool opening, a young swimmer was recorded as having experienced a fright when two large chunks of concrete fell from the wall where he was in the midst of a lesson. Not the kind of memory you relish children recalling about a fun-filled summer.

B.A. MANTEL, BRUCE AVE.

*Editor's reply: We stand by our reporting. See the pool's official opening in our issue of November 5, 2013, p. 1. It then opened for its first full season in 2014. See June 3, 2014, p. 10. – DP

THINK LONG TERM ON POOL REPAIRS, WARRANTY

Westmount residents are facing costs of repairs that need to be done to an amount of \$500,000, which may or may not be recovered in the current legal proceedings with the original contractor.

However, once we accept that we need to spend \$500,000, which per the tender and contract documents only gives us a three-year warranty, perhaps it would be wiser that we study the option of doing more to say get a 10-year or even longer warranty, which amortized over the new time period would reduce the effective annual cost [implied by the current arrangement] of \$167,000.

A major part of the cost is in removing the existing concrete and replacing it with concrete with additional coverage.

Although I do not know the type of rebar used in the original construction, I do know that epoxy-coated rebar is the optimal product to be used. Nor do I know the ground protection installed behind and below the floor or walls of the pool, which needs to be considered. The characteristics of the concrete also needs to be reconsidered as well as the paint coating on the new concrete.

Since the repair work will not be starting until the fall, there is time to take a longer term viewpoint/value investing approach to optimize our tax dollars.

KEN LONDON, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

CONTINUE YORK ST.-STYLE PLANTING

The overline and headline on p. 5 of *Westmount Independent* of May 25 read: "Spring planting adds to 50 last fall – City plants another 125 trees along streets, parks," and, below a striking photo, the

caption reads: "A new tree at the York St. parklet on May 22, with a seemingly dead one behind. Just in time?"

Heading my letter is a cue from Thomas Pakenham's book *Meetings with Remarkable Trees* – a unique illustrated volume destined to become a treasured collector's item.

On the left corner of the "Costco" apartment building at 400 Lansdowne Ave. stands my first outstanding tree with its arms and fingers pointing to the top floor windows.

Past the floral clock to the classical front of Victoria Hall, its rival bids for the eyes of passers-by.

And strolling to the parking lot between the Westmount Public Library and the YMCA, there are three fantastically outstanding trees, which – unbelievably – whistle and sing in the wind. In front of 4557 Sherbrooke St. is another outstanding tree: it lassos the eye of the passer-by.

Behind Westmount city hall is the imposing Whitehall apartment building, with three wide-bodied trees reaching the height of the roof. Facing 311 Kensington Av. is another fine example, as well as the one facing 317 Melville Ave. Last, not least, a most outstanding tree on the bike path complements the gazebo in Westmount Park.

There are numerous outstanding trees in Westmount that I have left out. The reason? They would make my letter too long.

When Westmount's new arborist Stéphane Galarneau begins planting a new series of trees, he could and would do well to find spots related to the above outstanding trees to compete with the stunningly harmonious location he found and utilized at the York St. parklet.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION

Thank you for keeping Westmounters informed as to life during these COVID-19 times.

I am referring to your article concerning the library, "Supermarket-style curbside pick-up" (June 2, p. 1), and "Pool to open – date unknown" (June 9, p. 1).

Your paper is also very informative on the expansion of St. Léon's School.

Hopefully, you will keep us informed of any traffic detours due to the construction of the school.

I am sure that I speak for many Westmounters when I say how much we look forward to your weekly newspaper to keep us informed.

Keep up the excellent reporting.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.
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External audit: Clear opinion, Westmount in excellent financial position



**Councillor's
column**

KATHLEEN KEZ
DISTRICT 8

The city of Westmount's financial statements were recently audited by the firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and a "clear opinion" was given. No discrepancies were found, and the financial results present an accurate picture of the city of Westmount's financial position as at December 31, 2019.

The firm evaluated fraud and risk, as well as reviewed internal controls in accordance with public sector accounting standards. As in the previous year, the audit confirmed that we are in a very healthy financial position.

Net financial position: \$24 million

I am pleased to report that as at December 31, 2019, Westmount was in a net financial asset position, meaning its financial assets were higher than its financial liabilities by \$24 million, which is an increase of \$5 million over the previous year.

The total net worth of the city if we include non-financial assets (e.g. buildings, sewers, machinery, equipment etc.) is \$205 million compared to \$193.8 million in 2018.

The audited statements revealed an operating surplus of \$49,129 for 2019 compared to a \$2.4-million surplus in 2018. This is mainly due to a decrease in revenues from duties on transfers compared to budget.

Total municipal revenues were higher than budgeted by \$1.4 million. Upon closer examination, some of the revenue items that contributed to this includes revenues from permits and licences, which had a favourable variance of \$441,000 due to a very active renovation market. It was the second highest ever recorded, \$1.3 million versus \$1.4 million back in 2017.

Interest revenues on deposits also had a favorable variance amounting to \$389,000 as we were not obliged to liquidate assets as originally anticipated and therefore allowing for more interest revenue to accrue. Administrative and other revenues were also higher than budgeted by \$347,000 due to auctions and supplier discounts.

Total departmental expenses came to a total of \$12.9 million, whereas the budget-

ed amount was \$14.8 million. This favourable variance can largely be attributed to Public Works, where spending was \$1,281,165 less than budgeted due to savings on various projects.

Regarding Hydro Westmount, there was a net favourable variance of \$1,187,779. The decrease in gross revenues was offset by a larger decrease in operating costs due to vacant posts for part of the year, as well as a credit granted by Hydro Quebec due to Bill 34.

The municipal pay-as-you-go was \$4.4 million lower than budgeted and there are two major reasons for this. The first is that our Engineering department was able to go out to tender earlier than other cities, which resulted in lower costs in our road projects by \$1.2 million. The other reason is that \$3 million allotted from the appropriated surplus for the greenhouse was moved to this year's budget because unfortunately the project is taking longer than originally estimated, but we continue to push it forward.

The budget strategy was to use \$9.6 million of the accumulated surplus for the debt expense as well as our pay-as-you-go, but as additional revenues were generated and some building projects got postponed,

it was not used in 2019 and will be attributed to projects in the current and future years.

Accumulated surplus: \$29 million

As at December 31, 2019, the total accumulated surplus was \$29 million, and of this amount 98 percent has been appropriated to various projects.

The outstanding debt as at December 31, 2019 was \$9.3 million. Of this amount \$3.6 million is assumed by the city and \$5.6 million *continued on p. 9*

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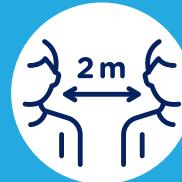
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Design study for small portion of sound barrier

City agrees to shared cost of \$57K, Greene to Atwater

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council June 1 authorized a maximum payment of \$57,488 including taxes for “the final preliminary design study” of developing a sound barrier along Route 136 (Highway 720) from Greene to Atwater.

This represents the city’s 50-percent portion of a cost sharing agreement with Quebec’s ministry of Transport ratified by the council two years ago, for which the anticipated amount now requires authorization as the ministry goes out to tender “for the design and subsequently the preparation of the required plans and specifications” (see story October 3, 2018, p. 1).

This stretch of the highway is a 315-meter portion that affects properties along Prospect and at the foot of Clandeboye as well as behind Weredale Park to Atwater. This portion was unchanged by the Turcot project over which the city is still in court in its efforts to obtain a sound barrier to the west.

“This is a very longstanding issue,” Mayor Christina Smith said of the sound barrier as council authorized the maximum amount of its share at this time.

District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez, who moved the resolution to pay for the development of plans, said “we’ll see” what the plan produces, though no details were discussed.

Ministry handling contract

City director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week that the Transport ministry, delayed by the pandemic, will now be going out to tender to select a subcontractor, probably an engineering firm, to put the plan together. Preliminary results should be available in the spring.

Seven years ago, the city undertook to pay 50 percent of a feasibility study for a sound barrier east of Hallowell (see story August 20, 2013, p. 8). Two years later, however, residents expressed opposition to options proposed in the study.

A number of problems included this positioning, which included insufficient space between houses and the CP right of way, as well as the need to break the barrier at Greene (see story August 4, 2015, p. 1).

The current plan, however, would see a barrier starting east of Greene.



The CP railway tracks and then vehicles on the 720/136 were just visible through the trees on June 12 looking south from Prospect St. through Prospect Park, which run east from Greene to Clandeboye.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Councillor's column, cont'd. from p. 7

by the Quebec government, which pays its grants [to be used to re-pay municipal debt] over a 10- to 20-year period [instead of borrowing the money itself].

The financial report and the auditor’s report have been tabled by the treasurer and have been forwarded to the Ministère des affaires municipales et de l’habitation. The 2019 financial statement is available on the city’s website for consultation.

Looking back at the past year, we can conclude that Westmount remains in en-

viable financial health. We continue to invest in our infrastructures without having increased our current debt, which has been steadily decreasing.

In addition to continuously evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on our 2020 operating budget, we have begun the process of planning for the 2021 capital and operating budgets, and I look forward to sharing with you more information in the coming months.

Kathleen Kez is the city councillor for District 8 and the finance commissioner.



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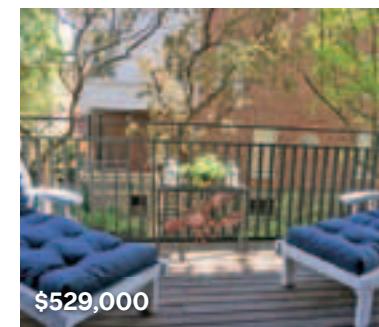
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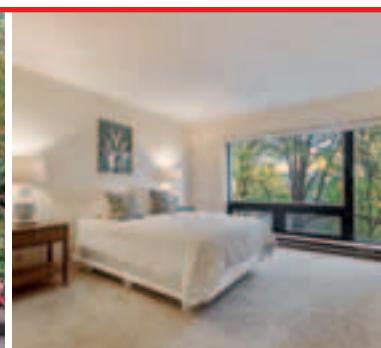
Lorri Faughnan
514.715.6201
lorrifaughnan@gmail.com
courier immobilier /real estate broker



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apply.**

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*Virtual Visit Video upon request



NO ONE IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE THAN **RE/MAX** RE/MAX Action – WESTMOUNT



Anne Ben-Ami (Madar)

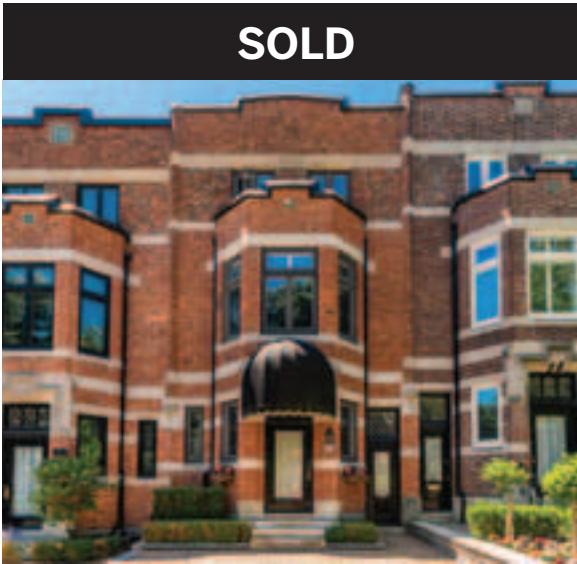
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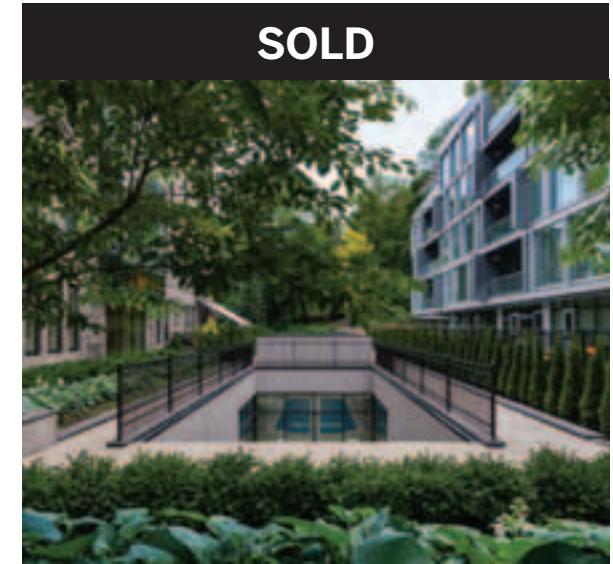
SOLD



SOLD



SOLD

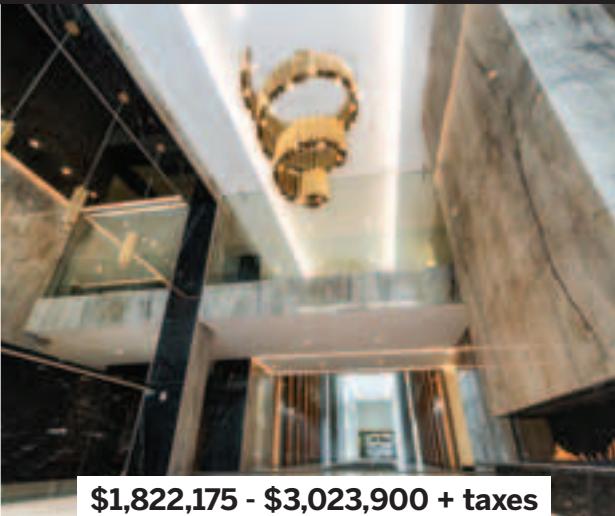


Av. Upper-Lansdowne, Westmount

Av. Wood, Westmount

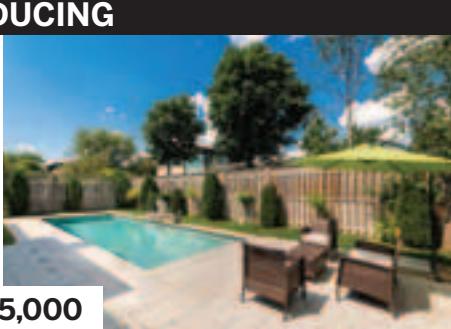
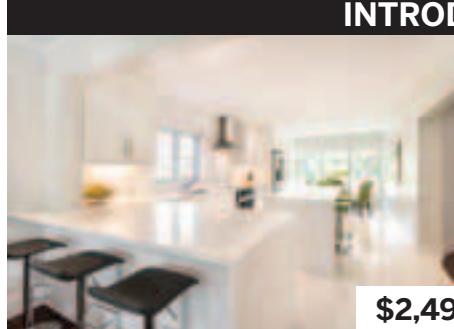
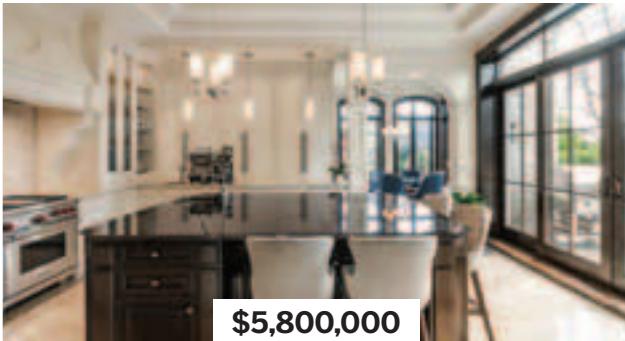
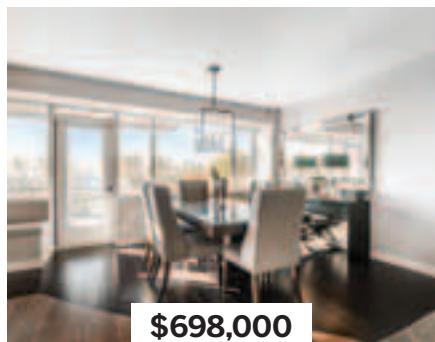
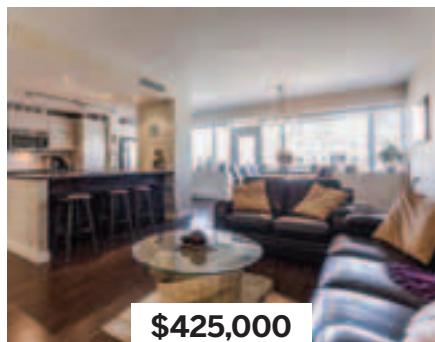
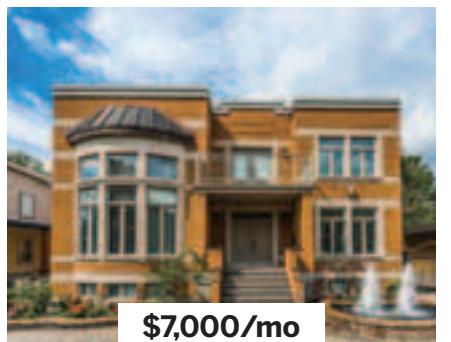
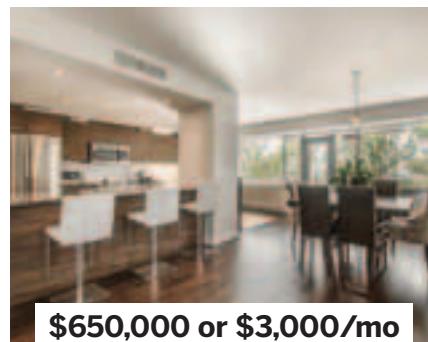
M sur la Montagne, unit 308 - 2,650 ft²

PHASE 2 - M SUR LA MONTAGNE



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MLS 17460385**\$425,000****4850 Ch. Côte-St-Luc, Apt. 47, CDN/NDG**
MLS 21800106**\$7,000/mo****1683 Boul. Gouin O., Ahuntsic-Cartierville**
MLS 27986089**\$650,000 or \$3,000/mo****2 bedrooms, 1,400 sq. ft. with garage**
SALE: MLS 19556489 RENTAL: MLS 18100377

Team Practice: Play It Safe!

To the delight of many, the Québec government has authorized the gradual resumption of sports team activities (e.g. soccer, baseball, softball) in the form of outdoor practice sessions. The crowds streaming to outdoor tennis courts and golf courses these past few weeks suggest great interest in resuming team sports. However, we must continue to remain vigilant.

To increase the odds of returning to normal daily life in the coming months, we must continue to follow health guidelines.

For more information and to find out which activities are permitted, go to:

Québec.ca/recovery

**Votre
gouvernement**

Take it slow—It's worth the wait!

The benefits that regular outdoor physical, sports and leisure activities have on our mental and physical health are immense. It's good to get moving! However, after weeks of being either inactive or less active than before, it's important to take things slow and resume these activities gradually.

Before taking part in any activity, be sure to warm up properly to reduce the risk of injury. It's also important to gradually increase the frequency and duration of your activity. It's normal for you to not perform at the same level as you did when you stopped exercising. Give yourself time to get back into shape by focusing on having fun during physical activity.

Summer is for having fun while staying safe

Nothing says summer in Québec more than swimming and water activities. But every year, accidents happen. It's important to stay as safe as possible by following these basic guidelines:

- Always keep an eye on children and do not leave them unsupervised during swimming and water activities.
- Follow the safety guidelines and restrictions set by aquatic facilities.
- Assess your own capabilities based on your physiological condition.
- Wear a personal floatation device (PFD) correctly during water activities.
- Always be accompanied by another person during water activities.
- Do not wear protective masks or face coverings during water activities.

Sports federations are your allies

Several sports federations have already collaborated with the Québec government to develop protocols for the resumption of activities, many of which are available on their respective websites. These guidelines are tailored to their respective fields and disciplines.

Federations are responsible for informing their members of these guidelines and for making it clear that health and safety guidelines, especially hygiene rules, must be followed in order to ensure that activities are practised safely.



Respect the health guidelines!

The successful resumption of normal daily life depends on everyone's commitment to closely follow health guidelines during all physical activities.

Before an activity

- If you have symptoms associated with COVID-19, received a positive test result or are in close contact with a person with COVID-19, you must stay home.
- Avoid any non-essential travel between regions or cities.
- Plan your physical activities to allow you to respect the 2-metre physical distancing rule at all times.
- Ask managers of sites or facilities about the measures they have implemented and what you must do to respect them.
- Limit the number of accessories or personal equipment you bring with you (e.g. water bottle, towel).
- Go directly to the place where you practise the activity.

During an activity

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you arrive at the location, and as often as possible during activities.
- Avoid touching your face with your hands.
- Respect the 2-metre physical distancing rule at all times, around counsellors, guides, coaches or other participants, and during an activity or when moving around (e.g. in locker rooms or washrooms, when leaving the location, on paths or stairs, or when using bike racks).
- Avoid handshakes, hugs and any other physical contact.
- Use your own equipment. If this is not possible, make sure you disinfect objects and equipment before and after using them.

After an activity

- Avoid lingering unnecessarily or stopping on the way home to do an errand.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before leaving the location and once you arrive home.
- After an activity, remove your clothes, place them in a bag and wash them with your regular laundry detergent.
- Avoid taking showers on site.

For more information, consult:

- <https://www.cnesst.gouv.qc.ca/salle-de-presse/covid-19-info-en/Pages/toolkit-sports-outdoor.aspx>
- www.inspq.qc.ca/publications/3010-pratique-securitaire-marche-velo-covid19
(Available in French only)
- <https://sauvetage.qc.ca/en/lifeguarding/lifeguard-duty/bodies-water-supervision>

Québec.ca/coronavirus

1-877-644-4545

Québec 



SUPPORT FOR SENIORS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR:

- A one-time tax-free automatic payment if you currently receive Old Age Security pension.
- An additional automatic payment for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
- Reduced minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds.

SENIORS WHO LOST THEIR JOB MAY
ALSO QUALIFY FOR OTHER FINANCIAL
RELIEF PROGRAMS.

VISIT [CANADA.CA/CORONAVIRUS](https://canada.ca/coronavirus) OR
CALL 1-800 O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232) TO LEARN MORE.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

Royal Bank feeds super-hospital staff



Volunteer Lydia Saputo, MUHC surgeon and Westmounter Dr. David Fleiszer, and Wafa Saad, MUHC Foundation senior manager of community relations.

Staff at the Glen site of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), part of whose campus is in Westmount, received a family-sized meal courtesy of RBC as of June 4.

"Under the leadership of RBC's Quebec president Nadine Renaud-Tinker, this gift not only thanks our frontline workers, but it also helps to show our appreciation to their families waiting anxiously at home,"

Comin' Up

ONGOING

Looking to develop your public speaking and leadership skills? You can still check out Westmount Toastmasters on Zoom every Tuesday evening from 6:50 pm until 9 pm. Please join us during COVID-19 by using the following link: www.us04web.zoom.us/j/8525267519

TO BE LISTED IN

Comin' Up

Please send your Westmount event, to:

editor@westmountindependent.com

Be sure to write by Friday at 10 am for inclusion the next week.

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Westmount Rotary gives to Depot



From left, club member Jim Fares and Daniel Rotman, executive director of the Depot.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WESTMOUNT.

The Depot (formerly the NDG Food Depot) received a donation of \$1,255 from The Rotary Club of Westmount to help with the increased demand for their support to those in need during the COVID crisis.

The fundraiser brought together seven Montreal Rotary clubs and the Westmount club chose The Depot as the beneficiary of a portion of the donations.



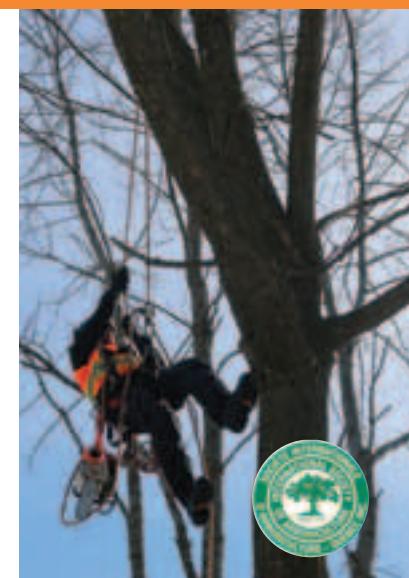
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infoWESTMOUNT

2020.06.16 • Vol. 1/5

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL

Lundi 6 juillet 2020



Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux le samedi 20 juin

9 h à 17 h, Bibliothèque. Débarassez-vous de vos peintures, solvants, piles, pesticides, appareils électroniques usagés, et autres matières dangereuses de façon sécuritaire.

Taxes foncières : date limite le 29 juin
Le 2^e versement des taxes municipales 2020 est exigible le 29 juin. westmount.org

Camp d'été de Westmount

Les inscriptions sont présentement en cours pour les enfants de 6 à 12 ans. Votre compte en ligne doit être activé. westmount.org

Début des leçons de tennis le 15 juin
L'inscription en ligne débute le lundi 15 juin à 8 h. Votre carte d'accès aux installations sportives et votre compte en ligne doivent être activés au préalable. westmount.org

Carte d'accès aux installations sportives
Demandez votre carte en ligne. Deux preuves de résidence sont exigées. westmount.org/carte

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Service de cueillette sans contact

Les membres de la Bibliothèque peuvent ramasser, sur rendez-vous, les livres, films et autres documents qu'ils ont réservés en ligne ou par téléphone. Le bâtiment demeure fermé au public. westlib.org

Retour de documents

En tout temps, vous pouvez déposer vos items empruntés dans les chutes à livres situées dans la zone orange près du Victoria Hall.

La vie des Noirs est importante

Le personnel de la Bibliothèque a préparé une liste de ressources - fictions et documentaires - pour les enfants, les adolescents et les adultes qui s'intéressent au racisme, aux inégalités et aux discriminations. Consultez-la à westlib.org.

Concours littéraire McEntyre

Regardez la vidéo du dévoilement des prix en ligne et téléchargez le recueil des histoires, des poèmes et des essais qui ont remporté un prix.

Fermeture du dépôt Belvédère

Le dépôt du ch. Belvédère est désormais fermé. Les résidus verts doivent être apportés aux écocentres ou placés dans des sacs de papier pour la collecte des résidus verts.

Mur antibruit : entente pour étude

La Ville et le MTQ ont convenu de partager les frais pour une étude de faisabilité pour l'installation d'un mur antibruit près de la rue Prospect, entre les avenues Greene et Atwater. westmount.org

Réouverture d'installations dans les parcs

Les modules de jeux et les pavillons dans les parcs municipaux sont désormais ouverts. Veuillez continuer à respecter toutes les consignes d'hygiène. westmount.org

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 6, 2020



Household hazardous waste collection Saturday, June 20th

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library parking lot. Get rid of your leftover paint, solvents, batteries, pesticides and other dangerous materials safely. Used electronics will be collected the same day.

Municipal taxes: June 29 deadline

The 2nd installment of the 2020 property taxes is due June 29. westmount.org

Westmount summer camp

Registration is underway for children from 6 to 12 years of age. Your electronic account must be activated to register. westmount.org

Tennis lessons begin June 15

Online registration begins Monday, June 15 at 8 a.m. Your Sports facility access card and your online account must be activated before you register. westmount.org

Sports facility access card

Request your card online. Two proofs of residence are required. westmount.org/card

LIBRARY

Félicitations à tous les gagnants et merci à tous les participants au concours 2020. westlib.org

L'heure du conte en ligne

Découvrez des contes en français et en anglais animés par le personnel de la Bibliothèque. westlib.org

Montrez-nous vos arcs-en-ciel!

Envoyez des photos de vos arcs-en-ciel à bibliolab@westmount.org ou publiez-les en utilisant le hashtag #westmountarcenciel.

Besoin d'une carte de bibliothèque?

Demandez votre carte de membre à westlib.org.

Fête nationale du Québec : quiz

Mardi 23 juin, 14 h à 15 h. Participez au quiz virtuel en direct, animé par Randolph Pub Ludique. Inscrivez-vous à fetenationalequiz.eventbrite.ca. Cet événement est présenté grâce à la subvention "Le Canada en fête" du ministère du Patrimoine canadien.

Curbside pickup service

Library members may pick up, by appointment only, books, films and other documents that they reserved online or by phone. The building remains closed to the public. westlib.org

Document returns

Return your Library items at any time to the book drops located in the orange zone near the side door of Victoria Hall.

Black Lives Matter

The Library personnel has curated a list of fiction and non-fiction resources for kids, teens and adults committed to exploring racism, inequity and injustice. Consult it at westlib.org.

McEntyre Literary Competition

Watch the video online announcing the winners and download the book of winning stories, poems, and essays. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you all of the 2020 competition participants. westlib.org

Storytime online

Join us for storytimes in French and in English read by the Library staff. westlib.org

Show us your rainbows!

Send photos of your rainbows to bibliolab@westmount.org or tag your photos #westmountarcenciel.

Need a library card?

Request your membership at westlib.org.

Fête nationale du Québec quiz

Tuesday, June 23, 2-3 p.m. Take part in an online quiz hosted live by Randolph Pub Ludique. Register at fetenationalequiz.eventbrite.ca. This event is made possible by the Celebrate Canada grant of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

New Weredale ‘tunnel’ non-conforming



The south end of the new Weredale tunnel on June 12.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

The new tunnel made of scaffolding and construction hoarding from Dorchester Blvd. through the western, entrance arm of Weredale Park road turned out to be “not conforming” for the passage of any vehicles, city councillor for District 8 Kathleen Kez told the *Independent* June 11 by telephone, although the city’s “Urban Planning [department] is looking at it.”

It was never intended to allow trucks through. It would be useable by pedestrians in its current state, she said.

The roadway there has been closed since February 27 after bricks fell from the

house at that corner, 4030 Dorchester. The city went to court to get the right to do work on the building, but that effort was interrupted in early April by the COVID shutdown.

In a June 8 exchange by email, Kez had said about the recent work, “The engineer report further confirmed the advanced deterioration of the buildings façade. The city will need to go back to Superior Court to extend the timeline for the intervention. The security of the perimeter around the property was improved last Saturday [June 6] to ensure public safety.”

Trivia night, for serious cause

Stay socially engaged and physically distanced with our online trivia fun!

Show off your knowledge for a good cause.

We all hope our children will never need it, but it's good to know the **Montreal Childrens' Hospital** is there for us. With their compassion and understanding, they are there to treat both the physical and emotional needs of our kids.

For only 10 dollars a ticket, you can join us for some fun and fundraising for this wonderful hospital.

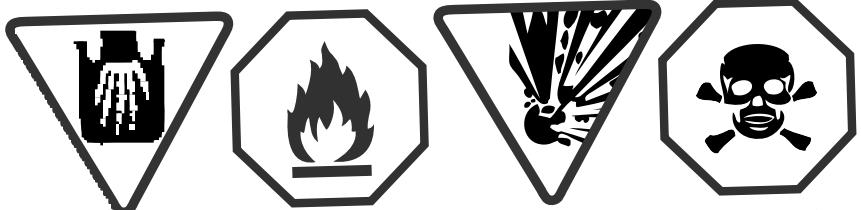
See you online June 23 at 7 PM!

www.fondationduchildren.com/en/events/trivia-in-trying-times

Or contact Penny Arsenault:
pennysk8@gmail.com – for information



COLLECTE DES RÉSIDUS DOMESTIQUES DANGEREUX



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Bibliothèque publique de Westmount, 4574, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West

Résidus domestiques dangereux (RDD)

Peinture, solvants, nettoyants, pesticides, ampoules et tubes fluorescents, piles sèches, batteries d'auto, antigel, huile à moteur, bonbonnes à propane et tout matériel toxique, corrosif, réactif ou inflammable.



Non acceptés : Appareils électroménagers, moteurs, pneus, fusées lumineuses, CFCs et tout résidu d'origine commerciale.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Paint, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, CFLs and fluorescent tubes, batteries (including car batteries), antifreeze, motor oil, propane tanks or anything marked corrosive, reactive or flammable.



Not accepted: Appliances, engines, tires, road flares, CFCs and all commercial waste.

Produits électroniques désuets

Ordinateurs, portables, photocopieurs, téléphones cellulaires, téléviseurs, magnétoscopes, appareils photo numériques, écrans, imprimantes, cartouches d'encre, périphériques de consoles de jeux vidéo, télécopieurs, numériseurs, modems, baladeurs, lecteurs CD, et plus encore.

Consultez la liste complète des items acceptés au westmount.org/rdd

Rappel : Le dépôt dans la cour du Service des travaux publics sur la rue Bethune est fermé au public depuis mars 2019.

Pour plus d'information :
environement@westmount.org

Old Electronics

Computers, laptops, photocopiers, cellular phones, television sets, VCRs, camcorders, digital cameras, printers, toner cartridges, monitors, video game peripherals, fax machines, modems, portable audio players, and more.

Consult the complete list of accepted items at westmount.org/hhw

Reminder: The Bethune Street Public Works yard depots have been closed to the public since March 2019.

For more information:
environment@westmount.org



Services des travaux publics
Public Works Department



Kirsch's *The Smallest Objective* aims some focus on Westmount

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Who hasn't ever dreamed of finding out what lies hidden in their family's past? For one former Montrealer, the instinct to learn led back to Westmount, where an older generation of her family once lived.

Toronto writer Sharon Kirsch, whose book, *The Smallest Objective*, was published by New Star Books last month, is the granddaughter of Dr. Simon Kirsch, who lived and died in Westmount.

As well, her father grew up in Westmount, and she attended Marianopolis College. Kirsch calls the book a work of



Sharon Kirsch.



Dr. Simon Kirsch.

"narrative non-fiction," being research-based and grounded in her personal experiences.

The title is a reference to the smallest setting on a microscope, allowing a clinical investigator to see objects magnified to their greatest detail.

A microscope that belonged to the late Dr. Kirsch is among the objects the author found while carrying out her research. She sees the microscope as having qualities similar to human memory – since it focuses sharply on selected objects, while obscuring others.

"Some things in our minds loom large

and others become lost," she said in an interview with the *Independent*. "It's a bit of a metaphor for trying to investigate one's family."

When Sharon Kirsch first embarked on her quest at her mother's Montreal home, she discovered members of the family she had hardly known. And, as it turned out, two out of three who were Montrealers lived in Westmount.

In addition to Dr. Kirsch who lived on Windsor Ave., an aunt, Carol Silver, resided at the 4300 de Maisonneuve high-rise apartment building during the early 1960s, not long after it was first built.

Dr. Simon Kirsch was a prominent member of Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim synagogue. He was also one of the founders of Camp B'nai B'rith in the Laurentians.

At the time of Dr. Kirsch's move to Westmount around 1925, he was on the building committee of the Jewish General Hospital and played a key role in helping to select the JGH's Côte St. Catherine Rd. site.

Dr. Kirsch also served as a director of the now-demolished Mount Sinai Sanatorium in Préfontaine near St. Agathe in the Laurentians north of Montreal.

Jug Handle microscope belonging to Dr. Simon Kirsch.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARON KIRSCH.

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Classifieds in the *Independent*

Why list your goods (or services) on fly-by-night, who-knows-who-is-relying websites when you can list (and sell) locally?

Buy a classified in the *Westmount Independent* at:

www.westendclassifieds.com

Buy locally to sell locally



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in May 2020. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount's real estate market tiptoed back to life in May, with seven single-family sales in a month that averages 19, and two condominium sales after zero in April.

Prices appear to have dipped, but this may be because much of what sold in May involved properties that had been on the market for months (in two cases more than a year). The average mark-up over municipal valuation was 12 percent, while for the year as a whole the mark-up is 16 percent. With two extra sales in April (since our last report), the volume for the month leapt to three, at an average mark-up of 15.9 percent, so the May averages are only slightly lower.

Still, agents are encouraged but cautious, with sets of instructions on how to show a house, who can enter one and what homeowners can do to display their properties. Negotiations and offer exchanges then continue on-line, so the human contact is minimal. And of course most listings offer "virtual tours" of the property, so the customers can get a fairly good idea of a house before arranging for a visit.

Seven sales

Of the seven sales in May, three were over \$2 million but the highest price was only \$2,300,000; one more sold for \$990,000, only \$5,000 less than the asking price after 18 days on the market and 10 percent less than municipal valuation, so obviously a "motivated seller." Both the price and mark-down represented the ex-

Pool, cont'd. from p. 1

while the toilets in the women's changing room could be used by any swimmer, one at a time, and disinfected after each use.

While the government had still not allowed the start of swimming lessons, "we'll wait to see what may be announced going forward," Lapointe said, "but if measures are loosened, we can adapt on the fly."

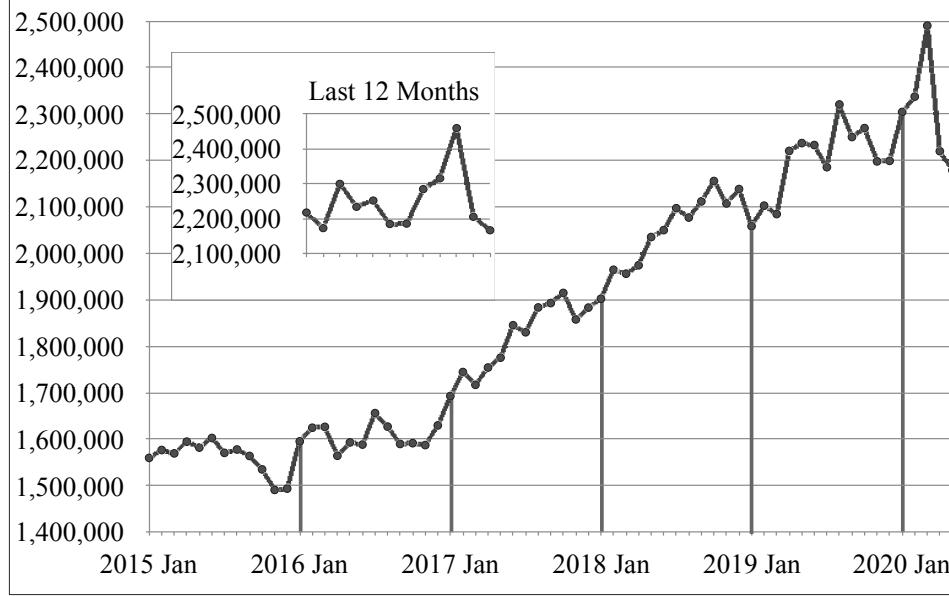
Staff numbers "are good" and lifeguards have been given special pandemic training. See also story on June 9, p. 1.

May sales: Trying to get back on track

tremes in their category, while both the highest price and the highest mark-up

(32.8 percent) involved the same house. The condominium market is still dead,

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



Headmaster Hannaford's swan song

Selwyn House School alumni play '6 FT APART'

By MARTIN C. BARRY

With just two weeks left before retiring, Selwyn House School headmaster Hal Hannaford played drums along with a group of "old boys" late last Saturday afternoon in an impromptu outdoor jam session as 6 FT APART, a band they formed

to provide some badly-needed diversion to nearby residents in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the group has been performing every Saturday from 5 to 7 pm almost since the beginning of the pandemic three months ago, they decided to relocate from their original staging spot outside the school on the Argyle Ave. side to Côte St. Antoine near Stanton after re-



Hal Hannaford with his wife, Sue Doherty, in 2017. He was appointed headmaster in 2008 (see January 16, 2008, p. 3).

ceiving a noise complaint, Hannaford told the *Independent*.

"This whole thing has been about trying to raise people's spirits," said Hannaford. They plan to keep performing every Saturday until the end of the pandemic. Besides Hannaford, the band members are Alexandre Janson, Aria Khiabani, Angus Scott, Nick de Courcy Ireland, Jonathan Milner, Eric Hein, Alex Becker and Theo Janson.

See p. 1 for photo.

Second tax installment now deferred to August 27

The due date for paying Westmount's second installment of property taxes has suddenly been deferred to August 27 now that the demerged municipalities will not be required to pay their second installment of island-wide services until September 2, Mayor Christina Smith said June 12.

"It was a collective effort by the demerged municipalities," she explained, pointing out that Montreal had already decided to defer its own second installment of island-wide services to the Montreal agglomeration even though requiring the other municipalities to pay up by the beginning of July. "So now it's a level playing field."

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**Social Notes**

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As Social Notes depends on social events, which depend on gatherings, times have changed. But we'll meet again.

Until then, we profile the disappointed but determined supporters of great causes to see how they are faring in our smaller world and learn their event's new plans.

Marlene and Joel King are co-chairs of the executive advisory board of Hope & Cope and chairs of the Hope & Cope gala.

What was your event? Cause?

A gala fundraiser for Hope & Cope to honour the retirement of our founder, Sheila Kussner O.C., O.Q., C.O.M., and to celebrate its champion donors, supporters and volunteers. Through the gala and its associated Legacy Campaign, it was our objective to raise \$5 million towards the Hope & Cope Endowment Fund in order to secure its future operations.

It was to be held on what date? Where?

The event was scheduled to be held on August 25 at the Shaar Hashomayim Syna-

Cause: Hope & Cope gala

Fundraisers profile: Marlene and Joel King

gogue. We will remain as co-chairs along with our dinner chairs – Nan Lassner and Annette Goldman.

Who were the speakers – entertainers?

A distinguished tribute panel led by the Rt. Hon. David Johnston, former governor-general, was the central focus of the evening, highlighting Sheila's enormous contribution to communities locally, nationally and internationally. Entertainment and the speaker list may change slightly with the postponement of the event but David Johnston, Denis Coderre, Irwin Cotler and a few "surprises" have already signed up for next year. Paul Chacra of "1945" will again provide music during the evening. It promises to be a social highlight of the year!

Have you planned a new date?

Yes, we postponed it for a year and plan to hold it in August 2021, which coincides with Hope and Cope's 40th Anniversary. There will be much to celebrate – not just with Hope & Cope, but hopefully an end in sight to the pandemic!

How are you sheltering in place?

We are indeed sheltering in place – not going very far at all.

Have you developed a daily routine?

We do try to keep to a routine of sorts, although there will be variations from day to day. We always try to fit in some exercise, whether at home or going for a walk close to home. We Facetime, Zoom or speak with our children and grandchildren in Florida, and we now (once the restrictions were modified) visit outdoors at a responsible distance with our children and grandchildren here in Montreal. A highlight of our week is our "Family Friday Zoom," when we together light the shabbat candles and make kiddush. We speak with, e-mail and text friends regularly. We attend Zoom meetings for many of the organizations we are involved with (e.g. Hope & Cope, Centraide, Federation CJA, Cummings Centre etc), and we continue to solicit funds and support those and other organizations. We occupy ourselves with daily crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, reading, cooking, baking, bridge online (Marlene) and Netflix.

Instead of cocktail attire, what are you wearing?

Pretty well anything as long as it is "wash & wear." Mainly comfortable leisure wear.



Link for your event/cause supporters?
Hopeandcope.ca

What do you miss the most about our 'smaller world'?

We are by nature social beings and we really miss the ability to hug and hold our children and grandchildren. We would love to be able to really socialize with friends. We also miss going to charity events, supporting good causes in person, not just online and really being part of the community.

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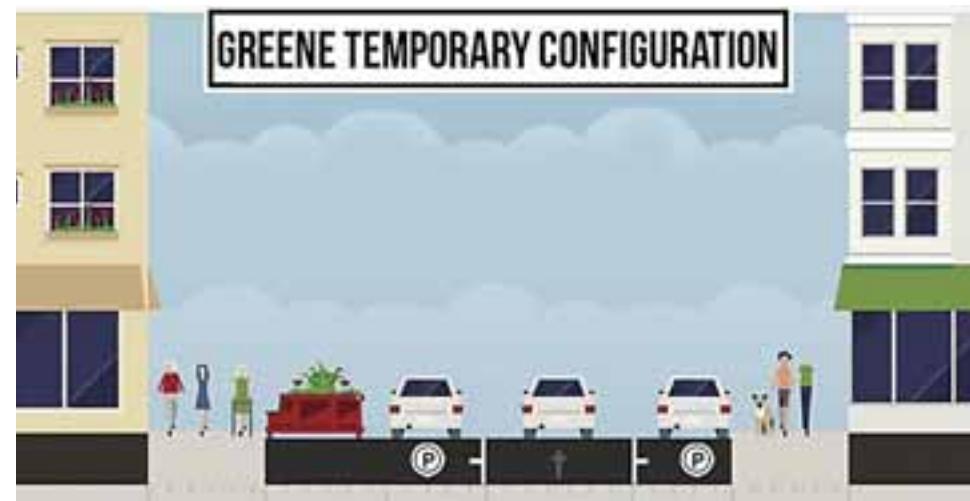
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ENJOY INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY





GREENE AVENUE



GREENE TEMPORARY CONFIGURATION

Left, the usual configuration of Greene (Sherbrooke to de Maisonneuve): two southbound traffic lanes flanked by two parking lanes; right, the temporary plan: east-side parking lane moved out into the street allowing for one traffic lane.

ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE CITY WESTMOUNT.

Greene, cont'd. from p. 1

The traffic lane is to be removed by the end of June and the summer installations kept in place as long as good weather permits, according to Élisabeth Simard of Urban Planning. The block south to St. Catherine will be evaluated for possible incorporation into the new configuration.

A similar type of plan is being worked on for Sherbrooke in the Victoria village “which we should have in a couple of weeks,” Lulham said. This area is more complicated by the amount of traffic and

size of the street.

On Greene, provision is being made for pick-up and delivery areas, she said. All this was easier to implement on the east side, which has fewer driveways than the west. It’s also the sunnier side. At the moment, the one-way south street has lost most of its parking on the east side to enable the creation of the temporary pedestrian “corridor.”

The “new” temporary space on the roadway is enabled by recent changes to the city’s zoning by-law and another allowing for new configurations to café-terrasses

and other activities using the public domain (see story June 9, p. 9).

Sunday markets

Among them would be Sunday public markets. The first one, to take place on the Greene parking lot, will “hopefully” take place this month, according to Lulham (see story May 26, p. 1).

Permission also had to be obtained from Sécurité Civile to use furniture on the street, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

To reconfigure the Greene and Sherbrooke commercial strips, a “launch” group has been meeting virtually every Thursday. This comprises councillors Lulham, Mary Gallery for District 6, Conrad Peart for District 4, Urban Planning director Tom Flies, project manager Nicolas Gagnon and the department’s communications officer Élisabeth Simard as well as representatives of the Greene Ave. and Victoria village merchant associations.

“The goal was to work together to redistribute urban space,” Lulham said.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Ashash presents a distinct shade of grey in her tortoiseshell colour palette. Very original and striking, she is captivating to watch as she comes over for affection.

She cannot be denied and relishes in cuddles and play.

Ashash is very young, barely a year old, and her opportunity to join a family rests solely on a kind person adopting her out of the Montreal SPCA cattery. She is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations and treatments, is spayed and micro-

Young Ashash

chipped.

Ashash’s identification number at the Montreal SPCA cattery is 4455409.

Please refer to its website at www.sPCA.com and complete its simple online application for this stunning beauty’s adoption. You will be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Orphaned kitten ‘season’

Yes, it’s that time of year: participate in the orphaned kitten neonatal program

This is the season, the time of year when motherless kittens are found or left, then rushed in to the shelter or into loving homes to be given an opportunity to grow strong.

The Montreal SPCA is deeply involved in its Orphaned Kitten Neonatal Program for unweaned kittens. You can find out more about donating to provide kitten health kits to the foster program, fostering yourself, or reaching out to adopt when the kittens are ready to be placed permanently.

Please find out more about the kittens at the www.sPCA.com website and participate in this most heartwarming opportunity to give.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

To be two years old and be at the Montreal SPCA kennel is difficult. So young, and waiting for adoption at the most important part of her bonding and training development.

All Billy wants is to please and be included in a family routine. Her coat is a gorgeous shade of tan, with a very distinctive white losange on her chest and such huge soulful brown eyes. She is ready to leave the kennel and join the Westmount dogs for their summer fun. Billy is growing beautifully, is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations and treatments, is spayed and microchipped.

Her identification number at the Montreal SPCA is 42313365.

Please refer to its website at www.sPCA.com and complete its simple online application for affectionate Billy’s adoption. You will be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Pretty Billy





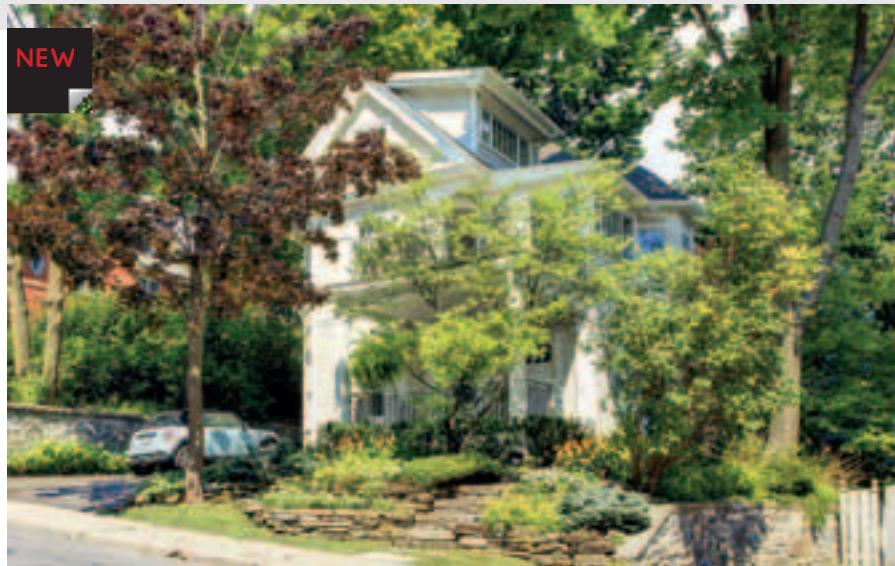
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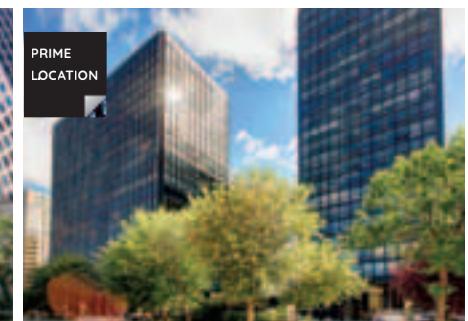


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