

Is the future city hall a tent?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A large tent installed August 17 outside city hall was being tested out last week for city staff meetings as well as to provide a safer venue for small public meetings. These include the city council one September 8, Mayor Christina Smith told the August 17 session.

"The purpose was to use the tent initially for a few city meetings that would be safer held outside," city director general Benoit Hurtubise explained last week. "Now we're looking at making it available to schools and some organizations," he said.

If used for a city council

meeting, "depending on weather," he said, it could accommodate a safe seating capacity of 32 at a two-meter distancing, excluding the council. Sides have been installed and the tent has one doorway.

Asked about traffic noise, "it's not that bad," he said. The tent has been positioned at the front of city hall but slightly to the south to be away from the work on the building's roof. Because it's open from a security standpoint, however, the city's own sound system or those belonging to other users will have to be removed after use.

► The tent on the front lawn of city hall on August 18.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Parklets installed in Vic village

The city's three new "parklets" were installed last week on the north side of Sherbrooke at Victoria and Prince Albert, and on the south side at Prince Albert square. The sitting and shade structures occupy asphalt previously available for parking and resemble the seasonally dismantlable *terrasses* used by restaurants downtown.

They are largely made of wood and its fresh smell was unmistakable to passers-by.

The city is working toward the same goal on Greene Ave., but with a different approach. A lane of traffic has been elim-

inated and replaced by parking, and the former parking area on the east side of Greene between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke has been furnished since June with tables and chairs, but not deck-like structures. (See story, June 16, p. 1.)

As previously reported (August 11, p. 1), these parklets have been purchased by the city at a maximum cost of \$85,061.

Each parklet consists of two pre-built modules that are fitted together.

For a photo, see p. 7. For two letter writers' views on the new initiative, see p. 22.



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Back-up transportation?



This skateboard was seen bolted to the back of a van near Olivier and de Maisonneuve August 13. Given its condition, it might not be an alternate mode of transportation should the spare tire be flat.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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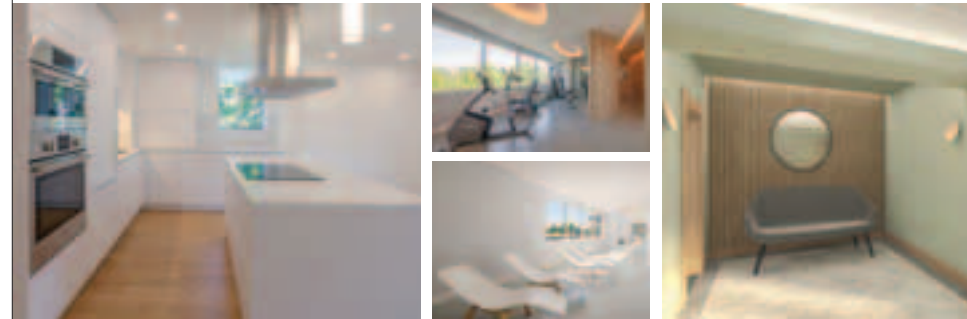
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The phantom seat



What has been described as a “phantom chair,” was photographed on August 14 at King George (Murray) Park. It has been moving around the park for over a week, but the owner or user has so far not been seen by the *Independent*.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

‘Hope’ is still to install it this fall City purchases play structure for Prince Albert Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It is still hoped to install a new play structure for Prince Albert Park this fall after its purchase was approved by city council August 17, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise. “We still have to meet with the supplier to find out if this is possible,” he said.

The new play equipment had been tied up in a tendering issue after four initial bids had been rejected by the council June 1 over what was reported to have been a misunderstanding by the bidders over a new city evaluation system based on bid weighting (see story June 16, p. 4).

‘Best score’ wins

The bid that was finally accepted last week at a maximum amount of \$96,737 from Simexco Industries was described in the resolution as “the conforming bidder having obtained the best score” in the evaluation. A lower bid was listed at \$74,851 and a higher one at \$134,280.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks, said the

structure would be in two sections, for younger and older children. She said the bid weighting evaluation measure had been included this time “in an effort to improve a quality of the bids.”

“It’s a much needed improvement to a much loved park,” Mayor Christina Smith said, noting that the area park would now be universally accessible.

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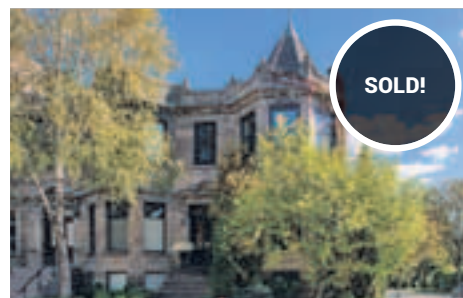
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Ikeman calls for heavier by-law enforcement in Westmount Park

Former councillor: Increase ticketters, add quotas, hand out leaflets

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Eight ways in which regulations are being violated in Westmount Park this summer were reported by a frequent user, who asked city council August 17 for “heavier” enforcement to handle the increased numbers using the park during COVID deconfinement.

These involve barbecuing, dogs off leash, large groups organized by picnic caterers, bike riding, feeding of ducks, leaving garbage behind, consuming alcohol and wading in the lagoon.

“We need more aggressive onsite patrols,” wrote former councillor and public security commissioner Gary Ikeman, in one of the emailed questions submitted to the virtual meeting.

Councillor Anitra Bostock, the current public security commissioner, replied that since July 1, Public Security had issued 50 tickets and a number of warnings.

These, it turns out, were for all parks from July 1 and August 16 as part of the city’s approach to ticketing only when really needed, given what people have endured over the pandemic (see separate story below).

‘Huge’ influx of users

Mayor Christina Smith, who has often spoken out about the mess left behind for Public Works to clean up, once again appealed for citizens to pick up their garbage. She agreed the city had seen a “huge” in-

Considers pandemic toll on people

Ticketing in parks based on need: Public Security

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Of the total number of 50 tickets given out in all the city’s parks between July 1 and August 16, “considering what people have been going through,” over COVID, “we’re trying to issue them where needed,” according to assistant Public Security director Kimberley Colquhoun.

“While littering is a big complaint,” she told the *Independent*, none of the tickets have been issued for that because it is usually only evident after the person responsible has departed.

- A breakdown of the 50 tickets shows:
- 22 for breaking curfew, mostly in King George (Murray) Park;
 - 10 for jumping over the fence on city property at the Summit lookout;
 - 6 for obstructing the work of officers;



Signs in Westmount Park August 21 requesting by-law compliance.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

flux of park users and had put up more signs.

“COVID has cast a shadow on all activities,” Ikeman later pointed out. He also told the *Independent*, “There are things that can be done. Muscle up in a critical area, such as this. A heavier presence of patrollers is a deterrent in itself.”

While the city has hired its usual parks cadets from police technology CEGEP programs to patrol the city’s parks during the summer, Ikeman, who lives near Westmount Park and is often there, said he had never seen any patrollers in the big park and his observations have also been noticed by others.

He suggested giving the patrollers ticket quotas and also re-allocating some of the experienced parking inspectors to this key park at certain times. He also suggested printing up some flyers on do’s and don’ts in the park that patrollers could give out to offenders and then say, “and here’s a ticket.”



City seeks 'balance' in enforcement

Review allows for operation of *terrasse* at Petros restaurant

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After complaints from neighbours of live music and the positioning of tables off the terrace of Petros restaurant on Sherbrooke at Grosvenor, a permit application was reviewed August 20 by Urban Planning's Board of Inspections, according to chief inspector Chris Rodgers, and "they will be permitted to operate the *terrasse* [the weekend of August 22-23]," he said.

The decision follows initial toleration of the *terrasse* alongside Grosvenor, he said. Despite efforts to explain the need to apply for a permit and conditions for expanding one to allow for COVID social distancing, a permit application had not been received in time for the previous Thursday meeting of the board, he continued.

"I want them to be able to operate," Rodgers said, "but not at the expense of the neighbours."

Fines had been issued, he said, but declined to say how many. Occupying the public domain without a permit garners a fine of \$1,200 while establishing a *terrasse* without a permit costs \$200.

Public Security officials said that when officers responded to noise complaints August 16 after attending the previous weekend, they found musicians on the *terrasse*, where live music is not allowed, as well as a so-called illegal placement of tables, which they photographed for Urban Planning.

The next day, they answered another call regarding tables, including at least one on the sidewalk bump-out at the corner of

Parklets in use – immediately



With construction still ongoing of this new parklet on Sherbrooke St. and Prince Albert August 20, users were already testing out the benches. See p. 1 for story.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Two views of the Petros *terrasse* on Grosvenor Ave. August 21.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

the intersection, which officers had removed.

Fire truck noisier

Owner Ted Dranias told the *Independent* the *terrasse* has continued to be "fully functional" but regarding the live music said that "a fire truck makes more noise than a couple of *buzuki* [Greek mandolin] players."

Despite a report heard by the *Independent*, police had not attended to his knowledge but he opposed "filming" of the *terrasse*.

Public Security and Urban Planning

confirmed they had not requested police.

As the city, its residents, struggling businesses and soon the schools emerge from COVID confinement, the city finds itself weighing their needs against some regular enforcement issues.

"It's a matter of finding a balance [between tolerance and enforcement]," city director general Benoit Hurtubise explained last week. In this respect, city council had previously dropped the *terrasse* permit fee to \$50 this year from a complicated fee structure involving how much space a given *terrasse* would occupy (see story May 26, p. 1).

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Lawyer, volunteer, candidate

Remembering Richard 'Rick' McConomy (1944-2020)



From the *Independent's* archives, Richard McConomy, bottom left, was preparing to take to the stage in *Arsenic & Old Lace* in May 2009 with, from left, top row: Irene Smyth Simons, Elsa Bolam (director) and Betsy Mitchell; bottom row: McConomy, Philip E. Johnston and William Fraiberg. The play was a fundraiser by Geordie Productions and The Empress Cultural Centre to revitalize the old Cinema V at Sherbrooke and Girouard in NDG and to raise money for Geordie to move there. The project did not come to fruition, and after many, many other twists and turns to the Empress' story, it is still unoccupied and unrenovated.

Former candidate for the presidency of the borough of Westmount Richard McConomy died August 15 of cancer. In the 2001 post-merger municipal election, he represented Pierre Bourque's Vision Montreal party, which supported the merger of all the municipalities on the island of Montreal (plus Dorval Island).

(Incumbent mayor Bourque lost and Westmount and 14 other boroughs demerged in 2006.)

McConomy garnered 630 votes to Karin Marks' 7,303 and the 150 votes of Lucien Parent, who represented the Parti Éléphant blanc de Montréal. (According to the French-language Wikipedia, this party's mission was to denounce the party in power and defend the interests of Montrealers, "often with the help of humour.")

Donnelly reminisces

McConomy persuaded now retired *Gazette* columnist Pat Donnelly, whom he had met through his volunteer work for The Centaur theatre, to run on the same ticket for one of the two councillorships available

in Westmount that election.

When reached by phone August 20, Donnelly had this to say about him:

"Rick was a very witty, generous guy, who always saw the bright side of things. He was quite an inspiring person, giving what he could. Not everyone does that.

"He loved Montreal and he did not have a bad word to say about anyone – and did not think badly of his political opponents" including those in the heated merger debate, about whom he said to Donnelly, "They would do anything for you."

"He knew people were angry with him [for his pro-merger stance], but he was brave enough to go against the mainstream of anglo Montrealers" in that debate.

Law & volunteering

McConomy was called to the bar in 1971 and practised family law and general litigation. He became a mediator in 1986 and established the English-language mediator-certification course for the Quebec bar. He served as president of the Bar of Mon-

Manoir's assistant manager, among first hired

Remembering Duncan DeZoysa (1944-2020)



Duncan DeZoysa in November 2015 just before his retirement on December 18 of that year. Among other things, he remembered cooking for the Manoir's first resident, Walter Murray (pictured).

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

Retired assistant director of the Manoir Westmount seniors' residence on Sherbrooke at Lansdowne has died at age 75. He began working at the home when it opened in 1979 and retired in late 2015 at age 71.

He said at the time of his retirement, "Half of my life I've been here."

He began as a cook before being appointed supervisor of food services and then assistant manager.

He is survived by his wife, Rose, daughter Dina and sons Mark and Joseph.

"Duncan was one of the first employees hired by Manoir Westmount in 1979," wrote manager Tom Thompson in reply to the *Independent's* queries.

"Over the 35 years he worked here, he was a key element in the success of the organization. He was also one of the kindest and most fair persons that I have ever met."

treal, Centraide Montreal, United Way Canada and the family law committee of the Canadian Bar Association.

He was also the grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1992.

He is survived by his wife, Pierrette Sévigny, and their daughter, Elisabeth.

In an email to its members, Harry Dikranian, chairman of the English Speaking Section of the Bar of Montreal, concluded, "Heartfelt tributes from Montrealers of all sectors underline Richard's humanity, great warmth and loving sense of humour. We offer sincere condolences to our friend, his dear wife, the Honourable Ms. Pierrette Sevigny, to their daughter Elisabeth and to the entire family."

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.

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Council asked to avert future danger zones, thanked for dog-run planting approach

APCW: Foliage can create blind spots at bike path crossings

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council was asked at its virtual meeting August 17 to ensure that all pedestrian crossings of the bike path in Westmount Park are kept clear of vegetation and other objects that could obstruct the visibility of pedestrians and cyclists.

The question was submitted by Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount (APCW), who thanked Councillor Cynthia Lulham and Public Works for modifying

the planting of new bushes around the dog run, which could have created “significant” blind spots.

“We understand the desire for beautiful vegetation in the park, but that should be possible without compromising the safety of pedestrians and cyclists,” he cautioned for the future.

The recent planting near the dog run had been in process but had been noticed by the APCW in time to prevent “significant” blind zones where pedestrians approaching the bike path crossing cannot

see, or be seen by, cyclists, he explained.

Considering the association’s “repeated” highlighting of the risk of collision due to vegetation at these intersections, he said, “we wonder if some formal instruction to the administration is perhaps required.”

Park entry looks great

“Obviously, we would not want any visual obstructions,” Mayor Christina Smith said. “The entry to the park looks great now.”

City council voted March 2 to landscape

the western entrance to the park at the cul-de-sac off de Maisonneuve at Lansdowne and eastward, work never done after completion of the recreation centre (WRC) in 2013 (see story March 10, p. 7).

The work involved a long swath of land where the WRC’s ventilation shaft is located and extended to the pedestrian crosswalk in question.

It includes the area where the shaggy dog mosaiculture sits and the land just east of the tennis courts.



The three pedestrian crossings of the bike path in Westmount Park, and the entrance at Metcalfe, bottom right, all on August 21.

Park life: Fireworks, food, vandalism



Left, fireworks detritus in King George (Murray) Park August 14. Fireworks were heard the previous night. Centre, picnic and beer remains in Westmount Park near the senior tennis courts, seen August 19. Right, overturned benches and bins in Westmount Park, seen August 20.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON, COURTESY OF CATHERINE MCKENZIE AND COURTESY OF MO RAHIMI.



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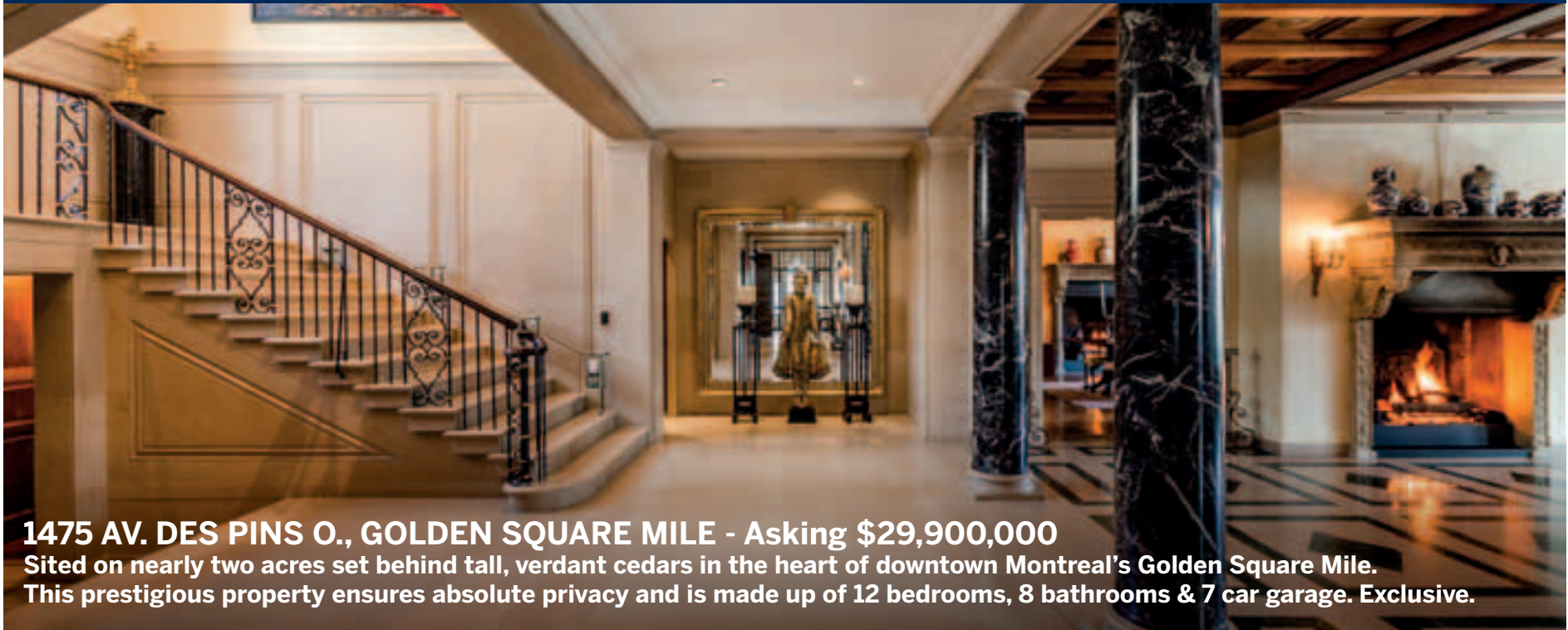


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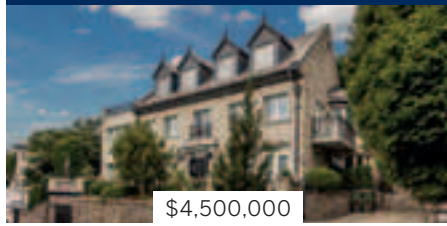
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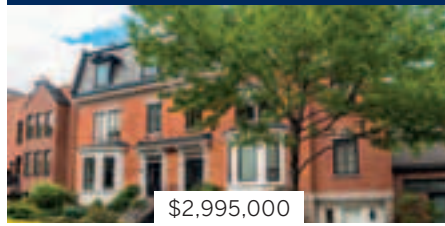
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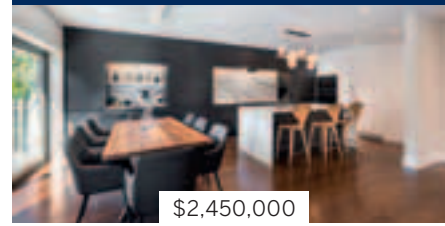
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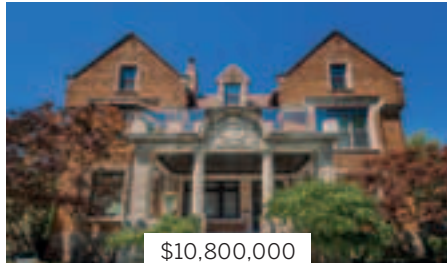
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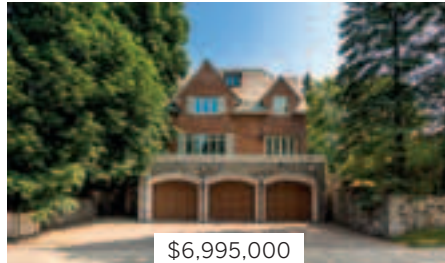
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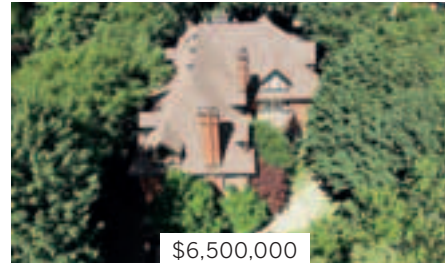
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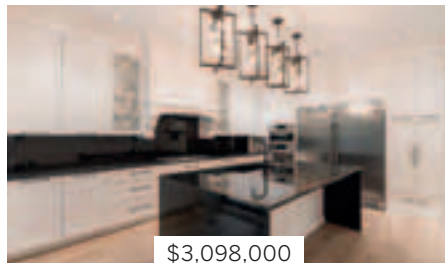
Turn of the century mansion sitting across Murray Hill Park. MLS 26590203

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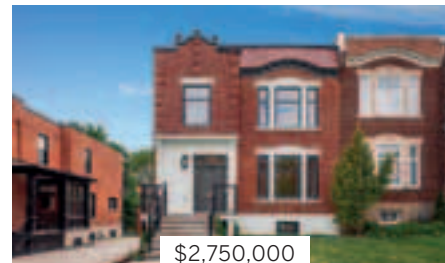
Architectural masterpiece - terrace with views, 3-car gar, & 6 parking. MLS 18613192

**\$6,500,000****WESTMOUNT**

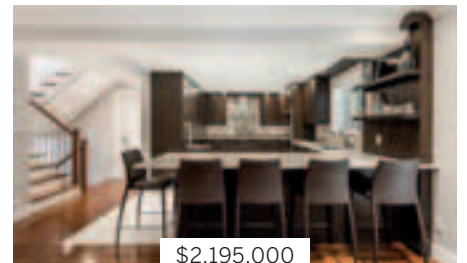
Luxury residence sitting on 16,000 sq. ft. of land. MLS 27156166

**\$3,098,000****WESTMOUNT ADJ.**

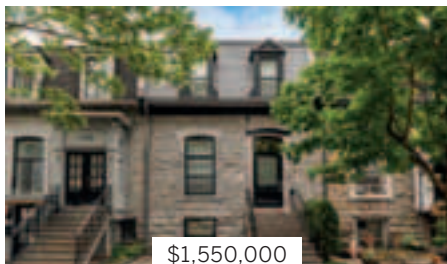
Magazine worthy home with 2-car garage, 3 terraces and spectacular views. MLS 23689520

**\$2,750,000****WESTMOUNT**

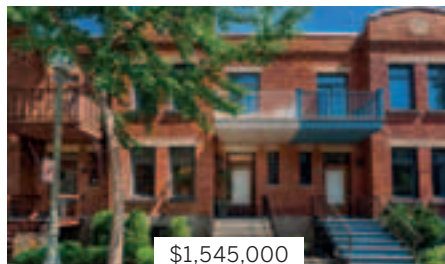
Renovated custom designed semi-detached family home with garden and garage. MLS 25069705

**\$2,195,000****GOLDEN SQUARE MILE**

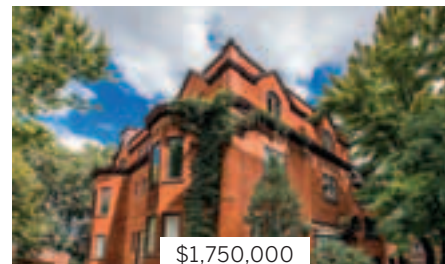
Completely renovated townhouse with 2-car integrated garage. MLS 27695826

**\$1,550,000****VILLE-MARIE**

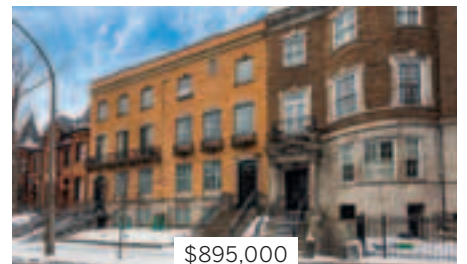
Impeccably renovated townhouse or condo alternative with private terrace and garage. MLS 25522630

**\$1,545,000****WESTMOUNT FLATS**

Lovely renovated row house in the heart of Victoria Village. 4+1 bdrms & 3+1 baths. MLS 10217384

**\$1,750,000****GOLDEN SQUARE MILE**

2-storey condo of over 4,000 sq.ft. MLS 27313836

**\$895,000****GOLDEN SQUARE MILE**

Penthouse unit offers 3 terraces with beautiful views. MLS 9381575

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[Québec.ca/back-to-school](https://quebec.ca/back-to-school)

Police Report

Key stolen from unlocked Westmount home leads to car theft

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A recent case involving a car stolen on a residential street in Westmount offers some clear examples of things automobile owners should and shouldn't do to protect themselves against car theft.

On August 16, a resident of Willow Ave. filed an incident report with police at Station 12 after his Mercedes that was parked in his driveway disappeared sometime

overnight.

The plaintiff's son had returned home around 12:30 am and reported later that the car was in its usual spot at that time. However, in the morning when the plaintiff got up, he noticed that the front door of their home was unlocked and slightly ajar.

"It wasn't particularly open, nor particularly closed, and he found that very peculiar," said Station 12 community relations

officer Adalbert Pimentel. "At the same time, he noticed that his vehicle was also missing from its usual spot in his parking space."

According to the police report, the owner usually kept the key to the vehicle stored on a hook located just inside the front door of the house. The investigators speculate that the perpetrator may have simply been passing through the neighbourhood while trying out front doors on homes to see which ones might be unlocked.

As there was no evidence the door was forced, the investigators assume the perpetrator found this one open.

After that, it was a simple matter of stepping briefly into the front entrance of the house to see whether – as is often the case – the owner kept keys, including one for the car, in a location where they were easily accessible.

As well, a woman's handbag belonging to another member of the household was later found on the home's front lawn, leading the investigators to believe that the intruder searched the purse for valuables before abandoning it.

As it turned out, a significant amount of cash that was in the handbag was reported missing. However, the thief left behind other items, including an assortment of personal ID's. Despite all this, there was a happy ending to the story.

The vehicle in question, a Mercedes, was equipped with an on-board GPS tracking system.

As such, the police were able to locate the stolen car within a remarkably short span of time.

After the plaintiff called 9-1-1 at 11 am on the morning the theft was discovered, the car was located in Beauharnois south of Montreal by 12:30 pm.

The advice from the police is that if you insist on storing car keys (as well as others)

in a convenient location for when they are needed, at least make sure they are not visible from outside your home. As well, GPS systems have proven their value time and again in helping to quickly locate stolen vehicles.

**Driving under influence,
violation of conditions**

In a second recent police incident in Westmount, officers from Station 12 arrested the driver of a Ford pick-up truck who was parked at the corner of Grosvenor and Westmount avenues just after midnight on Aug. 18 while he seemingly was in a state of intoxication.

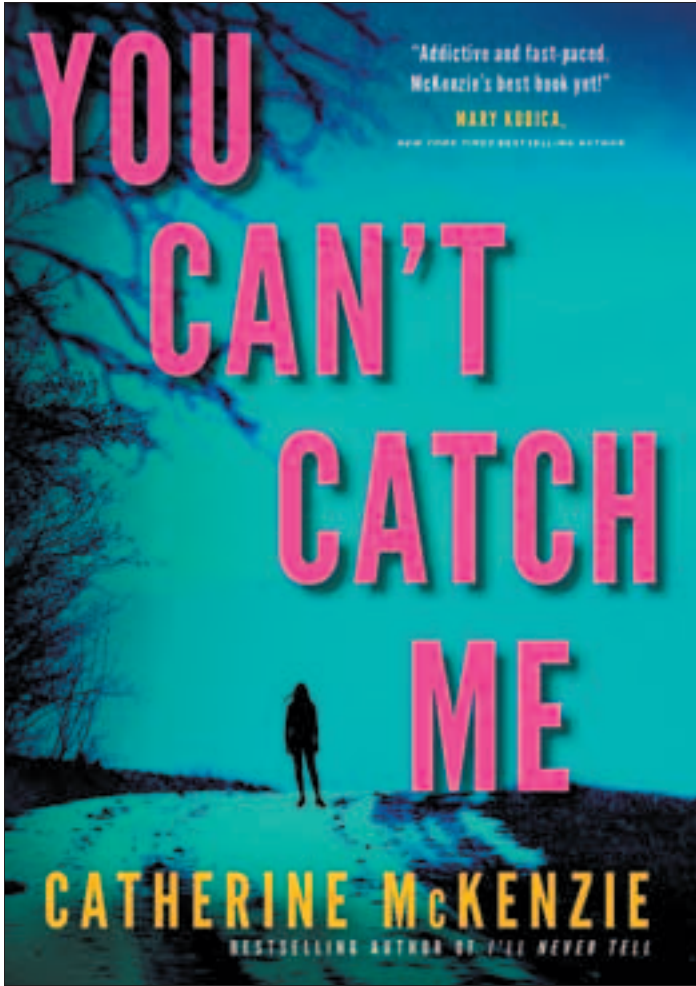
The police were notified by Westmount Public Security that the driver and a female passenger were stopped without apparent reason, and the vehicle's licence plate number was noted. When questioned by the police, the driver "wasn't responding" normally to questions, according to Pimentel.

After observing the driver for tell-tale signs, including slurred speech and unresponsiveness, the officers concluded there were grounds to believe he was intoxicated. They subsequently also found a small quantity of a substance believed to be a narcotic.

"This person was arrested for the possible consumption of narcotics," said Pimentel. "Also, this person made a declaration of what they consumed as a narcotic. In other words he came clean."

Following positive identification and after arrest, the suspect, not a resident of the city of Westmount, was found to be in violation of conditions previously imposed in court.

His vehicle was seized and he now faces charges of driving under the influence as well as simple possession of narcotics. The passenger was released without being charged.



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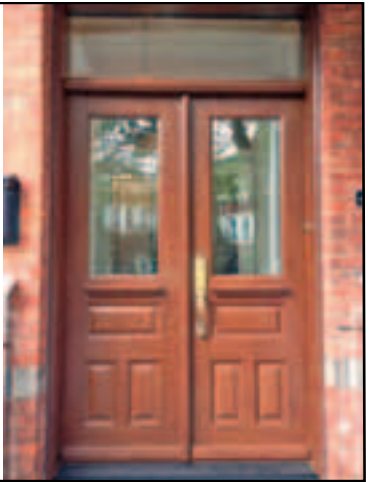
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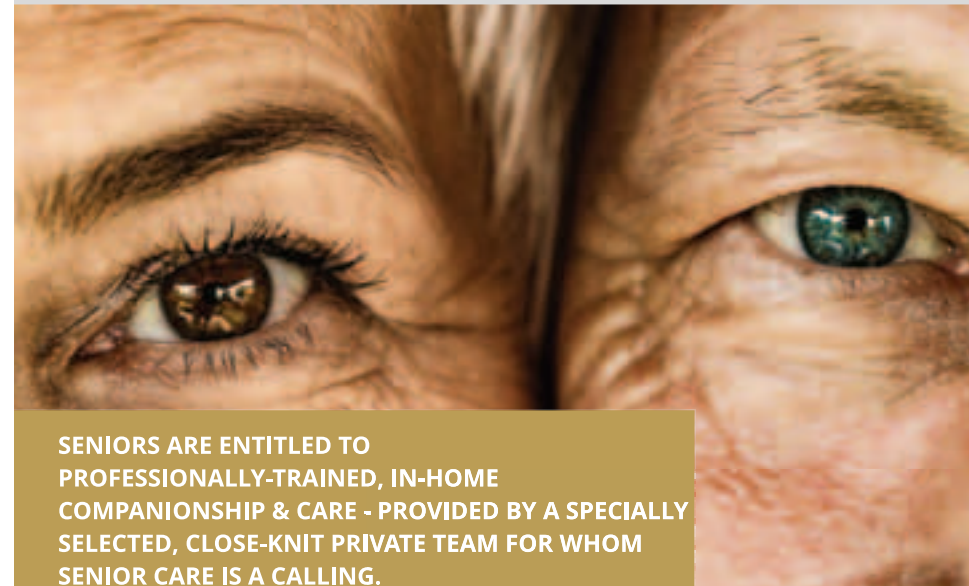
Pop-up concert, pop-up crowd



BECAUSE SENIORS DESERVE BETTER

Gideon Zelermyer, the cantor at the Shaar Hashomayim, entertained a very appreciative crowd at Westmount Park August 16. This was just one of a number of pop-up concerts where he performed on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL.



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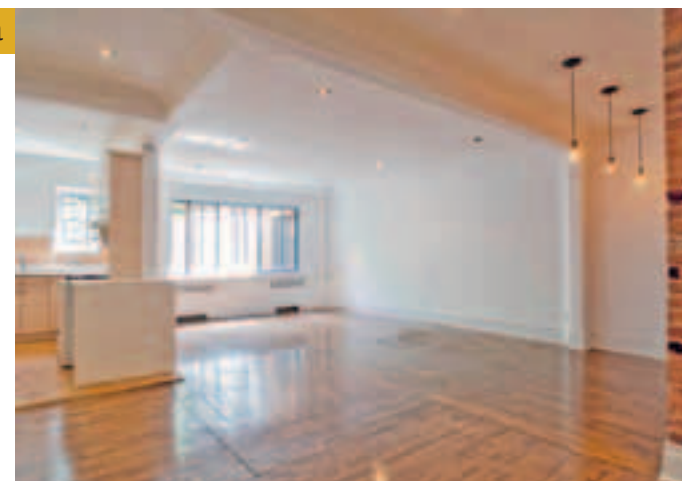
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LAZAR EQUITIES





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2020.08.25 • Vol. 1/9

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

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Mardi 8 septembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Tuesday, September 8



Activités au parc Westmount
jusqu'au 27 août

Le Service des sports et loisirs a ajouté deux cours à cette série d'activités gratuites au parc Westmount : Groove le 25 août et Yoga le 27 août, de 10 h à 11 h.
westmount.org.



Activities in Westmount Park
until August 27

The Sports & Recreation Department added 2 classes to this series of free activities in Westmount Park, both from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Groove on August 25 and Yoga on August 27. westmount.org

Port du couvre-visage obligatoire dans
les lieux publics intérieurs

Par décret du Gouvernement du Québec, le port du masque facial ou couvre-visage est obligatoire dans tous les lieux publics intérieurs.

Agglomération : consultation publique

Jusqu'au 11 septembre, la Commission sur le schéma d'aménagement et de développement de Montréal accepte des questions et des commentaires du public concernant l'usage futur du site de la Brasserie Molson Coors dans Ville-Marie. westmount.org

Taxes foncières : date limite le 27 août

La date limite révisée pour le 2^e versement des taxes municipales 2020 est le **jeudi 27 août**.

Carte d'accès aux installations sportives

Demandez votre carte en ligne. Deux preuves

de résidence sont exigées. westmount.org/carte

Piscine extérieure : consignes importantes

La piscine du CLW se conforme aux directives de santé du gouvernement du Québec. Veuillez noter :

- qu'il est nécessaire de réserver en ligne pour chaque membre de la famille;
- que l'accès se fait par l'entrée Lansdowne;
- que le port du couvre-visage est obligatoire à l'intérieur du CLW;
- que les baigneurs doivent arriver et partir en costume de bain (pas de vestiaires).

IMPORTANT

Il y a une forte demande pour les périodes de nage; svp, soyez respectueux envers les autres et **annulez votre réservation** rapidement si vous avez un empêchement.

Wearing of face coverings mandatory in
indoor public spaces

By Gouvernement du Québec decree, the wearing of face masks or face coverings is mandatory in all indoor public spaces.

Agglomeration: public consultation

Until September 11, the Commission sur le schéma d'aménagement et de développement is accepting questions and comments from the public concerning the future use of the Molson Coors Brewery site in Ville-Marie. westmount.org

Municipal taxes: deadline August 27

The revised deadline for the 2nd instalment of the 2020 property taxes is **Thursday, August 27**.

Sports facility access card

Request your card online. Two proofs of

residence are required. westmount.org/card

Outdoor pool: important guidelines

The WRC pool operates in accordance with the health directives of the Gouvernement du Québec. Please note that:

- it is necessary to reserve online for each member of the family;
- access is via the Lansdowne entrance;
- the wearing of face coverings is mandatory inside the WRC;
- swimmers must arrive and leave in their bathing suits (no access to changing rooms).

IMPORTANT

Demand for swim time is high; be respectful of other swimmers and **cancel your reservation** promptly when you are not able to use it.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Service de cueillette sans contact

Notre service de cueillette s'effectue désormais à l'intérieur de la Bibliothèque. Réservez vos items et vous serez informé dès qu'ils sont prêts. Vous aurez deux jours pour les récupérer. westlib.org

Club de lecture d'été TD 2020

Fais-tu partie du Club de lecture d'été TD? N'oublie pas d'enregistrer tes heures chaque semaine pour avoir la chance de gagner des prix. En date du 20 août, les membres de notre club ont cumulé 932 heures de lecture! 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

Storywalk® au parc Westmount

Découvrez le Storywalk® qui fait partie du Club de lecture d'été TD 2020 de la Bibliothèque et

laissez-vous porter par le livre Les hauts et les bas d'Amanda, écrit et illustré par Ashley Spires.

La vie des Noirs est importante : ressources

Une liste de fictions et documentaires préparée par l'équipe de la Bibliothèque au sujet du racisme, des inégalités et des discriminations. westlib.org

Retour de documents 24/7

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Contactless pickup service

Our pickup service now takes place inside the Library. Place a hold and you will be informed when your items are ready. You will have 2 days to pick them up. westlib.org

TD Summer Reading Club

Are you signed up for the TD Summer Reading Club? Don't forget to log your reading hours each week for a chance to win prizes. By August 20, our club members had logged 932 hours of reading! westlib.org

Storytime online

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

Storywalk® at Westmount Park

Discover the Storywalk® that is part of the Library's 2020 TD Summer Reading Club. Enjoy

The Thing that Lou Couldn't Do, written and illustrated by Ashley Spires.

Black Lives Matter reading list

A list of fiction and non-fiction resources curated by the Library team for anyone committed to exploring racism, inequity and injustice. westlib.org.

Document returns 24/7

Use the book drops located near the side door of Victoria Hall at any time.

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4100 Dorchester: Findlay's first house in Westmount

*History by
the House*

ANDY DODGE

The elegant mansion at the corner of Dorchester Blvd. and Clandeboye Ave. was the first Westmount house designed by famed architect Robert Findlay, though the stories surrounding it are almost as fascinating as the unique design of the house.

In the early 19th century, the land was in the hands of Hon. Frédérique-Auguste Quesnel, a prominent lawyer and member of the legislative assembly of Lower Canada.

Like so many successful families were doing at the time, he built a mansion on the edges of Montreal's "Square Mile." Manoir Souvenir was built on the side of the escarpment below Dorchester St., near Atwater Ave., named in memory of his deceased first wife, Marguerite Denault, who died in 1820.

In 1830, it sat on 240 acres of land stretching west from Aqueduc St. The huge land stretched between Dorchester and St. Antoine streets (or the proposed extension of the latter street) and on Quesnel's death in 1866, it was inherited by his step-son, Charles J. Coursol (whom he had adopted following the death of Charles' father when he was one year old).

Manoir Souvenir has now been demolished, it seems, but the memory remains as Souvenir St., below Dorchester Blvd. and just east of Westmount's eastern border with downtown.

Following the construction of Manoir Souvenir, however, Quesnel started paring off bits of his huge property, including a very attractive nine acres of land along Dorchester St. in 1844, when it was purchased by Havilland L. Routh, who with his father, Henry LeMesurier – a veteran of the War of 1812, set up a company dealing mainly with exporting timber to Great Britain but also operating their own fleet of ships



across the Atlantic.

The company slowly transformed itself into an insurance company, and it appears Routh never quite got around to building on the Dorchester site, which he eventually sold (1872) while he moved to a much more modest home at the corner of Mountain St. and Dorchester.

The new buyers were a group of investors including Coursol, who still owned the mansion, along with Charles John Brydges, managing director of the Grand Trunk Railway; Thomas Cramp, who worked at David Torrance & Co., importers of teas and general merchandise; John Molson and Francis Wolferstan Thomas, both of Molson's Bank; and Alexander Molson, who at the time was working for Mechanics Bank.

Developers Stayner, Hallowell, Greene & Atwater

At this point Quesnel had sold off portions of his land to Thomas Stayner, William and John Hallowell, Edward and George Greene and their sister, Lucy Greene Atwater, with some pieces of land singled out for mansions, such as the "Weredale," off of Dorchester, property of Judge William Badgley (the mansion was torn down and replaced by today's Weredale House, which was built as an orphanage by the Montreal Rotary Club) and one on St. Antoine belonging to lawyer William H. Kerr.

So the group of investors was taking a

stab by trying to buy into this community, just as the municipality of Notre Dame de Grâce was being formed.

On April 25, 1872, they paid almost \$48,000 (12 cents per square foot) for a stretch of land between Dorchester and St. Antoine, next to Badgley's mansion, eyeing what had already been accomplished by the Greene-Atwater group which had already laid out three streets – Greene, Stayner and Prospect.

But then the Long Depression crippled the western movement of Montreal, even as the fledgling town (which by then had changed its name to Côte St. Antoine) was being subdivided for development. The group held on to its strip of land until 1889, when it finally presented the city with a re-division plan which included a new street, Clandeboye Ave.

Late 1880s: The railway arrives

At about the same time, the Atlantic and Northwest Railroad was literally slicing right through the middle of the large lot, so the "new" street became the victim even before it could be improved, though the name Clandeboye stayed with both sections at least through 1893 (the lower section eventually became Brooke Ave.).

By the time the group decided to sell off the property in 1889, two of them (Brydges and Cramp) had died, while Alex Molson had relinquished his share to James Chadwick of Manchester, England, and there was no doubt some bickering on how to

develop the land, so once the redivision plans had been approved by the city, they decided to – well – draw lots for lots.

In this way, it turned out that various partners became the owners of neighbouring lots: the land at the corner of Dorchester and the by-then-named Clandeboye Ave. was drawn by Chadwick, while the next frontage on Dorchester went to Anne Molson, John's wife. Chadwick, through his Montreal lawyer, quickly sold the corner lot to Anne Mulholland, wife of Dr. George Wilkins, a pioneer (at McGill University) in medical jurisprudence and histology.

No doubt while they were planning their house, a neighbour on the north side of Dorchester, Thomas Macauley, who lived in one of the newly-built houses near the corner of Atwater Ave. (next door to his father), came to her with an offer.

His father, Robertson, was president of Sun Life Assurance at the time and he was secretary; no doubt Thomas had the idea that he could build his own mansion, but of course the 27-foot lot was not going to provide him with the land he needed, so he turned to Anne Molson to purchase the 26-foot lot next door, thus giving him a total 53-foot wide lot (by 106 feet deep), with very specific directions on the type of property that could be built there:

"Not to erect on said property any building except a first class private residence of stone or solid brick at a distance of no less than 10

..... continued on p. 20

– 1874 –

Village of Notre Dame de Grâce (area of current-day Westmount and NDG) incorporated

– 1876 –

Village of Côte St. Antoine (current-day Westmount) breaks away

– 1890 –

Village of Côte St. Antoine become a town

– 1895 –

Town of Côte St. Antoine changes its name to Westmount

– 1908 –

Town of Westmount becomes a city



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Manoir Souvenir.

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Programs and services for seniors

4100 Dorchester, *cont'd. from p. 19*
feet from the existing line of Dorchester Street and at a cost of not less than \$5,000."

Findlay hired

At about this time, Sun Life was looking for a new home, and solicited various architects to propose designs, a competition won by Robert Findlay, a young Scottish-trained architect, who began construction of their massive headquarters in 1890.

Young Macauley was impressed enough to suggest that Findlay design a home for him, and so the architect planned his first residential home in Westmount (he was also the architect for Westmount

city hall, Westmount Public Library, Stewart Hall in Pointe Claire and numerous homes in the Square Mile and Westmount).

So it was that Findlay planned and built a house for Macauley, but it seems things were changing in Macauley's life, too, and he decided not to move in, renting out the house to a dry-goods merchant named Frank Edgar, while he stayed next to his father on the opposite side of Dorchester.

Thus began the life of one of lower Westmount's most elegant homes, but once it was constructed the career took various twists and turns. More of this in an upcoming issue of the *Independent*.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WRONG ON NEW BUILDING



A rendering of the approved project.
ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LE 4469 INC.

Your story about the building approved by city council on the empty lot at 4469 St. Catherine St. [corner Metcalfe] next to the K.I.D.S. daycare was very incorrect.

The building will consist of six upscale rental units each with their own central air, hot water tank, heated bathroom floors, granite counters and lots of cupboard space. The ground floor apartment will be a one-bedroom with its own private garage entrance. The other five units are two-bedroom apartments. Occupancy is expected for spring 2021.

LAWRENCE VATCH, LE 4469 INC.
Editor's note: We're sorry for incorrectly de-

scribing the number of units that the building will have, but the audio of the city council meeting was unclear to our ears, which we then checked with a source that we felt would confirm the correct number. Additionally, the project was clearly described at the council meeting as "condos." The names of the developer and architect were withheld by the city though we had hoped to reach both of them to provide readers with insight into the project. – DP.

PARKLETS SHOULD BE MADE FROM RECYCLABLES

I reached out to the city when I first heard about [the Victoria village parklets composed of benches, tables and sun shades] and offered a suggestion of doing the same but using a lumber made from recycled plastics, milk cartons and sea nets that is being produced by a Canadian company in Nova Scotia called GoodWood Plastics.

They have everything these parklets offer but the materials would last at least three times longer than wood, need less maintenance and have less of an impact on our forests and environment and would show goodwill by our city government by embracing new technologies that are looking to save the world instead of destroying it.

Did I get a response? Not at all!
All this talk by this city about doing good is just that: talk! Show you want change and maybe it will set a good example for others to follow. Very disap-

pointed with those in power who talk the good talk for the environment but are too lazy to do what is right for our community and the world!

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

REMOVE THE PARKLETS!

The recently constructed [parklet] installations on Sherbrooke St. outside Courval and National [on Sherbrooke near Victoria] should be removed immediately. They are obstructing car traffic, causing double parking, and interfering with bus and bicycling traffic. They are harming long-suffering merchants on the street by making access almost impossible. This is all happening while merchants are losing substantial business due to the coronavirus pandemic.

These installations are an ill-conceived idea with very limited benefits. The sooner they go, the better.

TIM CARSLY, BARAT RD.

PLEASE FIX THE BRICK PATH



I am a longtime resident of Westmount and love living here. I am 80 years old and have been enjoying our beautiful Westmount Park almost every day since the beginning of the pandemic.

However, on August 15, as I was walking along this path beside the lagoon, looking across the water to the island, I tripped on one of these bricks and went flying.

A kind gentleman came to my aid and helped me up. I had cut my left knee and elbow, and I realize now that I was fortunate not to have had a worse injury. I should have been looking down, perhaps, but who thinks of doing that when there is something lovely to admire on the way?

I am sure Mayor Smith and the councillors are aware that there are many paths in the park that need repairing, and I am sure this would have been on the agenda for [meetings this spring], which could not

take place [publicly] on account of the pandemic.

However, this particular path is frequented by many senior citizens and others enjoying a leisurely stroll in this picturesque setting. I strongly recommend that it be repaired as soon as possible.

MELANIE BAILEY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SWITCH PARKING TO EAST SIDE OF LANSDOWNE

I support the suggestion by Richard Lock at city council on August 3 to switch parking from the west to the east side of Lansdowne Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve. Not only would this provide more parking (there are about 17 driveways on the west side, but only about 10 on the east) but pedestrian safety and comfort will improve. The east sidewalk is heavily used by seniors residing at Manoir Westmount, by Contactivity members, and by Westmount recreation centre users.

A row of parked cars would protect these pedestrians from vehicles that lose control in icy conditions and from being splashed by water and slush when inconsiderate drivers speed through puddles.

HENRY OLDERS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

MASKS OUTSIDE, PLEASE

My husband and I walk! We actually enjoy our walks. However ... de Maisonneuve can be difficult, Sherbrooke St. can be next to impossible....and we walk between 7:15 am and 9:30 am almost every day, when it is relatively quiet.

My point, and I actually do have one, is that today, out of curiosity, I counted people on the street when I walked down Victoria from Sherbrooke to de Maisonneuve and then over to Grosvenor in late morning. I counted 18 people, most heading toward me. Of this number, two were masked and going into Metro. Six others were masked, as was I. The other 10 ... no masks, some on cell phones, and have they ever heard of "social distancing"? I think not!

I realize that we can't "police" people, but if I am wearing a mask and jumping on and off sidewalks to protect you, uncomfortable as it may be for me as a senior, can't you please wear a mask and distance yourself to protect me?

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

YES TO BUZUKI, NO TO BY-LAW FINES

Living on Grosvenor, I have watched with amazement at how Petros Restaurant has continued to survive and thrive during COVID-19 by thinking out of the box.

During lockdown, they were quick to

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We are Westmount

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City working to help schools – residents, please help too

Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

As summer comes to a close, many Westmount families are nervously preparing for the start of a new school year. While we welcome the reopening of our schools, we remain concerned about the pandemic and the health and well-being of our children, staff and teachers.

All of us at city hall share your concerns, and we want to inform you of the steps that

we are taking in collaboration with the leaders of our schools to minimize the risk of the spread of the virus.

The key elements of our plan are as follows:

- Promoting outdoor learning: As long as we maintain social distancing, the science is clear that being outside minimizes the chances of the virus spreading. We are working with and urging schools to take full advantage of our many parks and green spaces, and use them as outdoor learning spaces as often as possible. We are also working with schools to build temporary structures on their school properties, which will allow them to offer instruction outdoors. That is why you will

see temporary fences and tents in several schoolyards.

- School drop-offs: Our Public Security and traffic teams are collaborating with school administrators to determine the safest locations around schools for drop-off areas at the start and end of the school day. This is particularly important as we expect many schools will have staggered starts this year. As a result, you will see increased signage and traffic-calming measures around our many schools. *Please slow down when you are in the vicinity of our schools!*

- Parking for teachers: Thanks to our teachers, Westmount schools are exceptional, we are grateful to them for their commitment to our children's learning and for their professionalism. As a result of the pandemic and concerns about the transmission of the virus, more teachers than usual will be driving to school rather than taking public transit. Parking will be a challenge since all of our schools are located in residential neighbourhoods. One simple way to help is if you have an extra parking space at your home to reach out to the nearest school to make it available for teachers during the day. These teachers are frontline workers, so let's come together to support them as best we can. Public Security is working with each school to determine the best plan for each school for on-street parking.

Thanks to summer Sports & Rec team

Our summer programming is also drawing to an end, and I would like to thank our Sports and Recreation team for offering a first-rate programme under difficult circumstances. Unlike other municipalities, we opted to open our pool, day camps and offer outdoor programming. And we did it safely.

You can find all the details of our fall programming on our website.

The students who worked at the day camp and our lifeguards at the pool could have easily stayed home, but they didn't. Council and I want to express our gratitude to these young people who worked hard under stressful conditions. We wish you continued success as you return to school, and we hope you enjoyed and learned from your work experience.

Possible second wave

In looking ahead, we remain concerned about a potential second wave. In March, we came together as a community to protect our seniors and our most vulnerable, and to make sure our health care system could take care of those who became sick. Now, six months later, we need to put that same collective effort towards ensuring our children and teachers benefit from a safe re-opening of our schools. Our commitment, as described above, is to work hand in hand with our schools and to provide them with whatever support we can.

At the same time, I urge you to continue to be vigilant, wear masks and social distance, and wash your hands regularly to protect your neighbours, as well as yourself.

Stay safe, and happy back-to-school for all the students.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

offer delivery and takeout options, and then once restaurants started to re-open, they expanded their outdoor space – first onto the sidewalk just in front of the restaurant, and then onto a neighbouring driveway. On our Saturday evening walks with our two young daughters, we loved stopping to listen to the musicians play *bu-zuki* music and classic rock tunes out on

the terrace, and the few times we managed to get out for dinner ourselves – either with or without the kids, we marvelled at how the new décor and overall ambiance not only helped us to feel “normal” again, but also as though we were back vacationing on a small island in Greece. We left satisfied and smiling, wondering why it took a pandemic to liven up the street.

Unfortunately, the past few Saturdays, we noticed Westmount security officers slapping Petros with hefty fines in addition to shutting down the terrace extension – forcing people inside – and shutting down the music.

Why is Westmount shooting itself in the foot? We should be supporting our local businesses by helping them get through these tough times in any way that they can, not hiding behind bureaucratic red tape as they wait for their permits to come through.

Shame on Westmount, and shame on the neighbours who complained in the first place.

STEPHANIE FINKELSTEIN,
GROSVENOR AVE.

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School Monitors Needed

Roslyn Elementary School is looking for monitors! It's a great way to make extra \$'s 1 hour per day, monitoring grades 1-6 during lunch hour. For information call Colleen 438-777-2809 or Roslyn School 514-438-5581.

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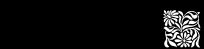
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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

This sweet, one-year-old black-and-white domestic shorthair was rescued from the streets as a kitten. Sergeant is now in foster care with volunteers from Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, more grown up now as he trusts people and enjoys cuddling and sitting on laps, as this photograph shows.

Sergeant is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and treatments, neutered and microchipped. He is curious and playful, and likely to quite enjoy the company of another cat in his new family home, if there is one, and it will make him more confident settling in.

Please contact the dedicated volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email address info@gerdysrescue.org, after which they will forward their adop-



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Now, aren't we all keen here to play fetch with the ball? As you can see, Louna is very bright, affectionate and playful. A stunning black-and-white shorthair with light-blue eyes, she is a beauty. With accented booties, shirt and mask, we can still see the cute freckles peeking out above her nose!

Sporting Louna is four years old, waiting at the Montreal SPCA kennel for a kind family from our neighbourhood to bring her home as soon as possible.

She is the picture of health, up to date with her inoculations and treatments, spayed and microchipped. Her identifica-

Young Sergeant



tion questionnaire; or visit their website at www.gerdysrescue.org to find out more about Sergeant and this grassroots volunteer animal rescue group.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Playful Louna

tion number is 44410718 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link.

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

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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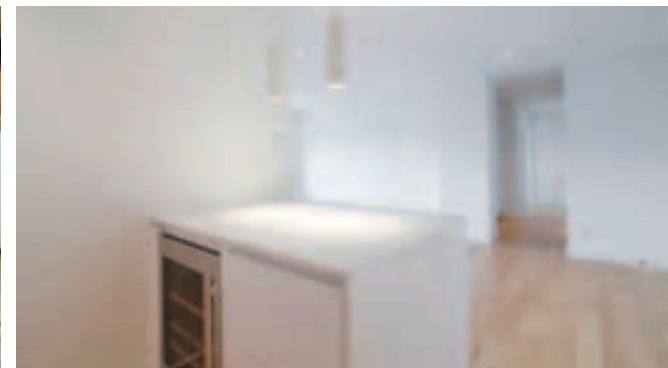
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Return to Retail
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Shops have been open again since May, but retail remains a challenging business. We are spotlighting what some Westmount shops are offering.

Finally, one can buy gifts now that shops have re-opened in Westmount. One of the most original is Suetables on Greene Ave., where necklaces, pendants and rings can be personalized – keeping the moment’s

Suitable silver, silversmiths

memory forever. Suetables’ silver rings come in different widths, and can be stamped right away at the store’s little workshop table, as can all other personalized pieces. Offering fine sterling silver, Suetables owner has worked with the same silversmith family in Mexico for years.

Looking like girls from the Italian fashion magazine *Grazia*, Mikaela Mailly and Alex Kouri showed me the “gift choices for all events” and gave me a tour of the boutique’s charming collection, ranging from the thinnest of thin delicate necklace chains – choker length and longer; bracelets for good luck and for summer colour; sweet ceramic jewellery holders (plain, kitten- or heart-shaped); straw bags, and fabulous lace lingerie.

Followed by fashion bloggers and celebrities, Suetables is a destination for zodiac horoscope charms. Suetables’ candles make the perfect hostess gift. For men, leather key ring holders and cufflinks are an easy choice. Easy summer clothing rounds out the shop’s one-of-a-kind offerings.

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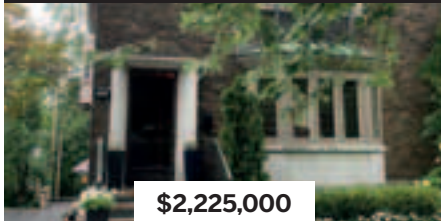
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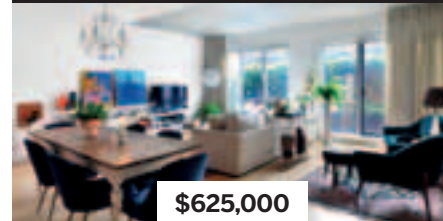
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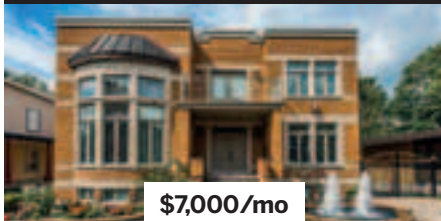
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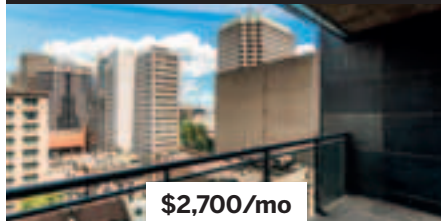
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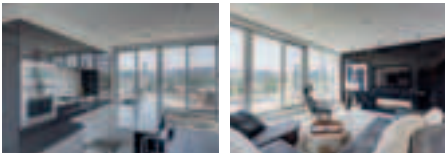


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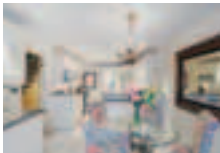
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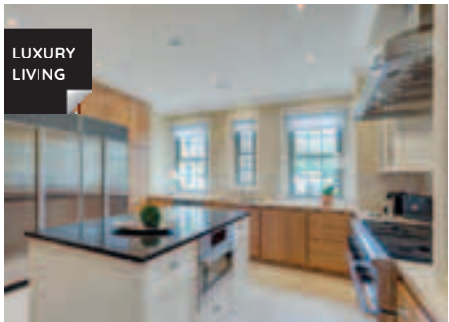
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