

50+ years for Patulli!

Retirees Raymond & Sandro will be missed at Metro grocery store

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Two long-time employees at Metro Westmount, who have accumulated more than 90 years service between them, plan to do a bit of travelling and spend more time with loved ones after officially starting retirement later this month.

Raymond Genier, 62, and Sandro Patulli, 67, have worked at the Victoria Ave. supermarket since the days when it was part of the now defunct Steinberg's chain, which went out of business in the early 1990s. Their last days on the job will be on February 20 and 21.

Patulli, the longer-serving of the two, first worked at another Steinberg's store beginning in 1969, but joined the staff at the Victoria Ave. location in 1971.

Patulli remembers seeing Steinberg's CEO Sam Steinberg, who was known for his attentive oversight of operations, making the rounds at least once at the other store.

Genier began working at the Westmount store in 1979. He was with Steinberg's for around 13 years before the outlet was taken over by the Metro chain in 1992. He managed several departments, including the delicatessen meats section. He also saw the store undergo three major renovations.

Over the years, Patulli and Genier got to know many customers, and came to regard them as friends with whom they would sometimes chat. "The customers here can be demanding, but they are very friendly" *continued on p. 14*



Seen here on January 28 in the Westmount Metro store are, from left, retiring employee Raymond Genier, store owner Fiorello Vellucci and retiring employee Sandro Patulli.

Susan Lloyd (Leduc)

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HONESTY INTEGRITY RESULTS

Outside activities, library to benefit from loosening of COVID rules

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents using outside rinks will now be able to hold "group" activities not restricted to family, as long as they are limited to four people, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise. The lifting of this restriction was announced by the province February 2.

In a more major loosening, the Westmount Public Library will likely allow members to access the collection, but not

to "hang out," he said.

The curbside service will also continue, according to library director Julie-Anne Cardella.

This will be a very limited opening due to the safety concerns, but details were still unknown, "so we don't have a plan yet," Hurtubise said. The opening of a student reading room that had been targeted for February 8 was still awaiting the required Plexiglas as of last week (see January 26, p. 5).

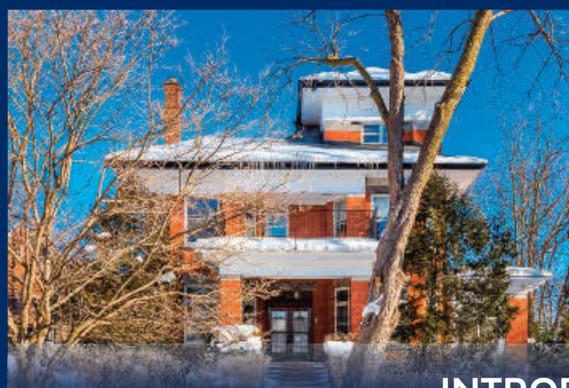
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Westmount joins call for 'respectful democracy'

Intimidation practices condemned against those elected

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

With less than nine months remaining until municipal elections in Quebec, Westmount city council joined other municipalities in adopting a resolution February 1 that condemns acts of intimidation against elected officials and calls for a commitment to "respectful democracy."

This underlines Westmount's support for a campaign launched last month by the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) against aggressive statements and "the polarization of public opinion against election officials."

This was described as "a phenomenon that has escalated since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis last year" in which threats and verbal abuse against elected municipal officials "have no place in a democracy and do not promote the public's trust and recognition of its democratic institutions."

After the lengthy resolution presented by Councillor Jeff Shamie, Mayor Christina Smith spoke about how it was "normal" to disagree with elected officials but in a respectful democratic debate.

She deplored the risk in which democracy can get "whittled away" by social media, in particular, and feared that sometimes this verbal abuse might deter candidates from running for election which "is a privilege of a lifetime."

As an example, she spoke of the importance when citizens write to elected officials to do so the way one might speak to family members or colleagues.

Since the proliferation of emails and social media over the past several years, and especially more recently since the emergence of the pandemic, city officials have reported increasing changes in tenor compared to how people would interact in communicating in person.

City honours Shaar guard for 'heroic actions'

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A security guard who apprehended a suspect spray painting anti-Semitic slogans on the doors of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue January 13 was recognized by city council February 1 for his "heroic action."

When apprehended, the suspect was also reported to have a canister of "unspecified fuel."

Alex Kuczma, who has worked at the Shaar since 1991, was described as noticing the defacing of the building in process and "quickly intervened to confront the perpetrator and detained him until police arrived," according to the resolution presented by Councillor Anitra Bostock.

Kuczma's "immediate actions prevent-

ed further damage to the synagogue and/or harm to the people inside and the community" in his response through a "a sense of duty and love for the community he protects," Bostock said.

For this, "the city expresses sincere gratitude for his service to the broader community in protecting against hate-inspired destruction."

"We stand with the Shaar in speaking out against this kind of hatred which has no place in the municipality, province or country," stated Mayor Christina Smith. She noted he was a familiar face and smile to anyone who walks in the neighbourhood.

Council members had also spoken out on the incident at the January 18 council meeting (see story January 26, p. 5).

BEFORE & AFTER



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Trailblazing individual virtual meetings

Cllr. Peart launches face-to-face 'office hours on Zoom'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Looking for a way to interact with residents face to face during ongoing pandemic restrictions, city councillor Conrad Peart is trailblazing virtual office appointments for eight consecutive Thursdays, he announced at the council meeting February 1.

"I'm trying something a little bit different because of COVID restrictions on opportunities to meet in person," he said. Residents of his District 4 constituency (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine, border/Claremont to Mount Stephen), as well as any others with questions relating to his role as urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture, will be able to sign up for individual appointments on Zoom during the 4 to 5 pm timeframe.

"It's a great initiative," said Mayor Christina Smith. "I think you'll have lots of others of us wanting to do the same. You go first."

The plan for the virtual meetings "germinated simply from a desire to open a new communication channel for residents," Peart told the *Independent* last week. "The idea is to offer a virtual 'drop-in' option with the intent to recapture some of the face-to-face time lost during the pandemic."

The closure of city hall to the public, the holding of council meetings online, cancellation of social and recreational events and even a lack of casual on-street interactions have introduced new challenges, he explained. "The impact of these changes to our collective experience has been extensive, to say the least."

How to book appointments

While his first meeting was scheduled for last Thursday, February 4, residents can book a virtual meeting for the next seven weekly sessions on the city's website under Council/Peart/book a virtual meeting.

Residents will be placed in the Zoom waiting room and meetings are to be held individually.

"As I have no idea how it will be used, it is deliberately unstructured at the outset – with no predetermined format," Peart explained. "I imagine a one-on-one chat with a resident, with a virtual waiting room and everyone aware that the time window is loosely fixed."

"I anticipate that some adjustments may be needed as the experiment progresses organically. As with many things during the pandemic, we will adapt and figure it out as we go. I'm looking forward to getting some more face time with our residents, even if just virtually."



Councillor Conrad Peart on April 1, 2019, introducing a resolution at a public, in-person city council meeting in pre-COVID times.



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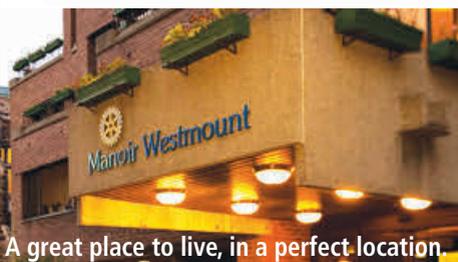


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By-laws not always 'easy to understand'

McCallum seeks way to discuss urban planning permits

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Is there an organized mechanism for residents to review and discuss their building projects with the city?

The question was asked at the February 1 virtual council meeting by a resident of a heritage-rated Category 1 house on St. Catherine. The house is part of a group known as the railway cottages that have been preserved on properties adjacent to the historic Westmount railway station at the foot of Victoria.

Leaky roof

"We currently have a very leaky roof that needs to be replaced," explained Elizabeth McCallum in her submitted question. She wrote that she had had challenges trying to find out what materials would be acceptable, including those required to build an environmentally acceptable "white" roof to reflect the heat.

She said she had been told to refer to the city's by-laws, which she later told the *Independent* were not always easy to understand and did not provide answers to specific questions.

Councillor Conrad Peart, urban plan-

ning commissioner for permits and architecture, replied at the meeting that he did not know details of this project but would "get back to you and walk you through the process."

According to McCallum, the house has a metal roof "on a bit of a slope."

Needed more information

But in applying for a permit, she had been told the slope was a little too steep for the types of materials to be used to accommodate a white roof, despite recommendations from two contractors. That, she said, led to her need for more information but emails from Urban Planning essentially referred her to by-laws for the information she sought.

"I wanted more precise information to be sure I understood," she said. "There seems to be no opportunity for discussion other than put in your application and 'we'll review it'."

"Whether it's a front door or a roof, there seems to be no dialogue and no forum for obtaining additional information."

In this respect, McCallum said she welcomed Councillor Peart's announcement

to hold Zoom meetings with residents (see separate story p. 3).

A good example of her need for more information, she said, is the time that was lost in obtaining answers she sought. With rejection of the permit in September, it was too late in the year to replace the roof and she had to repair the damaged ceiling with drywall to get through the winter.

Regularly meets with residents

Peart later told the *Independent* that Urban Planning "regularly meets with residents and their mandated professionals to discuss their projects. Ordinarily, these meetings would take place in person, but are now mostly conducted over the phone or via teleconference [because of the pandemic closures]."

In Article 3.2.3, of the city's building guidelines, he explained, "the city advocates for cool roof design and sourcing for flat roofs. However, in the resident's case, the roof appears to be sloped. As such, as per our by-laws, it would require a permit for any proposed change of materials. Our Urban Planning department will be able to accompany and advise the resident through the process."

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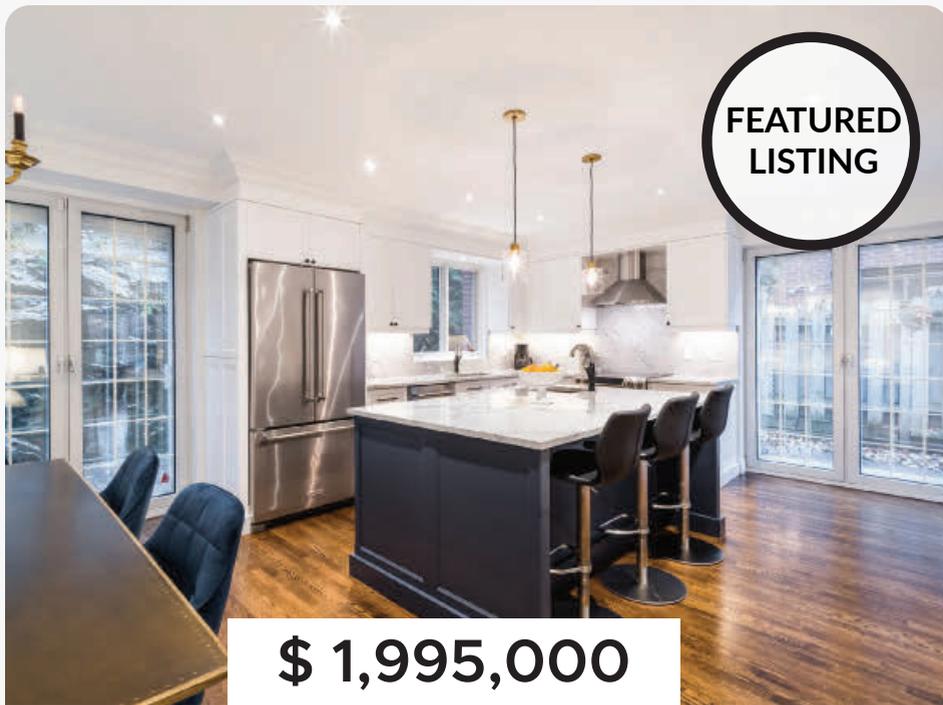
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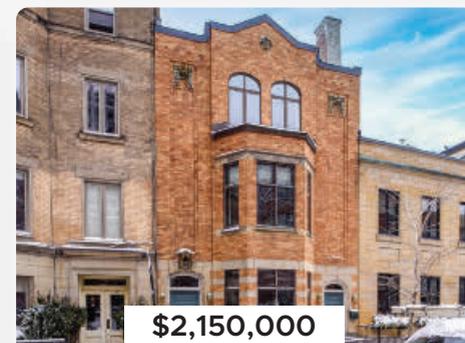
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Greene Avenue tunnel: Let there be light!



Police Report

Video could help ID de Maisonneuve/Elm burglary suspect

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police investigators at Station 12 have a good head start towards identifying the perpetrator of a recent break-in and burglary at a home near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Elm Ave. thanks to security cameras that captured multiple images of the suspect inside and outside the property.

A call was received at the Stanton St. detachment around 1:15 pm on January 30 regarding a burglar alarm that had been triggered by an intrusion into the dwelling.

Movement detectors set off at the same time indicated there was movement in the living room. On arriving, the police officers saw that the glass in a kitchen window had been shattered and a nearby door may also have been broken.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the suspect entered through the window, and then

proceeded to the second floor where he stole a number of personal items, including a handbag.

In another room, a laptop computer was taken, along with some additional items that included identification and credit cards. Before leaving, the suspect stole a set of keys, including keys to the house and for a car.

According to video images recorded by security cameras placed inside the house, the suspect left through the front door. Cameras placed outside recorded him walking north towards Sherbrooke St.

Based on a description of what was seen of the suspect on camera, he had a slim build, was wearing a padded parka with a hood, jogging pants, black boots, a face covering and he was right-handed. As the cameras also had an audio capture feature, the suspect was heard at one point speaking with a notable accent.

Pimentel said the dwell- *continued on p. 17*

▲ The Greene underpass lights below the CP Rail line (foreground) and autoroute (background) on the evening of February 6.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Temporary lighting has been installed in the Greene Ave. underpass under the railway tracks, Councillor Kathleen Kez told the city council meeting February 1. "It's been dark in the overpass so it will be safer for residents walking down Greene Ave.," she said.

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UPDATE THE BUILDING BY-LAWS PLEASE

At the February 1 council meeting, a resident owning a Category 1 heritage house described her difficulty interpreting city by-laws as to what she is or is not permitted to do when replacing her roof. She is determined to use new “environmentally conscious materials,” but was unable to find any “clear or definite answer” and needed assistance.

At the same council meeting, we were informed that current restrictions on restaurants are to be lifted, not because of increased demand from potential restaurateurs (there likely is none), but because, as Mayor Smith simply explained, zoning “is not something that can stand still in time.” Yet our city guidelines covering all areas of renovation have not been significantly updated. They need to reflect modern technology by incorporating new engineered materials that offer a superior environmental footprint.

Ironically, Mayor Smith applauded the resident for looking at “green initiatives.” Modernizing our renovation guidelines to reduce our city’s environmental footprint would be a superb accomplishment for any city administration. Yet successive councils have taken little action despite many promises over the years.

I recognize that this is not a trivial task. It is fraught with differing opinions among our residents on what is in the best interest of Westmount as well as our world community. But the fact that this is challenging

is not a valid excuse for inaction. We can’t wait any longer. Our environment is critical to our well-being and those of the generations to come.

Council, show leadership. Get it done.
DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

SHOULDN’T WE REACH EVERYONE IN EMERGENCIES?

On February 2, we received a call at our home from Jennifer Maccarone, the [provincial] member for Westmount-St. Louis, with a warm message “checking in” on us and advising to reach out if we needed anything during these difficult times.

I am bilingual, support the French language, yet was surprised there was not even a brief version in English, at the least advising of the phone number to call if anything were needed, especially as these are very difficult times. One, there are still some older people in our community who perhaps growing up would not have had the same opportunities to learn French and might need and want to reach out, and second, for “emergency” situations, shouldn’t we be trying to reach everyone?

Did I miss that Westmount is a unilingual community?

RONA E. DAVIS, UPPER BELMONT AVE.

TRAIN STATION SHOULD BE AN EXHIBITION SPACE

Now that a contract has been awarded

to restore the heritage conservatory (January 19, p. 1), perhaps it’s time for council to turn its attention to the fate of a severely neglected heritage building in our midst – the Westmount train station at the foot of Victoria Ave. It was designated by the government of Canada as a heritage railway station in 1994 for its architecture and its historical importance. Constructed in 1907, it provided access to reliable commuter transportation that played the most significant role in Westmount’s rapid development at the beginning of the 20th century.

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright’s brand of Prairie Style architecture, it was designed by the CPR’s chief architect, W. S. Painter, and embodied a prime example of the Arts and Crafts movement prevalent in America at the time. It has typical broad horizontal lines with a hipped roof and deep overhanging eaves supported by carved brackets and framed by two large square turrets, while the large windows were to provide an airy, light-filled interior to encourage interaction with the outdoors. Additions in 1923 and 1927 altered the original symmetry but respected the general character of the building.

Protecting, restoring or reconstructing and preserving the city’s heritage buildings should be a concern, which should designate an adequate budget to undertake such endeavours. The Westmount train station should not be allowed to deteriorate to the point of collapse. And if so, then what? Sell the land to some developer?

Ideas for its adaptive reuse have floated around for years but nothing was ever deemed appropriate. The significance of this little architectural gem should be used to expand social and cultural awareness as well as to communicate knowledge of our community’s history. However, certain guidelines have to be followed to maintain the integrity of the building and to not alter its historic character.

Personally, I envision it as an exhibition space, mainly as an extension of the Westmount Public Library to display archived material such as its extensive postcard collection that is currently hidden from the public. The Westmount Historical Association could also share the space to exhibit its plethora of interesting archived documents, photographs and memorabilia that rarely, if ever, see the light of day. This could be augmented by private Westmount collectors who surely would welcome the idea to exhibit their own caches of historical photographs, memorabilia, drawings, etchings, etc. Even a collection of snuff bottles or antique plates could create a thought-provoking exhibition.

Once the interior space is reconstruct-

ed, the furnishings required are display cases, either wall hung or tables. There may be some old wall cases available that displayed train schedules just waiting to be re-used. As for seating, a few of the original old benches from the waiting room could be put into service again. Notwithstanding, it’s high time for the city to open a serious public consultation to arrive at a viable solution for this grand old lady before its too late. Urban pride, the historic charm and concern for our environment, as well as community interaction, are what makes Westmount such a great place to live.

ANDREA KLEIN, KENSINGTON AVE.

WESTMOUNT PARK WORKS WELL AS IS

I am writing my first-ever letter to the editor because I have serious concerns about the council’s Westmount Park project and I think it is important that the public be alerted to the planned changes and their likely effect.

I have lived on the park for more than 40 years. My children grew up playing in the park, I walk through it every day and it is one of the great pleasures of my life. I think we all agree that it is an essential part of the Westmount community, remarkably well designed and ideally set up to fulfill the needs of all of its users. While there is always a need for repairs and maintenance, and, from time to time, upgrades or changes to meet a specific need (e.g. splash pad, dog run, skating rink, new equipment for playground), there is no need for a make-over.

The details of the various items proposed as part of the “renovation” project have not been well publicized or made readily accessible. The plan, as itemized in the survey on the city website (now closed), appears to be a budget in search of a project, not a project in search of a budget. It is not a response to the needs or desires of the users of the park, but only an outside consultant’s “vision” for changes to a facility that is not in need of change.

Not only are most of the changes unnecessary and a waste of money, but there is no way they can be implemented without depriving the community of the use of the park over an extended period of time, likely years. This would be objectionable at any time, but particularly now.

Furthermore, in my opinion, the proposed changes are not improvements, in most cases quite the opposite. Their effect would be to make the park feel more crowded and busy, diminishing one of the most remarkable qualities of its design, which provides a feeling of both space and intimacy in spite of the number of features and functions offered in a modest area.

Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year and the limited availability of perti-

continued on p. 9

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Letters, cont'd. from p. 8

nent information, the majority of the population is unaware of what is proposed. People assumed that “renovation” meant work to maintain the park and repair and upgrade infrastructure. It is only in the last few months we have become more aware of the major changes planned. Reactions once people have been informed have been very negative and I have not yet spoken to anyone who is in favour of the project as described.

The council does not have a mandate to go ahead with a project of this magnitude and impact, affecting a heritage park, without the support of the residents of Westmount based on a full and complete understanding of what is proposed. This is currently lacking and further steps must be taken to inform and consult the population and plans must be adjusted in response to such consultation. Nothing should be done until after the next election.

The general objections expressed above apply to all of my comments below on specific proposals.

Widening, relocating and adding paths: reduces green area, threatens existing plantings, particularly mature trees, will make the park appear smaller and more crowded

Straight line path across the park: The existing path is straight enough and should

not be reconfigured or replaced. The only issue is that water collects from time to time in several places (particularly in times of thaw), surely this problem can be addressed as such. If a second path is added, the proposed location south of the bike path may be the best option, but there will be a negative effect on the playing fields to the south.

Moving splash pad and addition of fountain: splash pad is best left where it is, there is no need for a fountain, reduction in usable space, possibly reduced area for splash pad.

Aerial bridge over play ground: unnecessary, obtrusive, unattractive and possibly hazardous.

Construction of new “twig” bridge: unnecessary if the water feature remains as is.

Enlarging and moving gazebo and activities to the center of the park: Obtrusive, unnecessary, poor use of space. How will gazebo affect the skating rink? Other activities? Playing fields are a more appropriate venue for most special activities.

On the positive side, I think the plan to make a wildflower garden on the arena roof is a good idea.

I know that I speak for many friends and neighbours to whom the park is very important and I urge the council to reconsider this ill-advised project.

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Four bursaries will be awarded to students living in the riding of Westmount-Saint-Louis and attending a post-secondary institution of the riding: two of \$250 for the college level and two of \$500 for the undergraduate level.

La date limite pour envoyer votre candidature est le 1er mars 2021 à minuit.

Trouvez le formulaire de candidature sur nos réseaux sociaux!

The deadline to submit your application is midnight, March 1, 2021.

Find the application form on our social media!

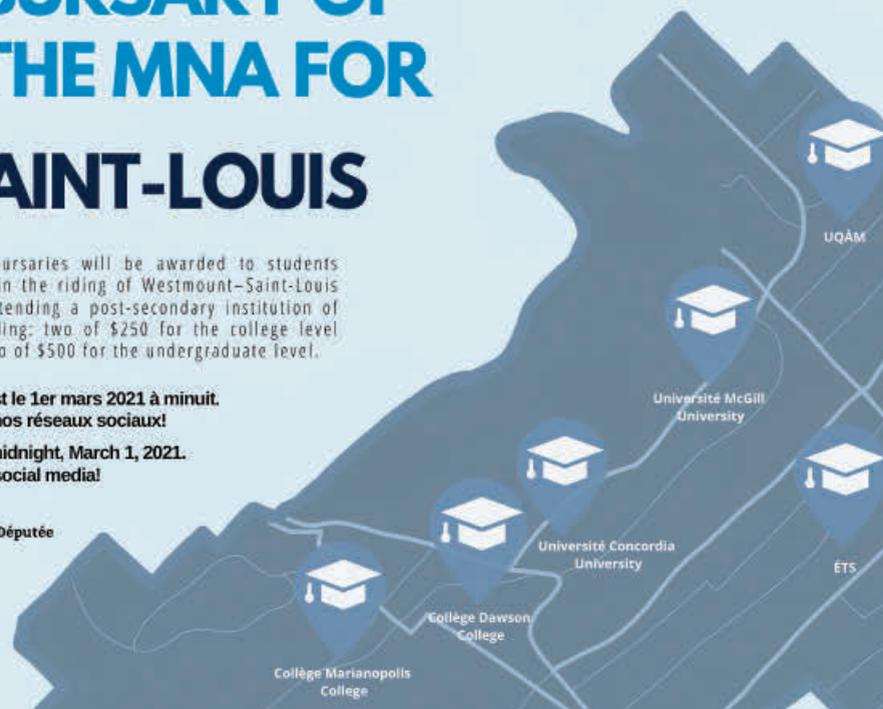
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jmacarone

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We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 as part of a massive effort to prevent serious complications and deaths related to COVID-19, and stop the virus from spreading. Through vaccination, we hope to protect our healthcare system and allow things to return to normal.

A VACCINATION OVERVIEW

Why get vaccinated at all?

There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

How effective is vaccination?

Vaccination is one of medicine's greatest success stories and the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system. That said, as with any medication, no vaccine is 100% effective. The efficacy of a vaccine depends on several factors, including:

- The age of the person being vaccinated
- Their physical condition and/or state of health, such as a weakened immune system

THE IMPACT OF VACCINES AT A GLANCE



- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that vaccination helps **prevent over 2 million deaths** every year, worldwide.
- Since the introduction of vaccination programs in Canada in 1920, **polio has been wiped out** across the country and several other illnesses (such as **diphtheria, tetanus** and **rubella**) have virtually disappeared.
- **Smallpox** has been **eradicated** throughout the world.
- The main bacteria responsible for **bacterial meningitis** in children—Haemophilus influenzae type B—has become **much rarer**.
- **Hepatitis B** has for all intents and purposes **disappeared** in young people, due to their having been vaccinated in childhood.



COVID-19 VACCINES

Are the vaccines safe?

Definitely. COVID-19 vaccines have been tested for quality and efficacy on a large scale and passed all necessary analysis before being approved for public use.

All required steps in the vaccine approval process were stringently followed, some simultaneously, which explains why the process went so fast. Health Canada always conducts an extensive investigation of vaccines before approving and releasing them, paying particular attention to evaluating their safety and efficacy.

Who should be vaccinated against COVID-19?

We aim to vaccinate the entire population against COVID-19. However, stocks are limited for now, which is why people from groups with a higher risk of developing complications if they are infected will be vaccinated first.

Can we stop applying sanitary measures once the vaccine has been administered?

No. Several months will have to go by before a sufficient percentage of the population is vaccinated and protected. The beginning of the vaccination campaign does not signal the end of the need for health measures. Two-metre physical distancing, wearing a mask or face covering, and frequent hand-washing are all important habits to maintain until the public health authorities say otherwise.

On what basis are priority groups determined?

The vaccine will first be given to people who are at higher risk of developing complications or dying from COVID-19, in particular vulnerable individuals and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in a CHSLD, healthcare providers who work with them, people who live in private seniors' homes, and people 70 years of age and older.

As vaccine availability increases in Canada, more groups will be added to the list.

Order of priority for COVID-19 vaccination

- 1** Vulnerable people and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) or in intermediate and family-type resources (RI-RTFs).
- 2** Workers in the health and social services network who have contact with users.
- 3** Autonomous or semi-autonomous people who live in private seniors' homes (RPAs) or in certain closed residential facilities for older adults.
- 4** Isolated and remote communities.
- 5** Everyone at least 80 years of age.
- 6** People aged 70–79.
- 7** People aged 60–69.
- 8** Adults under the age of 60 with a chronic disease or health issue that increases the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- 9** Adults under the age of 60 with no chronic disease or healthcare issues that increase the risk of complications but who provide essential services and have contact with users.
- 10** Everyone else in the general population at least 16 years of age.

Can I catch COVID-19 even after I get vaccinated?

The vaccines used can't cause COVID-19 because they don't contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that's responsible for the disease. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or in the 14 days following it could still develop COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

No. Vaccination is not mandatory here in Québec. However, COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended.

Is vaccination free of charge?

The COVID-19 vaccine is **free**. It is only administered under the Québec Immunization Program and is not available from private sources.

Do I need to be vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

YES. Vaccination is indicated for everyone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to ensure their long-term protection. Nonetheless, given the current limited availability of the vaccine, people that contracted COVID-19 should wait 90 days from when they were diagnosed before being vaccinated.

[Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine](https://quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine)

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Québec 



infoWESTMOUNT

2021.02.09 • Vol. 2/3

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount**NOUVELLES**PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL**Lundi 1^{er} mars****NEWS**NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING**Monday, March 1st**


Résidus alimentaires : collecte dans les multilogements

La Ville de Westmount est fière de vous annoncer que la phase 2 du Programme de compostage a commencé. Les immeubles de 9 à 30 unités sont invités à y participer. westmount.org



Food waste: collection in apartment buildings

The City of Westmount is proud to announce that Phase 2 of its Composting Programme has begun. Buildings of 9 to 30 units are invited to participate. westmount.org

COVID-19 : mesures en vigueur

De nouvelles mesures du confinement ont été annoncées par le gouvernement du Québec. Visitez quebec.ca/sante pour plus de détails.

COVID-19 : vaccination

Veuillez noter que toute mise en place éventuelle du programme de vaccination contre la COVID-19 dans notre région sera annoncée par le gouvernement du Québec. Pour vous informer sur le programme, visitez quebec.ca/sante.

Pistes de ski de fond à partir du 9 février

La Ville prépare deux pistes de ski de fond : au parc King George et au WAG. Les pistes auront une longueur approximative de 344 mètres et de 367 mètres. westmount.org

Activités de plein air en sécurité

Veuillez continuer à respecter les règlements affichés pour l'utilisation des pistes de luge et des patinoires extérieures. westmount.org

Travaux d'Hydro Québec au coin St-Antoine et Greene

Hydro Québec effectuera des travaux de reconstruction d'un puits d'accès au coin de la rue Saint-Antoine et de l'avenue Greene **du 8 février au 16 avril**. Ces travaux entraîneront la fermeture de certaines voies de circulation et trottoirs. westmount.org.

Système d'alerte à la communauté

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant pour recevoir les alertes de Westmount par téléphone, par courriel ou par texto. westmount.org.

COVID-19: measures in effect

New confinement measures were announced by the Gouvernement du Québec. Visit the quebec.ca/sante website for more details.

COVID-19: vaccination

Please note that any eventual implementation of a vaccination programme against COVID-19 in our area will be announced by the Gouvernement du Québec. For information about the programme, visit quebec.ca/sante.

Cross-country ski trails as of February 9

The City is creating two cross-country ski trails, one in King George Park and the other at the WAG, offering skiers approximate distances of 344 metres and 367 metres. westmount.org

Safe outdoor activities

Please continue to respect all of the rules posted at the toboggan run and outdoor skating rinks. westmount.org

Hydro Québec work at the corner of Saint-Antoine and Greene

Hydro Québec will carry out reconstruction work on a manhole shaft at the corner of Saint-Antoine Street and Greene Avenue from **February 8 to April 16**. The work will require some closures of traffic lanes and sidewalks. westmount.org

Community alert system

Sign up now to receive Westmount's alerts by phone, by email or by text. westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE**Nouveau service!**

Aimeriez-vous avoir des recommandations de livres personnalisées? Remplissez le formulaire en ligne pour recevoir une liste de livres recommandés par courriel, ou pour que nous mettions de côté pour vous une sélection de livres que vous pourrez récupérer. Un bibliothécaire vous contactera dans les 72 heures ouvrables. westlib.org

Club de films documentaires

Mercredi 10 février, 19 h, sur Zoom. Discussion avec Tasha Hubbard, réalisatrice du film *nîpawistamâsowin* : **Nous nous leverons**. Visionnez le film au préalable sur le site de l'ONF et inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite. westlib.org

Les marionnettes s'amuse au gré des saisons - Silly Story Sammy

Vendredi 12 février, sur YouTube. Candy for Sharks, une création de l'artiste et éducateur primé Jesse Strong. Sammy the Puppet est de retour avec une nouvelle série de courtes histoires originales (en anglais). westlib.org

Sessions en studio au Victoria Hall

Samedi 27 février, 20 h sur YouTube. Urban Aria. Savourez nos concerts intimes en ligne. Vous aurez les meilleurs sièges! westlib.org

Concours littéraire McEntyre

Thème : Vise haut, une marche à la fois.

Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire une histoire, un poème ou un essai décrivant comment une petite action peut faire une grande différence dans une communauté. Invitation aux élèves du primaire et du secondaire. westlib.org

Service de cueillette sans contact

La Bibliothèque demeure fermée au public, mais vous pouvez réserver vos items en ligne ou par courriel. Vous aurez 3 jours pour les ramasser selon l'horaire suivant :

Lundi et mercredi : 13 h à 17 h
Mardi et jeudi : 13 h à 19 h
Vendredi : 10 h à 17 h.

L'heure du conte en ligne

Découvrez nos contes sur YouTube. westlib.org

LIBRARY**New service!**

Want some personalized book recommendations? Fill out an online form to receive a list of recommended books by email or to have us put a selection of books aside for you to pick up. A librarian will contact you within 72 business hours. westlib.org

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, February 10, 7 p.m., on Zoom. Discussion with Tasha Hubbard, director of *nîpawistamâsowin* : **We Will Stand Up**. View the film beforehand on the NFB website, and sign up on Eventbrite. westlib.org

Puppet Shows by the Season - Silly Story Sammy

Friday, February 12, on YouTube. Candy for Sharks, created by award-winning artist and educator Jesse Strong. Sammy the Puppet is back with a new series of short original stories. westlib.org

Victoria Hall Studio Sessions

Saturday, February 27, 8 p.m. on YouTube. Urban Aria. Enjoy our intimate concerts online from the best seats in the house! westlib.org

McEntyre Literary Competition

Theme: Think Big! Start Small! This year, we would like you to write a creative story, poem or essay about how a small act can make a big difference in a community. Elementary and secondary students are invited to apply. westlib.org

Contactless pickup service

Reserve your items online or by email. You will have 3 days to pick up your items according to the following schedule:

Monday and Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 1-7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Storytime online

Discover our stories on YouTube. westlib.org

Claremont/de Mais. seniors' home wanted to move median, idle trucks

City says 'yes' to eastbound St. Catherine trucks – 'no' to westbound ones

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city is insisting that trucks involved in the construction work of the Groupe Maurice seniors' residence at de Maisonneuve and Claremont in NDG use only the eastbound, south side of St. Catherine St. and turn south/right on Glen Rd. to exit Westmount.

This was reported in regular updates at the February 1 virtual council meeting by District 5 councillor Marina Brzeski in describing the only route recently approved for the Groupe Maurice trucks by the city's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which she attends.

As well, she told the *Independent*, the TAC had denied several previous requests for the trucks, including ones to wait and/or idle on St. Catherine or to use the westbound side of the street, which is north of a concrete barrier at that point. As a result, they now wait on St. Jacques.

While the actual construction site of the 10-storey project is on the NDG side of the border, the work trailers are on leased CP Rail property on St. Catherine that lies on the Westmount side and is within this city's jurisdiction (see story January 12, p. 7).

"We're expecting a privacy fence to be erected soon to reduce visual pollution" from the trailer site, Brzeski said.

Not allowed on Victoria

Elisa Gaetano, Westmount's engineering director, told the *Independent* that she had not heard any reports suggesting some eastbound trucks had been seen turning left from St. Catherine to go north on Victoria though "originally they had wanted to," she said. "We don't allow [through] trucks on Victoria for safety reasons because of the many pedestrians."

Instead, the use of St. Catherine and Glen Rd. to exit Westmount had been ap-



Looking west: the St. Catherine-near-York entrance to the principal Groupe Maurice site on February 5, showing the congestion on the far (eastbound) side of the median. The truck at left is actually backing into the worksite of the de Maisonneuve/Vendome tunnel to the MUHC's Glen Hospital, which lies between the two Groupe Maurice sites. The truck at right is exiting Groupe Maurice's NDG worksite.

proved at the TAC meeting of January 19, she said.

As well, the city has refused several other requests for the trucks, including one to remove the concrete Jersey barriers that divide the lanes on St. Catherine west of Victoria, which would facilitate truck passage.

Brzeski said that under discussion now is a request for the trucks to use Sherbrooke St. eastbound from Decarie to turn south onto St. Catherine (at the foot of Claremont) to enter the trailer site.

Frequency to increase

While the frequency of the construction trucks on St. Catherine is now (near the end of phase 1) up to seven an hour, this is expected to increase in the next phase of work, Brzeski said. She said residents of the area would be receiving a notice from Groupe Maurice in the coming days. These notices are going to be sent to an expanded number of Westmount residents affected by the construction project, she said.



Looking southeast from and at St. Catherine south of Claremont, with the entrance to the Groupe Maurice site off camera to the right; the entrance to the Vendôme tunnel site at right with one visible trailer; and the leased CP land, which is in Westmount, to the far left with its three trailers.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Dr. Gilbert a 'Top Woman of Influence'

Westmounter Dr. Lucy Gilbert has been named to the Top Women of Influence for 2021, "a celebration of Canada's most accomplished women role models," according to a press release from the McGill Uni-

versity Health Centre Foundation.

"As director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the Women's Health Research Unit at the McGill University Health Centre, Dr. Gilbert has discovered

a test to detect ovarian and endometrial cancers early (DOvEE). Ovarian and endometrial cancers are known as 'the silent killer' because they present no symptoms until they have spread to other parts of the body. By the time cancer is detected, it is difficult to treat and many women die from it. In fact, ovarian and endometrial cancers are the fourth most common cause of cancer deaths in women," continued the release.

The for-profit Women of Influence company offers "solutions for workplace gender equality and women's advancement, through our global events, digital media, signature awards and consulting," a spokesperson told the *Independent* by email February 5.

"Up until fall 2020, we did have a print *Women of Influence* magazine, however due to COVID, we have had to stop production for the time being."



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit, and for a preliminary program for the immovable located at **314-316 Lansdowne Avenue**;
2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **March 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** and will be broadcast live on the City's website: westmount.org/demolition-committee

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/

www.westmount.org



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit, and for a preliminary program for the immovable located at **325 Melville Avenue**.
2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **March 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** and will be broadcast live on the City's website: westmount.org/demolition-committee

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/

www.westmount.org

Metro, cont'd. from p. 1

and loyal," said Patulli.

As for retirement, Patulli said, "First, I'm going to relax, get this COVID business out of the way. Maybe travel a bit more. I'll be a grandfather soon, so there'll be lots of work behind the scenes."

Genier said that he, too, was looking forward to some travel once he settled into retirement. And he said he has a 9-year-old grandson he plans to spend more time with from now on.

Nancy Bloomfield, a Westmount resident and Steinberg's/Metro Westmount customer since 1985, said she always enjoyed stopping to talk with Sandro and that she will miss him. "He's kind and always had a good word, and was always so positive and nice to be around," she said.

Sandro the source

"Over the years," said *Independent* editor David Price, "Sandro has proposed various Metro-centred stories to me and written letters to the paper about issues of concern to the franchise, often to do with traffic flow – a quintessential Westmount topic. As a result, I got to know him and he has never failed to offer a very friendly 'hello' when I see him at the store – even in these depressing COVID times that are especially challenging for food retailers. I have never seen him in a bad mood. Not once. Happy Retirement to him and Raymond."

Fiorello Vellucci, who has been the Metro Westmount franchise owner for the past four years after taking over from Gra-

ham Fletcher, said he felt honoured to be in charge of a store that is able to retain employees for so long.

"This is something to be very proud of, because nowadays you don't see this happening very often," he said, noting that when workers stay in a job for a great length of time it's an almost unmistakable sign that they're happy.

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Adorable Toby at one year of age

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LYSANNE FOWLER

bonded with another. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please make arrangements for his adoption from the Montreal SPCA kennel as soon as possible. He is a gem. His identification number is 46339342 and you can refer to it when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for Toby 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

Here is a delightful and cuddly young fellow, at that one-year mark when dogs are trained but still puppyish and playful.

Toby is a stunning Lhasa apso type, so handsome with caramel-and-grey touches in his silky fur groomed to elegance and adorable pixie face. He is very social but shy around other dogs as he has not

D'Amour needs love



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

D'Amour is a striking black-and-white tabby who was taken in by the SPCA Montérégie and is now staring at us with his precious green eyes in hope of connecting with a loving family to go home to. He has had no luck. He was surviving in a barn and thanks to the SPCA Montérégie shelter volunteers at its cattery is now ready for a permanent loving relationship. Yes, we all know it is the best life he will ever have to be a Westmount house cat.



Mr. Barn Cat D'Amour is very healthy, about six years old, good with other cats, up to date with his treatments and inoculations, and neutered. The SPCA Montérégie is a no-kill shelter located at 178 chemin du Vide at St. Angèle de Monnoir, a beautiful scenic location. D'Amour's identification number is 7960 and you can refer to the SPCA Montérégie's website at www.sPCAMonteregie.com then to its Petfinder link where each profile is presented and the online form is available for direct emailing to the shelter.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Heward/Klunder and Sparrow: Counterpoint and contrast



Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

The McClure Gallery's first exhibition of the year featured collaborative prints by Harold Klunder and the late John Heward. At Galerie de Bellefeuille, an online presentation of Lucy Sparrow's felt creations reveal a unique style and commentary. Use of counterpoint and contrast dominate these works and create interest.

In tandem

Entitled *An Artistic Dialogue: John Heward and Harold Klunder*, the exhibition –

still online – contains a mix of small and large prints. Curated by master printmaker Paul Machnik, the exhibition features works created by the two artists at Machnik's Studio PM in 2008 and again in 2017-18. Design elements representative of each artist's individual style can be seen in the combined works.

The large carborundum print "Echo (I)" from 2017-2018, features a central, hand-drawn black circle within a colourful border of yellow, green and blue. The black circle – a common motif in Heward's work – contains blue, purple and yellow elements that combine to form a portrait – the subject of Klunder's *oeuvre*. The result is a fresh aesthetic where each voice is independent yet interdependent within a lively and harmonious composition.

A maze of bright colour creates design complexity – a Klunder signature – within the carborundum print "Catch and Hold (X)" from 2017-2018. Unprinted white areas within the composition create a mosaic pattern and create dialogue between design elements. In the grey and black drypoint, "Two heads (IB)" 2008, two portraits below floating letter fragments and ink spots also suggest dynamic communication or consciousness.

"The series "Fragment (I – XII)" from 2020 – completed by Klunder after Heward's death – contain word fragments from Heward's 2005 unpublished manuscript. In



"My Japanese Boyfriend" by Lucy Sparrow.

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one print, the text “a wave sounds in silent waiting” is punctuated by black lines while red, yellow or blue shapes create colour harmony throughout the musical composition. Although no longer displayed, the exhibition can be viewed online at the Visual Arts Centre website – McClure Gallery section.

Singular talent

Lucy Sparrow recreates food, flags and washing detergent in three-dimensional hand-sewn felt creations. Painted with acrylics and presented within a Perspex frame, the effect is both photorealistic and tactile. A colourful collection of sushi delicacies is the subject of “My Japanese Boyfriend” from 2017 and illustrates the artist’s playful sense of humour.

The American flag is the subject of “Oh Say Can You Sew” from 2018. In this work the red stripe is formed by

familiar red packaging including Coca-Cola, Saran wrap and Colgate toothpaste. In another work, “Clean Me Up Scotty”



“Catch and hold (X)” John Heward and Harold Klunder.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL LITHERLAND.

from 2017, the powdered soap packaging – Surf, Tide, Punch, Fab and Cheer – line up as a colourful commentary on science and consumerism. Greene Ave.’s Galerie de Bellefeuille is the Canadian distributor of Sparrow’s original and interesting work.

Experimental value

The Heward and Klunder collaboration created works where the artists’ signature

Police report, cont’d. from p. 7

ing’s owners were advised by the police to contact a credit agency such as Equifax or TransUnion to report their identification and credit cards had been stolen. They were also told to immediately change their door locks.

Range Rover stolen

A high-end Range Rover 4x4 that its owner left unattended for nearly a month in a private parking spot outside a home near the corner of Redfern Ave. and Sherbrooke St. was reported to police as stolen on February 3.

“The owner was out of the country,” Pimentel explained regarding the owner’s extended absence, along with the lag in reporting the theft. He said the owner had been out of the country from December 23 until January 18.

There were no signs to suggest the ve-

design elements combine to create a new and attractive aesthetic. In Sparrow’s three-dimensional art, soft felt shapes both contrasts with and conveys a forceful commentary. Like these artists, the galleries’ online art displays also communicate experimentation where change becomes an opportunity to re-think and re-create – a powerful message during pandemic closures.

hicle had been towed away, either by accident or by criminals, and there weren’t any shards of shattered window glass on the ground in the driveway, which would have been evidence of a forced entry.

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Friends of the MUHC's 'Helping Heart' pillows offer post-surgical comfort

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, many will find their spirits being lifted by the crimson red hearts and cupid cut-outs seen in storefronts or on cards and messages sent between loved ones and friends.

However, for a particular group of patients in the seventh-floor cardiac unit at the Glen site of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), every day has been Valentine's Day since 2001. That's when Westmounter Barbara Brock took the initiative to start the Helping Heart Pillows program.

The 94-year-old de Maisonneuve Blvd. resident launched the program while she was a volunteer with the auxiliary at the Royal Victoria Hospital 20 years ago.

At the time, she couldn't help but notice how difficult and distressing the simplest of tasks seemed to be for patients who had just undergone surgery.

"Some would hug a pillow or even a child's toy against their chest just to be able to bear the discomfort of clearing their throat," she said in an interview the *Independent*. In some cases, some patients were also being given towels. "So that's when I decided that maybe something permanent would be good."

After obtaining the advice and support of medical personnel at the MUHC, as well as a commitment from a Montreal-based supplier who made dog beds, Brock had her first heart-shaped pillows custom-made to meet hospital safety standards.

Over the past two decades, patients arriving back in their rooms after surgery have found a heart pillow already nestled on their beds, along with some simple instructions on its use.

From their hospital beds and as they



Patients in the seventh-floor cardiac unit at the Glen site at the McGill University Health Centre have been comforted after surgery for the past 20 years by receiving a Helping Heart Pillow, one of which is seen here.

grow stronger and more mobile, the patients use the heart pillow to ease movements such as walking, sitting or lying in bed. Some have also used the pillow after leaving hospital, placing it under a seatbelt while driving a car to protect their sternum.

The program, which is now sponsored by the Friends of the MUHC, has provided heart pillows to an estimated 20,000 patients to date. Among the first to receive a heart pillow during the program's early years was former US president Bill Clinton in 2005.

Clinton, who was president from 1993 to 2001, had undergone a four-hour quadruple bypass operation in 2004. Brock said that getting it to him was challenging be-

cause it involved dealing first with the US Secret Service.

"As you might know, you just can't send a pillow to a president without going through the proper channels," she said. "I called the Secret Service in Washington and I explained." She furnished the names of three references from the MUHC medical staff.

After that stage was completed, the Secret Service gave her specific instructions for boxing, wrapping and addressing the package with the heart pillow, with coded information to be written on the wrapping. She was rewarded with a letter of thanks from Clinton. Brock had it framed and it now hangs on a wall in her home where it is among her most treasured possessions.

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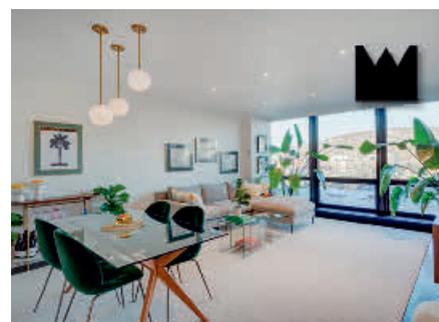


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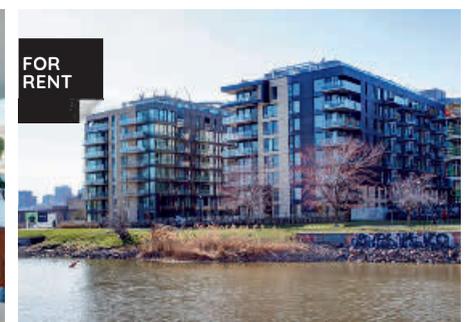
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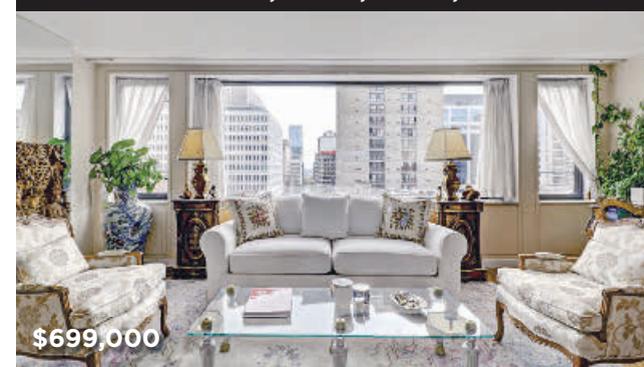
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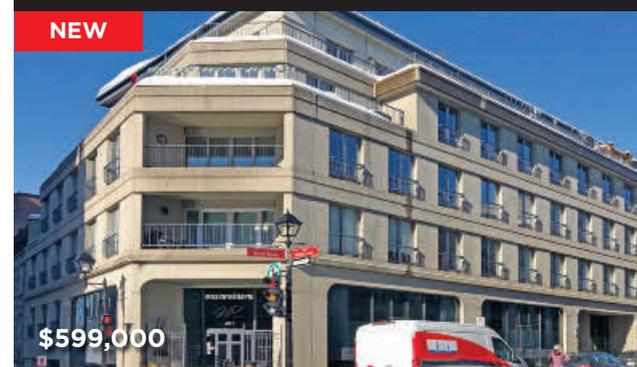
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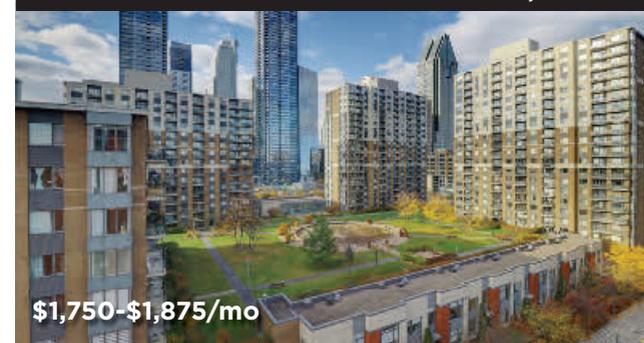
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