



Hit-and-run causes gas leak

Sherbrooke was closed between Claremont and Roslyn (pictured here) the morning of February 24 due to a gas leak caused by a hit-and-run at Prince Albert. A similar event happened on Grosvenor November 24 when a contractor working for a resident broke a gas line, which caused the city to cut off power as a precaution (see November 24, 2020 p. 8). See p.10 for story. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Contactivity, Public Security, Maccarone aim to help seniors book vaccinations

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Contactivity Seniors' Centre is working with Westmount Public Security and the office of Westmount's provincial legislator,

Jennifer Maccarone, to help older local residents and over book appointments and obtain their COVID vaccination shots.

"So much is unknown," said Mary Stark, executive director of Contactivity, as

the registration process opened February 25 for the first day of vaccinations March 1. Among the challenges are identifying needs, mobility issues and how details of the process will work.

Westmount Public Security director Greg McBain said the department was calling all residents on a list of people in the age group to determine the type of assistance they *continued on p. 19*



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City's insurance costs already rising for 2021, more to follow

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council February 15 approved insurance payments totalling \$149,497, including taxes, as part of group insurance contracts for the granting or renewal of damage, liability and automobile insurance contracts by the Union of municipalities (UMQ).

As a result, it was agreed to pay \$118,741, taxes included, to BFL Canada Risk and In-

urance Inc. for property insurance, boiler and machinery, and securities and crime, along with brokerage fees of \$14,364 (non-taxable). Combined, these increased for 2021 by 43.62 percent, city finance director Julie Mandeville later told the *Independent*.

Another \$30,755, taxes included, is to be paid to Capitale assurances générales for automobile and garage liability. These represent a decrease of 0.05 percent, she said. *continued on p. 3*



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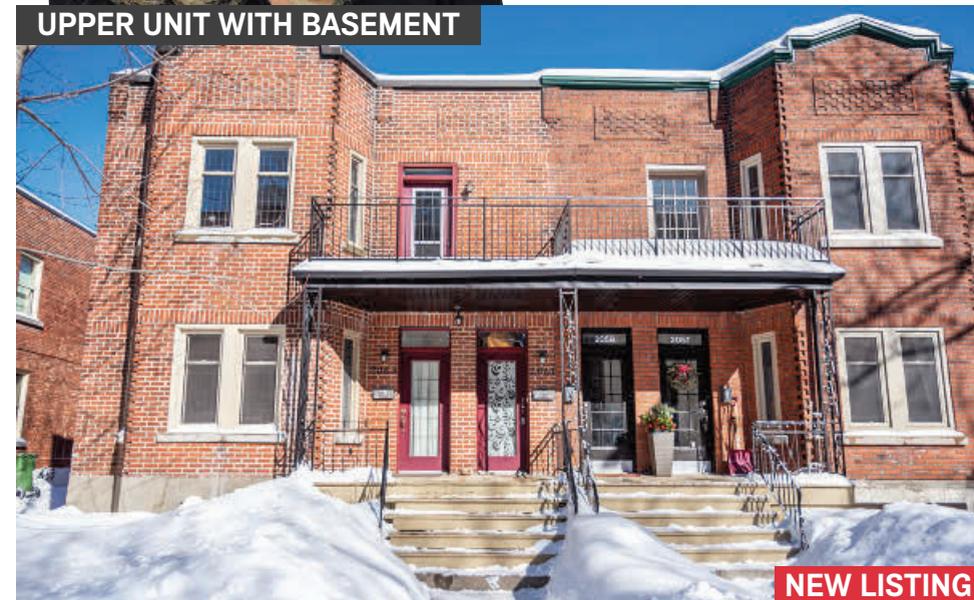


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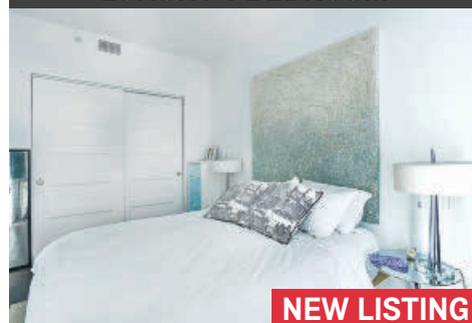
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Lock, Puddington support improved safety Residents' analysis of Lansdowne Ave. recommends parking switch

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An in-depth seven-page assessment of the parking issue in the block of Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke by two long-time residents was to be sent last week to Mayor Christina Smith, city councillors and senior staff members.

The issue involves switching parking from the west side of the block to the east side as proposed by the city in a poll of households (see story February 2, p. 3).

Insurance, cont'd. from p. 1

General liability to come

But missing from the recent approvals list were those for comprehensive general liability, umbrella liability and municipal liability, which are to be sent to council "later," she explained.

In 2020, this liability coverage totalled an additional \$133,079, pushing the 2020 total insurance costs up 55 percent over 2019 to \$258,430 (see story March 3, 2020, p. 9). This year, some details concerning these contracts had not been settled, Manville explained.

The following breakdown of 2021 costs to date was moved and read into the record by Councillor Jeff Shamie:

Insurance, 'part 1' – 2021

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Property Insurance | \$94,776 |
| Boiler & Machinery | 5 |
| Securities and Crime | 978 |
| Brokerage Fees* | 14,364 |
| Automobile | 27,025 |
| Garage Liability | 1,191 |
| Pre-tax total | \$138,339 |
| Total with 9% taxes where applicable | \$149,497 |

*non-taxable

The poll's response deadline was last Friday, February 25.

"Our conclusion is that the parking change is in the best interests of safety," said co-author Richard Lock.

"It's a matter of safety and should not be subject to personal whims," Lock added, noting that the poll mentioned that the change would require the support of two thirds of responses.

"We put together a driveway count, the need for reserved parking, and the danger presented by cars backing out of the west-side driveways into the shared bicycle and driving lane on that side."

East-side dwellings park at the rear

Many dwellings on the east side were found to have parking at the rear rather than a driveway or parking spaces at the front. This means that under the city's proposal, fewer cars would be backing out between parked ones and into the bike lane as they do in the existing configuration.

The analysis found there are five parking pad/driveways on the east side, and 15 on the west side, many of which serve more than one residence. This excludes driveways where cars exit facing the traffic on Lansdowne such as the parking lot of Westmount Park United Church and the apartment building at 300 Lansdowne.

Comparative analysis

The analysis included a walkabout of neighbouring streets, which contended that most allowed parking on the side of the street with the fewest driveways or parking pads. The proposed switch in parking will also be consistent to what is allowed north of Sherbrooke on Lansdowne.

The city poll was sent to 78 households in the concerned block, confirmed city

engineering director Elisa Gaetano. "We have 48 civic addresses and the 300 Lansdowne has 30 apartment units."

The city's proposal was based on a recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The report is co-authored by Lansdowne resident Brian Puddington, who is the husband of former mayor Karin Marks.



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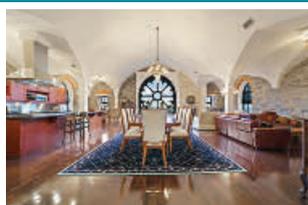
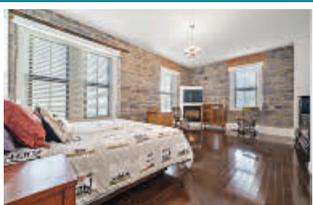
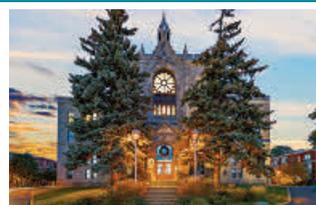
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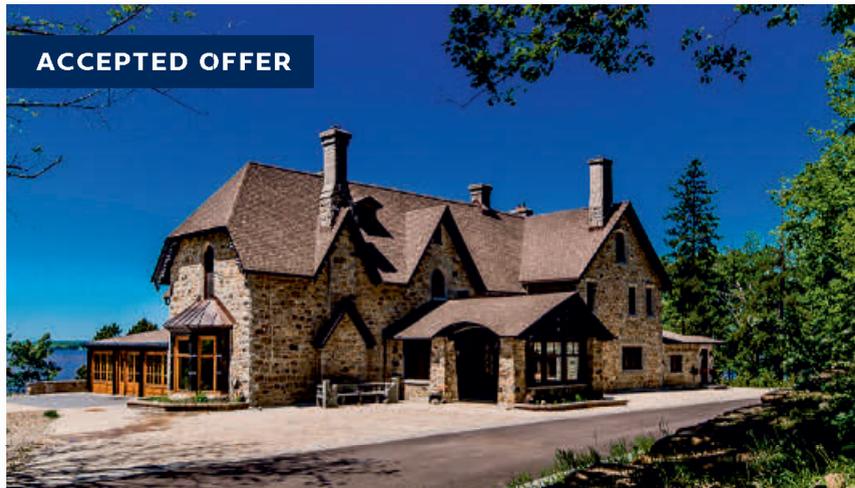
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTRE OUVERTE À LA
MAIRESSE: FAISEZ UN
PARTENARIAT AVEC YMCA

Bon dimanche [21 février] Madame la Mairesse, je suis résident de Westmount et membre du YMCA de Westmount. Depuis le début de la pandémie le YMCA tente, tant bien que mal, d'offrir certains services à ses membres. La semaine dernière le YMCA m'informait que, malgré la permission du Gouvernement provincial, la piscine demeurerait fermée car les coûts sont plus élevés que les revenus. Seules les piscines YMCA du Parc et Cartierville demeureront ouvertes car elles ont un partenariat avec la Ville de Montréal.

Sachant que vous aviez un projet d'une piscine municipale intérieure pour notre ville, ne serait-il pas opportun de faire un partenariat avec notre YMCA? Cela permettrait d'aider cette institution en temps difficile et tout en permettant de mesurer l'intérêt réel des citoyens de Westmount.

Merci de considérer cette suggestion.

J. BROUSSEAU, SURREY GARDENS

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

With reference to your article concerning the retirement of Raymond Genier and Sandro Patulli of Metro supermarket (February 9, p. 1), please acknowledge the fol-



The YMCA on Sherbrooke at Arlington on February 26.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

lowing: a Westmounter from 1964 to 1968, on and off from then to now with a 10-year parenthesis in Europe with a 1994 return, I shopped at Steinberg and I had friendly conversations with Sandro Patulli, hello'd Raymond Genier, bantered about Finnegans Market with fellow collector Graham Fletcher and spoke Italian to Fiorello Vellucci.

To them all, my fondest memories, best wishes and regards.

ANDREA MARIA CODA DI SAN GRATO,
HUDSON

PEDESTRIANS,
REMEMBER THE
ONE-WAY RULE

Last year, early in the pandemic, city hall's website urged pedestrians to walk/jog on the sidewalk that is on the right-hand side of the street. This is not so practicable in the busy shopping areas – Sherbrooke, lower Victoria and Greene avenues – but it makes great sense in residential areas. By avoiding two-way pedestrian traffic on sidewalks, we can keep from inhaling each other's breath and curb COVID-19 spread.

Unfortunately, this easy-to-follow step has received scant promotion, so far as I am aware. Few pedestrians seem aware of it.

The pandemic may be with us a long time. Plus, increasingly transmissible variants are now loose in Quebec. This all-but-forgotten guideline needs an overdue shot of publicity.

HENRY AUBIN, VICTORIA AVE.

NO TO RIDICULOUS
PARK CHANGES – YES
TO MORE SECURITY

Carol Holland made an excellent point in her February 9 letter (p. 8). I have lived on the park for 40+ years and, other than some major upkeep changes, it has always been a wonderful place to relax, walk or just sit and contemplate. Some of the proposed changes are incomprehensible.

How about, instead of wasting all that money on these ridiculous changes, you bring back Public Security to walk the parks again? In the summer, it is difficult to walk with my dogs without having to dodge the cyclists, skateboarders and scooters racing along the paths. Last summer, there was a young boy riding a small motor cycle through the park. According to By-law 1469, none of this is permitted. Yet there is rarely a presence in the park to enforce it. It has really gotten out of hand, especially since the installation of the Bixi station outside of Victoria Hall.

And what happened to all the beautiful bushes in the park? I really liked the "confetti" bushes near the gazebo. Suddenly they all disappeared, along with most of the bushes along the paths. I could understand removing the ones nearest the bicycle path, but why all the others?

Yes, the park needs serious repairs along the paths, it was nice to see the one along the water fixed, but there are others

with large cracks. Many of the trees are dangerous also, as shown by the one that came crashing down last summer, narrowly missing a group of students sitting near it ("A mighty oak falls in Westmount Park, narrowly misses high schoolers," September 8, 2020, p. 21). Widening the paths would also be a nice idea.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

RENOVATE, DON'T RE-BUILD,
WESTMOUNT PARK

I read Mrs Holland's letter in your February 9 edition (p. 8). It was very complete and she seems to understand the issues. I totally agree with her thoughts and I really don't understand the "need" to revise the east-west walk to straighten it out. It is nearly straight now and provides a comfortable view of many of the park's places to sit.

Yes, maybe there are some renovations needed, but not a major re-build!

Westmount has done some wonderful things recently like the skating rink in the park and the toboggan runs in Murray Park. Let's keep the good things we have and not waste valuable resources on marginal projects.

HUGH McADAMS, CLARKE AVE.

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH
WESTMOUNT PARK

Please, please, please, do not touch Westmount Park. It is a little jewel, a piece of almost unspoiled Nature in the midst of the city.

It is to be marvelled that, within such a relatively small area, there is so much variety with something on offer for every age group. The meandering paths and gentle inclines open a different vista with every step and the lagoon with its weeping willow is a throwback to a more romantic time.

The flower beds during the summer are magnificent works of art, admired and greatly appreciated. What we are trying to say is that there is no need for change.

But I suppose there are people who want change, even if just for the sake of change, but we all know that changes are not always improvements. Let's just remember the unsuccessful change made some years ago to our lovely greenhouse.

As it is, the greenhouse is presently being revamped and obviously a lot of money will be needed for this project. I suggest that for the time being, the available funds be directed there and Westmount Park be left as is, at least for now.

VERA BONDY, SHERBROOKE ST.
& ALICE DIND, MT. PLEASANT AVE.

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Updated redesign released

Greenhouse redo work launched

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The start of work to restore the city's heritage greenhouses was officially launched in a city announcement February 24. The greenhouses have been closed since September 15, 2015 for safety reasons.

As already reported by the *Independent*, Mayor Christina Smith told the city council meeting February 15 that workers were already working inside (see story February 23, p. 1).

"Ultimately, the project will allow residents to once again enjoy this architectural gem and discover an accessible and inclusive 'mystery garden,'" she is quoted in a press release last week. This included an up-to-date architectural rendering of the newly designed interior of the 1927 conservatory, known as the "Palm Court." (See p. 12 for the illustration and photos of the building.)

The project also includes restoration of the adjoining heritage greenhouse called the frog pond.

Universal ramp

The interior redesigns are to include a ramp for universal accessibility to the adjoining Westmount Public Library as well as a ramp between levels of the conservatory and frog pond.

According to the city's press release of last week, the final phase, including plans, specifications and execution of the work, is to cost \$6,279,417, which includes \$5.7 million to contractor St-Denis Thompson (see January 12, p. 1).

An overall interior plan of the conservatory had been selected from one of three options (see story June 4, 2019, p. 1).

Public Security not doing quarantine checks: director McBain

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's Public Security is not doing quarantine checks of residents, its director Greg McBain confirmed last week.

He said an incident reported last week to the *Independent* did not involve any of the city's officers making such checks, adding that "none of our officers are doing that kind of door-to-door check." He suggested it could have been police or someone else.

Though it was reported that on Febru-

ary 21, a public safety officer had called at the home of someone in the southeast sector, McBain said the caller may have been mis-identified as someone from Public Security. It could have been that an officer was checking out a complaint unrelated to quarantine, curfew or other violation of COVID-related restriction. This could have been a complaint for a barking dog, other noise issue, a family member unable to reach the occupant of the home, parking, "or even someone impersonating a public safety officer as happened a few years ago."

Deadline is April 1

McEntyre competition: 'Think big'

This year - its 49th - the theme of the McEntyre Writing Competition, run by the city of Westmount and the Westmount Public Library, is "Think Big, Start Small/Visé haut, une marche à la fois."

"Local students are being asked to write about challenges that face them," said a February 9 press release and "how they can take action for the environment, a social justice cause, or a grass roots movement,

or, how they have been inspired by a role model - all within the context of community."

The deadline for submissions is April 1.

More information about the competition can be found on the Westmount Public Library website, www.westlib.org, under "Events" and then "McEntyre writing competition."

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Police Report

Sherbrooke closed after hit-and-run collision causes gas leak

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 are trying to locate a car driver who slammed into a building near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Prince Albert Ave. at around 8:15 am on February 24, breaching a natural gas line, after which he drove away from the accident scene.

“It was a hit-and-run,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, describing the initial chaos at the scene.

In addition to the police response, several units from the Montreal fire department, including Station 76 on Stanton St., also turned up, as did a crew from the Énergir gas company to cap the leak.

The suspect’s vehicle was described as a charcoal-gray BMW 3 Series.

Pimentel said the incident, which required a large police and firefighter presence, may have seemed bigger to some watching from a distance because of the protocols and measures that had to be followed during a gas leak.

“Because it was a gas leak, they had to do a perimeter,” he said. “Anything involving gas is always dangerous. There had to be a lot of officers there to control the

scene, to make sure there’s nobody in danger.

“With gas leaks, you never know how things can end up. But they [the firefighters] have a whole protocol they follow, for evacuating people and so on, for this sort of thing.”

Pimentel said an investigation is under way. Because of the location of the accident in one of Westmount’s busiest commercial areas, the investigators expect to have images and video from a large number of security cameras at nearby businesses to help them.

Fraudulent bank account

Despite the convenience and immediacy that online buying and selling offers, a recent fraud case involving a victim from Westmount shows there are still drawbacks.

According to Pimentel, the resident placed a personal computer up for sale on Facebook’s online buy-and-sell section known as Marketplace, and got a response from a potential buyer.

They agreed to meet near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Metcalfe Ave. The computer was handed over to the buyer, who then forwarded \$1,200 to the seller through

a bank e-transfer.

According to a report written up by the investigating officer, the seller found out from his bank two days later that the transaction was annulled because the sender’s bank account was fraudulent.

Pimentel noted that as law enforcement officials grow more aware of an increase in fraud in online buying and selling, some preventive action is being taken.

He said the Montreal police’s Station 20 downtown has set up a special area at the St. Catherine St. (at Bishop) station where online buyers and sellers can meet, and where there is supervision (including security cameras), greatly reducing the possibility of anything underhanded taking place.

“You never know who you’re meeting,” he said, pointing out that it’s a safe environment where you’re not likely to get robbed or hurt. “And obviously, since it’s a police station, they’re not going to bring in any stolen goods.”

COVID enforcement

With the provincial government’s COVID-19 curfew still in effect in the Montreal region and with travellers returning from abroad expected to observe stay-at-

home quarantine rules, officers from Station 12 were busy in recent weeks enforcing the regulations.

On February 24, the driver of a car who was spotted and stopped by police as he was going along The Boulevard near Clarke Ave. was given a \$1,550 ticket for not being at home during the 8 pm-to-5 am curfew without a document from an employer stating a valid reason for his being out in public.

Under the quarantine rules, police officers from Station 12 also made inspection visits to three homes in Westmount, on February 22, 23 and 24, to verify that people living there, and who had just returned from visits outside Canada, were respecting the requirement to quarantine for 14 days.

On February 19, police officers from Station 12 also were summoned to intervene at a store near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave. where two customers were refusing to wear protective face masks as required by law during the pandemic.

A fine that could range from \$400 to \$6,000 is pending, with a decision to be made by Quebec’s director of criminal and penal prosecutions.



Sherbrooke was closed at Claremont.



The bus for dislocated people was on hand, but unused to the best of the *Independent's* knowledge.

PHOTOS: VERONICA REDGRAVE.



Prince Albert at Sherbrooke was closed.

It will save lives daily: Mayor Smith

Resilience finds a permanent home near Cabot Square

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith welcomed news last week that a permanent home had been found for Resilience, a day shelter near

Cabot Square, though the location was not disclosed. “It’s wonderful news for Westmount. It’s an essential service that’s going to save lives every day,” she said.

The site of the building was described

only as “close to Cabot Square.” It is to be purchased with funding from the provincial government, Montreal and several foundations.

Cabot Square lies just east of West-

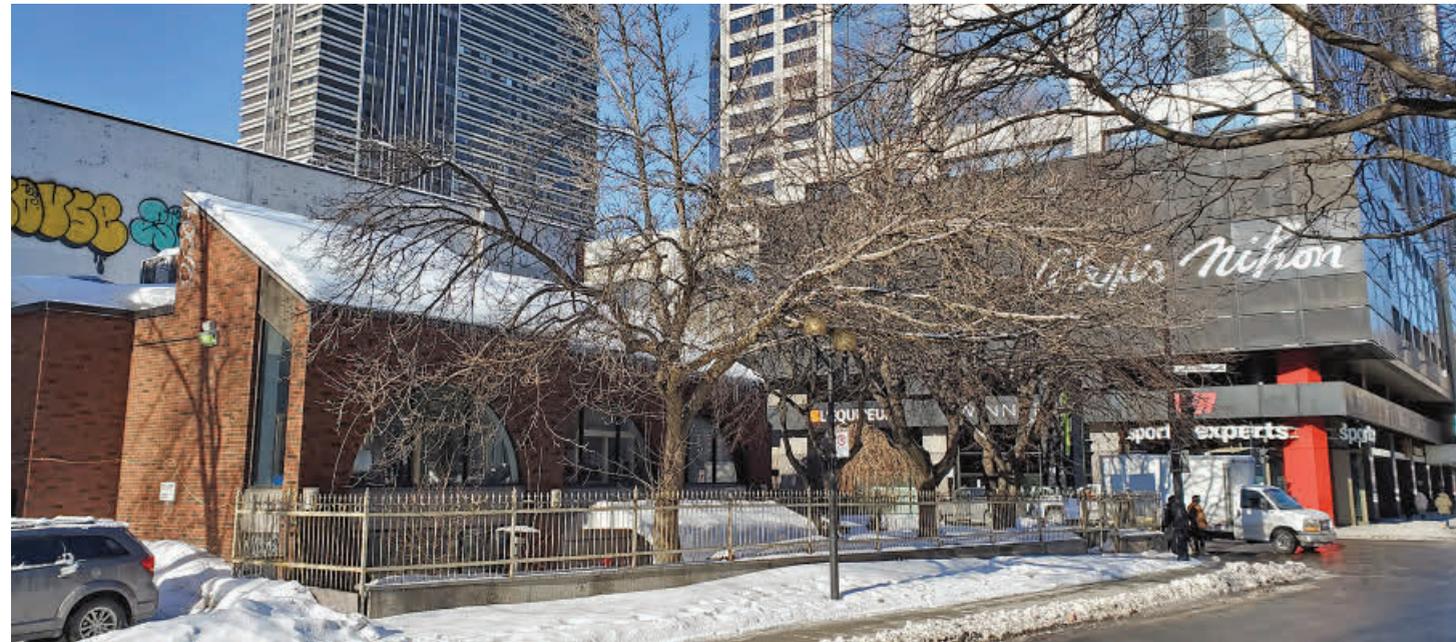
mount and has become a gathering spot for many of Montreal’s homeless, including a number of Indigenous persons who previously obtained food and social assistance from the Open Door day mission when located at the former St. Stephen’s Church. Resilience is temporarily and currently at the former site of the Miso/McDonald’s restaurants at St. Catherine and Atwater.

“COVID has further heightened the need for a permanent shelter,” Mayor Smith said.

Great for District 8

It’s also “great news” for District 8, said Councillor Kathleen Kez. “Many of our residents have “pulled together over the pandemic to make food for those living in Cabot Square as well contributing many donations of clothing and other needs.”

The need to find a permanent home for those in Cabot Square is long-awaited news, she said. “The more stability for those who are our neighbours, the more stability there is for residents of District 8. Everybody wins.” She said it was “obvious” the site is confidential at this time, “because of the hot real estate market.



The current site (left) of Resilience at Atwater and St. Catherine, as seen February 26.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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The challenge



Exterior views of the conservatory on January 13.



The inside goal



A rendering by Affleck de la Riva Architects of the refurbished conservatory interior.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

The work



Work under way February 24.

The outside goal?



The conservatory in 2008.

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We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



There are many reasons to get vaccinated, including protecting ourselves from the complications and dangers caused by infectious diseases, but also to stop the return of infectious diseases that are avoidable through vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign now underway is aimed at preventing serious complications and death from COVID-19. We also use vaccination as a way of protecting our healthcare system and getting back to a more normal life.

When did the vaccination campaign start?

COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 with the delivery of the first vaccine doses. Because the availability of vaccine is limited, categories of people deemed at higher risk of developing COVID-19 complications have been given priority. As more vaccine becomes available in Canada, the categories of recipients will be extended.

Order of priority of recipients of COVID-19 vaccines

- 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 People 80 years of age or older
- 6 People 70 to 79 years of age
- 7 People 60 to 69 years of age
- 8 Adults under 60 years of age who have a chronic disease or health problem that increases the risk of complications of COVID-19
- 9 Adults under 60 years of age who do not have a chronic disease or health problem that increases 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

What supply strategy was used to acquire the vaccines?

The Government of Canada signed advance purchase agreements for seven promising COVID-19 vaccines with the following companies: AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Medicago, Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer and Sanofi Pasteur/GlaxoSmithKline. The purchases are conditional upon approval of these vaccines by Health Canada.

To date, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been approved for distribution in Canada. Soon, other vaccines from these companies will be used to speed up COVID-19 vaccination.



COVID-19
Vaccination
operation

What types of COVID-19 vaccines are being studied?

There are three types of vaccine currently being studied.

- 1 mRNA vaccines:** These vaccines contain part of the RNA of the virus which has the ability to make the S protein located on the surface of the virus. Once the RNA messenger is inside our cells, they make proteins similar to those on the surface of the virus using the instructions provided by the RNA messenger. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it. The RNA fragment is quickly destroyed by cells. There is no risk that this RNA will alter our genes.
- 2 Viral vector vaccines:** These contain a weakened version of a virus that is harmless to humans. Once in the body, the vaccine enters our cells and gives them instructions to make protein S. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it. Once in the body, the vaccine enters our cells and gives them instructions to make protein S. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it.
- 3 Protein subunit vaccines:** These contain non-infectious fragments of proteins that mimic the envelope of the virus. Our immune system recognizes that this protein is foreign and produces antibodies to defend itself against it.

Will an mRNA vaccine alter our genetic code?

No. Messenger RNA does not enter the cell's nucleus or come into contact with the nucleic DNA. As such, it cannot alter our DNA in any way.

How do COVID-19 vaccines work?

When someone receives the vaccine against the virus that causes COVID-19, their body starts to defend itself against the virus. An immune reaction occurs which neutralizes the virus producing antibodies and activating defense cells.

Most COVID-19 vaccines in development prompt the production of antibodies to block protein S; the protein that allows the virus to infect the human body. This prevents the virus from entering and infecting human cells.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is composed of strands of ribonucleic acid (RNA) genetic material surrounded by a crown-like envelope with proteins that include the S (spike) protein, hence the name "coronavirus."



What side effects can be expected from injection with the COVID-19 vaccine?

Some minor side effects may occur, such as redness or pain at the injection site and fatigue, fever or chills. These symptoms are less common among vaccine recipients over the age of 55, are usually benign and do not last long.

As of now there are no known serious side effects from mRNA vaccines. While other random problems may arise, such as a cold or gastroenteritis, they are not related to the vaccine per se.

Because the vaccine does not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus, it is not capable of causing COVID-19. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or within 14 days of receiving the vaccination could still develop symptoms and get the COVID-19 disease.

As such, following health measures remains important until such time as a majority of the population has been vaccinated.

Why did it take 40 years to develop a flu vaccine but only nine months for one against COVID-19?

Past efforts, particularly during the SARS epidemic in 2003, advanced coronavirus vaccine research and accelerated the fight against COVID-19.

There are currently over 50 COVID-19 vaccines undergoing clinical trials around the world, the result of unprecedented scientific cooperation. Considerable financial and human resources have been invested in the development of vaccines that meet regulatory requirements in such a short span of time.

Public health and regulatory authorities in many countries, including Canada, are working hard to ensure that as many safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines as possible become quickly available to their populations.

Why are two vaccine doses required?

The second dose "reminds" the immune system to continue producing antibodies and ensures long-term protection. In current circumstances, where COVID-19 is spreading very fast, administration of the second dose may be delayed somewhat to be able to vaccinate more people with the first dose.

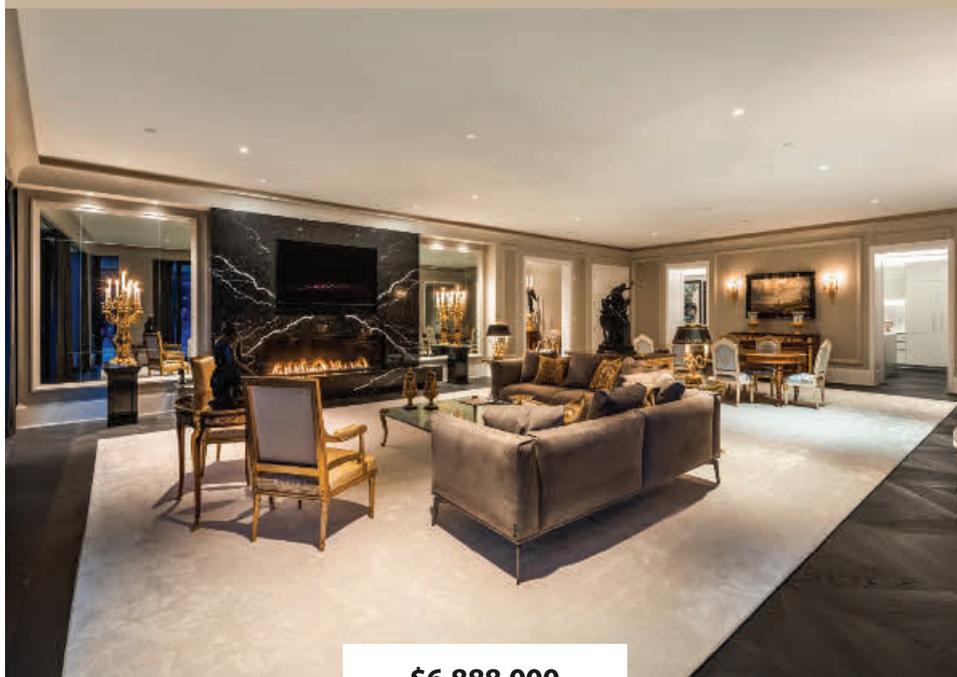
[Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine](https://quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine)

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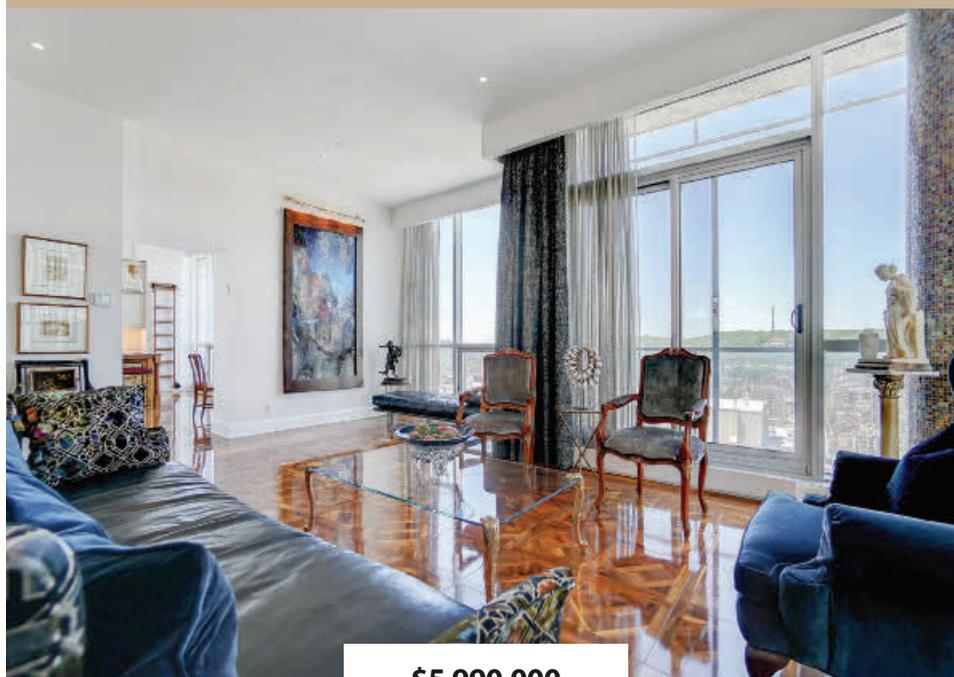
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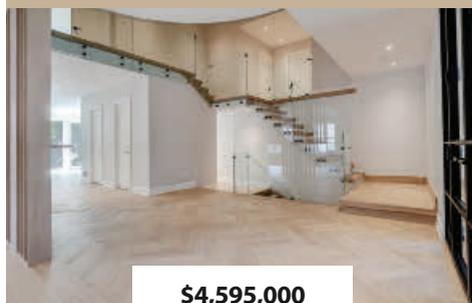
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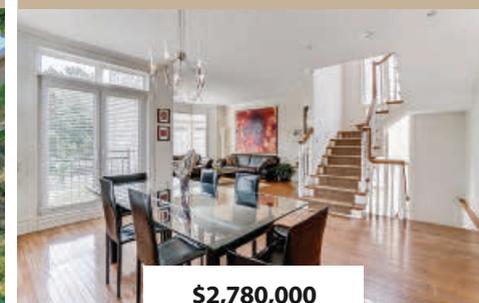
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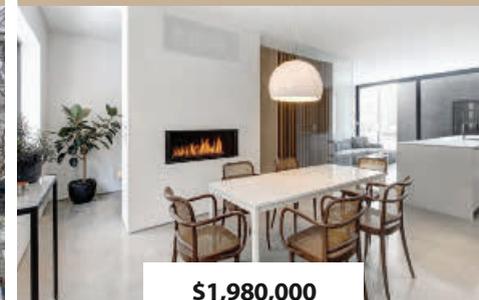
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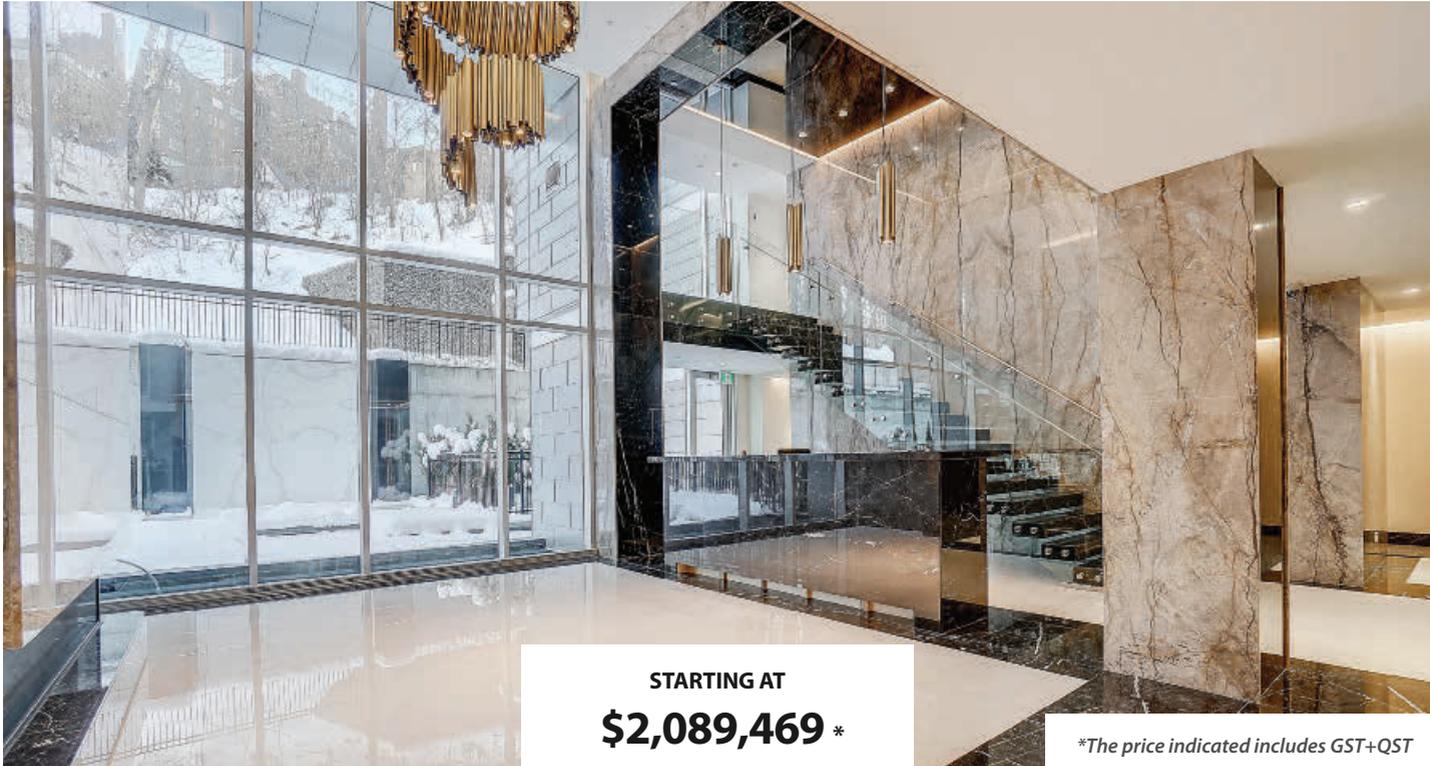


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Icicle season!



From left, icicles at the back of a house on York St. (February 15), on Belvedere Rd. near Summit Rd. (February 21), on Westmount Park United Church (February 19), and at the former St. Stephen's Church on Dorchester (February 26).

ALL PHOTOS INDEPENDENT, EXCEPT TOP RIGHT COURTESY OF CATHERINE MCKENZIE.

Metro renovations finished!

fruits & legumes
fresh produce

Légumes
vegetables

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO.

Franchisee Fiorello Vellucci, centre, cuts the ribbon February 25.

The Metro grocery store on Victoria officially “re-opened” February 25 after renovations of over a year (during which it was open most of the time). The absorption of the former site of the Laurentian Bank at Victoria and Sherbrooke and the pharmacy on Victoria increased the total floor space by 3,300 sq. ft. to over 27,000, according to

press release the same day.

In addition, 10 more employees have been hired, increasing the number to 135.

The release also highlighted a number of new features including a bulk nut section, a flower section and a “Fresh to Go” aisle with over 100 ready-to-eat meals per day.

Vaccination, cont'd. from p. 1

might require. This can range from help in booking an appointment, registering and accessing a vaccination site.

“So many of our older residents have been isolated for so long,” he added.

Mayor Christina Smith said last week she was pleased the Glen super-hospital has been added to the list of COVID vaccination centres as being more accessible to Westmount residents than previously announced venues.

“I’m disappointed they aren’t using Victoria Hall, but at least the Glen site is closer,” she said. “I believe Victoria Hall was considered too small,” she explained after an update in sites was received February 23 from Maccarone.

Victoria Hall had been offered by the city as providing improved accessibility for

Westmounters (see January 26, p. 1). Along with the Glen site, the Montreal General Hospital and the CLSC Metro were also added last week.

Booking an appointment can be done in two ways: online at quebec.ca/vaccin-COVID and by phone at 1.877.644.4545.

“It’s not known how the phone lines will hold up,” Stark said of that option. Obstacles to online booking include computer issues such as the need for an email address. “And if a printout is needed, what if you don’t have a printer? We don’t know yet.”

Contactivity, Public Security and Maccarone’s office (514.293.0526) are also looking for volunteers to help with transportation as well as assistance at the vaccination centres. “We’re looking at different scenarios,” Stark said.

Charly recovering from ‘sports injury’

Poor mouse, he had a rear knee dislocation for which he had surgery, so avoiding stairs as much as possible would be a good thing for him. Charly needs love, hugs and play in an adult home with dog friendly activities.

He is otherwise healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped, ready for a car ride home from the shelter and a big snooze in a comfy dog bed. The SPCA Montréal is a volunteer-based no-kill shelter, a haven for aban-

Brigitte needs more love, less food



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

A stunning grey-and-caramel short-haired tortoiseshell cat, Brigitte is unique. Such sunny amber eyes, contrasting with her precious pink nose.

Brigitte is in need of a loving home as soon as possible, available now for a reduced-fee (\$75) humanitarian adoption from the Montreal SPCA cattery.

She is seven years old, heavy from too many treats in her previous family, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

Westmount cat owners know how important nutrition is and can get Brigitte back to her svelte self. Being a fat cat is not an illness!

Yes, please go get her and bring her home to enjoy all the affection you have to give. Please refer to her identification number 46681628 when you visit the Mon-



tréal 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 for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here he is, Charly the white toy golden doodle. Being a May 2, 2019 puppy, he is not even two years old yet.

A happy young doodle, it is normal that he is a bit anxious since being put up for adoption at the SPCA Montréal and just waiting in the kennel for a family.

donated animals in these difficult times.

Please contact them at adoptionSPCA-monteregie@gmail.com to find out more about Charly, and please refer to his page through its website www.sPCAMonteregie.com with their link to Petfinder where you can apply for information and adoption. Adoptions are managed by appointment at the shelter in scenic St. Angèle de Monnoir on Saturdays.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2020, gleaned from non-city sources.

August transfers: Steady pace

In December 2020, the Independent asked for a list of sales covering this period from the city of Westmount, but had not received a reply by press time. For this reason, more sales from August 2020 may be discovered in the future and covered in subsequent issues. A list of sales found by us can be found on p. 21.

Eleven Westmount residential house sales were registered in August last year, making that the fifth out of a six-month stretch when the monthly volume ranged from eight to 12.

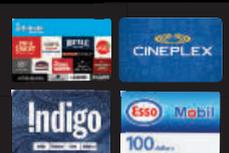
The highest price went for 36 Sunnyside Ave., an extensively renovated house at the *continued on p. 22*



36 Sunnyside on February 23.

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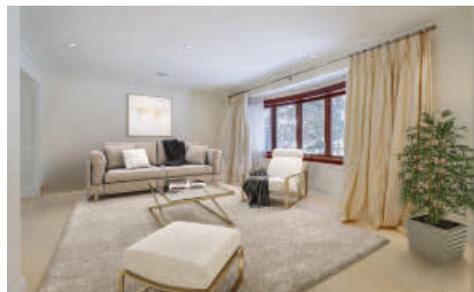
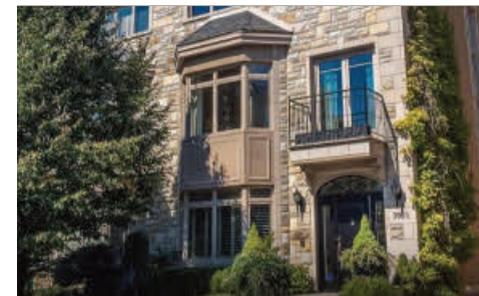
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in August 2020

| ADDRESS | VENDOR | PRICE | 2020 VAL | RATIO (%) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 415 Clarke | estate Deanna Marie Konachowicz | \$2,100,000 | \$1,479,000 | 42.0% |
| 469 Clarke | André C. Lavigne | \$1,440,000 | \$1,279,000 | 12.6% |
| 589 Côte St. Antoine | 9369-8637 Québec Inc. | \$1,450,000 | \$1,100,000 | 31.8% |
| 4815 de Maisonneuve | James D. Wuest | \$1,770,000 | \$1,725,000 | 2.6% |
| 654 Lansdowne | Jonathan Assouine | \$2,566,000 | \$2,050,000 | 25.2% |
| 375 Metcalfe | Donna Girard | \$1,460,000 | \$1,325,900 | 10.1% |
| 258 Prince Albert | Martine Fachina & Mauricio Rodriguez | \$1,305,000 | \$863,800 | 51.1% |
| 36 Sunnyside | Joyce Obront | \$5,850,000 | \$5,611,500 | 4.3% |
| 710 Upper Roslyn | Nicole Pragai | \$1,733,000 | \$1,806,700 | -4.1% |
| 10 Willow | Laurent Zeitoun | \$2,395,000 | \$1,666,300 | 43.7% |
| 427 Wood | Nicole Borovan & Donald Ginsberg | \$1,860,000 | \$1,662,200 | 11.9% |
| CONDOMINIUMS | | | | |
| 11 Hillside #110 | Marco Lando & Maryna Filonchuk | \$625,000 | \$410,100 | 52.4% |
| 2276 St. Catherine #402 | Xiaoqiang Liu & Yanjie Guo | \$575,000 | \$443,600 | 29.6% |
| 482 Wood | Michel Murdock & Susan Boskwick | \$1,000,000 | \$863,900 | 15.8% |
| 10 York #201 | Martin Ashton & Vanessa Morelli | \$610,000 | \$527,800 | 15.6% |



172 CHEMIN EDGEHILL, WESTMOUNT
ASKING \$6,800,000

4890 CIRCLE ROAD, VILLE-MARIE
ASKING \$3,990,000

1 AVENUE WOOD #1605, WESTMOUNT
ASKING \$3,400,000

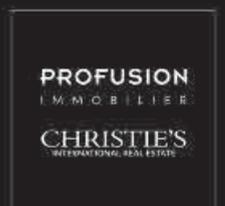
3091 JEAN-GIRARD, VILLE-MARIE
ASKING \$2,689,000



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Real estate, cont'd. from p. 20

foot of Upper Bellevue Ave., which sold for \$5,850,000, so far the highest single-family price registered for the year, while the lowest August residential sale involved 258 Prince Albert Ave., just south of de Maisonneuve Blvd., which brought its owner \$1,305,000. The latter sale involved a mark-up over valuation of 51.1 percent, the highest recorded in the month. Only one sale was recorded for less than valuation, 710 Upper Roslyn Ave., which went for just 4.1 percent less.

Overall, the average mark-up was 16.3 percent, the highest monthly average since March. For the year so far, the average mark-up is only 12.4 percent in 78 sales; by August of 2019, 102 sales had been registered, indicating a significant slow-down last year, much of which might be blamed on the pandemic, which confounded both notaries and real estate agents for much of the springtime, though by late summer the pace of sales was back to normal.

Condos

Four condominium sales were registered in August, including three apart-



710 Roslyn on February 23.

ment-building condos and one converted triplex on Wood Ave. Between the four of them, the average mark-up was just over 25 percent; in fact, adding them to four other sales in July brings the average markup for the third quarter of 2020 (so far) to 31 percent, way above any of the monthly averages for one-and two-family

sales. This may be because of the much lower volume, but in fact the “adjusted price” of Westmount condos in the third quarter (average mark-up times the average valuation) surpassed \$1.3 million, the highest quarterly adjusted average in Westmount’s history.

(Of course, September sales still must be added to the third-quarter condo sales list.)

Seven of the 15 sales on the accompanying list were negotiated in June last year, and another three in July.



258 Prince Albert on February 23.

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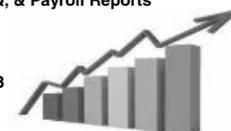
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Second book in February

Renaud's *Je Suis Un Livre* 'talks to the reader'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

"I can propel you to space or take you to the bottom of the oceans. I can be a wild mystery, a ghost story or a fairy tale. I have many superpowers. What am I?"

Je Suis Un Livre, explains the second book hot off the press in February from Westmount children's author Anne Renaud.

It is written in the first person, extolling its virtues to readers aged 5 to 8 and providing them with numerous dreams, countries to visit and people to meet.

"I am always there for you no matter how grumpy you are," the first pages state. "I can be read anytime, anywhere and I have superpowers to develop your imagination and enrich your vocabulary."

For *Je Suis Un Livre*, Renaud uses a different style called "breaking the fourth wall." This is where the book itself talks to the reader in the same way that actors on the stage may step out of their roles to talk directly to the audience, she explains. "In this case, the book becomes the main actor, talks to the reader and says, with its inflated ego, how great it is."

Unique title

It is not uncommon for books to have the same title, she explained, and "there is no copyright on books titles." Regardless,

"*Je Suis Un Livre* seemed to be original in the French," when she shopped it around to be picked up by Bayard Canada.

No sticky fingers

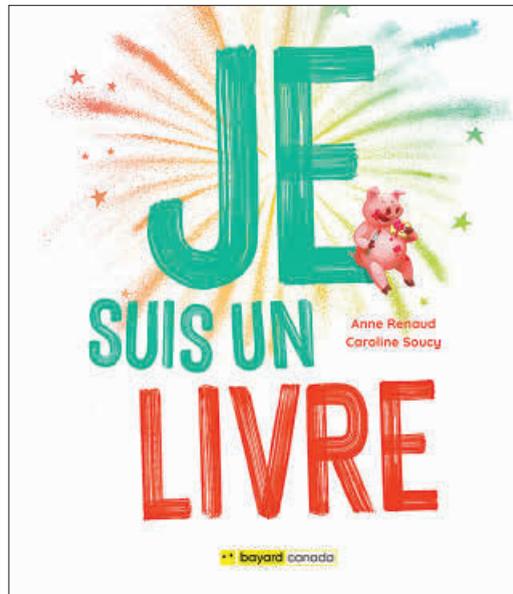
The book has a few rules for the reader: "Don't judge me by my cover, read me with sticky fingers or while picking your nose. And don't drop me on my head or put me in water."

It also has many colourful double-page illustrations of dinosaurs, smiling underwater creatures and other images by illustrator Caroline Soucy.

Because books have always played such an important part in Renaud's own life, she said, her intent in this one was to encourage children to read, telling them all the wonderful, exciting things a book can do, and

how they won't be lonely when they have one to read. It's about the 20th title that Renaud said she has published in either English, French or both, with some having been translated into other languages including Japanese and Korean. Her other February book was *Les oreilles de Chester*, the story of a young boy inventing earmuffs (see story February 16, p. 16).

In her day job, she works at city hall as executive assistant to Mayor Christina Smith. *Je Suis Un Livre* will be available at the Westmount Public Library, according to the children's librarian Wendy Wayling.



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Contactivity Centre would like everyone to know that for those whose age category is currently being accepted for vaccination, we can help you to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment online if needed. Call **514-932-2326**

(leave a message and we will get back to you within about a half-hour).

We are delighted to be cooperating with both Westmount Public Safety and the office of MNA Jennifer Maccarone in this important public health campaign.

Volunteers Needed

to help with accompanying seniors to their vaccine appointments.

Please call David Robinson at **438-699-9927** if you can help in this community effort. (And if you are a Westmount senior in the age category that is being given appointments but have no one to help you get you to your scheduled appointment, please call either of the above numbers. We will return your call and will do what we can within our volunteer availabilities to help you get there.)

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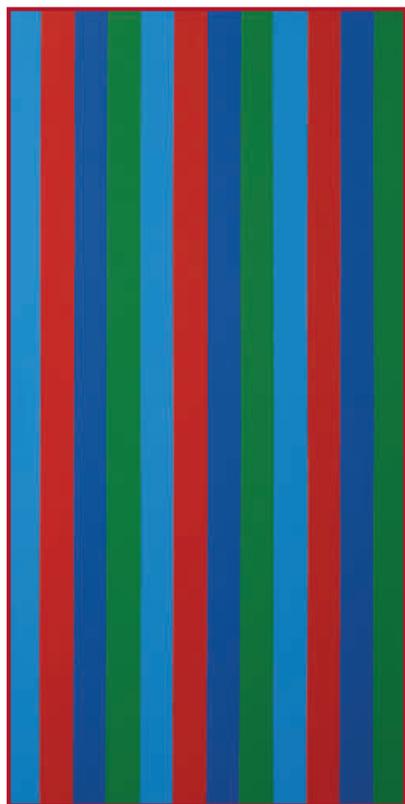
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Study, Sainte Marcelline to send delegates

Dadoun, Côté to attend UN conference 'in' NYC



Claire Dadoun.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STUDY.



Rose Côté.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLA SAINTE MARCELLINE.

Claire Dadoun, a senior school student at The Study, and Rose Côté from Villa Sainte Marcelline have been selected to be part of the three-student, three-board member Voices of Olympia Canada team to join a 35-person delegation of the International Alliance of Women to a virtual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City taking place from March 15 to 26.

According to a February 19 press release from The Study, the discussion will focus on women's participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women, and women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

Voices of Olympia Canada is a not-for-profit Canadian corporation "whose

mission is to empower girls' voices using strategic advocacy for transformative youth leadership, community involvement, and social justice."

The press release also explained the group's yearly national competition, which "provides an evidence-informed discussion space, where participants become empowered to join the global conversation on girls' and women's rights, and engage in transforming their communities."

Laureates of the competition are awarded bursaries along with support to implement their winning project in their communities. Three schools competed in the 2017-18 version and two the following year.

Invitations for this UN conference were extended to past competing schools and three, including Marie de France in Côte des Neiges, accepted.



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How are charities adapting? Case study: Burgos of Cedars



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

In 2020, the foundation board made an early decision to hold events online. While some events were postponed, others were held virtually, like The FL Fuller Landau Dragon Boat Race and the Cedars Auction & Raffle were held virtually.

[The 19th Splash & Dash also became virtual, as described by sponsorship committee chair Sara Halickman in her thank-you note: “over the course of three days our community took over three million steps in support of Sarah’s Floor. They shared selfies, they virtually high fived, and most importantly, they raised critical funds for the needs of young cancer patients.”]

Special thanks are due to honorary co-chairs David Souaid and Mia Scaff, to Sara Halickman, to co-chairs Stefanie Butt and Tiffany Turner, and to Norman and Lorena Cook.

The Auction and Raffle took place live in studio on December 15, hosted by Andrew Carter, the CJAD 800 AM morning man. The event was a great success, raising over \$460,000. Co-chairs were Stella Vassallo and Terry Cheaib. We gave away \$50,000 in



Anna Burgos at the 19th Splash & Dash, November 2, 2019.

cash, in addition to the 18-carat pink gold Calibre de Cartier watch and a Happy Sport par Chopard watch courtesy of Château D’Ivoire. Our superstar auctioneer, Ross Paperman, was a last-minute scratch, but we’re looking forward to having him back with us next year.

How did you personally get through COVID lockdown?

During the quarantine, I learned how lucky I was to have my son, my family and friends support me and check on me regularly to make sure I was alright and that I had groceries in the house. It helped make the isolated situation at home more bearable.

I learned that taking time every day to reflect on what I am grateful for makes my day so much better. Binge-watching Netflix and Prime Video series helped me get through the tedium of the endless days of isolation.

How did your dressing change?

For my everyday essentials, I embraced comfortable active and leisure wear that I used to wear on weekends. I prioritized comfort over style, forgoing

continued on p. 26

Many charities hold their fundraising events either in the fall or the spring. Given that the COVID “moment” has continued through both these social seasons, gentle readers may be interested to know how these organizations, and their devoted workers, are managing the lockdowns, not only personally, but professionally: what strategies are the institutions planning to drive patronage and funding?

I spoke with Anna Burgos, events manager, Cedars Cancer Foundation.

What is Cedars doing to carry support?

Throughout the year, the Cedars Cancer Foundation supports a range of programs and services for cancer patients and their families. In 2020, our supporters joined us in taking a stand for cancer patients by boosting humanitarian aid through donations to the Wilfrid Howick Humanitarian Fund.

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Starting!



Work was under way on a new apartment-rental building at 4469 St. Catherine, just west of Metcalfe, February 24. See October 6, 2020 p. 9 for a rendering of the new building and August 18, 2020, p. 13 for a photo of the former Perrette's and Westmount Bar-B-Q on the same site.

Finishing?



Around the corner at Hillside and Metcalfe the same day, the exterior of these new townhouses looked finished. The four-house development is sold out, developer Darren Reid of Verterra told the *Independent* March 20 of last year.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Classifieds in the *Independent*

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

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Buy locally to sell locally

Cedars, cont'd. from p.25

buying trendy clothes for basic apparel in basic colours and comfortable fabrics. I just want to be cozy, and a lot of that has to do with the need to be psychologically cozy, not just physically cozy. I have pared down my wardrobe and I am maintaining a minimalist lifestyle for the first time in my life. And I love it.

Where did you first shop when stores opened last Monday?

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I went straight to Home Sense to look at new accessories for rooms in my home that needed a refresh and to Home Depot for orchids and plants. Bored and stuck at home amid the last lockdown, I looked to Pinterest for my inspiration as I prepared my list of things I wanted to change.

What has Cedars planned for 2021?

Our event leadership is working hard to find the safest way to organize our events in 2021. Decisions will be made with the

health and safety of all participants and staff at the forefront. Although event details are subject to change, our plans are the Cedars Golf Classic on June 21 (a collaboration with the Montreal General Hospital Foundation); Cedars Ride for Hope on August 27-28; FL Fuller Landau Cedars Dragon Boat Race on September 11; Cedars Run for Ovarian Cancer on October 17; Sarah's Fund for Cedars Splash & Dash on October 23-24; and Cedars Hockey to Conquer Cancer on November 7.

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Prime location! Charming 4 Bdr property w/ large deck & amazing garden
close to park Maurice-Richard & the river.



360°
VIEWS

LE SUD-OUEST | MYST MLS: 19745763
Most amazing penthouse facing the Canal,
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Top of the world w/ amazing mountain views.
3581 sf unit w/ 4 Bdr + garage (2).



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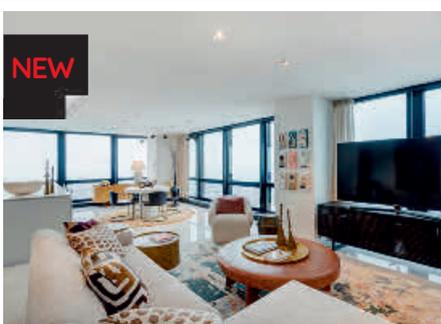
LE CHÂTEAU MLS: 28506294
Prestigious building fully renovated overlooking
the magnificent historic Sherbrooke St.



48
ACRES

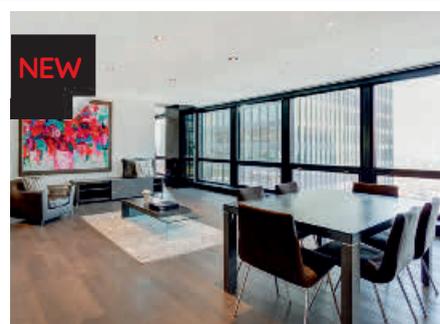
ROUTE DES ÉRABLES MLS: 28329317
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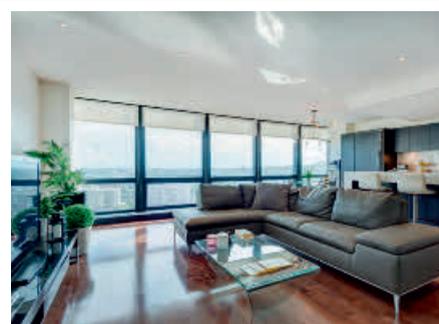
NEW

3 WS MLS: 16812402
Luminous 1475 SF condo w/ open concept kitchen &
gorgeous panoramic views of the Mountain.

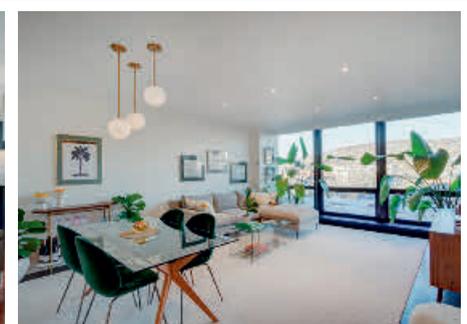


NEW

2 WS MLS: 21367164
Gorgeous condo w/ open concept kitchen &
breathtaking views.



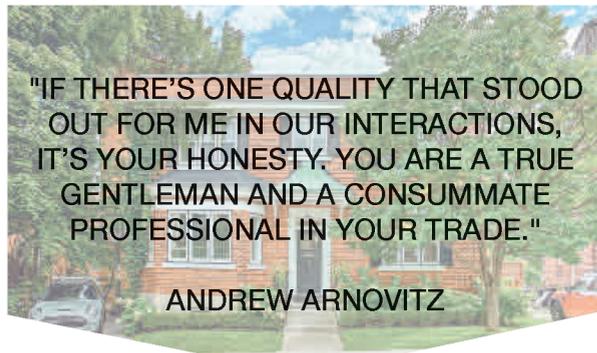
3 WS MLS: 25873836
Spacious unit on the 19th floor w/ breathtaking
views and Western exposure.



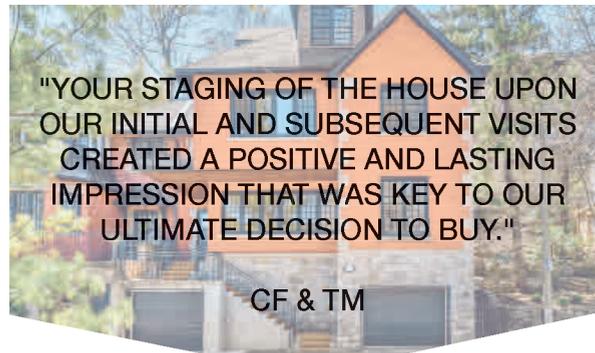
2 WS MLS: 11776364
Magnificent 1 Bdr unit w/ incredible views of the
Mountain. Simply divine!

MORE UNITS AVAILABLE! CONTACT US!

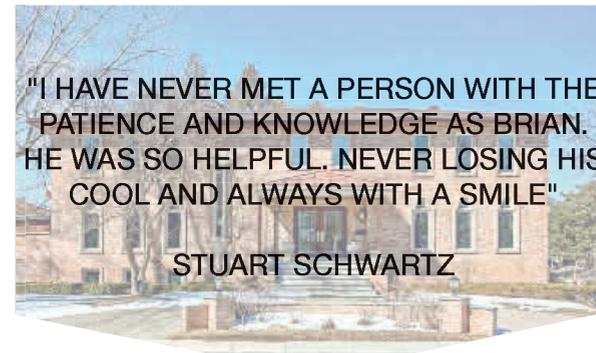
IT'S NOT JUST WHERE YOU'RE GOING, IT'S HOW YOU GET THERE



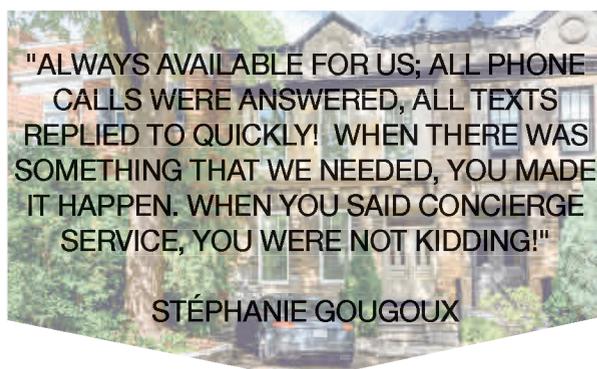
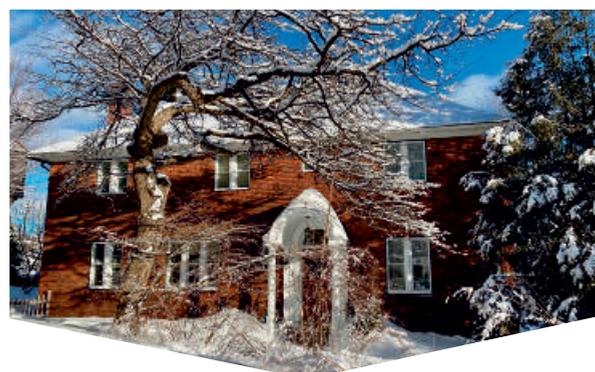
REPUTATION



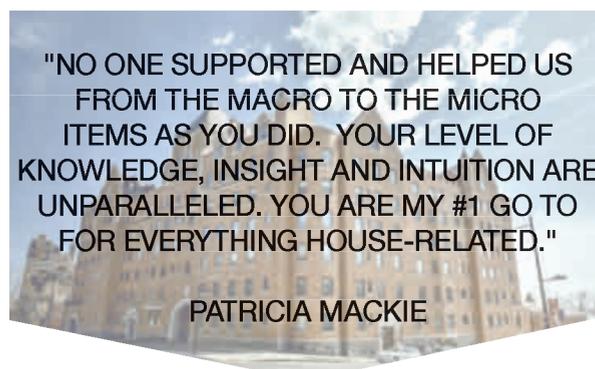
STAGING



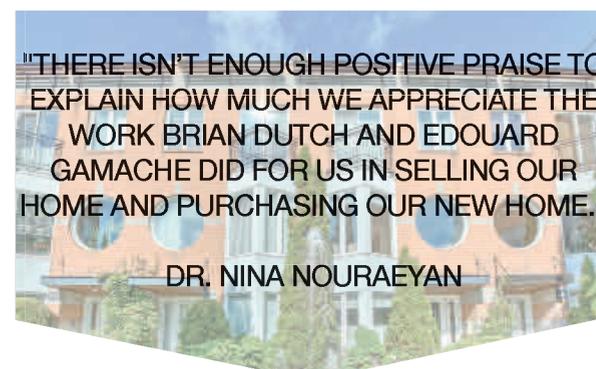
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