

City reaches out for more feedback on design concepts Park survey shows majority of 100 respondents 'satisfied'

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Of 100 residents who returned completed surveys on proposed design concepts for revitalizing Westmount Park in January, results provided to the *Independent* last week indicated that the proposals in each of the eight categories had received a majority satisfaction rating.

While 103 people had responded to the online survey by Stantec consultants based on its video presentation November 18, 2020, only the completed replies were included in the findings that had been compiled in-house, according to Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who has been spearheading the project.

The highest combined rating of "very satisfied" or "satisfied" of 84.4 percent was recorded for the repair and re-design of the

park lagoon into a "natural" pond by re-using rainwater.

"It is important to note that the results of this survey, presented here, are based on a very low response rate," concluded compilation of results, which were expected to be posted on the city's website this week.

As a result, Lulham said, the city would be reaching out to park users over the next couple of months to provide them with tours and additional on-site information as well as conducting spot polling to obtain more feedback.

Additional survey comments included by some of the respondents were not released but are being taken into consideration, she told the *Independent*. For example, "most didn't like" the wooden aerial bridge *continued on p. 8*

Car fire spreads to house on The Boulevard



A fire engulfed this vehicle at 3217 The Boulevard mid-day May 17, which then spread to "part of the house," according to Mélanie Gagné, a spokesperson for the Montreal fire department. Approximately 15 vehicles and 50 firefighters responded to the call. No one was hurt or killed, and everything had wrapped up by 4:48 pm. An inquiry into the cause is under way. PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN.

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First council candidate running for seat to be vacated by Cllr. Lulham

Aronson hopes to bring new ideas, skill sets to council

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Westmount's municipal election looms November 7, now less than six months away, lawyer Matt Aronson was the first out of the gate last week to announce that he is running for council in District 7, whose seat is being vacated by Councillor Cynthia Lulham after 25 years.

It's a way to give back to the community

by using his skill sets in real estate, immigration and commercial law, he told the *Independent*.

An advocate of encouraging new ideas, sustainability and streamlining residents' interaction with the city, he's no stranger to politics or community involvement. Aronson serves as secretary of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), chaired by *continued on p. 8*

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Council follows coroner's recommendation

Forden Cresc. to be changed to one way down, south and east



Forden Crescent's lower/southern opening onto Forden Ave. on May 19. The car at left would be moving with the only direction of traffic to be allowed in future.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

City council May 17 adopted a resolution to make Forden Crescent one-way southbound following the recommendation of a coroner's investigation into the death of a cyclist heading downhill who collided with a car heading up the street. The coroner's report was received by the city April 1.

This change means that traffic will no longer be able to enter Forden Crescent westbound from its access at the intersection of Forden Ave. just north of Montrose.

In the fatal incident June 16, 2020, the car had been turning left to go uphill northbound when the driver reported being blinded by the setting sun (see story July 7, 2020, p. 15). The 29-year-old cyclist was a PhD student from Germany studying at McGill who died June 24.

The change in Forden Cresc. was undertaken "for a better protection of cyclists, in accordance with the coroner's recommendation," Councillor Philip Cutler

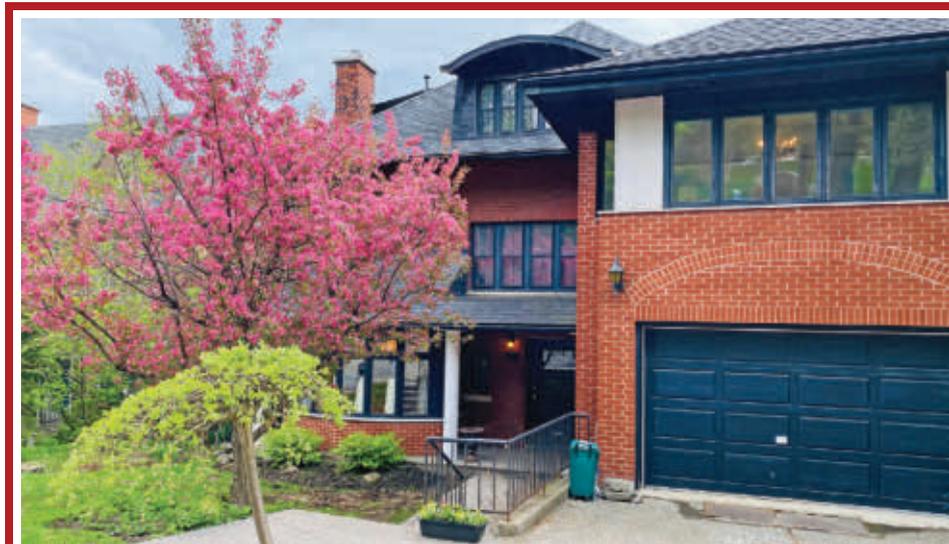
said in moving the resolution added as a new business item.

Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount had recommended making the six-meter-wide Forden Cresc. one-way "down" which, he said, would eliminate "blinding sun" from a driver's vision, particularly relevant at this time of year.

"We're very, very pleased with the recent city decision," he said last week, considering that since a day after the accident we had said this measure was one way that could prevent a repeat."

The city had implemented other suggestions by Lambert just after the collision such as removing bushes or reducing their height around the "islands" in Forden's roadway. He had also reiterated his "one-way" request at the council meeting May 3 though no mention was made at that time that the city had obtained the long-awaited coroner's report.

The change has yet to be posted.



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Cyclist 'flies' 8 ft. in the air, Cuttler tells council Resident calls for better signage on Lansdowne bike path



A section of the Lansdowne bike path just south of Côte St. Antoine Rd. on May 20 that does look "completely destroyed," as the city put it.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A cyclist "flew about eight feet in the air" after coming to a speed hump ending just beside the bike path on the steep Lansdowne hill south of Côte St. Antoine, Sunday afternoon May 16, Maxine Cuttler told the city council meeting the next day.

"It was a horrifying sight," as she witnessed the incident from the balcony of her home, she said. But as she rushed across the street to help the cyclist, he started to stand up, saying it was the helmet that saved him and that he hadn't seen the speed bump. Another neighbour, a doctor, began treating him for other injuries.

It was the second time in a year, she said, that a cyclist had been toppled at the same spot, where the speed bump ending at the bike path's white line appears to have a raised edge. That time, it had been a 13-year-old boy who was thrown off his bike and across the street.

She said the city needed to install better signage, markings and renew the yellow paint on the speed bump that keeps wearing off to prevent further accidents "that could be a liability to the city."

Cuttler told the *Independent* last week that the day after the council meeting, she noticed personnel from both Public Security and Public Works looking at the site. The same day, she received follow-up details from Mayor Christina Smith's office listing seven recommendations from Public Works.

These were safety measures to be taken immediately "to control the speeding problem on that section as well as secure the bike path for cyclists" and improve visibility for drivers and cyclists.

First on the list was patching of the asphalt on the bike path, which in some sections had been "completely destroyed" becoming very dangerous for cyclists. Among others were the painting of man-hole covers and the block's two speed bumps as well as more advance signage at different locations as well as the installation of a speed display.

Cuttler said she did not know whether this quick action had stemmed from her question at the council meeting or from a call she had made to Public Works at the time of the accident when referred by Public Security.

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Terraces open May 28!

Restaurants invited to May 27 webinar about \$25K grants



Owner Anna-Marie Gentile of the Gentile restaurant on St. Catherine east of Greene on May 20. She is one of many local restaurateurs who will be working to re-open their terraces and dining rooms, and obey any current and future rules, in the weeks to come.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Westmount restaurants and some caterers are included in a PME MTL promotion to be able to vie for a grant of up to \$25,000 from a total budget of \$4 million, Councillor Cynthia Lulham announced at the May 17 city council meeting.

PME MTL is an economic development agency that handles financial and business support in the Montreal area.

Restaurants that may be interested in participating or learning about the funding can contact Lulham, who will host a Zoom webinar on details this Thursday, May 27 at 2 pm. To receive an invitation to “attend,” the local restaurants are asked to contact

clulham@westmount.org.

That is the day before outdoor restaurant patios will be allowed to open, according to the Quebec government’s de-confinement measures. Lulham, whose commissionership includes economic development, said the application period for grants is May 13 to December 31 on a first-come basis for those eligible.

She planned to contact as many local restaurants as possible, she said. But since many that do not provide take-out or have not provided email information and other contact information to the city, Lulham told the *Independent* she hoped anyone reading about the webinar would spread the word.



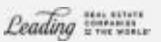
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**FORGET PAY-AS-YOU-GO,
RE-PAVE MORE STREETS, PLEASE**

I am very concerned about the deterioration of the roads in Westmount. I have been a resident for over 30 years and have seen the state of our roads slowly get worse every year.

The policy of pay-as-you-go only allows for a few roads to be rehabilitated on an annual basis.

It's time to recognize that many roads are way past their prime and need re-paving now. I bike almost everywhere I go, yet I feel I am frequently risking my life when I have to bike in the centre of the road on such streets as Lansdowne, Sunnyside, Forden, Summit Rd., Belvedere, Sherbrooke and Clarke, to name a few, because the pavement is so deteriorated next to the sidewalk.

One must consider that leaving streets to deteriorate so badly will ultimately cost more in the long run because of the damage being done to the base of the road from water infiltration and heaving.

I strongly recommend that the city of Westmount reconsider its road maintenance policy to allow for the re-paving of the many streets that are way past their useful life. With a \$9-million surplus from 2020, it's an appropriate time to upgrade our streets.

JONATHAN SIGLER, ENG.,
LEXINGTON AVE.

**PLEASE RE-PAVE DORCHESTER'S
SOUTH SIDE FIRST**

I note from an article in the *Westmount Independent* (April 20, p. 5) that the north side of Dorchester Blvd. between Greene Ave. and St. Catherine St. is scheduled to be re-paved this year.

I am somewhat puzzled by why this section, which is still in reasonably good repair, is to be re-paved rather than the south side, which is in a much worse condition. Its road surface is reminiscent of what might find in a Third World country.

Perhaps Councillor Kathleen Kez could explain the reasoning behind the aforementioned planning.

It would make more sense to reverse the planned sequence of re-paving.

NEIL WILSON, OLIVIER AVE.

**CHANGES AT GROSVENOR/
WESTMOUNT AVE. PLEASE**

I have been meaning to write to you for a long time regarding the school zone near my home on Grosvenor Ave. I have two sons, one of whom is still attending Roslyn School and walks there daily.

Since moving here from BC, via the USA, I have been shocked and very concerned about the lack of traffic control at the intersection of Grosvenor and Westmount Ave.

I walk my children fairly frequently to this intersection, or drive through it on my

way to work in the morning around 9 am. What I observe at the light is several vehicles running through the yellow, and often the red, signal.

Some do this slowly; some at double the speed limit. My heart is in my throat watching children and wondering if they should make a run for the walk signal, or wait, or maybe they are playing and not watching the traffic on the corner at all.

I have almost never (maybe once or twice in eight years) seen a police officer give a ticket, or even be present, other than to prevent people from parking on the sidewalk on Grosvenor to deliver their children.

This is a ticking time bomb, and someone will be hurt or killed eventually. Can we please have a crossing guard or two at this intersection?

Or install ticket-cameras for red light runners? Westmount would be able to pave all of its roads just off this intersection!

At their US school, we had a regular officer, daily, directing traffic, and it was very safe for everyone.

EVONNE RIVERS, GROSVENOR AVE

**APPLYING PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT'S LOGIC
ACROSS THE BOARD**

In this world, 300 million people have French as their native tongue, with 84 countries having it as an official language – the globe's sixth most common language group.

So, does French really need further protection?

The latest French-language legislation in Quebec proposing business and government communication in French only, leads inevitably to the question: "Will Quebec officials put their money where their mouths are?"

If one demands respect for "threatened" languages, will the Quebec government now be communicating with their governing First Nation band councils in their aboriginal tongues? When speaking to officials in Quebec's neighbouring country of Greenland, are Quebec representatives prepared to protect the local Danish language (spoken by only six million people worldwide) and communicate in that tongue?

If one wishes to do international business, the *lingua franca* seems predominantly to be English, however much one legislates that businesses must serve customers in French. Surely, it would be foolish to hamstring them with such legislation.

HEDDI & ANTHONY WALTER,
LANSDOWNE AVE.

WHERE ARE MY RIGHTS?

This is where we are:

Message from No. 1 Wood Avenue Condominium, Tuesday, May 18 4:41 pm:

Please be advised that there is an unannounced, last-minute demonstration in progress. Please be advised that the police recommend that we lock down the building. We do not recommend that you go out, but if you do need to, please [use such-and-such an exit].

Thank you and be safe.

Where are my rights? And where are the defenders of my rights?

No permit, no social distancing, nothing. More than 50 police of the riot squad that I can see – imagine the cost. All this to accommodate a few radicals, and thugs.

It's not even about the cause. It's about cowardice in defending our freedoms. If we don't defend our rights, we are bound to lose them.

Where are our elected officials: Westmount, provincial and federal?

What a shame.

BERNARD SHUSTER, WOOD AVE.

**HAVE YOU SEEN
WESTMOUNT PARK LATELY?
I JUST DON'T GET IT**

What is it about park maintenance that this and past Westmount administrations refuse to understand and have repeatedly failed to address? Requests and submissions over the years by concerned and knowledgeable residents have been ignored or met with obfuscation. The utterly depressing consequences of this failure and lack of foresight are now there for all to see. Even the most gardening-challenged person would be shocked at the extensive bald patches in Westmount Park.

Someone should tally the taxpayer dollars spent by the city over the years on consultancies and expert opinions that have all concluded, unanimously, that our deteriorating parks need regular assessment, long-term planning, and maintenance. To that figure, add the recent \$250,000 expenditure on yet another consultancy report containing much-criticized recommendations for improvements to Westmount Park. They were present in a one-time online event that inadequately answered six out of the 86 questions submitted online. Is Westmount allergic to having a genuine, meaningful consultation process involving a forum for discussion and exchange of views? During the presentation, attendees were invited to complete an online survey (difficult-to-access and superficial), to which only *continued on p. 18*

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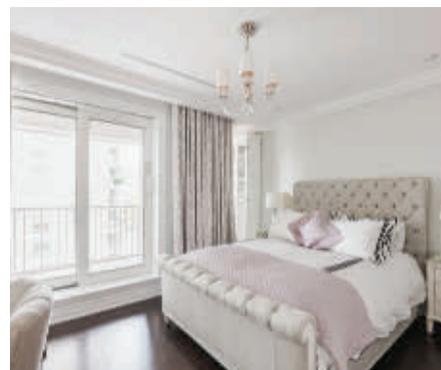
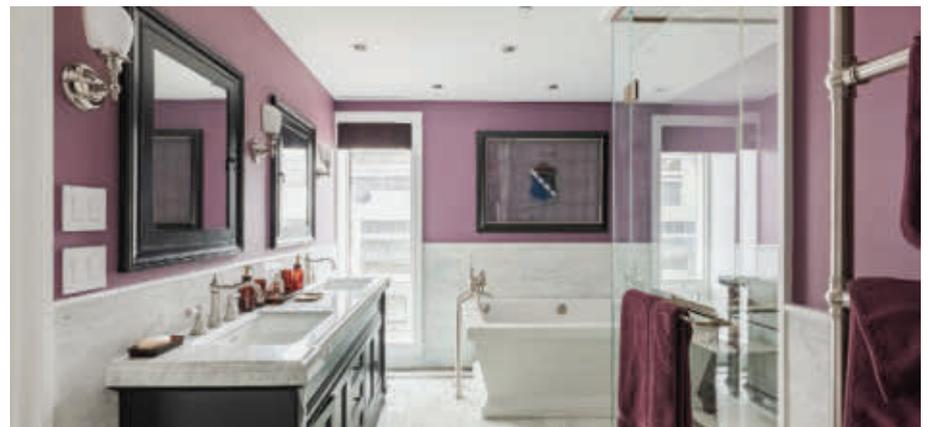
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Aronson, cont'd. from p. 1

former Liberal MP for NDG Marlene Jennings, and recently finished a five-year term as secretary and a director of Notre-Dame-des-Arts.

As well, he is treasurer of MP Marc Garneau's Liberal Riding Association and is the financial agent for CDN-NDG borough mayor Sue Montgomery in setting up her new political party called Courage, though he has given notice that he plans on resigning from these latter two positions in light of his council candidacy in Westmount, he said.

Growing up in eastern NDG but attending Roslyn School, Aronson moved to Westmount in 2016. Living on Melville in District 7 is "a lovely experience," he said "especially being able to have my children at Roslyn School and my office at Wood and St. Catherine."

"I am extremely fortunate because living here with my wife, Jenny, and daughters Abby and Nelly, and our two rescue dogs, we have been able in the pandemic – that showed up out of nowhere – to enjoy Westmount Park right across the street, use the dog run and even go to the pool last summer."

Nothing is perfect

He said this experience also brought home how "blessed we are" to live in a



Matt Aronson on Sherbrooke St. near Prince Albert on May 19. PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

community that is so well organized, though "nothing is ever perfect," he adds, saying he has many ideas for ways to improve it.

Among them, he would like to see the administration be "more seamless. As a citizen, wouldn't it be nice when we pay our taxes to check off a box and pay for our dog licence, recreation pass and other user fees at the same time so we don't have to do it again and again on the website?"

He would also like to see improved distribution of critical information such as plans for emergency preparedness and resilience.

"I believe we should be a resilient community able to provide sustainable ways to deal with the impact of global warming such as flooding and the encouragement of green roofs perhaps through financial incentives."

Wants people to be heard

Regarding new ideas expressed by others, he said, "I may not necessarily be in favour of a new idea. But I want people to be heard. Great ideas come from all over. I've tried to encourage my daughters to speak up when they have an idea."

Aronson attended LCC and Dawson

College. He went on to obtain a BA from the University of King's College and Dalhousie in Halifax (2001), a graduate diploma in communication studies from Concordia and law degrees from McGill in 2007. He is authorized to practise law in Ontario and Quebec.

After working in several law firms before moving into the commercial real estate management firm, Prime Properties Inc. (2011-2014), he joined Adessky Attorneys in January 2016, where he now works.

He and brothers Alex and Daniel, a Westmount resident, had opened and operated a "maker space" workshop called MKRLAB on Sherbrooke in NDG to provide space and specialized tools for people to use in a variety of skills such as wood working, designing, 3D printing and laser cutting. This closed with the onset of the pandemic, he said.

Survey results, cont'd. from p. 1

proposed for over the children's playground.

As well, some questioned a proposed new splash pad closer to the children's playground to replace the existing "paddling" pool now in the former sailing pond.

Assessment of main park proposals

Survey respondents were asked to assess each of eight main design elements proposed for Westmount Park preceded by a description of each and rate them according to five levels: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, unsatisfied and very unsatisfied.

Since each of the proposed elements listed in the results, which were expected to be posted on the city's website this week, recorded at least a combined 60 percent satisfaction level, the *Independent* has summarized the first two levels only:

Redesign of pathways, footbridges:

- Very satisfied: 33%
- Satisfied: 29.9%

Design of bike path:

- Very satisfied: 37.6%
- Satisfied: 26.9%

Re-design and repair of lagoon:

- Very satisfied: 59.8%
- Satisfied: 25.0%

Re-design of children's playground:

- Very satisfied: 33.7%
- Satisfied: 39.1%

Re-design of 'sailing pond' into a fountain:

- Very satisfied: 33.7%
- Satisfied: 29.4%

Event space:

- Very satisfied: 35.9%
- Satisfied 31.5%

Training area:

- Very satisfied: 26.4 %
- Satisfied 37.4%

WRC green roof:

- Very satisfied: 53.3%
- Satisfied: 27.8%

Others wanted more space allocated to the playground.

It was also evident from the comments, Lulham said, that "many" of the respondents had not viewed the video presentation on the proposals on which the survey was based. These were focused on the project in general and specifically on paths and footbridges, the bike path, repair of the lagoon, the children's playground, a memorial fountain in the former sailing pond, event space, a training area and the Westmount Recreation Centre's green roof (see separate story above).

After the additional out-reach step, the city plans to provide this information to the Stantec consultants to prepare a final report. This would then be delivered to the newly elected city council in November, she explained.

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April sales: Ping – this market is tightly strung



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

means the direction is still up, up and up. Because there was only one \$2-million-plus sale, the total average for April was \$1,818,800. Mark-ups ranged from 5.6 percent to 42.3 percent, averaging just under 25 percent.

Condos

Westmount's condominium market appears to be taking some time off, with only three sales announced in April, all under \$1 million. In the first three months of this year agents worked out 14 condo sales as high as \$2,550,000, with an average mark-up of 23.3 percent. Hopefully the second-quarter market will pick up in May and June; so far the second-quarter mark-up just clears 20 percent.

Adjacent

The list of sales for adjacent-Westmount was very strong, especially the eastern part of NDG with seven new sales announced, including four over asking price with bidding wars galore.

In downtown's Square Mile, five house sales have been posted so far this year with an average price of \$2,703,800 and an average mark-up over valuation of 74.6 percent, the highest average for any of the districts. Most of the other districts include average mark-ups between about 20 and 40 percent.

With the number of house listings dropping by almost the same amount as the number of sales in April, it is clear that very few new listings are coming on asking less than \$2 million. The minimum asking price is \$1,199,000; from there prices go to \$27,500,000.

Rentals

Another 22 houses are available for rent, down from 31 at the same time last year. Already this year, some 18 Westmount houses have been rented, including three at over \$10,000 per month.

Some interesting statistics:

	1978	2019	Increase
Canadian dollar	\$100	\$379	279%
Ford Mustang MSRP (US\$)	\$4,061	\$26,395	549%
Victoria, BC: average single-family dwelling	\$63,733	\$878,411	1,278%
Westmount:			
“Typical” single-family dwelling	\$89,678	\$2,056,901	2,194%
Typical house increased by inflation only	\$89,678	\$339,880	279%
Increase after inflation		\$1,717,021	

Average adjusted price for ‘typical’ Westmount house, by month, January 2016 to April 2021, based on accepted offer dates



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We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.
email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

COVID impacting teen mental health, youth worker Heron tells Rotarians

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While acknowledging that COVID-19 is taking a toll on everybody, Allan Heron suggests the pandemic is having an especially great impact on teenagers.

“Because of the stage of life that they’re in, and the intensity of the experiences and of the developing that is taking place in their lives at this stage, I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that this would be, that there are comparisons that could be made to

The movement is historically rooted in Youth for Christ, which counted Billy Graham among its leadership. A YFC chapter was first established in Montreal during the 1950s.

Alluding to “all the fun experiences” teens have under normal circumstances – “the friendships, the trips, the various experiences” that most adults had when growing up – Heron said today’s youths “have lost all of those, and they’re hurt, they’re frustrated and they’re angry.

“I’ve probably been involved in more [suicide prevention] calls than probably the 25 years previous combined”

those who lived through Depression years or world wars,” the executive-director of Youth Unlimited Montreal (YUM) told the Westmount Rotarians May 12.

According information on its website, Youth Unlimited is a religiously-based international movement that provides community programs to Quebec youth.

They’re angry at the situation in which they find themselves.”

However long the pandemic might continue, Heron said it will still end up being “such a huge period of time” and “a good chunk of their high-school years. And really COVID will be the overriding memory of high-school for today’s students. It won’t be friends, it won’t be trips, it won’t be concerts or plays or anything like that. It will be how they handled this COVID season.”

Mental health

Noting that mental health was already



Seen here on May 12, Youth Unlimited Montreal executive-director Allan Heron told the Westmount Rotarians during their weekly webcast that the COVID-19 pandemic is having an especially bad impact on youths.

a growing issue of concern before the pandemic hit early last year, he said “obviously we know that this has had a huge impact on the mental health of our youth.”

“Over the past three to five plus years, the mental health challenges of our youth have been off the charts. It is just a huge issue in our youth today. And then we put this pandemic on top of it and the impact of that has just been astronomical.”

Citing statistics indicating a severe decline of mental health among children and teens during the pandemic, Heron said that two young people who were part of YUM programs were lost to suicide.

“I would say without a doubt, I have been part of more suicidal prevention calls over this past year than ever before. In fact, without having tracked each one, I would

say that in the last 12 to 18 months, I’ve probably been involved in more of those calls than probably the 25 years previous combined.”

He said mental health and suicide problems among youths have become so extreme that Youth Unlimited has become almost exclusively focused on mental health and suicide intervention.

However, he suggested there is a way to improve the situation. “Show empathy,” Heron said, among other things. “We can be understanding to our youth. One thing that is really important for adults is to remember to allow their kids to grieve over their losses. Their grief over what they are experiencing, or not getting to experience, is real.”

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Two protests (+1) come to Westmount

2,000+ pro-Palestinian protesters gather outside Israeli consulate

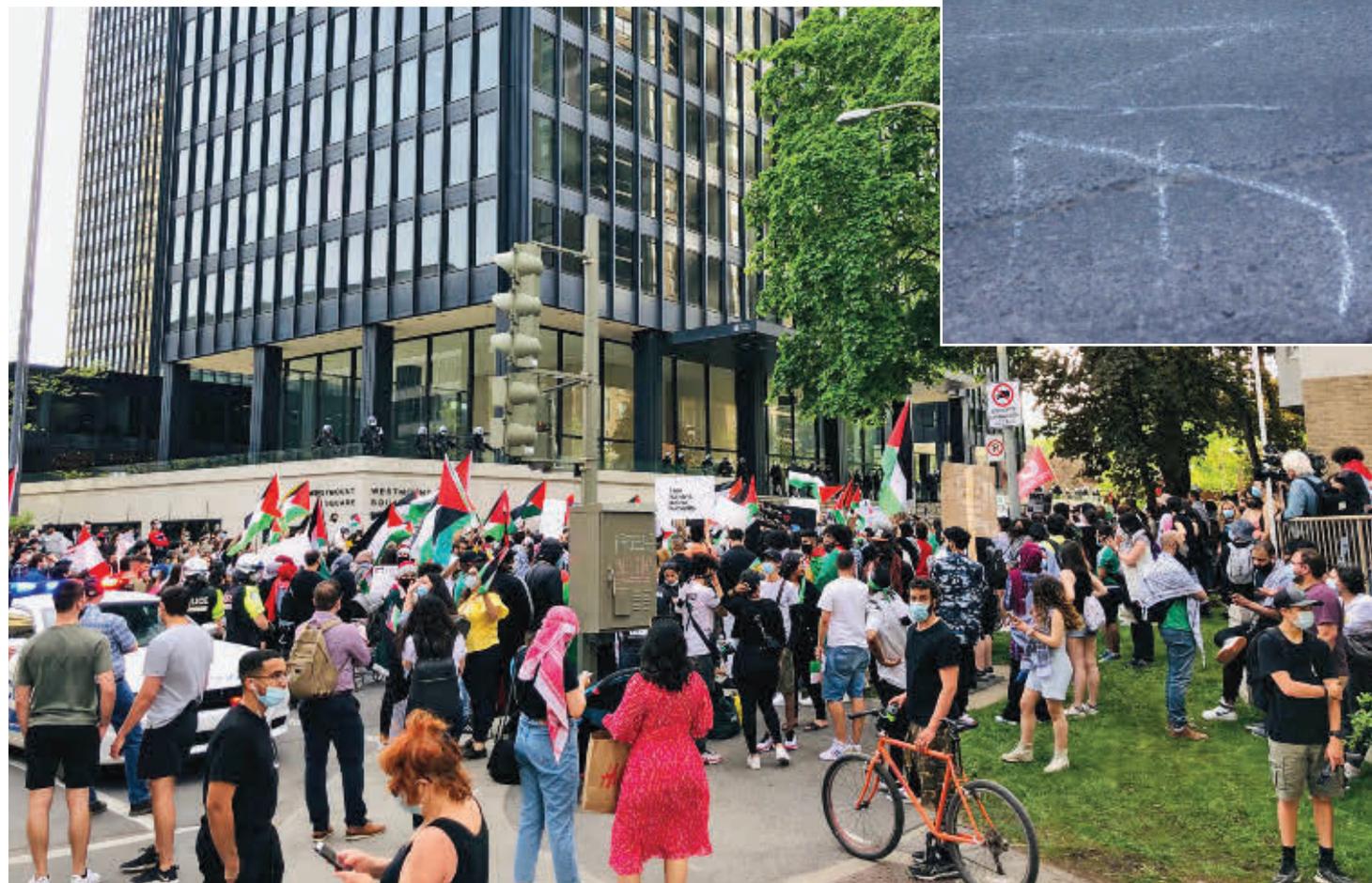
A crowd of more than 2,000 people sympathetic to the Palestinian cause gathered outside the consulate of Israel in Westmount Square on St. Catherine St. at Wood on the afternoon of May 15 to protest Israel's military actions taken during the recent conflict with Hamas.

According to Montreal Police Station 12's community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the demonstration began downtown around Peel and St. Catherine streets,

then made its way west to Westmount. He said at least one arrest was made.

Below, a pro-Palestinian demonstration also took place on May 18. The next day, right, there were no signs of the previous events, except "Palestine" in chalk on the roadway.

Another one was expected by local residents for Saturday, May 22, after the *Independent's* early, Victoria Day press time. - DP & MCB



LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN; RIGHT PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.



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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Honour, a sweet, cheerful and loving 12-year-old girlie, is in foster care for the Montreal SPCA and enjoying the coddling and exercise routine immensely.

Having been less active in the past, she is getting used to exercising with regular daily walks and eating a veterinary-balanced diet to help her get back to her ideal weight. In getting ready for her walkies, Honour even thanks her foster mother by giving her a kiss when she puts on her harness. She also loves to receive attention from the people she meets. Honour is a true "social butterfly." She wants to be friends with everyone!

Her adoptive family will need to keep in mind that until she gets back to her ideal weight, Honour finds the heat difficult and stairs a bit more work.

At home with her foster family, Honour is very good! She hardly barks, and loves to sleep on the sofa. Her foster family practises gradual departures and she is already able to stay alone for several hours.

Honour is healthy, now on a regular outings routine so her weight will stabilize, she is up to date with her inoculations, is

Adorable Honour

spayed and is microchipped. As she is a bit older, she will be placed with a loving family with the consideration of a humanitarian reduced adoption fee. Please refer to her identification number 47687264 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, well, here is Yoshi, such a unique face! Those huge gold-tone eyes, framed by his incredible flat Lynx ears, extraordinary markings of grey-and-white tabby stripes, and a cobby body shape.

Oh yes, Yoshi has quite a presence, with the joys of an affectionate and companionable nature.

A very handsome one year young, he is now waiting patiently at the SPCA Montreal cattery for a loving and playful family to bring him home as soon as possible. Yoshi is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please refer to his identification number 47710189 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for him on



The one and only Yoshi

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Your neighbour, Lysanne

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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Sneakers, shop in motion at ES2

Quick compute. Is it an über-brand signed Chanel, Gucci or Balenciaga, priced \$4,000 and up?

The much-loved Converse?

Perhaps due to the persistent pandemic, most Westmounters are dressing casually, sporting shoes that are either gleaming white or neon luminous.

Worn with the comfortable “can’t be seen on Zoom” uniform of jeans, the cheerful dazzle of brights or whites are just what one needs until the flowers take over.

On an amusing if digressing note, my British grandfather used to call these types of shoes “Plimsolls” – originally a shoe with a rubber sole developed as beachwear. Who knew the humble running shoe would explode into collectors’ closets and sell for up to, wait for it, \$10,000 (US)?

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Gardens already bearing 'fruit'



Wood Ave. resident Giulia Del Guercio Green was hard at work (as usual since the end of April) at 6:30 am May 21 tending her vegetable plot at the Hillside Community Garden. She had already picked a nice bunch of arugula and was packing mulch around a few more delicate legumes. Del Guercio Green has worked at McGill University for the past 10 years and is presently involved with university advancement.

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Lacombe brings 'innovative programming' skills

Council appoints assistant library director for May 25

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council appointed Anne-Marie Lacombe May 17 as assistant director of the Westmount Public Library and Community Events starting May 25.

Lacombe comes from the Montreal library network where she has spent the last four years at the Père Amboise library in Ville Marie (downtown), responsible for adult and children's programming, which included coordinating a "maker space" (fab lab) project equipped with specialized tools such as a 3D printer.

"I am very happy," said director June-Anne Cardella, who has been without the assistance of an assistant manager at the city's best-used facility for a year during the ongoing absence of assistant director Donna Lach, who retains her title.

Lacombe "has done a lot of innovating programming, which would be very interesting to us," Cardella said. This includes managing staff and developing the adult and children's collections.

Fully bilingual, Lacombe has also worked at the St. Lambert library, where she liked its connection to the community of "one library, one city," a reason why she

wants to work in Westmount, Cardella explained.

She graduated in 2013 from the library science program at the University of Montreal and did two years of doctoral studies at Concordia.

Letters to the editor, cont'd. from p. 6

100 people responded. This is hardly the basis for concluding resounding acceptance or rejection of anything. Months after the fact, and after repeated requests, the survey results are finally to be disclosed. And yes, we can expect yet another PR survey aimed at justifying the \$250,000 expenditure. Municipal employees will be hanging around the park with laptops asking users about what they *really* think of recommendations that they hardly know anything about and have probably never seen.

Why is the mayor allowing the parks commissioner to waste time and resources on a fruitless PR exercise when there is so much visible deterioration that needs to be addressed right now? Why the procrastination? I just don't get it.

MAXINE CUTLER,
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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE PROCTOR/
 WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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Demolition Application

1. The public sitting of the Demolition Committee regarding the demolition application for 325 Melville Avenue was adjourned on March 15, 2021 at 9:05 p.m.
2. The City of Westmount has received a new application for a preliminary program for the immovable located at **325 Melville Avenue**.
3. Please be advised that the public sitting of the Demolition Committee will continue on **June 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** and will be broadcast live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>

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

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Alan Klinkhoff Gallery

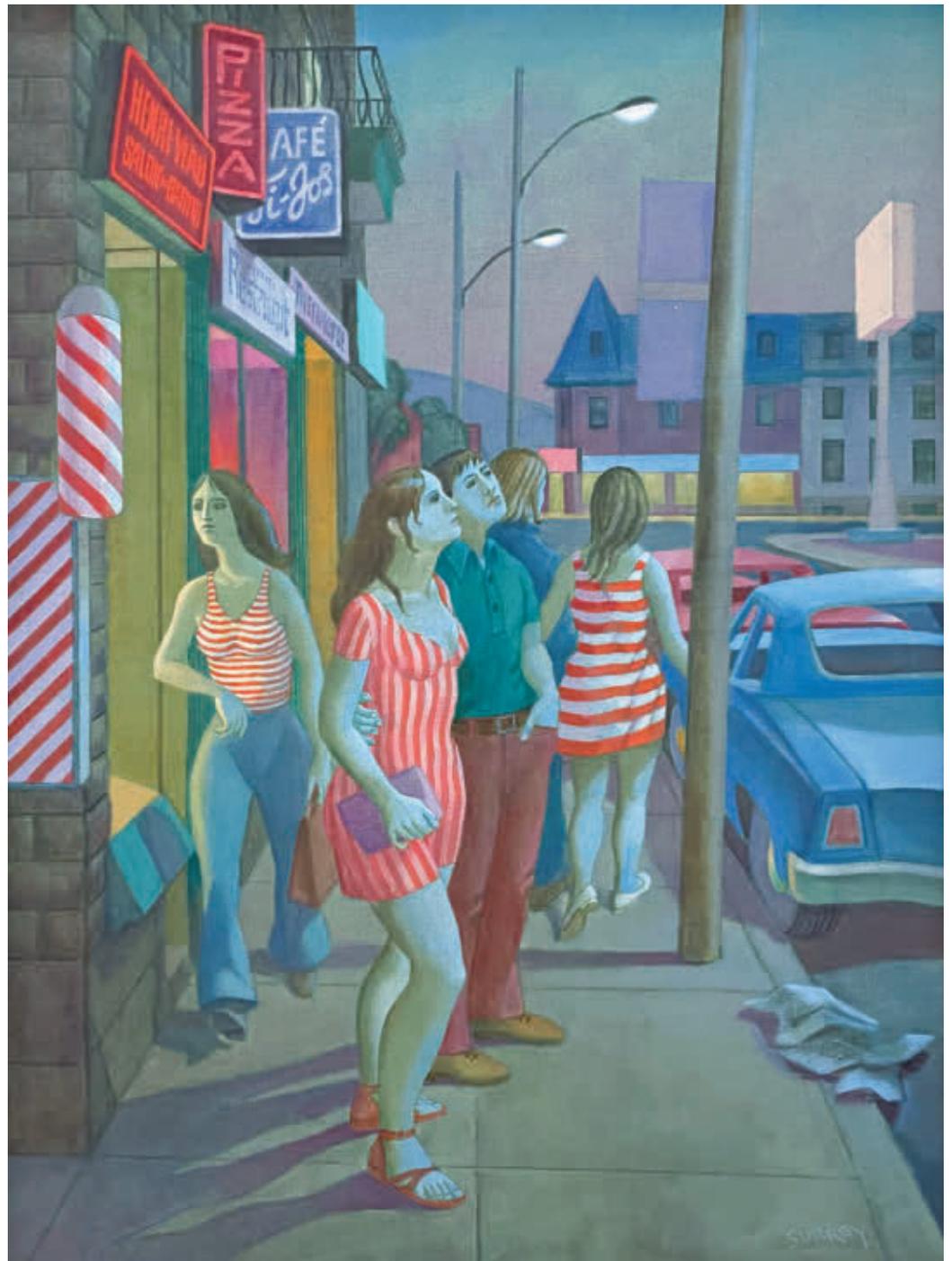
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Featured painting:

Philip Surrey 1910-1990
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End of Summer is a generational painting and perhaps Surrey's most important painting of this vintage. This painting served as the cover image on the catalogue of the 2004 Philip Surrey Retrospective Exhibition hosted at Galerie Walter Klinkhoff. The location is somewhat recognizable. The artist has located himself on Fairmont at Jeanne-Mance, looking West with a slice of Mount Royal in the distance. As is characteristic of some of the best of Philip Surrey, he is working with the mystery of evening, his subject illuminated by electric light.



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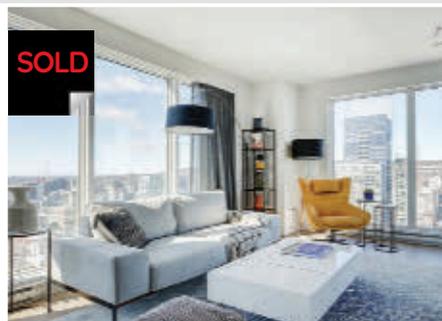
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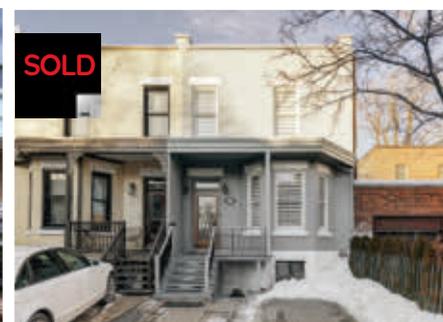
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