

Governing board created for Hydro Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An idea that has been talked about off and on for more than a decade came to fruition at the council meeting June 7. That's when a governance committee was created for Hydro Westmount.

This committee is to act as an advisory board to guide and prepare the electrical utility "in its new challenges in environmental and technological matters," according to a resolution moved by Councillor Jeff Shamie, the council's commissioner for Hydro Westmount and administration.

"I'm so excited," Shamie said last week. "It's a huge shift for the city. We need to

get Westmount ready for the green revolution," he said. This includes the widespread use of electric cars.

Under consideration by the new committee, Shamie said, will be the viability of Hydro Westmount, the pros and cons and financial implications of upgrading it to meet new demands, and how the utility will adapt to changing times as well as various options.

The committee is to meet four times a year, starting in the upcoming days. It is to deliver a report of recommendations in two years.

The 11 members of the committee come from city council, the city administration with another five from volunteer residents selected for related experience and acumen (see separate story p. 5).

"According to 2019 statistics from the SAAQ, *continued on p. 5*

Bixi-ing on a breezy, warm Saturday



From left, Alain Awad and Corine Gasse picking up Bixis at the corner of de Maisonneuve and Greene Ave. on June 19. They were off for a relaxed 2:30 pm lunch downtown on a beautiful, warm, breezy day. The two live on Olivier Ave. and, according to the counter on the Bixi sign, they were the 684th and 685th riders that Saturday.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

No issue next week
(Dominion Day observance)
Next issue: July 6

Demolition meeting reconvenes June 23

City posts 55+ letters on 325 Melville, most vs. demo

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the city prepares June 23 to reconvene a demolition meeting on 325 Melville, it last week posted a total of more than 55 letters, on 90 pages, of comment or opposition regarding the project. Most oppose the project based on defending the current building or opposing its proposed replacement.

Reasons for opposing the demolition of the Category III building of four "affordable" rental units included sustainability, a lack of need and setting a precedent for the future.

Most, however, focused on a proposal to replace it with taller condos, described as out of keeping with the neighbourhood that would block the views, light and privacy of *continued on p. 18*

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Prince Albert Park vandalism closes comfort station



The Prince Albert Park comfort station on June 20.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

The comfort station at Prince Albert Park was closed June 9 after a cleaning crew the night before discovered vandalism in the women's washroom, Public Security officials said. A faucet had been bent, the soap dispenser broken, a toilet plugged

by rolls of paper and water found to have overflowed. On June 12, a window in Westmount Park also was reported broken.

"We're asking people to respect city buildings and report any vandalism," said Public Security director Greg McBain.

5 given curfew tickets in Westmount Park

A parks patroller June 13 discovered a group of three young men and two women partying at a picnic table in Westmount Park at 1:25 am after the midnight parks curfew, Public Security officials said. Bottles and other items were found scattered around.

Other officers were called to intercept the five, who were told to clean up the mess and discard garbage.

Given the "level of co-operation," each

was issued a \$78 curfew ticket but none for possessing alcohol in the park. The type of ticket is at the discretion of officers depending on the circumstances, Public Security director Greg McBain explained. The five, residents of Montreal, were in their 20s.

'Excessively' loud music costs resident \$152

A 19-year-old resident of Montrose was fined \$152 after a complaint of loud music June 13 was received at 5:52 am, Public Security officials said. The sound level of the music coming from the back of the property was described as "excessive."

It was so loud that efforts to contact the occupant at the door as well as by two phone calls took 30 minutes before someone was reached. The ticket was issued when it was also discovered that similar complaints had been received last year.

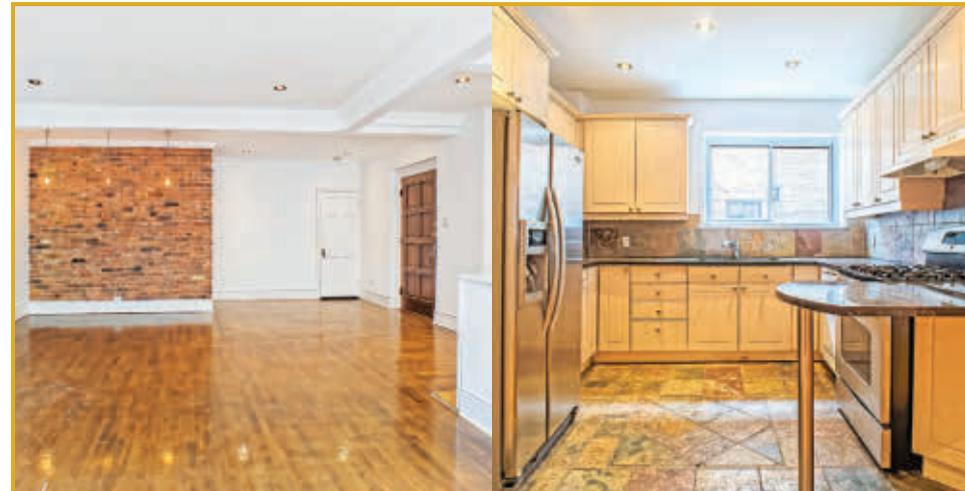
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& tai chi, p. 25

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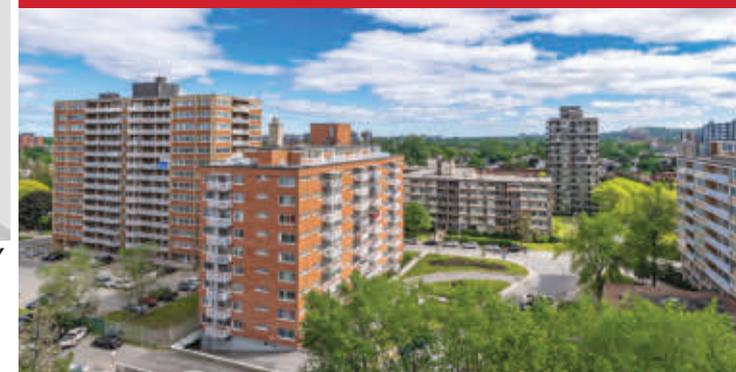


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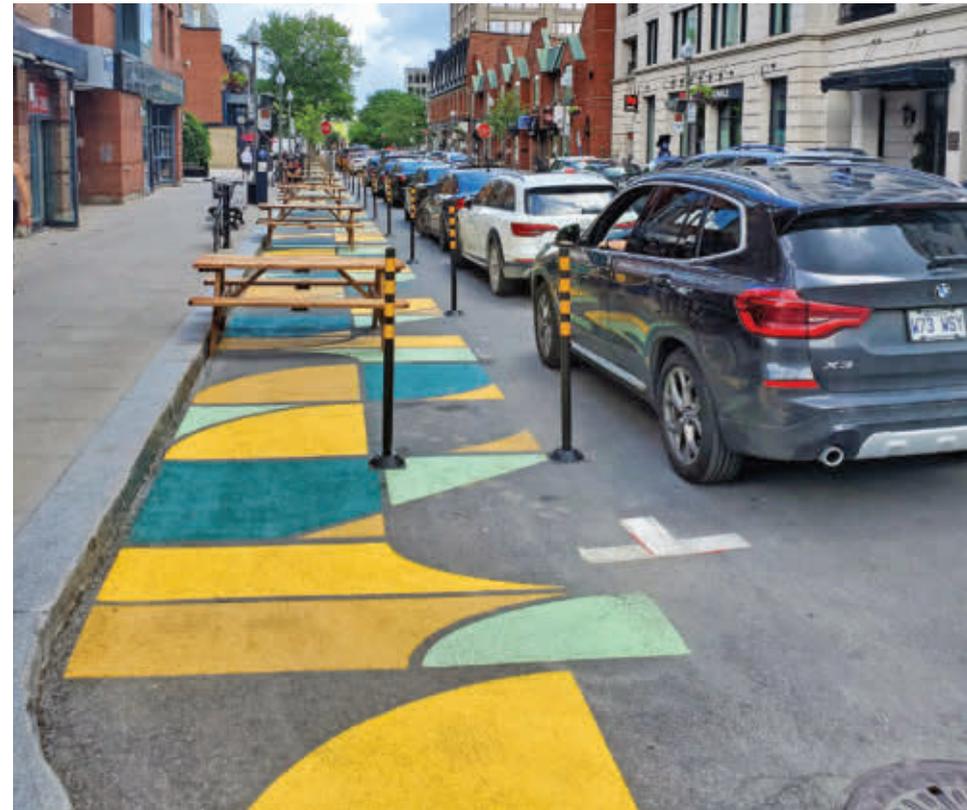
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Summer seating comes to Greene Ave.



The city installed picnic tables on the eastern side of Greene Ave.'s asphalt towards the end of the week ending June 11. It is a continuation of last year's COVID-inspired arrangement for de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke, but with the addition of the portion between St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve, as seen here June 15.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Hydro Westmount, cont'd. from p. 1

there were 10,000 cars registered in Westmount. Of these, we are trending in the 3 to 3.5 percent range of electric cars, which suggests we are embracing the new technology. But we're an old city with aging infrastructure and buildings, for which we need to upgrade our power grid to meet

the future," Shamie explained.

In Hydro Westmount's own 117-year-old history, it remains one of the nine electrical utilities in Quebec that are owned by municipalities rather than Hydro Quebec, from which each buys power at wholesale rates to redistribute within its territory according to community demands but at the rates set by the Régie de l'énergie (see story July 15, 2008).

This "proximity service" proved to be invaluable, in many people's view, to Westmount during the ice storm of 1998. Being a large customer of Hydro Quebec, the local utility was able to obtain a large block of some of the limited amount of available power through negotiations by then city director general Bruce St. Louis. He is one of those who will now sit on the new governance committee.

The other eight independently owned municipalities already have advisory committees, Shamie explained. The idea for Westmount to follow suit dates back many years when it was raised from time to time at council meetings.

Garden company gets tickets totalling \$706

A landscaping contractor was issued four tickets for three different types of infraction June 10, after the company's workers were observed at 1:31 pm using a leaf blower out of season, according to Public Security officials. The leaf blower was quickly hidden from view, but not in time.

The company was reported to have had "many previous encounters" with the city and this time was given a \$275 ticket for use of the blower after the allowable spring period and another for using a blower that did not have the required manufacturer's sticker attesting to its power.

As well, the company's two trucks that were parked on the street were also ticketed \$78 each for failing to display the required city permits.

Members of governance committee

Who will sit on Hydro Westmount's governing board?

Of the 11 members named in the resolution, up to three are to be members of council with three from the city's administration and five to be volunteer Westmount residents selected for their related experience or business acumen.

Chaired by Shamie, whose commissionership includes Hydro Westmount, the committee includes Mayor Christina Smith and Councillor Philip Cutler as commissioner of infrastructure and innovation.

Members of the administration are Hydro Westmount director Salah Bouziane, city interim assistant director general Bruce St. Louis (a former head of Hydro Westmount) and city finance director Julie Mandeville.

The volunteer residents are former councillors David Laidley (retired chair of Deloitte) and personal finance advisor Tim Price (who has served and serves in a number of top leadership roles at MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier and its successor firm, Raymond James), who have both served as Westmount's commissioners of finance.

Also named are Geneviève Grenier (VP and chief of strategy and business performance at Add Energir), Stephen Leopold (retired real estate businessman interested in clean energy) and Daniel Perreault, (involved in a climate company and energy conservation).



Hydro Westmount's new-ish parking lot, right, built up against the new-ish Highway 20/Route 136, far right, as seen June 20. Hydro Westmount's buildings are at left. At centre right is the city's currently unused former incinerator building.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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St. Jean brings Quebec quiz – Canada Day features a mystery hunt

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

“What is the highest mountain in Quebec?” The answer: Mont d’Iberville at 1,652 meters (5,420 feet).

That’s a teaser question of the type to be asked on the city’s online Zoom quiz to take place live June 23, the eve of St. Jean Baptiste Day from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. This is a one-time event by registration on Eventbrite to obtain the Zoom link. There are prizes from local businesses.

On the other hand, Westmount will mark Canada Day by introducing a web-guided family scavenger hunt billed as a mystery walk, which is to be accessible all summer but whose link will go into effect on July 1 from both the city’s and library’s websites.

This will entice participants to find clues around the city to solve “The Case of the Hidden Diamonds,” said Anne-Marie Lacombe, the city’s new assistant director of Westmount Public Library and Community Events.

The Quebec quiz – a mix of history,

geography, cities, culture, music and food – is being hosted by Randolpe Pub Ludique, a downtown establishment known for its board games that was hired by the city to produce the quiz. It can be played individually or as a team effort with one answer per team.

The Canada Day scavenger hunt leads the clue hunters on a walk of about 1.5 kilometers to various points in Westmount chosen for residents to see their city “in a whole new light,” Lacombe said.

“It’s family oriented so if they don’t find a clue, or are wrong, the answer will be provided so they can move on to the next clue,” she explained. “It’s a mystery based on a storyline that 100 years ago, chief librarian Mary Solace Saxe hid a stash of diamonds in a book with a false cover, which today’s librarians need your help to solve.”

From the start location, a smart phone will be required to read the story and solve riddles based on what can be seen.

The interactive game was created by Sarah Lolley, of NDG Interactive Walks and mailbox missions.

Council approves contract nudging \$800K

Vic Hall’s mechanical room to undergo renovation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

More major work on a city building was approved June 7 by city council, this time phase 1 of a project to upgrade and renovate the mechanical room at Victoria Hall at an amount of \$721,168 after tax credits.

The accepted bid for the “renovation” from Mécanication Inc. was the lowest of three at \$789,692 (including tax) with the highest being \$884,698.

This phase 1 involves all the preparatory work required for next year’s phase 2, which includes replacement of the heating, according to Elisa Gaetano, engineering director. Victoria Hall’s mechanical room previously serviced the old section of the library and the greenhouse, but they are now being split off.

The preparatory work at Victoria Hall includes inspection of the aging piping, electricity systems, plumbing and other structural elements, she added.

The library’s 10-week long project is now under way on a contract to install two electrical boilers in an amount of \$378,268. It is important for the buildings to be independent especially since Victoria Hall is

the city’s official secure emergency shelter in the event of situations like the ice storm of 1998, Gaetano explained.



The left-hand door of Victoria Hall on June 20 – still “Closed until further notice.”

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Dawson College tree inventory meets red tape



Seen here on June 9 outside her home in NDG, Dawson College environmental science coordinator Tonia De Bellis is helping lead a group of science students in a tree inventory project that includes a large parcel of Westmount's territory.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A group of Dawson College science students who are taking part in an urban tree survey project from June to August won't be knocking on doors in Westmount, as they have been doing in Montreal, because of municipal regulations here obliging them to work on an appointment basis only.

Whereas trees in parks and green spaces have already been inventoried during an earlier phase of the project, those in private locations such as back yards have not. And that is what the Dawson students are concentrating on this summer.

Although they started going about their work in Montreal this week by knocking on doors and introducing themselves to residents, they ran into a barrier in Westmount.

"This is the first time that we heard we

can't go door to door," said Tonia De Bellis, a Dawson College environmental science coordinator who is leading the students with help from researchers Alain Paquette from UQAM and Carly Ziter from Concordia University.

The city of Westmount asked them to produce handbills containing contact information, and a permit is required to distribute them.

The flyers invite Westmounters who wish to participate to reach out to the researchers and make appointments through two supplied web addresses: www.carly-ziter.com/projet-arbres-de-montreal.html, and <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/projet-arbres-de-montreal-montreal-tree-project>.

"We've been scrambling to try to get this done on time," added De Bellis, referring to the unexpected red tape, and suggesting that an easier alternative might be to drop Westmount from the survey altogether.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Information on the period between COVID vaccine doses

BY DAVID PRICE

Last week (p. 9), we published a letter from resident Beverley Hutchinson about the delay between COVID vaccine shots. Her original, unedited letter contained this sentence:

"Listening to the news, I understand that the period between [vaccine] shots is four weeks, preferable; two months, also very good; three months, okay; and after four months, COVID immunity is definitely compromised."

I asked the McGill University Health Centre for its input on this impression that the news had created. It did not arrive by press time for last week's paper, but here it is now, from Jesse Papenburg (MD, MSc, FRCPC, div. of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, dept. of Pediatrics and div. of Microbiology, dept. of Clinical Laboratory Medicine, Montreal Children's Hospital, McGill University Health Centre):

Clarification note

The initial studies demonstrating the efficacy of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) were done using an interval of three to four weeks between dose 1 and 2 of vaccine. The use of a very short interval made sense because results of these trials were urgently needed.

However, data regarding vaccines in general pre-COVID largely shows that longer intervals between the two first doses of a primary vaccination series are as good, and often better, than shorter intervals.

Under ideal clinical trial conditions after the first dose, the COVID-19 mRNA vac-

Although the tree inventory work was scheduled to get under way in Montreal on June 14, De Bellis was still uncertain whether she and the team would be able to do much more within Westmount this week than just distribute the flyers.

"The city of Westmount does not forbid us to gather data if the residents, the homeowners, allow us," she noted.

Most of the students who are participating have completed their first year in environmental science. The students will measure the diameter of trees, take photos and keep notes.

While part of Montreal's western downtown area is included in the survey, a large portion of eastern Westmount is also being inventoried.

Once the data is collected, various research projects can be done, for example comparing the diversity and function of

cines demonstrated 92 percent protection for the short period of time until the second dose was given. The AstraZeneca vaccine demonstrated 76 percent protection in clinical trials for up to 90 days.

Evidence of protection from "real-world" use in the field after a first dose of vaccine comes from Canadian and international jurisdictions (especially the UK) that have implemented extended dose strategies. These studies show single-dose vaccine effectiveness generally between 60 to 80 percent against infection with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19); this reflects symptomatic disease and asymptomatic infection combined. Most importantly, these studies show one dose of COVID-19 vaccines are approximately 80 percent effective against hospitalization. There are some data that suggest that vaccine effectiveness may start to slowly decline about three months after the first dose.

Nevertheless, in the context of limited vaccine supply initially, the "first dose fast" strategy with extended intervals (up to four months) has been shown in several modeling studies to provide the greatest benefits to the overall population in terms of the number of hospitalizations averted and the number of lives saved.

It is important to note that the second dose remains very important! It boosts vaccine effectiveness to over 90 percent and provides longer term immunity. These added benefits of the second dose are even more notable for protection against SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.

tree communities from private land versus public areas, or examining their impacts on cooling temperatures.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT IS CITY DOING ABOUT THE CATERPILLARS?

A recent walk in Murray Park brought to light the widespread devastation of the trees by thick clusters of caterpillars.

Many trees, including those planted in memory of a loved one, have lost all their leaves. The tall heritage oaks by the tennis courts are being laid bare.

What is the cause of this destruction and what actions are being taken by the municipality?

The beauty of Westmount is in large part due to its parks and extensive tree cover along the streets. At a time when the preservation of tree canopies is also a priority for combating climate change, our city needs to demonstrate its commitment to the environment by actively safeguarding its trees and parks, for the benefit of its citizens.

MADELEINE VARKAY, SHERBROOKE ST.



PRAISE MOORE – COMPOST YOUR WASTE

I was very happy to read the article about household food waste (“Where does our food waste go,” June 8, p. 20), especially the acknowledgement of Stephen Moore and his co-worker. Stephen is one of Westmount’s unsung heroes: doing a tough, not always pleasant, job but always friendly and cheerful, going out of his way to be helpful. Talk about “Service with a smile”!

And if the *Independent* can discover that our food waste is actually being composted, perhaps some of our local scofflaws* will contribute instead of dumping kitchen waste into the regular garbage.

PATRICIA RILEY, ARGYLE AVE.

*Editor’s note: For clarity, I don’t think there is a by-law requiring people to compost (or recycle). – DP.

EXPROPRIATE 1-3 HILLSIDE FOR REC CENTRE

This letter was sent to the city of Westmount June 13

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the proposed demolition and condo construction at 1-3 Hillside Ave. We don’t see any potential benefits to the plan being put forward and are very strongly opposed. Not only would this proposed demolition destroy a piece of history, but the proposed condo construction

would ruin the street and negatively affect all residents in the area for a great number of reasons.

First of all, the owner has left this historic building to deteriorate and has done absolutely nothing to maintain it. We are proud to say that the city of Westmount places high value in the preservation of history, and efforts should be made to preserve the original structure of the building in order to honour the history it represents. The owner has acted in bad faith and has pushed forward with a project that doesn’t suit the neighbourhood well. No attempt has been made to put forward a plan that incorporates the original structure,* which was a stipulation of the last proposed condo construction.

The proposed five-storey condo building goes against zoning laws that are in place to respect the aesthetic and atmosphere of the neighbourhood. We feel that it is very important to respect the established zoning laws to protect the integrity, beauty and diversity of the landscape. Having areas such as these with lower buildings creates a warm and friendly environment for pedestrians and residents alike. The height of the building would impose more shadow over the nearby retirement home and other neighbouring buildings. It would also greatly reduce the natural sunlight and skylight to all residents of 11 Hillside who face this direction. There would be a significant reduction of privacy to residents of 11 Hillside facing this direction as the space between the two properties is already quite limited.

We are equally concerned about the increased traffic that such a construction would inevitably introduce. Hillside Ave. is a crowded, narrow street with limited parking and traffic is already somewhat of a problem. The increase in the flow of traffic that would result from a large condo construction would be bad for the street. As well, the proposed location of the underground parking entrance, which is right next to the entrance of 11 Hillside’s parking garage, would pose a danger to pedestrians and motorists. There would certainly be a greater risk of collisions.

As residents and owners of unit 314 at 11 Hillside, we would be directly impacted by this proposal. Our building shares a wall with 1-3 Hillside and our unit looks out onto this historic brick building. The current historic structure with brick walls and trees provides our unit with a lovely and unique cachet. We want to ensure that this building is protected and not destroyed.

Instead of allowing this demolition and condo construction to go forward, the city of Westmount should expropriate the property. The owner is not taking care of their asset, so how can we assure that they will take care of the proposed plan if it were to go through? The property would be better suited as a community or recreational centre because there is a greater need for such centres. As a former public building, it would respect and uphold its original purpose.**

We thank you for considering our concerns and hope that the right decision is made regarding the future of this historic building.

DAVIKA TOEWS & CHARLES SAVARD, HILLSIDE AVE.

Editor’s notes: *Some people might think that the new plan does “incorporate” the current building. See June 15, p. 9 to decide for yourself. **For clarity, although the building was a (public building) armoury for many years (beginning in 1921 until 2014, then sold in 2017), it was built in 1910 as a private-sector riding school. See March 7, 2017, p. 1, April 25, 2017, p. 20 and May 15, 2018, p. RE-6. – DP.

SOLUTION WAS PROPOSED FOR TRUCKS ON GRASS

I have some information to add to the letter to the editor by Eva Echenberg (June 15, p. 8).

In 2016, during the photo opportunity for launching the so-called water feature in Prince Albert Park, I made a suggestion to Councillor Lulham regarding the main east-west path. At that time, the park paths were still under construction: wooden forms were laid, but no concrete had been poured. I pointed out to the councillor that, with the current path width, the turf on either side would be churned up by city and contractor trucks, and that earth and grass would have to be replaced every year. This is not to mention the safety (small children and seniors stumbling into deep water-filled ruts) and aesthetic aspects. Cllr. Lulham responded indifferently that the “contract had already been signed” and continued to disperse ice-lollipops to the children present.

Standard project management allows for *continued on p. 11*

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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Summer schedule

June 29 – no issue (Dominion Day observance)

July 6 & 13 – issues

July 20 & 27 and August 3 – no issues (regular summer break)

August 10 until Christmas – weekly issues

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“change orders” to fix issues that arise during implementation. However, a thorough “needs” assessment prior to writing plans and contracts eliminates the need for costly change orders. My suggestion to widen the path before the concrete was poured was based on simple observation of the mess created yearly by city and contractor vehicles in the park. Re-doing the paths in 2016 provided an excellent opportunity to fix this perennial issue. Alas, no one in authority seemed to care.

My only correction to Eva is that the turf destruction does not happen only twice a year; trucks invade the park several times a year. But, who cares? It's only the taxpayers' money.

STANLEY SCHMIDT, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

PRAISE FOR WESTMOUNT PARK

In response to Jo Lapierre's letter on June 8 (“Forget the plaudits – maintain the park, p. 6), it is unfortunate that Jo Lapierre can only find fault in our magnificent park.

I live near the park and walk through it at least twice a day with my dog and at other times as well. I consider it to be one of the most beautiful parks in Montreal, inspired by the designs of Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed Mount Royal Park and Central Park! I go to Outremont a lot because my kids and grandkids live there. Although they have beautiful parks, none can compare to Westmount Park. By the way, Westmount filled the lagoon at least two weeks before the St. Viateur Park lagoon.

I love the meandering paths that give you the feeling of a forest and the old trees with interesting trunks.

I am not alone in loving Westmount Park. People from all over come to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the park, which is one reason why repairs are always needed. It has been especially noticeable during the pandemic when the only place people could meet was in parks. Every time I pass by the gazebo, people are using it, which is why repairs may be needed.

I too noticed the broken water fountain in the dog park. Although my dog was disappointed, he had a long drink at home and forgot about it.

My only complaint about the park is the diesel buggies that go through to water the plants or collect trash. They are noisy and smelly. Perhaps Westmount could consider changing this.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Westmount for such a beautiful park.

DEBBIE BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

STOP STONEWALLING – DENY MELVILLE DEMO

In response to a question at the March 15 demolition hearing for 325 Melville, the mayor stated the city's intention was “not to hide anything.”

At a subsequent council meeting, the city clerk suggested a resident should make an access to information request for relevant documentation.

Such access requests were duly made for all the information on 325 Melville, which has traditionally been publicly accessible under long-standing practice going back decades, but which the city has inexplicably not voluntarily disclosed.

Those access requests were denied by the city without any rationale or justification and are now under investigation by the Commission d'accès à l'information.

The demolition process is, under Quebec law, a public consultation process. It is not a “private” or “civil” matter as is sometimes suggested. It is intended to allow full and transparent citizen participation.

To date, the city's process has fallen far short of the required standards for public hearings, in particular, in the areas of supporting documentation and transparency.

In fact, for the public hearing on June 23, not one document has been made publicly available that would support or justify the demolition of 325 Melville in any way.

Let's hope that despite the lack of transparency, the unfortunate stonewalling by the bureaucrats, and the failure to follow democratic, and frankly, reasonable, past practices, that the Demolition Committee will nevertheless do the right thing in the interests of its constituents and the city and turn down the demolition application for 325 Melville in unequivocal terms.

PETER F. HOFFMANN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

YES, I LOVE SQUIRRELS

This letter, a rebuttal to the June 1 *Westmount Independent's* publishing of a resident's squirrel complaint (“Yes, we hate squirrels,” p. 7), is to point out how squirrel-hating is a waste of time. They're smarter than you are, for one.

More importantly, leave “city animals” (in contrast to elephants, tigers and bears) alone as they try to eke out a life between our cars, pollution and hell-raising leaf-blowers!

So many animals' habitats are impacted or destroyed by human infrastructure, or animals are subjected to warehousing in chicken coops or pig sties (the cause, by the way, of avian and swine flu, respectively). Please, before you point the finger at animals, maybe think of something more important to complain about, while contemplating your lovely garden.

Especially, given all the COVID curfews and restrictions, they thought the coast was clear. Then not: I just saw, left to get run over many times, squirrel road-kill the other day on Grosvenor.

Squirrels aid our cities to diversity plant life and plant trees, *et cetera!* Read garden-experiments.com for one.

MICHELLE MACKAY SMITH,
SHERBROOKE ST.

DEMONSTRATION – INCLUDING NOISE – WAS PEACEFUL

I am writing this letter as a response to a letter to the *Independent* written by David Levy about demonstrations in front of the Israeli consulate on June 1 (p. 6) that appalled me. To my dismay, Mr. Levy jumbles facts and makes inferences as if in desperation (The times they are a changin'?).

He refers to the noise (a by-product of demonstrations). It happened that the *Independent* (in the same issue! p. 12) showed photographs of *peaceful crowds*, which I myself witnessed for a half hour. The car honking was brief and a by-product of such

manifestations. The proximity to three synagogues was not the choice of the participants since the consulate happens to be in that neighbourhood.

On May 15, the police presence was appropriately small. The increase of police for subsequent demos was obviously a police or consulate decision. Who broke the window and when?

A reference to the wave of hatred in the metropolitan area was completely irrelevant.

Most individuals were young and manifestly of comfortably-dressed Middle Eastern families who are sent here for studies. There was no air of intimidation, which the lady on Sherbrooke St. could not have seen in any case.

This demo was all about events in Israel-Palestine and not at all anti-Semitic. It was political and a reaction to a horrifying attempt to cause damage to an already beleaguered society.

EVTHYMOS KATSIKAS (FORMERLY OF THE MONTREAL DIALOGUE GROUP),
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

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Spring means graduations – including at The Study, Roslyn



The Study's kindergarten class on June 7, also described by communications and marketing director Susan Orr-Mongeau as the "class of 2032"!

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STUDY.



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▲ Some of the 72 Roslyn School grade 6 class of 2021 graduates are seen here on the morning of June 18 in the school's front yard on Westmount Ave. "They've had quite a challenging year, having to navigate a different type of learning online and getting along together in bubbles. I think they've had a huge learning curve that will leave them with some resilience for life. I think they're pretty ready to go onto high-school," said Roslyn principal Joanna Genobezos. The Roslyn School graduating committee, chaired by John Simpson, helped set up decorations in the front yard. A ceremony was then held in the school gym.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

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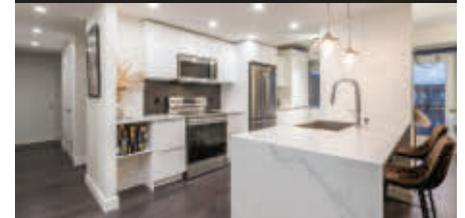
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Then ... now – Lansdowne hump disappears, re-appears



The “mother of all speed bumps” (as one Westmouter put it) on Lansdowne, which used to exist northbound and southbound just south of de Maisonneuve, as seen May 20, left, disappeared, leaving deep scars in the otherwise flat road surface, as photographed June 11, centre. It then re-appeared June 20, right, and now extends three quarters of the way into the bike path. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

A personal view: Speed bumps



BY DAVID PRICE

A reader told me that the new-this-season speed bumps on Olivier between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve were larger than the ones that they replaced and were causing even slow-moving cars to strike the asphalt. I investigated. It seems to be so, given these scratches on the more

southerly one photographed June 15.

Many Westmount vehicles, including ones that happened to pass by when I was there, are relatively high riding and so cleared the bump, depriving us of a “smoking gun” – although this one at right came close to hitting the surface.

Another thing happened as I took these pictures. A passer-by took great interest in

me and shot me dirty looks. Did she think that I was taking photos of road asphalt that would be useful in robbing nearby houses? Or maybe a photo of a moving vehicle would be useful in stealing it? (How? And how would I find it again after it passed me while I was on foot?)

“Paranoia strikes deep,” Buffalo Springfield told us in 1967, but I bet that they did

not expect this!

There is suspicious activity out there, people, and we should report it. But someone taking pictures of a roadway in broad daylight does not qualify. Two likely explanations, for a start: for an insurance claim or to complain to the city.

It could even be someone working on a story for the local newspaper.

Bonne *Fête nationale & Fête du Canada*

*En cette période de distanciation physique, je vous souhaite
de profiter de ces fêtes et de célébrer avec prudence.*

Happy *St-Jean-Baptiste & Canada Day*

*In this time of physical distancing,
I wish you safe and enjoyable holidays.*



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Caterpillar craziness!



"The Westmount summit is now overrun with caterpillars!" wrote Shana Rotstein to the *Independent* about her June 21 photo. "They ate the leaves on each tree and are now congregating on each stump!"

PHOTO COURTESY OF S. ROTSTEIN

Melville demolition, cont'd. from p. 1

some existing dwellings.

Many of these have been cited regarding previous development projects.

While the city has maintained that the purpose of the upcoming meeting is to focus on the actual demolition, the reasons for tearing down the building were not detailed in terms of its condition or safety during the first portion of the demo hearing March 15 of this year (see story March

23, p. 1).

While the names and addresses of all the recently posted letters were received within a 10-day legally required period ending May 4, many appear to emanate from the people living close to the Melville site.

The letters may be read in detail on the city's website along with plans for the project under resident zone/urban planning/demolition.

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There are no walls!



The next stage of work at 4898 de Maisonneuve (corner Prince Albert) began with a vengeance June 15 with the demolition of the existing building's brick façade. By the end of the day, the east and north walls were down, above. By the end of week, they were all gone, below, as seen from Prince Albert. The building is being "preserved" and turned into six townhouses, with two new "grand" townhouses to be built on the parking lot to the east.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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And they're gone: Groupe Maurice packs up satellite site at St. Catherine and York



The three trailers being parked on CP land in Westmount by the contactors building the Groupe Maurice seniors' residence in NDG at Claremont, St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve are gone. The *Independent* was alerted to the impending move by a resident at 8:44 am on June 16 and by the time we could get a photographer there at 1 pm, they were gone. Twenty residents of the York/St. Catherine neighbourhood recently petitioned city hall not to renew the occupancy permit (see April 6, p. 6), citing noise, dust and aesthetic concerns. The trailers were initially moved to the site in November of last year (see November 17, 2020, p. 1). The trailers of the Vendôme tunnel project, which are located a bit to the west, remain for the moment, despite the opening of that pedestrian tunnel and Metro entrance. Above, looking east on St. Catherine across the now-empty CP lot: the house whose back and backyard is at left has a York St. address.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



Looking west across St. Catherine St. at the trailers for the now open Vendôme tunnel project, with the MUHC super-hospital in the background.

Southbound/eastbound from de Maisonneuve/Claremont

Groupe Maurice project to close one lane of St. Catherine, sidewalk

The contractors building the Groupe Maurice seniors' residence in NDG at Claremont, St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve will be closing one lane of St. Catherine southbound/eastbound from de

Maisonneuve to the start of the eastwards bend, according to a letter distributed to residents of the neighbourhood last week.

This corresponds to the site's eastern edge and spans one of the two entrances

to it. The southern sidewalk will close in the same area all the way to Prince Albert. The letter forecast this closure to last 15 months.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

Pretty Pepper

foster family.

Coming from an adults-and-dog home, Pepper is not all that used to children and has never met a cat. She is a bit shy but this transition is a normal period for adaptation to a new environment.

She is very healthy but a little round (as she was not exercised very much in her previous family), and is already enjoying a more active lifestyle, getting on to a leash routine as well. Pepper is nine years young, vaccinated, spayed and microchipped, ready for adoption into a loving family in our neighbourhood. Please do not hesitate to contact the dedicated volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org for more information and adorable photographs.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Cutest-ever Falafel



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

This little fellow! Doesn't he put a smile on everyone's face?

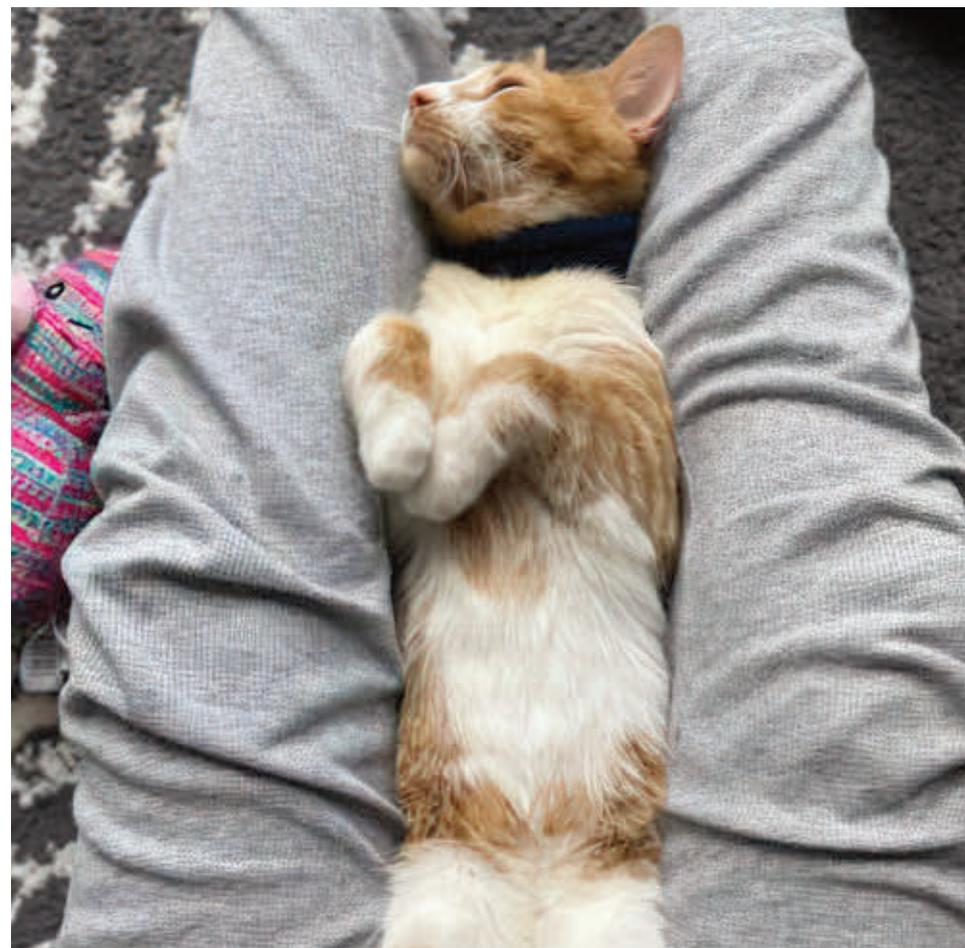
Falafel is so young, only a year old, so you can glimpse how sweet and wonderful life would be with him every day in the family. Cuddly, playful, adorable, he is a delightful white-and-caramel youngster.

Falafel is sparty and healthy, up to date

with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is due for a vet follow-up for allergies and some medicine to deal with it, so he is being presented for adoption on a humanitarian basis, which offers a reduced adoption fee.

Please refer to Falafel's identification number 47643658 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for him 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



Council approves 19 permit requests May 17, rejects 1

The following 19 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the May 17 meeting of the city council. There was one refusal.

These permit requests approved or rejected by city council are those that have been recommended or not by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), and apply to architecture and location. The issuance of the permit itself after this approval is not automatic or immediate.

Often, additional technical aspects must be checked, clarified and/or remedied as required by the city's Board of Inspections.

Approved

- 423 Lansdowne:** to build a new back terrace;
- 15 Renfrew:** to modify window and door openings at the back, replace windows, improve access to the back basement and modify a terrace;
- 4854 Sherbrooke:** to replace three signs by new ones for CBIC provided the height of lettering on the sign facing Victoria is reduced;
- 412 Roslyn:** to add a second floor above the

existing one-floor extension, the resulting 2-storey extension volume to be clad in a brick matching that existing and to replace the windows throughout the house with double hung metal-clad windows except for the dining room composite window on the side façade and the kitchen triple window on the rear façade;

- 336 Grosvenor:** to replace windows and a door;
- 599 Victoria:** to modify the rear by demolishing the rear deck, balcony and canopy, modifying window and door openings on the rear façade, enlarging a rear addition and building a rooftop deck above it provided the size of the rear ground-floor window opening (number W2) is further reduced in width in order to clear the adjacent Juliette balcony rails and to increase the amount of masonry to the left of said opening so that it matches the masonry width on the right side;
- 66 Arlington:** to modify an opening on the back façade;
- 315 Kensington:** to repair a front porch, approve the replacement of the front

porch deck with the proposed material which matches the colour, texture and details of the existing material, accordingly to guideline 1.1.3 (Restoration and replacement) of the *Guidelines for Renovating and Building in Westmount*;

- 68 Forden Cresc.:** to build a new back balcony;
- 653 Belmont:** to modify the rear of the building by demolishing the existing rear volumes, rear balcony and rear deck, building a small ground-floor addition adjacent to the garage, modifying window and door openings on the rear façade and to replace existing guard rails and windows provided the Simulated Divided Lites (with spacers) of the upper sash of the upper rear windows are increased in number to harmonize with those of the remainder of the house;
- 746 Upper Lansdowne:** at a Category I house, to block a window opening on the lateral façade and to modify an existing door opening at the rear;
- 722 Upper Roslyn:** to build a new elevated deck and stairs in the rear yard;
- 10 Rosemount:** to add a new louver and other exterior main floor installations on condition that the dense vegetation

and foliage is planted to in front of them to reduce visibility from the street;

- 4746 The Boulevard:** to replace some windows;
- 4825 Sherbrooke:** to install new signage for "Donato";
- 465 Mount Pleasant:** at a Category I house, to replace a guard-rail on a roof deck above a garage;
- 20 Sunnyside:** to build a solarium above one existing on the south façade with conditions;
- 562 Claremont:** to replace some windows;
- 448 Mount Stephen:** to replace a basement door.

Refused

- 471 Victoria:** this permit request is rejected given that it does not meet Guideline 6.1.3 of the guidelines entitled *Building and Renovating in Westmount*, which states that when retaining walls are required, dry stone or masonry walls are preferred. Whereas the existing retaining wall is made of natural stone, the proposed retaining wall is made of concrete covered with plaster and the proposed retaining wall is not of minimal height and is located near the street.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS FERMÉS

Les jeudis 24 juin et 1^{er} juillet 2021

Les bureaux municipaux et la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount seront fermés le 24 juin en raison de la Fête nationale du Québec et le 1^{er} juillet en raison de la Fête du Canada.

Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED

Thursdays, June 24th and July 1st, 2021

Westmount's municipal offices and Public Library will be closed on June 24th for the Fête nationale du Québec and on July 1st for the Canada Day holiday.

The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

Bonne Fête
nationale du
Québec !



Happy Saint-Jean
Baptiste Day!

Bonne fête du
Canada!



Happy Canada
Day!



Jennifer Maccarone
Députée de/MNA for Westmount–Saint-Louis



- f Jennifer Maccarone Députée/MNA
 @ jmaccarone
 jmaccarone
 (514) 395-2929
 Jennifer.Maccarone.WSL@assnat.qc.ca

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**CLASS OF
2021**



Photo taken respecting social distancing rules and edited.

Enjoying Father's Day in Westmount Park



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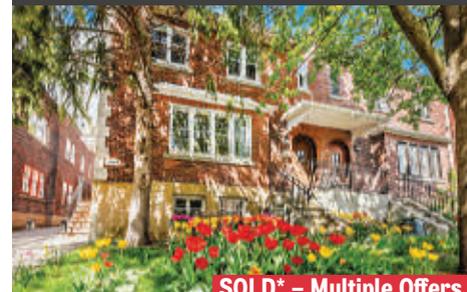
RENOVATORS DREAM SEMI-DETACHED HOME



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Westmount | 109 Av. Columbia

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Westmount adj. | 4901-4903 Av. Grosvenor

Wonderful Westmount finds for the summer

Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE



SaveNShip

Tired of calling shippers to complain that your package didn't arrive? (Actually, it did but got stolen.)

Tired of trying to open the rain-soaked parcel left at your door? Fed-up with fum-

bling to figure out how to pack that glass vase? Or simply need a proper street address – not a post box – for deliveries?

One solution is Westmount's SaveNShip. As a mail-box renter with SaveNShip, you can have your packages delivered to their address. The team will hold your deliveries so that you can pick them up at your convenience. They will also carefully wrap that precious heirloom so it can be

shipped by them throughout the world. Open seven days a week, SaveNShip is also a distributor for all major carriers – UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc. "We offer the same service with better rates," explained vp corporate affairs/owner Ronnie Midlash. (Midlash is also a renowned local personality as his gleaming white 2017 Ferrari purrs along St. Catherine St. to admiring glances. "I used to have a Lamborghini," he laughs.) Ronnie works with his daughter Stephanie.

SAVENSHIP

4267 St. Catherine St.

514.501.9001

Monday: 10 am to 6 pm

Tuesday to Friday: 10 am to 7 pm

Saturday: 11 am to 6 pm

Sunday: 12 am to 5 pm

Fade2Brooklyn

Leasing space at SaveNShip are hip former-New York stylists Carlos Pereda and Dimitri Aubain. Complete with a barber pole, Fade2Brooklyn not only provides the classic services of a barber shop, but also pampering. "Our clients enjoy hot towel shaves, particularly during the past stressful months of the pandemic." Unlike

many barber shops, the space offers ornate embellishments. Forget "less is more." Their Versace-vibed salon boasts golden touches, including baroque mirrors and a lion's head with a magnificent mane. Respecting COVID regulations, the staff still takes 10 minutes between each client to clean the area. Young and old alike are loving the cool-cut culture.

FADE2BROOKLYN

4267 St. Catherine St.

514.907.3440

Monday to Friday: 9 am to 5:30 pm XX

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

Tai chi in the park

What better way to enjoy the peace of summer days than the ancient art of tai chi?

While strolling through our wonderful Westmount Park, I noticed a man leading a group in graceful movements. Ever curious, I discovered it was tai chi, performed by expert Sebastian Constantine, who has practised this art for the past 20 years.

Trained in China, he is affiliated with the Tian Tan School in Beijing. He also "learned traditional Thai massage, and studied *continued on p. 26*



Ronnie Midlash, Dimitri Aubain and Carlos Pereda.



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Sebastian Constantine with some faithful followers.

Police Report

Bibliophile burglars leave empty handed after break-in

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The perpetrators of a break-in at a home near the corner of Sydenham Ave. and The Boulevard in upper Westmount seemed interested in books, but not so much in portable computers, investigators with the Montreal police at Station 12 suggest in a report on the incident.

According to the report, sometime between 6:30 pm on June 4 and 9:30 am on June 5 when the home owners were out, an intruder gained entry into the house through a back door on which the insect screening was later found to have been cut.

As is often the case with home break-ins, the burglars had drawn the window coverings closed so that they wouldn't be seen from the street. "They pulled the blinds closed so they could search

through," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

Upon their return, the owners saw that someone had been there while they were out. There were signs that closets, drawers and cupboards had been searched and their contents were scattered on the floor.

However, two laptop computers in full view were ignored.

But at the same time, books that were part of a substantial library in the ground floor front room were found to have been searched.

Outside on the east side of the house, the investigators found a patch of lawn that had been flattened by footprints, leading them to believe this was the escape route.

In the end, nothing was reported to have been stolen. "Things were searched but nothing was stolen," Pimentel said.

kening to the spiritual tai chi concept, we become more present in day-to-day life. The elegant movements of tai chi seem easy, yet they are actually challenging. Muscles have to relax under load, which is as demanding as contracting."

Centre Greene offers Sebastian's courses. And devoted fans follow him outdoors (the

best!) in Westmount Park. Even though our lives our "opening up," perhaps now more than ever we need this centuries-old calm way of staying fit: Balance in motion.

TAI CHI IN THE PARK. WEEKLY
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Retail, cont'd. from p.25

nursing to enlarge my medical knowledge. Before COVID, I offered Thai massage at my Westmount studio and gave courses at seven community centres."

He explained that tai chi can be experienced differently according to age. "For younger students, I have been offering the traditional Chen style, which is a demanding exercise closer to kung fu. For mature students, tai chi is an excellent exercise that helps de-stress while improving stability and balance."

"During these challenging times, tai chi could be a great ally, as it encourages relaxing and focusing at the same time. Har-

News

- Peluche Petshop is arriving in Westmount. Opening in the former Crystal Sushi Bar, corner Wood and St. Catherine streets, the boutique will carry all good things to eat for dogs and cats. Oh, and treats, of course! Stay tuned for details. 4075 St. Catherine St.
- As long line-ups attest outside the shop, most locals know that LuLuLemon has re-opened. 4895 Sherbrooke, corner Prince Albert.

O'Connor tapped as head of St. George's School

Michael O'Connor will begin his tenure as St. George's 15th head of school on July 1, according to a letter that the board of directors of The Boulevard institution sent out to the school's community June 16. The school's elementary campus is in Westmount at Aberdeen, with the high school just east of city boundaries at Ramezay.

O'Connor received his bachelor of education and physical and health education in 2006 from McGill University and is currently completing a master of arts, educational leadership, at McGill.

O'Connor began his 14-year career at the school, initially as a physical education teacher at the elementary campus in 2007. He has held the position of assistant head, high school, for the last seven years.

"Many of you may already know Mr. O'Connor ('Mr. O' for the students) as a natural relationship builder with contagious positive energy," enthused the board. "He is an inspirational model and communicator of St. George's mission and vision. Mr. O'Connor is devoted to the well-being and growth of each student.

"He is also a fervent advocate of progressive education and research-based practices. He empowers faculty, staff, students and parents to grapple with issues using innovation, creativity and true partnership. In addition, Mr. O'Connor leads by example in supporting sustainable initiatives."



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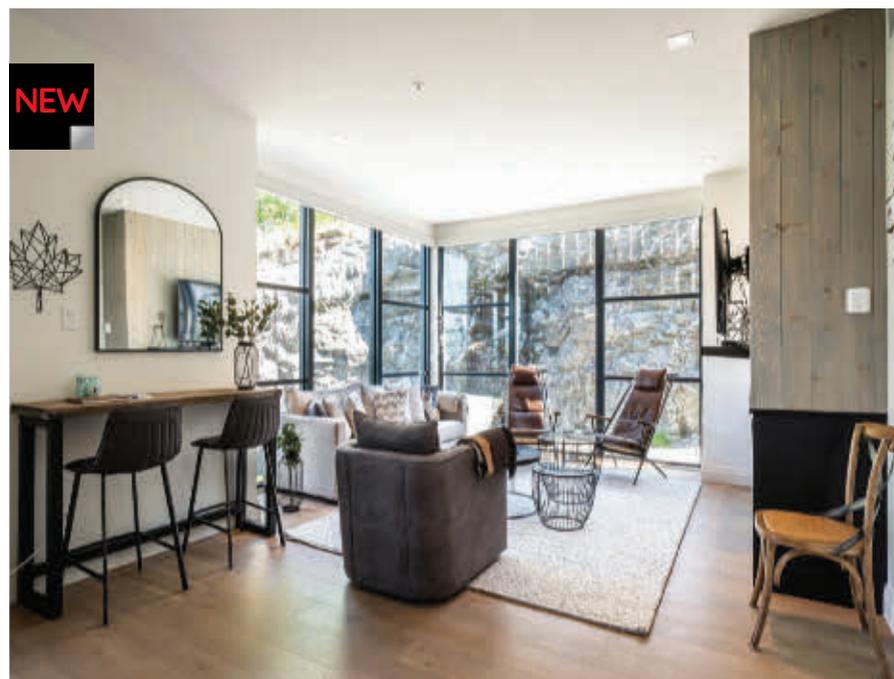
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