

## Proof of vaccination needed for indoor Sports and Rec

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The vaccination passport, or other proof of vaccination required by Quebec as of September 1, is another “COVID hurdle” to jump over for the city’s Sports and Recreation department, director Dave Lapointe said last week.

Proof of vaccination for anyone 13 years of age or older can be on paper, in a PDF on a mobile device, or on the VaxiCode application. It also requires photo ID. This applies to all the group recreational activities taking place at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), Victoria Hall, Westmount High, Selwyn House and the Royal Montreal Regiment’s armoury.

Participants in any of the programs were sent an email August 30 suggesting the option of emailing in their QR code, which allows their name to be entered on

an entry list, Lapointe said.

“Given the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the buildings where Westmount programming takes place will be limited to the participant,” it states. For youth programs, one accompanying parent will be permitted but will also require proof of vaccination.

The proof of vaccination through any of the accepted means provided by the Quebec government applies to all participants, parents, coaches, volunteers, officials and spectators wishing to gain access to any of the buildings listed.

Once the pool closes September 6, the WRC’s Lansdowne entrance will be closed, allowing entry only from the parking lot door at Academy Rd., Lapointe explained.

Cancellations and refund requests can be submitted to Sports and Recreation.

## School’s back!



Mr. Bardon, right, and his daughter had already bicycled 14 km from their home in Ahunsiac by 8 am September 3. The high school student was off to her classes at L’École internationale de Montréal on Côte St. Antoine Rd. near Clarke Ave.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

## Planning for 2022 in progress

### 64 of 96 capital works projects done or committed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the restoration of the city’s heritage greenhouses is slightly delayed from October but on track for completion in December, it’s been somewhat of a rocky road for some of this year’s intended major work due to pandemic market conditions, Westmount’s interim assistant director

general Bruce St. Louis said last week.

This has resulted in deferring some of the total 96 budgetted projects “to let the market cool,” but has opened the door to others on a “back-up list,” St. Louis told the *Independent*.

As of August 30, however, 97 percent of the record \$27.2-million budget envelope had been

*continued on p. 11*

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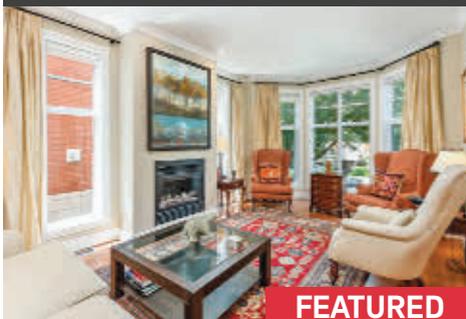
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**Total budget could be some \$200,000**

## City sets pay for 160-200 municipal election workers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Elections don't come cheap. And this year, the city's one could be more expensive than ever given COVID and a mail-in vote as an option for residents aged 70 or more. The amount appropriated for this year's election November 7 is \$200,000.

The pay scale and remuneration of election staff was established by city council August 16 for before, during and after the day of the vote. These were based on an estimated 160 to 200 people to be hired in different functions, including work at polling stations, explained Councillor Jeff Shamie in moving the resolution.

On the other hand, the number of workers required and costs would depend largely on the number of contested council seats and polling stations, confirmed city finance director Julie Mandeville.

In the 2017 election, for example, when there were elections in six of the eight councillor districts plus a mayoral election, the final total of costs was \$146,775, she said.

According to Quebec legislation, every election officer is entitled to receive remuneration or an expense allowance for duties performed as set by the municipality as well as for attending training sessions.

Among the fees established for this election are a flat tariff for the returning officer of \$9,500, \$7,125 for the election clerk and \$35 an hour for up to two administrative assistants.

Also set is a lengthy list of remuneration for many others in work required for polling day, advance polling and afterward. These include eight various positions, for example: a poll clerk at \$290 a day and an officer in charge of information at \$450 a

day.

As a special COVID measure "we will keep the same rates" for both advanced polling and actual polling because both days are likely to be busy, Shamie explained. "Most other municipalities have established this policy."

There are also hourly rates set for those needed for the mail-in vote (see story June 15, p. 13) as well as for the board of revisors and for verification of a variety of election expenses.

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Letters, p. 9

Pet Page, p. 26

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**Dodge on March real estate transfers, p. 22**

**House History: 10 Renfrew, p. 28**



infoWestmount, p. 24



City hall on September 3, where the municipal election winners may meet, COVID protocols permitting. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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## THANK YOU!

During this Holiday Season I want to take a moment to thank all my clients, friends and family for all that you do, especially during these difficult times.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year! Shana Tova!

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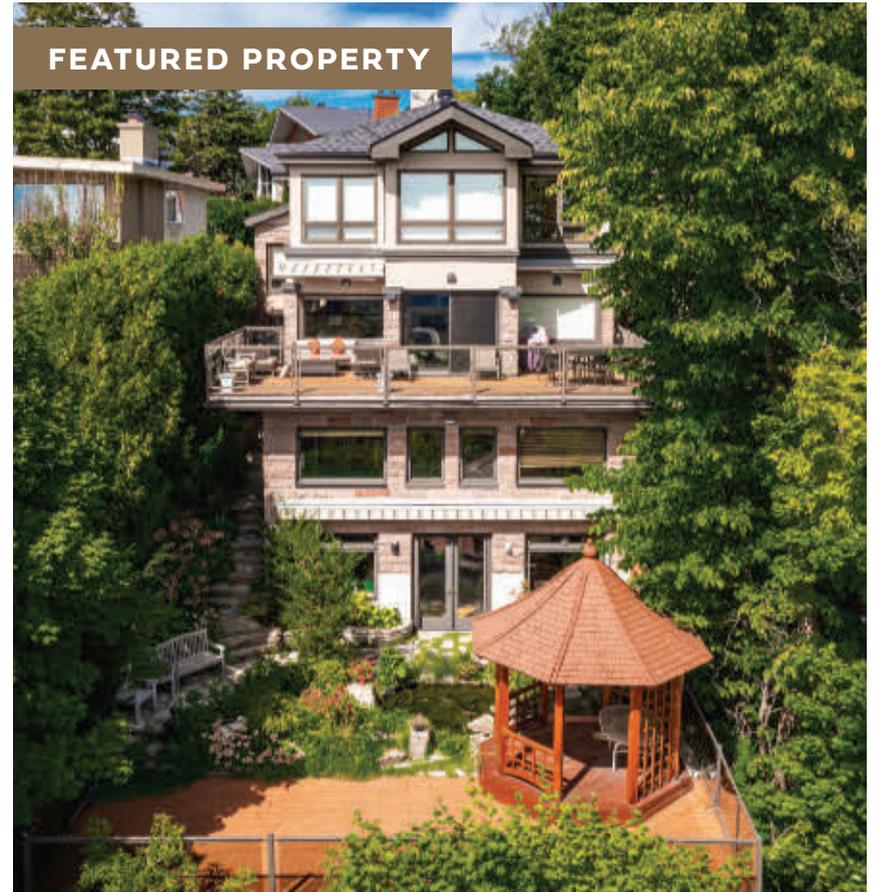


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## Night checks find 48 homes 'invited' burglars

Night-check advisory forms were left at 48 Westmount houses between August 14 and 31 when Public Security patrollers noticed telltale signs of residents being absent. Most of them were for an accumulation of newspapers, mail and packages as well as a lack of lighting, said department director Greg McBain. "We were looking for signs that no one was home and a clear invitation to burglars."

## Found puppy returned to owner

Passers-by reported a black female Labrador puppy running loose August 29 at 5:21 pm near 439 Lansdowne, Public Security officials said. It was taken to the department's offices on Stanton St.

After 45 minutes, a call was received from its owners seeking the pup. After providing proof of ownership, they were able to retrieve the three-month-old along with information on how to obtain a permit for it once it reached six months of age. This is the time by which it is required to have medical and vaccination papers. It turned out the puppy lived down the street.

## Delivery company fined \$1,300

A crane was found hoisting a pallet of sheet-board to a house under construction on Edgehill Rd., August 27, Public Security officials said. The machine was occupying a portion of the street while its stabilizers were on the sidewalk.

Public Security was called at 10:43 am by a Public Works official who stated it did not have a city permit to occupy the public domain. The work, which was almost completed, was allowed to continue but the company carrying out the work was sent a \$1,300 fine.

### Back-to-school means:

**Westmount Public Security 'blitz',** p. 7

**Traffic!** p. 14

**Montreal police safety campaign,** p. 31



Happy 5782 to all our clients, friends and family; enjoy a sweet year filled with good health, peace and prosperity

*Bunny Berke & Larry Lusko*

# Public Security patrols ‘blitzing’ back-to-school safety

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

With many different times and types of traffic congestion around the many schools in Westmount, public safety officers began checking out the various school zones last week when most students returned in force, director Greg McBain said. The blitz is under way through the month of September.

“We’re checking on traffic flow, reminding parents of drop-off safety and keeping school bus zones clear,” he explained.

Brochures providing safety tips are being handed out as well as warning tickets. These are to be replaced by regular paying tickets once people have had time to adjust to the various procedures.

With the reopening of Westmount Park School after extensive renovations last year, the drop-off and pick-up point for school buses has been refined to improve traffic flow. The large yellow buses are now parking in front of the school and Academy Rd. Previously they stopped on Park Place, which brought through traffic to a virtual stand-still, McBain said.

### Bus zones changed

The change means that these busses



Park Place and Academy Rd. on September 3.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

now head north on Park Place, stop in front of the school and exit south on Melville to St. Catherine. Smaller buses and adapted transport will be the only ones parking on Park Place.

Among some of the safety tips provided in the brochure are: don’t double park, always pull into a curb and never load or unload children across the street from a school but park a block away. It is also im-

portant to observe time limits in specified zone and to keep an eye out for children to unexpectedly dart across the street.

## Cat & mouse ... and dog

*Lucy & Tyson*



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## EDITORIAL

Vaccination & vaccine certificates? Yes – Digital, internal passports? No

## It's a Brave New World, and we're all micro-serfs now

"The databank knows my number  
Says I gotta pay 'cause I made the  
grade last year"

– "Who Made Who" performed by  
AC/DC and written by Malcom Young,  
Angus Young & Brian Johnson (1986)

Who knew that the Young brothers and Brian Johnson would be innocent and naïve in their analysis? In 2021, the provincial government's data bank – Vaxi-Code/VaxiCode Verif, which came online September 1 – doesn't just know that you "made the grade," it knows where you are and were, or likely will soon.

The app is currently not designed – we are told – to link up to a central site or track movements, but the government could change that – as it has changed many things over the years and over the course of this pandemic – and, of course, hackers may do what the government itself is not officially doing. It also allegedly works on machines not connected to the internet, but how many are there of those? And why, once we've shown the QR code to an establishment that knows us, must we show it again *each time*? One cannot get de-vaccinated and become a danger after having been scanned once, but to be useful/dan-

gerous as a tracking device one must be scanned over and over again.

Of course, the current provincial government is not emphasizing the negative. According to Éric Caire, the province's digital transformation minister (a truly scary title if ever there was one): "I want to be very clear, the QR code has not been falsified, it has not modified and it remains secure." (CBC website, August 27, 10:31 am).

This statement is about as convincing as the Wizard of Oz saying – after having been discovered as a fraud – "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain."

Why? *The code had already been hacked*, days before implementation.

But don't trust me. *The Journal de Montréal* reported on August 20: "Vos données à risque sur le passeport vaccinal" and then on August 27: "Preuve vaccinale du PM piratée/Des hackers ont facilement réussi à télécharger les codes QR d'au moins six politiciens et de chroniqueurs."

I don't know if they teach George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in Quebec schools, but his insights are as fresh as when they were published in 1949: "The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears."

(The provincial government also dab-

bles in doublethink. The app and QR code are not hackable, it says, but doing so will lead to prosecution. Or is it considering a slew of prosecutions for *attempted* hacks?) But let's give the CAQ-ists a Mulligan.

Even though most of the CAQ cabinet ministers don't look like master coders with the expertise to assure us and even though their statements have already been shown to be false, let's say that "QR 2.0" is secure by, say, September 15.

That security won't last.

### *This thing is only just beginning*

This is not Newtonian physics: once discovered, seemingly immutable. Coders in basements across the world *are just getting started* on hacking this QR code and its affiliated apps.

And that's just the amateurs. Surely any security service worth its salt will also be working on a hack, if not for use against Quebecers then at least as an exercise. The same is true of tech companies.

The angles of attack are many: build fake QR codes for non-existent people or ones who haven't been vaccinated, duplicate the QR codes of actual ones, attach code to the legitimate app to track people, create a fake app that masquerades as the real one, create code that reads QR codes at the same time as the legitimate app, create code that reads the legitimate app, be a rogue retailer who bundles information for sale to third parties, plus many other routes to access, sell and use information that only a coder would be able to describe.

The list is as endless as the possible motives: bragging rights, practice for other hacks, greed, blackmail, personal spying and vendettas, criminal law, civil cases, tax enforcement, political ends, warfare.

And don't forget some of the least trustworthy entities of all: our own governments, in this case the Quebec one, which has been at war with its own minorities, and the freedom of choice of its majority, since the provincial Liberals' Bill 22 in 1974 and the PQ's Bill 101 in 1977. The CAQ is working on its versions of these acts, and its lack of trustworthiness was shown (to the five people who didn't already know) when it mused about creating a list of "historic" anglos who would be able to receive government services in English. Pair that list with a QR app and see where we end up!

And don't expect the hackers to send a press release when they succeed, the way

the "white hat" hackers do. The use of this information could be years in the future, in ways that might not even be easily evident or conceived of today.

And already the scope of the app is growing. *Global News Morning* reported September 2 that a Montreal salon owner is using it for her establishment, even though she is not required to. More data!

### *The choice to be unfree*

If part of Orwell's genius was his bleak, aphoristic style, the genius of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* was showing how dystopia would actually be desired. Old-timey totalitarians had to pay their security forces, or risk having them turn on the regime (or be unreliable). How 20th century! The digital totalitarians can rely on their security forces volunteering for duty *for free* and the inmates also choosing to put on the digital chain willingly.

In the movie *The Terminator*, people are tattooed with barcodes by the worldwide computer system Skynet. Why go to the hassle and suffer the PR blowback of all that when you can coerce people into downloading the barcode themselves? Want to go to a restaurant? Get your barcode, says the government.

*Gazette* cartoonist Boris/Jacques Goldstyn has a September 2 cartoon of a man getting a QR code as a tattoo. I don't know if he intends this as a joke or a warning. I would endorse the latter.

Asking for "dumb technology" vaccine certificates (i.e. a plastic ID card that is not scannable or scanned) in relevant locations makes perfect sense. Unvaccinated people should not be allowed to create problems for everyone else. But this app is the first step into a nightmarish future.

### *Editor's note*

## Letters to the editor policy for end of election period

In keeping with our practice during the previous three municipal election campaigns, letters to the editor published in our last issue (November 2) before the November 7 election that mention a candidate *will be shown* to that candidate for possible rebuttal in the same issue. There will be no second "right of reply" to this possible reply. – DP

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WATER DISCOVERED BY RESIDENT, NOT PUBLIC SECURITY

I'm writing regarding the piece in the August 31 *Independent* entitled "Public Security discovers water infiltrating into library" (p. 10). I'm not sure the credit for discovering the incident is accurate. I take almost daily early morning walks in the park. On August 21, I noticed water gushing from the library lawn. When I got home from my walk, I telephoned Public Security to ask if the city was aware. I explained it looked like it might be a pipe break and I described the location. I made the call between 8 am and 8:30 am, and I gave my name. I did not take the name of the officer with whom I spoke, but I do remember it was a woman. She said Public Security was not aware if this situation and she would send someone to check it out. This phone exchange suggests the last paragraph of the article, which credits Public Security with the discovery, might not be 100-percent accurate.

CAROLYN SAMUEL, METCALFE AVE.

### TURF OUT FEDERAL LIBERALS

Like letter writer Craig Cormack (August 31, p. 9), I discussed politics with Marc Garneau (impromptu meeting at Metro Victoria). I appreciated what he had to say and I voted for him in 2015. Since then, I've grown sadder and wiser while being subjected to Mr. Trudeau's unending scandals and gaffes. I have written to our MP Marc Garneau and telephoned three times leaving messages at his Westmount riding office. I have not had the courtesy of a reply.

It's clear that Mr. Garneau's morals have been corrupted while in Ottawa or perhaps he just fooled me. The entire remaining Liberal caucus has stood by mute, enabling Trudeau. This government has acted with extreme incompetence, disdain for citizens and dishonour, and fully deserves to be turfed out.

STEPHEN COHEN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

### REMOVE THE POSTERS POST-ELECTION

Am I alone in being irritated every few years after an election, any election, at seeing the by-then pointless posters visually polluting our streets? It's bad enough to have to put up with the candidates' "smiling" faces *before* the election, with their empty promises of fairness and prosperity – which we know will never be attained.

I accept this as a small price to pay for democracy, which many other nations

would give their eye-teeth for. (And yes, I have purposely ended the previous sentence with a preposition purely for the sake of emphasis.)

But I digress. Here's my suggestion to end this visual pollution after an election: allow each party, say, four days to remove all their posters; this year it could be by Friday, September 24 [for the federal election]. After this, the political party concerned would be fined \$50 (or more if you wish) for each poster still remaining up after the deadline.

I don't know the mechanics of such a by-law, or how it could be implemented, but I'm guessing it wouldn't be difficult to put into effect.

A simple time-stamped photo and location could be sent to each party HQ and the numbers published; a sort of public shaming, if you will.

WILFRID DE FREITAS, KITCHENER AVE.

### EXTEND WESTMOUNT PARK EASTWARDS

The love for Westmount Park has been made evident by the number of letters generated on its behalf this summer.

Frederick Law Olmsted's inspiration is palpable. Is it not an auspicious time to consider Olmsted's way of extending the park experience into the community, the greenway?

A greenway is a multi-use active transportation corridor for people who are cycling, running, walking, pushing a stroller. And it is green – a park-like setting with trees for cooling the adjoining neighbourhood and ground cover to soak up storm water. De Maisonneuve from Melville to Wood presents a natural candidate. It runs next to the most dense residential area of Westmount.

Even while there was the bustle of construction [in this stretch over the summer], it was evident that citizens enjoyed this green canyon of mature trees far away from vehicle-dominated arteries.

Why not complete that canyon at ground level by linearly extending the ground cover of Westmount Park eastwards?

In other words, reduce the width of the street to the minimum required for vehicular access of residents, the only vehicles to be allowed access. The space gained would become parkland of shrubbery, flower beds, berry bushes, green alcoves, trellis gardens. The imagination reels at the possibilities. This most dense, most sustainable part of Westmount deserves such consideration.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

### PRENONS EN CONSIDÉRATION LA POSSIBILITÉ D'UN SENTIER AU SUD DE LA PISTE CYCLABLE

Les arguments concernant le sentier piétons "east-west path through Westmount park" sont intéressants. Peter Weldon et l'éditeur (August 24, p. 9) semblent d'accord: c'est une mauvaise idée de mettre un sentier piétons au sud de la piste cyclable.

Il me semble néanmoins que l'idée vaut la peine d'être étudiée.

Cela permettrait aux piétons qui empruntent Maisonneuve (au sud) de continuer leur marche sans avoir à traverser deux fois la piste cyclable, au croisement de Melville et de Lansdowne. Simplement il faut considérer cet axe comme une voie de transit pour les nombreuses personnes marchant vers/depuis les stations de métro ou le site Glen. Ce sentier redeviendrait alors le prolongement naturel et sécuritaire du trottoir sud de la rue Maisonneuve.

Quant à la rénovation du parc, je comprends les craintes devant un projet majeur. Mais les réparations successives, le ciment vieillissant, les fuites d'eaux, les remplacements variés de surfaces et de matériaux, cela n'est pas très esthétique et cela finit par être coûteux.

Il doit être possible d'avoir une vision pour l'avenir en respectant l'oeuvre de Olmsted, non?

BARBARA ROUBERT, AVE. METCALFE

### MAINTAIN, DON'T SPOIL, WESTMOUNT PARK

During the city-wide discussion about the future of Westmount Park, three features of the debate stand out.

*Public opinion.* Citizens have made it abundantly clear that they want the park to be properly maintained, not spoiled by unwise interventions. In consultations and in public discussion, residents have been adamant about not wanting unneeded infrastructure, such as an amphitheatre or suspended walkways.

*Westmount's landscape tradition.* Westmount Park has been designed following North American landscape practice. Frederick Law Olmsted did not work personally here, but his success with Mount Royal Park inspired city leaders in 1898 to have their own Olmsted approach and they corresponded with the Olmsted firm in Brookline, Mass. (see "Olmsted Brothers to Chairman of the Park Committee, Town of Westmount, August 1, 1899," "Library of Congress, Wash. D.C."). The Olmsted Brothers stressed the "landscape effect" for Westmount Park and emphasized that "features should be so contrived as to interfere with the landscape in the least possible degree."

*Municipal democracy.* Westmounter Jason Prince has just co-edited a very important book entitled *Montréal: A Citizens Guide To City Politics*. Veteran reporter Linda Gyulai contributes a chapter, "Power and City Hall," that demonstrates the deeply undemocratic rules governing all municipalities in Quebec, and this includes Westmount, which has the same closed-room meetings governing executive decisions that all other Quebec cities have.

These facts converge. The public in Westmount are against uncontrolled ambitions to re-make Westmount Park. And public opinion fits in with the landscape tradition that Westmount has followed for more than 100 years. Finally, Westmount suffers from the same democratic deficit as other municipalities – so the mayor and councillors should listen to citizens and not cling stubbornly to grandiose ideas that will spoil Westmount Park.

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

### MAYBE WE CAN FOREGO A LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Regarding your response to Susan Kazenel's criticism of "display of vulgarity" (August 31, p. 9), I disagree entirely with your opinion and your questionable sense of humour. If that is news, maybe we can forego the luxury of a local printed newspaper. And while there might be things more important than civility, many people feel that civility is indeed very important.

We only have to look south of our border to see where a lack of civility (among other problems) has taken that country.

The other so-called news you offered this week is that of two cars wanting one parking space (p. 24). Again, amazingly, you printed the same swear word that was indicated on the "funny" flag, as if to thumb your nose at anyone who might be sensitive to swear words. Even children know not to say the "f" word in front of adults, but you deem it appropriate for publication. I guess there are some things you didn't learn in kindergarten.

LYNDA TAYLOR, STRATHCONA AVE.

*Editor's reply:* Both events happened without any encouragement or scheduling from me, coincidentally a week apart. I will not treat our readers like children by shielding them from reality or sanitizing it, nor will I indulge in neo-Victorian/neo-Puritan Bowdlerizing, especially in an important story about an incident that was possibly seconds away from a road-rage incident. Details matter.

Cancelling a newspaper because of two tiny words that you don't like in two true, tiny news stories? For doing its job? That's a scary attitude towards a free press! – DP



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# Status of greenhouses and other key projects



New underground electrical cables that will power the greenhouses, left, and dirt from digging work, as seen September 3 south of the work greenhouses.



PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Highlights of the city's key major projects to date for 2021 include a closer look at their progress and status to date as provided last week by interim assistant director general Bruce St. Louis.

The restoration of the heritage greenhouse portion – the conservatory and frog pond – appears to be on the last leg of its \$5.3-million journey for study and eventual work based on net costs to the city exclud-

ing taxes. Its expected completion date is December 16.

Inspections of this work take place weekly, St. Louis said.

“Work is going well but was delayed when a sewer line was found behind it. There are always surprises.”

What remains is putting in place the framework and glass but it is only after this construction ends that interior work such as the installation of plants will begin.

This year's upgrade to the Victoria Hall

mechanical room, costing \$721,200, is expected to continue until November 30, while a major upgrade of the mechanical room at Westmount Public Library at \$345,400 has an end date of September 15.

## Road work under way till Nov.

While major work on city buildings accounts for almost \$10 million of the record \$27.2-million capital budget, the lion's share involves the combined total of road excavation that includes sewers, and water

main replacement and rehabilitation at \$12 million.

The biggest road project – due to wrap up October 22 – is the \$4.76 million total reconstruction of Sunnyside between Upper Bellevue and Belvedere. This also involves Hydro Westmount work. It is one of the projects deferred to this year from the 2020 budget.

Another major road project is the \$2.6-million reconstruction of Mount Stephen including replacement of the water main and Hydro Westmount work. This is to be completed by October 30. Meanwhile, the water main rehabilitation of Lexington at \$931,000 was expected to be finished August 31.

## Planning, cont'd from p. 1

spent or committed, leaving three percent or \$803,000 in reserve as a cushion “for the time being,” St. Louis said.

His forecast: “It's looking pretty good.”

Of the total 96 projects, 64 are either complete, in progress or about to start. “It's way too early” to estimate final figures, he said.

Among unexpected issues encountered this year are escalating costs of asphalt and concrete by 25 to 50 percent, a lack of competitive tender bids in some cases and a scarcity of electronic chips. These chips are essential for the final assembly of six urgently needed hybrid vehicles for Public Security to replace those from 2015 that are at the end of their service life.

“The escalating cost of construction material has had a huge impact,” St. Louis explained.

“Two weeks ago, we opened tenders for repaving in a lane near Greene as well as a project on Sydenham that were both light years apart from what had been estimated and as a result have been deferred.”

Others put off include the re-building of the Roslyn steps, restoration of the pond and water feature in King George (Murray) Park as well as window restoration at city hall and a number of others such as some pertaining to IT, which are yet to be deter-



Bruce St. Louis, interim assistant director general, photographed last week.

mined for this year.

## Changes required

The completed work includes one project that spilled over from last year. This was the portion of the city hall roof whose work, completed at the end of March this year, was required to be accounted for in 2021 even though begun under the 2020 budget year.

Among some of the back-up projects benefitting from the deferral of others are preliminary preparation for next year's project to update Devon Park, improved security at Hydro Westmount's Glen power house and the purchase of a digger. This is a backhoe for Public Works to replace the challenges of having to rent one, “especially in a 2 am emergency,” St. Louis said.

The work of a capital works team to monitor the 2021 work has been proceeding in parallel to preparing a blueprint for the 2022 budget, which is now under way. An overall three-year program has to be completed by September 17 for fine-tuning and presentation to the council soon after, he said.

See story November 24, 2020, p. 8 for summary of 2021 projects by category.

## Looking ahead to The Boulevard

Tender bids were being opened last week for the preparatory work in 2021 for reconstructing The Boulevard “which is exciting,” St. Louis said. These are for surveying and soil sampling (for contaminated material).

The Boulevard work will be a “complicated multi-year project” involving many utilities (see also story November 24, 2020, p. 8).

These include the Montreal agglomeration's water mains (those of 10-inch diameter or larger), Énergir (the former Gaz-Met) gas lines, Hydro Westmount and Bell. The required coordination means that actual work will likely not start until 2023, he said.

## Playground work

At the city's playgrounds, installation of the splash pad and landscaping at Stayner Park, costing \$384,300, has been completed while new playground equipment and a re-do of the landscaping for Somerville Tot Lot at \$262,200 has an end date of October 30.

Here today – gone tomorrow

## Vendôme tunnel site on Westmount-NDG border winding down



Trucks were removing material and equipment September 2 from this worksite on St. Catherine at York St. just over the border in NDG, above. The yard near the southwest corner of the city was used during the work of Société de Montréal (STM) on the pedestrian tunnel from de Maisonneuve and the Vendôme Metro station to the McGill University Health Centre's Glen hospital, which opened May 31 (see June 8, p. 24). The trailers used as offices have been disappearing over the previous months, as seen, from left, June 1, August 11 and August 17, below.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT



### Les rencontres du 15 septembre et du 29 septembre 2021 pour les parents à Saint-Léon de Westmount - Catéchèse 2021-2022

Le mercredi 15 septembre 2021, à 18h30 au 310, avenue Clarke, en la salle Oscar-Gauthier, aura lieu la première rencontre d'informations sur les parcours de catéchèse offerts aux jeunes et à leurs parents.

Le mercredi 29 septembre 2021, à 18h30 au 310, avenue Clarke, en la salle Oscar-Gauthier, aura lieu la seconde rencontre d'informations sur les parcours de catéchèse offerts aux jeunes et à leurs parents.

Les inscriptions aux parcours auront lieu à 19h ce soir-là.

Pour de plus amples renseignements : Église Saint-Léon de Westmount  
[catsaintleon@gmail.com](mailto:catsaintleon@gmail.com) - [www.paroisse-saint-leon.org](http://www.paroisse-saint-leon.org)

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Par la poste – Faites votre demande avant le mardi 14 septembre, 18 h

By mail – Apply by Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.



À n'importe quel bureau d'Élections Canada avant le mardi 14 septembre, 18 h

At any Elections Canada office before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.

Consultez votre carte d'information de l'électeur pour connaître toutes les façons de voter.

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## Lorsque vous allez voter : When you go to vote, don't forget:



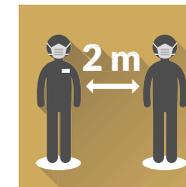
Portez un masque

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Respectez la distanciation physique : tenez-vous à au moins deux mètres des autres personnes

Practice physical distancing by staying at least two metres away from voters and poll workers

Si vous avez obtenu un résultat positif, avez des symptômes de COVID-19 ou avez été en contact avec une personne infectée, **visitez elections.ca pour présenter une demande de vote par la poste.** Vous avez jusqu'au mardi 14 septembre, 18 h, pour faire votre demande.

If you have tested positive for or have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been in contact with someone who has the virus, **visit elections.ca to apply to vote by mail.** You have until Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m., to apply.

**X**  
C'est notre vote  
It's Our Vote

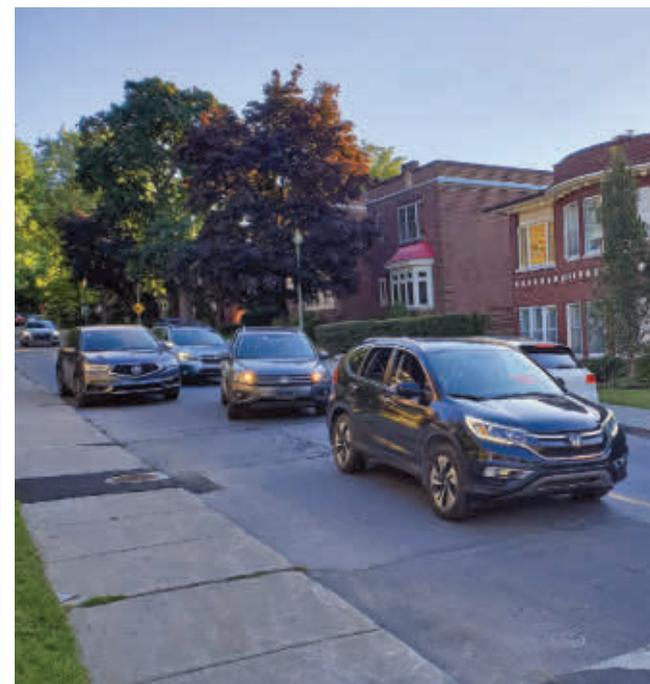
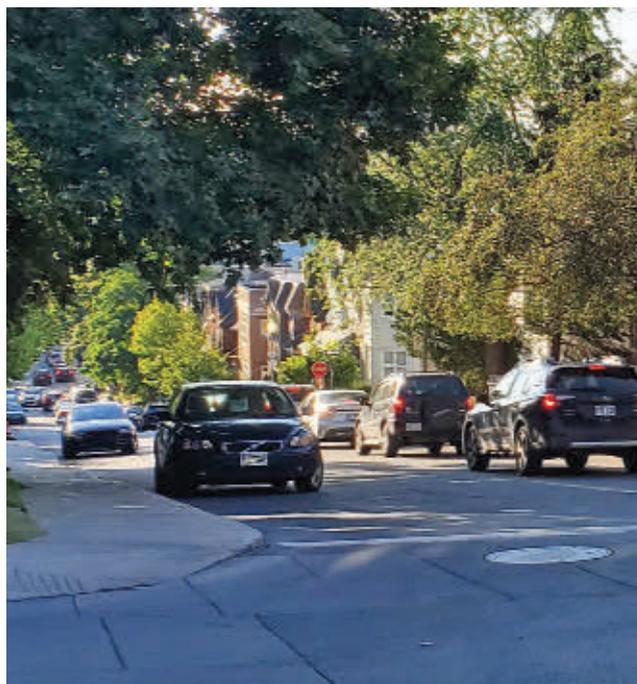
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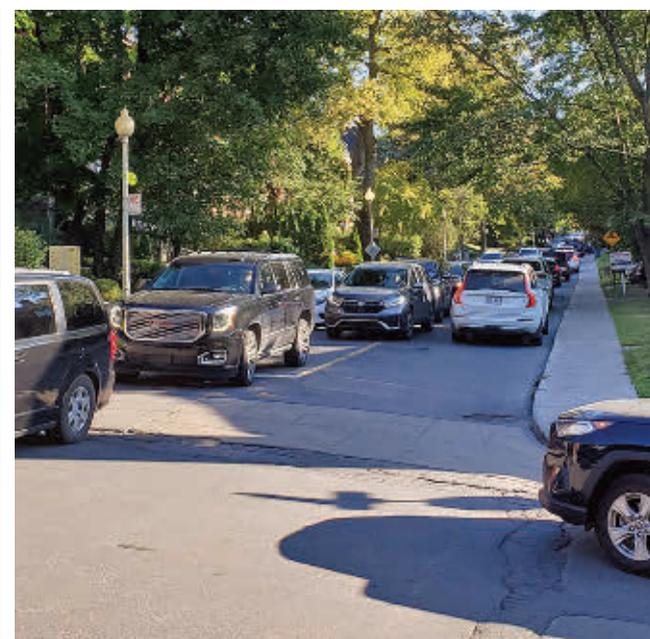
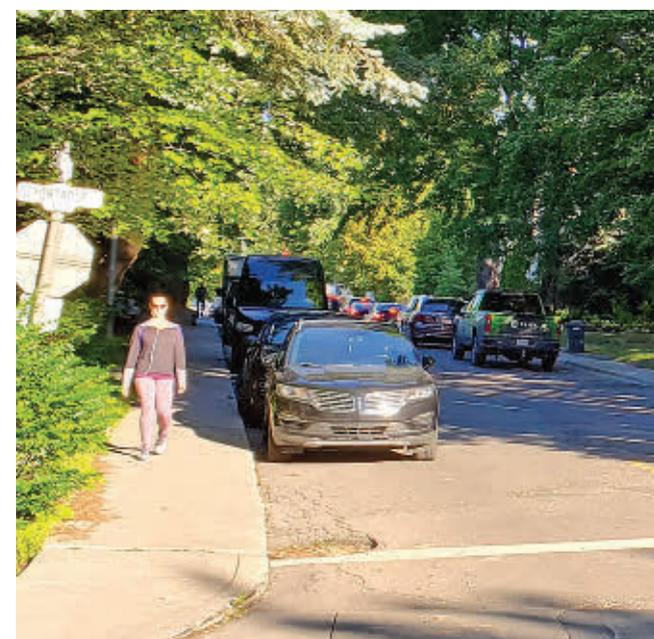


## School's back, and so is traffic



Mid-level Westmount was very busy September 2 at about 8 am, in what the *Independent* guesses was a drive-to-school rush hour for Selwyn House (south down Argyle), ECS (east and west on Montrose) and The Study (north on Clarke). The Boulevard and Sherbrooke at about the same time were not particularly busy or congested. Top: looking up Argyle at Montrose, south down Argyle and east on Montrose. Bottom, north up Clarke at Montrose, and east on Montrose at Clarke and at Mountain.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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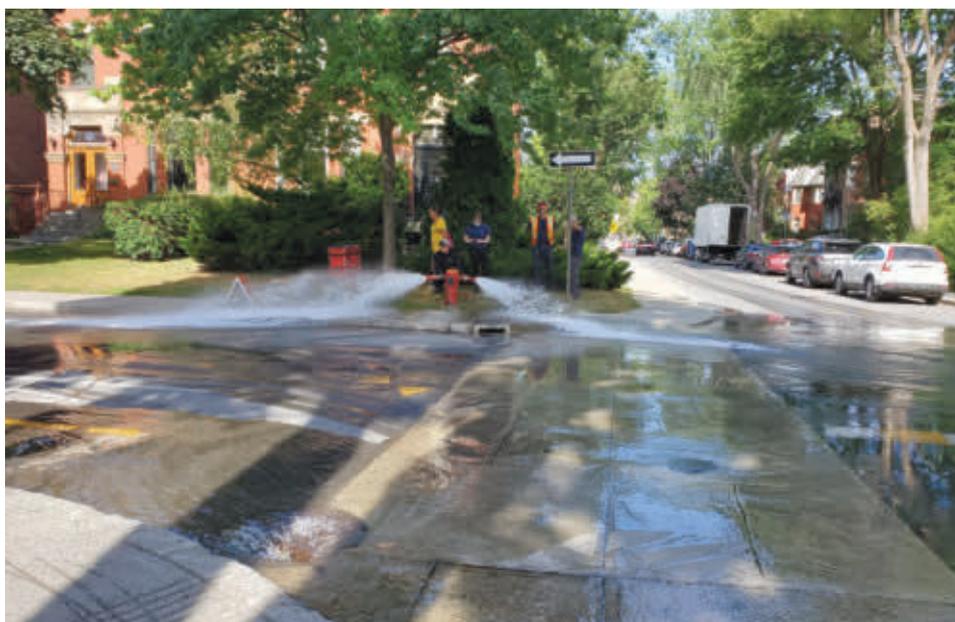
## Squirrels love coffee too, or at least coffee cups



... to the point where this one disappeared head first into a cup, as seen September 1 at the corner of Victoria and de Maisonneuve.

Photos: Independent.

## Lake Grosvenor



This small lake/large puddle was formed on Grosvenor at de Maisonneuve September 1. "Public Works was doing a pressure test on the fire hydrant. They will be flushing the hydrants over the next few weeks," Catherine Skinner, executive assistant to Westmount director general Hadi Hakim, explained to the *Independent* by email September 3.

Photo: Independent.

## Next farmers' market set for Sunday, Sept. 12 at Greene

The first in a series of Sunday farmers' markets in Westmount was scheduled to take place last Sunday, September 5, in Prince Albert Square, Councillor Cynthia Lulham told the *Independent* shortly before the early Labour Day press time on Friday.

The next market, Sunday, September 12, is planned for the Greene Ave. parking lot at the same times, from 11 am to 3 pm. The locations will alternate weekly between Prince Albert square and Greene but at the same times. Fruits and vegetables will be offered for sale.

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**Dodge on March**  
real estate transfers, p. 22

**History by the House**, p. 28

**Police Report**, p. 25 & p. 31

**Social Notes**, p. 33

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**“LOFTS REDPATH”, SOUTH WEST**

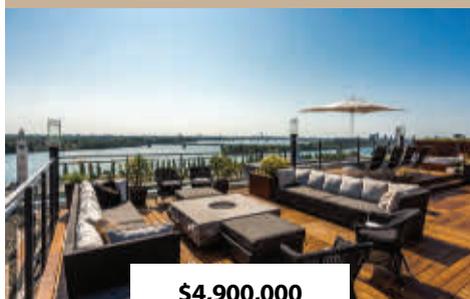
3,474 SQ. FT. OF PRIVATE RESIDENCE | SUPERB VIEWS



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**“FOUR SEASONS”, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE**

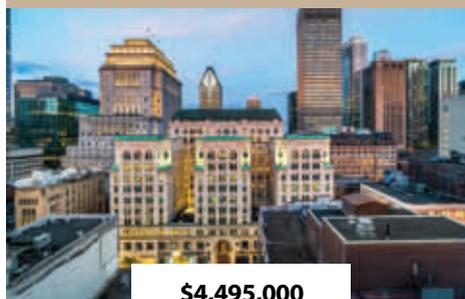
IMMENSE ROOFTOP TERRACE WITH WATER VIEWS



**\$4,900,000**

**“SOLANO”, OLD PORT**

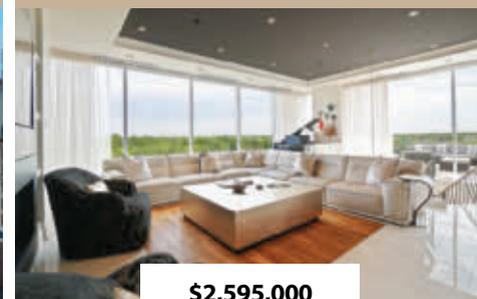
4,500 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE | PRIVATE ROOFTOP TERRACE



**\$4,495,000**

**“COURS MONT-ROYAL”, DOWNTOWN**

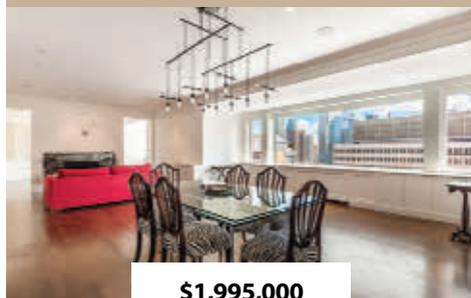
TWO STOREY | BREATHTAKING PANORAMIC VIEWS



**\$2,595,000**

**“M LORRAINE”, LORRAINE**

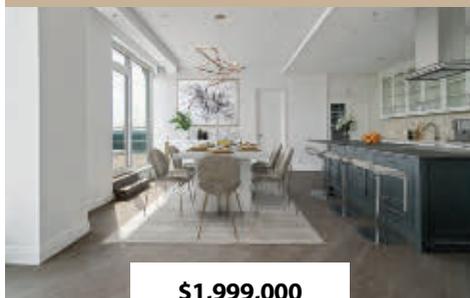
RECENTLY RENOVATED | 2 PARKING SPACES



**\$1,995,000**

**“PORT-ROYAL”, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE**

SUMPTUOUS APARTMENT WITH STUNNING WATER VIEWS



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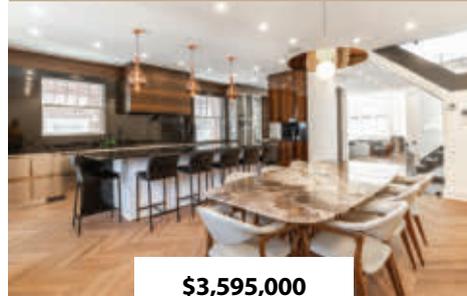
SUMPTUOUS STONE PROPERTY | INGROUND POOL



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**PL. UPPER-TRAFALGAR, WESTMOUNT ADJ.**



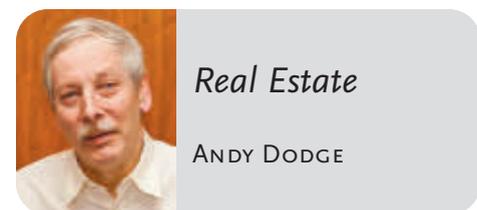
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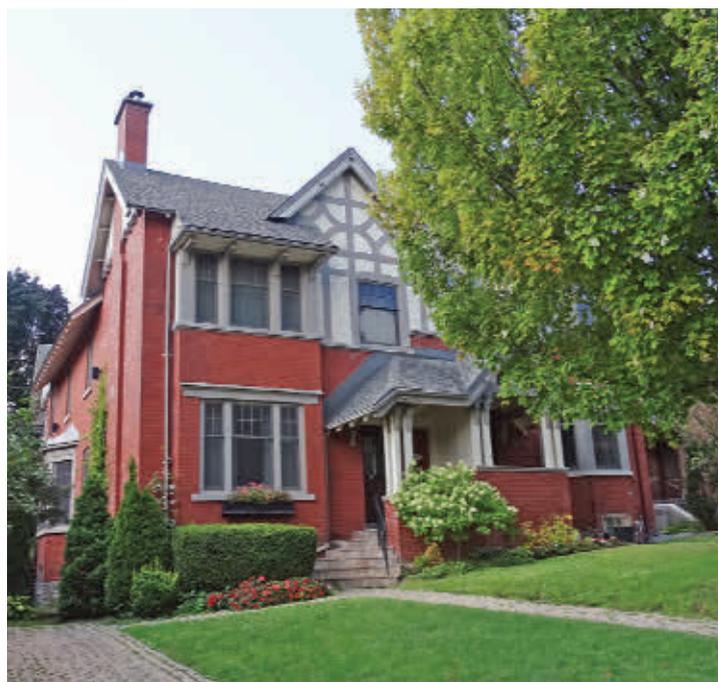
HALL OF FAME ROYAL LEPAGE CANADA / NO 1 ROYAL LEPAGE CANADA, 2005 (INDIV.) NO 1 ROYAL LEPAGE QUÉBEC 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

# March transfers: Lower prices, mark-ups



646 Roslyn.



87 Summit Crescent.

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2021. A list of sales can be found on p. 23.

The average price of Westmount residential real estate dropped in March almost as much as it rose in February, when 100 Summit Circle sold for \$11,700,000.

This time, the highest price was \$2,925,000 for 87 Summit Crescent and prices descended to \$985,000 for 4927 de Maisonneuve Blvd., the first Westmount house to sell for less than \$1 million since last November. This brought the average price to \$2,035,333 and the median was \$2,102,500, hardly the \$3,195,807 average price that we saw in February sales.

Mark-ups over municipal valuation were also fairly modest, ranging from a 14.6 percent mark-down for 646 Roslyn

Ave. to a 28.7 percent mark-up for 592 Lansdowne Ave., only one block away. The average mark-up was 13.63 percent, down from 25 and 23 percent in the two previous months.

The volume was only nine sales, compared to 12 registered in January and 14 in February.

The March registrations generally reflected sales negotiated in January and February, but some date back to late last year.

### Condominiums

Deeds for the sales of five condominiums were signed in March, more than doubling the number of condos sold in the first quarter of 2021.

Of the five, by far the highest price and highest mark-up involved Apt. 1803 at the Château Westmount Square, 4175 St. Catherine St., at \$2,045,000 or 32 percent above valuation.

The strong mark-down from valuation

at 200 Lansdowne is hardly surprising; of five sales in the building since the beginning of 2020, four have been under valuation, though this is the biggest mark-down of the four.

When the March sales are added to condo sales in January and February, nine sales in the first quarter of 2021 – seven standard apartments, one in a converted duplex and one converted garage – were priced between \$540,000 and \$2,045,000,

including three prices over \$1 million. The average mark-up over valuation is 17.4 percent compared to an average 21.6 percent for one- and two-family dwellings in the first quarter.

The only other sale in March involved 328 Victoria Ave., part of the row of storefront townhouses between Somerville Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd., which has a mixed commercial use.



4927 de Maisonneuve Blvd.



592 Lansdowne. All pictures taken August 31.

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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in March 2021

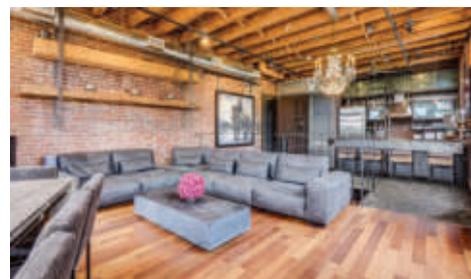
ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
32 Arlington	Frank Nel & Panagiota Tsatoumas	\$1,990,000	\$1,632,200	21.9%
4927 de Maisonneuve	Aicha El Garano	\$985,000	\$907,600	8.5%
492 Elm	Guylaine Larose & Sylvain Rigaud	\$2,650,000	\$2,110,000	25.6%
485 Grosvenor	Andrea Kessous & Zachary Frenkiel	\$1,468,000	\$1,144,700	28.2%
372 Kensington	Arieh Sochaczewski & Elissa Benjamin	\$2,500,000	\$2,327,900	7.4%
592 Lansdowne	Marie-Anne Paquette & Richard Proulx	\$2,215,000	\$1,720,600	28.7%
646 Roslyn	Valérie Fraile	\$1,960,000	\$2,296,400	-14.6%
87 Summit Crescent	9112-8975 Quebec Inc.	\$2,925,000	\$2,438,400	20.0%
599 Victoria	Eugene Orenstein & Margaret Spiegel	\$1,625,000	\$1,543,000	5.3%
<b>CONDOMINIUMS</b>				
200 Lansdowne #101	estate Wilfrid Schuchat	\$730,000	\$888,600	-17.8%
175 Metcalfe #205	Julie Coutu	\$540,000	\$521,800	3.5%
175 Metcalfe #405	Jean Lapointe & Natalie Couët	\$570,000	\$558,400	2.1%
4175 St. Catherine #1803	estate Norma Lifshitz	\$2,045,000	\$1,547,500	32.1%
205 Victoria #402	Stanley Gill	\$1,280,000	\$1,124,500	13.8%
<b>OTHER</b>				
328 Victoria	Richard Bourne & Richard Bourne Financial Inc.	\$1,350,000	\$1,045,100	29.2%



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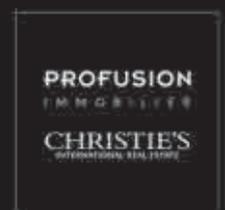
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# infoWESTMOUNT

2021.09.07 • Vol. 2/16

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

## NOUVELLES

 PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
 DU CONSEIL

**Jeudi 9 septembre**

## NEWS

 NEXT COUNCIL  
 MEETING

**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

### Rentrée scolaire à Westmount

Afin d'assurer un retour à l'école en toute sécurité pour les enfants, la Ville souhaite rappeler aux conducteurs de véhicules motorisés quelques recommandations. Nous vous encourageons à les lire et les partager avec d'autres. Bonne rentrée à tous! [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Back to school in Westmount

To ensure a smooth and safe return to school for children, the City would like to share a few safety reminders with motorists. Please take a few moments to read them and to share them with others. Have a good return to school!  
[westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Activités d'automne : inscription en ligne

Les inscriptions pour les activités de sports et de loisirs d'automne sont en cours. Consultez le guide d'activités à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Passeport vaccinal COVID-19

Vous devez avoir une preuve de vaccination contre la COVID-19 pour avoir accès à certaines activités au Centre des loisirs de Westmount ou à certains événements municipaux. Pour plus d'information, visitez [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Kiosques éphémères pour personnes âgées, leurs familles et proches-aidants

Rencontrez le personnel de l'organisme Contactivité et de la Sécurité publique pour en savoir plus sur les services pour les personnes âgées à Westmount. Les dates et les emplacements des kiosques dépendent des conditions de température et sont annoncés sur le compte Twitter à [@Secur\\_Westmount](https://twitter.com/Secur_Westmount).

### Parc Westmount : la Ville répond à quelques questions

Alors que le projet du parc Westmount est encore dans une phase de consultation publique, la Ville désire répondre à certaines questions et à certains commentaires des résidents et aussi offrir plus d'informations concernant les propositions d'aménagement et les recommandations. Pour plus d'information, visitez [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Abonnez-vous au bulletin E-Westmount

Recevez les nouvelles et les promotions d'événements de la Ville par courriel tous les jeudis. Cherchez la case d'inscription au bas de la page d'accueil du site web [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Piscine du CLW fermée pour la saison

Nous espérons que vous avez passé un bel été et nous attendons avec impatience la réouverture de la piscine au printemps 2022.

### Fall activities: online registration

Registration for the fall sports & recreation activities is underway. Consult the activity guide at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### COVID-19 vaccination passport

You must have a proof of vaccination against COVID-19 to have access to some activities at the Westmount Recreation Centre or to attend certain municipal events. Find out more at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Pop-up kiosks for Westmount seniors, their families and caregivers

Meet personnel from Contactivité and from the City's Public Safety Department and learn more about services available to Westmount seniors. The dates and locations for the kiosks depend on weather conditions and are announced on Twitter at [@Secur\\_Westmount](https://twitter.com/Secur_Westmount).

### Westmount Park: the City answers some of your questions

As the Westmount Park project is still at the public consultation stage, the City wishes to respond to questions and comments from residents and provide more background information concerning the design proposals and the recommendations. Find out more at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Sign up for the E-Westmount newsletter

Receive news and events announcements from the City by email every Thursday. Look for the sign-up box at the bottom of the main page of the [westmount.org](http://westmount.org) website.

### WRC pool closed for the season

We hope everyone had a good summer and we look forward to the pool reopening in the spring of 2022.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Accès à la Bibliothèque

Les abonnés peuvent parcourir la collection en personne et emprunter des items. Consultez les règlements et les conditions à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org) avant de vous présenter. N.B. : Le passeport vaccinal COVID-19 n'est pas requis présentement, mais il est possible qu'il soit exigé dans les prochaines semaines.

### Service de cueillette sans contact

Vous pouvez toujours réserver vos items en ligne ou par courriel et les récupérer à la Bibliothèque. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Besoin d'aide pour votre preuve de vaccination COVID-19?

Les abonnés de la Bibliothèque peuvent se présenter au comptoir de Référence ou appeler au 514 989-5355 pour obtenir de l'aide pour télécharger l'appli VaxiCode ou pour imprimer leur preuve de vaccination. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Fête de clôture du

### Club de lecture d'été TD 2021

**Vendredi 10 septembre, 16 h à 16 h 45** sur Zoom. Avec Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre. Procure-toi une trousse de fête à la Bibliothèque avant l'événement. Tu peux gagner des prix épatants! Les membres du CLETD recevront leur invitation par courriel.

### Trousses de bricolages pour enfants

**Lundi 20 septembre.** « Pommes ». Participe à un atelier de bricolage à faire chez toi. Le nombre de places est limité et l'inscription est obligatoire. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Quiz familial virtuel

**Vendredi 24 septembre, 19 h à 20 h** en ligne. Un quiz pour les pré-ados, les ados et les familles. Vous pourriez gagner un certificat-cadeau de 50 \$ dans une pâtisserie locale. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

## LIBRARY

### Access to the Library

Members may browse the collection in person and borrow items. Before arriving, please read the requirements and conditions at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org). Please note that the COVID-19 vaccination passport is not needed to access the Library at this time, but might be required in the next weeks.

### Contactless pickup service

You can still reserve your items online or by phone and pick them up at the Library. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Do you need help with your COVID-19 proof of vaccination?

Library members can drop by the Reference desk or phone 514 989-5355 for assistance downloading the VaxiCode app or printing their proof of vaccination. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Closing party of the

### 2021 TD Summer Reading Club

**Friday, September 10, 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.** on Zoom. With Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre. Pick up a party kit at the Library prior to the event. Win some great prizes! TDSRC members will receive an email invitation.

### Take and make craft kits for kids

**Monday, September 20.** "Apples". Take part in a craft workshop at home. Space is limited and registration is required. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Virtual Family Quiz Night

**Friday, September 24, 7-8 p.m.** online. A fun quiz for tweens, teens and families. Play on your computer or mobile device. You could win a \$50 gift certificate from a local bakery. Register at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).



## Police Report

# Two break-ins and an attempt during last week of August

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. report there were two household robberies and an attempted break-in at homes in Westmount during the last week of August.

During the first incident, sometime between 6 pm and 9:30 pm on August 23 at a home near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Kitchener Ave., an intruder entered through a garage door and stole a bicycle he found inside.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the sus-

pect had to break a small lock on the bicycle before making off with it.

He said a security camera that was activated at the time captured footage of the incident, providing the investigators with valuable clues that could be useful in identifying the suspect.

### Mercedes was the getaway car

On August 29 between 5 and 5:20 pm, three suspects tried to pry open the garage door of a home near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Claremont Ave.

"They tried to force the garage door

which was situated in the back," said Pimentel.

While saying that the intruders didn't cause any damage to the door, Pimentel added that they left behind footprints for the investigators. As well, images of the suspects were recorded by a security camera.

Interestingly, the surveillance camera recorded the intruders boarding a black Mercedes Benz and fleeing the scene eastward along Sherbrooke St.

Pimentel said the appearance of the suspects led the investigators to speculate they

may have been minors.

### Laptop stolen

During the night of August 30-31, a suspect or suspects broke into a home near the corner of Metcalfe Ave. and Sherbrooke St. through a rear door.

"They took a laptop," said Pimentel, noting that "there was damage to the lock on the back door." Although the investigators checked the area for the presence of security cameras, none were found.



## City Views

VERONICA READGRAVE

Everyone agrees. There is a "little something" in the air. Cooler days mean fall fashion.

For over 20 years Westmount's Promenade Greene has been a go-to destination for well-dressed Montrealers. Owner Eliane Harroch has just moved into a glamorous new space: Elle à priori, at the former site of Salon Olivier.

"After COVID, dressing has changed. I buy brands for an urban country lifestyle. I would love to have been able to call my boutique 'Town and Country,'" she laughs.

The shop is splendid. The collections are today and noteworthy; indeed, for town-and-country dressing. Colours offer a new take on fall trends. Black pieces are magnets for some shoppers, while others prefer the harmony of soft beiges. (My favourite was a soft hooded cardigan and matching pants in a lovely pale fawn. To wear with sparkle or sneakers. And perfect for comfy-yet-chic airline travel. Soon!)

## Elle à priori opens on Greene



Eliane pointed out that she has a "fabulous selection of pants, which most of my clients are now wearing day into night." Classics are updated with subtle trend touches. The cashmere sweaters in super shades are a must-buy. And moving into late fall, her coat collection includes classics, puffer jackets and fabulous *faux* fur.

Brands include the perennial fave jean NYDJ, as well as eminently elegant European and American lines: Brax, Betty Barclay, Repeat, Part Two, rose-munde, Peruzzi, Milano (that legendary Italian flair), oui, Repeat, Lisette L, and Michael Kors, among many others. Most are most exclusive to her shop.

Before dashing in for your seasonal styles, stop by Promenade Greene. Eliane has amazing Closing Sale Prices.

ELLE À PRIORI – Open 7 days a week

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1347 Greene

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Saturday: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

Sunday: noon to 5 pm

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LYSANNE FOWLER

Such soulful eyes, little Tiny has a big heart and a great disposition. Yes, he is mostly Chihuahua with a drop of Pomeranian in there for extra cuteness!

A cuddly, loving fellow, at just eight pounds, he is ounce-for-ounce affection, with time spent on your lap or under your desk being good options for him.

Family love is needed for Tiny now as he is in foster care for Gerdy's Rescues &amp;

**Best Tiny ever**

Adoptions. He is friendly with other dogs so the possibility of a buddy would be great as well.

Tiny is neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. He has recently been diagnosed with diabetes though and it would be important to become experienced in the daily routine or consider him if you have the insulin and diet experience already.

Please enquire about Tiny at the grass-roots volunteer rescue Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions by referring to their website [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) and emailing them at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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LYSANNE FOWLER

**Freeing Snowby**

This photograph says so much. It said it to me and it says it to you. This is the reality of the pet that has been transported from the home he knew to the shelter at the Montreal SPCA to be put up for adoption at the cattery.

We know that he is being vetted, that he is being fed and cared for, but we can only imagine what he is thinking behind those stunning green eyes and that beautiful white face.

Snowby is lucky. He has a chance at being adopted by a family in our neighbourhood right here, right now. He is handsome and ever so affectionate. Please apply for his adoption.

Snowby is a very healthy eight-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Please refer to his identification number 48488956 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for this stunning fellow 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**LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS****Yard worker available**

Lawn trimming, Garden cleaning, Weeding, Adding Mulch, Yard Cleanup, Raking Leaves, Snow Shoveling. Text/Message Vince at 514-294-5562.

**Domestic help available**Trained nurse's aide available for care giving and/or light house work: making beds, light ironing, dishes, etc. Please call Ava at 438-764-4151 or email [avaharriott222@yahoo.com](mailto:avaharriott222@yahoo.com) to inquire as to how I can help you.**Gratitude**

Thank you St. Jude for favours granted.

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## Westmount's 'living' history



This "stump" of a Washingtonian light standard is on the front lawn of the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment building. The damage happened between June 2019 and November 2020, and Hydro Westmount has been tasked "to repair/replace it," Catherine Skinner, executive assistant to Westmount director general Hadi Hakim, told the *Independent* by email September 3. Photo: Independent.



### Atwater Library Financial Literacy resources for you

We're offering a variety of information sessions on personal finances and estate planning. Live online by Zoom with moderated discussion.

**Learn from experts for free.**

Upcoming topics include Old Age Security (OAS), Fraud Prevention, RRSPs and RRIFs, and Wills.

Our staff are eager to tell you more.

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## CONTACTIVITY

# OPEN HOUSE WEEK



Nestled in Westmount, Open to all 60+

From September 21-23, you will be able to sample some of our programs for free.

Come and see what we are all about and all the exciting programs we have to offer online and in person.

**OPEN HOUSE VIRTUAL PRESENTATION**  
**SEPT 17**  
**2-3PM**

### Showcase Sample Classes Sept 21-23

- Stretch and Movement
- Fusion Fitness
- Young at Heart Groove
- Chair Yoga
- Tai Chi
- Introduction to Classical Music
- Theory with a teaser of the fall topic!
- Breathing with Sarah Gallagher



Live musical concert by David Longlade

Door prizes to be won by those registered and present at the event!

**HOW TO REGISTER?**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[HTTPS://CONTACTIVITYCENTRE.ORG/VIRTUAL-OPEN-HOUSE.PHP](https://contactivitycentre.org/virtual-open-house.php)



*History by  
the House*

ANDY DODGE

## 10 Renfrew: Part of the Leduc farm



10 Renfrew on August 20.

Lambert Leduc married Jeanne Décarie in 1680 and found himself wed into one of the richest and most successful farming families in Lower Canada, inheriting as his dowry a 600-foot-wide strip of land rising from Petit Lac St. Pierre to the top of the south-facing mountain on the west side of Mount Royal.

The couple produced between nine and 14 children, according to Geneanet, many of whom died at childbirth or soon thereafter. Leduc and his offspring may have had several houses and accessory buildings at some time during the next century but it is probable that most of these had disappeared by early in the 19th century, as Montreal's wealthier gentry began seeking "country" properties away from the busy city. As the population grew, these "country" properties became permanent homes.

So it was that William Murray, an emigré from Scotland who had brought his wife (and child?) to Montreal to carve out a new career, was living on Notre Dame St. in 1842, the first year that Lovell's Directory started publishing a list of local citizenry.

He and his family moved around Montreal a bit before finding their way into the Canadian Insurance Company buildings on "Great St. James Street," and soon afterwards he landed a job with them, rising from secretary to manager and eventually president.

### **Murray purchases Leduc farm**

By about 1857, he was in a position to make an offer to purchase the Leduc farm, which had mostly been abandoned by the family except for one Louis Leduc, who identifies himself (in Lovell's) as a farmer until 1857, then became a "tanner," no doubt in one of the St. Henri tanneries just south of The Glen.

By then, Charles Bowman ("Forden"), John Young ("Rosemount"), John Eadie ("Braemar") and of course Chief Justice James Monk ("Monklands") had built palatial mansions on the hills of (what is now) Westmount mountain, and Moses Judah Hayes had built what could be considered one of Montreal's first housing developments, the four houses that made up Metcalfe Terrace, in 1840.

In fact, William Murray's son, Alexander, had moved into one of the Metcalfe Terrace houses in 1857, and that may have given father the notion that he could build his own monument on the struggling Leduc farm.

In the 1859 Lovell's Directory the entry was "MURRAY, WM., manager Montreal Insurance Company, 9 Great St James, house, Cote St Antoine, beyond Metcalfe terrace."

### **Outer edge of civilization**

It seems he oriented his house with the Metcalfe Terrace houses, at the corner of Metcalfe Ave., which was the outer edge of civilization at this point. Eventually he named his mansion "West Mount," following the tradition of the other men of substance.

After Murray's death in 1874, the estate held onto the entire property while his wife, Agnes Gow, was still alive. She died in about 1880 and William Gow Murray took over "West Mount," after which Westmount is named, until about 1893. Other family members moved in and in fact Alexander built another house along the driveway from Côte St. Antoine, which eventually got the name of Murray Ave.

By 1909, the former Leduc farm was but

a passing memory and the William Murray estate – which by then was being run by his grandchildren – sold off the top-of-mountain property to Herbert Holt and Charles Gordon, two Montreal magnates who were planning an exclusive community above The Boulevard.

They paid 15¢ per square foot for the strip of land, which now includes Lexington Ave. and Summit Crescent.

### **Westmount Ave., The Boulevard built**

A subdivision map was quickly approved, leaving Murray's land between the newly-built Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard as one of the largest unsubdivided areas still left in the growing town.

An 1893 map shows Westmount Ave. was already conceived – basically an extension of the rear driveway to the Murray property – reaching across from The Boulevard to Claremont Ave., with subdivisions at Lansdowne and Belmont Aves. and farther east on what are now Aberdeen and Argyle Aves., but very little development

except for what one early Belmont Ave. deed affectionately referred to as "Larry's cottage."

By 1912, Lansdowne and Belmont Aves., just west of the Murray estate, were being built up extensively, and Carleton and Sydenham Aves. appeared to the east of what we believe was a huge orchard.

No doubt there was extreme pressure on what was left of the Murray family when they finally decided to sell the land, stretching from Belmont to Carleton, Westmount Ave. to The Boulevard, to a group called "Belgo-Canadian Realty Inc." in 1914.

### **Belgo-Canadian Realty**

We could not find out much about Belgo-Canadian Realty Inc., except that the company still exists, at least on paper. It was formed in 1911 and took a great interest in the fruit orchards of Kelowna, B.C. and the development of the Kelowna area.

There is a Belgo-Canadian Fruit and Land Company in Kelowna, a Belgo-Canadian Mfg. Co. in Newfoundland/Labrador

and a Belgo-Canadian Pulp and Paper Co. in Shawinigan, Quebec, with roots back to the same era, so it seems likely this was an investment group which was ready to pour Belgian money into Canada as Germany (under Kaiser Wilhelm) was developing a hunger for expansion in Europe.

Belgo-Canadian paid 88.5¢ per square foot for the land, thus \$484,095, in June 1914. By 1920, the map which accompanied Lovell's Directory showed that plans had been made to extend streets into the area with the names Belgium (now Murray Hill), Louvain (now Douglas) and Liège (now Grenville) with an unnamed connector on the east side reaching down to Westmount Ave. How or why the names got changed to their current titles would be an object of further research.

Enter John Hand, who apparently had been in the fur business but decided in 1911 to become a builder. He hired William Wright, a 43-year-old architect with years of experience in multi-residential and institutional buildings, to design a house near the Murrays on Belmont Ave., which had been subdivided in various places.

— 1874 —

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

— 1876 —

Village of Côte St. Antoine (area of current-day Westmount) breaks away. It becomes a town in 1890.

— 1888 —

wooden railway bridge opens over Glen Rd., southwest of current-day Westmount recreation centre. It is replaced by the still-in-use stone bridge in 1892

— circa 1890 —

Train station opens at the foot of Abbott Ave. It was moved to the foot of Victoria Ave. in 1907, where the building still stands.

— 1895 —

Town of Côte St. Antoine changes its name to Westmount. It becomes a city in 1908.

— 1899 —

Westmount Public Library opens in its current building (which has been added to).

— 1922 —

Current city hall opens.

— 1925 —

The current Victoria Hall opens. This building, still in use, replaced an 1899 version that burned down in 1924. Also, the St. Catherine St. armoury of the Royal Montreal regiment, located on city land, opens.

— 1958 —

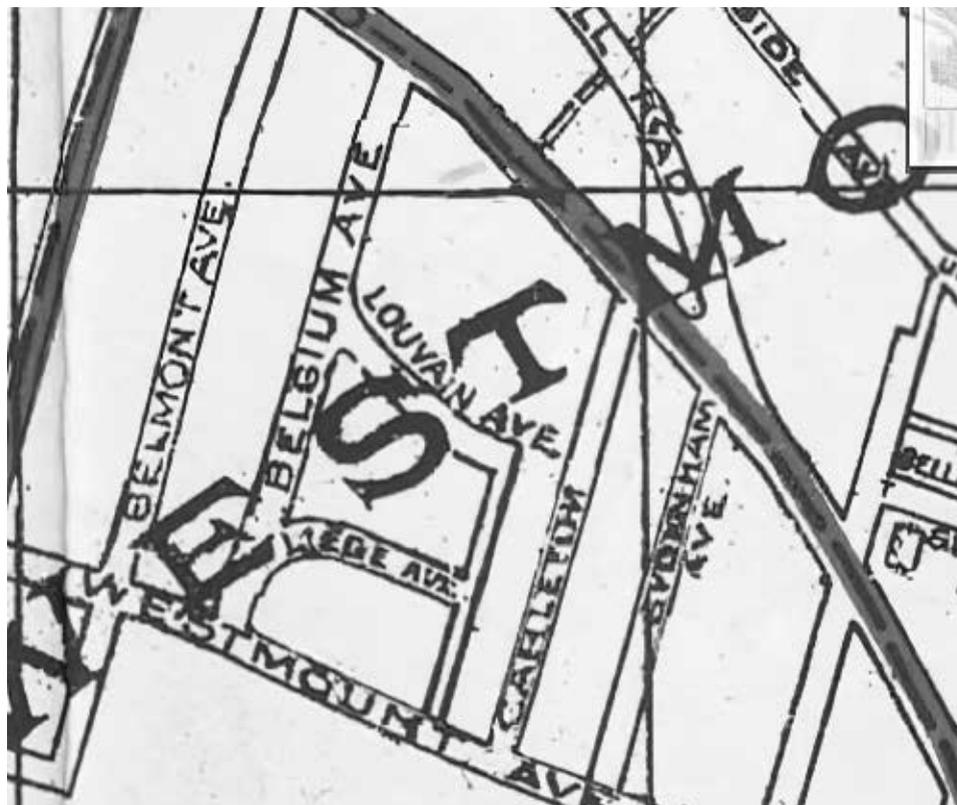
Westmount's previous arena opens as an open-sided venue. It was enclosed in 1963. The pool at this facility was added in 1962.

— 2002 to 2005 —

The merged years. Westmount is merged January 1, 2002 with the city of Montreal and becomes one of its boroughs. It demerged on January 1, 2006.

— 2013 —

Current Westmount recreation centre opens.



The map that wasn't: Belgium Ave. (became Murray Hill), Louvain (became Douglas) and Liège (became Grenville).

Hand used the design to build a group of houses along Belmont and was quite the craftsman by the time he reached out to Belgo-Canadian in 1925 to purchase four land lots reaching up from Grenville along Renfrew, as the avenues by then were known.

#### Development of four connected streets

While it is not clear that he was responsible for all the development in the area, a check of the dates of construction shows that Murray Hill was developed from 1916 to 1923, Douglas between 1923 and 1924, Renfrew from 1924 to 1925 and Grenville mainly between 1925 and 1928.

In short order, the lots Hand bought (for 90¢ per square foot) on Renfrew became Nos. 6, 8, 10 and 12 Renfrew, and it appears he was willing to rent them rather than sell them off.

The first tenant of No. 10 was Louis-Joseph Gauthier, who had served as a member of Quebec's legislative assembly representing l'Assomption (1906-08), then went on to become Liberal member of parliament for St. Hyacinthe (1911-21) but, once he moved to Westmount in 1927, he lost three more federal elections and one provincial one.

Finally in 1934 he decided to buy the house from Hand (in the name of his wife, Marie-Anne Desmarais) for \$25,000, using a loan from the Société des Artisans Français-Canadiens.

Gauthier died in 1938 but his wife remained in the house until 1944, when the art group was forced to seize the property

## Which Murray/ company/shipping line is which?

To correct a long-lived misunderstanding, Murray consistently identifies himself in Lovell's Directory as an executive of the Montreal Insurance Company and even in his will, updated soon before his death in 1874, he says he is president of what by then was the Montreal Assurance Company.

City and Westmount Historical Association documents identify him as the founder of Beaver Shipping lines. Indeed, in 1867 he joined with a group of investors to form Canada Shipping Co. Ltd., which ran several sailboats through the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes and eventually overseas.

The flag flown by the boats included an image of a beaver, hence the group got the nickname, "Beaver Line."

This was at a time that the shipping industry was transitioning to steamboats, and the company struggled through the next two decades, with the agents Thompson Murray & Co., whose "Murray" was actually Henry E. Murray, another son who helped reorganize the company in 1896 — 22 years after his father died — as the Beaver Line, a steamboat company.

and quickly sold it for \$17,000 to Edythe Rubin, wife of S. Leon (Bosty) Mendelsohn, a high-powered Montreal lawyer who helped establish Mendelsohn Rosentzvieg Schacter (now McMillan) in 1951.

Mendelsohn stayed there until 1967 and sold to William Manolson, an executive who worked with Merchandise Mart in Place Bonaventure, who paid \$53,500 for the property.

Eleven years later, the house changed hands to another Montreal lawyer, Gerald Nudleman, this time for \$90,000. The final purchase, in 2005, was by Dr. Lorenzo Ferri, professor of surgery and oncology at McGill, and his wife, Alison Breen.

They paid \$882,500 for the house, which now has a municipal valuation of \$1,520,100.

#### HISTORY OF 10 RENFREW AVE. (since construction)

Date	Buyer	Price
23 Mar 1934	Marie Anne Desmarais	\$25,000
26-Jun-1944	Société des Artisans Canadiens Français	(seizure)
31-Aug-1944	Edythe Rubin	\$17,000
17-Nov-1967	William Manolson	\$53,500
22-Jun-1978	Gerald Nudleman	\$90,000
1-Jun-2005	Lorenzo Ferri & Alison Breen	\$882,500

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Photo: Independent.

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**Police Report****Motorists warned: safety campaign under way near schools**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With a new academic year now under way at schools in Westmount, police at Station 12 are advising motorists to pay careful attention when driving through school zones or past idling school buses as officers will be on the lookout for violators during a school safety campaign over the coming weeks.

Until September 17, Montreal police officers will be watching motorists closely on streets and at intersections where there are schools, student crossings and school crossing guards.

“There are a lot of people who drive their kids to school,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, noting that traffic gets dense near schools twice a day during the week, when parents drop off their children in the morning then pick them up in the mid-afternoon.

“If you’re in a rush, it’s good to be careful,” he added. “There are more and more vehicles out there, and more and more types of traffic. Besides school buses, there are kids walking to school and a lot of parents dropping them off.”

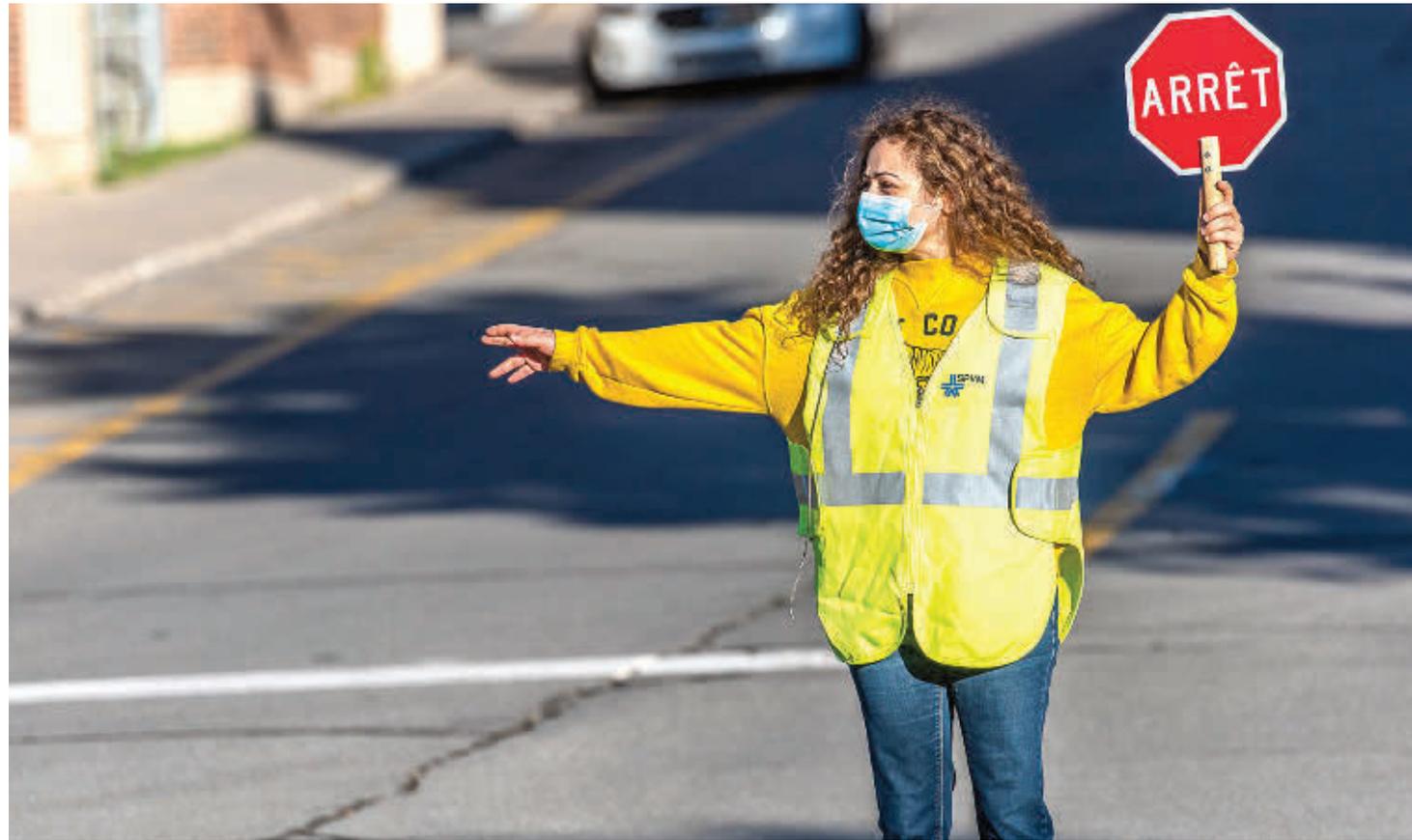
**Phase 1 done**

He said a first phase of the campaign, which got under way in late August, focused on informing parents through school officials that the police are being more vigilant.

During a subsequent enforcement period, police officers will be checking whether speed limits are being obeyed, whether drivers are following crossing guards’ signals, and whether children inside vehicles are wearing seat belts as required by law.

Double-parking will also not be tolerated, he continued.

Pimentel rattled off some of the highway code violations for which officers are



Crossing guard Chantal Khalaf was enthusiastically managing the crosswalk outside Selwyn House School at 7:50 am September 3. She has been doing this work, morning and afternoon, for three years and had lots of cheery “Hi’s” from students, parents and teachers as they strode into school. Khalaf has another professional life: she is a PhD student at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) studying communications and cinema. The police are currently looking to hire on-call crossing guards.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

likely to be handing out citations and the fines they carry.

“Not obeying the signals of a crossing guard: that’s like a \$200 fine and four demerit points,” he said.

“Crossing guards, they’re representing the city and they’re there to enforce safety and they know exactly what to do because they’re trained for it.”

Passing a school bus while its flashing stop signals are activated also carries a \$200 fine, but results in nine demerit

points.

While some rules apply to motorists, there are others that can be applied to pedestrians.

For example, a pedestrian who crosses a public road without using a designated crosswalk can also be cited for having committed an infraction.

**Crossing guards needed**

For those who might be interested, Station 12 is currently seeking interested can-

didates to fill positions as on-call school crossing guards.

According to a post on the station’s website, the on-call crossing guards are needed to replace permanent school crossing guards when needed.

The call for a replacement is generally made early in the morning, but there is no minimum number of hours guaranteed.

The job pays an hourly rate of \$11.79. Those interested can pick up an application form at Station 12, 21 Stanton St.

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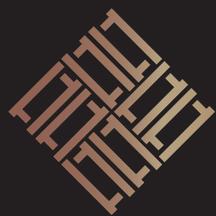
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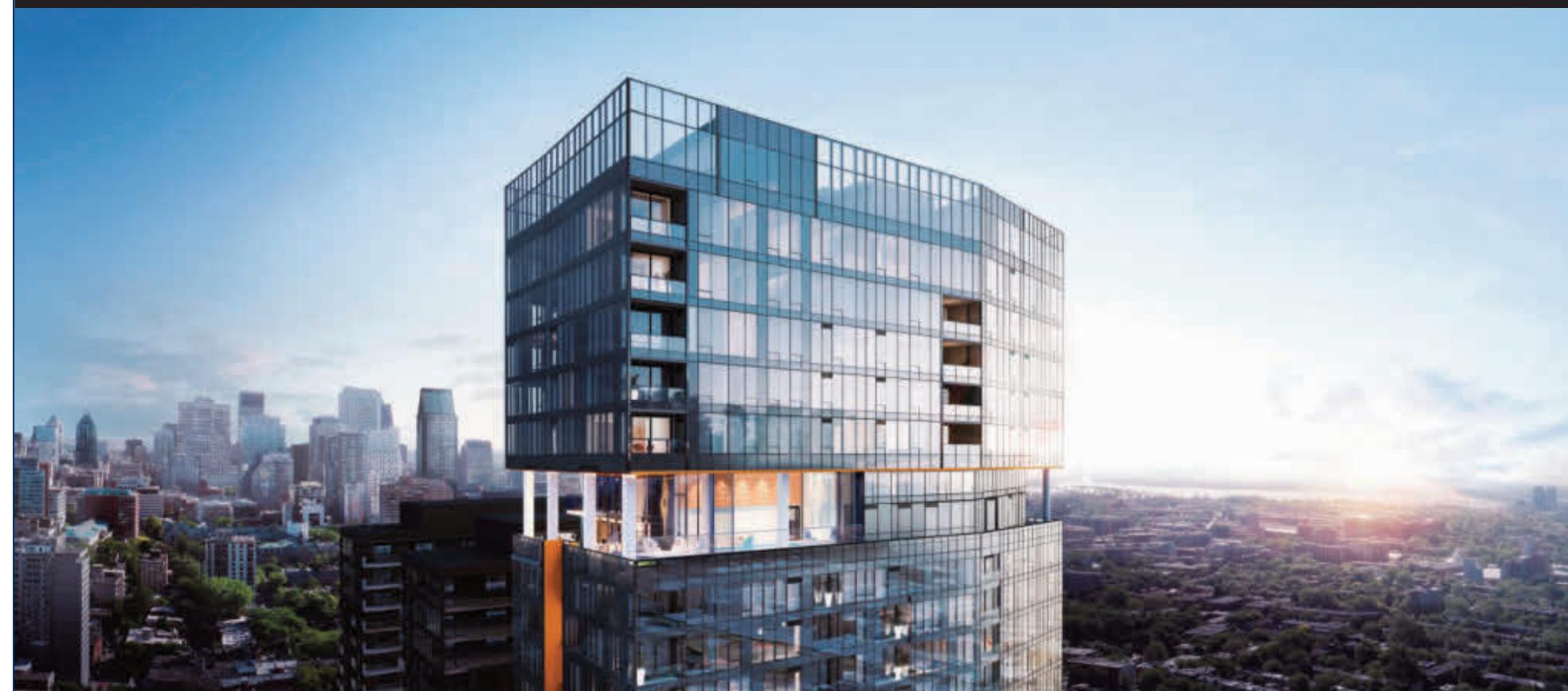
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## Social Notes

VERONICA READGRAVE

# Date Night in the Dining Room



Laura Lavy and Wendy Khan.

As dining rooms are transformed into offices and home-schooling areas, this fundraising eve celebrated a return to the original concept: a place to enjoy a delicious meal.

Date Night in the Dining Room, in partnership with Nora Gray restaurant, was just that. It was held virtually to raise funds for the Batshaw Foundation.

Super organizers were **Laura Lavy** and local res **Tina** and **Wendy Khan**. What fun to shed sweatshirts and celebrate chic, to sup in style and *mangiare con eleganza*.

A delicious Italian meal for two or four was created by Nora Gray.

There was no Zoom component but *über*-dedicated board members hand-delivered the dinners. (Bravo to such commitment.)

The menu included Porcini arancini with Fontina béchamel, a colourful spring salad of fennel, carrots and hazelnuts, and Bolognese lasagna or Conchiglie Cacio e Pepe.

The hit dessert was a classic Italian olive

oil cake with homemade mascarpone icing. A bottle of organic private import red wine was included in the ticket price of \$170 for 2, or \$230 for four people.

The idea was so popular that the Jarislowsky Fraser-sponsored evening was sold out in less than a week. The ticket price included a donation to the Batshaw Foundation.

The \$8,000 raised will help support the organization's seven pillar programs: family emergency fund, scholarships, Camp Weredale, technology (new addition due to COVID), independent living, specialized services and cooking workshops.

Batshaw centres are constantly adjusting to the new COVID measures, any possible outbreaks, while managing the safety and well-being of children in residential and foster programs.

The success of the event was driven by Batshaw Foundation's president Janet Faith and executive director Michael Udy, working with 'delivery-service' board members **Alison Breen, Alison Fripp, Andrew Sofin, Carol Kimmis, Dave Brown, Erin O'Brien, Laura Lavy, Sonia Struthers, Tina Khan** and **Trevor Bishop**.



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# Miller puts the icing on the VAC's 75th anniversary



Artist Shelley Miller assembling the icing mural on September 3.

BY HEATHER BLACK

A mural – created with loops of piped icing – signals the Visual Art Centre 75th anniversary. Assembled the morning of September 3 on the centre's Somerville Ave. wall by Montreal artist Shelley Miller, the mural is made of sugar – piped icing, sugar tiles and a sugar-based cartouche. Commenting on her medium, the artist said: "Sugar has a rich, cross-cultural history and I like its ornate, decadent and ephemeral nature."

Although installed last Friday, Miller

will help participants at upcoming pop-up workshops to pipe additional decorative elements into the mural. Executive director Natasha Reid commented: "We wanted to celebrate visually through a festive, participatory activity."

The first of the VAC's 75th anniversary events, Miller's mural is co-sponsored by the Conseil des arts de Montréal's Art Out in the Open program.

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the Visual Arts Centre has also published a history entitled *Clay Roots*. Authored by former executive director Victoria LeBlanc, the

book details the centre's evolution from the Potters' Club – a women's ceramic art collective – to Canada's largest bilingual, independent art school. The book launch takes place at 6 pm on September 9 at the McClure Gallery.

Following the book launch, the exhibition/auction *Clay Roots* will begin at 7 pm. As the Visual Arts Centre's major fundraiser, the auction continues until September 15. Other donated works are also available online.

Tickets for the auction are \$35 and are available through Bid Beacon.

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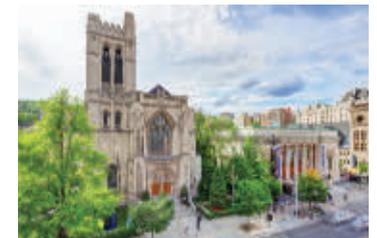
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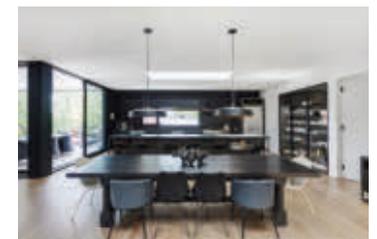
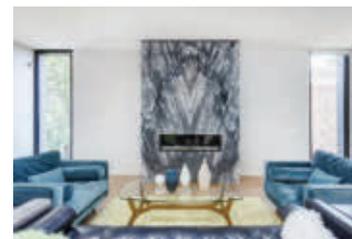


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