

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 15 No. 9d

We are Westmount

September 28, 2021

**New thrill coming for this winter!**

## Formal toboggan run returning – on 'entire' Murray Hill

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The popularity of last winter's formal toboggan run on the east side of King George (Murray) Park is leading not only to its return but also to involve "the entire hill," according to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. While this was not mentioned when the contract to create the run was approved at the council meeting September 9, Lapointe told the *Independent* about the new plan last week when asked about the cost increase over last year.

The contract awarded for this second year to Snö Innovation Inc. was at a maximum amount of \$71,706 (tax credits included). This compares with last winter's maximum modified cost of \$55,560 including taxes. Many years ago, the city fenced off the west and steeper portion of the hill to prevent the danger of toboggans running onto Côte St. Antoine Rd., but the professional groomers creating the formal run this year will slope it in "a less dangerous" way, Lapointe said.

The new formal run attracted many tobogganers last winter when introduced by the city to provide more outdoor activities during pandemic restrictions. "It was loved by so many," Mayor Christina Smith said when it was approved again by council.

Cllr. Shamie's platform for District 3, see p. 5

**Banana trees thriving in Westmount!**



Ernesto Pacitti with one of his three banana trees. See p. 25 for story.

Photo: Veronica Redgrave.

**Bringing skaters back to Westmount Park**

## Council approves refrigerated rink rental for second winter

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The success of last year's refrigerated rink in Westmount Park is bringing it back again for the coming winter.

City council September 9 approved a contract to again rent and install a rink from Synergglace Canada Inc., described as the only supplier able to offer the service for the 2021-2022 season. The contract is

listed at a maximum amount of \$99,993 including taxes, the same amount as last year for the period of November 15 to March 15.

The rink will be once again available for general skating only and be installed in the same location as last year near the comfort station and library, explained Dave Lapointe, director of Sports and Recreation.

*continued on p. 23*

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## Firetrucks, no fire



Greene Ave. was blocked the afternoon of September 21 by public safety officers starting at Sherbrooke due to a possible fire in an air conditioning unit on the roof top of 1222 Greene, between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine. The building was evacuated but no fire was found, Public Security officials told the Independent.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL

## Cyclist injured on bike path avoiding child

A 27-year-old cyclist fell September 19 on the bike path in Westmount Park while trying to avoid a child, Public Security officials said. Answering a call for medical assistance just after 1 pm, officers found the man with a sore knee, right ankle, lacerations to the right knee and in so much pain he couldn't move his legs.

Urgences Santé arrived on the scene and took over. The mishap was described as occurring when the cyclist, travelling quickly, made "a false manoeuvre" to avoid the child.

## 83-year-old falls on Greene

A woman crossing Greene Ave. just north of St. Catherine September 21 fell. She was found lying in the street face down when public safety officers arrived at the scene for assistance at 4:14 pm, Public Se-

curity officials said. She was described as an 83-year-old Westmount resident. Urgences Santé arrived on the scene and the woman was left in their hands. It was not known why she fell; the pavement was not reported to be a problem.

## Edgehill work causes traffic to back up

A complaint to Public Security about debris on the road outside 188 Edgehill September 23 at 8:02 am resulted in the discovery by officers of a long line-up of traffic caused by the removal of stones. There were no signs on the road, according to Public Security officials, and a contractor was directing traffic but without the required procedures in place or a permit for the work.

Officers took over and ordered the contractor to clean up the street. A previous warning had been issued for similar work in 2019. A statement of office was issued for \$1,300.

## Dog playing ball brings ticket for \$225

Patrollers on Côte St. Antoine Rd. just south of King George (Murray) Park noticed a woman walking her dog on a leash about 8 am September 22, according to Public Security officials. She was then seen entering the park and throwing a ball to the dog off leash and issued a ticket for \$225.

She was reported to have been issued a previous warning at the same location for the same offence. She was also warned to obtain a dog permit.

DON'T MISS OUR PULL-OUT

# Spotlight

real estate section after p. 14

**August real estate**  
by Andy Dodge, p. SL-3

**Construction guide**, p. SL-7

**Permits**, p. SL-10

**House History**  
by Andy Dodge:  
321 Victoria Ave., p. SL-18

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## The other summit lookout?



This sign from the summit lookout is posted at the back of the building on St. Catherine St. near Abbott that recently suffered a major fire (see September 14, p. 16). "I expected a more impressive view!" quipped resident Sam Beitel.

Photo courtesy of S. Beitel.

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Looking to continue as 'voice' of residents on council

## Shamie announces candidacy in letter to District 3

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Councillor Jeff Shamie last week announced his bid to residents of District 3 to seek a seat on city council and have “a second mandate as your voice” on city council.

Shamie, who has been serving as commissioner of administration, chair of the city's Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee and a trustee of the Westmount Public Library, submitted his nomination papers for candidacy at city hall September 20.

“Representing you on city council and ensuring your concerns are addressed in an effective and timely manner is my top priority,” he says in a letter to residents.

While Shamie is the only candidate so far to announce his intention to run in District 3, he told the *Independent* he will be campaigning actively by calling at homes, meeting residents and seeking their input.

District 3 is located to the east of mid-level Westmount between The Boulevard, the eastern city limits with downtown, Sherbrooke St. and Mount Stephen/Church Hill/Aberdeen.

Shamie said he is particularly proud of the council's and city's response to the pandemic, including the “speed and efficiency” used in implementing measures to promote the well-being of residents such as socially distanced pedestrian walk zones, checking in on seniors, providing the toboggan run at King George (Murray) Park and the refrigerated rink at Westmount Park.

“On a more local level, we succeeded in having a speed bump built on Elm Ave. and having the fence in Queen Elizabeth Gardens installed for the safety of our children.”

### Maintaining taxes

In his own commissionership, he said, “I have played a key role in ensuring our administration is fiscally responsible, striving to maintain taxes at existing rates while focusing on improving resident services” and also in moving forward with critical infrastructure projects and improvements in snow removal.

His current challenge, he said, is the development of a strategic plan for Hydro Westmount and the promotion of electric vehicles to help create a more sustainable community (see story June 22, p. 1).

Shamie, who lives on de Casson, is president and chief executive officer of the Cedars Canada Foundation at the McGill University Health Centre, a position he has held for 15 years. In this respect, he said, his current focus as a fundraiser is on the Cedars' 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign and its project, the Cedars Oncology Supportive Care Centre.



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Jeff Shamie on September 23. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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## LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF *INDIE'S* ACCESS TO REAL ESTATE INFORMATION

### PAS UN CAPRICE

Bonjour Monsieur,

J'ai lu avec intérêt votre éditorial.

Il est bien regrettable que vous soyez conduit à en appeler à vos lecteurs pour convaincre des esprits étroits de se rendre à l'évidence.

M. Andy Dodge que je connais et vous avez tout à fait raison. La Ville de Westmount devrait vous rendre facile l'obtention des noms, des adresses, des prix payés chaque fois qu'un bien immobilier se vend.

Ce n'est pas un caprice, c'est une information publique et votre journal la transmet pour le bénéfice de ses lecteurs.

Bravo pour votre détermination.

Salutations distinguées,

ROBERT CHARETTE

RÉSIDENT DE WESTMOUNT DEPUIS 43 ANS

### 'TRANSFERS' WOULD BE SORELY MISSED

With reference to Mr. Price's editorial concerning the publication of the property transfers in Westmount, I must confess that one of my guilty pleasures has always been to read about the transfers of property.

It gave me a good sense of property values in the various neighbourhoods that comprise Westmount, and afforded me the opportunity to know who my new neighbours were and to say goodbye to departing ones.

All to say: the column itself was inter-

esting, factual, fun to read and would be sorely missed by this reader if it were to disappear.

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

### ASTONISHED CITY MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT/IMPOSSIBLE

I was surprised to read your last editorial re: the city of Westmount making it difficult/impossible for your newspaper to receive information allowing you to continue publishing information relating to real estate transfers in the city. The city has always seemed to me to be wonderfully transparent and therefore this report astonished me. In my opinion, your real estate reporting is essential for all the numerous reasons cited in your editorial. Here is one citizen who supports your initiative to keep up this important reporting and I hope the city will continue to collaborate with your newspaper in enlightening the citizens of Westmount.

MICHAEL POLAK, PROSPECT ST.

### TRANSFER DATA HELPFUL

As a longtime resident of Westmount (1977 – thank you Parti Québécois), I strongly support your efforts to obtain and publish land/building transfer data. It has proved helpful to me as I ponder the tri-annual evaluation on our home. Your point on the lack of full disclosure intrigues me; was the transfer of ownership at 4898 de Maisonneuve ever given to you for publication or is it still owned by Guy Laframboise?\*

The annual recap is a must-read for those of us looking at which are the areas with a high turnover, and are some housing types more active than others, being the ones that come first to my mind, plus again the desire to compare annual tax data.

Please keep up the fight to obtain, in a timely and simple way, data that is actually in the public domain and should be given freely to the press by our local city officials. I will personally be asking all candidates in my district if they support your efforts and if not then their reasons as why they don't.

BILL SMITH, YORK ST.

\**Editor's reply:* 4898 de Maisonneuve Blvd. is owned by a limited partnership, Développement Prince Albert S.E.C., which in turn is owned by Restoration Real Estate Holdings L.P. and 9356-6016 Québec inc. The board of directors of the first company is composed of Denis Tremblay, Noam Schnitzer and Allan Reznick, and those names re-appear in the third company's filings. As far as we know, Guy Laframboise was the previous developer of the site. – DP.

### NEED DATA TO INDEPENDENTLY TRACK HOME PRICES

After reading your column dated September 21 (p. 8), I agree with your position. My wife and I have lived and owned homes in Westmount since 1988 and the information provided by the *Independent*, including the articles written by Mr. Dodge, has been helpful.

We have seen our municipal taxes triple over the period of time we have been living here (thanks to Mr. Ryan), and the only way I feel this can be justified is by independently tracking the prices of homes selling in the area, which your newspaper helps to provide.

Hoping this is just a misunderstanding, and we hope you can resolve the problem.

LEONARD LITWIN

### READ REAL ESTATE FIRST

Real estate transfer information is the first information that we access upon receipt of your newspaper.

My husband's family bought our home in 1939, and we have lived here and raised our four children here since 1963. We rely on the real estate transfer information for decisions about our charitable donations and our gift-giving.

We sincerely hope that you regain timely access to the information that you, and your readers, need.

NORAH FREEDMAN, MURRAY HILL

### INFO USED FOR SUCCESSFUL TAX RE-ASSESSMENT

I am on your side. I have been a resident of Westmount for 60 years, residing at three different addresses.

I look forward to receiving the *Indie* every week. It is a great source of neighbourhood activities. I confess that I do enjoy the real estate articles, including the transfers.

Curiosity does not kill the cat!

The price comparisons in the transfers article were very helpful to me several years ago. I was contesting an increase in my property tax and they were so helpful, in fact, that I won my case!

Andy Dodge's history articles on Westmount properties are very interesting lessons. I do hope these informative two columns will continue.

Also, I wish to thank Patrick Martin, Kirk Kelly, Christine Cardinal and Jasmin Uthhoff for their letters to the editor (September 21, p. 26-7). We have just had a federal election and we are all tired of politics! I was not going to bother to vote in the EMSB election! Now, I certainly intend to vote and it will be a vote against the CAQ's Bill 40. A vote for our English grand-

children. I do hope you all voted!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

### DISGUSTED BY DILATORY TACTICS

Reading your editorial, I was disgusted by the dilatory tactics of city officials and overly legalistic and wordy responses to your request for the property transfer list used by Andy Dodge to write his popular real estate column.

It doesn't take a brain surgeon to understand that a local paper in a residential area has a large real estate element, that residents are very interested in knowing what transfers took place in their area and that this information should be recent and available in their local newspaper.

These city officials, in not responding in a timely way to your requests for a list that has been provided for many years without a problem and that consists of information that is basically public anyway, are not doing their job, namely to serve the residents/taxpayers of Westmount. I agree that our elected officials should be made aware of this unacceptable situation and support your efforts in this regard.

DEANA SILVERSTONE, GROSVENOR AVE.

### INFO IS USEFUL, AND SENTIMENTAL

When I moved from Toronto to Westmount 11 years ago, I was enamoured by the feeling of community around me. One of the things that made this town feel special was the *Westmount Independent*. And one of the best things about your newspaper is the real estate section.

The insight that you provide on local real estate trends and transactions is both useful and sentimental.

In 2012, I clipped and saved the article in which Andy Dodge commented on my purchase of "a very small two-storey house north of de Maisonneuve Blvd." that I found out was "the only markdown" that April.

When it came time to upsize, I used data from the *Westmount Independent* to research prices, gauge turnover, and figure out what areas we might want to live in next.

Then, in 2019, I was very proud to see a beautiful photograph of our new home and street on the cover of your Spotlight on Real Estate section.

I am sorry to hear that you are having difficulty gaining access to the public records that you require to continue providing the valuable service that you have been. For years, you have done a great job of compiling information into a ..... practical and interesting *continued on p. 8*

## Support the mayor's recommendation

**Update:** Regarding the *Independent's* access to real estate transfer information, Mayor Christina Smith's "recommendation to council and direction to the administration will be that the sale of properties (without names) that generate transfer duties should be tabled under section 6 at the public council meeting and made accessible to all."

Given that we have yet to see an example of this output, that technicalities regarding the Cities and Towns Act remain (see the mayor's column, p. 7), and that personnel at the city can always change, I advise you to continue to speak up now if you agree with us.

Please write, for publication, and join your fellow citizens! – DP.  
editor@westmountindependent.com

## EDITORIAL

# City likely to post ‘transfers’ with minutes – Thank you

I met with Mayor Christina Smith September 24 regarding this newspaper’s access to timely real estate information (see editorial, September 21, p. 8; largely reprinted on p. 9 of this issue).

She told me that her decision is to advise council and direct the city’s unelected employees to post recent real estate transactions (or “transfers”) on the city’s website – without names – with the minutes of city council meetings.

She also wrote a brief note for this paper, at right. Please read it.

I thank her for her prompt attention to this matter, for her gracious conveyance of this information and for this acceptable solution.

We will clearly identify any details that we add to this basic information.

### *Please support the mayor’s recommendation*

However, given that we have yet to see an example of this output, that technicalities regarding the Cities and Towns Act

remain, and that personnel at the city can always change, I advise you to continue to speak up if you agree with us.

Please write to editor@westmountindependent.com and join your fellow citizens, as seen in this issue on p. 6 and 8.

Please talk to current members of council (retiring or not) and to council candidates.

Please ask questions at public meetings and make your views known in public fora.

Last, but not least, I would also like to thank each and every letter writer who supported us, and the people who talked to me live voice. Like any activity, there are bad days in this business, but reading your kind and helpful words, when we needed them, was very heartening.

I received no communications opposed to our position.

*David Price is the editor of the Independent.*

# Preliminary reaction to *Independent’s* September 21 editorial



## Mayor’s Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

You wrote quite a comprehensive editorial last week (p. 8) that raises some important questions.

You can be sure I shall be reacting to it in detail.

Given that the editorial deals with events and people’s actions over some eight years, including many different members of the administration and former elected officials, I have to confer with the key people involved to ensure the contents of my reaction are accurate.

### *Time needed*

There is also the fact that we are constrained by the Cities and Towns Act as to how we legally can do all you ask. As this will take a bit of time, I cannot commit to having all of the details of this done before your publishing deadline for next week and

after speaking to council on September 27 [after press time].

My recommendation to council and direction to the administration will be that the sale of properties (without names) that generate transfer duties should be tabled under section 6 at the public council meeting and made accessible to all, not just one publication.

*Christina Smith is the mayor of Westmount.*

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Police Report, p. 21

City Views:  
Banana trees, p. 25

Art Scene:  
Visual Arts’ 75th, p. 26

## SENIORS – Need Help Getting a Vaccine Passport?

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## LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF *INDIE'S* ACCESS TO REAL ESTATE INFORMATION

.....  
continued from p. 6

format; I hope that you will receive the support that you need to keep doing this.

TYLER KIM, ARLINGTON AVE.

### IMPORTANT PART OF COMMUNITY PAPER

The real estate sales are one of the most interesting sections of the paper.

I understand that anyone can gain access to this information – it is not private – and having it published monthly in the *Independent* is an important part of a community newspaper because the information is not readily available by any other media.

I totally support the *Independent* and ask the city to facilitate the distribution of this important information to its citizens on a monthly basis.

STEVE WEIR, PARKMAN PLACE

### OUR INDEPENDENT INTEGRAL PART OF WESTMOUNT

I fully support your desire to secure the information you are seeking from our city hall regarding real estate transfers.

Actually, I support you receiving any reasonable and available information from city hall that can make our *Independent* more interesting, informative and timely.

This paper has become an integral part of Westmount's population, and its survival is critical for the flow of information and exchange.

Full disclosure requires me to indicate that I have known editor David Price for years and even have worked with him years ago. But this also allows me to say I know him to be incredibly bright, always operating with the best of intention and with the utmost integrity.

PAUL ECHENBERG, WOOD AVE.

### BEST PAPER, FULL SUPPORT

I'm 93 and your newspaper is the best that I've read since I bought my property here in 1971. I want to do anything and everything to help in this fight with the city.

I also think the mayor is one of the best mayors that we have ever had.

Keep up the good work. You are running an excellent newspaper.

MARTIN EIDINGER, FORDEN AVE.

### PROVIDE THE INFORMATION

I agree entirely with your September 21 editorial (p. 8). Elected officials overseeing bureaucrats who are refusing or slow-walking public information requested by anyone, and especially the working press, must ensure that those bureaucrats are reprimanded and instructed to provide that

information in a timely way.

ALEX SIMONELIS, SHERBROOKE ST.

### SUPPORT *INDIE'S* EASY ACCESS

This is in response to your call in last week's *Indie* for support to access house transfer information from the city of Westmount.

I have read Andy Dodge's columns for years and was mystified when new property owners were no longer identified. As a homeowner, it is important to follow the ups and downs of the real estate market. As a resident, I like to know who is leaving and who is moving in. As a researcher in local heritage, I need to have a record of changes.

It puzzles me that the city of Westmount might impede the smooth transfer of this information to the *Westmount Independent*, Andy Dodge and hence to residents. I'm sure that residents and our city realize how fortunate we are to have a local independent newspaper. The importance of real estate listings for the survival of your paper is obvious.

I would ask the city of Westmount to support the *Westmount Independent's* easy access to this information for the benefit of Westmount residents.

CAROLINE BRESLAW

### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

We consider the *Independent's* listings of real estate transactions to be a service to the community. We're surprised that the city of Westmount is making it difficult for you to provide this information in a timely fashion.

ART & JUDY YELON

### THIS IS A DEMOCRACY

To answer your appeal:

Do you care? YES

Do you wish to have a functioning local newspaper? YES

Local real estate column? YES

Do unelected city employees at the city clerk's office own the information, giving them the right to dispense it when and how they see fit? NO

It is taxpayer information that has been paid for by taxpayers including the salaries of those employees. They work for us! We're paying their salaries and they should supply the press with the information requested by a free press in a timely, useful way. This is a democracy, not Stalinist Russia!

David Price, thank you for standing up against a very arrogant city hall staff.

This is just the breaking point for me as I can tell you for the few, but important to me, times that I have ever wanted any

information or assistance from that staff, I've always been fobbed off. And any staff attitude always come from the top. They better get who's the boss – it's we the taxpayers!

MAUREEN TRACEY, METCALFE AVE.

### PROVIDE INFORMATION IN A TIMELY MANNER

Having read your editorial in this week's *Independent*, it struck me that there are times when institutions lose their way.

A city council is a case in point. A council has, I believe, two main functions: on one side to lead and take the initiative, and on the other to act in a manner that reflects the needs and wishes of its constituents. For some councils, the second function can be difficult, since the wishes of the constituents are quite heterogenous.

In the context of the real estate column of the *Westmount Independent*, this is hardly the case. The *Independent* serves the needs of the Westmount community, and can only do this well if it is financially sound. If it needs information from the city to do its job well, then it is incumbent on city council to respect that need, and to provide the information in a timely manner.

Given that we have a forthcoming election in November, this provides an opportunity to ask the candidates their position on this issue. And to vote accordingly.

JON BRESLAW

### ENJOY DODGE, ESPECIALLY IN CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET

I am answering your appeal to write to you regarding the real estate transfers that you are having a hard time obtaining from the city. I have been a long time Westmount homeowner and always enjoy reading the *Westmount Independent*. I enjoy Andy Dodge's page on local real estate, especially in the heated housing market that we are living through.

I always liked to read the transfers to see who was buying what and for how much. It's interesting to see who is moving into our lovely little city, and who is moving out. It's also informative to see how much the adjacent homes are selling for.

I remember when all this information was published quite regularly. Then only the sellers' names and price paid appeared. I liked it better when all the information was there. So you can add my name to the list of Westmount residents that would like you to have easy access to that information.

MRS. M. WERBITT, OLIVIER AVE.

### VITAL TO DEMOCRACY

It was with dismay that I read of the difficulties you have experienced in getting

information about real estate transfers.

The articles by Andy Dodge and real estate information published in *Independent* is always interesting to read.

It is vital to a democracy that information that is in the public domain be accessible to the press.

SHEENA THADHANI, RENFREW AVE.

### 'NEED TO KNOW' INFORMATION

I read with great concern your editorial piece in the September 2021 issue (p. 8).

The city's attitude and actions regarding blockage of disclosure of basic housing information is egregious and appropriate pressure must be placed on the city bureaucrats and any politicians that support them. The data are a key "need to know" information on one of the most important aspects of life in Westmount for residents, advertisers and most businesses.

I am not an expert on how to organize this pressure but there must be a variety of vehicles that can be put to use that will change the situation. For example, what about getting signatures for a petition, maybe organized by the real estate firms here who pay a lot of city taxes? Or a former local politician? What is the story in other comparable neighbourhoods in Montreal?

TONY BOECKH

WESTMOUNT RESIDENT SINCE 1968

---

## Support the mayor's recommendation

**Update:** Regarding the *Independent's* access to real estate transfer information, Mayor Christina Smith's "recommendation to council and direction to the administration will be that the sale of properties (without names) that generate transfer duties should be tabled under section 6 at the public council meeting and made accessible to all."

Given that we have yet to see an example of this output, that technicalities regarding the Cities and Towns Act remain (see the mayor's column, p. 7), and that personnel at the city can always change, I advise you to continue to speak up now if you agree with us.

Please write, for publication, and join your fellow citizens! – DP.  
editor@westmountindependent.com

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September 21  
editorial –  
re-print

# Is the city of Westmount a democracy or a bureaucracy?

1970s, with our current columnist Andy Dodge eventually taking over the transfers list and writing a column about it in *The Examiner* for decades.

## *We used to receive the transfers*

The *Independent* was founded in 2007. We asked for the list of monthly transfers as well, which we published once a month. There was no paperwork or bureaucracy attached to the process at the time. I personally used to go to city hall and copy out the transfers every month, with our bookkeeper Beth Hudson eventually taking over those duties. When Andy joined our team in May 2012, Beth stopped and Andy took over for us.

Then, in early 2014, then-mayor Peter Trent and then-director general Duncan Campbell added a condition: we could keep getting the transfers list from the city, but we had to promise not to publish the names of the buyers. I thought that agreeing not to publish something true was an unseemly deal for a newspaper to make with a government, especially since the information ought to be public by right, not purchased with promises. But I did not want to start a fight, and Andy and I thought that he could do the job adequately without the city's official list, which he then began to do.

Over time, though, we began to notice (as we had guessed would happen, see September 21, p. 9) that we were not finding out about certain transactions, especially the sale of large apartment buildings. Also over time, for reasons unrelated to the city, we stopped publishing the names of the buyers. (I took solace in the fact that current owners can easily be found on the public property roll.)

So in about January 2019, we began asking for the list again from the city.

Boy, did they make it difficult! They began by saying there was no list and that creating it would be too time consuming.

Both these statements are obviously untrue. The city has to know what property has been transferred, since it sends out a welcome-tax invoice and all subsequent tax bills to the new owners. Also, Andy and I

knew that they could create a list. We had seen it with our eyes for years before going out on our own. As for the time that it takes to compile the list: everyone knows that, with computers, hitting "F9" (or whatever) quickly creates a this-or-that list from a database. If the city could manage to create a list in 1969, it could manage it now.

Also – very importantly – in a democracy, part of the job of unelected government employees is to answer questions from the press. If the press is disorganized or frivolous or biased or disrespectful of employees' time, those situations might be reasons for complaint, but we have never been that way. (Rather the reverse. How

much time have we now spent on getting this information?)

Eventually, the city did give us the information after requiring access to information requests, but slow-walked its replies, delighting in long-winded letters and unnecessary emails – composed using time that taxpayers have paid for – that added nothing to the exchange. It also delighted in deliberate obtuseness, treating each new request as though it had never heard of the *Independent* or the subject matter at hand.

This fiction serves the unelected employees well. If each routine request is presented as a unique, esoteric legal question requiring study, then delays of 30 or 60 days (or more!) are understandable.

## *Killing the column, softly*

This slowness in replying – and from time to time starting in September 2019, not replying at all – made a monthly column about real estate trends impossible to write with their information. If a columnist doesn't receive data on a regular, predictable basis, he or she can't have a regular column, which is what is needed for a newspaper and for trendspotting in real estate.

(I tried to get the ball rolling again with information requests in July and August of this year, and received replies 65 and 38 days after. They were positive, but how can a newspaper work with such long, variable and unpredictable response times? You

will also see, September 21, p. 10, how the city replied to my proposal to streamline the process. *Sllloowwww wwwwaaallkkk-kiiinnnggg.*)

As everyone can see, real estate is important to this newspaper on the advertising front. The advertisers know that we have content about real estate and it is one of the reasons that they advertise with us. Readers also love it. Especially since the city radically reduced its advertising budget with us, real estate advertising has sustained this newspaper. By making one of our key areas of content hard to produce, the city is standing on our windpipe.

So, it's all up to you. The issue that I put to you – the reader, voter and taxpayer – is this: Do you care? Do you want to have a functioning local newspaper? Local real estate column? Do unelected employees at the city clerk's office own this information, giving them the right to dispense it when and how they see fit?

(If we do live in a bureaucracy – accountable only to itself – that will be useful information. We can all stop wasting our time with the fiction of democratic government. Might it also mean that we could buy this information from the unelected employees? If it belongs to them, that would make sense. People can transfer their property to each other, so maybe the private market is the answer? If this reasoning is absurd to you, then things must change.)

## *Your information*

Or is the information yours, sitting in your computers and managed by unelected employees whose time has been purchased with your tax dollars? If it is your information, then it should be supplied to the press – your representatives – in a timely, useful way.

Please write to us, for publication, so that I can work to convince the elected officials to change the city's approach and attitude. *I would not be asking if it were not important.*

I have already worked to alert the elected officials through what I think is the correct channel, but I nevertheless hope that they don't fully know what is going on and/or don't understand its importance to this newspaper.

It can be easily resolved. I hope that the whole episode has been a giant misunderstanding. If I have been unclear in my communications, I apologize.

I see no upside for the city in its behaviour and I have looked for every other way out of this dispute. Trust me: I would rather be writing about beer or television, or – even better – consuming them.

*David Price is the editor of the Independent.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DOESN'T RED MEAN 'STOP'?  
WHAT DOES 'NO CYCLING' MEAN?

A few days ago, I was at the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve (south side)



about to cross the street. The “walking man” light was lit up but, just as I was about to cross, a car travelling west on de Maisonneuve went through the red light and turned left on Greene.

Yesterday, I was on the south side of Sherbrooke about to cross Lansdowne. Once more, the “walking man” was illuminated. A car was stopped at the intersection (so I knew it was safe to cross) but just as I was about to step onto the street, the driver went through the red light and turned left onto Sherbrooke!

I am also including a photo of a driver who turned left onto Sherbrooke from Victoria while the light was red in addition to someone on a bicycle in Westmount Park.

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

IS FRENCH IN DECLINE?  
PROVE IT

One must acknowledge M. Legault's sense of theatre. Two ex Parti Québécois cabinet ministers, Louise Beaudoin and Louise Harel, were paraded into the Bill 96 hearings to claim that 96 does not go far enough, that 96 “will not sufficiently restrain the decline of French in Quebec.”

Well, one hears much about this alleged decline, but never with any evidence.

A while back, Montreal Liberal MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos asked the official languages commissioner in a house of commons committee meeting whether

French was in fact in peril.

I have to see proof in order to believe what she said to Raymond Theberge at the official languages committee.

What exactly do you think contributes to this “decline” of French in Quebec? she asked, using air quotes around the word “decline.”

Well, Ms. Lambropoulos was made to understand that when language is the issue, one does not ask for evidence. She quickly became a target of Bloc Québécois and Conservative MPs. Asking for evidence in support of a claim about the French language was “insensitive.”

Languages need protection when the speaker numbers are in serious decline. This is the case with some of the languages of Brazil. Of the 1,000 indigenous languages spoken in Brazil prior to the arrival of the Portuguese in 1500, only about 160 are still alive. Specialists in a recent study warned that the extinction of indigenous languages equates to a loss of traditional knowledge about medicinal plants, which could reduce chances for the discovery of future medicines.

Someone needs to explain to “minister of identity” Simon Jolin-Barrette that if there has in fact been a decline in the number of French speakers the problem here in *la belle province* is the pill! Gone are the 12-children families.

There are languages in need of protection. French in Quebec doesn't appear to be one them. Whoever believes it needs to produce some hard evidence.

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

LET THE WESTMOUNT PARK  
PATH MEANDER

I would like to address just one aspect of the proposed plan for Westmount Park.

A bike path in a city is usually and understandably designed as a straight line, to get from A to B as quickly as possible. Do people walking in a park enter it in the spirit of efficiency? Is that what our parks are for?

In the city, we spend most of our time walking on straight urban grids that are noisy, polluted and short on nature – all in the cause of efficiency. A park is meant to be a respite from that.

I often walk to the library from the southeast to the northwest corner of the park and I would feel cheated if, in gaining two and a half minutes by walking in a straight line, I lost the experience of nature and relaxation, and the good mood that other walkers take on when they are not rushing to a destination.

Designers of great parks, like Frederick Law Olmsted, understood this magic. If

there are pedestrians who are upset about taking two and a half minutes longer to get from Melville to Lansdowne, I suggest that there is something wrong with the pedestrians, not something wrong with the park. If the behaviour of cyclists is a problem, I suggest that it should be addressed creatively with cyclists, not at the expense of a treasured and valuable greenspace.

And lastly, of course it will be expensive to upgrade and improve the existing path, but of course it will be even more expensive to build the one that is envisioned.

MARJORIE GRIFFIN, DORCHESTER BLVD.

GET VACCINATED FOR OTHERS,  
TO END PANDEMIC

I gladly got vaccinated twice, even though I knew it would have little or no effect for me. I've got my “passport.” There is no discrimination against those of us with limited immune systems. The neat thing about mRNA vaccines is that it didn't introduce the virus to our bodies, so no risk when we have little to fight it.

The immunocompromised have been mostly invisible. If we catch the virus, we will get sick. But it also means the vaccine isn't effective for us. We were left out of priority in Quebec, and catch-up came too late.

We waited over three months between vaccine doses, no chance at four weeks. After waiting two months to receive my second vaccination dose, I was scheduled to receive my regular medication (which ruins the immune system) at the same time, so there is little reason for a third dose at the moment.

Even now, the government is vague about who qualifies. In other provinces, the drug I get is specifically mentioned.

We'll probably count as “break-throughs” [in the case of infection], when it's more like we weren't properly vaccinated.

So I've stayed home for 18 months, two

## 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

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am  
(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

summers. Three summers actually, since I got really sick in 2019 and it took forever to get back to walking.

Two and a half years since I've been in a bookstore. I never got back to normal before the pandemic. I've stayed in because it wouldn't be fair to the nurses to get sick again.

The only way to end this is through vaccination. Until you get sick, you don't know whether you'll get sick. I had massive immunity until two years ago, when a rare autoimmune disease damaged my kidney.

I saw a story last year about a teenager with my disease. It's not just "the old" that are vulnerable. But since studies show the vaccine gives little or no protection to me, I have to rely on other people getting vaccinated.

But it's not about me. Others are in the same situation, and they shouldn't be swept aside as unimportant.

A year ago, there was no protection except distance. The one thing that has changed is a lot of people are vaccinated. They shouldn't have to wait for a return to normal.

"Passports" mean they can, while the unvaccinated remain like last year. Limit interaction, the government doesn't want

you clogging hospitals.

Right from the start, there's been a core group sequentially against masks, lockdowns, curfews, vaccination and finally "passports."

They stand on some absolute right, rather than need. They sow doubt among the hesitant. They are the ones holding up a return to normal. Don't like vaccine passports? Then get vaccinated, the problem goes away.

There's a big difference between being stopped on Greene or Sherbrooke St. in broad daylight and being demanded for ID, and a need to show proof of vaccination before eating out.

MICHAEL BLACK, ANWOTH RD.

### Clarification

In a story September 21 (p. 3) on the proposed re-zoning on St. Catherine at Abbott and Metcalfe, it should be noted that all buildings in these new zones that would allow retail and proximity services on the ground level "also retain their current residential zoning."

## Breathing with Sara Gallagher

We are excited to have Sara Gallagher join the Contactivity Online team!

Sara will inspire, challenge and lift your spirits as she guides you through her passion of Pranayama practice.

Pranayama is about bringing attention to our breath to strengthen the body and nourish the mind. All levels are welcome.



Sara is the studio owner and teacher at MODO YOGA

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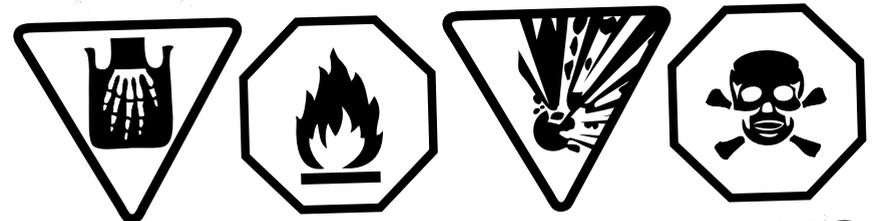
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## COLLECTE DES RÉSIDUS DOMESTIQUES DANGEREUX



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Bibliothèque publique de Westmount, 4574, rue Sherbrooke Ouest  
Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West

### Résidus domestiques dangereux (RDD)

Peinture, solvants, nettoyants, pesticides, ampoules et tubes fluorescents, piles sèches, batteries d'auto, antigel, huile à moteur, bonbonnes à propane et tout matériel toxique, corrosif, réactif ou inflammable.

**Non acceptés :** Appareils électroménagers, moteurs, pneus, fusées lumineuses, CFCs et tout résidu d'origine commerciale.

### Produits électroniques déuets

Ordinateurs, portables, photocopieurs, téléphones cellulaires, téléviseurs, magnétoscopes, appareils photo numériques, écrans, imprimantes, cartouches d'encre, périphériques de consoles de jeux vidéo, télécopieurs, numériseurs, modems, baladeurs, lecteurs CD, et plus encore.

Pour plus d'information, consultez [westmount.org/rdd](http://westmount.org/rdd)

Rappel : Le dépôt dans la cour du Service des travaux publics sur la rue Bethune est fermé depuis le mois de mars 2019.

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Paint, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, CFLs and fluorescent tubes, batteries (including car batteries), antifreeze, motor oil, propane tanks or anything marked corrosive, reactive or flammable.

**Not accepted:** Appliances, engines, tires, road flares, CFCs and all commercial waste.

### Old Electronics

Computers, laptops, photocopiers, cellular phones, television sets, VCRs, camcorders, digital cameras, printers, toner cartridges, monitors, video game peripherals, fax machines, modems, portable audio players, and more.

For more information, consult [westmount.org/hhw](http://westmount.org/hhw)

Reminder: The Bethune Street Public Works yard depots have been closed since March 2019.



Services des travaux publics  
Public Works Department



# Council members to warn drivers of school safety

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city council's school safety campaign takes place from September 28 to October 6 at five schools. This will be the first time in two years that council members will join police, Public Security and school administrators in certain school zones to drive home the need for safe driving.

Because there are so many schools in Westmount, the council tries to rotate the ones visited from year to year, Mayor Christina Smith explained at the city council meeting September 20.

Last year's absence of council members resulted from COVID restrictions in place, explained Councillor Anitra Bostock, who

is coordinating participation as commissioner of Public Security and traffic.

The tentative schedule as of last week includes:

**Roslyn School:** Sept. 28, 8:30 am: with Mayor Christina Smith and councillors Mary Gallery and Anitra Bostock;

**The Study:** Sept. 29, 7:30 am: Smith, Gallery and Bostock;

**ECS:** Sept. 30, 7:30 am: Smith, Gallery, Bostock and Conrad Peart;

**Westmount Park:** Oct. 5, 7:30 am: Smith, Bostock, Peart, Marina Brzeski, Cynthia Lulham and Jeff Shamie;

**Selwyn/École Internationale:** Oct. 6, 7:30 am: Smith, Bostock, Gallery, Shamie and Gallery.

# Growing up Lilly Kitten



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Lilly was brought in to the Montreal SPCA as a wee kitten and is now in a foster family.

She is growing like a weed, from a shy girlie discovering everyone and everything, to a bold like huntress bounding after toys and brilliantly participating in play times.

Less than a year old, young Lilly is ready for her forever family, where she will go from a youngster hiding under the bed to a sociable golden-eyed panther princess ruling all who love her so dearly.

Lilly does that, stealing hearts with such cuteness and silliness, added to purring and cuddling, irresistible kitten antics.

She is very healthy, up to date with her

inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please refer to her identification number 47608993 when you visit the Montreal



# Pistache Puppy, post-ortho surgery family needed



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, so many of us in Westmount have had and have dogs with knee, back, hip, foot problems over the years ....

You will read and say to yourself, yes, this is not so bad after all, fixing this nine-month Pistache's two puppy knees, really early in life, she will be 100 percent in no time!

If that is the case or you have an easy access home and yard for her, please con-



tact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions and be there for her in the next weeks.

It all started with Pistache having a bit of knee discomfort and in follow-up orthopedic consultation, it was discovered that she needs double-knee surgery. Gerdy's Rescue will handle all the expenses but they urgently need a foster-to-adopt home to care for Pistache post-surgery. There will be two stages of 8 to 10 weeks of cage rest, with attention to play and mental stimulation, and a gradual return to activity with physio and home exercise. Then the biggest heartfelt pride and happiness in the family to have brought Pistache through this and watch her regain the joyous moments of her young active lifestyle.

She has such a sweet nature and her pretty faun German shepherd-mix colouring make her so popular with everyone who meets her.

She is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please refer to the rescue's information page for her adoption on their website [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) and contact them at their email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour, Lysanne

SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

## Other less lucky kittens getting help now

Over and above its mandate in the Montreal area, the Montreal SPCA is providing animal welfare care in under-served remote areas of the province. In mid-September, they received 15 abandoned kittens from areas where there are shortages of veterinarians. As this is a high occupancy time for the cattery at the shelter, please consider donating to ensure that there are additional funds for the abandoned animals that come through the Montreal SPCA doors every day. Please visit the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and contribute if you can.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

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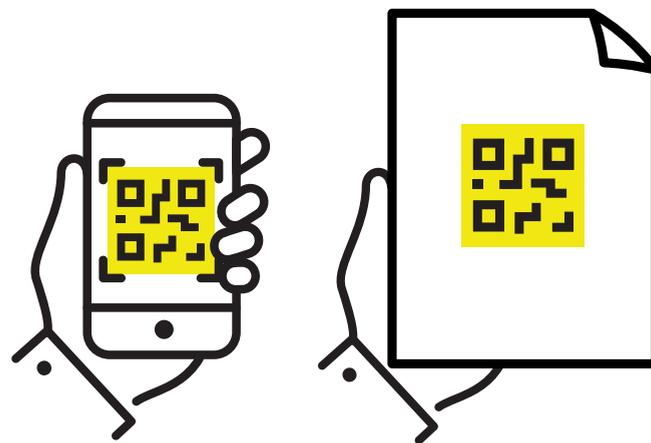
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## Your QR code is your vaccination passport

If asked, show your vaccination passport—either the print or digital version, or in the VaxiCode app—along with a piece of ID.



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- Impressive stone flooring: 30"x30" Marvel Edge Imperial White Collection
- Dark veneered (imported) Italian Kitchen cabinetry with integrated LED lighting - including fully built-in high-end appliances (with wine fridge); Sub-Zero, WOLF, Miele
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- Bathrooms showcasing wall-to-wall stone with custom built vanities "Aquabross" designer series faucetry
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## Westmount Park's bellwether tree



"One thing that I've remarked upon, that no-one ever seems to notice, is the tree that is always – and I mean always – the first to turn colour in the park," wrote Andy Gural September 21.

Photo courtesy of A. Gural.

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## T'S TAKES

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## Common cents



I checked on the RBC website and it states: "You can bring in coins to either be deposited into accounts or exchanged for notes."

I had seen an informal exchange on social media that said coins must be in rolls. I was able to purchase a large bag of coin rolls from Bureau en Gros, but no one-cent-piece ones.

I filled several rolls with quarters, dimes and nickels but I had insufficient one- and two-dollar pieces to complete those rolls. But surely common sense would prevail.

Now let me give you my logic, "There must be millions of dollars of Canadian cash in various denominations scattered around Canada and beyond, in old trouser pockets, in last year's Versace handbags, in sticky jam jars and in the back of drawers. The Canadian mint and the government will welcome the return of these relics that in some cases are worth more melted down than their face value. Maybe this could fix the national debt."

Based on copper and tin values on September 16 (according to [www.coinflation.com/canada/](http://www.coinflation.com/canada/)), a cent can be worth as much as 3 US cents in "melt value" and a nickel as much as 8.7 US cents.

I dutifully filled the rolls as best I could, packed them in an old shoe box (actually an Amazon box, but shoebox sounds more poetic) and marched down to the RBC on the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke.

I love these old buildings. I felt patriotic striding into the bank with my "shoebox" returning discarded Canadian booty that would rescue the Canadian economy. Getting attention was not difficult. There were many more staff than customers.

I was customer number two in the line of two. As we stood just inside, the lady in front of me turned around and said quietly, "Should I go to the front of the line?" which stretched out about 40 inches and was devoid of any life form.

## Opening the box

The chirpy "good morning" from the teller quickly faded as I opened the cardboard box. "I have several rolls of Canadian coins," I said, "but some are not full." I ex-

pected a hearty "Thank you so much, Mr. Thompson. It's so nice of you to go to all that trouble and roll these up and return them to the bank."

"We don't take incomplete rolls, sir."

Okay, I said, "Well, do you have a coin-counting machine?"

"No, sir, not in this branch." The monotone spoke reams.

"And I have this bag full of one-cent pieces. Bureau en Gros didn't have one-cent rolls."

"I'll have to ask. I don't work here. I'm just filling in," he said.

Poor fellow, maybe part-time, earning less than minimum wage with no benefits, switching between McDonald's in the evenings and RBC during the day.

For a fleeting moment, I thought he'd return and say something like, "No problem, sir, just give me the bag and I'll count them for you." After a short time, he returned, "You can get the one-cent rolls at the Dollar Store."

Now that would be about two miles away and about 30 minutes' walk, but what the heck? I'm just a customer.

I'm starting to think this was developing like the Abbott & Costello baseball skit, "... you can get the one-cent rolls at the dollar store, but shouldn't I be looking for the One-Cent Store?"

## Where's the service?

Having been told a couple of years ago by a cheery young fellow at Canadian Tire: "We don't stock that part here, sir, but you can get it online, on Amazon." I have long since decided the concept of enthusiastic service has evaporated with the ozone layer.

But an RBC investing representative calls or emails frequently. Now maybe he would take my one-cent pieces?

It makes no cents to me.

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# Blockchain and digital currencies will disrupt widely, Pye tells Rotarians

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Blockchain, the technology that enables Bitcoin, will spread beyond the digital world to disrupt other sectors, including banking, the CEO of a Canadian Bitcoin investment fund predicted last week during the Rotary Club of Westmount's noon-hour online gathering.

"I can't even begin to explain to you the disruption that this is going to cause," said Fred Pye. "When you think about how big this technology is, it's going to take 25, 50 years, but it's just getting started."

Pye started his career as a precious metals and foreign exchange trader at Guardian Trust.

He later joined Fidelity Investments, where he was part of a team that saw its assets rise from \$85 million to more

than \$7.5 billion. As the range of investment products became more diversified, he established the first mutual fund in Canada allowed to take short positions.

Over the past four years, he and his company, 3iQ, worked cooperatively with the Ontario Securities Commission to launch the first regulated Bitcoin fund in North America. 3iQ is now Canada's largest digital asset investment fund manager.

Bitcoin, which exists through the use of blockchain, is currently the most prominent of digital currencies. The system that operates Bitcoin set a fixed number of Bitcoins at 21 million when the cryptocurrency was invented in 2008.

This fixed limit is the reason why the value of each Bitcoin (C\$59,953 as of last Friday) is prone to rise so dramatically. "When you have skyrocketing demand and fixed supply, the only outlet is price," said Pye.

As to whether conventional money issued by a central banking authority is going to also become digital, he said, "Yes, of course, it's going digital. But it's not going to be just digital Bitcoin or any of these other tokens. It's going digital US dollars, digital Canadian dollars, digital Euros.

"Because people will still want to use the currency that they have. And now you'll be able to move that digital Canadian dollar around the world instantaneously and



Blockchain, which enables Bitcoin and other digital currencies, will have an even greater impact on how business is conducted in the coming decades, investment expert Fred Pye predicted to the Westmount Rotarians during their online gathering on September 15.

virtually for free."

Pye compared digital currencies to American Express travellers' cheques, which were popular at one time for making payments while on holiday.

"Your American Express travellers' cheque now sits inside your phone and you can use that anywhere in the world that you go," he said.

While saying that Visa, MasterCard and other major credit card companies are currently trying to come to grips with the digital currency phenomenon, he noted that the major Canadian banks currently forbid their clients from owning Bitcoin funds.

He maintains the blockchain system is not complicated and actually very simple, operating on principles very similar to those on which the internet, e-mail, and the world wide web function, as free and publicly accessible services.

As for the stability of Bitcoin and other digital currencies as an investment, Pye noted that Bitcoin isn't correlated to anything else.

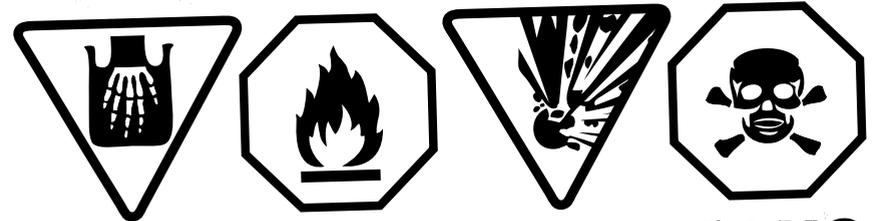
"If, all of a sudden, stocks and bonds and government printing presses stop and you're concerned about the massive printing of money, Bitcoin and Ethereum [another digital currency] are very similar to gold, meaning they're not related to anything else.

"Here's the relationship between Bitcoin and the S&P 500 — there is no correlation there whatsoever."

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Pour plus d'information, consultez [westmount.org/rdd](http://westmount.org/rdd)

Rappel : Le dépôt dans la cour du Service des travaux publics sur la rue Bethune est fermé depuis le mois de mars 2019.

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For more information, consult [westmount.org/hhw](http://westmount.org/hhw)

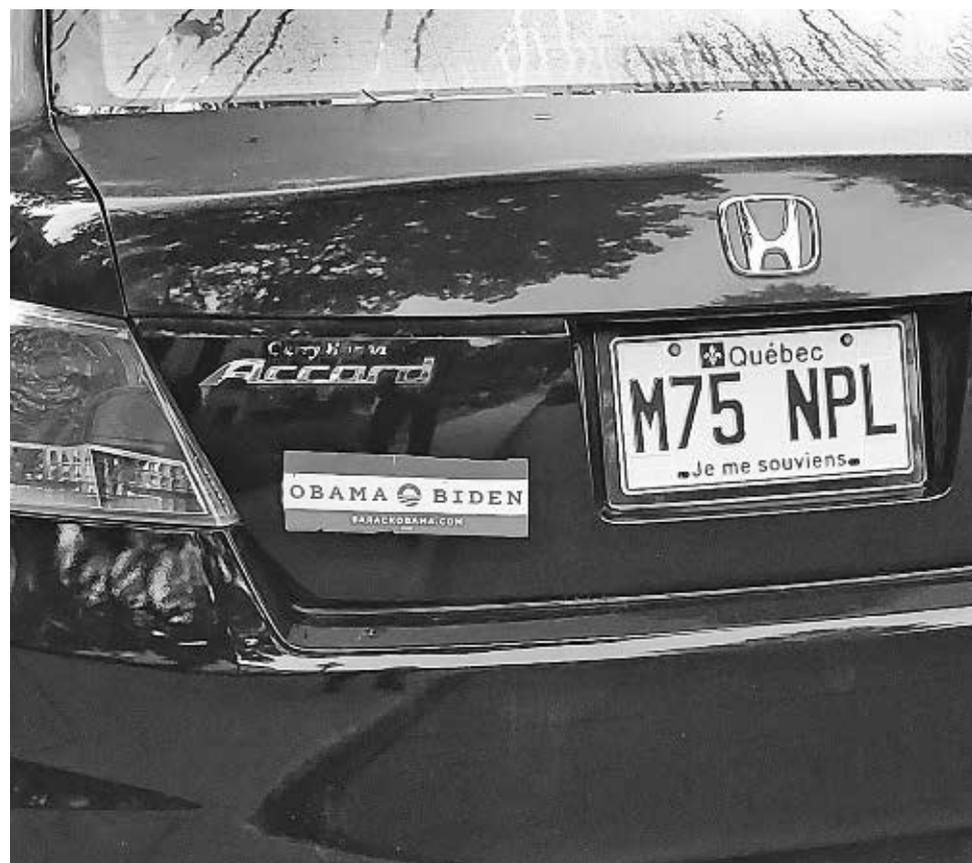
Reminder: The Bethune Street Public Works yard depots have been closed since March 2019.



Services des travaux publics  
Public Works Department



## Remember 'Bonjour-Hi'/Obama-Biden?



"A Westmount welcome?" wrote reader Chis Lyle about this licence plate, seen September 4 on Prince Albert. Meanwhile on Lansdowne above Sherbrooke, a very tenacious bumper was seen September 9. If it went on during an actual campaign, it is at least nine years old.

PHOTO COURTESY OF C. LYLE, ABOVE, AND INDEPENDENT, BELOW.

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## Police Report

# Boutique burglar leaves cashless, but with women's leggings

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A burglar who broke into a women's wear boutique on Sherbrooke near Prince Albert around 1 am on September 23 managed to steal a number of clothing items, but left without money as the owner took the precaution of leaving the cash register empty at the end of the work day.

A mobile unit from the Montreal police's Station 15, which answers for Westmount's Station 12 during night shifts, responded to a call at 12:55 am from an alarm company that reported the boutique's glass front door as shattered.

When officers reached the scene four minutes later, they found the front door damaged and open. Although they confirmed the lock on the door had been forced, "they did not see any shattered glass," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

Inside the boutique, the officers found the cash register drawer open and empty, but couldn't initially confirm that any money had been stolen from it.

After searching fruitlessly inside and outside for a suspect who might still be lurking, they saw a trail of women's clothing items removed from displays lying on

the floor and leading towards a back door.

"When they opened that door, they also noticed that there was clothing on the ground outside," added Pimentel, noting that the items still had electronic anti-theft tags attached.

The investigators may have some leads provided by images that possibly were captured by security cameras located at a distance at adjacent addresses.

Pimentel said the owner confirmed that the cash register was always emptied at the end of each business day. He said the items of women's clothing that were stolen included leggings.

### Chrysler missing?

Sometime between midnight on September 11 and 5:30 pm on September 13, a Chrysler 200 was reported missing from a private parking spot near the corner of Park Place and St. Catherine St.

However, the owner who filed the theft complaint later acknowledged to police that he might have simply forgotten where he last parked his vehicle.

On September 13, according to Pimentel, an attendant overseeing a parking lot outside the Bureau en Gros store on St. Catherine St. near Atwater reported a car

that had been left illegally parked in a spot reserved for employees.

The car in question was subsequently identified as the missing Chrysler 200. "It's possible that the plaintiff might have forgotten where he parked the car," Pimentel said after reading details from the police report.

He said that when an investigator called back the owner of the vehicle, "the plaintiff said that maybe they had forgotten where they parked it and had actually parked it there."

### Dog bite

Station 12 investigators have opened a file regarding a dog bite incident in which a boy is alleged to have been bitten on The Boulevard near Braeside Place at 8:51 am on September 15.

"The mom of a boy filed a complaint that he was bitten by a dog in front of The Study," said Pimentel, adding that a report on the incident was forwarded to a special Montreal police unit that deals with dog bite incidents.

"They will be getting in touch with the owner of the dog," he continued.

"There'll be a follow-up and an investigation."



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## Errata : Avis public d'élection

Veuillez prendre note que les erreurs suivantes se sont glissées dans l'avis public aux électeurs de la Ville de Westmount, publié le 13 septembre 2021 sur le site Internet de la Ville et dans l'édition du 14 septembre 2021 du journal *Westmount Independent* :

- Le point 2° aurait dû se lire :  
 « 2° Toute déclaration de candidature à l'un de ces postes doit être produite au bureau du président d'élection aux jours et aux heures suivants :
  - o Du lundi 20 septembre au vendredi 24 septembre 2021, entre 8 h 30 à 18 h 30, sur rendez-vous seulement;
  - o Du lundi 27 septembre au jeudi 30 septembre 2021, entre 8 h 30 à 18 h 30, sur rendez-vous seulement;
  - o Le vendredi 1er octobre 2021 entre 9 h et 16 h 30, sans rendez-vous. »
- Au point 3°, les jours de vote par anticipation auraient dû se lire « le dimanche 31 octobre 2021 de 9 h 30 à 20 h; et le lundi 1er novembre 2021 de 9 h 30 à 20 h ».

## Addendum : Avis public d'élection

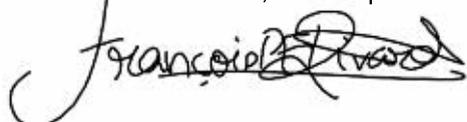
En date du 15 septembre 2021, le soussigné a été nommé président d'élection de la Ville de Westmount par une résolution de la Commission municipale du Québec. Mme Katherine Duchesne a subséquemment été nommée secrétaire d'élection.

Vous pouvez joindre le soussigné à l'adresse, numéro de téléphone et courriel ci-dessous :

### Bureau du président d'élection

4333, rue Sherbrooke O,  
 Westmount QC H3Z 1E2  
 Téléphone : 514 989-5280  
 Courriel : elections@westmount.org

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 22 septembre 2021.



Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard  
 Président d'élection

En vertu du *Règlement visant à fixer les modalités de publication de certains avis publics*, la date de publication du présent avis sur le site Internet de la Ville a préséance sur toute autre date de publication subséquente sur un autre support.

## Errata: Public notice of election

Please note that the public notice to electors of the City of Westmount published on September 13, 2021, on the City's website and in the September 14, 2021 edition of the *Westmount Independent* newspaper contained the following errors:

- Item 2° should have read:  
 "2° Any nomination papers for one of these seats must be filed at the office of the returning officer on the following days and times:
  - o From Monday, September 20 to Friday, September 24, 2021, between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., by appointment only;
  - o From Monday, September 27 to Thursday, September 30, 2021, between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., by appointment only;
  - o Friday, October 1, 2021, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., on a walk-in basis."
- In item 3°, the advance polling days should have read, "Sunday, October 31, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Monday, November 1, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m."

## Addendum: Public notice of election

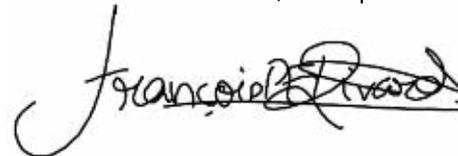
On September 15, 2021, the undersigned was appointed returning officer of the City of Westmount by resolution of the Commission municipale du Québec. Ms. Katherine Duchesne was subsequently appointed election clerk.

You can reach the undersigned at the following address, phone number and email:

### Office of the returning officer

4333 Sherbrooke St. W,  
 Westmount QC H3Z 1E2  
 Phone: 514 989-5280  
 Email: elections@westmount.org

ISSUED in Westmount, on September 22, 2021.



Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard  
 Returning Officer

Pursuant to the *By-law to establish the conditions for the publication of certain public notices*, the date of publication of this notice on the City's website takes precedence over any subsequent date of publication on any other platform.

Qualifies for worlds

**Mancini #1 in Quebec, #3 in Canada**

Westmounter Kristian Mancini, age 8, right, won the Quebec BMX championship July 31 and placed third at the national championships held in Calgary on August 27, “just behind the Alberta and BC provincial champions,” said father Philippe Mancini by email to the *Independent* September 23. “These results qualify him for the world championships to be held Nantes, France next summer.” This photo is from the Calgary nationals event.

Photo courtesy of P. Mancini.

**The Study cycles for kids**

On September 21, The Study participated in the Montreal Children's Hospital's Pedal for Kids fundraiser. It was the first time that it participated as a school. It raised \$12,252 on a goal of \$7,500. Its 15-person team was made up of Study student leaders, school heads, board members, alumnae and parents. Selwyn House also participated. This year, the Pedal for Kids event is raising money to support the Healthy Kids Fund and help build the Pavillon Caramel, a six-room residence offering free accommodations to parents of hospitalized children who are facing financial difficulties.

Photo courtesy of The Study.

**Another one bites the dust**

This truck hit the railway bridge over Greene Ave. on September 23. Anecdotally, it is the shortest time between two strikes that the *Independent* can remember. The previous one was August 12 (see August 24, p. 21).

Photo courtesy of Jim Richards.

**Refrigerated rink, cont'd from p. 1**

“The plan at the moment is to continue with the same procedure as last year, though this could change,” he said. Among some details to be worked out are whether last year’s limit of 20 skaters at one time might be required or relaxed according to government restrictions, he said.

The refrigerated rink was initiated last year as an option to the freeze-melt cycle that affects the regular outdoor rinks and

as a way to provide a safe-distancing, outdoor activity during pandemic restrictions.

It attracted an average of 190 skaters a day over the busiest period December 27 to January 4. While daily numbers averaged 135 in December, they began declining in January and February once the night lights were turned off at 7:30 pm with the onset of the pandemic curfew at 8 pm (see story March 30, p. 2).



From left, city councillors Mary Gallery and Cynthia Lulham were among the first skaters at the first-ever opening of the refrigerated ice rink in Westmount Park, which took place November 20, 2020 – 20-20-20.



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## Westmount Soccer Club's U9s shut out rivals



From left, back row: assistant coach Teo Parnet, Jules Parnet, Lucas Simon-Padilla, Leo Rojo de la Vega, Noah Richards, Felix Christou, Campbell Bailey, Yanis Bensouda, coach Alejandro Cardot; and front row: David Patriquin, Lucas Jans, Cristobal Cardot, Madyan Hamidi, William Ghattas, Yegeon Nam and guest player Roy Balsera.

Photo courtesy of A. Rodriguez de Rojo de la Vega

The U9 (under nine years' old) team of the Westmount Soccer Club had a perfect season this year, with 12 wins and no losses or draws.

"We wanted to let you know that we're

very proud of our kids!" manager Alejandra Rodriguez de Rojo de la Vega told the *Independent* by email September 21. "They've accomplished incredible things this year! The city of Westmount should

be very proud of them!"

The Westmount Soccer Club is an independent entity separate from the city of Westmount's soccer program.

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City views

VERONICA READGRAVE

Banana, olive, lemon, date, palm, coconut

## Pacitti brings fruit trees, 'zone pushing' to Westmount



Some of Ernesto Pacitti's "backyard" palms.

The most striking characteristic of his palms is their leaves. His Japanese fibre banana tree (*musa basjoo*), over eight feet high, sports huge eye-catching leaves that heave in the wind.

It was grown from a "pup" (a baby palm plant) imported from Ontario.

But will his wonderful creation sport a yellow fruit?

"No. It just creates little 'pups' that sprout out the ground at its base but no bananas in our climate."

Ernesto digs out these baby sprouts to grow yet another massive marvel. He shows me his lovely scented lemon tree.

"I simply peeled the husk off an ordinary lemon and after an incubation in a wet Scott towel. It grew a tiny root."

Now growing four feet high in his backyard, its subtle scent offers Tuscan memories. Amidst the gardener's cornucopia is a coconut palm, grown from, yes, a coconut.

"Over the past five years, I have learnt a lot. I have done a lot of research and joined zone-pushing groups." Ernesto's carefully-tended plants winter indoors, biding their time for summer's heat.

*See also photo on p. 1.*

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# Clay Roots: Visual Arts' 75th anniversary exhibition



Westmount  
Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Paintings, ceramics and mixed media set the celebratory scene at the McClure Gallery. An auction as well as exhibition to mark the Visual Arts Centre's 75th anniversary, art was donated by participants in solo or curated group shows held within the past 25 years or by teachers.

The range of subjects and media techniques within the 87 works is both a reflection of – and a credit to – the centre's art school.

### Show stoppers

Portraits, landscapes and abstracts were among the many exhibited paintings.

Eliza Griffiths' female figure in "Soignantes Imaginaire/Imaginary caregivers" vibrates against orange, red and blue. In Sara Peck Colby's winter landscape "February Afternoon," bare birch trees stand out against green conifers. A stylized vase of flowers within bands of blue and purple is the subject of Jennifer Hornyak's "Jade Green with Dusty Pink."

In Renée Duval's "Idle Speculation no. 4", a photorealistic – and dramatic – sky conveys the power of nature. "Loonatics" by Nunavut artist Louisa Pauyungie's features stylized creatures with black and white patterning. In Guylaine Chevarie-Lessard's abstract composition, "Abysses #42", red and green squiggles and shapes dance within the vivid, cobalt-blue background.

Inspired by local clover, Mylène Boisvert's green textile, "Trèfle et autres plantes contemplées sur l'avenue Victoria," features intricate stitchery made from hand-spun paper thread.

In Peter Krausz's photograph, "Roumanie (Highway Wedding)," the bride



Ceramics on display.

takes centre stage. Collage was another popular media among the displayed work.

Jessica Houston's elegant and calm composition "Losing an Eye to the Past" features a circle of overlapping blues while another suggests a frozen landscape. The overlapping cut edges and rich textures of Ann McCall's gold, ochre and green composition "Terre cuite" conveys an environmental message. John Schweitzer's lively collage of Visual Arts Centre ephemera "VAC : LXXV [MMXXI]" is a tribute to its 75th anniversary.

### Ceramics plus

Mérida Anderson's "Water Pitcher" – with a double handle and spout – is both curious and modern. The flower-patterned interior and Delft-blue exterior of Paul Mathieu's "Kiss Bowls" evokes ceramic traditions. Three, colourful vases – with a lively, abstract design created by summer day camp students – are cheerful reminders that the Visual Art Centre is also a teaching centre.

Elisabeth Galante's "A Longing for the Sea" and Michael Merrill's "Flowers #1 (After Manet)" are among the art works by the centre's instructors. "Weight of thought" by instructor and former executive director Victoria LeBlanc was also on display. LeBlanc is also the author of the recent history of the Visual Arts Centre – *Clay Roots* – which traces the centre's origin as the Potters Club to its current status as Canada's largest bilingual independent art school.

### Legacy of excellence

Executive director Natasha Reid said: "The show is a wonderful way to share the extensive talent of our artists and teachers." Yes, indeed. Not only did the exhibition reflect many wonderful solo and group shows held at the McClure Gallery over the years, the event was a reminder of how the Visual Arts Centre has enriched our collective imagination and community. The exhibition took place from September 2 to 15.



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# Alan Klinkhoff Gallery

## Consign or Sell in our Fall 2021 Sale of Modern, Impressionist & 19th Century Art

Alan Klinkhoff Gallery is Canada's leader in the sale of classic Canadian art. We are seeking works for consignment and purchase. The deadline for inclusion in our fall sale is October 15, 2021.



**Philip Surrey (1910-1990)**, *March Wind (The Crossing)*, 1980. Oil on canvas, 48 x 84 in (121.9 x 213.4 cm). This painting was sold in our Spring 2021 sale of Modern, Impressionist & 19th Century Art.

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