

Public consultation for 4216 Dorchester

Few issues raised by residents, will be reviewed by council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Exterior cladding, massing and possible noise from rooftop mechanicals were some of a few concerns expressed by a handful of residents attending a public consultation meeting October 24 on a five-storey stepped-back residential building proposed for 4216 Dorchester just west of Greene.

The few questions and comments from the 40-minute session are to be reviewed by city council scheduled for its meeting December 5, followed by a possible second reading of the draft by-law concerning the project of 11 units on the long-vacant site.

These were the conclusions of the consultation session voiced by Councillor Conrad Peart who chaired as commissioner of urban planning, infrastructure and engineering.

District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez, a resident of Dorchester, raised the issue of noise from rooftop mechanicals, to which Peart replied that he didn't believe there would be such equipment on the roof though he did not know for certain.

To other concerns, he said the height and massing of the building were basically contingent on the steep slope of the terrain from Dorchester south down to two rear alleys, east-west and north-south. They were also conducive to its position between the commercial building of five storeys to the east and three-storey Victorian houses to the west.

Among other exterior elements questioned were types of cladding (lime-stone and red brick), which were *continued on p. 12*

Contactivity turns 50!
See p. 21

Prospect, Stayner mark Diwali



Prospect St. resident Anita Chandan, centre, is seen with her grandson, Arjun, in the alleyway next to Stayner Park on October 24 where a Diwali celebration was held with neighbours and Chandan family members. See p. 25 for story. PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

Gearing up for 125th anniversary

City to apply for federal funding for library's lower-floor entrance

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It may seem to some residents that only yesterday the Westmount Public Library was celebrating its 100th anniversary as Quebec's first municipally funded public library. Now the first steps are being taken to mark its 125th anniversary in 2024.

City council October 19 designated Anne-Marie Lacombe, director of the li-

brary and community events, to submit an application for the city to seek a grant from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) for "a new indoor and outdoor space."

While no details were provided in the council resolution, Lacombe told the *Independent* last week that the city is hoping for funding assistance to create a new fully accessible entrance at ground level. This would *continued on p. 10*



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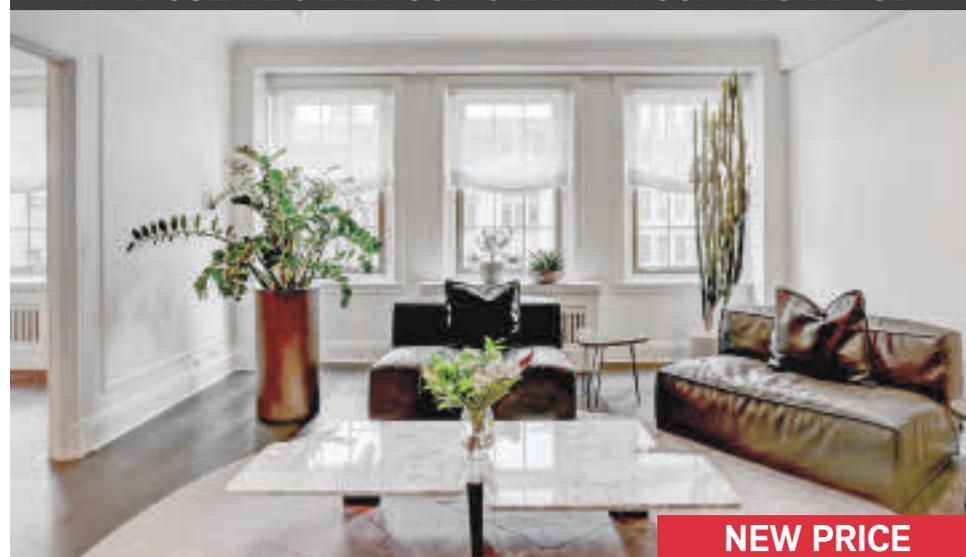
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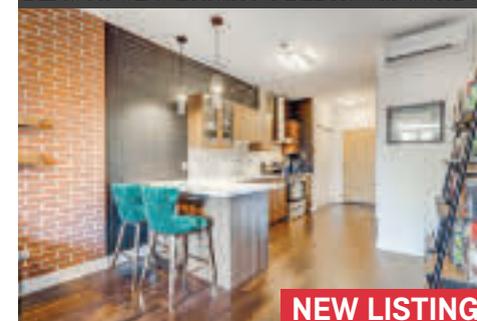
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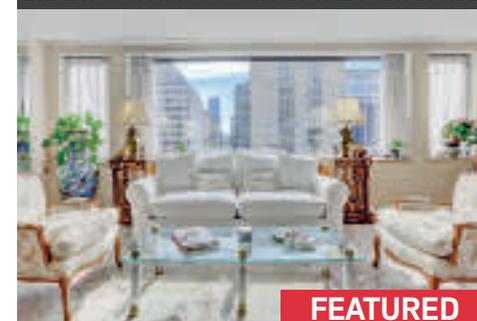
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Door-to-door solicitation without permit not allowed, man ticketed \$454

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man was caught on a house surveillance camera on Prince Albert just north of Sherbrooke turning the door knob as if trying to gain entry at 10:18 am October 19, Public Security officials said.

He was described wearing a black cap with glasses on top. When an officer responding to a complaint from the resident disembarked from a city patrol vehicle, a parking inspector stood by to assist if required.

It turned out the suspect was not able to gain entry and was hastening away when stopped and questioned by the officer. The man identified himself using a valid driver's licence. He explained he was looking for business for his knife-sharpening company.

He was informed that door-to-door solicitation without a permit was not allowed in Westmount. It turned out the man had received previous warnings for the offence as well as more in Montreal. He was subsequently issued a ticket for \$454.

Keys found

Keys were found near Sherbrooke and Wood on October 29. They were left at Police Station 12 on Stanton St.

Ticket issued for \$1,803 for using 5 feet more of the street and failing to supply signallers

A contractor who occupied five feet more of the street than permitted was ticketed \$1,308 October 26, Public Security officials reported. He was spotted at 9:32 am using 15 feet of the street at Montrose and Ramezay to unload equipment from a truck requiring stabilizers as well as a crane to lift equipment to an elevated work-site.

The procedure was obstructing traffic circulation and pedestrian safety by failing to have signalers at each end of the truck. The foreman was informed of the 10-foot requirements on the permit that were being exceeded.

Blowing leaves onto Kensington costs worker \$79

A worker found blowing leaves onto the street outside 362 Kensington October 19 was ticketed \$79 for the offence as well as for parking a truck not registered for the work. He was also ordered to remove the leaves from the street.

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Don't Miss It

Remembrance Day events

City's official ceremony. Sunday, November 6 at 2 pm at the cenotaph in front of city hall (Sherbrooke at Argyle). Also live on Facebook.

Unofficial ceremony. Friday, November 11 at 11 am at the cenotaph in front of city hall (Sherbrooke at Argyle).


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All-girls league just created for Hockey Lac Louis

Girls' hockey keeps growing as city plans new M7 team



Westmount's first M11 all-girls' hockey team received their Westmount Wings' jerseys October 13. From left, back row: Alyssa Sherrard (sports coordinator), Cassidy Landrigan, Romy Garschagen, Eloise Rodriguez, Kieran Martin, Elizabeth San Gregorio, Audrey Pitfield, Cecillia Chadwick, Reagan Piccioni, Eva Clark and head coach Caroline Parent-Harvey; front row: Chloe Ho, Stella Morganstein, Sophie Mantha, Stella West, Emma Veronneau, Chloe Veronneau and Abigail Waters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS & RECREATION.

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Westmount is now planning to launch its first all-girls' hockey team at the M7 (under age 7) level at the end of the fall, according to Andrew Maislin, operations manager at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

This will add to the existing M9 girls' team and the new M11 one initiated last month (see October 11, p. 1).

Maislin also announced the creation

two weeks ago of an all-girl's league for the Lac St. Louis region. It is to include Westmount, Côte St. Luc, MRO (Mount Royal/Outremont) and off-island teams.

"This brings inter-city competitive girls' hockey closer to home," he explained. He noted that recently the city's new M11 team had to travel to Mirabel to play in the highly competitive, already existing Ligue Interrégionale Hockey Féminin (LIHF), which the city just joined.

The news, he said "shows just how

quickly all-girls hockey is taking off, while in some of the co-ed teams – in the Westmount Minor Hockey Association for example – some of the boys are joining their private-school programs such as those at Selwyn House, LCC, Loyola and Collège de Montréal," which generally means they leave the city's program.

Maislin credits the growth of all-girls' hockey in Westmount to efforts of sports coordinator Alyssa Sherrard.

The formation of the new all-girls

league for Hockey Lac St. Louis is driven by Maislin, who is its vice president and also runs the Eastern Hockey League as its administrator. Hockey Lac St. Louis includes 24 minor hockey associations, under Hockey Quebec, including Westmount's.

The city's first all-girls team was launched last year at the M9 level (girls under 9) to introduce the girls' teams as "the future of hockey," as Maislin explained (see story July 5, p 4).

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Plan would keep girls' school open

Owners of Villa Ste-Marcelline's building sign letter of intent with possible buyer



Villa Ste-Marcelline's entrance on October 14.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Three letters explaining that a potential buyer has been found for the building that houses Villa Ste-Marcelline have opened a new chapter in the history of the only private all-girls French school in Westmount.

The Congrégation des Soeurs de Sainte-Marcelline owns the school's building at 815 Upper Belmont, but the school itself is a separate entity.

As earlier reported, students at Ste-Marcelline were recently informed that it would close at the end of the 2022-2023 school year because the congregation had announced that the lease wouldn't be renewed, citing engineering reports showing "approximately \$12 to \$16 million must be invested to ensure the conformity and modernity of the buildings."

The new letters, dated October 21, were sent in French to parents and students by Ninon St. Pierre, director general of the school; jointly by the parents' association and the old girls' association of Villa Sainte-Marcelline; and by Sister Marielle Dion, writing for the congregation.

The letter from Dion said "...it is with optimism that we announce to you the signature of a letter of intention for the sale of the establishment to a serious buyer. We are at the beginning of the process with needs to remain confidential."

St. Pierre highlighted the potential transaction's effect on the school: "There is a serious offer to keep the school open... we are sharing optimism with the sisters of Sainte-Marcelline for a happy ending that will continue to ensure the success of our students..."

The parents' association and the old girls' association wrote "...we are soothed and encouraged that the necessary steps will be taken to ensure the continuation of the school..."

"We understand that there are a lot of unanswered questions. We will respect the confidentiality: with the calm and serenity needed for the success of the process of the transaction, with the new buyer. ...we hope to reassure you that we will continue to ask for clarification, with the only goal being to transmit information, as soon as is possible and to reassure you about the future of our school."

While many parents and their daughters will be relieved by the development, a mother of one girl that spoke to the *Independent* at the school on October 24 shared a sense of uneasiness.

"I hope you [i.e. the *Independent*] are able to uncover more information than has been given to us so far. Parents are not ready to blindly accept that having this buy-out safeguards the future of the school," she said.

Police Report

Station 12 police looking into 'CLSC visit' incident

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 have opened an investigation into a bizarre incident at a de Maisonneuve Blvd. home during the evening of October 15 when four individuals tried to gain entry while claiming to be representatives of a local CLSC.

According to the incident report, the retired female occupant at the address heard her doorbell around 7 pm, then saw that standing outside were four persons, who were later identified as women.

Through her video intercom, she asked what they wanted. They claimed to be employed by the public health care agency. When she asked to see their identification, they replied they had left it behind in their vehicle.

When she replied that she hadn't been expecting any visitors, they demanded she open the door, while insisting they had an issue they wanted to discuss with her.

"When she refused and said she was going to call the police, they just walked away," said Station 12 spokesperson Cst. Mike Yigit.

According to Cst. Yigit, the incident was recorded by the home's security system. After telling her daughter, she decided to contact Station 12 to file a report.

Cst. Yigit said the investigators will be looking for clues in the captured video footage as to the identity of the mysterious visitors.

Although the investigation hasn't determined a motive, Yigit acknowledged that the circumstances resemble a *modus operandi* used to stage home invasions.

"We don't know yet and that's why the investigation is open," he said, adding that the investigators would be contacting the CLSC as well as the woman's personal physician to see whether anyone was authorized to go to her home.

Video captures break-in

A video security system also played a significant role during an unrelated incident that same day (October 15) – this time at a Victoria Ave. coffee shop.

According to Cst. Yigit, the owner received a call on her smartphone from her security provider around 6 pm that the shop had been broken into and the alarm had been triggered.

A live video feed from inside showed a male intruder trying to enter through a rear door. According to Yigit, there had been a similar incident at the same address around a year ago.

After she called 9-1-1, police officers responded by 6:15. They determined that the intruder had succeeded in breaking in, but left almost immediately. "He forced the door, he walked in, he walked to the cash, but then walked right out," said Yigit.

Removing entire lock allows for access

While thieves who broke into the Arc'teryx fashion store on Sherbrooke St. on October 4 used a crude method to gain entry (they smashed a front window), the perpetrators of a break-in and robbery on October 20 at another Sherbrooke St. retailer were more sophisticated – they removed the front-door lock.

"They removed the lock barrel," said Yigit. Although there are various methods used by thieves for taking the body of a lock out of the barrel holding it, he said one of the most common involves modifying the pincer teeth of a standard vise grip so that it has a stronger grip.

"I know from experience that when we used to catch thieves, they would have a vise grip, but with modified teeth." And while most modern barrel locks are installed flush to the surface of the door, making their removal more difficult, he said "with some of the older models, it's not the case."

The standard advice offered to merchants closing up at the end of the day by the police is that when they empty the register, the cash tray should be taken out and left in plain sight so that anyone contemplating a break-in can see it's not worth the trouble.

Cyclists ticketed

Officers from Station 12 recently handed out around 40 traffic infraction tickets for \$100 each to bicyclists during a special operation along the de Maisonneuve Blvd. bike path near the corner of Olivier Ave.

According to Cst. Yigit, the tickets were given over a period of two days to bicyclists who failed to yield the right of way to pedestrians or who didn't obey stop signs.

He said the blitz took place as part of a province-wide bicycle safety awareness campaign that ran from October 21 – 27 in collaboration with the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ).

We welcome your letters

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIVE LE BON VIEUX
RÂTEAU À FEUILLES

J'ai lu avec intérêt l'article « Council tables draft ban on gasoline-fired leaf blowers » dans l'édition du 18 octobre dernier (p. 1).

Cela fait plus de deux ans que je suggère à la ville de bannir ces équipements qu'ils soient à essence ou à batterie. Il faut comprendre que les souffleuses à feuilles constituent une nuisance à d'autres niveaux que celui de l'environnement. Quel que soit leur mode d'alimentation, les souffleuses à feuilles sont bruyantes et soulèvent des nuages de poussières. Les fines particules salissent nos véhicules et nos maisons. En plus, elles sont nocives pour les voies respiratoires et néfastes pour ceux qui, comme moi, souffrent d'asthme. Le bon vieux râteau à feuilles fait un travail impeccable, aussi rapidement, sans aucun bruit et sans soulever la moindre poussière. Au nom de la qualité de vie de tous les citoyens que le conseil municipal fasse preuve de courage et qu'il nous débarrasse une fois pour toutes de ces machines aussi inutiles que nuisibles.

DENIS BOUCHER, DE CASSON

GATHER FEWER LEAVES,
LIMIT COSTS,
HELP ENVIRONMENT

Reply to letter "Electric leaf-blowers will cost Westmount clients, lead to other issues" (October 4, p. 8).

We've been hearing over the past several years that it is beneficial not to rake leaves or leave a layer or two.

This might be a solution the landscapers annoyed with having to change to electric leaf-blowers might consider and result in a need for fewer batteries while limiting the cost to clients.

Excerpt from CTV news link below:

"Having too many leaves can inhibit grass growth, so Andrew Holland (Nature Conservancy of Canada) advises keeping it to one or two layers. Alternatively, you can chop up the leaves with a lawnmower to help break them down and prevent your lawn from suffocating.

"A thin layer of leaves can also be beneficial to butterflies, moths, caterpillars and other insects that rely on nutrients in your soil. Many of these insects, along with frogs and toads, hibernate inside the leaf litter during the winter, using the leaves as an insulating blanket.

"These insects are not only important pollinators, but they're also an important food source for birds, which have been declining in population. A 2019 study found that in the previous 50 years, North America lost 2.9 billion birds, mainly due to diminishing food sources and habitat loss."

www.ctvnews.ca/climate-and-environment/not-raking-your-leaves-can-be-better-for-your-lawn-conservation-group-1.5624677

HELEN DYLLA, VERDUN

IN PRAISE OF RAKES, RAKING

I read with interest and anticipation your article about the draft ban on gasoline-powered leaf-blowers in Westmount. I dream of the day one year from now when peace and quiet will once again reign over our fair city.

Ah, to recall times of yore. We might distantly remember the time when we used rotary telephones, those antique yet reliable instruments of communication.

Recall also certain other implements, that actually still exist in your local hardware store!

What circulates through my brain is something called a rake, a beautifully simple and elegant tool used to gather leaves. No gas needed, no batteries needed, simply some gentle force to accumulate fallen plant matter.

Raking leaves is an excellent way to improve one's state of mental health as you contemplate the vagaries and wonders of nature in your own backyard.

JOHN STIX, MONTROSE AVE.

ROAD CONDITION THE ISSUE,
NOT LEAVES

In the October 18 newspaper on p. 8 was a picture: "Fall/fallen leaves can be irritating" showing leaves blocking a sewer opening on Sherbrooke St. near Roslyn.

What is really irritating is the picture of this terrible road!

WARREN DICK, WOOD AVE.

DASTARDLY KIDNAPPING OF TWO
INNOCENT STUFFED CREATURES

Grumpy Cat and Peter Parrot were cruelly abducted from Hôpital vétérinaire de Montréal at 324 Victoria Ave., where Grumpy was getting a personality transplant and Peter was being treated for Floppy Wing Syndrome. A reward of Leonidas chocolates is offered for information leading to their safe return.

JOAN MCCORDICK, ABBOTT AVE.

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION
TO ACCESSIBILITY

I'm writing to add my voice to other letter writers who note a lack of accessibility in Westmount, and little response or action on the part of the city to reported problems.

There is an urgent need to repair infrastructure, to work with businesses and services to install ramps and other means of universal access, and to enforce measures to keep sidewalks and crosswalks passable.

I include a recent photo (October 15) in upper Westmount showing dangerous and unnecessary blocking of sidewalks with construction signs.

Obstructing the sidewalk like this makes it impossible for those with mobility aids, like walkers and wheelchairs, to use the sidewalk. You must take the road the entire way if you rely on curb cuts to access the sidewalk. I imagine those with strollers, carts, and wheeled suitcases are also placed in similarly dangerous situations on a daily basis in Westmount.

LISA FREEMAN, BONAVISTA AVE.
(CÔTE DES NEIGES)

JOIN OBSERVERS OF
REMEMBRANCE DAY,
ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

Last year, the city of Westmount's Remembrance Day's ceremony at the Westmount cenotaph was held on Saturday, November 6. Notwithstanding this timing, a small group of private citizens gathered at the cenotaph at 11 am on the following Thursday – November 11 – at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to observe Remembrance Day on the actual date.

They, like I, must have felt that it was the least we could do to remember those who gave their lives for the freedom many now enjoy.

This year, the city's Remembrance Day ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, Novem-

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Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

Protecting our urban forest, including our acacias

on their property. We are proud of our “green infrastructure” and we want to cherish and preserve it. This guides our decisions and actions in the management of our trees.

Goals include safety

Our goal is to maintain a healthy, biologically diverse, safe urban forest. To achieve this, we are committed to a proactive strategy emphasizing new technologies, leading-edge arboricultural practices and science-based decision-making.

Professional forestry engineers regularly inspect our trees to determine the most beneficial interventions for the community. Approximately 80 public trees are removed each year because they are dead and present a high risk to public safety.

No city tree is removed unless it is rigorously established that this intervention is necessary. At the same time, we replant 150 to 200 new trees each year, ensuring that the species planted are compatible with soil conditions, underground infrastructure and biodiversity needs.

So why do we need to intervene in King George Park and cut down some acacia trees? Why re-plant other tree species? Is this the end of acacia trees in King George Park? Are the decisions made in this project based on valid expertise?

These are all legitimate questions, and we want to answer them.

The acacia groves in King George Park are a good example of the arboricultural development that took place at the beginning of the 20th century, which consisted of grouping together the same species of trees, in this case black locust/acacia, most often for aesthetic reasons.

Issues with grouping trees

But this approach is now proving problematic, as these trees have the same vulnerability to insects and pathogens. Moreover, although highly prized for its aesthetic appeal, the black locust is now considered a harmful invasive species in some areas.

The agglomeration of Montreal does not allow the planting of acacia trees close to or in important forestry areas such as Summit Woods or Mount Royal but they are allowed in other areas of the city. All cities in the metropolitan area have been obliged to include standards in their regulations to restrict the spread of invasive species. Tree diversity, even in small areas, is extremely important in planning our urban forest, as it makes it much more resistant to invasive insects and diseases.

In addition, the irreversible structural deterioration of some of these acacias poses a public safety issue. The few trees that will have to be cut down in this project must be done primarily for safety reasons.

The well-being and safety of our com-

munity come first. What would happen if one of these structurally compromised trees were to fall and damage property or injure people? How can we justify not acting in advance when experts warned us of the risks and dangers of these trees?

It is our responsibility as a council, and my responsibility as mayor, to make appropriate decisions for the well-being and safety of the public.

Acacias in our future

But I want to make it clear that this is not the end of the acacias in King George Park.

The vast majority of the acacia trees in the park are still there and some acacias will be planted in certain sections of the park.

Furthermore, other trees that will be felled may also, in some cases, be replaced by the same tree species. So, even though our objective is to promote tree diversity to make our urban forest more resilient, we will do everything possible and take the necessary measures to limit the alteration of the park's canopy.

I also want to reassure you of the quality of the expertise that we awarded the contract to assist the city in this project. The firm of experts, Trame-Verte, with which we are working, has numerous certifications in forestry and arboriculture and works *continued on p. 10*

Trees essential on public, private property

Trees are an essential part of the character and history of Westmount. The city has nearly 8,000 public trees. Beyond the beauty they bring to our city and neighbourhoods, urban forests provide essential ecosystem services, including improved mental and physical health, improved water, air and soil quality, better storm-water management, wildlife habitat, increased shade and heat-island reduction.

Westmount also encourages tree planting on private property. Each spring, the city offers free ornamental or fruit tree saplings to residents who wish to plant them

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ber 6, but once again, some of us who prefer to observe Remembrance Day on the day itself, will be doing so at the Westmount cenotaph at 11 am on Friday, November 11.

It will be an informal tribute to those who gave their lives. We will observe two minutes of silence, followed by short prayers and a reading of John McCrae's poem, “In Flanders Fields.”

All are welcome.

CATHERINE DUFF CARON,
DE MAISONNEUVE BOULEVARD BLVD.

MOUNT PLEASANT RE-ZONING IN KEEPING WITH HISTORY, NEIGHBOURHOOD

On June 20, city council approved a motion to re-zone 400 Mount Pleasant as commercial. The residence that sat vacant on the corner of Mount Pleasant and Sherbrooke is like other mansions that line Sherbrooke and house commercial enterprises. The difference between 400 Mount Pleasant and the other stately mansions is that the building was extremely unkempt.

The wild garden on the Sherbrooke side was unkempt, but it did have a precious species of milkweed. Under the previous owner, the garage wall collapsed into the neighbouring alley. The building is literally falling apart. I know this because as a resident of Mount Pleasant for the past 12 years, I've been staring directly at it.

My company, DLVRD Logistics, has made 400 Mount Pleasant home. We have moved in quietly and are in the process of restoring both the building and the garden. We also have plans to make the garden public and dedicate it in honour of the great architect Edward Maxwell, who designed the home, should the city allow it.

We even had a few organizations come and pull the milkweed from the garden to re-plant for the endangered monarch butterfly.

We have received letters from residents thanking us for rejuvenating what was once a vibrant garden and through neglect had become an eyesore.

Not all residents are happy with their new neighbour. A letter written by Mount Pleasant resident Joshua Cummings has

circulated claiming that the commercial zoning is “inconsistent with the residential character of the area but also that it will result in increased traffic in the area and will make what is already a difficult situation even worse.”

I would like to address his two points. Firstly, 400 Mount Pleasant was originally designed as a semi-commercial space with a doctor's office on the first floor and a residence on the second. As mentioned earlier, many of the mansions on Sherbrooke St. are already zoned commercial. In addition, directly across the street at 4141 Sherbrooke between Elm and Mount Pleasant sits a massive medical building. As such, I think that we would fit in perfectly with the character of the neighbourhood.

Secondly, something that I don't believe our neighbours understand is that we are not a retail location. We are an office, and customers do not visit our office. We have a small staff, and we also offer our employees the ability to work from home. Consequently, we have ample parking on our property for our staff; not only that but half of our staff walk to work. In no way

will DLVRD Logistics upset the parking situation further or increase traffic, nor would I want it to affect the quality of life on Mount Pleasant, in which I too have a vested interest.

Mr. Cumming's inaccurate depiction in his letter garnered enough signatures to open a registry to oppose the zoning change. The city council will decide on November 7 whether it wants this matter to go to a referendum. Without this referendum, we will be forced to move. I want to take this opportunity to let the residents know that following the November 7 vote we will be hosting an open house so everyone can meet our small yet dedicated staff, including our office Labrador pup Parker, and see our restoration project for themselves.

We are optimistic that this letter clarifies some of the inaccuracies and we hope to peacefully co-exist with our neighbours while revitalizing this unkempt corner of Mount Pleasant.

As a resident of Mount Pleasant myself, I want to keep it as just that, pleasant.

MITCHELL ADLER, MOUNT PLEASANT

Southbound car in accident in front of Atwater Library



A Subaru sedan after a collision outside the Atwater Library on October 27.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Police were on the scene on October 27, mid-afternoon, in front of Atwater Library on Atwater Ave. at the corner of Tupper St. A black Subaru sedan had its front hood buckled, its side mirror broken off on the driver's side and a large part of the driver's door sheared off in an accident. It came to rest under a Ralik delivery truck. There was no sign of damage to this truck and no sign of another damaged vehicle.

There was a police officer on site but no ambulance when the *Independent* arrived on the scene.

Coiffure Jean John

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Men **Women** **Children**

\$2 admission goes to PSU food drive

Artisans Westmount prepares to kick off holiday season

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Now that Hallowe'en is over and the candy is being eaten, Artisans Westmount is ushering in the holiday season with its annual arts and crafts sale Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13.

This will also kick off Public Security's food drive as the \$2 cost of admission to the event, with or without an item of non-perishable food. Items suggested include instant coffee, cereal, seasoned rice pouches, vegetable oils, toilet paper, cake mixes, tooth brushes, new-in-box children's toys and maple syrup.

This year, out of 120 Quebec artisan applicants, 35 are being showcased for sale of their handmade jewelry, ceramics, sta-

tionery, toys and accessories, according to Emily Gamble, organizer of the Community Events "weekend."

"Last year, we had 1,130 guests over the two days and collected \$2,190 for Public Security's holiday food drive, recalls Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and community events. This was along with two patrol vehicles filled with non-perishable food.

Beginning more than 20 years ago, she recalled, Artisans Westmount has become an unofficial start of the holiday season that has taken place every year except for 2020 during COVID closures of city buildings.

The event takes place Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 5 pm.

Mayor cont'd from p. 9

with most of the cities in the Montréal urban community.

I hope that these elements of response can dispel some misunderstandings and concerns. For more details, I invite you to follow the evolution of the project by visiting the project's web page at engage.westmount.org

Westmount's urban forest is our green heritage, our living heritage. We want to perpetuate it with passion and intelligence to ensure its conservation for the benefit of future generations.

Christina M. Smith is the mayor of Westmount.

Library, cont'd from p. 1

be directly off the park, entering around the teen department.

"It's very exciting," she said. "We're just gearing up and organizing for the 125th anniversary," she explained.

Direct access

This entry will also serve as a direct entrance to other areas of the lower floor, including the audio-visual section and children's department, which are now accessible year-round only by stairs from the first storey and an elevator.

Among eligibility for the grants as listed on the Canadian government's CCSF and Heritage Canada website are the design and professional fees of cultural spaces. These include architectural, engineering and technical services project management and environmental assessment, construction and/or renovation of cultural infrastructure, and measures to improve accessibility and mobility.

Comin' Up

Sunday, November 6

Westmount Park United Church's "Wild Church" to re-connect with nature at Summit Woods. Free. Meets at 4695 Blvd de Maisonneuve Blvd. 9 am.

Tuesday, November 15

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents former NDP leader Tom Mulcair on "Current Events in Canada and Quebec Politics." \$15 or annual membership for \$60. Victoria Hall and remotely (www.wccmontreal.org). 12:30 pm.

Saturday, November 19

Treats & Treasures Craft Sale & Bazaar. Free entry. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. 10 am to 4 pm.

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RUE STE-CATHERINE O. | WESTMOUNT
\$1,195,000



AV. WOOD | WESTMOUNT
\$829,000

4216 Dorchester, cont'd from p. 1

approved by a favourable recommendation to the council by the Planning Advisory Committee at a special PAC meeting August 18 and led to the approval of a first draft by-law adopted September 19 (see story September 27, p. 1).

Because the project exceeds various regulations governing zone R6-35-01 including height, density and underground parking, the project is being presented under the city's non-conforming process for specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposal for an immovable (SCAOPI).

These would now allow the building to reach a height of five stepped-back storeys including the rooftop structure. This exceeds the zone's allowable three storeys as well as a floor-area ratio of 2.31 rather than 2, and a maximum site ratio of 66 percent rather than the allowable 65 percent.

The building's rear wall is to be aligned with the commercial building to the east (the former nurses' office building at the corner of Greene), and with a maximum setback from the rear lane. This is described as creating more rear space and improving integration with the neighbourhood than shown in initial renderings.

As a SCAOPI project, this is subject to the referendum process in which eligible



Architectural rendering of the proposed project at 4216 Dorchester as discussed October 24 at the public consultation meeting.

SOURCE: PRESENTATION ON CITY'S WEBSITE.

voters would be able to sign a referendum registry.

Destroyed by fire

The original three-storey apartment building on the site was destroyed by fire April 25, 1999. It was eventually levelled when infested by vermin (see story Sep-

tember 15, 2015, p. 9). This court-ordered demolition was described during the consultation meeting as a "safety" measure by former District 8 city councillor and then urban planning commissioner Theodora Samiotis. She was one of the Dorchester residents who spoke at the recent meeting.

The project has been through several

neighbourhood public consultations dating back to 2018 and 2019 along with consulting iterations (see story January 21, 2020, p. 3). These resulted in removal of balconies and oriel window on the front facade, stepped-back height, ornamentation of the entrance, the currently proposed cladding and more green space at the back.

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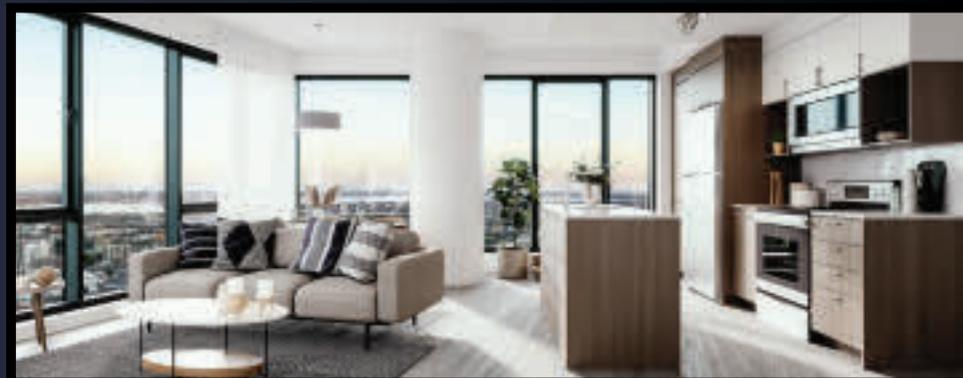
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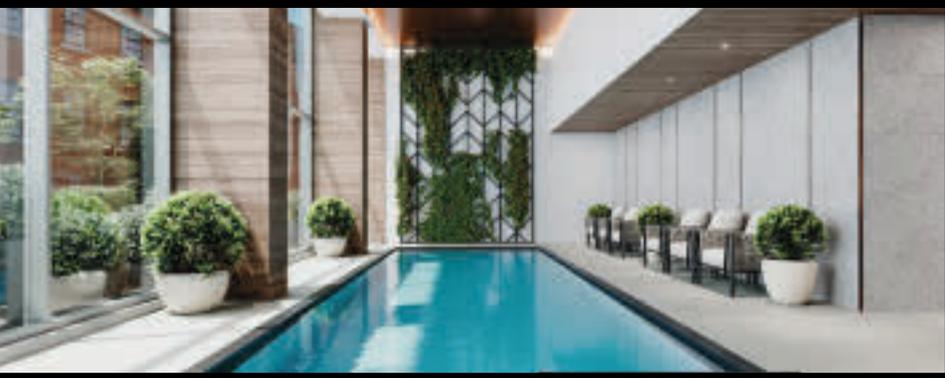
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Montreal-based author/playwright Ann-Marie MacDonald (seated left) held the first launch event for her latest book, *Fayne*, at Victoria Hall on the afternoon of October 16, drawing more than 100 fans of her writing. During the event, co-sponsored by the Westmount Public Library in conjunction with Paragraphe Bookstore, the author of the best-selling novel *Fall on Your Knees* was interviewed by Centaur Theatre artistic- and executive-director Eda Holmes. In addition to reading excerpts from her literary works, MacDonald answered questions.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

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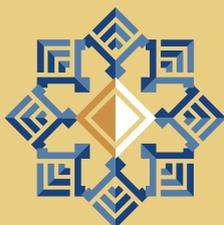
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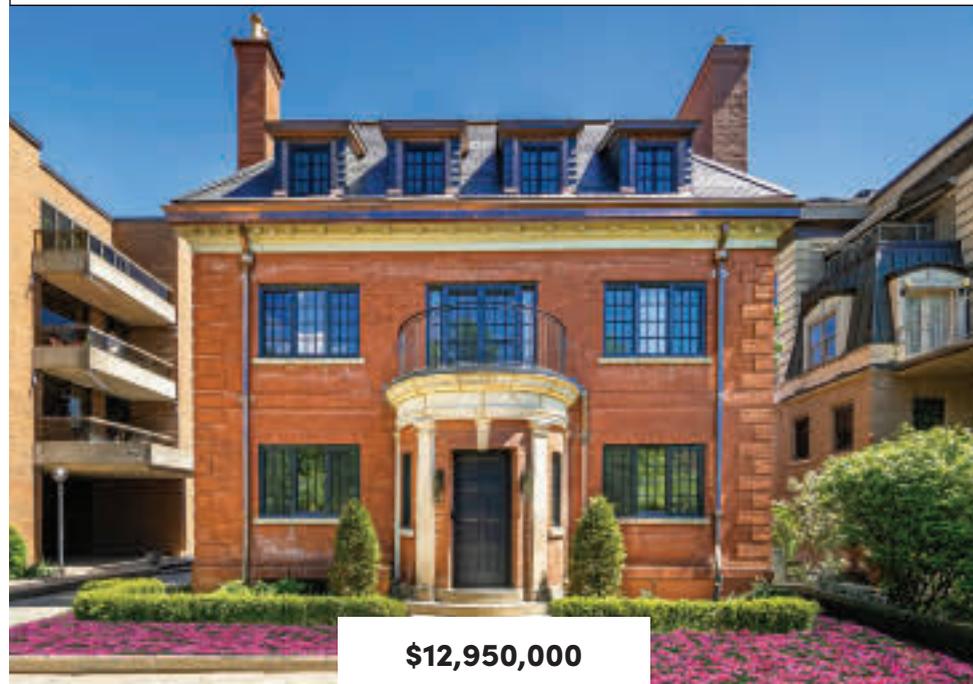
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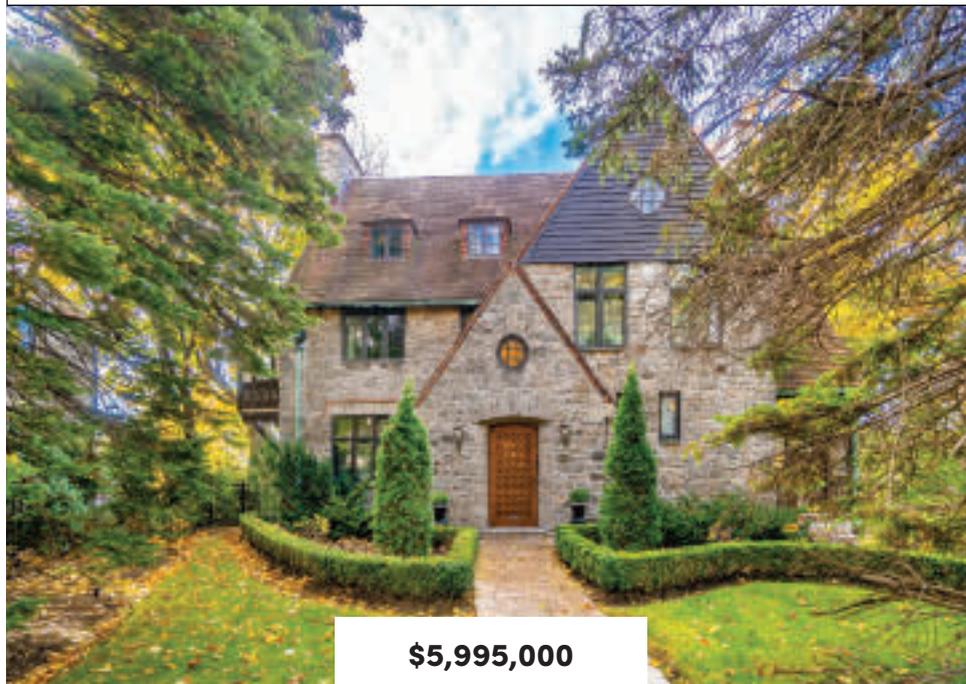
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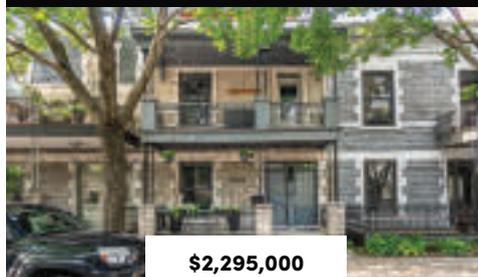


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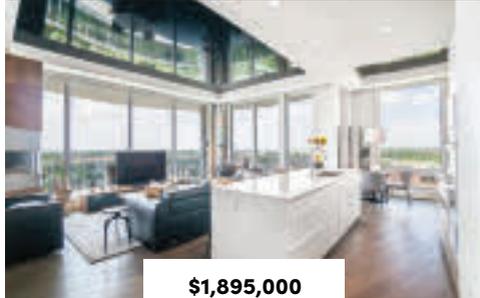
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

June transfers (so far): High prices, strong volume



5 Ingleside, lowest price, \$1,105,000 on October 27.



10 Braeside Place, highest price, \$7,400,000 on October 27.

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in June 2022, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.

The classic stone mansion near the top of Braeside Place brought Westmount's highest price for the first half of 2022, selling for \$7,400,000 in June and leading off for the year's highest monthly volume statistic to date, giving the illusion that the Westmount market, at least, was ignoring government efforts to slow down the economy along with the inflation it is causing.

The sale beat out the June transfer of 30 Surrey Gardens, another top-of-the-mountain mansion, which sold for \$6,000,000, but that one got the prize for the highest mark-up over municipal valuation, at 89.3 percent.

Added to the 72.6-percent mark-up for 10 Braeside and a few others in the 80-percent range, the average mark-up in June was 47.6 percent, the highest monthly mark-up since the 2020 valuation roll came into effect on January 1, 2020.

(Note that we are still comparing Westmount sales to the 2020 valuation roll even though the 2023 roll has been published. This maintains statistical integrity year to year.)

The small semi-detached home at 5 Ingleside Ave. sold for \$1,105,000 in June, the lowest price of the month, while another modest semi-detached house at 396 Roslyn Ave., just south of Sherbrooke St., brought \$1,750,000 to its owner, only 9.7 percent above its tax value, the lowest mark-up of the month.

Typically, June is considered "signing month," when buyers take possession of houses that have been marketed during the

spring. This year was not an exception and, with 19 June sales, the month had a higher volume than any previous one of 2022. But to compare: in June of 2021, buyers took ownership of 28 one- and two-family dwellings in Westmount.

Condos stable

Only four condominiums changed hands in June but brought the quarterly sales figure (April to June) to 14, exactly the same in the second quarter of 2022 as in the first quarter, down only one from the fourth quarter of 2021. Thus it is fair to say the demand for condos is not dwindling, either.

Three of the four condo sales registered in June brought prices of over \$1 million, including one of the townhouse-condos in front of former Westmount train station at the foot of Victoria Ave.; this after a month that sold only one of five condos over \$1 million.

By press time, the city's latest list of duties on the transfer of immovables, which was to have been approved by city council at its September meeting, had not been published in the online minutes of that meeting, thus there may still be more transfers to be reported for the month of June.

See p. 25 for two more photos.

Lost ring

Lost Thursday afternoon, October 20 on Upper Lansdowne or Upper Belmont: a cherished family heirloom, a gold-and-platinum ring with a solitaire diamond. A reward or a donation to a charity of your choice is offered for its return. Please contact me at 514-992-6413, phone or text. Thank you.

We welcome your letters

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

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2022

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
117 Arlington	Vera Skalova-Hirsh	\$1,710,000	\$1,465,800	16.7%
10 Braeside	Elizabeth Victoria Crossley-Wright	\$7,400,000	\$4,286,800	72.6%
54 Delavigne	Fariba Peyda	\$2,825,000	\$2,014,300	40.2%
4454 de Maisonneuve	Michael Alan Pell & Véronique (Slavica) Lescault	\$2,260,000	\$1,700,000	32.9%
456 Elm	Frederic Depuydt & Nicolas Martin-Brasciani	\$3,052,000	\$1,660,600	83.8%
367 Grosvenor	Pamela Crossen	\$1,525,000	\$1,244,100	22.6%
43 Holton	Caroline Seers	\$2,335,000	\$1,750,100	33.4%
75 Holton	Jonathan Frankel & Anna-Marie Lemesurier	\$1,725,000	\$1,235,000	39.7%
5 Ingleside	Gregory Dudek	\$1,105,000	\$820,000	34.8%
340 Kensington	Peter Mendell	\$2,300,000	\$1,556,800	47.7%
341 Metcalfe	Barbara Pollock	\$2,300,000	\$1,596,600	44.1%
375 Metcalfe	9422-5232 Quebec Inc.	\$3,550,000	\$1,959,500	81.2%
621 Murrat Hill	John Edward Johnson & Sharon Kristine Vance	\$2,295,000	\$1,371,200	67.4%
444 Prince Albert	Marie Cortadellas & Jérôme Michel	\$2,400,000	\$1,775,000	35.2%
308 Roslyn	Luc Arsenault & Linda Simard	\$1,540,000	\$1,140,300	35.1%
396 Roslyn	Janet Wilson & Michael Quigley	\$1,750,000	\$1,594,600	9.7%
619 Roslyn	Marvin Pinchuk	\$1,968,000	\$1,566,700	25.6%
478 Strathcona	Peter Cooke & Karen Howells	\$2,940,000	\$2,631,200	11.7%
30 Surrey Gardens	Samantha Pelletier & Matthew Auerbach	\$6,000,000	\$3,169,400	89.3%
CONDOMINIUMS				
4215 de Maisonneuve #3	estate Vincenza Virginie Argento	\$768,000	\$706,700	8.7%
175 Metcalfe #605	Natalie Court & Jean Lapointe	\$1,340,000	\$1,270,300	5.5%
4856 St Catherine	Yi Sun	\$1,069,000	\$706,700	51.3%
1 Wood # 901	Marion Sheila Ross Ramsay	\$2,000,000	\$1,966,500	1.7%
MORE SALES IN MAY				
577 Grosvenor	Anne Carraze & Alexandre Vidal-Naquet	\$2,615,000	\$2,150,000	21.6%
709 Grosvenor	Jinying Fei	\$2,300,000	\$1,665,000	38.1%
435 Strathcona	estate Simone Perez (Whiteman)	\$2,150,000	\$1,560,600	37.8%
436 Grosvenor (condo)	John Francis Brennan & Julia Hinphy Brennan	\$932,500	\$573,200	62.7%

PROFUSION

I M M O B I L I E R



9 AV. ROXBOROUGH | WESTMOUNT | \$18,000,000



18 RUE GAYTON | HAMPSTEAD | \$ 3,950,000



68 RUE GLENMORE | HAMPSTEAD | \$ 3,595,000



1509 RUE SHERBROOKE O., APP. 41 | MONTRÉAL | \$ 2,999,999



582 CH. DE LA CÔTE-ST-ANTOINE | WESTMOUNT | \$ 1,895,000

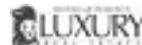


6811 CH. NEWTON | CÔTE-SAINT-LUC | \$ 1,995,000



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MONTREAL PREVIEW OF AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTION OF CANADIAN ART



Adrien Hébert, *The Eaton's Window, Montreal (1937)*



Antoine Plamondon, *Le flûtiste (The Flute Player)*

Viewing

Le Mount Stephen, 1440 Drummond Street, Montreal QC H3G 1V9

Thursday, November 10th: 12noon - 5pm

Friday, November 11th: 11am - 5pm

Saturday, November 12th: 11am - 5pm

Schedule a Viewing

Contact us at 1-866-931-8415 or rsvp@cowleyabbott.ca

CowleyAbbott.ca

326 DUNDAS STREET WEST TORONTO ONTARIO
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Centre Greene Mental Health Fair focuses on emotional well-being



Seen here on October 15 at Centre Greene during the Mental Health Fair are, from left, Corey Poirier (program animator), Helen Alder (youth ambassador), Heather Hodges (director of programs), Aspen Crick (youth ambassador), Katia Maksoud (community support coordinator), Navdisha Sandhu (youth ambassador), Saeede Soltani (volunteer), Diahara Traoré (executive director), and Willem Westenberg (Centre Greene board member).

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As part of its Healthy Steps program, Centre Greene hosted Healthy Steps to a Safer Space: A Mental Health Fair on October 15.

The Healthy Steps Project is a one-year program funded by the Telus Friendly Futures Foundation. The goal of the program is to destigmatize conversations surrounding mental health in the community, while empowering youths to have a real voice on the subject of their own mental health issues.

“We’re taking a really holistic approach today,” said Heather Hodges, director of programs at Centre Greene.

“We have run a series of workshops to give youths ages 16 to 25 the tools to become mental-health ambassadors within the community and the final step of this initiative is a youth-led project.”

She said the youth ambassadors chose to do a full-day event to raise awareness that positive spaces exist for conversations surrounding mental health.

“They will be spreading the message to the community that mental health conversations are good and can also be fun,” she

said. “We’ve reached a lot of people and it really feels like we’re making quite a positive impact.”

As many as nine stakeholding community groups, specializing in mental and sexual health issues, suicide prevention and harm reduction, hosted information stations. As well, there were therapy dogs, refreshments, a clothing swap, a workshop/talk and discussion period, and an arts and sensory activity corner.

As a follow-up to the event, two more workshops are planned in the near future. One will feature a speaker talking about his or her lived experience with mental health from a direct and human perspective.

During the second workshop (on November 25), local elected officials will be invited to answer the youth ambassadors’ questions on what governments are doing to address mental health issues.

We welcome your letters

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

editor@westmountindependent.com



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Contactivity seniors' centre turns 50, at Selwyn

The non-profit community centre for active seniors (60+) offers health services, lectures, games (bridge *et al.*), fitness classes and intergenerational programs – to name but a few.

Although nestled in Westmount, it is open to all.

Director Benita Goldin, resplendent in red – the perfect fall leaves colour – greeted arrivals. **Jennifer Maccarone's** office was represented by **Marie-Ève Parent**, political attaché, who presented Contactivity with a certificate of appreciation.

Sipping orange juice served in elegant flutes, guests admired the table settings. Contactivity's symbolic blue was represented with tablecloths accessorized with dazzling seasonal dahlias and sprinkles of shiny little gold confetti saying "50."

Selwyn House headmaster **Michael Downey** explained that Selwyn students often collaborate on Contactivity projects.

Enjoying the mood were board members **Tony Wait** and **Hélène McCormack**, **Sharyn Scott**, **Sheila Powell Porteous** and **Ian Porteous**, **Minoo Gundevia**,

Shirley Pow Chong, Contactivity's whiz coordinator **Emily Rill**, **Trudie Ogden**, city councillors **Jeff Shamie**, **Antonio D'Amico** and **Elisabeth Roux**, **Gilles Sirois**, Westmount Public Security officer **Marie-Ève Parent**, and **Anne-Marie Lacombe**, the Westmount Public Library's new director. (PS The library's honey is once again sold out!)

After lunch, Bob Perras' speedy valet team collected cars for departing guests. Just another lovely day in our neighbourhood.



Michael Downey and Benita Goldin; Hélène McCormack and Tony Wait; Marie-Ève Parent and Anne-Marie Lacombe.

Great Boarding Schools Reception

Join boarding school representatives for conversations about the signature programs and 21st century teaching and learning these schools provide.

To learn more about these schools and to register for this event, please go to greatboardingschools.org/register.

Wednesday, November 9 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Selwyn House School

95 Chem. de la Côte-Saint-Antoine, Westmount

Meet Admission Representatives From:

BISHOP'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Quebec, Canada

CARDIGAN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Canaan, NH

EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL

Troy, NY

GOULD ACADEMY

Bethel, Maine

THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

Byfield, MA

HOLDERNESS SCHOOL

Plymouth, NH

KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY

Meriden, NH

MILTON ACADEMY

Milton, MA

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON

Mount Hermon, MA

POMFRET SCHOOL

Pomfret, CT

PROCTOR ACADEMY

Andover, NH

SALISBURY SCHOOL

Salisbury, CT

TABOR ACADEMY

Marion, MA

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

Simsbury, CT

WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

Easthampton, MA



NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 7 novembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, November 7



Interdiction de déposer des résidus verts sur la voie publique

Il est interdit sous peine d'amende de jeter des feuilles mortes et d'autres résidus verts sur les rues et trottoirs. Renseignez-vous sur les collectes de ces matières à westmount.org.

Cérémonie Jour du Souvenir au Cénotaphe de Westmount le 6 novembre

La mairesse et les conseillers de la Ville vous invitent à assister à la cérémonie commémorative annuelle le **dimanche 6 novembre à 14 h**.

Séance spéciale du conseil

Lundi 7 novembre, 19 h, hôtel de ville de Westmount, 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. Le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2023, 2024 et 2025 sera déposé pour adoption lors de cette séance extraordinaire du conseil. westmount.org

Retard - collecte de résidus de jardin

En raison des opérations de nettoyage de rue en cours et de la quantité de feuilles mortes, des

retards sont à prévoir dans la collecte des résidus de jardin. Nous vous prions de laisser vos sacs et contenants en bordure de rue et nos équipes les ramasseront dès que possible.

Rue Saint-Antoine Ouest : projet de réaménagement 2022-2023

La Ville de Montréal effectuera des travaux importants sur la rue Saint-Antoine O. (de l'av. Atwater à la rue Irène) entre novembre 2022 et décembre 2023. Des entraves à la circulation sont à prévoir. Plus de détails : montreal.ca.

Turcot - relevés sonores à Westmount

Le Ministère des Transports effectue des relevés sonores sur différents terrains publics et privés dans la Ville. westmount.org



Green waste not permitted on the public domain

It is forbidden to dump leaves or other garden waste on streets or sidewalks; penalties will be applied. Learn more about the collection of these materials at westmount.org.

Remembrance Day ceremony at the Westmount Cenotaph November 6

The Mayor and councillors of the City invite the public to attend the annual commemorative service on **Sunday, November 6 at 2 p.m.**

Special council sitting

Monday, November 7, 7 p.m., Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W. The 3-year programme for capital expenditures for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025 will be tabled for adoption at this special sitting of the municipal council. westmount.org

Garden waste collection delays

Due to street cleaning operations at this peak time of the leaf fall, the City is experiencing

delays in the garden waste collection. Please leave your bags or containers curbside and our crews will pick them up as soon as possible.

Rue Saint-Antoine West: 2022-2023 redevelopment project

The Ville de Montréal will carry out significant work on Rue Saint-Antoine W. (from Ave. Atwater to Rue Irène) between November 2022 and December 2023. Traffic obstructions are to be expected. Learn more at montreal.ca.

Turcot sound surveys in Westmount

The Ministère des Transports is carrying out sound surveys on various public and private lands around the City. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Le miel est prêt !

Le miel récolté des ruches sur le toit de la Bibliothèque est maintenant en vente au comptoir du prêt. 5 \$ par pot, limite de 4 par personne. Paiement en argent comptant seulement. Svp, apporter la monnaie exacte.

Exposition à la galerie :

Nina Cherney et Alexandra MacDougall
Jusqu'au 16 novembre, Galerie du Victoria Hall.
Musique à la galerie le 16 novembre à 18 h.

Rencontre d'auteure : Monique Proulx

Lundi 7 novembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Un après-midi littéraire en compagnie de Monique Proulx, romancière, nouvelliste et scénariste. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Artisans Westmount 2022

Samedi et dimanche, 12 et 13 novembre, 10 h 30 à 17 h, Victoria Hall. Notre sélection d'artisans extraordinaires vous propose des créations uniques.

Club de films documentaires :

Journée internationale des Inuit

Mercredi 16 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Dans 3 films, réalisés par des cinéastes inuits, nous découvrons la vie, la famille et les traditions de Inuit Nunangat, terre natale des Inuits. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Conférence :

Heritage Montreal's Architectural Tours

Judi 17 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec Nancy Dunton, architecte et membre du conseil d'administration d'Héritage Montréal. En anglais. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Vente de livres des

Amis de la Bibliothèque

Samedi et dimanche, 19 et 20 novembre, 10 h à 16 h, Victoria Hall. Tous les fonds recueillis seront consacrés à l'achat de nouveau matériel pour la Bibliothèque.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The honey is ready!

The honey harvested from the hives on the roof of the Library is now available at the circulation desk. \$5 per jar, maximum 4 jars per person. Cash only. Please bring exact change.

Gallery exhibition:

Nina Cherney and Alexandra MacDougall

Until November 16, Gallery at Victoria Hall.
Music in the Gallery on November 16 at 6 p.m.

Author event: Monique Proulx

Monday, November 7, 2 p.m., Library. A literary afternoon with novelist, short story writer and screenwriter Monique Proulx. Register on Eventbrite.

Artisans Westmount 2022

Saturday and Sunday, November 12 & 13, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Come admire the wonderful variety of quality items for sale by this year's fantastic artisans.

Documentary Film Club:

International Inuit Day

Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m., Library. In 3 films, all by Inuit directors, we get a glimpse of life, family and traditions in Inuit Nunangat, home of the Inuit. Register on Eventbrite.

Lecture :

Heritage Montreal's Architectural Tours

Thursday, November 17, 7 p.m., Library. With Nancy Dunton, architect and member of the Board of Directors of Heritage Montreal. Register on Eventbrite.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, November 19 & 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Victoria Hall. All proceeds from the sale go to the purchase of new materials for the Library.



City welcomes new Westmounters at fall flower show

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

What attracts people to want to live in Westmount?

During a reception at Victoria Hall last week for the opening of the fall flower show, the *Independent* had a chance to touch base with a few new Westmounters who were among the guests that were invited.

“It’s a great city,” said Fouad Bitar, who arrived in Westmount last year with his young family.

They had previously lived in the city of Montreal’s Southwest borough, and now live a few minutes walking distance from



Stephanie Lapiere and Alexandre Lucena, who moved last year from NDG to Westmount.



From left, Anna Husa, new Westmounter Boutayez Keltoum, Kim Tam Nguyen, three-year-old son Marc, husband Fouad Bitar and their four-month-old son Elliot.

Westmount Park.

“The library is fantastic,” he said. “Then, of course, there is Westmount Park. But I think the most important thing is the people. Everybody is very nice.”

Boutayez Keltoum, who moved in the past year from France to Westmount with her husband and four children, said they were impressed with the quality of life found in Westmount.

“There’s everything here you could want: a good number of stores and businesses, good schools, and everything is in easy reach,” she said. “There’s also West-

mount Park. And it’s a neighbourhood where the security is good. It’s also very calm and peaceful.”

But at the same time, she said they found apartment rents very high in Westmount. “With our large family, we need a big apartment with five rooms and that’s not easy to find,” she said.

Anna Husa, a Torontonion whose parents are about to move to Westmount, said they decided to buy a home on Melville Ave. facing onto Westmount Park in order to be near her sister who has lived on Aberdeen Ave. for years.

Peter Rowen, a semi-retired psychotherapist who moved to Kensington Ave. from Chicago a few years back, said he felt drawn to live in Westmount because of its proximity to services within walking distance or by public transit.

The 2022 fall flower show is the first one since the onset of the pandemic more than two years ago, and the first since the re-opening of the Westmount Conservatory last June.

Last week’s reception also recognized the contributions of community volunteers.

Social Services

Operation Winterize

Please help us help Social Services at MUHC hospitals to purchase the coats, boots and other cozy winter wear that so many adult patients need when they leave the hospital. Donations will be matched by The Friends (up to a total of \$10,000) to make sure everyone gets the warmth they deserve this winter.

PLEASE DONATE NOW AT
www.friendsmuhc.org

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Women's Canadian Club speakers

Grimanis, Nsangou recount overcoming adversity

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal met in Victoria Hall October 18 at lunchtime to present two speakers, Lia Grimanis and Sandrine Nsangou.

The two guests have spent a significant amount of time in their lives facing violence and homelessness, living in women's shelters and considering their lives worthless.

When Lia Grimanis was 16 years old, her home life fell apart due to violence and she left. Grimanis is autistic but this was not diagnosed until she was 45. She spent two years sleeping on friends' couches,



Sandrine Nsangou, program coordinator francophone Canada for Up with Women, tells the emotional story of the breakdown of her life and the successful climb back to success.

which deteriorated into couches behind locked doors with men who were strangers. Eventually, surrounded by abuse, Grimanis called a hot line and was found a shelter.

Her life had changed and "the only thing on my mind is: 'Do I live or do I die?'"

But the day she chose life was the day she decided to help other people. It took 10 years to scramble back. She bluffed her way through interviews, having no qualifications as a high-school dropout. But her autism prevented her from understanding the rejection on people's faces.

Eventually, she was given a chance as a salesperson and climbed the corporate ladder, technically unqualified for every position. She went from earning a dollar a day to earning \$250,000 a year. Once in a senior position, her company provided customized coaching services.

"This is so unfair. The people that need the services most just can't afford it. It's just too expensive," said Grimanis.

Up with Women born

And this is where she had the idea for a non-profit group. As founder and CEO of Up with Women/Exponentielles, Grimanis has been honoured by the *Financial Post Magazine*, *Chatelaine* and others for helping low-income women and gender diverse individuals build sustainable, prosperous careers and businesses with the aim of permanently exiting poverty.

To achieve attention for her cause, Grimanis has no limits. She discovered at 39, she was "insanely strong." She got into the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the strongest woman to pull an airplane and a 15,000-pound truck.

But she failed to pull the truck first time.

Live on the *TODAY* show, wearing three-inch heels, broadcast to millions, Gri-



Lia Grimanis, founder and CEO, "Up with Women" in front of a projection of her pulling an airplane.

manis failed to budge the truck, maybe due to seized brakes. She uttered a few expletives. Twitter and Reddit lit up with hundreds of misogynistic clichés. But Walmart donated \$25,000 to a women's shelter and a few months later Grimanis went on to actually pull the truck and get into the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Up with Women has gone on to be a huge success story.

From two-income life to homeless

Sandrine Nsangou was living a typical hectic, two-income family life with a husband and two children. Then one child was diagnosed with autism and her husband insisted she stay home to care for the child. Shortly afterwards, the husband ran off

with all the money, she said, and 37-year-old Nsangou was left as a single mother, homeless and penniless.

In the shelter, "I was so ashamed. I was a failure. I stayed in my room and cried all day," said Nsangou.

She relayed her story to attendees of being in a place she didn't belong: she was a family woman. Good people asked: "What do you want to do?" She had no idea.

But she was persuaded to visit Exponentielles. Returning to the shelter, she realized that as child, she'd always liked helping other people, something that in her country of Cameroon was not considered a job. She went on to do intensive studies in community development and became a program coordinator for Exponentielles.

Up with Women/Exponentielles helps over 1,300 women and gender-diverse people every year and over half of the program graduates are self-dependent within a year.

At the event, Kim Cavener, co-president of Women's Canadian Club, welcomed an audience of around 50 in person and another 50 online. Patricia Fox, co-chair, speakers committee, set the stage for the guest speakers stating "pre COVID, Canada has 235,000 homeless or unhoused individuals, 13 percent are children and unaccompanied youth and 36 percent are females." Fox said this is probably a low number.

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Hindu 'Festival of Lights' varies by region

Diwali celebrated by Stayner, Prospect St. residents

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A group of residents from Stayner and Prospect streets in lower Westmount gathered in the laneway next to Prospect Park on October 24 to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu religious Festival of Lights marking the beginning of a new year.

"For us, it's the most significant celebration," said Anita Chandan, a Prospect St. resident and follower of Hinduism who has been organizing the outdoor gathering for several years.

During the five days of Diwali, followers clean their homes, their hearts and minds, and invite family and friends over to celebrate by lighting diyas (small earthenware oil lamps), as well as other sources of brilliant light such as fireworks or sparklers.

According to the online Encyclopaedia Britannica, the name Diwali is derived from the Sanskrit term "dipavali," meaning "row of lights." The third day of Diwali was on October 24.

The diyas are lit on the night of the new moon to invite the presence of Lakshmi,

the Hindu goddess of wealth and good fortune. Observances of Diwali can differ, depending on the region of India and local traditions.

Chandan said part of the purpose of sharing Diwali with the neighbours and their children was to familiarize them with the traditions of other cultures.

"We live in a world now where racism is rampant," she said. "And the only way for me, I feel, to combat that is through educating our friends and our friends' children."

Four generations of Chandan family members, including her parents who came in from Ottawa, were on hand for the celebration.

See photo on p. 1.

We welcome your letters

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

DIMANCHE 6 NOVEMBRE 2022 À 14 H

96^E CÉRÉMONIE JOUR DU SOUVENIR AU CÉNOTAPHE EN DIRECT SUR FACEBOOK

La mairesse et les conseillers de la Ville de Westmount vous prient d'assister à la cérémonie commémorative du Jour du Souvenir.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022 AT 2 P.M.

96TH REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY AT THE CENOTAPH LIVE ON FACEBOOK

The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Westmount invite you to the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service.

facebook.com/villedewestmount



*Nous nous souviendrons...
Lest we forget...*



396 Roslyn, the lowest mark-up of June's real estate transfers, at 9.7%, on October 28. See p. 18 for Andy's Dodge's analysis of the month.



30 Surrey Gardens, highest mark-up, 89.3 percent on October 27.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Diego

Diego is most elegant, a modern work of art in black and white! His poise and elegance match his beauty.

This glamorous feline is at the Mon-

Handsome Hunter

Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER



Hunter is a big puppy, only two years old, coming into his frame and tall legs. There is a lot of Great Dane in his mix, his faun colouring and his sweet dark eyes.

Hunter is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, waiting for the caring family that he will share love, play, snacks and snoozes with. He hasn't had much opportunity growing up to integrate into a family and neighbourhood, so this is his time to catch up.

He is healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Hunter is available for adoption under the "humanitarian" reduced-fee category as he has material breed-specific check-ups to be kept in mind for the long-term.

To find out more about majestic Hunter, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then scroll to Hunter's information page from his identification number, 51307349, then click on the "Fill out the form" rectangle at the top right-hand corner of the page. You will then access the adoption coordinator information form, by which you can start the file process and visit the shelter for him.

Hunter is a fantastic fellow. Please give him a good home and family.

Your neighbour,

Lysanne

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trear SPCA cattery, ready to go to his forever home and cuddle with family members once he settles in. Diego is very healthy at five years of age, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

You can find out more about him very easily by going to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scrolling to his information page by his identification number, 51413058, then clicking on the "Make an appointment" button on the upper right-hand corner of the page. You will then be able to choose an appointment time that will suit you to visit the shelter and meet with an adoption coordinator about bringing Diego home to your family.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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A near miss on Greene



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. WESTENBERG.

The rail bridge over Greene Ave. south of Dorchester is frequently hit by delivery-style trucks – 15 in 23 months at last count (October 11, p. 17). But there has been at least one near miss. Frequent chronicler, Willem Westenberg put it this way:

“[This October 15 photo] of our now-familiar bridge, seconds from claiming another victim, being denied another vic-

tory, by the passenger of this truck stepping from the truck to check the vertical clearance ... and by me, who told them NOT to proceed, and showed them a photo of one of the most recent bridge-strike trucks. ... The fellows backed up and turned around to go south again...!” Note the passenger indicating how little room there appears to be.

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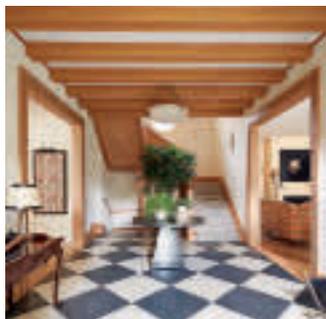
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Come for the trees. Stay for the colour.

**Alex Cameron - Northland Sensations
25 October - 30 November, 2022**

*Premiering Reception:

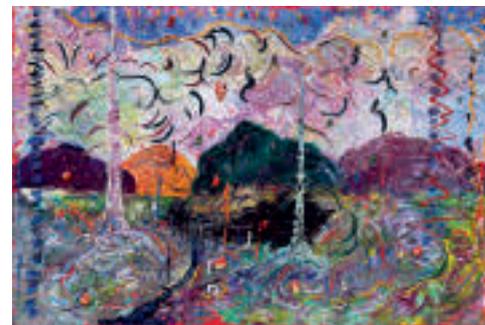
Saturday, November 12, 2022, 2 – 6 pm

Presentations: 2:30 and 4:30 pm

Expert insights on this undervalued historical artist

Alex Cameron is one of the leading members of the second generation of Painters Eleven, a group of abstract artists active in Canada between 1953 and

1960. Based in Toronto, he is inspired by the great Canadian wilderness. In his early years the artist worked with Jack Bush and met the influential art critic Clement Greenberg, with whom he would remain in close contact for many years. His breakthrough from the Canadian art scene was in 1977 when his abstract paintings were exhibited alongside Jack Bush, K.M Graham, David Bolduc and Paul Fournier among others. Entitled Fourteen Canadians: A Critics Choice, the show was held at Washington’s Hirshhorn Museum. Whether creating an abstract work or a landscape, Cameron’s paint is applied thickly, seemingly squeezed onto the canvas; the resulting impasto creates a texture. In his landscapes, striking pigments portray each section of the view. “My skies are colour fields.” Painterly planes lead the gaze into a perspective delineated by architectonic lines: foreground vertical branches are balanced



by horizontal masses of far mountains. The geography of Northern Ontario and Quebec provide the artist with a structured place where he paints en plein air, his spontaneous motifs reminiscent of the Group of Seven. There is an overall richness to Cameron’s lyrical canvases. They burst with organic energy- a

rhythm of line and mass. Their luminosity lures one to admire the magic of a wilderness encounter, or the eloquent expressions in his abstracts. While they are a far cry from the bucolic balm of forest bathing, their sensual symmetry calls forth a sense of awe. Cézanne aimed to “astonish with an apple.” Alex Cameron has done so with his trees.

Alex Cameron’s work is in corporate and international collections as well as those of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, McMaster Museum of Art, Beaverbrook Art Gallery and in established collections such as the Queens Silver Jubilee Collection, and the Office of the Canadian Prime Minister, and The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Veronica Redgrave

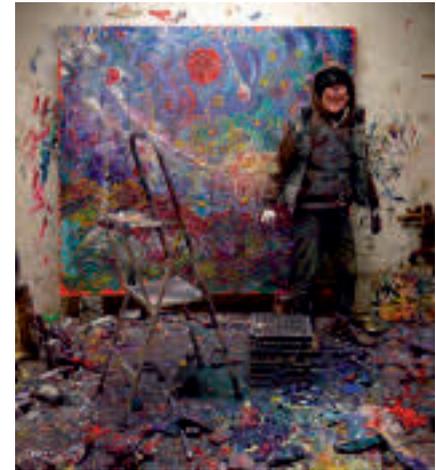
We invite you to join us or to view the works at www.hmchanartgallery.com

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Top right: The artist in his studio

Left: Green Mountain, 2019, 44 x 66 in. oil on canvas

Right: Laurentiens II, 2022, 60 x 60 in. oil on canvas



Cherney, MacDougall unveil art at Vic Hall

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Walker, Madeleine Doyle with Phil Vergrysky, and Sophie Doyle with Xander Manshel.

Alexandra's family attending was parents Natalie and Reford MacDougall, brother Duncan MacDougall, and her husband Hubert Colas.

The premiering exhibit featured vibrant compositions by both. Classically trained, Alexandra presented sketches in ink and watercolour, capturing the essence of movement, although she prefers to "work in oils," *continued on p. 30*

The unseasonal afternoon hail halted in time for a fun – and packed – vernissage. Local artists **Nina Cherney** and **Alexandra MacDougall** featured their latest work at Victoria Hall.

Nina was accompanied by her husband **Robert Doyle**, mother **Gloria Cherney**, and her children **Andrew Doyle** with **Amelia**



Alexandra MacDougall.



Eva Friede and Nina Cherney.

Public information meeting

● **Wednesday November 2**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Jewish General Hospital Pavilion K
Carrefour Lea Polansky

- Presentation of the 2021-2022 highlights and financial statements of CIUSSS West-Central Montreal
- Presentation of the Awards of Excellence
- Question period for the public

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Andy Doyle, Amelie Walker and Eileen Ramos.



Natalie and Reford MacDougall.



Lara Santini and Véronique Pourcelot.



Nancy Benitz, Catherine Natlacen and Mai Nguy.



Deirdre McIlwraith and Louise Van Der Veden.

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Lucie Letendre and Yves Leduc.



Laurent Colas, nephew of artist Alexandra MacDougall, and Eileen Rivard.



Aiko Sirbu and Brianna Dagrain.

Social Notes, cont'd from p. 28

Lucie Letendre and Yves Leduc, Amelia Walker, Eva Friede, Nancy Benitz, Mai Nguyen, Catherine Natlacen and Catherine Champoux, the gallery's director.

Also seen were Rebecca Keyston, Sandra Smith, Joanne Weston, Francesca Trop and André Beaulieu, Catherine and Daniel Dorey with their daughter Claudia, Nicholas Cherney and Edith Vazalinskas, Lorraine Shatilla, Eileen Segal, Simone Guillon, Mimi Dupuis and Laurent Fortier, Raymonde Lavoie, Hélène Maufette and Jacques Beïque, Bernard Colas and Nathalie Maillé, DG of Conseil des arts de

Montréal.

Aiko Sirbu and Brianna Dagrain presented a beautiful bouquet.

Also admiring the art were Mridu Parmar, Eileen Ramos, Jamie Sirois, Louise Van de Werve, Catherine McKenzie, Nicole Sharp, Sara Colby, Darina Groucha, Kim Drummond-Dlouhy and Mary Rolf.

Amidst the oils and watercolours, no one wore painted acrylics. (Google this "it" trend).

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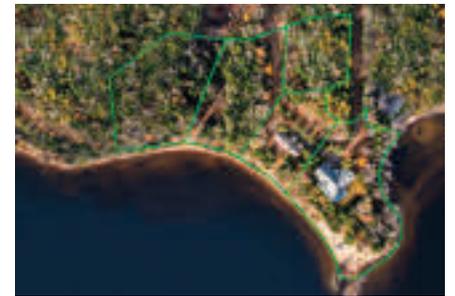
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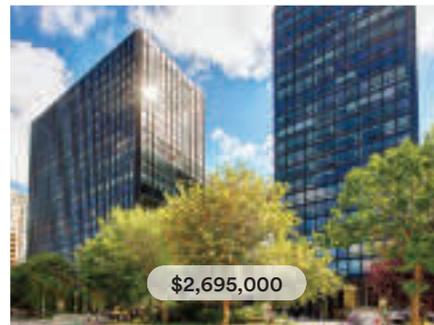
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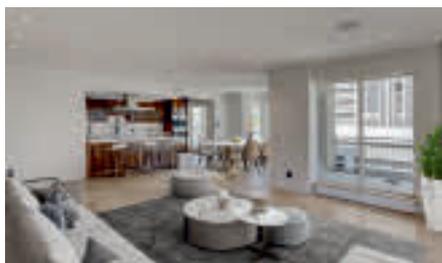


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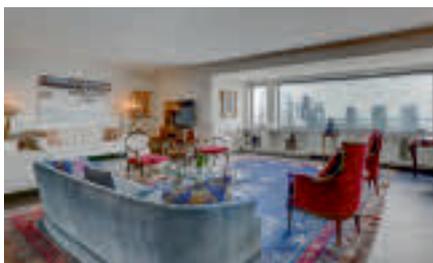
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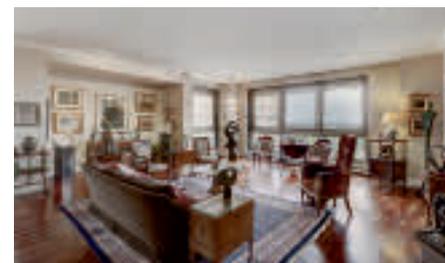
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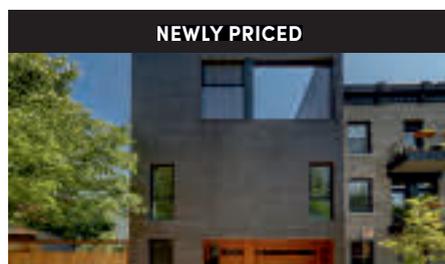
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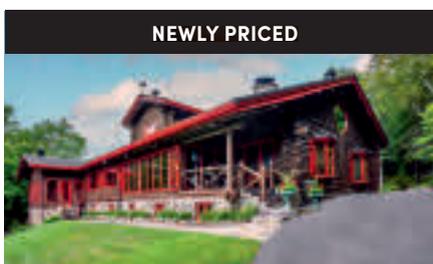
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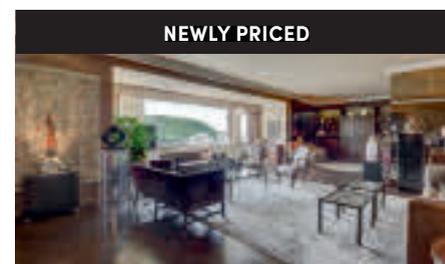
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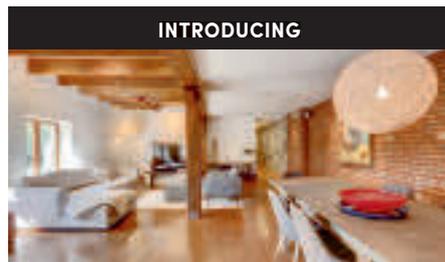
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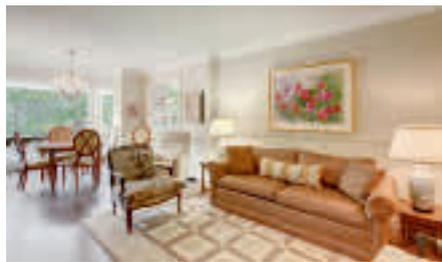
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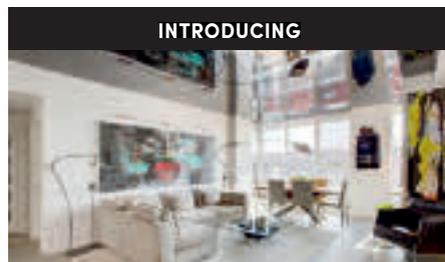


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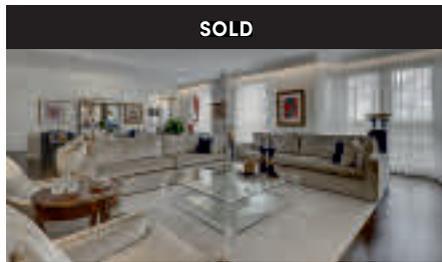


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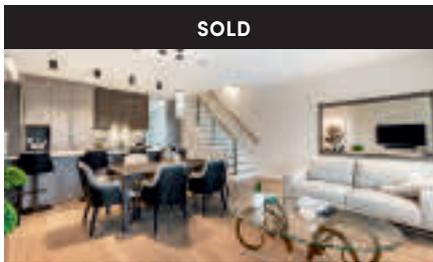
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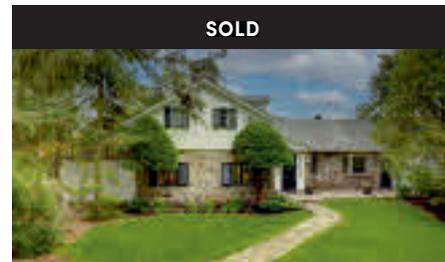
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