

Skating, hockey practice, stick-and-puck

WRC rinks re-open January 17 to limited use, vax proof

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The two indoor rinks at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) re-opened last week to provide general skating and stick-and-puck hockey by reservation as well as practices for inter-city hockey teams and instructional hockey programs.

The opening followed new directives from Hockey Quebec and the province, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe told the *Independent*. "As a result, we're offering our inter-city teams the time for practice," but in restricted portions of the rinks.

The rink access is by the Academy Rd. entrance to the WRC, where the door will be open 10 minutes prior to, and 10 minutes after, the scheduled activity start time. Participants showing up after that will not be able to access the building.

No dressing rooms are available. Access



Hockey, distanced. Players under 9 years old (M9) were practising their skating and puck-handling skills January 22 at 11 am with Coach Dominic Plante and his two assistants, Fred Mantha and Mathieu Boily. Strict COVID rules were in place, including the two-meter rule. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

is for players only, no parents or spectators, and by reservation made three days in advance on the department's website. Also required is a vaccination passport as well

as a 2022 facility card or guest pass required for general skating and stick-and-puck.

The Westmount recreation centre's

rinks were closed December 20 after the start of the fast-spreading Omicron variant of COVID and an outbreak at the arena (see story January 11, p. 3).



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Letter sent to Premier Legault, Dubé on local situation

Mayor seeks vaccination proof for entry to city's library

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The city, in a letter from Mayor Christina Smith, is asking the Quebec government to allow it to require a vaccination passport for entry to the Westmount Public Library.

While the government now requires libraries to be open without such proof, Westmount's has remained closed to in-

person use since the start of holiday break on December 20 but began providing curbside service only January 17, given what it considered to be a special need for vaccination proof.

In a letter dated January 11 to Premier François Legault and Health minister Christian Dubé, Mayor Smith explained that "several residents have contacted the city *continued on p. 7*

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Tobogganing sends 50+ to Children's ER this season

BY JENNIFER BALL

With many indoor venues currently closed or partially closed, sledding is gaining in popularity. It is no surprise, as parents yearn to lure children away from their devices and get them into the fresh air. Be alert though, there could be danger ahead.

Liane Fransblow, the Trauma Centre's Injury Prevention Coordinator at the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH), cautions that there are worrying numbers of trauma cases turning up at her ER.

This year, there have been 50+ since December 10, and 40 percent of the injured were under the age of six.

"Most of the cases that we are seeing are people hitting objects at the bottom of the hill," Fransblow said. While the city grooms the hills to make them safer, parents need to limit their children's plummet to designated sledding hills only, safety advocates say.

The 1999 paper *Descriptive study of sledding injuries in Canadian children* by Francis Lee et. al., at the University of Ottawa, suggested icy conditions played a large role in injuries and that sleds can reach speeds exceeding 35 km per hour. "Sled-Head" was coined by Melissa McCradden in her 2018

paper that concluded that concussions affect 13 to 18 percent of all sledding athletes even while all wore helmets.

Of the ER patients since December 10, over 82 percent reported wearing no helmet. People wear helmets in other sports that exceed 35 km per hour, so why wouldn't they do so for sledding? "There should be a by-law," Fransblow said, "but cycling helmet by-laws exist and they are not enforced."

On the other hand, 20 years ago hardly anyone wore a ski helmet in Quebec while zipping down the ski slopes. Now it is a rarity to see someone without one.

"When I looked at the data from last year versus this year, 5 percent were wearing helmets compared to 18 percent in 2022. The message is slowly getting out that you should put a helmet on your child [when sledding]."

It is also wise, advocates say, to ensure that you use the sled or toboggan for its intended use: read the maximum weight limit and whether it is a single or double, and return home if the conditions are icy.

For King George (Murray) Park in Westmount the website was updated on January 12 and it counsels "the toboggan run is not supervised. The City of Westmount as-

sumes no responsibility for any injury or damage occurring during the use of the toboggan run."

There is a sign that helmets are mandatory for use of the snowboard modules but not for the regular tobogganing routes. When the *Independent* surveyed the site on January 22, the snow fence at the bottom of the slopes had a broad rupture in it and

Snowboarding park, ski trails also open

No injuries on toboggan run after 'terrible' accident Dec. 22

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

As increased numbers of injuries attributed to tobogganers this winter were being reported last week by the trauma centre of the Montreal Children's Hospital, sledders were being advised to stick to official toboggan runs that are free of obstructions such as the one created in King George (Murray) Park.

No injuries have been reported there since "a terrible accident" December 22 when the toboggan run was posted as closed due to melting conditions, Mayor Chris-

a lone, orange hazard cone was *in situ* marking the descent down to Côte St. Antoine.

Here's hoping that the individual(s) who caused the damage were not hurt. If a trauma were to occur though, do not be put off by current ER wait times.

"An emergency needs to be seen in the hospital. Do not hesitate," Fransblow said.

tina Smith told the *Independent* last week.

That, however, was when a woman broke several ribs when hitting a lamp post off the run, Mayor Smith said. Her teen-aged daughter managed to roll off the toboggan in time.

A list of the city's regulations and "rules of conduct for use of the toboggan run" includes recommendations to wear a protective helmet and stay on the run among a long list in Annex G of the city's parks By-law 69 (see story November 16, 2020, p. 28). The by-law can be ac-

cessed on the city's web- *continued on p. 7*

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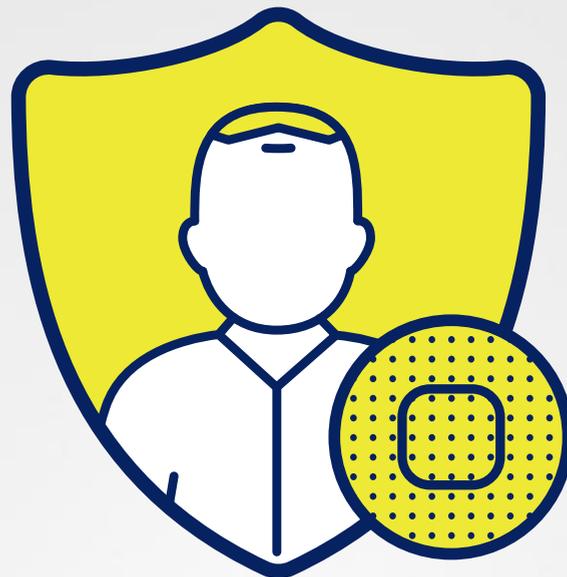
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Sunnyside decision expected soon: Cllr. D'Amico

City looking for way to revert Sunnyside to 2-way traffic

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A way is expected to be announced soon regarding a possible return to two-way traffic on Sunnyside between Bellevue and Upper Bellevue, according to Councillor Antonio D'Amico, who represents District 1.

When Sunnyside was re-constructed over the summer and a sidewalk widened while allowing parking, a decision was made by the city after polling residents of the block-long stretch to make the long, narrowed roadway one-way to comply with Quebec ministry of Transport standards.

But the few residents were the only ones polled on which direction they preferred (eastbound) when, in fact, the block was a

route used by many other residents of the summit area to access their homes from downtown.

This was explained at the city council meeting December 6 by Harry Bloomfield, a resident of Surrey Gardens, who said the poll should have included the many users and asked for a new one (see story December 14, p. 19).

The narrowing of a street during reconstruction had also occurred when Anwoth Rd. was re-done some four years ago. At that time, the one-way north decision on a 12-month trial had resulted from a poll of the many residents living on the steep crescent-shaped street (see story December 12, 2017, p. 1).



A car proceeds westbound January 21 against the new one-way on Sunnyside between Bellevue and Upper Bellevue. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON



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Pro-Palestinian protest outside Israeli consulate



BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Around 30 demonstrators staged a protest outside the Israeli consulate at the corner of St. Catherine St. and Wood Ave. on January 23 to call for the release Ahmad of Sa'adat, general-secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and Nasser Abu Hamid, who is serving multiple life sentences for murder.

The protest took place as a similar demonstration was being held in Vancouver for the same cause. Last week, B'nai Brith Canada expressed outrage that the protests were being held not long after Malik Faisal Akram held four people hostage at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas.

According to B'nai Brith, Sa'adat is "a designated terrorist entity in Canada [who] is serving a 30-year sentence in Israeli jail for ordering numerous terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings and the assassination of the Israeli Tourism minister in 2001."

At the demonstration, Bruce Katz, who identified himself as the Jewish co-president of Palestinian-Jewish Unity, which was founded in 2000, said "we struggle for both the liberation of Palestinians and the liberation of Jews from what I call the suffocating yoke of Zionism."

Katz said he was unaware of the crimes B'nai Brith attributed to Sa'adat and Akram.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'No' to MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION AND 'YES' to A SPORTS-AND-CULTURAL CENTRE

A version of this letter was also sent to the city of Westmount

We would like to inform you of our opposition to the demolition of the building located at 1-3 Hillside Ave. for the construction of a five-storey building with 27 condo units.

As residents of 11 Hillside Ave., we feel directly affected by this decision. Here are the reasons on which our opposition is based:

First of all, don't you think that it's time for the city of Westmount to finally make a reasonable decision that could fix the two bad prior ones? These were:

- Twice rejecting the federal government's offer to have the city purchase the building.
- Refusing the magnificent project for the construction of a sports centre presented by [former owner] Hillside Limited Partnership – on the pretext of the lack of parking spaces.

(From p. 8 of the French-language heritage study: "In June 2018, however, the [the at-that-time new owner, Hillside Limited Partnership] announced its decision not to proceed with an indoor pool project given the city of Westmount's requirement to provide 30 parking spaces in the basement where the swimming pool was planned. Its proposed project also included an ice rink and a golf simulator on the ground floor and training rooms on the upper floors.")

But right next to the Westmount Athletic Grounds/Westmount High School field, there are parking lots for Mr. and Mrs. Everyone. In addition, the inhabitants of this district, who are mostly educated, love to move and walk to be in good health and with a view to respecting the environment.

After living through a terrible pandemic for two years, which shows no signs of ending (and which has transformed our small condo into two offices and sometimes a classroom), we do not have the tolerance and the patience for the noise and pollution that will last at least two years as the developer carries out the proposed work. In addition, the proposed building will destroy our privacy (windows will open in front of ours) and will increase traffic (already complicated because of the nearby school and parents who do not respect the traffic rules).

A positive decision on the project would mean that the city of Westmount does not give any importance to the mental health of the inhabitants, mostly families with

children and the elderly, and it is ready to shake hands with an entrepreneur whose sole objective is to fill his pocket.

As the parents of a little boy who attends St. Léon School in Westmount, we know that there are many families that are desperate for a sports centre to get their children moving. Do you think it's reasonable to live in Westmount and have to take our children to Côte St. Luc to swim or take them to Côte de Liesse or Nuns' Island to play tennis during eight months of the year? Don't you think this is a waste of energy, time and money?

How could we ignore the historical aspect of this building, which should be a landmark for the new generation of Westmount? Why not build a sports-and-cultural centre that could make the impressive history of this building known to young people (a source of inspiration, a feeling of pride and belonging)?

If you think that the option of building a sports-and-cultural centre is absolutely not an option, then the least you can do is convince the owner of this building to build four or five townhouses on three floors, no more.

FARIBA ABOLKHANDI, HILLSIDE AVE.

WHEN PREVENTION IS EXPERIENCED AS A PRISON

This letter republishes a press release received January 17 by the Independent

Synopsis: Users' committees plead for an urgent revision of preventive isolation measures in seniors' long-term care centres and private residences

Tens of thousands of seniors placed in preventive isolation in long-term care centres, private residences and intermediate resources, and their families, are wondering why they are confined to their room for 10 days, without the possibility of leaving it, even though they do not have COVID and are fully vaccinated.

As a result of a measure of "preventive isolation" applied according to a directive from the Health and Social Services Ministry, the physical condition and mental health of these seniors are deteriorating rapidly.

"A disaster is brewing behind the closed doors of these rooms: that is a massive deconditioning of elderly residents that the labour shortage and the temporary withdrawal of infected nurses and PAB [préposé aux bénéficiaires or orderlies] will make it difficult to stem," states the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal Users' Committee in a document sent to [Quebec health and seniors] ministers Christian Dubé and Marguerite
Blais.

continued on p. 7

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Users Committee calls for a revision of the infection prevention and control measures, shifting the focus from the characteristics of the COVID-19 virus in the first wave to the less virulent Omicron variant, and striking the right balance between prevention measures and respect for the autonomy, needs and rights of residents.

Since the end of December, the Omicron variant has been present in some 771 CHSLDs, RPAs and intermediate resources. Unlike the first wave, and due to the benefits of vaccination, residents generally have mild symptoms and are doing well. Nevertheless, if an infected person, most often a staff member, has been in contact with residents, the residents of the entire floor or living unit are confined to their rooms. “These seniors are deprived of their autonomy and freedom of movement, activities and visitors, in addition to being severely limited in their contact with their caregivers because of this so-called preventative isolation.”

According to the CIUSSS West Central Montreal Users’ Committee, these preventative isolation measures, whose aim is to ensure the safety of residents, appear disproportionate in the context of the Omicron variant compared to the real benefits they bring to residents.

“Ten days of isolation in the room is more detrimental to the physical and mental health of the residents who tested negative than the risk posed to their safety if they could leave their room and walk around their floor, surrounded by fully vaccinated staff, wearing the N95 mask and respecting the preventive measures,” says Elizabeth Sexton, President of the Cavendish Users’ Committee, which represents residents of four long-term care centres (CHSLDs), and vice-president of the CIUSSS Users’ Committee.

In the same way the measures put in place at school take into account the psychological, physical and relational needs of

kids, we need to integrate these essentials aspects in the infection prevention and control measures applied to seniors’ residents in LTC and private seniors’ residences, in respect of their autonomy and their rights.

CIUSSS WEST CENTRAL MONTREAL
USERS’ COMMITTEE

WHAT’S WITH THE POSTS? AND THE BIKE PATH FROM ATWATER TO WOOD?



Why does the city insist on leaving these dangerous posts in place during the winter? It has been the same situation for too many years.

Clearly, they are preventing proper snow removal. The path is now too narrow for two bikes going in opposite directions. While that is very unlikely to happen at this time of year, it could happen.

Even during bicycle season, there are too many posts, very badly placed.

By the way, the bike path on de Maison-neuve east of Wood seems to have been totally forgotten. Could it be because the traffic side is now only half a street?

RON DIAMOND, DOWNTOWN

Vaccination proof, cont’d from p. 1

council or the library to inform us that they will no longer frequent the library under the current situation without proof of vaccination.”

The reasons, she explains, are the city’s older demographic, a need for users to typically work in close proximity to each other – a challenge in a heritage building – and the library’s need to protect staff as well as users.

As a solution to the local situation, Mayor Smith proposes the city adopt a two-pronged approach. This would allow vaccinated members to enter to obtain access to all in-person services and public spaces,

while those un-vaccinated would still be able to access services online.

This would also provide those unvaccinated with an incentive to get their first dose of vaccine and thereby contribute to the collective fight against COVID-19. “In Westmount, we know this measure would be greatly appreciated by our community.”

The letter also points out that Westmount’s library was the first public one in Quebec.

A copy was sent to Jennifer Maccarone, legislative representative for the Westmount-St. Louis provincial riding.

Police Report

Police say all quiet on the Westmount front – a first?

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although police at Station 12 on Stanton St. say there have been some crime incidents in the downtown Montreal sector of their territory since the beginning of the year, Westmount has been unusually quiet.

“Shoplifting zero, armed robbery zero, automobile theft zero – I don’t have anything in Westmount – I think it’s a first,” community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel said in an interview with the *Independent* last week.

The only reported event appearing in the station’s ledger for more than a week

was a relatively minor automobile accident that took place at 8:30 am on January 19 at the corner of Dr. Penfield and Atwater avenues, just outside city limits.

A Land Rover trying to complete a right turn from the downward slope of Dr. Penfield onto the steep Atwater hill after the snow storm that swept through Montreal lost traction and ended up slamming into a concrete median in the middle of the road.

Although there were no reported injuries, damage to the vehicle’s front end, steering and wheel alignment were judged to be serious enough to warrant its being hauled away for repairs by a tow truck.

Challenging definition of ‘English-speaking community’

City adopts resolution to send to Quebec

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Westmount city council adopted a resolution January 17 that challenges the Quebec government’s definitions of English-speaking Quebecers as a “historic community” and limits their rights to receive government communications and services in English.

The above definitions were taken from comments by Premier François Legault’s address to the legislature October 19, 2021, regarding Bill 96 respecting French but seen as limiting those of English-speakers.

Moved by Councillor Jeff Shamie, the city resolution states that “any attempt by the Government of Quebec to define Eng-

lish-speaking Quebecers as a ‘historic community’ or limit their right to receive government communications and services in English is profoundly objectionable” and “should never be based on eligibility for English instruction.”

Along with a number of other municipalities, the council’s “declaration” refers instead to English-speaking Quebecers as “full and contributing members of Quebec society who are committed to building an inclusive Quebec where French is the common language.”

Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* the resolution from Westmount and others reflects the position of the Quebec Community Groups Network.

Toboggan run, cont’d from p. 3

site under Resident zone/legal services.

One improvement this year along with enlarging and re-positioning the toboggan run, Mayor Smith noted, has been setting up a snowboarding park that includes rails and jumps for the boarders “to dissuade

them from digging holes in other parts of the hill.”

As well, two cross-country ski tracks were also being created last week to open January 21 at Murray Park and the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG).

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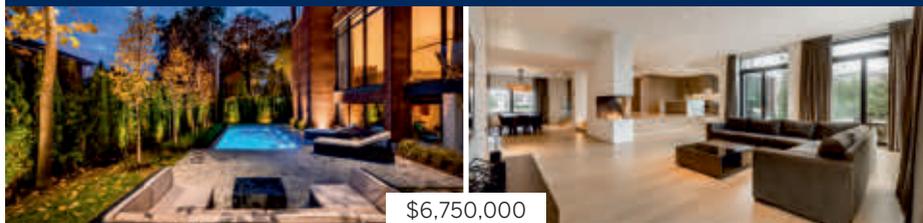
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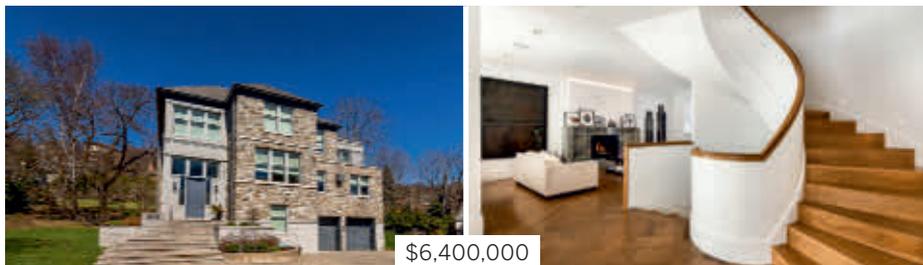
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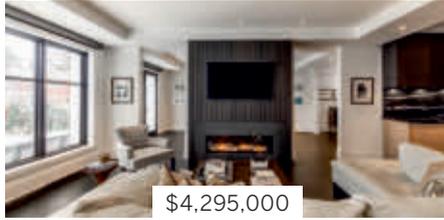
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\$3,950,000

NUNS' ISLAND

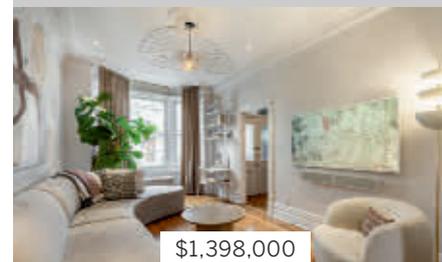
3,700 ft² condo in the prestigious Les Sommets sur le Fleuve with striking panoramic vista, 1,000 ft² terrasse and much more. MLS 12489627



\$2,695,000

WESTMOUNT

Lovely well maintained 4+1 bedroom home ideally located in the heart of middle-Westmount. MLS 24711315



\$1,398,000

WESMOUNT

Beautifully renovated Victorian cottage perfectly located on a quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of the flats of Westmount. MLS 25188515

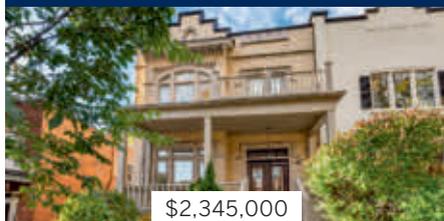


\$899,000

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE

Ideally located on a desirable Westmount adjacent street, this spacious upper unit has it all. MLS 23701051

RECENTLY REDUCED



\$2,345,000

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE

Westmount adjacent 4+1 bedroom oversized semi with soaring ceilings. MLS 25155772

RECENTLY REDUCED



\$1,898,000

WESMOUNT

Ideally located townhouse offers soaring ceilings, 3 bedrooms, 3+1 bathrooms, finished basement, integrated garage, and more! MLS 28918755

RECENTLY REDUCED

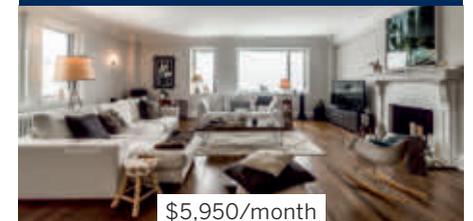


\$7,500/month

WESTMOUNT

Lovely well maintained 5 bedroom home ideally located in the heart of mid-Westmount. MLS 27543106

INTRODUCING



\$5,950/month

VILLE-MARIE

Recently renovated +/-2,300 ft² penthouse in the sought-after Gleneagles with incredible panoramic views of the city. MLS 22660005

RECENTLY PURCHASED



WESTMOUNT

Ideally located in the heart of Victoria Village 4+1 bedrooms, 2 car driveway.

RECENTLY PURCHASED



GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Magnificent 2-storey residence featuring 3 bedrooms, rooftop terrace with sweeping views, garage & parking spot.

RECENTLY PURCHASED



GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Breathtaking 2 bedroom condo in the Port Royal with southern views.

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NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE

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Opens door to use of gym, sports field, auditorium

Council supports request for Quebec grant from Marianopolis



Marianopolis College, located at the junction of Westmount, NDG and Claremont avenues, January 22. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council January 17 adopted a partnership agreement with Marianopolis College, in which the city supports the CEGEP's request for a provincial grant from the ministry of Education to improve its sports facilities and "make them accessible to Westmount's general population."

Similar in aim to a partnership with

Dawson College adopted in December, the Marianopolis resolution specifies the funding would allow for "a new playing field, outdoor exercise equipment, re-doing the gym floor and a few smaller upgrades."

"This is a very important partnership with the CEGEP that has great facilities," Mayor Christina Smith explained. "They have beautiful grounds, an auditorium with a great sound system and an oppor-

tunity for us to offer more to our citizens."

In outlining the partnership plans with the two CEGEPS after her election acclamation, she had specifically mentioned at the time that Marianopolis could offer the use to the city of a full-sized soccer field and ample parking (see story October 5, p. 6).

In terms of building community and looking at innovative ways to upgrade city

services, she also explained that the city was looking at partnerships as one of the outcomes of the pandemic in which the city had strengthened its partnership with the Contactivity seniors' centre.

The sports grants are offered by Quebec's Programme de soutien aux infrastructures sportives et récréatives scolaires et d'enseignement supérieur.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



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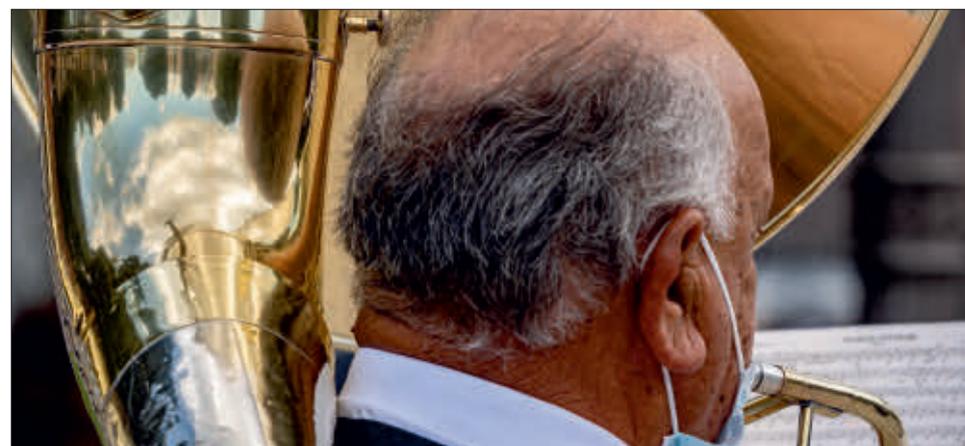
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for a Healthy and Prosperous year ahead!

INTRODUCING



Westmount | Kensington ave.

\$2,795,000 | MLS 22664210

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Adj. Westmount | Cedar Avenue

Detached 4+1 bedroom beauty in superb location with mid-century modern design. 2 car garage.

LISTED & SOLD BY KAREN



Adj. Westmount | 2333 Sherbrooke W.

Manoir de Belmont - Lovely 1878 ft², 2 bedroom, 2 bath in exclusive complex bordering Westmount. 2 garages.

LISTED & SOLD BY KAREN



Dollard-des-Ormeaux | Montevista

Custom built detached home on large lot & featuring 5+2 bedrooms, ground floor den, office and double garage.

INTRODUCING



Golden Square Mile | 1515 Dr. Penfield

\$769,000 | MLS 26694946

Location, Location! Renovated 2017, spacious 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1,230 ft² with large terrace, view. Garage included.

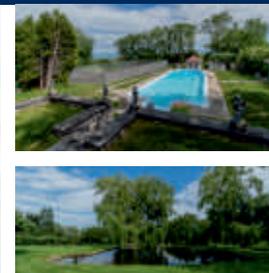
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Quebec | La Malbaie, Cap-à-L'Aigle

\$1,650,000 | MLS 16520090

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INTRODUCING



Adj. Westmount | 3577 Atwater Ave.

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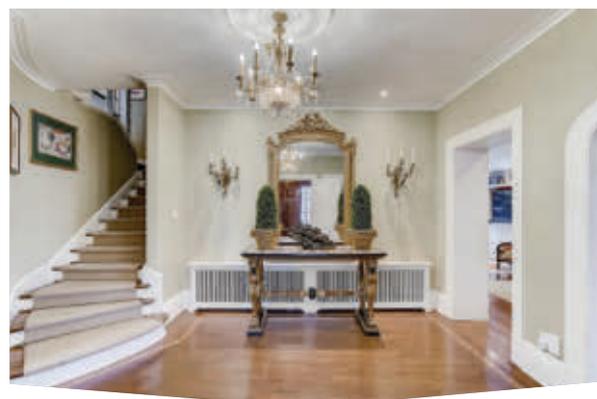
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infoWESTMOUNT

2022.01.25 • Vol. 3/02

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount**NOUVELLES**PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL**Lundi 7 février****NEWS**NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING**Monday, February 7**


Pistes de ski de fond au parc King George et au WAG

Deux pistes de ski de fond en forme ovale sont aménagées à Westmount : une au parc King George (environ 344m) et l'autre au terrain d'athlétisme de Westmount (environ 367m). westmount.org



Cross-country ski trails at King George Park and the WAG

Two oval-shaped cross-country ski trails are now open in Westmount: one in King George Park (approx. 344m) and the other, in the Westmount Athletic Grounds (approx. 367m). westmount.org

Budget 2022 disponible en ligne

Le budget municipal 2022 a été adopté par le conseil municipal le 17 janvier. westmount.org.

Bureaux municipaux fermés au public

Tous les services sont disponibles en ligne et par téléphone. westmount.org

Travaux d'aqueduc sur le ch. Belvédère

La Ville de Montréal effectuera des travaux sur le réseau d'eau potable à l'intersection de Le Boulevard et le ch. Belvédère du 25 janvier au 20 février. Des entraves de circulation sont à prévoir. westmount.org

Patinage libre et bâton-rondelle au CLW

Ces activités ont repris au Centre des loisirs de Westmount. Pour participer, il faut réserver au préalable et présenter la carte d'accès aux installations 2022. westmount.org

La journée Bell Cause le 26 janvier

Mercredi 26 janvier, 11 h 30 devant l'hôtel de ville. Pour cette 12^e édition de la Journée Bell Cause pour la cause, la mairesse Christina M. Smith et les conseillers exprimeront leur appui à la campagne en hissant le drapeau Bell cause pour la santé mentale. westmount.org

Carte d'accès aux installations 2022

Seules les demandes en ligne sont acceptées présentement. westmount.org

Emplois d'été 2022 à la Ville

La date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le **lundi 31 janvier**. westmount.org

Collecte de sapins de Noël retardée

La collecte de sapins reprendra la semaine du 24 janvier, après les opérations de chargement de neige. westmount.org

2022 Budget available online

The 2022 municipal budget was adopted by Council on January 17. westmount.org.

Municipal offices closed to the public

All City services are available online and by phone. westmount.org

Water main work on Belvedere Road

The City of Montreal will carry out work on the water network at the intersection of Belvedere Rd. and The Boulevard from January 25 to February 20. Some road closures will be required. westmount.org

General skating and Stick & Puck at WRC

These activities have resumed at the Westmount Recreation Centre. Participants must reserve in advance and show a 2022 Facility access card on site. westmount.org

Bell Let's Talk Day January 26

Wednesday, January 26, 11:30 a.m. in front of City Hall. For this 12th edition of Bell Let's Talk Day, Mayor Christina M. Smith and councillors will express their commitment to the cause by raising the Bell Let's Talk for mental health flag. westmount.org

2022 Facility Membership Card

Please note that only online applications are accepted at this time. westmount.org

2022 Summer employment at the City

The deadline for submitting an application is **Monday, January 31**. westmount.org

Christmas tree collection delayed

The tree collection will resume the week of January 24, as soon as the snow loading operations are completed. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE**Bibliothèque et Victoria Hall fermés**

Nos édifices demeurent fermés au public, mais nous sommes disponibles pour répondre à vos questions à distance. wpl@westmount.org / 514 989-5299 / westlib.org

Service de cueillette sans contact

Faites vos réservations par téléphone, par courriel ou dans votre compte en ligne. Vous serez contacté lorsque vos documents seront prêts à être récupérés. westlib.org

Chutes à livres ouvertes

Vos documents peuvent être retournés dans les chutes à tout moment. N.B. : aucuns frais de retard ne seront facturés pour les documents en retard retournés avant le 7 février.

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2022

Il y a 50 ans, en 1972, Atari créait le premier jeu vidéo, les téléphones étaient munis de cadrans rotatifs, il fallait mettre de la pellicule dans son

appareil pour prendre des photos et le maire de Westmount, Peter McEntyre, a lancé un concours littéraire pour les jeunes. Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire une histoire, un poème ou un essai sur le thème Et ensuite? dans le contexte de la communauté. westlib.org

Rencontre d'auteur

Samedi 29 janvier, 19 h, sur Zoom. Catherine McKenzie parlera de son dernier roman Six Weeks to Live. Ouvert aux membres. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite ou au 514-989-5355.

Journée cinéma à la maison

Samedi 5 février en ligne. Pokémon Détective Pikachu (2019). Inscrivez-vous : westlib.org.

Souvenirs du parc Westmount

Promenade StoryWalk® tout l'hiver dans le parc. Découvrez plus d'un siècle de vie dans le parc Westmount à travers cette marche unique.

LIBRARY**Library and Victoria Hall closed**

Our buildings remain closed to the public, but we are available to answer questions remotely. wpl@westmount.org / 514 989-5299 / westlib.org

Curbside pickup service

Place a hold by phone, via email, or in your Library account. You will receive an email or phone call when your items are ready to be picked up. westlib.org

Book drop open

Library items can be returned to the book drops at any time. Please note that late fines will not be charged for overdue items returned before February 7.

2022 McEntyre Writing Competition

Fifty years ago, in 1972, Atari created the first video game, the space shuttle programme was launched, telephones had rotary dials, you

needed film in your camera to take pictures, and Westmount Mayor Peter McEntyre started a writing competition for local youth. This year, we are asking you to write a story, a poem or an essay on the theme of What's Next? in the context of community. westlib.org.

Author event

Saturday, January 29, 7 p.m. on Zoom. Catherine McKenzie will discuss her latest novel Six Weeks to Live. Open to members. Register at Eventbrite or at 514-989-5355.

Movie Day at home

Saturday, February 5 online. Pokémon Detective Pikachu (2019). Sign up: westlib.org.

Westmount Park Memories

StoryWalk® in the park all winter. Discover more than a century of life in Westmount Park on this unique walk.



Sharing the faith – Part 2: Catholicism

You are not the only one thinking of the book of Job

BY JENNIFER BALL

For the second part of this multi-part series, the *Independent* spoke with Westmount's Catholic spiritual leaders: fathers Lawrence MacEachen from Ascension of Our Lord on Sherbrooke at Clarke and Yves Guillemette from St. Léon de Westmount Parish on de Maisonneuve at Clarke.

When this issue went to print, the provincial government had lifted its second curfew, sent students back to in-class learning and extended the vaccination passport requirement to big-box stores.

In-person worship

For these two theologians, it led to the relatively worldly question: when can our houses of worship re-open? Many would consider them capacious compared to schools and stores.

"We feel that our churches are very safe. We take all the precautions necessary. We have measured all the distances and have signs on pews restricting access. We air out the church, nobody can come in without a mask and they wear it during the services. We disinfect the church. Because of the size of our facility, we think that we are probably safer than other, smaller places



Father MacEachen on January 20.

where people worship," Father MacEachen said.

Vaccines

Both are pro-vaccine.

"If you base yourself on the Bible – the message of Jesus – this is an excellent test for the practice of your love for your brother. 'Love one another like I would love you,'" Father Guillemette said. "We are so taken by individualism that we forget that we are part of a whole and that we have to think of other people's welfare."

"If everyone would be vaccinated! If it

is not for themselves, then for their neighbour!" Father MacEachen said. "We have enough data collected universally to indicate that the virus' effects are so minimal. I do not understand why people do not want to get the vaccine. They took the polio vaccine and numerous other vaccines!"

Neither the Ascension of Our Lord nor St. Léon de Westmount Parish live-stream mass. Now and when they were closed in the past, Father MacEachen and others telephoned parishioners, especially those who are alone. "Like most places of worship, there is a good communication line.

They are checking in on a daily basis."

Trials of Job

Despite this vigilance and optimism, Father MacEachen was transparent in disclosing that there have been many references to the book of Job in telephone conversations with his church members.

The book of Job ponders why God would allow evil to exist in the world.

"Job felt that God had abandoned him, but if you look at the scriptures and you look at the texts, almost every text can address the situation you find yourself in today. There is hope in every text in the Bible. It is such a great source of nourishment for our spiritual lives."

On balance, Father Guillemette's parishioners have had their faith enhanced during these perilous 23 months of COVID-19.

"I have testimonials from people who told me that their spiritual life is more fulfilled than before and that is more important than before. Everyone has not lived the pandemic in the same way, but – for some – spirituality has become more important or larger in their lives."

The Independent will be reaching out to congregations and religious leaders, but if you are a religious leader based in Westmount and you want to be interviewed, please write or call the editor at editor@westmountindependent.com or 514.935.4537.



Father Guillemette on January 20.

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He shoots, he scores!



Prince Albert Park on a beautiful winter day, January 14: Corey, a DJ, takes a shot on goal and he is right on target, after being set up nicely by his buddy Phil, who is involved in film. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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WESTMOUNT



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westmount.org



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- Compassionate, dedicated caregivers (companions, PABs, nurses).
- Hygiene & grooming.
- Meal prep & service; exercise; wound care; appointments; stimulating activities; etc.
- Memory care.
- CONTACT US TODAY!

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Josie Popette

cows and calves.

I just found out that there are close to one million cows used in the Canadian dairy industry, more than one third of which are raised in Quebec!

This consultation has been brought to everyone's attention for advocacy on the use of tie-stalls, where indoors they are tethered by the neck; cow-calf separation whereby the calf is removed from its mother within hours of life to preserve the cow's milk for human consumption; and the framework for dairy farms to be required to prepare an emergency plan in case of natural disaster, fire or production-line slowdown.

Yes, please read for yourself and visit the SPCA website at www.sPCA.com to learn more about how to participate in this important public consultation. Every voice counts; yours always does!

www.sPCA.com/en/greater-protection-for-dairy-cows/
Your neighbour,
Lysanne



With the largest eyes and a grey-and-brown coat, Josie Popette is a most beautiful young two-year-old. She is presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA cattery, where she is enjoying the family life from a shy place at this time.

She will need to bond to her special person and come closer on her terms, which is not surprising for a sensitive young soul who has been taken out of the only home she knew.

Josie Popette is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She is available for adoption by appointment and the first step would be to write to the foster family group at pfa@spca.com.

Please refer to the SPCA website www.sPCA.com at the page under her identification number 41217267. Then you can book a visit after your email to the foster family group, who will tell you more about her and certainly have new photographs of such a pretty girl!

Protect the cows, too

Just sharing the email link I received from the Montreal SPCA with information on their involvement in the public consultation on the review of the draft Code of Practice to assess and better the welfare of dairy

Nauga is a great buddy



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Still a young adult at two years of age, handsome Nauga is waiting at the Montreal SPCA kennel for a new life.

He is at the stage of bonding for shared affection and rewarded behaviour. He is a very healthy young fellow, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Nauga is a playful and cuddly friend at home and at play, more used to adults at this stage and not having met a cat.

He is a good playmate for dogs that he has gotten to know, and enjoys lots of exercise and games.

If you would like to find out more about Nauga, please refer to the Montreal SPCA's website www.sPCA.com and go to his information page under his identification number 49292438. You can book a visit with an adoption representative from that page and discuss your needs, environment and experience directly.

What happens to pets in a divorce?

The Montreal SPCA has been working on the family environment situations that affect the welfare of animals. There can be many surprising complications in the event of a family separation, but our dogs are property still in the eyes of the law.

The SPCA is launching a campaign inviting couples to sign an agreement to establish

the custody of their animals should they separate. It's a template of a contract that would be one step moving forward, while they are launching a petition demanding that courts consider animals' best interests when determining custody.

A very interesting subject overall: how laws have evolved and must continue to evolve through ethical stands.

Please sign the SPCA led petition to the minister of Justice and attorney general of Quebec that is available at the link below. I have signed and I am taking a stand for it with you.

www.sPCA.com/en/lasting-relationship/Your-neighbour/
Lysanne



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Coming along on St. Catherine (part 2)



It has been about four months since our last update on the new apartment building being built on St. Catherine west of Metcalfe (September 28, p. SL-6). The greystone façade is now up.

Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

December sales: Emphasis on condos

a record high.

Condo prices stayed relatively similar throughout the year, ranging between \$1,024,000 and 1,096,000 per quarter except for two high-rise penthouses that sold for \$4,850,000 and \$4,000,000 in the third quarter, skewing the average prices upward and with well-above average mark-ups over valuation.

Except for those two (and the new units at 1111 Atwater Ave., which have yet to be included in the valuation roll for comparison purposes), the highest price in the year was \$2,550,000 and the lowest price was \$380,000, a sale that took place in November.

For the record, the highest price in the fourth quarter was \$1,680,000 for an upper duplex on Arlington Ave. One more share of a Wood Ave. duplex also sold in December.

Houses

December's single-family sales included one lower-Westmount house, extensively renovated, that went for \$5,200,000, and an upper-level house that sold for \$3,300,000, an indication there is still a market in that range. Three others sold above \$2 million and the lowest price was \$1,600,000. Mark-ups over valuation ranged from two percent to 67.9 percent, with the average at 32.8 percent.

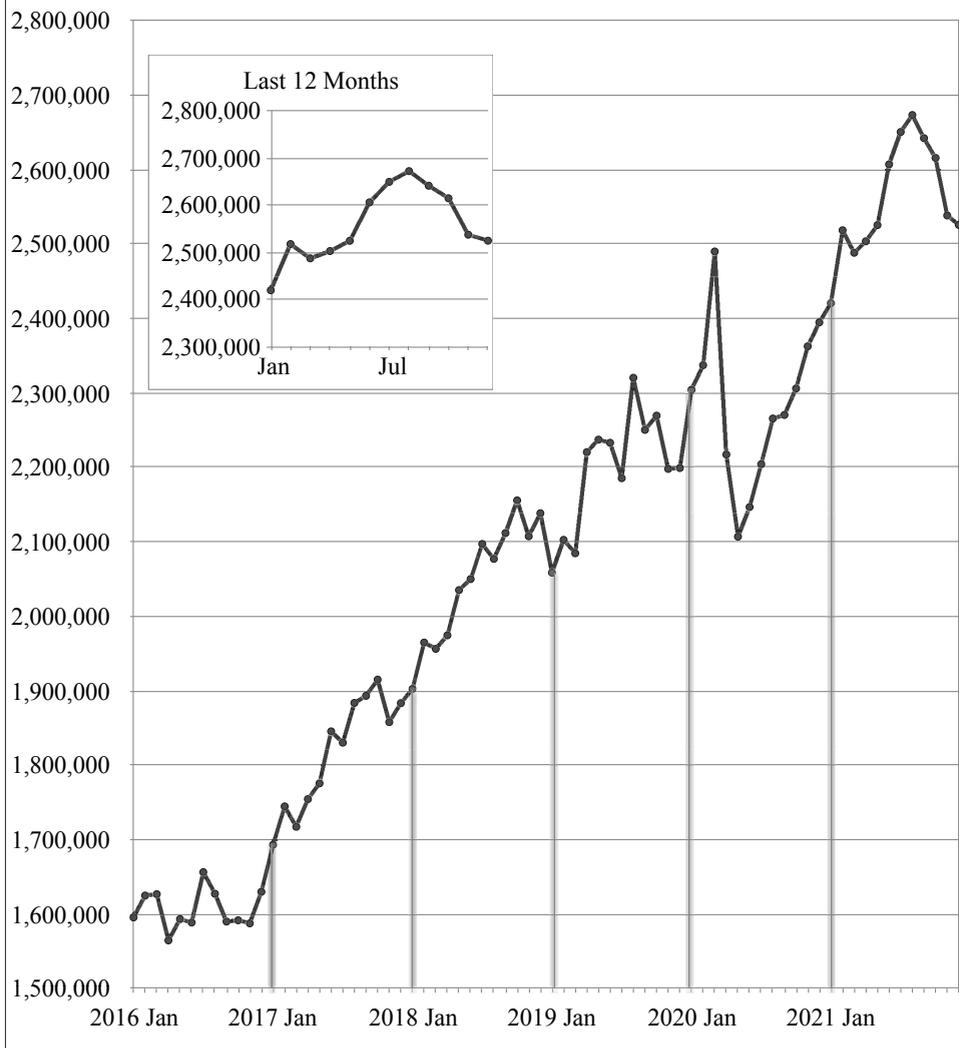
As of mid-January only 53 houses remained on the market, down from 74 a month earlier, and only six of those are asking less than \$2,000,000, the lowest asking \$1,188,000.

Rentals

Some 40 houses have been rented in 2021 – five of them for more than \$10,000 per month – and there are 15 houses on the rental market now, up from 11 a month earlier.

As we move into the spring market, things should start getting busier for Westmount real estate and as demand grows

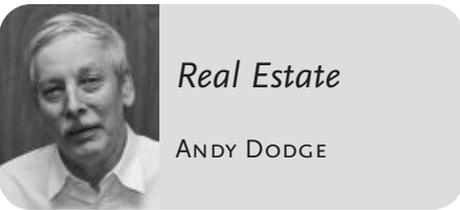
Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2016 to December 2021, based on accepted offer dates



the prices should start moving up again. Overall, prices were up 13 percent between 2020 and 2021; with an expected hike in interest rates in the coming year might put a stall on price levels generally in the Montreal area, and this will eventually be felt in Westmount as well.

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



Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in December 2021. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Condominiums appear to be the late-2021 feature in Westmount real estate, which may have something to do with the lack of supply in the house market. Though prices are easing off somewhat, it may be that buyers are settling for apartment or duplex-type living rather than pay out the prices being asked for local houses.

Eight single-family dwelling sales in December rounded out the calendar year for Westmount real estate, but another two condo sales that month brought the total for the fourth quarter of 2021 to 19 sales, a record high for the fourth quarter going back to 1999.

Last year saw a total 61 condo sales, also

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Soden, Kamateros: Beware of reverse mortgages, powers of attorney

Banks must help prevent financial abuse, say elder fraud experts

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The US-based National Adult Protective Services Association defines financial exploitation as occurring “when a person misuses or takes the assets of a vulnerable adult for his/her own personal benefit.”

As it frequently occurs without the explicit knowledge or consent of a senior or disabled adult, and deprives him or her of vital financial resources for personal needs, seniors’ rights advocates say banks



Ann Soden at the webinar.

have an important role to play in helping prevent such abuses.

The role of banking institutions in preventing financial abuse was the focus of an online webinar presentation on January 13 sponsored by the Atwater Library, featuring mediator and elder-law lawyer Ann Soden and Anna Kamateros, a notary and former social worker.

Some examples of material or financial mistreatment given by Kamateros included pressuring an elderly person to change their will, doing bank transactions without the person’s consent, misappropriation of money or assets, overcharging for services, identity theft, failure to manage the person’s assets in their best interests, as well as failure to assess the person’s cognitive abilities, understanding and financial lit-

eracy.

Some of these types of fraudulent schemes have become more common during the COVID pandemic, said Kamateros. Factors that may contribute to an individual’s vulnerability can include isolation, cognitive decline, advanced age, recent widowship, family conflict and mistrust or misunderstanding of resources.

“An overwhelming issue is the targeting of older persons because they have assets,” said Soden. “And if you are targeted over and over again ... you don’t reach out to have other people explain to you or to go to the bank and really get the information from the source.”

Reverse mortgages

Soden suggested that seniors are in-

creasingly exposed to promotional pressures to sign up for banking industry products such as reverse mortgages, which are made available on the premise of offering more financial freedom for seniors in retirement.

“This is false, and yet we see these on television every single day,” she maintained. “[Reverse mortgages] have to be used very, very carefully... And you certainly have to have a great deal of information and use it in a targeted way for a particular situation.”

Although Kamateros said she had seen attempts by financial institutions to prevent financial abuse by promoting financial literacy, the banks don’t seem to have a unified policy on the issue, she added.

“There’s no cohesiveness,” she said. “You have to work around each financial institution and even each branch.” She said that she and Soden both agreed “we’d like to see more cohesiveness.”

Powers of attorney

They said that people sometimes misunderstand legal concepts such as the power of attorney, which does not actually grant *carte blanche*, although it can end up being misused all the same.

“You can cancel a power of attorney at any time,” said Kamateros. “There have been situations where people have gone to a bank, a financial institution, with the power of attorney and have been able to empty the other person’s account. And once the funds are gone, it’s very hard to get them back.”

Soden noted that in Quebec, power of attorney applies only to finances, whereas it is broader in scope elsewhere in Canada. They said improved financial literacy would help in situations involving not just powers of attorney, but also homologated mandates, tutorships, assistance-ships and estate liquidations.



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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Teeth cleaning hits the road



Westmount resident Rim Adib has adapted her profession to COVID. A practising dental hygienist for over 13 years, she quickly realized that people might be reluctant to visit a dental clinic for fear of exposure to COVID.

“It became clear to me that there was a need for a new dental hygiene concept. Since Quebec passed Bill 29 in September 2020, dental hygienists can work without the supervision of a dentist. I quickly became one of a small group of dental hygienists to start a mobile hygiene business in Quebec.”

Goal: convenience

Rim created HDentaire Mobile “for anyone who’s looking for a convenience dental hygiene service at their location – anyone with a busy schedule, family with young children, individuals with special needs, or elderly with limited access to oral care.

“I have high-quality mobile dental compact equipment exactly similar to what dental clinics use, except mine are mobile.”

Her equipment is “certified by FDA and

Health Canada.” Rim reiterates that she does not drill or fill cavities. “My service is preventive.” Although she lives in Westmount, she has been performing this service throughout Montreal.

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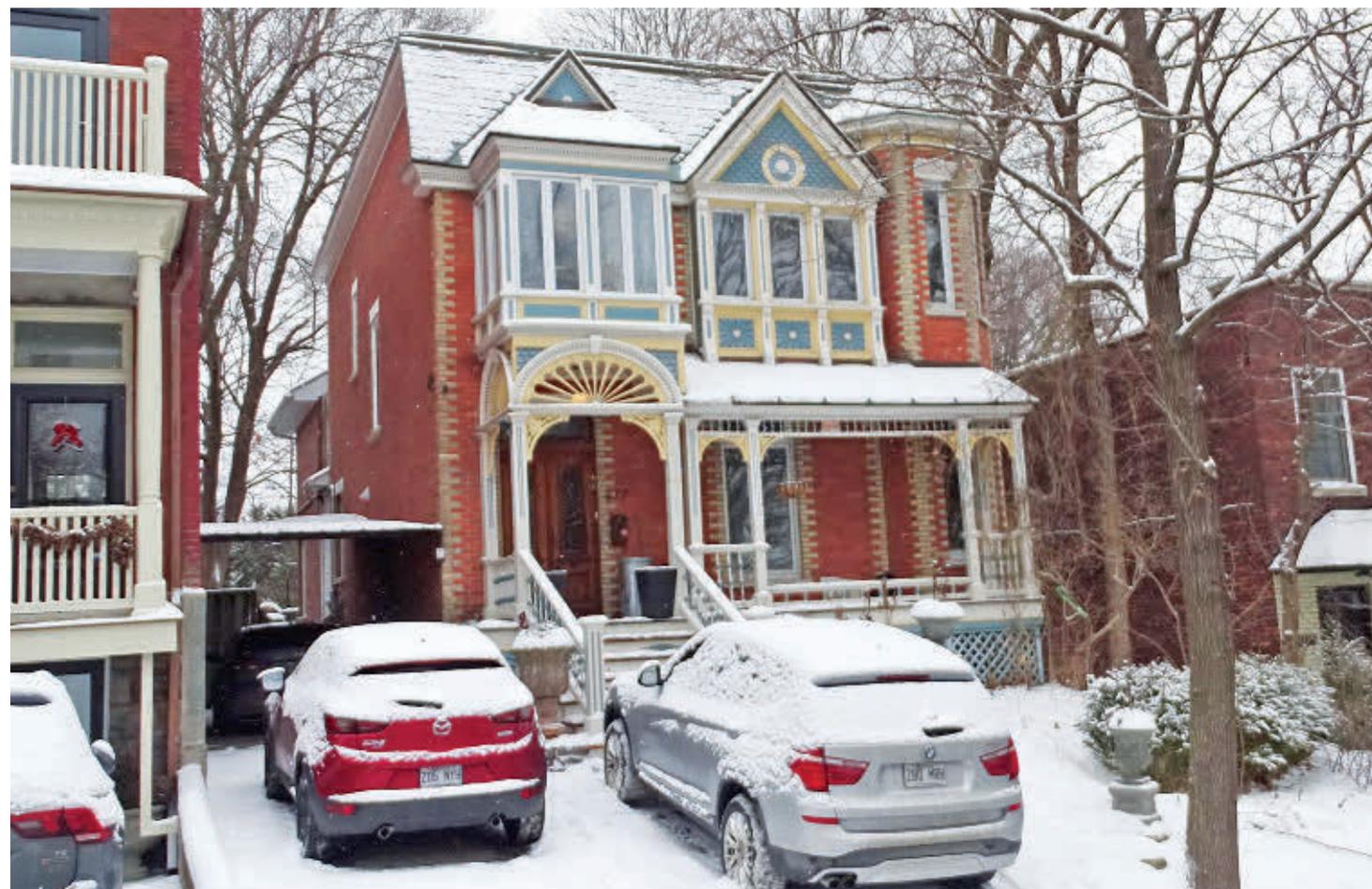
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House History

ANDY DODGE

477 Prince Albert Ave.: First house on the street



The charming Queen Anne-style house on Prince Albert Ave. opposite Prince Albert Park was one of the first houses built on the slope leading up from Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd.) to the “Queen’s Highway” (now Côte St. Antoine Road) in the 1880s.

The sunny slope was no doubt ideal for the orchards and gardens farmed by Benjamin Décarie and his family, who had been granted rights by Louis XIV in the 17th century. This particular area ended up in the Hurtubise family, which had married into the Décarie family in the early 19th century.

The “Queen’s Highway” followed a so-called “Indian trail” and led to the mansion of Chief Justice James Monk, built in about 1794 and called “Monklands,” which had been rented out to the governors-general of Canada when Montreal became the colonial capital between 1844 and 1849.

As the road started drawing more traffic beyond the city walls of Montreal, the farms became more prosperous. Several hardy settlers began looking at the pros-

pect for investment and discussions were under way to create a new municipality in the latter half of the 19th century.

Inventor Warminton buys land

One of those early settlers was Richard Warminton, a downtown tinsmith whose family had immigrated to Canada in the 1840s. He and his brother took over the family metalworks business following their father’s death in 1865.

Business was good, especially with the development of the Warminton snow plough in 1869, the same year he started construction of a Second-Empire-style house on the Queen’s Highway, which still stands today at 649 Côte St. Antoine Rd.

By the time he invented a new “Knife

Opening Can Top” in 1873, he and a friend, Campbell Bryson, a “bookseller and stationer” on St. François Xavier St. in Montreal, decided to buy the land in front of Warminton’s mansion.

They paid \$28,000 to Joseph Hurtubise for the land directly south of the mansion, which was at the corner of Claremont Ave. (leading to the Monklands estate) and another \$30,000 for the land slightly to the east, owned by Jackson Rae, a cashier at the Merchant’s Bank of Canada, in both cases land reaching all the way down the hill below what was eventually renamed as Côte St. Antoine Rd.

The new municipality of Notre Dame de Grâce was formed in 1874, and with that came the establishment of lot subdivisions, as the new city fathers set out to plot out the development of the new community, though its borders were changed soon after and the town renamed Côte St. Antoine – eventually to become Westmount.

Greenes lend money

Another pair that was interested in developing the area at this time was Edward Kirk Greene and George Augustus Greene, who had made considerable profit off the purchase and sale of land further east in the new town.

They lent Warminton and Bryson \$2,000

but that didn’t help stave off the effects of the coming recession. Bryson had to give up his holdings in 1878; Warminton lasted another five years, but after a small amount went to the Greene brothers, the rest of the land went to La Banque du Peuple to cover what was declared as a \$94,000 debt.

It took the bank another five years – to 1888 – to find a new buyer. This turned out to be Thomas E. Bulmer, a downtown bookbinder and publisher, whose father was a British-born bricklayer who had immigrated to Quebec in 1832.

Despite having a partnership with two other publishers, Bulmer’s interests were moving towards real estate development, and he was able to snatch up the land for \$30,000, basically half the price that Warminton and Bryson had paid 15 years earlier.

Rodger buys, builds moves in for four decades

After revising the original lot divisions made by the town, including the plans for extension of the Hurtubise driveway that was to become Victoria Ave. and another parallel street named after Prince Albert (Queen Victoria’s consort, who had died in 1861), Bulmer sold a very large piece of land to Thomas Rodger, a telegraph manager, in October 1888. He set about design-

HISTORY OF 477 PRINCE ALBERT AVE. (since construction)

DATE	BUYER	PRICE
2 May 1936	Miss Yvonne Martin	\$6,500
17 Mar 1966	Geoffrey Ward Graham	\$34,000
30 Sep 1971	Michael Foss	\$27,000
13 Aug 1979	Jean Antoine Demers & Susan Howard	\$98,000
25 Apr 1980	Melbourne Yull & Claudia Isabel Hulme	\$145,000
3 Aug 2000	Josée Francoeur	\$1

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ing and building a detached house on 7,000 square feet of land on the newly-opened Prince Albert Ave.

Rodger lived there quietly for the next 40-plus years as the community developed around him, though Prince Albert Park, directly opposite his house, apparently was developed much later.

Rodger died on October 15, 1932, and the estate sold the house to a spinster

– 1874 –

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

– 1876 –

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

– 1888 –

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

– circa 1890 –

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

– 1895 –

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

– 1899 –

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

– 1922 –

Current city hall opens.

– 1925 –

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

– 1958 –

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

– 2002 to 2005 –

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

– 2013 –

Current Westmount recreation centre opens.

named Yvonne Martin; the house went through various members of the Martin family until finally it was sold by Aurore Martin, also a spinster, in 1966.

The next buyer was Geoffrey Ward Graham, an executive manager at Dupont, ostensibly referring to Dupont Canada, whose head office at the time was in Montreal. He sold in 1971 to Michael Foss, a mathematician who was on the graduate's list from McGill University in 1970, who paid only \$27,000 for a house that Graham had paid \$34,000 to buy five years earlier. Foss took advantage of the soaring real estate market in Westmount in the 1970s, selling for \$98,000 in August 1979.

Jean-Antoine Demers and his wife, Suzanne Howard, moved to Westmount from Île d'Orléans outside Quebec City, where they had established a restaurant called "l'Atre," bought the ancient house next door and successfully restored it as the Maison Morisette.

Their stay in Westmount was far briefer, but it appears they did various renovations to 477 Prince Albert, which they sold eight months later for \$145,000.

Yull moves in for two decades

Melbourne Yull, the next buyer, was vice president of Eastern Coated Paper in Dorval; soon after buying the house, he started Intertape Polymer Group Inc., developing packaging products and systems. The company still exists both in Montreal and Sarasota, Fla, where he and his wife, Claudia Hulme, eventually moved. She died in 2015.

The Yulls put the house on the market in 2000 and sold it to Josée Francoeur, who was the owner of a golf course, but little is known about her except that she was divorced from François Decarie in 1991 and lived in the house for 12 years. The deed gives no indication of the price paid for the house. It was on the market asking \$749,000.

The final buyer was a restaurateur who paid \$1,395,000 for the house in November 2012. The house has a 2020 municipal valuation of \$2,021,400.

It must be January



January is not the most uplifting month and the sight of discarded Christmas trees does not help. These were photographed January 21 on York, above, and de Maisonneuve near Prince Albert. At the least the days are getting longer ...

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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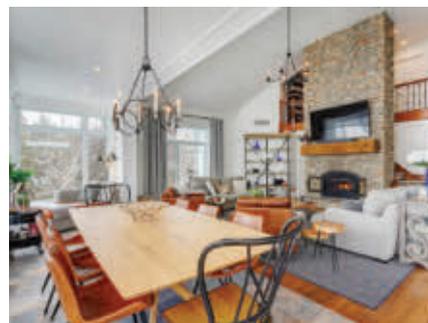
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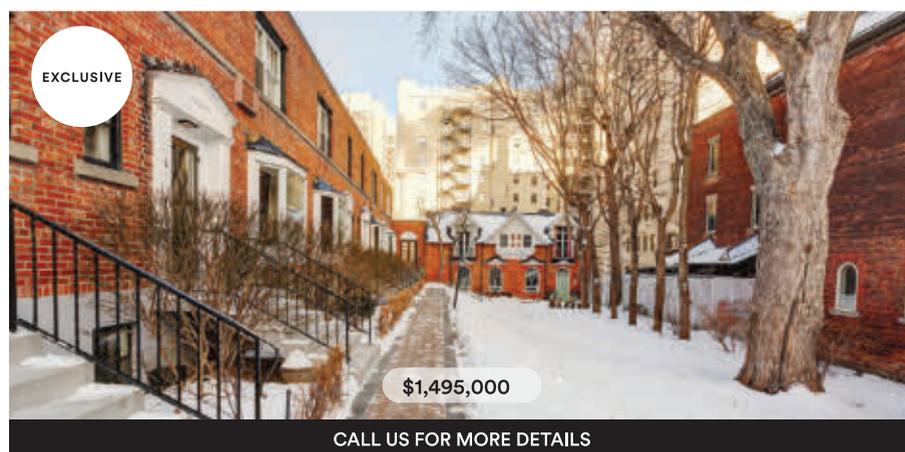
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