

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 3d

We are Westmount

March 22, 2022

*'Filled to the rafters' with donations*

## Books abound for library's first sale in 2 years Apr. 9-10

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The usual semi-annual book sale for Westmount Public Library will take place next week April 9 and 10, the first since November 2019 after the cancellation of four sales by the pandemic.

"We are filled to the rafters with a number of books – 800 boxes full – even though we stopped taking more donations," said Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and Community Events, which is collaborating this time with the Friends of the Library in its organization of the sale.

"We are so happy and excited to be seeing people back again," Lach said. The

two sale days take place from 10 am to 4 pm at Victoria Hall.

According to restrictions in place last week, everyone will be required to wear a mask, she said, and those attending will have to sanitize their hands when entering the building. "We will monitor and restrict the number of people entering the hall to maintain a safe environment."

Over the two years after the fall and spring sales had to be cancelled, the books had been sorted and boxes labelled, Lach said, referring to the 800 to be moved into Victoria Hall and set up on tables spaced this time to provide safe distancing for workers and shoppers "because COVID isn't over."

*continued on p. 12*

*Westmounters support Ukraine*



Including columnist Ralph Thompson. See p. 14. This Ukrainian flag was photographed on Arlington Ave. March 13.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## Girls' registration drops significantly at Westmount Soccer Club

BY JENNIFER BALL

When the familiar summer din of cheering parents and yelling coaches returns to Westmount Soccer Club games, a curious sight will accompany it: fewer female players. The inter-city club is separate from the city's Sports and Recreation department and programs.

Girls have not been registering at the same pace as boys at the Westmount

Soccer Club, "now and even in 2020," said Jean-Sébastien Grisé, its president. Grisé's day job is senior vice president and chief credit officer, commercial, retail and wealth management at National Bank of Canada, so it would not be a stretch to say that he knows his numbers.

"In 2020, we had a total of 220 players and the percentage of female players was 33 percent. Fast forward to now, we have already reg-

*continued on p. 10*

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# Back-to-back overnight fires bring out many first responders

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two fires that broke out at the same time just before midnight March 13-14 brought out many firefighters, police and city workers, but caused no known injuries, according to Public Security officials whose officers worked at both sites. The fires were not related.

The first, of unknown origin, was reported to have occurred on the main floor of a vacant house under renovation at 577 Lansdowne where an adjoining home was evacuated.

The other was at Château Maisonneuve, the large apartment building at 4998 de Maisonneuve at Claremont, where a smoky fire on the seventh floor was reported to have been extinguished in the kitchen by the resident but caused evacuation of some floors of the building.

"Two people were possibly taken to hospital from that one, but that was not confirmed," said Public Security director Greg McBain. "The majority of people were able to remain on the lower floors."

A total of some 30 fire vehicles responded to the two fires along with police and Urgences Santé as well as Public Security to control traffic. Its dispatcher served as a link with other city services, McBain said, as well as providing information to many concerned callers.

## On Lansdowne

When Public Security was summoned to the Lansdowne fire at 11:17 pm, officers blocked traffic for the 20 fire vehicles and began coordinating other city services. Public Works was required to spread salt in the minus 10°C temperatures and Hydro Westmount was required to cut power.

The power was restored at 1:50 am and the fire was reported under control at 2:15 am though firefighters worked at the scene until 4 am and the street remained closed.

## At 4998 de Mais.

Called to the apartment site at 11:33 pm, Public Security blocked westbound traffic. Due to the size of the building, other emergency crews responded with 10 fire vehicles, four police cars and one from Urgences Santé.

Many of the residents who were evacuated were told they could go into the building's garage for warmth, one resident told the *Independent*.

Andrew Caddell said that he suggested in French to a police officer that residents be informed in English "since many were elderly and English-speaking." This evolved into the officer allegedly saying "Don't tell me what to do," and telling him he could be arrested, Caddell said.

Although he asked the officer for his name and badge number, Caddell, a city councillor in Kamouraska, said he wasn't going to file a complaint. "He was just insensitive to what was at stake."

For photos, see p. SL-10.

DON'T MISS OUR PULL-OUT

## Spotlight

'Real estate' includes retail!

Retail in COVID, inflation times:

• Women's wear, p. SL-6

• Lingerie, p. SL-14

Greene Ave. retail reviews, p. SL-26

Iron Body Fit • U & I • Marché Bazaar

DON'T MISS OUR PULL-OUT

## Spotlight

real estate section after p. 12

Market round-up:

Records being set! p. SL-3

Construction round-up, p. SL-19

Retail Watch:

openings, closings  
& vacancies, p. SL-24

House History: Stanton St.  
apartment block, p. SL-28

Letters, p. 6

T's Takes: Ukraine, p. 14

Pet Page, p. 17

Police Report, p. 19

Lucy & Tyson, p. 20



InfoWestmount, p. 16

## The easy way ... or the hard way

**The easy way:** call Sylvie and she will get the job done (including looking after the decluttering and repairs)

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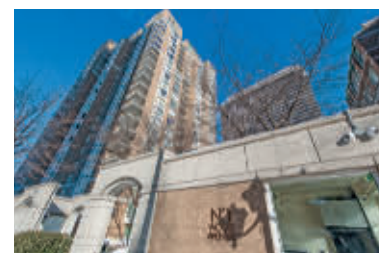
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## Player of the month for February

# Abigail Waters named as an ‘inspirational’ hockey player

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Minor Hockey Association has named Abigail Waters from its Wings U/M9-4 girls’ team as its player of the month for February.

At 8 years old, “Abigail is an inspirational player,” said Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the city’s Sports and Recreation department. In announcing the selection, he said it was not often that an association comes across someone “who inspires others to want to play hockey at this young age.”

And Maislin witnessed it first hand, he told the *Independent* last week.

“This past weekend, my 7-year-old daughter who wants nothing to do with hockey went to a Wings-versus-Côte St Luc Canucks game to cheer on a few of her friends on the Canucks team. After the game when she came home, I asked her what she thought about the game and the first words out of her mouth were, ‘I want to be like number 16 on your team.’”

“I asked ‘Why number 16?’ and her response was so simple and profound. She responded by telling me that every time she saw number 16 on the ice, she was smiling and she looked like she was having so much fun. ‘I want to be just like her.’”

Maislin said that Abigail had assisted numerous teams this season when they have been short players. “She has often played multiple games in a day without hesitation. Abigail has demonstrated true Wings spirit, not just on her team but the teams that she has supported.”

### Amazing shot

She has no fear on the ice, he added. “She has an amazing shot and is always quick to get up when she falls. She has a great hockey sense and is always in the right spot.”

While Abigail may be quiet in the room



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS & RECREATION.

and on the bench, her presence is well noticed on the ice through her consistent performances, he explained. “I look forward to having Abigail in our program for years to come.”

The player-of-the-month recognition

program was initiated in November 2019 “to acknowledge how, through hockey and sports as a whole, children are able to develop sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which they can then transfer into other areas of their lives.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



IRVINE AVE. FOR UKRAINE

One of many flags of support for Ukraine on Irvine Ave. – challenging other streets to show their support!

CYNTHIA LULHAM, ST. CATHERINE ST.

SPRING FACILITATES OUTDOORS, BUT DOORS STILL A CHALLENGE

Spring seems to be almost here, and for

those of us like me who have mobility issues, it isn't going to help us much when we try to get out and shop. Or do things.

Back story for me: sudden disability about a year ago, now learning how to manage with Hot Wheels, my walker, which didn't like snow and ice.

I have been out the past couple of days, trying to do errands and shop a bit. Wow! I can easily get into the SAQ, but that isn't

really one of my hangouts. I can also easily access the Royal Bank, but I bank online.

Moving along, huge thanks to Hogg for its ramp. Next, if somebody opens the door for me, Westmount Stationery is accessible.

That is as far as I am able to walk westwards. Then back to the Metro grocery store, with the push panel that never works and the door that is too heavy for me to open. On Victoria, thanks to my wonderful pharmacy with the ramp.

That's about it for me in Victoria Village.

The other shops all have a step that I have to lift my walker onto, and many have doors opening outward. Hot Wheels only weighs 14 pounds, but that is about 10 pounds too heavy for me. Even if I could lift my walker, I can't balance it while trying to open a door.

I am completely sure that I am not alone in finding life unnecessarily difficult for those of us who are mobility challenged.

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

CAR VANDAL STRIKES SOUTH OF DORCHESTER

Lane lovers, beware (Bruce, Columbia, Clanderboye)! Yet again, there is a disgruntled person who has vandalized cars.

One new homeowner actually had all four tires slashed! A neighbour had a delicate tracery created on one side of her car – done with a car key.

I left my car doors unlocked recently. In the morning, the glove compartment contents were strewn about. I guess they didn't feel the almost-empty windshield washer container was worth stealing. I have seen Westmount Security patrolling from time to time, but it seems their diligence does not dissuade this destructive person. Nor do the well-lit lanes.

Let's keep our eyes open.

VERONICA REDGRAVE, HALLOWELL AVE.

ENOUGH WITH THE EUPHEMISMS, METAPHORS

When answering questions at council meetings, why do councillors reflexively reach into a grab-bag of euphemisms, dumb metaphors and empty phrases? Residents are fed up.

At the March 7 meeting, there were several questions on the need for rapid action from the city on climate change and about why the city is barely moving. Citizens were told "important question," and "we have to think this through and do it properly as opposed to throwing things at the wall," and "rushing it and making a big mistake," and "in the fullness of time."

We also heard that climate action by Westmount is akin to the laughable "re-building an airplane while flying." Finishing it all off was the standard "it is challenging," the go-to line when nothing is being done.

In fact, passing for serious climate action right now consists only of Finance working with a consultant to count the numbers for GHG emissions. A councillor expressed that Westmount's tradition is "being a leader – a hallmark of this city." We are so far back that even GPS is now lost. So far, the city hasn't even bothered appointing anyone to direct the city's climate mitigation actions but will "take it under advisement." This lack of climate governance in our city is a serious failing.

Committed cities are already moving on several fronts such as deep energy retrofits for municipal buildings while supporting energy retrofits in apartment buildings and residential housing. They are working hard to update building guidelines to achieve even higher levels of energy efficiency. The technology is there and so much is already being done around the world.

Unless citizens get involved to a much greater extent, very little will happen over the next four years, oh, other than the banning of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. If you are not happy – say so! Attend council meetings. Write in the *Independent*.

Last call.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

CEASE INCENTIVIZING PASSING-THROUGH TRAFFIC

The city of Westmount has enjoyed new city councillors since the last municipal election back in November. Current mayor Christina M. Smith is working with a new team, and we wish them much success.

One of the city's top priorities is to address the traffic and speed in the streets of our city. While car racing seems to be worse on some streets, speed in the streets of our city is a systemic issue everywhere. It seems like the pandemic has made people take care of themselves at the expense of caring for others. When someone misbehaves with a car, he/she doesn't quite care much for his fellow neighbours.

One might argue that we don't know who these unrespectful drivers in the streets of Westmount are, nor where they come from! However, we should not facilitate the passing-through traffic. Unfortunately, that is what we do!

All the priority green flashing lights on Sherbrooke incentivize passing-through traffic. As a results, people driving from the South Shore going to U of M choose to exit on Sherbrooke and drive through

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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## Monthly updates to be provided

# GHG-emission requests dominate city council's question period

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City efforts to address climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions consumed most of the questions posed to the city council meeting by video conference March 7.

Replies stated the city was taking the matter seriously, would take suggestions “under advisement” and did not want to rush into developing policy but was now in the planning process to minimize GHG emissions and had to consider different aspects of the issue.

The Finance department had already “invited” a finance person to provide green accounting and act as support to all departments on this issue, Councillor Antonio D’Amico, finance commissioner, stated. “It’s important to know the numbers.”

Regarding one concern about emissions from snow removal equipment “which scraped and re-scraped” a sidewalk outside her home on St. Catherine St., Caroline Jondahl was reminded about the

city’s need to keep sidewalks as walkable as possible given the senior population and the hills.

In that vein, Nigel Goddard of Irvine Ave. said he witnessed a woman walking her dog fall on Lansdowne near Côte St. Antoine and asked what the city would do to make sidewalks safe. Councillor Anitra Bostock, commissioner of public works, explained that the Bombardiers could pass 100 times a day and still not prevent run-off from walkways causing slippery conditions.

Dan Lambert, president of the Association for Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, led off the questions stating that “given the importance and urgency of climate change, we ask that the city’s commissioner for climate provide brief monthly updates on actions and activities by Westmount towards reducing GHG.” This would be at the start of a meeting when councillors provide their reports.

Councillor Matt Aronson, the relevant commissioner, answered that he can pro-

vide monthly updates because he was very excited about the work being done to meet “our obligations” as a city. “I would be happy to talk to you about it for as long as you are willing to listen.”

Denis Biro of Burton, referred to a UN report on climate change that warned of a state of emergency for which every city must do its part. He also referred to a city survey of residents two years ago in which 91 percent of respondents rated the reduction of GHG emissions to be important.

### Appoint senior point person

The first step, he suggested, was for the city to appoint someone at the senior administrative level to integrate environmental decisions. Another was for the city to build environmental requirements into municipal tender proposals, as he had previously advocated.

Aronson replied that “for the moment,” as the city proceeds with its planning, he would be the point person but added that there ought to be a director or assistant

director to integrate environment decisions in all departments “but we aren’t there yet.”

“Do all city contracts with any supplier now contain a clause to require the supplier to affirm that it meets the applicable environmental regulations?” Biro asked. Checking every contract for compliance “is a lot of work,” Aronson said. “It’s important to give you the right answer.”

Biro reminded the council he had asked a question at a previous meeting about the operations of a company doing Westmount’s recycling pick-ups but “allegedly also polluting.” He said he had been left with the impression he would receive a response in writing, which had not happened.

“The administration is working to get back to you,” he was told by Councillor Jeff Shamie, as acting mayor.

“It’s important to give you the right answer,” Aronson continued. The “general policy” is to expect every contractor to act in compliance.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Westmount to get to Queen Mary. As such, we have engineered passing-through traffic! TMR, on the other hand, has done a good job to minimize that.

As far as speed is concerned, I continue to believe the city needs to create an awareness campaign to bring civility back and request more control from the police to discourage speed. When was the last time you saw any police support in the streets of Westmount? And the last time they were active, they were placed in the same speed traps – not a very productive way to change behaviours.

Let’s hope that the city will get real about traffic and speed, and finally come out with an innovative plan.

PAUL LEVESQUE, GROSVENOR AVE.

### FLAGS (1)

In reference to letter writer Sam Beitel in the March 1 edition (p. 6), I fully support his concern and the issues raised with regards to the complete disregard of the flags hoisted at Westmount Park elementary school.

I, too, have addressed the issue of the tattered Quebec flag and Canadian flag that has been at half mast for over one year?

I was copied on a response from our local MNA Jennifer Maccarone’s office dated February 2, 2022 [with which she sent a new, complimentary Quebec flag to the school’s principal].

To this day, nothing has changed. The photo is from March 4.



Flags (2) – Update!

The new flags have been properly placed and hoisted at Westmount Park elementary school as of today [March 18].

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

### We welcome your letters

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# Westmount High hosts Holocaust survivors' exhibition



WHS vice-principal Matthew Shapiro and grade eight student Eliane Goldstein are seen in the school lobby on March 18 between two of the travelling Holocaust exhibition's information stations, with additional photos of Holocaust survivors in the glass case behind them.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Westmount High School lobby will be more than a busy thoroughfare for students in the coming weeks, since it is serving until the end of March as a venue for a travelling exhibition focusing on Holocaust survivors and their stories.

Until March 31, WHS students and staff will be able to visit the exhibit, sponsored by the Montreal Holocaust Museum, while teachers will also be scheduling class visits on school days.

The English Montreal School Board says the exhibit builds upon prior lessons on the Holocaust taught to students at the school. Holocaust education is a mandatory component of the board's curriculum, and spiritual and community animators provide age-appropriate Holocaust education throughout the year.

The students regularly receive in-person or virtual visits from Holocaust survivors, attend field trips to the Montreal Holocaust Museum, and various other lessons through books, movies and digital platforms.

### Timing no coincidence

The exhibition is taking place around six weeks after Westmount High students were the targets of notes scrawled with Nazi swastikas that were left in a locker as well as on a classroom desk.

In an interview with the *Independent*,

WHS vice-principal Matthew Shapiro acknowledged that hosting the Holocaust exhibit was partly in response to the swastika incidents.

He said a spiritual animator at the school, Samantha Smith, thought it would be appropriate under the circumstances to invite the Holocaust Museum to place Westmount High on its list of stops for the travelling exhibit.

"Especially with the younger grades, some of the students didn't know the story of the Holocaust," said Shapiro.

"They hadn't fully had that education yet, they didn't know what a swastika was, they didn't understand the meaning of certain pieces of iconography, imagery and even gestures. And so we saw there was a gap there that we wanted to address."

At least one student, 14-year-old Eliane Goldstein, already had extensive knowledge of the Holocaust and its wide-ranging impact, because she was working on a podcast project with a Holocaust theme around this time last year.

Her project won an EMSB Student of the Month Award. The award is given once a month throughout the year to students who've made efforts to improve the world and make a difference.

While it was initially planned as six or seven episodes, she created more than 20, which are available in audio format through Spotify, Apple, Google and other podcast platforms.



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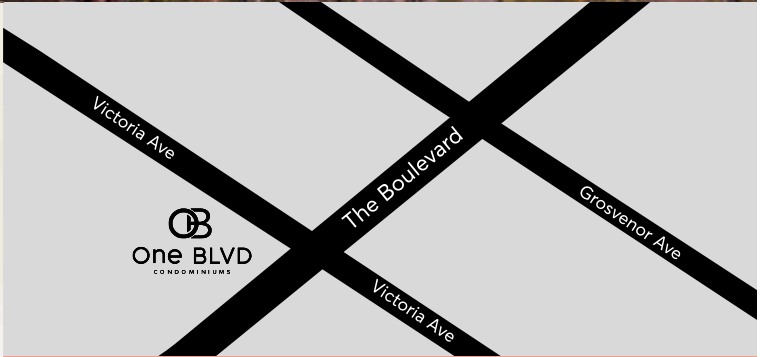
  
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From left, Emerson Gilbert Jacquart, Emma Gris , Lily Pilc and Charlotte Feltham of the Westmount Soccer Club after a game August 15, 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEAN-S BASTIEN GRIS .

.....  
**Girls' soccer, cont'd from p. 1**  
istered 236 players, but only 24 percent are female. It is a significant drop compared to last year.  
"Last year, we had 80 girls so if we continue with our 56 to 60 registrants, we will be lower than last year."  
For the women-only teams, he is seeing the lowest participation in the under-12 (U-12) division followed by U-14's registrations are in line with Gris 's hopes.  
"If we had a wish, we would have as many girls as possible, from any age, because we can always add teams."  
This is happening not even a year after

role models for Canadian female soccer players – the Canadian Women's national soccer team – celebrated its highest achievement ever: winning gold at the 2021 summer Olympics in Tokyo.  
Its veteran striker Christine Sinclair was subsequently honoured by FIFA with the Best FIFA Special Award this past January. Sinclair is the world's leading all-time international scorer with 188 goals – and she is still playing.  
Cristiano Ronaldo – all-time highest international goal scorer on the men's side – has 115.  
So, if we have re-written what it means to "play like a girl," why are fewer lacing up?

A 2021 report from *Canadian Women and Sports* examined the impact of the pandemic on sport participation for Canadian girls aged 6 to 18. The key finding from the study is that one in four Canadian girls who participated in sport at least weekly prior to COVID-19 are not committed to return to sport when restrictions are fully lifted.  
The top five reported barriers were access to facilities and programs, quality of programs, alternatives/other interests, cost to participate and lack of confidence.  
For its part, Westmount Soccer Club plans to continue to attract female athletes. "We are trying to get [them] to be ambas-

sadors for the sport and get their friends to speak about it. We are also trying to get as many female coaches as possible because we find that girls who are led by girls results in greater retention."  
For further motivation, the club posts multiple action shots on their Instagram account. The players are exuberant even if not undefeated.  
"Most of those were losses," Gris  related. "But they were really happy with their performance and that made me fall in love with Westmount soccer. This is what losing feels like! It is not so bad because we are surrounded by people that we like."



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## MNA for Westmount–Saint-Louis, Jennifer Maccarone, is looking for new members to form her Youth and Seniors Councils!

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Are you between the ages of 15 and 25 or 55 and over?

To apply, please visit our social media to fill out the application form or contact us by email or phone.



Jennifer.Maccarone.WSL@assnat.qc.ca



(514) 395-2929



Jennifer Maccarone MNA/Députée



jmaccarone



jmaccarone



Jennifer Maccarone





Some of the 800 boxes of books for the library's sale are checked over March 14 by Julie-Anne Cardella, director of the Library and Community Events.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORA BAIocca.

**Book sale, cont'd from p. 1**

The need for the many extra hands that will be required in setting up and managing the event is the reason why the Community Events office at Victoria Hall is collaborating with the Friends group, Lach ex-

plained. "We want the sale to be as safe as possible for everyone."  
Councillor Elisabeth Roux, commissioner of the library and community events, announced at the city council meeting March 7 that no more donations were being accepted for the approaching sale.

Although the last sale actually took place in November 2019, all the plans and pre-sorting of books for the spring 2020 sale had already occurred before it had to be cancelled with the closure of all municipal buildings in March 2020.  
According to Lach, despite the imple-

mentation of curbside pick-up when the library was closed to the public, many residents resorted to purchasing and ordering new books from Amazon, for example. This means they now have even more books than usual to donate to the next library sales.

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# Russia Invaded Ukraine

**#HelpUkraineNow** by supporting  
the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

**Donate at [cufoundation.ca](https://cufoundation.ca)**

## Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal is already sending aid to Ukraine

Last week, Russia declared war on Ukraine. The Russian army has attacked military facilities, infrastructure and civilian targets. The WHO health cluster estimates that the number of affected people has climbed from 2.9 million a week ago, to over 18 million today.

The Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, established by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF), is working with Ukrainian government ministries, who are in the best position to advise on the needs on the ground so that we can ensure that the donations we receive meet the needs of the Ukrainian people.

Several tranches of aid have already been delivered and we will continue to monitor and match aid to the needs on the ground in the coming weeks and months.





## T'S TAKES

RALPH THOMPSON

# I Support Ukraine

don, Ontario; Toronto; Guelph and Calgary – and the parliament building in Ottawa.

There is the perfect place in Westmount by the cenotaph – how appropriate! There are two unused flagpoles ready and waiting. Let's all write to our city councillors and demand a display of support for Ukraine.

On the home front, I purchased two lengths of blue and yellow rayon poplin from Fabricville and hung them from my window. A neighbour followed suit with a flag purchased on Amazon.

There is no middle ground, no neutral position on this issue. We either support Ukraine or we support the violent destruction of democracy in Europe.

*All photos March 12.*



A Ukrainian flag on Melville Ave.



The colours of the Ukrainian flag on Greene Ave. next to the former Starbucks café.



The perfect place to hang two Ukrainian flags already exists at the cenotaph in Vimy Park in front of city hall.

The illegal invasion of Ukraine by Putin, justified by baseless claims and lies, aided by Lukashenko of Belarus and not condemned by Xi of China, is not the worst humanitarian crisis witnessed in my lifetime, *at this point in time*.

But it is the most dangerous, in my opinion.

The Syrian civil war, starting 2011, created 6.8 million refugees and displaced a further 6.7 million, according to World Vision. Conflicts in Georgia and Chechnya were brought to brutal conclusions at a huge cost to human life and freedom.

Putin applied a ruthless force to these conflicts, relying heavily on massive firepower and indiscriminate bombing. The world moved on and politicians continued to welcome Putin to global peace forums such as the UN and even allowed the Olympics to go ahead in Sochi in 2014. The invasion of Crimea followed.

But the situation in the rest of Ukraine is very different.

Ukraine is a sovereign country, but we should recognize that Ukraine did not have a perfect democracy. The 2021 Democracy Index put it in 86th place out of 180 countries, but its election process was considered fair. Regardless, Putin's aims are clear. He doesn't recognize democracy and sees Europe and the defence alliance NATO as a threat.

"He simply wants to almost re-create a Russian empire of some kind," according to Daniel Hamilton, senior fellow of foreign affairs at Johns Hopkins University.

As *The Economist* stated in its lead article recently "The freer Putin is to advance today, the more determined he will be to impose his vision tomorrow." The Baltic states, Poland, Moldova, and even Finland and beyond are all potential targets.

Putin has no shame. He is the aggressor, not Russia. Westmount's own Richard Pound stated that the evidence in the Olympic doping scandal pointed right to the highest level in Russia (his words repeated in the Netflix documentary *Icarus*).

Putin and his heartless henchmen must not succeed in Ukraine. Let's do everything we can, however small, in support of Ukraine's defence and the millions of refugees.

Donations should go to organizations with credentials, these tragedies bring out the conmen and fraudsters. Please beware.

Our city should prominently display the Ukrainian flag and colours as other cities in Canada have done, e.g. Montreal; Lon-



*Many teams expected from 24 associations*

# Girls' regional hockey finals take place at WRC March 27

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount recreation centre (WRC) will be hosting the final nine games of the season for the Lac St. Louis region's girls' hockey teams March 27. It will also showcase three games at the U/M9 (Novice) level including the Westmount team.

This event will involve many players at various levels from the 24 hockey associations in the region, which includes the South Shore, the West Island and off-island, where games to decide the finalists have been taking place March 21-26.

"We're going to be hopping, that's for sure," said Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the city's Sports and Recreation department. Special arrangements have been made for the many cars that will bring the players and their families to the WRC, he said.

Maislin, who runs the region's Eastern Hockey League as its administrator, said those participating in the event will be aged 9 to 21, though not all associations have girls' teams at all levels.

This is the first year that Westmount has had an all-girls' team as it develops its girls' program, the first one in the EHL. This level is the one previously named the "Novice" category and is for those under 9 (see story September 9, p. 5).

The girls' games are "super complicated," as rules regarding them are evolving, Maislin said.

He hopes the regional tournament in Westmount will help promote interest in girls' hockey. "If I can get one girl to show up and want to play hockey next year, we've won," he said.

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# infoWESTMOUNT

2022.03.22 • Vol. 3/06  
Publié par la Ville de Westmount  
Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 4 avril



**Appel aux artisans**  
L'édition 2022 d'Artisans Westmount aura lieu les 12 et 13 novembre. Les artisans sont invités à soumettre un dossier au plus tard le **8 avril** en utilisant le formulaire en ligne à **westmount.org**

**Séances du conseil à l'hôtel de ville**  
En conformité avec l'allègement des mesures sanitaires, les prochaines séances du Conseil auront lieu à l'hôtel de ville et seront diffusées sur Zoom. **westmount.org**

**Appel aux artistes de Westmount**  
Vous êtes invités à soumettre votre candidature pour la prochaine saison d'expositions au plus tard le **15 avril 2022**. Renseignements et formulaire de candidature : **westmount.org**.

**Programme Éconologis**  
Les ménages à faible revenu sont éligibles à ce programme et peuvent obtenir des services gratuits pour améliorer l'efficacité énergétique de leurs résidences. Informez-vous à **westmount.org**.

**Inscription pour activités de printemps**  
La période d'inscription est en cours. Consultez le guide et inscrivez-vous en ligne, ou en personne au CLW. **westmount.org**

**Patrouille verte à Westmount : on recrute!**  
Si vous avez entre 15 et 30 ans et voulez contribuer à la sensibilisation à la cause environnementale, postulez **avant le 2 mai** pour vous joindre à la Patrouille Verte cet été. **westmount.org**.

**Ville de Montréal : travaux d'aqueduc**  
La Ville de Montréal effectuera des travaux d'entretien sur le réseau principal d'eau à l'intersection du chemin de la Côte-Saint-Antoine et de la rue Stanton **du 21 au 25 mars** entre 7 h et 19 h. **westmount.org**

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, April 4



**Call for submissions**  
The 2022 edition of Artisans Westmount will take place November 12 and 13. Artisans are invited to submit their work on or before **April 8** using the online form at **westmount.org**

**Council meetings return to City Hall**  
In accordance with the easing of health measures, upcoming Council meetings will take place at City Hall and also be available on Zoom. **westmount.org**

**Invitation to Westmount artists**  
You are invited to submit your proposal for the next exhibition season of the Gallery at Victoria Hall. The deadline is **April 15, 2022**. Find the details and application form at **westmount.org**.

**Éconologis programme**  
Low-income households can register for this programme and obtain free services to improve the energy efficiency of their residence. Find out more at **westmount.org**.

**Registration for spring activities**  
Registration is now underway. Consult the activities guide and register online, or in person at the WRC. **westmount.org**

**Recruiting for Westmount's Green Patrol**  
If you are between 15 and 30 years old and want to help raise environmental awareness, apply **before May 2** to join the Green Patrol this summer. **westmount.org**.

**Ville de Montréal: water main work**  
The Ville de Montréal will carry out maintenance work on the principal water main at the intersection of Côte-Saint-Antoine Rd. and Stanton St. **from March 21 to 25** between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. **westmount.org**

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

**Bibliothèque ouverte au public**  
Nous sommes heureux d'accueillir à nouveau les visiteurs! Un service de cueillette en libre-service est en place à l'intérieur. Avant de vous déplacer, informez-vous des exigences et conditions. **westlib.org**

**Nouveau sac réutilisable BPW!**  
Joli, durable et 100% biodégradable : votre sac ♥ BPW vous attend. 12 \$, argent comptant seulement. Quantité limitée. **westlib.org**

**Concours littéraire McEntyre 2022**  
**Et ensuite?** Nous te demandons d'écrire une histoire, un poème ou un essai décrivant comment tu envisages le futur. Date limite : **vendredi 1er avril. westlib.org**

**Trousses pour bébés**  
Procurez-vous un ensemble spécial pour les tout-petits (0 à 2 ans). **wwayling@westmount.org**

**L'heure de conte en ligne**  
La Bibliothèque des enfants vous propose des contes à **westlib.org** et sur sa chaîne **YouTube**.

**Club de lecture pour ados (13-17 ans)**  
**Jeudi 24 mars, 17 h à 18 h** sur Zoom. Heartless par Marissa Meyer. Inscris-toi à **westlib.org**.

**Trousses de bricolages pour enfants**  
Inscris-toi pour participer à un atelier de bricolage à faire chez toi! **4 avril** : Averses d'avril. **18 avril** : Jour de la terre. **westlib.org**

**Conférence : Do You Hear Well?**  
**Mercredi 6 avril, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Avec Michel Nadeau, auteur du livre Entendez-vous bien? En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à **westlib.org**.

**Vente de livres des Amis de la Bibliothèque**  
**Samedi 9 avril et dimanche 10 avril, 10 h à 16 h**, Victoria Hall. Organisée par les Amis de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount, en collaboration avec le personnel de la Bibliothèque et événements communautaires.

## LIBRARY

**Library open to the public**  
We are pleased to welcome visitors back! A self-serve pickup system is now in place inside. Learn about the requirements and conditions before you arrive. **westlib.org**

**New WPL tote bag!**  
Adorable, sustainable and 100% biodegradable: your ♥ WPL bag awaits. \$12, cash only. Limited run. **westlib.org**

**2022 McEntyre Writing Competition**  
**What's next?** We would like you to write a creative story, poem, or essay about how you envision the future. Deadline: **April 1. westlib.org**

**Baby Kits**  
Ask us for a special kit for newborns (0-2 years). **wwayling@westmount.org**

**Storytime online**  
The library staff offers storytime at **westlib.org** and on the Library's **YouTube** channel.

**Book Club for Teens (13-17 yrs.)**  
**Thursday, March 24, 5 to 6 p.m.** on Zoom. Heartless by Marissa Meyer. Sign up at **westlib.org**.

**Take and Make Craft Kits for Kids**  
Sign up for a fun craft kit to do at home!  
**April 4:** April Showers; **April 18:** Earth Day. **westlib.org**

**Lecture: Do You Hear Well?**  
**Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. With Michel Nadeau, author of Entendez-vous bien? Register at **westlib.org**.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
**Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Organized by the Friends of the Westmount Public Library, in collaboration with Library and Community Events personnel.





9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Minou and Rosie

Agriculture, André Lamontagne, to Simon Jolin-Barrette, government house leader:

"Taking into account the latest scientific advances and the positions of stakeholders, the regulation will propose to prohibit, except for medical reasons, the following surgeries: de-vocalization, caudectomy (tail docking) and onyxiectomy (de-clawing) performed on a cat or dog, as well as ear cropping in dogs. The draft regulation is expected to be made public by summer 2022."

"The Montreal SPCA has been working for several years to make de-clawing and other non-therapeutic surgeries a thing of the past. As a member of the Association Québécoise des SPA et SPCA (AQSS), we were among the organizations consulted by the government prior to yesterday's announcement," explained Sophie Gaillard, director of animal advocacy and legal affairs at the Montreal SPCA. "We of course advocated for a ban and we can only applaud this decision."

Your neighbour, Lysanne



**Breaking news: Quebec proposes to finally ban de-clawing**

Announcement of March 15: Here is a loosely translated excerpt from the official response letter from Quebec's minister of



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

What a doggie model! Cooper is Mr. Handsome!

Yes, the camera loves this adorable brown-and-caramel short-haired chihuahua, and we are hoping that a new family awaits him from our neighbourhood in the near future.

He is presently in a foster family for the grassroots animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, with glowing feedback of his loving nature and playful attentiveness.

This young two-year-old loves to be with everyone, enjoying all the attention he can get. He is also very well organized in his little bedroom, which is his covered crate, snoozing happily at nap times.

Cooper enjoys his walks and playing in the fenced backyard. He is very healthy, maybe a little chubby but an active spring-time routine will fix that.

He is up to date with his inoculations,



## Best Looking Cooper

neutered and microchipped. There is a lot of personality and a lot of joy around little Cooper as he is an extremely affectionate companion.

If you would like more information on him, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) to refer to his information page and great photographs, then send an email to them at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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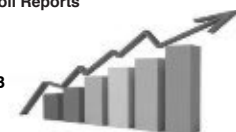


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# Amiel Family Foundation provides key support for MCH's 'Le Spot'

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 who are experiencing suicidal urges and thoughts have had a new help resource to turn to since last Monday when the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) opened its Specialized Centre for Adolescent Mental Health (Le Spot) on de Maisonneuve Blvd. in NDG next to the Vendôme Metro station.

The unit, which can provide psychological help for up to 1,000 teens, was funded with financial support from several private sources, including the RBC Foundation, and the Amiel Family Foundation, which is led by Westmount resident Jonathan Amiel, a former chair of the MCH Foun-



McGill University Health Centre CEO Dr. Pierre Gfeller, Westmounter Jonathan Amiel, RBC Quebec president Nadine Renaud-Tinker, David Amiel, and Renée Vézina, president of the MCH Foundation.

dation's board of directors.

During an official launch at the facility on March 18, he told MCH staff and media that when plans for the project were first explained by MCH head of psychiatry Dr. Martin Gignac, "the question wasn't whether we were going to support the project. The question was whether we could inspire others to do the same.

### Working to inspire other donors

"We are incredibly grateful to be one of the founding supporters of Le Spot," said

Amiel. "And if our participation in any way encouraged others to do the same, we are humbled by that."

Noting that he and his brother, David, "are very proud fathers of seven wonderful teenagers," he said "we experience every day first hand the struggles that children go through in a world that is evermore interconnected, whether it's social media or pandemic or now even a war.

"The immense challenges that children face today for some is just too much. And what Le Spot is here to do is to make sure that every child knows that the world is a much better place with them in it. As entrepreneurs, I can tell you that if our donation saves a single life, it will be the best investment that we have ever made."

Located on the ground floor of the MUHC's 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd. pavilion, Le SPOT is said to be one of the lar-

gest ambulatory centres in Canada for teens undergoing suicidal crises.

The walk-in facility's multidisciplinary team is equipped to offer an alternative to hospitalization, allowing teens to continue with their schooling and other activities while participating in a program of up to 12 weeks of intensive, individualized therapy.

Since the pandemic started two years ago, the distress rates of children and teens have grown at an alarming rate, the MCH says.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of young people and their families who turned up at the hospital's emergency department for psychosocial and psychological problems, ranging from anxiety disorders to suicidal ideation and attempts, jumped 35 per cent.

The MCH said Le Spot's team of mental health professionals is equipped to evaluate adolescent patients within 72 hours of being referred by specialists at the MCH's emergency department.

## LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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### Dog Walker Available

Responsible, enthusiastic and loving, I am available to walk your dog in the Westmount area. One-on-one solo walks allow me to focus on your pet, with toys, treats and water on hand. Please see my website: edebuss.wixsite.com/my-site or contact me directly for more info: Elise 438-837-0083 or edebuss@gmail.com.

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Buy locally to sell locally



Maia Azis, the MUHC's allied health services clinico-administrative head at the clinic's entrance.



VILLE DE | CITY OF  
**WESTMOUNT**



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received applications for demolition permit and for preliminary program for:
  - the accessory building located at **1 Murray Avenue;**
  - the building located at **45 Roxborough Avenue;**
  - the accessory building located at **665 Belmont Avenue;**
  - the building of the former Westmount incinerator.
2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **May 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount and will be broadcasted live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/>

**www.westmount.org**



Jonathan Amiel, whose Amiel Family Foundation is a founding supporter of Le Spot clinic for distressed adolescents.

## Police Report

# Motor scooter stolen from garage during the winter

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With the arrival of spring in Westmount each year, local apartment dwellers often discover that belongings they'd placed in storage in the belief they'd be safe over the winter have actually disappeared.

Such was the case last week, when a de Maisonneuve Blvd. tenant finally got around to checking his building's basement garage, only to discover that a thief had been there over the past four months to commit a robbery.

The victim had parked a motorized scooter in the garage on November 3 last year and waited until this past March 13 to

check on it.

"When they went to look, the scooter was gone," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

### Fraudulent calls

After a seeming respite from phone frauds and identity thefts recently, investigators at Station 12 filed a criminal complaint last week on behalf of a Westmounter who said he had been repeatedly contacted by fraud perpetrators.

According to the police report, the complainant said he'd received several calls from strangers since March 6, including one from an individual claiming to be with

Hydro Quebec who was inquiring about his electricity bill.

Since Westmounters are billed by Hydro Westmount rather than the provincial electric utility, he knew something was amiss.

A day later, he received a call from someone trying to phone a dentist's office to make an appointment. Then a few days after this, he received a voice-mail message with a phone number supposedly at a bank, asking him to return the call.

When he did, the person who answered asked him questions about things ranging from his age, to the credit cards he owned and their number sequences.

"He found this suspicious, so he hung up," said Adalbert Pimentel, adding that the party at the other end of the line was obviously just fishing for personal information.

Although Station 12 investigators have opened a file on the incidents, they also advised the complainant to get in touch with credit agencies Equifax and TransUnion in order to run a credit check and make certain that no one has completed transactions under his name.

## Ghosts of Westmount



These "shrouds" were seen on Dorchester near Greene, left, and St. Catherine St. near Glen Rd. on March 11.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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# Woman stabbed on de Maisonneuve near Roslyn



Police had cordoned off de Maisonneuve between Roslyn and Grosvenor on what would usually have been a quiet Sunday morning, as seen at around 9 am March 20. It was reported by several media outlets that a 25-year-old woman had been stabbed early that morning and that Westmount public safety officers had detained a male suspect. The morning of March 21, right before press time, the media team of the Montreal police department described the victim's status as "stable but serious."

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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*‘Setting a high standard of courage’*

## RMR’s Captain Be in Romania to help Ukrainian refugees

Captain Rici Be, the padre of Westmount’s Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR), has volunteered as part of his civilian ministry to serve in a humanitarian mission in Romania to displaced persons, evacuees and refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, explained the RMR Foundation’s newsletter and website March 19.

While “it must be stressed that Padre Be is doing this as a civilian volunteer, [and] he has no backing from, nor is he representing, the Canadian Armed Forces in any official capacity ...the RMR Family is very proud of his drive and selfless leadership to help relieve the distresses and soothe the afflictions of his fellow humans who are desperately trying to escape the grave danger posed by the invading Russian military,” states the newsletter.

He arrived March 16.

“He is no stranger to war,” explained the website, “You can read on his [www.givetogo.org] donation page his personal story of how the Cambodian war and ensuing genocide was intertwined with his own family’s history. Like many of his fellow Canadians, his family came to Canada as a sanctuary from the bloodshed and violence they suffered at home, precisely as many Ukrainians are attempting now.”

“He is setting a high standard of moral courage for all of us,” concluded the newsletter.



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## Car passes bus



According to the website of the Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), passing a school bus with blinking lights is the second-worst offence as measured in demerit points: nine. (Car surfing, racing and related offences are worse, at 12.). That possible point loss and fine did not deter this driver from passing this bus on de Maisonneuve and going north on Prince Albert March 11.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## How did they get it there?



This Tesla, seen March 16, is on display on the second floor of the Alexis Nihon shopping centre, above street level and below the parking levels.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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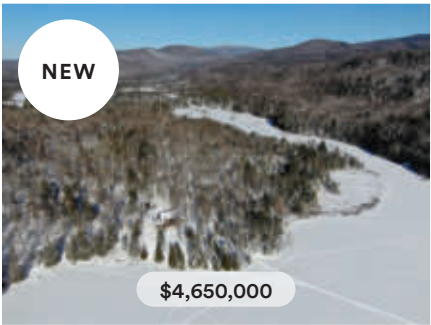




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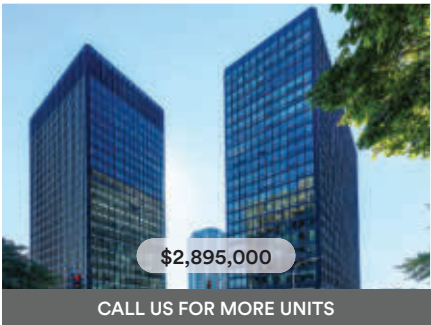
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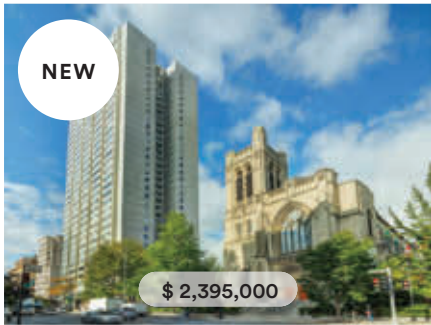
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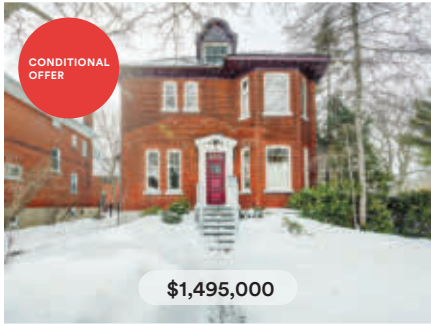
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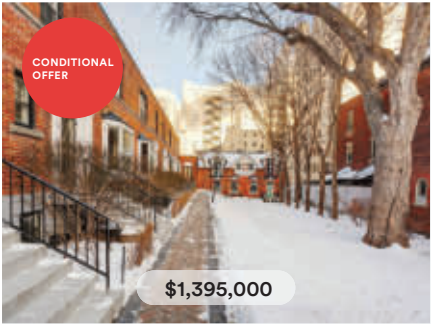
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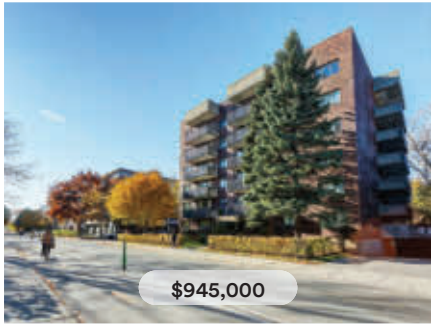
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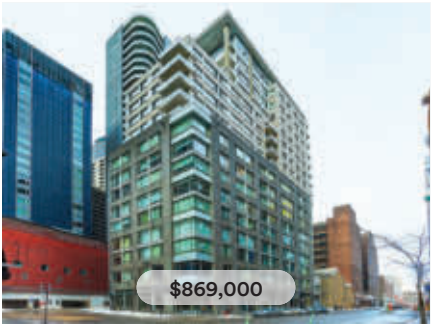
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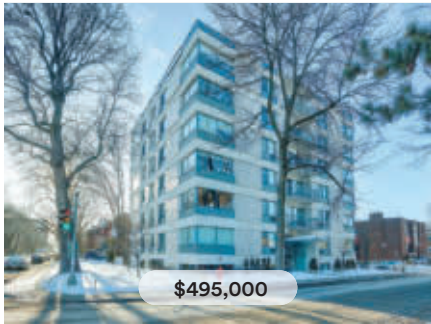
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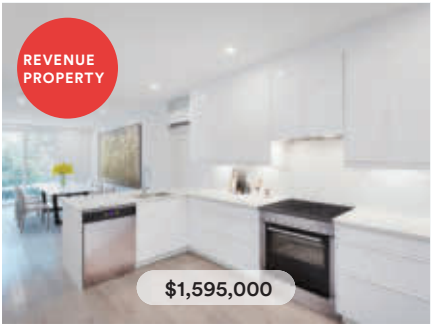
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