

Pumptrack installed
in Westmount Park, p. 6

City's day camps
have room, p. 7

Mt. Pleasant roadwork
cancelled, p. 7

YMCA Masters win
swimming provincials, p. 10

Don't Forget!

Sunday, May 8
is Mother's Day
See p. 23-5 for ideas

Don't Miss It

Demonstration against Bill 96
Starts at Dawson College
Saturday, May 14, 10:30 am

Sold, for \$18.5 million!



418-20 Claremont/5001-15 Sherbrooke was transferred from 9378-0765 Quebec to Interrent International Properties Inc. in November for \$18,525,000. See p. 26 for Andy Dodge's analysis of November and December's real estate transfers.

PHOTO: ANDY DODGE.

'It's been like free therapy during this pandemic'

Dog licences up 30% since last year, after 5% year before

BY JENNIFER BALL

Release the hounds! The continent-wide news story about more people acquiring dogs during the pandemic has a Westmount chapter.

Although major news outlets starting writing "COVID dog" and "pandemic pet" stories in summer 2020 only three or four months into the pandemic, it was in the

following year that there was a large increase in the number of dogs in Westmount.

For the year ending March 2021, there was only a five-percent increase in the number of new Westmount dog-licence purchases over the previous one, but between 2021 and 2022 there was a 30-percent uptick, according to data shared with the *Inde-* continued on p. 16



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Ville-Marie | 4100 Ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges, apt. 17 | \$695,000

3 UNITS CONVERTED INTO 1 - PORT ROYAL



FEATURED

Ville-Marie | 1455 Rue Sherbrooke O.,
apt. 2002 | \$4,299,000

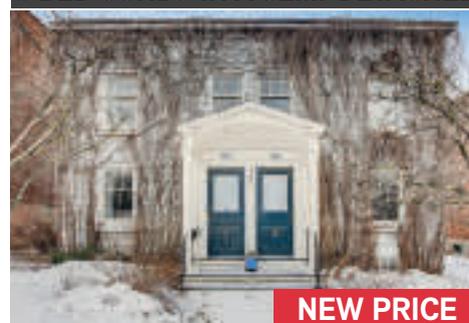
6 BEDROOM FAMILY HOME



SOLD*

Westmount
132 Av. Clondeboye

3 BED CONDO IN A SEMI-DETACHED



NEW PRICE

Westmount Adj. | 4652 Av. Grosvenor
\$950,000

3 BED, 2 BATH CONDO



NEW PRICE

Westmount | 11 Av. Hillside, apt. 202
\$849,000

CHARMING DETACHED HOME



FEATURED

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
5120 Rue West-Broadway | \$850,000

6+2 BED, 5 BATH MONKLAND VILLAGE HOME



FEATURED

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
4364-4366 Av. Marcil | \$2,950,000

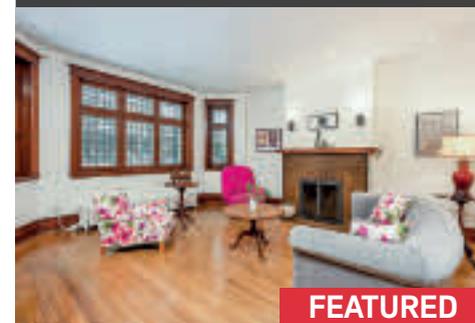
SPACIOUS & BRIGHT 2 BDRM CONDO



NEW LISTING

Ville-Marie | 3450 Rue Redpath, apt. 201
\$839,000 or \$2,650/month

ELEGANT & SPACIOUS SEMI-DETACHED



FEATURED

Westmount | 580 Ch. de la Côte-St-Antoine
\$2,099,000

Once was bad enough, but twice?

Cllr. Aronson's CR-V disappears, again – and is recovered, again

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

It's annoying enough to have your car stolen once. But *twice* in six months?

"It so unbelievable. It's crazy," said Councillor Matt Aronson, saying he wanted to warn other drivers of Honda CR-Vs, a car that made it to the top of the "most-stolen list" in Montreal in 2021 for the second consecutive year.

"Especially," he said, considering it had been taken from the same location on Melville.

The first time it disappeared was overnight October 26-27 when the car contained his flyers and other campaign material for his municipal election bid November 7 (see November 2, 2021, p. 30).

This time, however, Aronson said he had parked the compact SUV at 6 pm on Friday, April 22, with a steering wheel lock

attached. But, at 6 am, he received a surprise phone call from the Surété du Québec (SQ) telling him they had recovered his car during a routine traffic stop on Jarry St. at 3:30 am.

Just why it was a traffic stop by provincial police remains unknown to him. "They wouldn't tell me."

To get the car back from an impound yard in Ahuntsic, however, he had to officially report it stolen and have it taken to the dealer to have the key fob starter system re-coded after it had been de-coded in the theft.

Could take the day off

Fortunately, he said, it had not otherwise been damaged and he was able to take the day off to deal with the issue because he works for himself. But, he wonders, what do people do when they would then

not show up on a shift and have to take public transit around town over the incident?

At the time of the first theft, the car had not been recovered until found on a dead-end street in St. Laurent in January by parking inspectors looking for cars reported stolen so that a bailiff could attach Denver boots. That time, the car had been severely damaged by the removal of computerized equipment inside the dashboard, repairs of which involved lengthy delays.

Letters, p. 8

Pet Page, p. 29

Police Report, p. 30

Social Notes: Queen's
jubilee tea, p. 33



infoWestmount, p. 31



"I got my car back!" exclaims a jubilant Matt Aronson in this photo taken April 28 by his wife Abigail.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M. ARONSON



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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Wishing all Moms of both human and fur babies a healthy and happy Mother's Day! I hope you get to spend quality time at your home with your family.

Family is everything.

To all returning snowbirds, welcome home!

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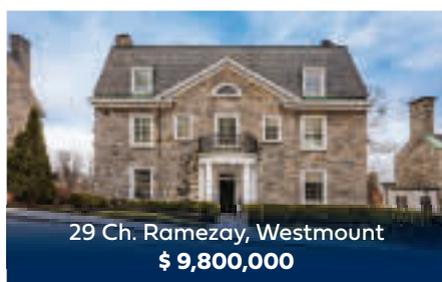


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\$ 3,650,000



29 Ch. Ramezay, Westmount
\$ 9,800,000



36 Av. Sunnyside, Westmount
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TOM, PH4001, Ville-Marie
\$ 7,250,000



3186 Boul. The Boulevard, Westmount
\$ 5,948,000



43 Surrey Gardens, Westmount
\$ 4,995,000



1 Av. des Amiraux, Estérel
\$ 3,800,000



9 Crois. Linwood, Mont-Royal
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484 Av. Wood, Westmount
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456 Av. Elm, Westmount
\$ 3,075,000*

ACCEPTED OFFER



Symphonia, apt. 2904, Nun's Island
\$ 2,995,000*

ACCEPTED OFFER



1525 Ch. Rockland, Mont-Royal
\$ 2,695,000*

ACCEPTED OFFER



288 Van Gogh, Dollard Des Ormeaux
\$ 2,199,000*

SOLD



655 Av. Victoria, Westmount

*Asking Price

A new source of recreation City installs pumptrack in Westmount Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's purchase last summer of a pumptrack that could not be installed because of delivery delays was introduced April 29 at a ribbon-cutting opening in Westmount Park.

Located at the north end of the Melville soccer field near the centennial memorial at Melbourne, the large oval-shaped piece

of modular equipment requires a flat, large-enough space for users of bikes, skateboards, inline skates and even wheelchairs to gain speed from generating self-propelled momentum.

In use by communities throughout the country, a pumptrack is a closed course composed of a succession of bumps and banked curves.

It can be put together and moved as



Kristian Mancini makes it look easy.



Kristian Mancini cuts the ribbon and officially opens the track April 29, joined, from left, by Sports and Recreation director David Lapointe, city director general Hadi Hakim, Councillor Jeff Shamie, Kristian's dad Philippe Mancini, and Mayor Christina Smith and her daughter Isabel Cundhill (in front at left). "We saw the pumptrack equipment at an event two years ago," said Mayor Smith. "Baie D'Urfé installed one in 2020 and, about that time, Kristian's parents approached us with the same idea." After the demonstrations were finished, a line-up of enthusiastic kids with inline skates, skateboards and scooters was quickly formed.

required, and removed in the winter (see story July 6, 2021, p. 7).

The track was officially opened by Mayor Christina Smith and members of city council along with a demonstration by local BMX rider, Kristian Mancini. It is open to all ages and can accommodate two at a time.

"It's just a small track," said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe, so he doesn't anticipate after the initial attraction that there will be line-ups. "It will be self-governed and users will be expected to follow the signage."

Cyclists are reminded that

city by-laws require that bikes not be ridden in the park other than on the bike path and the pumptrack.



Super scooter rider Pablo Formisano gets around the track with ease.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

FOR LIVE ACTION, SEE RALPH'S VIDEO AT VIMEO.COM/70474261.



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Unusually low numbers reported All city's summer camp sessions have space for more

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There's good news for parents still looking to register their kids for any of the city's summer camp sessions, which usually have a long waiting list. Registration April 19 was well below what was expected, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week.

"There's still room in all the sessions," he said. "It's surprising. Usually, it's a gangbuster registration." There have been years when people began lining up or trying to sign up online from 7 am for an 8 am start (see story April 19, p. 1). "Typically, we sell out at that time for the first four sessions."

Summer registration in general has been unusually low this year, he said, even though the programs had been well publicized including e-mail blasts and information posted on social media.

When it comes to the camps, the sessions over the last two summers during COVID were reduced in capacity and extended to two weeks each, but this year they are back to full capacity for each one-week session.

Committed to plan's public presentation: Cllr. Shamie

Mt. Pleasant project cancelled to await granite supply

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The reconstruction of Mount Pleasant from Sherbrooke to Rosemount Crescent has been postponed as a major project for this year due to a lack of required material, city officials confirmed last week. Its cancellation had been listed in minutes of the general committee meeting of March 7.

It will be replaced by a number of other projects to be determined, District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie, told the *Independent*. The missing material is granite to be used for sidewalk curbs, he explained. This look is to be consistent with Greene Ave., which is the continuation of Mount Pleasant south of Sherbrooke.

The reconstruction project was a highlight of the roadwork in this year's capital works budget, though the city does not make public its estimated cost of work before a call for tenders.

Features of the planned work include the addition of a sidewalk on the west side of Mount Pleasant where there is now none, and increased planting of trees and



Looking south on Mount Pleasant Ave. towards Sherbrooke St. on April 29. There is currently no sidewalk on the west/ern/right side.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

other vegetation on the east side between the sidewalk and street, Shamie said.

This would not require narrowing of the street, or changing the two-way traffic flow but the added sidewalk would make the street safer, reduce speeding and update it from when it was built in the 1920s, he contended.

Resembles a lane

Without a sidewalk on the west side, the street "has been an eyesore for 100 years resembling a lane," he added. In the stretch of Mt. Pleasant above Sherbrooke, there are many houses backing onto it from on

Rosemount Ave., giving it a lane-like appearance.

Shamie, who had included a letter to his district constituents in a survey on the 2022 reconstruction plan in December, said comments received from the survey had been incorporated into the plan developed by the city.

The survey was similar to one regarding Lexington at the same time, asking questions such as setting up universal charging stations for electric vehicles, narrowing the street, limiting parking, widening sidewalks and adding greenery (see story February 1, p. 7).

Woman taken to hospital in fall, dog to PSU office

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A woman who hurt her arm in a fall while walking with her dog near 80 Summit Circle April 27 was taken to the MUHC super-hospital by public safety officers, Public Security officials said.

She was found on her knees at 4:07 pm. She said she thought that she had broken the arm and was helped into the patrol vehicle to shelter her from snowy and rainy conditions. She was reported to have refused an offer of a triangular bandage to use as a sling.

A resident of Holton, she was escorted to the triage centre and her brother was called to pick up the dog from the Public Security office on Stanton St.

Truck and trailer roll down Roslyn, hit Subaru

A white pick-up truck and its trailer rolled down the hill outside 637 Roslyn April 26, hitting a Subaru, Public Security officials said.

The accident was reported to have taken place around 1:23 pm when an excavator was being loaded onto the trailer, causing rear wheels to rise off the ground and the vehicle to roll backward until it jack-knifed, hitting the car.

The street was blocked to traffic and police were called to the scene to assist the vehicle owners in filling out a joint accident report.

Leaf blowing costs contractor \$554

Public safety officers issued two tickets to one leaf-blower operator April 26 for \$277 each on Summit Circle, according to Public Security officials. The work was reported to be taking place at 8:15 am.

The worker was found to be operating a leaf-blower without a permit, earning him one ticket. The second was issued for using a blower that did not have a certification label that included the required sound-level maximum.

Leaf blowers are no longer allowed to be used as of May 1, the end of the spring clean-up season.

One-time cut cancelled, project to extend over 5 years

89 trees to be felled in Murray Park, many others to be pruned, secured

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council cancelled a call for tenders March 21 for tree cutting and stump removal in King George (Murray) Park as well as another for tree planting. Both were in order to review the project for reforestation of the park.

"We will be spreading the work over five years in order to replace the trees gradually," explained Anna Polspoel, horticulture and arboriculture technical officer in Public Works. "Meanwhile, we will prune and use other means to keep standing those that require removal. The plan is to ensure that a new life cycle takes root in the park."

Some of those to be felled include a cluster of black locust trees, also known as acacia, described as having exceeded their natural life span and had been irreversibly

damaged by invasive insects (see story and photos November 2, 2021, p. 14).

No longer permitted

Black locusts, because of their invasiveness, are no longer on the list of permitted trees to be planted in Westmount and will be replaced by other species, Polspoel said.

The current inventory of the park canopy lists 401 trees of which 133 are black locusts (including those along Murray Ave.). The rest are 67 Norway maples, 28 oaks and 173 trees of various other species.

Those needing work include 89 to be felled and 137 to be secured by pruning and bracing.

An interactive map of the park's action plan and existing trees can be accessed on the city website from Engage Westmount on the home page and then under "current projects."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLATINUM TEA LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Congratulations to the city of Westmount, the council, the library, The Study school and everyone responsible for the Platinum Jubilee Tea held at Victoria Hall April 24.

It was a beautiful spring day and just so fitting to honour our queen!

I would also like to thank the *Westmount Independent* for its article on the first page of its April 19 issue telling 100 lucky people how to register for the tea. I count myself as one of them!

The tea could not have been better, from the opening royal proclamation read by George Bowser and The Study choir, to singing our national anthems and words of welcome by Mayor Christina Smith, Jennifer Maccarone and the Honourable Marc Garneau. We were off to a glorious afternoon.

A musical ensemble from the Musica Camerata Montreal entertained us with a wonderful concert, accompanied by a slide show from Queen Elizabeth's visit to Westmount in 1959. It was a very British interlude!

To top all this off, we were given individual plates of sandwiches, scones, petite cakes and even clotted cream, lemon curd and jam! Tea was graciously poured by Westmount dignitaries: our mayor, our MNA, the library staff and many volunteers!

The fun part was all the tea pots had been lent for this occasion and were all different. Some did pour better than others!

All in all, it was a "royal" afternoon, and many thanks are indeed due to all the organizers, and to the federal government for its donation to the city of Westmount, making all this possible.

A platinum thank-you! Stay safe and happy spring.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON,
KITCHENER AVE.

THANKS FOR THE ART

From my balcony on the 15th floor across from the Glen hospital grounds, I can see the traffic flowing along St. Jacques Rd., and on the other side of the road the dull roofs of the houses.

One gloomy day this winter, I saw that "thing" there. Was it a pile of dirty snow? When it melted later, I saw that strange mythological creature galloping on the border of St. Jacques Rd.

What an incentive to anyone's imagination!

Thank you, Junko!

BERNA TOWNSEND,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE...

I am not a resident of Lexington Ave, but I grew up just up the street. I walked twice daily to Roslyn School and never had

any problem crossing the "wide" avenue.

As well, Lexington was a wonderful playground for the many young neighbours. Although I have now lived in mid-Westmount for many years, I couldn't agree more with those residents who articulated so well why Lexington should be left alone. The stately homes and beautiful gardens along the Ave. say it all. I never tire of admiring them on my daily walks along that route.

Any public additions or alterations would certainly detract from them. Yes, street repairs need to be done, particularly after last year's construction, but trying to improve what does and has always worked is a gross waste of our taxpayers' dollars. I commend the three new councillors – D'Amico, Aronson and Roux – for supporting that position.

Furthermore, I think the survey (like the one for Westmount Park) that was sent to the residents is written to elicit answers that would lean more favorably to this ill-conceived plan.

The bids to do the Lexington work range from \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million. That money would be better spent in repairing several other streets in Westmount that are in as much or more needy a state.

One final thought to our Westmount leaders.....if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

HELAINÉ KLIGER, ROSLYN AVE.

CANADIAN PARTY NOT EXTREME

April 27 press release in response to statements by Premier François Legault and Liberal leader Dominique Anglade:

[Members of the Canadian Party of Quebec] are *not* extremists. We are asking that services in English and English institutions be provided for the 1.2 million Quebecers who require them and pay for them. Providing services and ensuring the courts and the National Assembly work in both languages, is a right, not a privilege.

Mme Anglade says that a "bilingual Quebec is extreme." This could not be further from the truth: the province of Quebec, at its core, is officially bilingual. All laws, regulations, courts and the legislature must operate equally in English and French for official acts of the state to be legitimate (section 133 of the Constitution Act, 1867). English has been an official language of Quebec since 1763. Additionally, millions of Quebecers choose to live in a bilingual society: millions of Quebecers use English-language services, institutions and speak both languages on a daily basis.

The English-speaking community is an asset to Quebec, not a threat. We are supportive of the flourishing of the French lan-

guage in Quebec and across Canada. That flourishing does not require the elimination or evisceration of the English language or of English-speaking people.

There are 300,000 people in Quebec who do not speak French. They are visible minorities, Indigenous, the rural poor and the elderly. How dare Premier Legault and Madame Anglade ignore, vilify and humiliate the most vulnerable people in society.

If providing services in English is going to lead to Quebec becoming Louisiana, Premier Legault should show his true colours and ask every anglophone to leave Québec. And Madame Anglade should do the same.

COLIN STANDISH, CANADIAN PARTY OF
QUEBEC SPOKESPERSON

"MOTHERS"

A poem dedicated to the mothers of Ukraine

A mother here a mother there
and mothers everywhere
hold mainly one thing dear

to keep their young
away from harm
shelter them from the storm

How can they stop
the fall of bombs
rubble-ing what was their home

where they lived and loved
read books, sang songs
cooked meals and carried on

Can they bear to look
in children's eyes so innocent
that wonder why

what did I do they ask
did I tell a lie
That must be why

Father's gone and we have no food
I promise I will not cry
and try my best to be good.

Hush little children
don't you cry
Mama's gonna sing you a lullaby.

– RONA SHEFLER HEFT,
KENSINGTON AVE.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Correction: Condemned Westmount Park play structure installed in 1994

The p. 1 story in our April 21 issue on new playground equipment for younger children in Westmount Park should have stated that the existing, condemned structure was installed in 1994. It is the play structures for older children – which are being kept – that date back to 2017. – DP.

Summer means orange cones, but better municipality in long term



Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

While we are all enjoying the warmer weather and dreaming of long summer days ahead, you may be less excited by the return of the orange cones as the majority of our capital works program are set to begin.

Since I was first elected as mayor more than four years ago, upgrading our infrastructure has been a priority for city council and for me due to the urgency of the situation. Faced with deteriorating water and sewer systems, sidewalks, roads, parks, public stairs and buildings, the city has developed a 20-year plan, reorganized our Public Works department and Engineering and significantly increased our capital works budget. We are investing \$26.5 million this year – the most we have ever spent outside of special projects like the Westmount recreation centre and the library, and we are doing this while keeping local taxes as low as possible.

Roadwork

Roadwork is the most visible part of our program, the most disruptive and the

source of much of the frustration of residents. What is often not understood is that the driving force behind many projects is the age of our water network. We have tried to strike a balance between, roads, parks and buildings, all of which was critical work.

One of the major projects this year is the reconstruction of Lexington. Planning for the Lexington project began in 2019, and, as you may know, it has been the subject of much debate and discussion. While the outset of this investment began with the water main reconstruction, we have been in contact with local residents with a goal of ensuring that they are aware of our intentions. When the work begins our timetable and the expected impacts on their daily routines will be shared with the residents, I regret that some are still dissatisfied with our plans and that at times the facts have either been misinterpreted or ignored.

Water breaks on Lexington

Work on Lexington Ave. became critical because several breaks on the water main were causing significant damage. While the water portion of this project was delayed due to the pandemic, the construction backlog and the need to address concerns raised by a local resident, I am pleased to report that it is now completed.

In the coming months, we will be finishing the roadwork, implementing a plan developed in collaboration with civil engineers and design experts. Our approach is based on best practices and meets established standards for building a road meant to last for decades. The design represents a minimal change to the portion north of Sunnyside:

The sidewalks are slightly wider because today's norms only allow for two-way traffic with parking exclusively on one side of parking. Fortunately, parking is not in short supply on this street.

Safer intersection

It is also important to stress that the intersection at Sunnyside and Lexington will be safer for pedestrians and drivers. There will be improved lighting and some added greenspace with a few trees.

Lexington was last rebuilt in 1955 (Sunnyside to dead-end) and 1983 (Edgehill to Sunnyside) – not 20 years ago as reported in this paper – and we are confident that our investment will lead to safer streets, better management of water and some added greenspace. This design is by no means radical and will result in a safer street and improved water management. It is what residents should expect when we make significant investment in a street.

Summit Woods is another important

project. Over the past two years, perhaps because of the pandemic, the Summit has seen a significant increase in use and deterioration. We only have one urban forest, and it is incumbent on us to take the necessary steps to protect it. Our approach involves some tree felling and the narrowing of the paths to limit further erosion. If citizens want to continue to enjoy Summit Woods, we need their cooperation in its protection.

We ask you to please respect the narrowing of the paths and to adhere to the important rules for dogs being on leash at all times until June 15.

The lookout at the Summit will finally get the repairs needed to re-open and that work should be done by the beginning of the summer.

As we move forward with our capital works program, please rest assured that we are committed to spending your tax dollars wisely and to ensuring we have the infrastructure in place to meet the needs of current and future Westmounters. Over the coming months, residents will see construction work on roads, parks, lanes and sidewalks across Westmount.

I share your frustration with the state of some of the roads and sidewalks. As I have said, all of us on council appreciate that these projects are disruptive, but we are convinced that they are necessary.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In our story last week about residents criticizing city council regarding its plan for Lexington (p. 10), we wrote “The street was last re-built 20 years ago...” The mayor called me April 27 to complain about the word “re-built” and to contend that the last time that Lexington was *re-built* (roadbed & blacktop) was in 1955 (Sunnyside to northern dead-end) and 1983 (Edgehill to Sunnyside), and that it was only *re-paved* (just the blacktop) 20 years ago, the implication being that it is time for another major re-build and that the work 20 years ago does not fulfill this requirement.

I am happy to share these details with our readers, but everyone should understand that newspapers are written by lay reporters for lay readers. We aren't writing an engineering manual here.

What's in a word?

The same word can be used differently in different contexts, including in more and less precise, and more and less technical, senses. For instance, people routinely talk about “*cement* walls,” which confuses no one despite the fact that the correct word is “*concrete*.” Your contractor

More information on Lexington Ave.'s past

should know the difference. Everyone else? Not so much. Likewise, I think many passers-by would have walked by the work on Lexington 20 years ago and said, “That street is being re-built.” No one would have been confused or said anything like: “Do you mean that a meteorite has landed?” And I think that there is even less difference – in common parlance – between “re-paved” and “re-built.”

This is not my first rodeo. Of course, the real dispute here is not about the correct use of English, or street history, or asphalt/concrete longevity, or even budgets. For most people, it isn't about process either.

What is at issue? Many residents of Lexington, including eight letter writers to this paper, three members of council (for process reasons) and four letter writers who aren't residents of that street (and likely many others) dislike the city's plan for it.

On the other hand, the majority of council and three letter writers to this paper (and likely many others) like the plan. And it is important to remember that it is council members' votes that count, literally. In the normal course of events, the city council, which can work with a major-

ity and does not require unanimity, has almost unfettered control over the city's assets (including its streets), subject to referendum in only carefully defined cases. That's representative democracy. And that's the job that its members were elected/hired to do.

Even so, opponents can duke it out in the court of public opinion and, as they do so in this case, both sides are casting about for arguments, facts and a rhetorical edge to use against the other. It's interest-group politics and free speech in a democracy, and unremarkable to me.

Ideally, political opponents would engage each other's arguments directly (the more detailed the treatment, the better, in my view) and leave our news gathering out of it. For this reason, I decline the invitation to use only one side's preferred language or issue corrections when we don't.

And, of course, one could agree with the mayor's word choice and sense of urgency regarding the roadbed, but contend that the city should do a full re-build of Lexington that only re-creates the street exactly as it is today.

On a similar note, let me pour cold

water on any hope that agreeing on an exhaustive recitation of facts and on a technical nomenclature would lead to consensus and peace. In my view, even if all the parties were to sit through a three-day presentation of the history of Lexington, the nature of roadwork in Westmount and all the details of the current plan, *they would still disagree*. The opponents don't like the plan, and won't. The proponents do, and will. In a free society, I find this unremarkable.

What matters to me is that this newspaper – from a layperson's perspective – has informed both sides well about the plan with our coverage over the last few months, including publishing information useful to both sides about the views of their opponents. But, to repeat, we aren't writing an engineering textbook and I won't lose sleep over the alleged imperfectness of a single word in a very, very, very clear story.

As always, the pages of the *Independent* are open to the mayor to make her case and/or to criticize the paper itself, which she has done this week (see column above) and is welcome to do again, as early as next issue. – DP

Provincial championships

Westmount YMCA Masters Club continues to reign

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount YMCA Masters Swim Club continues its reign after winning the provincial championship at the University of Sherbrooke's pool. The three-day event Friday to Sunday, April 22-24, was the first year for the championships since 2019, when the Westmount club won the title before the onset of the pandemic.

"We were thrilled to represent Westmount at the provincial level," said swimmer and board member Conor Sampson, of Grosvenor. "Especially after a long hiatus, our membership is as motivated and engaged as ever, with more and more people coming back to swim."

The club swam in 214 events with a total of 38 swimmers ranging in age from 20 to 81 who took home ribbons at all levels, Sampson said.

"Westmount beat out 29 other clubs for the banner," followed by CAMO (Club Aquatique de Montreal Ouest).

"Once again, our members showed great team spirit as they competed in races beyond their comfort zone for the success of the team," said club president Rosalind Davis.

The club has a membership of 120, of



The Westmount YMCA Masters Swim Club team won this year's provincial championships in Sherbrooke April 24.

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From left, Julie Bergeron of Metcalfe and former club president Christine Cardinal of Murray Hill at the championships.



Participant Vadym Sviatnenko was named by the club as its most improved swimmer along with Yuan Chen.

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whom about half live in Westmount, according to Sampson.

On the Saturday night, the club participated in a friendly awards gala where volunteer contributions were recognized by their own clubs. Vadym Sviatnenko, of Metcalfe, and Yuan Chen, a Montreal resident, were chosen by Westmount as its "most improved swimmers of the year."

Former president Christine Cardinal, of Murray Hill Ave., hosted an outdoor dinner on the Saturday night catered by club member Siamak Aslan, owner of Quartier Perse on Decarie, as the club congregated under gas heaters to enjoy an Iranian chicken dinner.

The club is based at the Westmount Y, which, despite all COVID complications "allowed us the opportunity to swim and continues to be very supportive of the team," Sampson said. Summer swimming sessions take place at the pool in Parc Jean Drapeau.

The team is coached by Omar Mohamed as well as Westmount resident Hannah Trineer, a former member and coach of the Westmount Dolphins swim team.

"The recent health crisis points to how important it is to keep in shape," Sampson said. "Imagine what we could do if we had our own indoor [city] pool," added president Davis, a former city councillor.

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‘Greene Avenue’ earns Senior A hockey title

The city’s Senior A recreational hockey league was won by team “Greene Avenue” April 26 at the Westmount recreation centre. The name was chosen for its Westmount associations, not the residences of the players.

Following two seasons lost to the pandemic, organizers and participants were “thrilled” to complete the year with minimal interruption, according to player Nick Martin.

Greene Ave. squeaked into the playoffs, according to him, before upending the first-seeded Crunch in a “dramatic semi-final series defined by tight defensive play.” Dave Toledano scored off his own rebound in the dying seconds of the deciding game to advance his team to the finals.

Then, up against the second-seeded Whalers for the cup, “a structured and disciplined gameplan smothered their foe’s offensive firepower and produced a championship-winning series sweep.”

Play-off MVP honours were shared by “steadfast goalie Charles Pilotte and energetic goal-scorer Sam El-kaim.”

► From left, top: Tom Spencer, Mike Kobbi-Moran, Dave Toledano, Nick Duhamel, Will Pearl, and Steve McAlear; middle: Matt Peris, Dan Richman, Sam El-kaim, and Benji Elbaz; front: Charles Pilotte, Nick Martin, and James Weil.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAIT NUECHTERLEIN.



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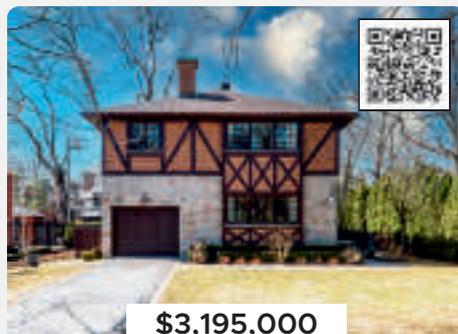
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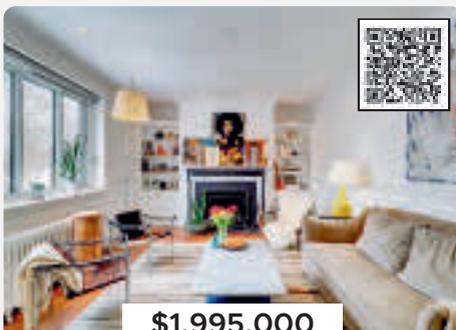
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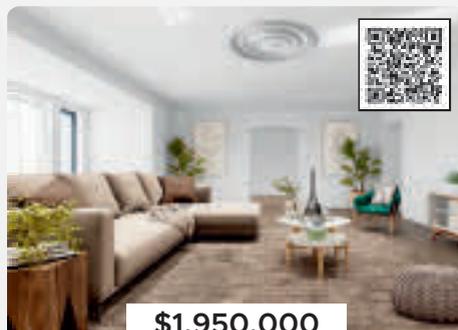
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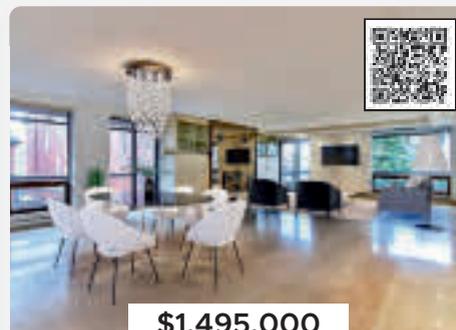
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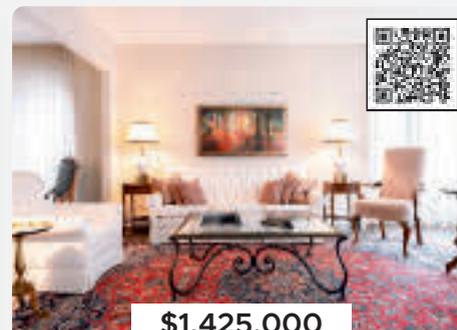
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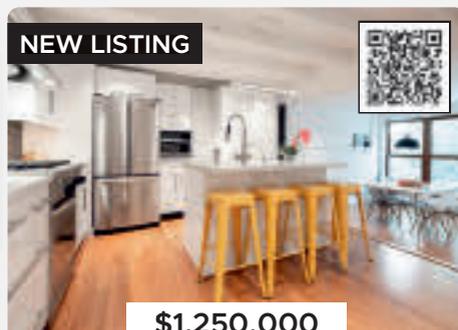
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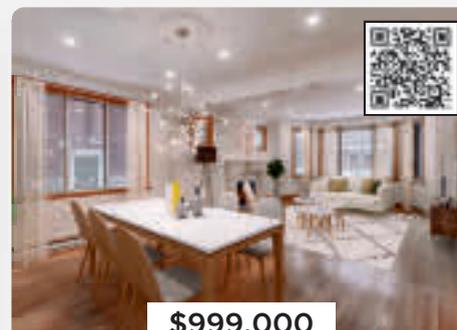
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SUNNY LOWER DUPLEX

Scouts clean up two parts of summit

While a group organized by the city of Westmount cleaned up Westmount Park April 22 (see April 26, p. 1), about 25 Westmount Park and 2nd Westmount Beavers, Cubs, parents and Scouters cleared six large bags of garbage from Summit Woods the next day. Most of the garbage was food wrappers, bottles and cans, while the

nearby Réserve Père Trempe near St. Joseph's Oratory was found to have bulk waste from gardens and construction projects.

"Scouts will be present at Westmount Family Day on May 28 so come and see more of what they do," said Scouter Virginia Elliott.



Zachary Tabah from Westmount Park Scouts stands by some of the refuse the group removed from La Réserve Père Trempe on April 23. His sister, Isabelle Tabah, is standing in the centre background.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ELLIOTT.



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Dog licences, cont'd from p. 1

pendent by Gregory McBain, the director of Westmount Public Safety (see table below).

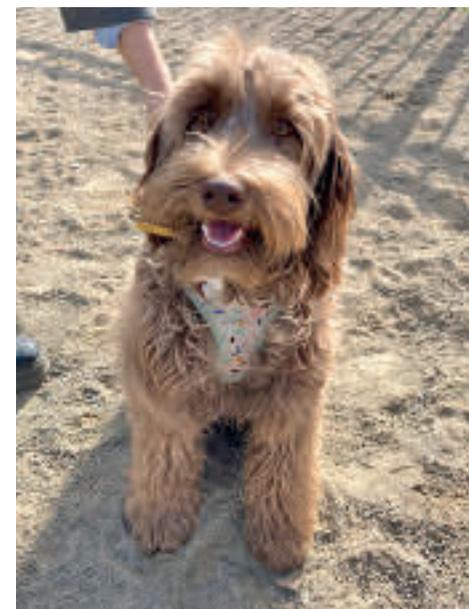
Possible reasons for the one-year delay in the increase are many. Were Westmounters not yet changing their behaviour during the first lockdown in spring 2020? Perhaps they still saw COVID as a short-term thing? Or maybe there were no dogs available in 2020 for purchase or adoption. Or were dogs purchased in 2020, but only licensed in 2021?

It's hard to say, but evidence of flesh-and-blood COVID dogs in Westmount is easy to find.

The Westmount Park dog run near the corner of de Maisonneuve and Lansdowne Ave. was bounding with so-called “pandemic pups” on April 23.

Three dogs left the pack momentarily for photo ops: Flynn the Labradoodle, Dixie the half-husky, half-shepherd mix, and Koa the husky. Their respective owners spoke to the *Independent*.

Flynn joined a Westmount family September 20, 2021. “During COVID, the experience has been incredible because there



At the Westmount Park dog run on April 23, from left, Koa, Dixie and Flynn.

is only so much Netflix you can watch,” Emily Sheiner said.

“For me, this has been the best winter of my life because every morning and every afternoon, we’re forced to be outside. We’ve made so many amazing friends and it’s been like free therapy during this pandemic.

“To have some fresh air with some coffee in the morning. The dogs all get along and it has brought a lot of joy.”

Dixie was adopted after she had been abandoned with her three siblings in March 2021 on a street near Chibougamau.

“The reason we got the dog was definitely COVID related,” George Asimov said. “My son is 13 and was aching for a dog. There was anxiety with school – being all day at Zoom school – he was just kind of cooped up and my wife thought that it would be a great help for him, and it really was!”

The husky Koa joined Laura Canter’s family in July 2020. “My boyfriend and I, we’re both working from home, and we knew we wanted to get a dog. [Koa] made the COVID era very positive for us, for our mental health, especially during hard times. It’s been very good. We have made friends at the Westmount dog park and it has become a bit of a community.

“It was our socializing during COVID,” Canter said.

Dog licences sold	% increase	
2020	1,297	-
2021	1,368	5.5%
2022	1,775	29.8%

Years ending March 20.

Begone, hazardous waste!

April 23 was Westmount’s bi-annual hazardous waste collection, the day after Earth Day. Organizers convened in the Westmount Public Library parking area. As usual, a steady stream of cars and pedestrians paraded through to dispose of their hazardous waste including old electronics, batteries and unfinished cans of paint. The helpful staff quickly sorted the items with a friendly smile and returned the empty plastic bags to be re-used.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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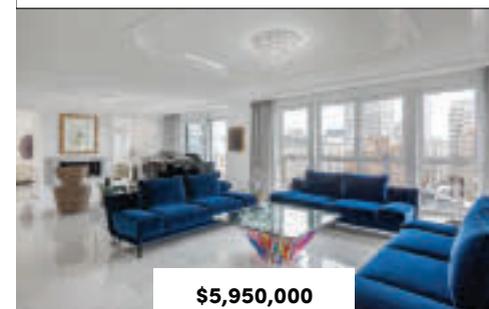
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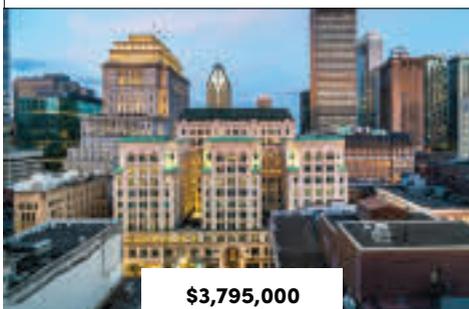
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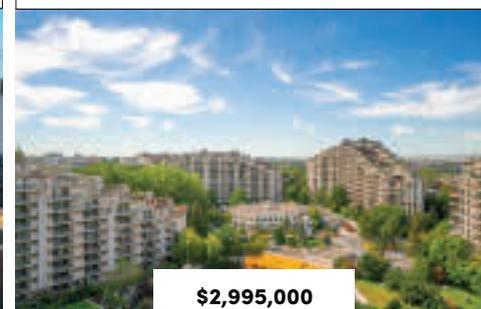
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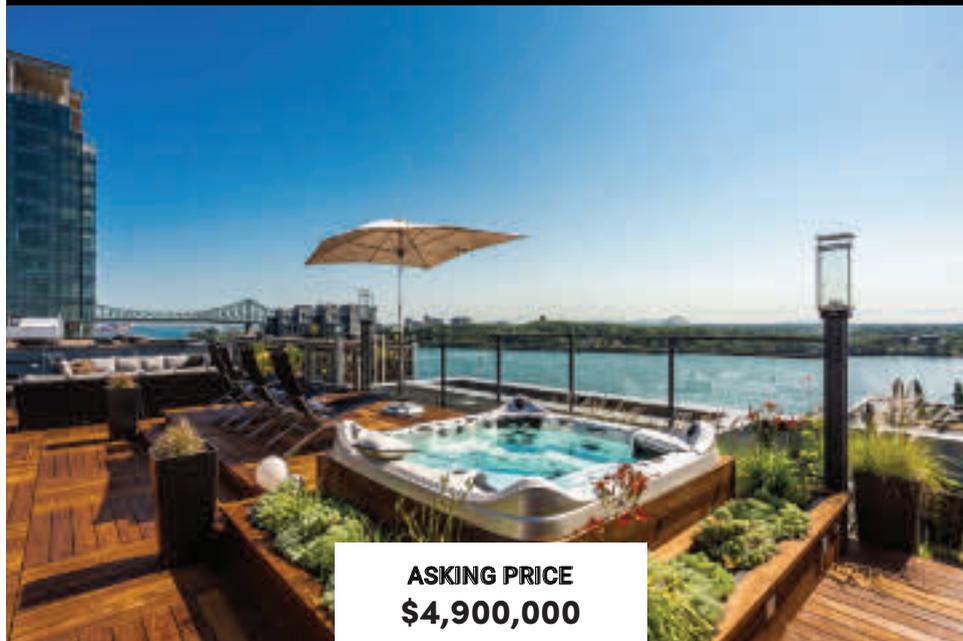
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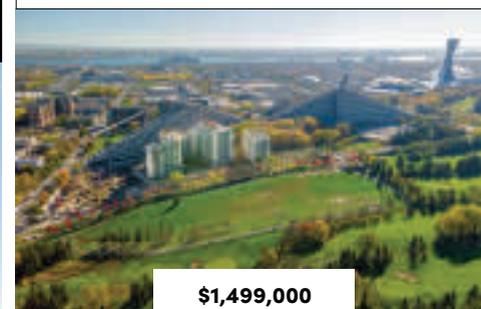
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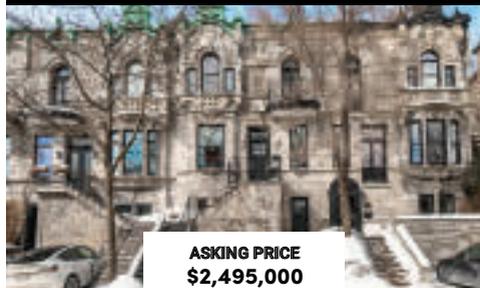
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in November 2021

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
4475 de Maisonneuve	Karen Lesley Holst & Ryan Tudhope	\$1,750,000	\$1,297,000	34.9%
4022 Dorchester	Alastair Paul Dorreen & Chelsea Rose Maedler-Kron	\$1,350,000	\$1,093,500	23.5%
36 Edgehill	Sheila Israel-Garfield	\$3,600,000	\$2,358,700	52.6%
172 Edgehill	estate Jeremy Reitman	\$5,000,000	\$4,974,200	0.5%
313 Grosvenor	Ann Elizabeth Dadson	\$1,570,000	\$1,179,600	33.1%
537 Grosvenor	Darryl Hicks & Natasha Groulx	\$3,550,000	\$2,675,500	32.7%
482 Lansdowne	Janine Wuethrich	\$1,825,000	\$1,365,700	33.6%
753 Lexington	Jacopo Olivieri	\$5,125,000	\$5,121,100	0.1%
7 Lorraine	Made Boutros	\$1,550,000	\$1,194,600	29.8%
29 Prospect	Klaus Burhop & Sandra Thompson	\$1,430,000	\$933,900	53.1%
40 Roxborough	Max Rabin Abadian & Marney Sobel	\$5,750,000	\$3,337,400	72.3%
455 Strathcona	Janet Ava Goldstein	\$2,550,000	\$2,009,500	26.9%
12-14 Sunnyside	The Marine Guard Trust	\$18,500,000	\$9,913,400	86.6%
30 Windsor	Sarah Woods & Jean-Francois Emanuel	\$1,860,000	\$1,260,000	47.6%
DUPLEXES				
33 Winchester/379 Claremont	George Fourniotis & Vivian Fourniotis	\$1,400,000	\$894,300	56.5%
CONDOMINIUMS				
4410 Côte des Neiges #402	Christopher MacDonald & Tracie Wae Yin Wong	\$418,000	\$392,400	6.5%
200 Lansdowne #705	Harold Thuringer & Barbara Burgess	\$500,000	\$544,900	-8.2%
175 Metcalfe #501	Luay Abu-Ghazaleh	\$1,450,000	\$1,267,500	14.4%
4410 St. Catherine #5C	Chang-Hain Lee-Castaing & Frédéric Castaing	\$674,900	\$518,300	30.2%
4160 Sherbrooke #502	Karim Amir Shariff	\$1,425,000	\$1,052,400	35.4%
43 Windsor	Margaret Jacobs	\$860,000	\$655,100	31.3%
1 Wood #2104	estate Simonne de Fonville Ethier	\$4,000,000	\$2,792,700	43.2%
OTHER				
418-20 Claremont/5001-15 Sherbrooke	9378-0765 Quebec	\$18,525,000	\$13,320,000	39.1%
1335-39 Greene	3765784 Canada Inc.	\$1,200,000	\$1,375,000	-12.7%
400 Mount Pleasant	estate George Leisser	\$2,055,000	\$1,191,000	72.5%
4458 Sherbrooke	9171-1648 Québec Inc.	\$1,320,000	\$1,082,600	21.9%



14 Sunnyside on April 22.

PHOTO: ANDY DODGE FOR THE WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT.

To find
Dodge's analysis of
• November, see p. 26
• December, see p. 27



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8 Belvedere	Mary Katherine MacLeod	\$2,850,000	\$2,970,200	-4.0%
24 Edgehill	La Société Immobilière Barus Inc. & Gloria Basso	\$3,300,000	\$2,162,900	52.6%
454 Lansdowne	Judith Anne Daniels	\$1,720,000	\$1,649,800	4.3%
109 Lewis	Dajan O'Donnell & Alicia Hugessen	\$1,335,000	\$880,500	51.6%
160 Metcalfe	Eric Titcombe & Natividad Garcia Mayor	\$1,290,000	\$750,000	72.0%
618 Murray Hill	estate Margaret Shirley Stikeman	\$2,950,000	\$2,289,100	28.9%
638 Miurray Hill	Neil Bindman & Joan Hazen	\$2,500,000	\$1,849,300	35.2%
398 Roslyn//4762-64 Sherbrooke	Nerelle J. Cooper	\$1,600,000	\$1,569,000	2.0%
54 Summit Circle	Diane Robichaud	\$3,700,000	\$3,038,300	21.8%
56 Summit Circle	estate Alessandro Grassino	\$2,640,000	\$3,150,000	-16.2%
636 Victoria	Monique Roy	\$1,925,000	\$1,575,600	22.2%
DUPLEXES				
76 Bruce	Bang Ngoa Trinh	\$1,270,000	\$926,600	37.1%
CONDOMINIUMS & OTHER				
134 Arlington	Martine Jacques & Christian Sauvé	\$1,680,000	\$1,232,000	36.4%
285 Clarke #102	estates Myrna Friedman and Stanley Abbey	\$1,160,000	\$1,175,400	-1.3%
399 Clarke #202 (2C)	estate Jeffrey Plotnick	\$500,000	\$464,700	7.6%
77 Hillside	9363-89542 Québec Inc.	\$1,830,000	\$1,525,000	20.0%
316 Kensington	Michel Mezrahi & Odile Martinez	\$1,260,000	\$929,500	35.6%
5 Parkman Place	Marco Tulio Palma Izaguirre & Liane Schinasi	\$1,100,000	\$823,000	33.7%
205 Victoria #203	104149 Canada Inc.	\$689,000	\$628,200	9.7%
Land, The Boulevard	La Société Immobilière Barus Inc. & Gloria Basso	\$1,200,000	\$899,300	33.4%



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Westmount recognizes young athletes

The city recognized some of its younger athletes at a banquet April 27 at Victoria Hall.

Most Improved Skating Participants:
Beginner – Fei Cao, Alexander Hoffmann, Harper Flikier, Sharon Hauerstock, Armin Arian Kia,
Intermediate – Emma Rojas Murguet, Liang Du (Sophie),
Advanced – Rachel Olien,
Powerskating – Joey Tang.
Indoor Soccer Sportsmanship Awards:
Boys' soccer – Leonard Rojo De La Vega

Rodriguez, Matthew Gendron & Lucas Bolton,
Girls' soccer – Anne Belanger & Sabrina Guay.
Girls' Instructional Hockey Most Improved Player Award:
 M9/M11 – Amber Purmal,
 M13/M15 – Runxin Lan.
Boys' Instructional Hockey Most Improved Player Award:
 M9 – James Brown,
 M11 – Evan Agulnik,
 M13/15 – Preston Garcia De La Vega.
Westmount Minor Hockey Players of the Month for 2021-2022 season:
 Samuel McKenzie,
 Zachary Ellis,
 Cecillia Chadwick,
 Matthew Frenkiel,
 Abigail Waters,
 Max Steinberg.
Presentation of the M18 "A" Inter-City Wings Banners:
 EHL 2021-2022 playoff finalists: Aidan Cheema, Aiden Mizrahi, Benjamin Yedid, Joshua Cobrin-Alvarez, Lorenzo Messercola, Max Mitelman, Noah Clarke, Roman Hart, Samuel McKenzie, Zoe Azeff, Aidan Gertler, Andrew Sager, Carter Fersten &

Michael Feldman. Coaches: Daniel Fox, Lucas Fox & Marc Yedid.
M18 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:
 Sam McKenzie & Armin Kubat.
M18 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:
 Lorenzo Massercola & Jack Henin-Levine.
M15 Inter-City Sportsmanship Award:
 Tristan Garcon Robertson.
M15 Inter-City Most Improved Player Award:
 Yeseo Nam.
M13 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:
 Harley Minzberg & Ethan Lubarsky.
M13 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:
 Henry Baer & Alexander Kobelansky.
M11 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:
 Tyler Steinberg, Nicolas Clark & Paul Salem.
M11 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:
 Liam Boily, Luca Robinson & James Ellis.
M9 Inter-City Sportsmanship Award:
 Sebastian Plante, Noah Fox & Eva Clark.
M9 Inter-City Most Improved Player Award:
 Brendan Boily, Zachary Guay & Sophie Frenkiel.



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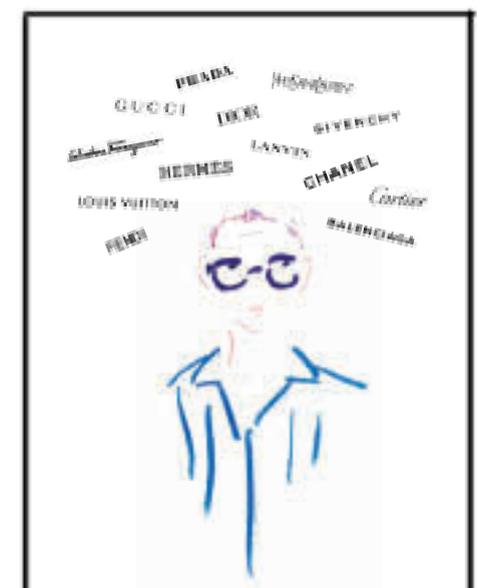
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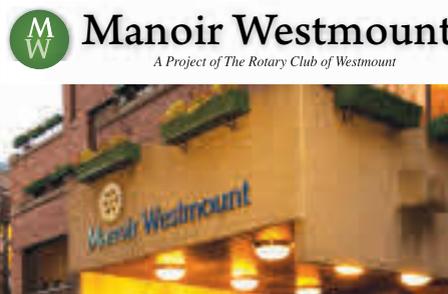


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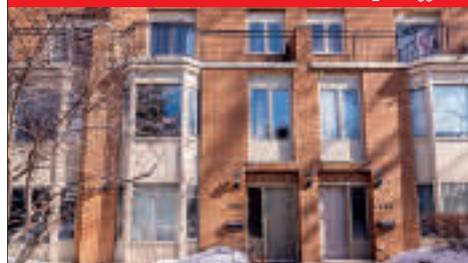
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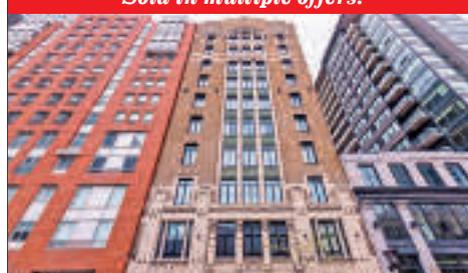
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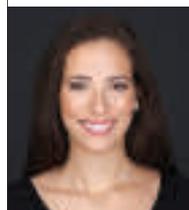


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Creative Mother's Day celebration and gift ideas

On Sunday, May 8, 2022, millions of people will celebrate the special women in their lives, particularly the mothers, grandmothers and stepmothers who often tirelessly care for those they love.

Created by Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century and designated an official United States holiday in 1914, Mother's Day is a special day in many families. Apart from birthdays, primary female caregivers may not always get the recognition they deserve, nor be entitled to a day to kick back and relax and let others take the helm. Mother's Day entitles them to something special.

Even though the way people have been living has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mother's Day may be the first holiday on the calendar when the world can finally regain some sense of normalcy. But caution should still prevail during Mother's Day celebrations. Thankfully, there are plenty of creative ways to celebrate mothers and mother figures this year.

- Dine truly *"al fresco."* Outdoor dining has become commonplace, and even before it was a safety measure, enjoying a meal on a sun-soaked patio or overlooking a body of water was popular. If you're worried about limited restaurant space or crowds, plan a picnic at a scenic location,

such as a botanical garden or park. Include Mum's favourite foods and enjoy the fresh air and delicious foods together.

- Create a photo slideshow. Digital photos have eclipsed prints in many people's hearts. But too often digital photos never get seen after they're initially taken. That can change when you compile a slideshow of favourite photos from childhood and even present-day photos that Mum is sure to appreciate. Use sentimental music or Mum's favourite songs as the soundtrack, and include some inspirational quotations or personal voiceovers. This is one gift that can be shared in person or over group meeting apps.
- Get involved together. An especially meaningful way to honour a mother who is always giving her time and love is to become involved in a difference-making organization. Joint volunteerism is a great way to spend more time together working toward a worthy goal.
- Enjoy her hobbies and interests. Devote a day or more to trying Mum's interests and hobbies, whether they include hitting the links, knitting, singing in the church choir, or digging in her garden.
- Send an edible gift. If you can't be there to celebrate with Mum in person, have a

special meal delivered to her door. Then enjoy the same foods with her via Google Meet, Facetime or Zoom. Don't forget a tasty cocktail so you can toast the special woman in your life.

Mother's Day celebrations can be unique, heartfelt and customized based on family needs. –MCG



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Make Mother's Day special

Each and every day a new woman becomes a mother for the first time or all over again. Being a mother changes a person's life in dramatic ways.

Mother's Day is a great time of year to honour mothers and attempt to give back just a portion of the tireless love and devotion mums offer their children. Some children provide large gestures, while others feel it's the little things that can help a mum to feel appreciated. For those needing a little inspiration on treating their mothers in special ways, consider these ideas.

- Make mum a breakfast in bed with her favorite morning treats.
- Enjoy a movie at home with mum. Let her pick the flick and share her favourite film with you.
- Agree to not bicker for the entire day, especially if you are prone to getting into arguments with siblings.
- Put together a collage of photos from moments you have shared with mum or your family.
- Cook a meal together and learn about everyone's favourite recipes or the family history.
- Give her a locket with your photo inside and have a duplicate you can wear containing her photo.

- Customize a coffee mug, tote bag or a blanket with a meaningful sentiment or photo.
- Treat mum to a day off from her chores. Tackle all of the jobs she normally does for the family.
- Bake a delicious dessert that mum will absolutely devour.
- Pamper mum with a gift card for her favourite nail salon or massage therapy location.
- Prepare a jar of mum's favourite candies wrapped in pieces of paper that have loving sentiments written on them.
- Compile a playlist of songs and artists mum prefers and download them to her phone.
- Begin a tradition by purchasing a charm bracelet and a new charm each year that represents a meaningful memory you both shared.
- Write a new email each day with an inspirational quote or special words of love for mum.
- Tackle a task that she may not want to do herself, such as washing the exterior of her car and vacuuming the interior.

Mother's Day gift ideas should come from the heart and can show mothers near and far how much they are appreciated and loved. -MCG



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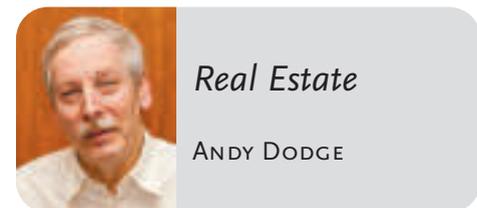
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November transfers: Sunnyside leads the way to new record



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November 2021, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 20.

Westmount's Most Expensive House led the way in real estate transfers closed last November, but was backed up by three other sales in the \$5-million range and two more over \$3 million each, pushing the average price of 15 one- and two-family sales to \$3,787,333, a record high.

The sale of the onetime Timmins mansion, 12-14 Sunnyside, for \$18.5 million made this the highest single-family sale price in Quebec at the time, though in December came the announcement of a huge waterfront property in Senneville that sold for \$19.9 million, and there are several on the market in Westmount and adjacent Westmount that are asking more.

The mansion includes a large coach house that had been subdivided away from

the property in the 1980s but was then re-purchased back by the owners of the main mansion at 14 Sunnyside in 2005.

The owners sold the recombined property to a private trust company for \$13,500,000 in March 2017, at the time the most expensive residential sale in Westmount's (and probably Quebec's) history, until it re-sold for \$5 million more last November.

This time, the sale was recorded at a mark-up over valuation of 86.6 percent, the highest in the month, which helped boost the monthly average mark-up for one- and two-family dwellings to 43.4 percent, also a record high for the valuation roll that came into effect in 2020.

That huge price and mark-up overshadowed the \$5,750,000 sale of 40 Roxborough Ave., which has been extensively renovated including a huge swimming pool area in recent years, \$5,125,000 for 753 Lexington Ave., corner Sunnyside Ave., and a flat \$5 million in the estate sale of 172 Edgehill Rd., just east of Lexington. The first of those sales also represented the second-highest mark-up of the month, while the other two were the only ones in the month to go for less than a 25-percent mark-up.

Lowest price in November was \$1,350,000 for an attached home at 4022 Dorchester Blvd., one of seven houses that sold for less than \$2 million, an indication that these lower prices (by Westmount standards) are still fairly abundant, though still the mark-ups are strong.

The one duplex sold in the month, at the corner of Winchester and Claremont Aves., went for \$1,400,000.

Noteworthy among condominium sales was the \$4 million paid out for a large penthouse at 1 Wood Ave. Various other condominium apartments around Westmount sold in November, along with a share of



753 Lexington on April 22.

the former duplex at 43 Windsor Ave.

Competing with the Sunnyside Ave. property for the highest price of the month

was the huge apartment/commercial building at 418 Claremont Ave. which sold for \$18,525,000, a 39-percent mark-up over valuation. A semi-commercial three-storey building at 1335-39 Greene Ave. went well under municipal tax value while nearby at 400 Mount Pleasant Ave., corner Sherbrooke St., what the city classes as a four-family building sold for 72 percent above municipal valuation, just clearing \$2 million.

The other non-residential sale in November involved the dental laboratory at 4458 Sherbrooke St., opposite Westmount Park.

Lease of Mountainside United Church not renewed by developer-owner

BY JENNIFER BALL

The May 1 service of Mountainside United Church was broadcast on Zoom only, as will be the four upcoming May worship services, according to a church bulletin.

The building was sold in 2018 (see October 9, p. 1/2) and earlier this year (see February 20, p. 20) the *Independent* was told by Rev. Douglas Throop that the congregation was only leasing the building. He was downcast about the thought that the lease might not be renewed and it wasn't, according to the building's owner Daniel Revah, president of Corev Immobilier and Corev Condo.

"It is an amazing space that is full of light, to have that space where our community can soar is rare these days," Rev. Throop said in February. The *Independent* reached out to him and Catherine Dupressoir, the church administrator, but they declined to comment on their immediate plans or their new address.

And the building? The lot?

Another unknown is what the developer – who is himself a Westmount resident – can finally do with the building and the land.

"What I thought when I bought the property was that it was zoned residential, which was the only reason that I bought it," Revah said. He originally wanted to retain the bones of the building, but create an attachment that would house a few dozen condos. He said he is of the opinion that Westmount does not have enough dwellings for people who want to sell their homes and also stay in Westmount.

"After I bought it, I was trying to submit

some plans – getting an idea of what would be acceptable to the city – and the city proceeded without advising me, or warning me, to change the zoning to religious and some other accessory usage, which is not feasible unless you have a religious [function] there."

The city and Revah have sparred in the past about the facts of the zoning, with then city director Benoit Hurtubise telling the *Independent* in 2020 (see November 10, p. 1/19) that the church was zoned for religious activities and "not zoned to have residential units and condo units." At the same time, Revah was insisting that, "It has multiple zoning."

Back in the present, Revah said, "It was a big, big disappointment." Over the past four years, he had two offers to take over the church, "[I am] desperate to cut my losses." Instead of offers coming from the United Church, Islamic leadership came forward with the idea of turning it into a mosque.

"We almost signed one deal where they would purchase the church after operating it for a year or two. They were going to raise the money and after that they would buy it, but the city were involved and came back to me with the possibility that if I submitted something reasonable, that I would get my [residential] zoning back."

Corev Immobilier have now been asked to submit one more rendering, which they are complying with before the plans are submitted to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) of Westmount.

"Maybe then we'll get the residential zoning back. Of course, nothing is guaranteed," Revah said.



4022 Dorchester on April 22.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

December transfers: Year ends with a thud



56 Summit Circle on April 26.

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in December 2021, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 21.

If last November's sales list (see p. 20/26) showed signs of promise for selling Westmount's most expensive properties with four sales of \$5 million and up, in December it looked like interest fizzled quickly, with only two sales over \$3 million and mark-ups over valuation averaging less than half what they had a month previous.

The sale of two properties connected with a driveway that runs off Upper Bellevue Ave. provided the highlight of 12 single-family sales registered in December, with 54 Summit Circle, at the corner of Upper Bellevue, providing the highest price in the month, \$3,700,000, while 56



54 Summit Circle, highest price at \$3,700,000, on April 22.

Summit Circle, tucked below it at the end of the driveway, went for only \$2,640,000, some 16 percent below its municipal valuation and certainly the biggest mark-down of the month.

The latter property has almost 2,900 square meters (more than 30,000 square feet) of land and it appears that a major extension is already being contemplated on the large lot.

Another nearby house, at 24 Edgehill Rd., sold in two pieces as well, with the house selling for \$3,300,000 and the land stretching down to – and fronting on – The Boulevard selling for another \$1,200,000.

The lowest price involved a duplex at 76 Bruce Ave., which went for \$1,270,000, still 37 percent above valuation, only slightly less than 160 Metcalfe Ave. whose \$1,290,000 price was a good 72 percent above valuation, the highest for the month.

Next lowest was 109 Lewis Ave., whose

\$1,335,000 price tag was more than 51 percent above valuation, an indication the smallest houses in Westmount are still bringing big bucks.

Those three sales along with four others at less than \$2 million brought the average price in the month for one- and two-family houses to \$2,205,000, and with mark-ups so much lower, it meant that the average adjusted price of the "typical" Westmount house for December to \$2,565,314, down from about \$2,750,000 in October.

Seven condominium sales were registered in December, all but two over \$1 million and including three apartments, three portions of former duplexes and one condo-townhouse on Hillside Ave. Those seven sales brought to 15 the number of condos sold in the fourth quarter of 2021, ranging in price from \$418,000 for an apartment at 4410 Côte des Neiges Rd. to \$4 million for a penthouse at 1 Wood Ave.

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Bruce Brown wins age group in Boston Marathon!

Tradau resident Bruce Brown won his 75-79 age group at the April 18 Boston Marathon with a time of 3:47:40. He is 75.

Tradau is an area of Montreal's Ville Marie (downtown) borough just northeast of Westmount. It is largely between Tra-



Bruce Brown during the race. The photo was taken by friends from St. Lambert. "Sorry, but gotta run," he said right after it was taken.

falgar road and avenue and Daulac Rd., hence "Tradau."

Brown has been running for more than 10 years with the same group of three Westmounters: Rob Gordon, Eduardo Chachmovich and Ari Van Assche.

"We've had lots of coffee after our runs at the Café G on Greene Ave. over the years."

Brown is also on the board of the Belvedere Residence on St. Catherine between Park Place and Melville. The Belvedere Residence is a private institution that provides subsidized accommodation to 30 residents in need who have been referred by doctors or social services (see October 3, 2017, p. 10).

"The race day was really beautiful, sun-burn-beautiful in my case," Brown told the *Independent* by email April 28, "and the atmosphere was great."

He had been sick in bed for three days with the 'flu' (not COVID) less than two weeks before the event, "so I suppose I was well rested!" he quipped.

The race was "not pretty," according to him, and he "ran out of steam towards the end."

He was also modest in his assessment of the field: "One advantage as an older runner: the competition is dying off...or maybe just coming to their senses."

This isn't the end of the line for Brown. He is registered for Le P'tit Train du Nord marathon in the Laurentians this October.

Peace Network works to unite diversity



From left, Westmounter Barry Cole, Nina Segalowitz, Westmounters Marcia Wetherup and husband Brian Bronfman, and Lydia Etok.

PHOTO COURTESY OF B. BRONFMAN.

The Peace Network for Social Harmony held its "Forum on Diversity and Inclusion: Uniting to Strengthen the Field" on April 21 and 22 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The sold-out event included panels featuring researchers and field experts and presentations by Senator Michèle Audette and former governor general Michaëlle Jean, and facilitated workshops attended by 100 practitioners working directly in diversity and inclusion.

Lydia Etok "gave a very moving Inuit throat-singing performance to end Day 1 of the forum (big standing ovation)," organizer and Westmounter Brian Bronfman told the *Independent* by email April 26.

Etok will be also performing at the upcoming spring gala for Temple Emanuel-Beth Sholom, taking place on May 31 under the title "Temple Together: Connecting through Shared Values of Peace and Social Harmony in Honour of Marcia and Brian Bronfman."

Rotary donates to Welcome Hall Mission

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Heather Borrelli and Jim Fares handed over a cheque for \$1,000 to Sam Watts, CEO of the Welcome Hall Mission on behalf of the Rotary Club of Westmount on April 28. The Rotary and Rotaract Clubs from the Quebec, Ontario, New York and Nunavut district will be collectively donating \$80,000 to their local food banks.

"With the inflation in food costs, food banks in our district have been warning that people will run out of money for food and will be increasing their use of food banks and other food sources. The food banks and other sources will have to pay more for many items," said Borrelli, a director with the Rotary Club of Westmount.

The mission is a sprawling facility on de Courcelle St. and Acorn St. that hands out groceries to 2,500 food-insecure individuals per week. Its massive warehouse handles tons of perishable fruits and veg-

etables, and donated tinned and packaged food.

"We also provide free temporary emergency accommodation in 48 studios plus apartments for young mothers in need. We have 10 additional units to serve as an extension of hospital services to support detoxification, a free dental clinic staffed by McGill University doctors, residents and assistants.

"The dental clinic alone costs [the mission] \$400,000 a year to operate," said Sam Watts. He added that the mission is the largest direct-to-public service to the food insecure in the Montreal area.

Its operation has 150 staff and 80 volunteers. It does depend on volunteers including schools who provide assistance frequently. There are around 35,000 food-insecure people in Montreal, of whom 35 percent are children.

"Contributions and volunteers are welcome and always needed," said Watts.



Heather Borrelli and Jim Fares from the Rotary Club of Westmount hand over a \$1,000 cheque to Sam Watts (centre), CEO of the Welcome Hall Mission, in front of its Acorn St. location April 28.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Exquisite Maitai

click on the “Book a visit” box, which leads you to the adoption counsellor form to organize a visit at the shelter. Once set, don’t forget to bring a carrier or plan to purchase one at the SPCA boutique.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Yes, Maitai is a delicate long-haired toroiseshell with the unique mix of shades that are not identical. No mirror images for this cat! Her features are very bold, really a work of art showcasing her huge eyes.

She is presently available for adoption at the Montreal SPCA cattery, a very healthy seven-year-old who is very affectionate and playful. She is shy around children, so best that a family take this into consideration to help her with her confidence.

Maitai is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She was brought to the shelter declawed on the front and back paws, so she is an indoor-only cat.

If you would like more information on Maitai, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and refer to her page at her identification number 49921085.

You will then be asked to



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Joyful Lucy, such a smile!

you would like to drop by for a visit to meet with Lucy and one of the adoption counsellors, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and scroll to Lucy’s information page under her identification number 50020961.

A happy one-year-old blonde Lab type, Lucy is sweet and playful. She is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel hoping for a family to bring her home as soon as possible.

Lucy is still young and will adapt very well to a new routine in a family environment, especially in our neighbourhood where there are so many opportunities for socialization, play and walks.

She is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. If

You can click on the red “Book a visit” square that leads you to the short appointment form to fill out and then schedule a visit. On visit day, you would then come to the shelter as a family, all humans and other dogs (if there are some), to ensure that everyone is part of the adoption process.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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First St. Henri Jazz Week taking place May 3 to 8

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As a community located “below the hill,” St. Henri, with its working-class roots, has often been contrasted with Westmount, although that image has been changing in recent years as St. Henri undergoes gentrification.

But the neighbourhood made famous by French-Canadian author Gabrielle Roy in her 1945 novel, *Bonheur d'occasion* (published in English as *The Tin Flute*), is also closely associated with another cultural phenomenon – jazz music.

Although world-renowned jazz pianist Oscar Peterson was born and raised in Little Burgundy just east of St. Henri, his 1964 composition, “Place St. Henri,” immortalized the neighbourhood. Peterson first learned to play the piano at Union United Church, which is located in St. Henri on the border with Little Burgundy.

It's perhaps also worth noting that Oscar Peterson made some early recordings at another St. Henri land-

mark closely associated with jazz music – the old RCA Victor building at the corner of Lacasse and St. Antoine streets.

mark closely associated with jazz music – the old RCA Victor building at the corner of Lacasse and St. Antoine streets.

This week, the Saint-Henri Jazz Society, founded by Montreal jazz artists Sam Kirmayer, Valérie Lacombe and André White, is launching the first edition of Saint Henri Jazz Week.

Kirmayer, who plays guitar and teaches jazz history at Concordia University, maintains that not only is St. Henri undergoing a physical transformation, but the spirit of jazz is also being re-born in this community that several notable jazz musicians have decided to call home.

“Saint Henri Jazz Week is something that we've been looking forward to for several years,” Kirmayer said in an interview with the *Independent*, adding that they hope it serves as a launching pad for reviving the spirit of jazz in the area.

The festivities, which were to get under way on Tuesday, May 3 and run until Sunday, May 8, are aimed at amateur and professional musicians, as well as music fans, be they from Westmount or from the city of Montreal's South West Borough, where St.

Henri is located.

Jazz masters Jeremy Pelt, Nicole Glover and Billy Drummond are coming from New York to perform on two consecutive evenings, alongside some big names from Canadian jazz such as Christine Jensen, Rachel Therrien, Jean-Michel Pilc, Ira Coleman and Kevin Dean.

From 10 pm to 3 am every evening, local musicians (Jean-Pierre Zanella, Modibo Keita, the André White Trio, the Acorn Hat group, the Al McLean Quartet and the John Roney Trio) will take to the stage for a late show followed by a jam session, free of charge and open to everyone.

The SJSJH will be hosting jazz legends Oliver Jones and Ethel Bruneau, who will be taking part in a panel discussion on Montreal jazz. And every day at noon from May 3 to 8, Notre Dame St. will come alive to the music of a different jazz duo at Place du Bonheur d'Occasion (Rose de Lima and Notre Dame).

Tickets for paid events during Saint-Henri Jazz Week are currently on sale through Eventbrite. Additional details on programming can be found on the web at sainthenrijazz.com.



◀ Saint-Henri Jazz Week co-founder Sam Kirmayer is seen here on April 27 in St. Henri with posters of two of the headlining jazz musicians booked to perform at the festival.

Police Report

Station 12 police working to react more quickly to tide of fraud incidents

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As fraud incidents continue to be reported to police at Station 12 by Westmount residents, a spokesman for the Montreal police dept. acknowledges the force is scaling up counter-measures while positioning itself to react more swiftly.

“Time is very sensitive in these matters,” Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel said in an interview this week with the *Independent*, while

noting that staff at local bank branches are reaching out more often to the police when they suspect their clients are being preyed upon by fraud perpetrators.

Up to a few months ago, according to Pimentel, police at the station were more likely to investigate frauds over several weeks or months. However, now that the community appears to be more aware of the problem, “it's more time-sensitive, and so we start the investigation almost immediately,” he said.

According to a register of crime-incident reports at Station 12, an attempted banking fraud and an identity theft were the only types of incident reported by Westmounters to staff at the station over the past few weeks.

On May 28, a Westmount resident with accounts at a Sherbrooke St. bank branch went to the Stanton St. police station to file a criminal complaint about an alleged identity theft. The bank had notified their client that his identity had been compro-

mised by a data theft in June 2019.

By February 2022, the client was notified by the Equifax credit reporting agency that several applications for credit appeared to have falsely been made through a number of banking institutions under his name.

At the same time, the client had been receiving unsolicited credit card applications at home. Equifax asked him to file a criminal complaint with the police in order to further the investigation.

And last week, police at Station 12 reported yet another incident of attempted “grandparent” fraud.

It involved a retired Westmounter who was contacted by phone by an individual posing as an incarcerated younger relative in need of a large sum of money to resolve a legal dilemma.

Although the perpetrators had been trying to convince the victim to go to a local bank branch to withdraw an amount up to \$10,000 to be handed over to them, “there was no loss of money,” said Pimentel.

He said the branch staff suspected the situation for what it was and summoned the police who intervened and have now added the incident to their growing list of fraud investigations.

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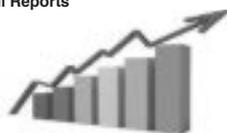
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**Collecte d'encombrants 2022**

La première semaine de chaque mois, de mai à octobre. Placez les items acceptés en bordure de rue avant 7 h le jour de votre collecte. Consultez la carte interactive à westmount.org/encombrants pour connaître votre jour de collecte.

**2022 Collection of bulky items**

The first week of each month from May to October. Place accepted items at the curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Consult the interactive map at westmount.org/bulkyitems to find out the collection day for your street.

Bois Summit : chiens en laisse

Pendant la période de migration des oiseaux, soit **du 16 avril au 15 juin**, les chiens au bois Summit doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS.

Inscription pour les activités d'été

Inscrivez-vous maintenant pour les activités de sports et loisirs, le camp d'été, le tennis et les activités aquatiques. westmount.org

Hydro Westmount: travaux

À partir du 2 mai, Hydro Westmount effectuera des travaux sur le réseau de distribution d'électricité à l'intersection de **Ste-Catherine et Lansdowne** pour une période d'environ 12 semaines. Des fermetures de rue et des entraves à la circulation sont à prévoir. westmount.org

Nouvelle piste à rouleaux à Westmount

La Ville a installé une piste à rouleaux au parc Westmount à l'intention des utilisateurs de vélos, de planches à roulettes, de patins à roues alignées et de fauteuils roulants. westmount.org

Collecte de résidus de jardin

Placez vos résidus de jardin en bordure de rue dans des sacs en papier ou dans des contenants ouverts le jour de votre collecte. Pour l'horaire de collecte, visitez westmount.org/residusverts.

Élagage d'arbres publics

Les travaux d'élagage du printemps sont en cours. Attention aux interdictions de stationnement temporaires; elles sont nécessaires pour l'accès des gros équipements. westmount.org

Dogs on leash at Summit Woods.

During the bird migration period **from April 16 to June 15**, dogs in Summit Woods must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES.

Registration for summer activities

Sign up now for sports and recreation activities, summer camp, tennis, and swimming. westmount.org

Hydro Westmount work

Beginning May 2, Hydro Westmount will carry out work on the electricity distribution network at the intersection of **Ste-Catherine St. and Lansdowne Ave.** for approximately 12 weeks. Some street closures and traffic obstructions will be required. westmount.org

New pumptrack in Westmount

The City installed a pumptrack in Westmount Park for users of bikes, skateboards, inline skates and wheelchairs. westmount.org

Garden Waste Collection

Place your garden waste at the curbside in yard waste paper bags or in open containers on your collection day. To find your collection day, consult westmount.org/residusverts.

Trimming of public trees

Spring tree trimming is underway. Please pay attention to temporary parking restrictions, which are needed to ensure access for large equipment. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

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Bibliothèque de semences

Des semences gratuites de légumes, de fleurs et de fines herbes sont offertes aux membres de la Bibliothèque. Consultez la liste à westlib.org.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Du 19 avril au 20 mai : L'architecture de Victor Bourgeau, par Peter Lancken, commissaire invité et architecte de renommée. westmount.org

Présentation spéciale : Toot Suite

Samedi 7 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Un hommage musical à l'âge d'or du jazz de Montréal. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Atelier d'écriture (9 à 12 ans)

Mercredis 11 mai et 18 mai, 16 h 30 sur Zoom. Avec Andrew Katz. Le nombre de places est limité. Inscris-toi à westlib.org.

Concert : Amour et plaisirs

Mercredi 11 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Une sélection de musiques célébrant la vie, l'amour et les plaisirs simples, par la Compagnie baroque Mont-Royal. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Concert : Danses printanières

Dimanche 15 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. La Musique des Fusiliers Mont-Royal et le Festival de la Voix présentent un concert sous le signe de la danse et de l'amour. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Ciné-Club : Spencer (2021)

Mardi 17 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Bercer le temps

Samedi 21 mai, midi à 18 h, parc Westmount. Pour toute la famille. westlib.org.

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Seed Lending Library

Free vegetable, flower and herb seeds are available to Library members. Consult the list at westlib.org.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition

April 19 to May 20: The Architecture of Victor Bourgeau by Peter Lancken, guest curator and renowned architect. westmount.org

Special presentation: Toot Suite

Saturday, May 7, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. A musical tribute to Montreal's golden age of jazz. Register at westmount.org.

Writing Workshop (9-12 year olds)

Wednesdays, May 11 and May 18, 4:30 p.m. on Zoom. With Andrew Katz. Space is limited. Register at westlib.org.

Concert: Amour et plaisirs

Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. A selection of music celebrating love, life and simple pleasures, by the Compagnie baroque Mont-Royal. Register at westlib.org.

Concert: Spring Dances

Sunday, May 15, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. The Regimental Band of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal and the Festival de la Voix present a concert inspired by dance and love. Register at westlib.org.

Film Club: Spencer (2021)

Tuesday, May 17, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Register at westmount.org.

Lulling Time

Saturday, May 21, noon to 6 p.m. Westmount Park. westlib.org.



Profile

Sailing, skiing and philanthropy – the life of Peter McConnell

BY CRAIG CORMACK

Westmounter Peter McConnell was born in 1948. As fortune would have it, he was born right next to the Dorval Yacht Club.

McConnell has followed in the footsteps of other famous sailors from Dorval such as Markland Molson – Dorval mayor, renowned sailor, shipwreck survivor and *Titanic* victim. As it happens, McConnell counted Mark Molson, the namesake of his famous uncle Markland, as one of his best friends.

McConnell heard the siren's call of sailing, and by the age of 15, he was teaching it to other kids. McConnell said, "I was probably one of the most advanced sailors in my age group in the country."

McConnell went on to say, "My sailing experience blossomed into an international sailing experience, where I raced for Ireland, and the pre-Olympics for Great Britain in Tallin, Estonia, where we came in third." In that race, he partnered with the famous Rodney Pattison, holder of two gold and one silver medal for Britain in the Olympics.

McConnell also raced at Cowes Week at the Isle of Wight Race in 1970.

"I ended up skippering a 36-footer in a race that in the past included Prince Phillip and Prime Minister Ed Heath. The racing at Cowes was strategically a battle against tides. This was very reminiscent of my experience sailing around in the strong current of Lake St. Louis."

Skiing

McConnell was also a ski racer. He said, "I was part of competition in France that combined ski and boat racing. I did the skiing part and then raced a boat with Rodney Pattison, and we came in third the first year and second in the second year out of 100 guys – imagine that. We raced in Rodney's famous boat named *Superdocious*, which is now in the British Maritime Museum."

Has McConnell ever raced through the Bermuda Triangle?

"No," he said, "I have been to Bermuda, but I haven't sailed there. I had a close call [elsewhere] though. I was supposed to be in the Fastnet race in '79. There was a huge storm in the English Channel, a force 10. My friend Rodney Pattison had to be rescued by helicopter. I was supposed to be on that boat, and I could have died, so I was very lucky."

"Pattison and the crew survived, he made sure everyone was rescued first by chopper and then he made a dash, swimming 100 feet off the boat for a rescue line.



Peter McConnell, foreground, skiing in late 1970s.

PHOTO BY ULF BLOMBERG, COURTESY OF P. MCCONNELL.

"Rodney was a qualified British naval officer and submariner, and he used his training to save his crew."

According to Wikipedia, the storm wreaked havoc on 303 boats in that race, resulting in the deaths of 16 yachtsman and three spectators. Emergency services included the entire Irish Navy, lifeboats, commercial boats and helicopters.

McConnell's grandfather, J.W. McConnell, was a famous Montreal businessman who was on the board of directors of many of the city's largest companies. He later

gave up these directorships when he acquired the *Montreal Star* and became publisher. He also created the McConnell Family Foundation, which has helped fund many worthy organizations.

Peter McConnell is a trustee of this foundation to this day.

Philanthropy

McConnell said, "I was intrigued with the foundation. One of the first things I was charged with was to go and meet all of the benefactors of our organization in



Peter McConnell today.

person and write a report on each of them. It was a pleasure to meet these people and they were very happy to meet me because I was one of the family members. This was my introduction to the organization, and it is still going strong today.

"I am very proud that my grandad's foundation is still in Montreal and I also like the fact that we have an open door for any reasonable project that comes in. Besides funding the big guys like McGill and MUHC, we have funded many hundreds of smaller projects. I am particularly proud of our work with Indigenous people."

What was the name of his boat? "My boat was of the Flying Dutchman class," explained McConnell, "it was called the *Sundance*, and I got the nickname the "Sundance Kid." In fact, that's what they called me at the Isle of Wight race. I raced with the best sailors during my time. I helped rig and fit boats that won races, travelled all over the world."

McConnell is currently living at Manoir Westmount and he can't say enough about how much he appreciates the services offered there. McConnell said, "I have always loved Westmount and I have lived here for many years in a house up on the mountain. Manoir Westmount is a great place to live. Everything is looked after."

McConnell has spent his life working to improve things, including sailing and skiing teams with his presence, and he has physically improved sailing vessels by fitting them so they sail faster. Most importantly, he has worked to improve the lives of many people through the work at his family's foundation. A great combination of adventure and service to others.



Peter McConnell as a young man at the Dorval Yacht Club modelling for Holt Renfrew.

PHOTO COURTESY OF P. MCCONNELL.



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Queen’s jubilee tea hits all the right notes



City councillor Mary Gallery, provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone, MP Marc Garneau and Pamela Soame, city councillor Elisabeth Roux and city director general Hadi Hakim.

What a wonderful Westmount celebration!

On April 24, Victoria Hall was the stage set for a traditional English tea honouring the queen’s platinum jubilee. As Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited the city of Westmount in 1959, pop songs from that era wafted through the room.

Victoria Hall’s wood-panelled room – a stand-in for the English country pile – was festooned with British flags. Special jubilee flags poked out of vases stuffed with sprightly spring tulips. Canadian flags peeked up from the long, long tables set with re-cyclable cutlery and pretty floral paper plates.

VIP guests included the honourable Marc Garneau MP, Westmount’s mayor Christina Smith, councillors Mary Gallery, Kathleen Kez, Elisabeth Roux and Matthew Aronson, city director general Hadi Kakim, and provincial representative for Westmount-St. Louis Jennifer Maccarone.

Also noted were Westmount library director Julie-Anne Car-della and assistant director *continued on p. 34*

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Jubilee tea, cont'd from p. 33

Anne-Marie Lacombe. Hard-working committee members were Melissa Denis Daigneault, Ashley Baker, Emily Gamble, Lora Baiocco (the “royal” photographer), Marie-Josée Duguay and Donna Lach, who eloquently echoed international concerns: “We stand united with the people of Ukraine during this difficult time.”

George Bowser and Rick Blue performed the Ukrainian anthem. Then The Study choir sang the national anthems of Britain, Canada and Athabasca.

Guests stood at attention for the moving moment. The program cover was a charming photo of Queen Elizabeth when she visited Westmount. She wore a belted floral shirtdress with crinoline-puffy skirt and white elbow gloves.

Fast forward 63 years. For the *Downton Abbey* moment, ladies' attire ranged from a latecomer's mini black dress and knee-high black-suede boots to patterned tights and tunic tops; from smart suits to knee-length dresses – most worn with pearls of course – and chic jackets.

Purses ranged from the very latest tiny “it” bags with prominent designer logos to cloth totes and one sculptural red “English rose” clutch.

Chanel ballet flats shared under-the-table space with running shoes/trainers in white and neon brights. Surprisingly, only a few fascinators – the tiny British head ornament fastened at a precarious angle – were noted, worn by Cynthia Price and Anne Sutherland, both of whom were also wearing “the crown jewels” – sparkling royal crown brooches. (Cynthia also wore her Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, awarded for significant community contributions.)

The Study choir was sharply stylish in crested blazers, tartan, tights and ties. A classic British tea was served with scones and their essential companions: clotted cream and jam, along with little sandwiches.

Diverse teapots

Tea pots ranged from a tall patrician porcelain piece with its narrow spout to black Japanese cast-iron *tetsubins*. But the



Melissa Denis Daigneault, Ashley Baker, Emily Gamble, Donna Lach, Lora Baiocco and Marie-Josée Duguay.



Anne Sutherland and Cynthia Price.



Beverley Hutchison and Diane Webster.



Renée Heifler and Marie-Claude Gatineau.



Nina Lannes Lamb and Rosa Lannes.



Andrea Feldman and Sylvia Haltrecht.



Clare and Toby Golsig.

main pouring vessel was the renowned sturdy British Brown Betty pot.

Those attending included The Study's headmistress Kim McGinnis and senior school music teachers Joanna Papameh-lakis and Veronica Tamburro; the Westmount Historical Association's Caroline Breslaw, Jane Martin and Caroline Singerman; McGill professors Miriam Tees, Peter McNally and Louise Carpentier; as well as Andrea Feldman, Sylvia Haltrecht, Diane

Webster, Beverley Hutchison, Rosa Lannes and four-year-old daughter Nina Lannes Lamb, Pamela Soame, Charlene Weiser, Julieanne Lafleur, Renée Heifler, Marie-Claude Gatineau, and Clare and Toby Golsig (both in marvellous hats – he in an Ascot-type bowler and she sporting cheerful yellow florets on hers).

The sold-out moment was a “royal” success. No one exited the hall dramatically and there were no interviews with Oprah.





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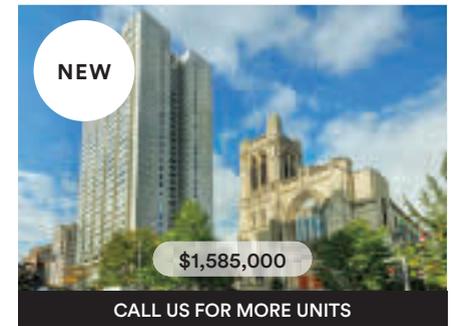
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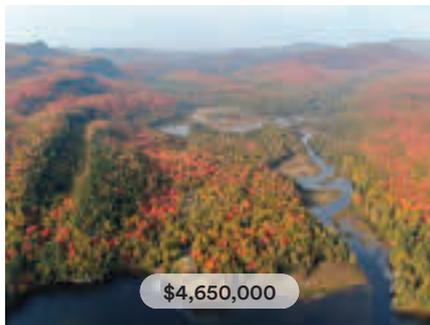
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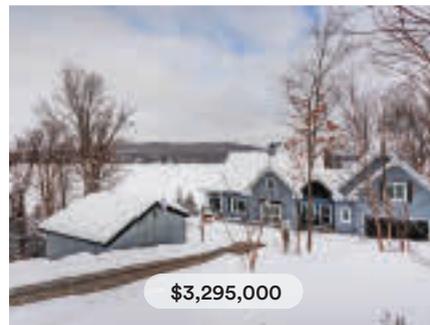
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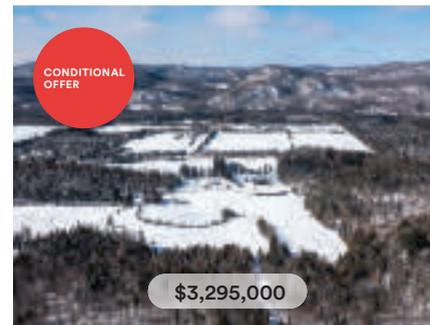
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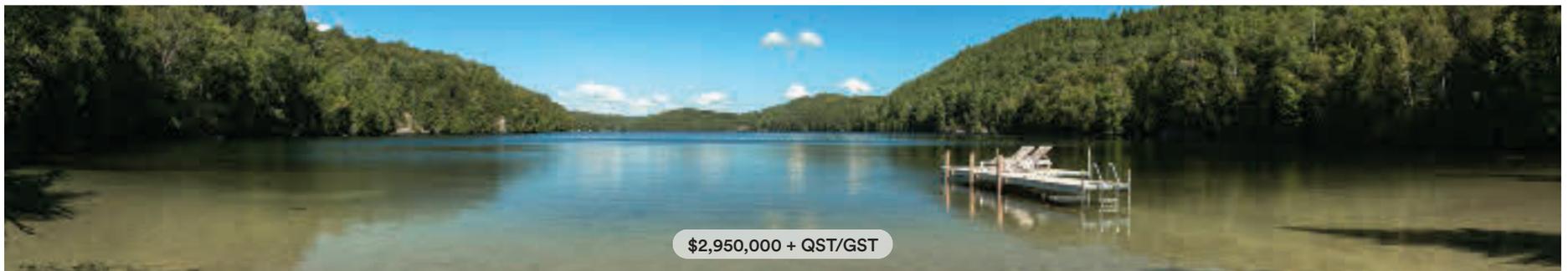
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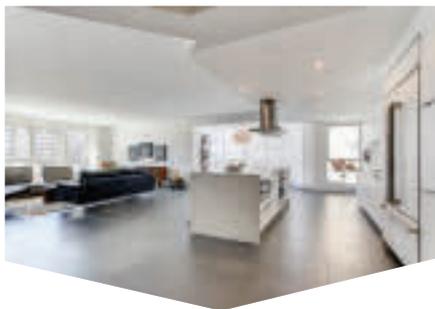
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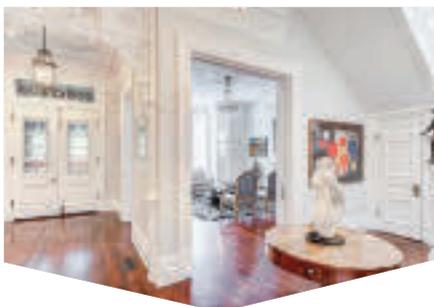
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