

## Peart, Roux, Aronson vote against request, support PAC Council grants Montrose Ave. rear extension as its first minor derogation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the first time, and by a 5-3 vote, city council May 2 approved a building project request under the city's By-law 1576 on minor derogations. This by-law was enacted last September to help building owners obtain minor exemptions from zoning By-law 1303 under specific criteria.

Councillor Conrad Peart, commissioner of urban planning and infrastructure, who had brought in the derogation by-law, voted against the initial request along with councillors Elisabeth Roux and Matt Aronson.

All three maintained that this proposal to build a sunroom addition at the rear of 4309 Montrose, a semi-detached single-family dwelling, did not conform to all criteria qualifying it as a minor deviation.

While the proposed addition would exceed the permitted depth by some four feet and would match what had been built by the adjoining house some years ago, the owner had several other options, they said, and therefore would not suffer "serious prejudice," *continued on p. 9*

## Green skies at night: AB or ET?



This mysterious green light was photographed at de Maisonneuve and Lansdowne May 4 by Manish Dhore, with his son Shaurya pointing it out. (White arrow added by *Independent*.) Describing himself as having "recently moved to Canada," Dhore was not sure if it was a known local phenomenon like the *aurora borealis*, or a mystery. Nor are we! See another photo on p.12. PHOTO COURTESY OF M. DHORE.

### Don't Miss It

Demonstration against Bill 96  
Starts at Dawson College  
southeast gate on Atwater  
Saturday, May 14, 10:00 am

## Extent of 'reinforcement' unknown

# Council approves work to re-open summit lookout

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After being fenced off to the public for safety reasons for more than a year, the summit lookout will undergo "structural reinforcement" approved May 2 by city council. This will enable it to be opened at the end of June or beginning of July, said Mayor Christina Smith.

A contract for the work was awarded to

Consultants NCP Inc. at its bid amount for a maximum of \$297,782 including taxes, described as the lowest of five bids.

Damage to the concrete banister was initially reported to have been caused by a Bombardier plow during snow removal operations over the winter of 2020-2021. This led to inspections and subsequently to the city hiring an engineering firm (see story August 31, *continued on p. 10*)

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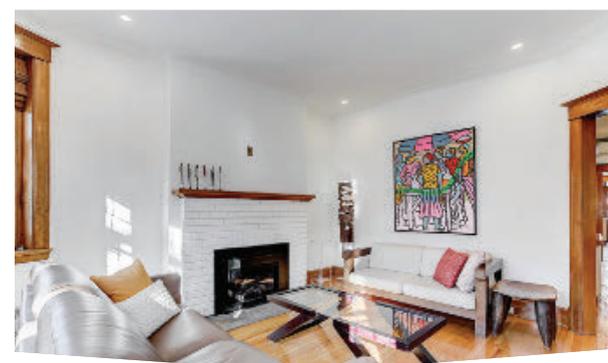
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**Police Report**

# Two suspects sought in assault and flag theft attempt

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

An assault and attempted flag theft incident happened at the corner of Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. last week just a few blocks west of Cabot Square, where a large pro-Israel rally had been starting around the same time.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the victim, a man with an office in the area, was walking along St. Catherine St. while carrying a flag on May 5 around 1:15 pm. The police report did not specify what flag it was. CTV and CBC news confirmed late last week that the flag was indeed Israeli. CBC also said that the incident is under investigation as a hate crime.

Two male individuals around 18 years of age stopped him and demanded he turn the flag over to them. When he resisted, one of the suspects seized the flag and a struggle to hold onto it ensued.

At this point, said Pimentel, one of the suspects attempted to kick the victim, although he missed. The suspect who had grabbed the flag dropped it, but then picked up a tree branch lying on the ground and struck the victim.

A bystander decided to intervene, becoming part of the altercation at one point, following which both suspects fled the scene running. The bystander reportedly left without speaking to police.

As the intersection was busy at that time of day, at least one witness recorded a video on their cell phone, which was furnished to the police and is now being used as part of the investigation. "It was furnished by another party that was there. There were a lot of people," said Pimentel.

While he couldn't say for certain that the victim was returning from the Israel Day Rally, where traditionally many sup-

porters wave Israeli flags, he didn't rule out the possibility. "Could be," said Pimentel.

One of the suspects was described as wearing a white shirt over which he wore a black vest. The other wore black shoes and jogging pants. Both were of medium height.

**Returning thief caught**

Station 12 investigators were still trying to figure out last week how an intruder managed to get into Alexis Nihon Plaza after closing hours, after which he tried to break into several boutiques and left, only to return before daybreak when he finally was arrested.

Security video footage from around 1 am on May 5 showed the suspect inside the mall and attempting to break into several stores. Around 4:30 am, according to security footage, the suspect was seen in the mall again trying to break into yet another store, although unsuccessfully.

By 5 am, the Montreal police had been notified by Alexis Nihon Plaza security personnel that the suspect was still in the mall, and soon thereafter he was taken into custody by mall security, who turned him over to the police.

**Transported car stolen**

A "snowbird" who returned recently to Westmount from the US, where he had wintered and from where he had his car shipped in order to avoid an exhausting drive, reported to Station 12 police last week that his SUV was stolen from the parking spot where the transport company had left it.

According to the police report, the company informed the owner in a text message to his cell phone that the vehicle had been delivered and was parked ..... on the street near the *continued on p. 9*

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**Rare find! 1st time on the market in 38 years!**  
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#newsmatters **FEATURE**

REACHING 384,000 OF READERS ACROSS ALL ENGLISH QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS



WHY THIS COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER MATTERS:

Small but  
mighty papers  
deliver impact  
journalism

BY RUBY IRENE PRATKA

Every day, Trevor Greenway sees the impact of his work.

Greenway is the editor of The Low Down to Hull and Back News, an independent weekly English-language newspaper in Wakefield which covers parts of the Outaouais region.

“If you’re new to the area, the first three things you learn about are the Black Sheep Inn, Wakefield Spring water and the Low Down,” says Greenway. “People won’t read about the town council in Low or Denholm in the Ottawa Citizen or on the CBC website, but they’ll read it here.”

The 29 English-language and bilingual member publications of the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) distribute weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and daily to some 384,000 readers, focusing on high-impact local news. According to the QCNA, three out of five English-speaking residents of areas served by the association read their local paper. »

This



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» **HOLDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

Quebec's English-language community newspapers are part of the glue that holds their respective communities together, keeping long-departed former residents abreast of happenings in their hometown and often covering great distances.



*Publisher Penny MacWhirter explains that the Spec plays a vital role in the lives of English-speaking seniors, many of whom are unilingual and lack internet access.*



Lily Ryan is the publisher of *The West Quebec Post* (established in 1896), *The Pontiac Journal*, *The Aylmer Bulletin* and *The Gatineau Bulletin*. Ryan notes that until her father, Fred Ryan, founded the bilingual *Pontiac Journal*, no English- or French-language newspaper covered the entirety of the vast, mostly rural Pontiac region, an area that takes two hours to drive. The *Journal's* slogan is "Uniting the Pontiac."

*The Gaspé Spec*, an English-language weekly in the Gaspé, plays a similar role, uniting far-flung English-speaking communities in Eastern Quebec. Before the *Spec* published its first edition in 1975, Gaspeians "knew more about New Brunswick affairs than they did about Quebec," the paper's website explains. The *Spec* is the only regional newspaper covering the nearly 350-kilometre area from Rivière-au-Renard to Matapédia.

Publisher Penny MacWhirter explains that the *Spec* plays a vital role in the lives of English-speaking seniors, many of whom are unilingual and lack internet access. In the

## FACTS



Local community newspapers remain **the favourite source** for local news. Local information is the top reason people read their community newspaper.

SOURCE: 2018 TOTUM RESEARCH STUDY OF MORE THAN 2,000 CANADIANS

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More than 450 Canadian news outlets have closed since 2008.

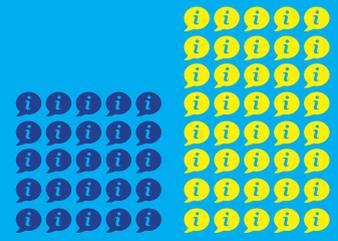


At least **one-third** of Canadian journalism jobs have disappeared since 2010.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

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Community media contributes to better informed citizens:



respondents in communities with local papers are **15 percentage points** more informed about local news and information than those without one.

SOURCE: BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF COMMUNITY MEDIA IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES ACROSS QUEBEC, 2019

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first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the paper produced daily online public health digests, which were then shared around the community. The extra work stretched the paper's staff of four to the limit but reinforced its public service role.

**FILLING A VOID**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as large regional newspapers have shrunk further due to advertising constraints, community newspapers have filled a void and helped readers understand a rapidly changing world.

In May 2020, veteran *Montreal Gazette* reporter Brenda O'Farrell founded *The 1019 Report*, covering all 1,019 square kilometres of Vaudreuil-Soulanges. Existing local publications had closed, and the *Gazette* had stopped running a weekly segment that focused on the area.

"This area, which has one of the fastest-growing English-speaking populations in the province, had no local English media," O'Farrell says. Her goal was to launch a "hyperlocal publication worthy of people's time," and the weekly quickly stepped into the gap left by its vanished predecessors.

Thanks to a risk-taking town councillor, O'Farrell exposed a real estate cover-up, and her reporting led to major changes in local urban planning policy. "We were able to give voice to one person who said, 'This is wrong,' tease out what was and wasn't true and give people the proper information," she says. "This is the role newspapers play in a democracy."

**STORIES MAKING NATIONAL HEADLINES**

Community newspapers are staffed by dedicated journalists who leverage the trust they have gained from years of community involvement to cover stories that make national headlines.

Last fall, a Chelsea teacher called Greenway at the *Low Down* newsroom to say her colleague, Fatemeh Anvari, had been reassigned after wearing a hijab in class during

the height of the provincewide debate about Bill 21. Greenway met Anvari, who was initially reluctant to be interviewed, and spoke to her about the story's potential impact.

"She was worried the story would put a target on her back, but she got so much support," Greenway recalls. A Léger poll suggested that support for the secularism law dropped from 64 per cent to 55 per cent after the *Low Down* published Anvari's story; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his support for Anvari, and the story was picked up by *The Washington Post* and *The Globe and Mail*.



*Community newspapers are staffed by dedicated journalists who leverage the trust they have gained from years of community involvement to cover stories that make national headlines.*



"All political stories start at the local level, and (Anvari's) story is a great example of that," comments *Low Down* publisher Nikki Mantell. Like Ryan, Mantell has devoted her entire professional life to community journalism.

Greenway launched his journalism career at the *Low Down* before working for a daily paper in Ottawa. In 2021, he returned to the paper as its editor.

"I did break some big stories in Ottawa, but I don't feel that they had the same impact on the readership." Community journalists, however, can explore major stories that have an impact on people directly at home, Greenway says.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WHERE IS OUR 'RECYCLED' GLASS GOING?

Most of us Westmount citizens dutifully place our glass bottles and jars in our blue bins on a weekly basis with the assumption that they are being recycled. It is then picked up by the city of Westmount's chosen contractor, Ricova. According to La Presse (March 21), a report by Montreal's Bureau de l'inspecteur général (BIG) has found that this company is sending glass to landfill.

Unfortunately, this situation is not unique to our area. Glass recycling is inherently problematic with our adopted strategy of single-stream recycling, where all recyclables are dumped together in the same bins, and then sent to sorting centres that are ill-equipped to properly isolate the glass that has been contaminated with other materials.

As a result, this devalued glass has no economic value and is sent to landfill – at a cost of about \$30 per ton. Other materials such as paper, plastic and metals are more easily sorted and have a current market value that ranges from \$200 to \$1,500 a ton, according to the latest figures published by Recyc-Quebec, the government agency that oversees recycling throughout our province.

There are solutions to this wasteful treatment of our glass. A consignment system for wine bottles is supposed to be in

place in 2023 – after having already been postponed from 2022. In the meantime, some communities, notably the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville, have taken the initiative to establish glass collection centres where citizens can deposit their empty bottles and jars – knowing that it will be sent to a separate treatment centre and eventually melted to produce new glass containers.

I have raised the question and proposed such a system to our city council in several emails over the past weeks and have not yet received a response. Our city claims that sustainable development is “essential to keeping Westmount vibrant” and has launched a sustainability initiative. Stated values, proudly boasted on the city's web page (under “Community life,” then “Environment & Sustainability,” then “Sustainable Westmount vision statement”), include the following: “Reduce, reuse and recycle resources,” “Work towards zero waste, zero emissions and net-zero energy consumption,” and “Endorse cyclical renewability of resource use and consumption.” Establishing a glass depot system will certainly help in achieving these objectives.

Westmount should join other proactive communities and demonstrate our environmental leadership when it comes to recycling. We can easily improve our local treatment of waste by contracting reputable companies that offer turn-key sol-

utions to provide glass depot bins and collection services. Westmount's community spirit and environmental awareness would contribute in making such an endeavour a success – if our municipal leaders and city managers are on board to promote such a process.

It is time that our city demonstrate leadership in this area.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.

## REMEMBER RECYCLING HISTORY

About 1975, a neighbour in Westmount started bundling her newspapers and taking them to a place that bought it. Not likely much, but it kept it out of landfill. Soon, my mother started tying ours, and sending it with the neighbour. We were getting *The Gazette*, *The Star* and *The Examiner*, lots of newsprint each week.

About 1979, Tooker Gomborg organized door-to-door pickup of newsprint in Outremont. He also organized a storefront for re-useable items. I'm not sure how that worked, but the one time I was there, Tooker found some thick paper to print posters on. I have no idea if the collection kept going.

About a year later, a different group organized newsprint collection in Westmount. Bundle it and leave it out on the day, and they'd take it away. In 1981, someone involved was complaining about newsprint theft, I said, “Isn't the point to keep it out of landfill?” He said they were counting on the income from the newsprint to pay for the rented truck and labour.

That never ended in Westmount. Or rather, at some point it morphed into a collection by the city of Westmount.\* Eventually, Westmount added glass bottles and cans. You were supposed to rinse them, and flatten the cans. Glossy paper, and later plastic, were eventually added, but later. I remember letters to *The Examiner* complaining that it was all being mixed in the truck, but you were still supposed to “keep it separate” and I can't remember when I stopped tying up the newsprint.

Over 40 years of newsprint staying out of landfill. Montreal was later. As I recall, the start was those big green bells in each neighbourhood. That was the late '80s. You were supposed to drop it off there, and a bell for each category.

Once Montreal started door-to-door recycling, I think Westmount went with their system.\*\* But exact dates are hazy. That's when the care seemed to disappear.

Recycling was a citizen initiative. I'd say fallout from Earth Day in 1970. For a long time it was limited, but the citizens putting their items in recycling did it with care because they saw value in it.

Now it's seen as “greenwashing” by people who didn't experience this history. And in trying to get everyone involved, it was decided to make it easy. Which means it's all dumped together, to be sorted at a factory. And people being careless about what they put in the bin. So it's contaminated and even if there is use for the material, the contamination causes problems.

If it's just going to landfill, why not go back to when a smaller number were putting out recycling? If it's a failure, then what's the solution? How much carelessness comes from the perception “that it's just going to landfill”?

This history goes back almost 50 years. That's a long time. The world has changed.

MICHAEL BLACK, ANWOTH RD.

**Editor's memories:** \*I remember the first blue boxes being distributed by the city of Westmount. They came “dis-assembled” and you could insert plastic dividers into the box to create compartments. The first collection was October 14, 1990.

\*\*This change to “single stream” happened in the *Independent's* lifespan. See February 10, 2009, p. 1: “Contract changes recycling rules, market threatens contract – No more sorting.” – DP.

## FAR SIGHTEDNESS ON ARTIFICIAL TURF

Because Westmount has all-grass fields for recreation, this municipality is clearly ahead of the curve in this age of climate crisis. It is increasingly evident that natural grass, as opposed to synthetic surfaces, has major environmental advantages.

First, the photosynthesis of grass blades produces much cooler temperatures over the playing surface. There is no heat-island effect and that very tangible absence of warming is significant locally and even globally.

Second, a longitudinal study of all artificial surfaces and their real health effects has not truly been done because of cost and the need to study several generations of exposed players over years. Even so, Amy Griffin, associate head coach for women's soccer at the University of Washington, reported some time ago that she noticed alarmingly high rates of cancer among goalies – who had obviously rubbed their skin against synthetic turf around their goal areas.

The precautionary principle applies more than ever. And the city of Westmount, with its determination to include climate change in all decisions, is far ahead of the curve through its historical decision not to install synthetic turf.

A far-seeing choice as it turns out.

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

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'Small revisions' possible to controversial project: Cllr. Peart

## Lexington Ave. contract awarded by council for some \$6M



Looking northwest from Devon at the dead-end of Lexington on May 9.  
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's most expensive road reconstruction project this year – and possibly ever – moved ahead May 2 with council's unanimous approval of a contract nudging \$6 million to complete this year's portion of a controversial three-year project to redo Lexington Ave.

"We are open to reconsidering a few small revisions that won't impact the contract," stated Councillor Conrad Peart in a lengthy discourse at the council meeting. "It's premature to say what they are, but the project will be given back to the administration [i.e. the city's senior unelected employees] to see what they can do." Any

revisions, however, would not affect the design, cost or compromise safety, he added.

And now that it's "a done deal," resident Judith Lechter told the *Independent* the next day, she plans to make some proposals for possible changes (see separate story below).

The contract went to Cojalac Inc. for \$5.77 million and a maximum of \$6.6 million including taxes (\$6.1 million net of tax credits). It was described as the lowest conforming bidder of three, the highest being \$7.6 million including taxes.

### Big project, big cost

"It's a big project that will cost a lot of money," Peart explained. The cost, how-

ever, is "in the range" of estimates in the 2022 capital works budget of \$5.2 million and it came in at \$5.7 million "so that is an increase of less than 10 percent."

The work includes the reconstruction of the roadway, sidewalks, street lighting network and the Hydro Westmount electrical distribution network on all of Lexington as well as Devon (Lexington to Summit Crescent) and the public portion of water services on Lexington from Edgehill to Sunnyside.

Three councillors – Antonio D'Amico, Elisabeth Roux and Matt Aronson – had voted against approval of the project March 21 based on the public consultation process (see story March 29, p. 1).

All, however, turned their attention this time to ensuring the contract went to the lowest confirming bidder, Aronson pointed out.

D'Amico, who represents the District 1, said this file had been "a very tough one for

me." The residents, he noted wanted the status quo "or something that resembles it, which clearly is no longer an option." As finance commissioner, he added, that while the cost was "slightly above," the estimate it is "not so extravagant."

Lexington Ave. work to start May 18-23, last 25 weeks

## 'Now that it's a done deal, I'm looking to create peaceful co-operation': resident Lechter

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The day after the contract was awarded May 2 for reconstruction of Lexington, residents received a notice from the city stating the work would start between May 18 and 23 and last 25 weeks, said Judith Lechter, one of the concerned residents. "The notice came very quickly after the vote."

"That's almost six months of work. It's a long time and very distressing. But now that it's a done deal, I'm looking to create peaceful co-operation between residents and the council." She said she was pleased to receive the information and will be proposing a way for the work to be carried out

in sections.

Acknowledging that little can be done about the work "underground" as part of the project, she said, she hoped some changes might still be made concerning some other features.

During the work, the notice said, residents would be provided pedestrian access to their homes at all times, she explained. They would receive permits to park on other streets when needed, she added.

She and her husband, John, had sent a long letter to the city on April 29 that chronicled their concerns along with a copy to the *Independent*, as well as a letter published in the *Independent* April 12, p. 6.

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QUEBECERS **AGAINST BILL 96**

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**CONTRE LE PROJET DE LOI 96**



# **Demonstration Against Bill 96**

## ***Manifestation contre le projet de loi 96***

**Saturday May 14, 2022 / Samedi 14 mai 2022**

Start/Début: Dawson College 10 a.m.

(Marchers congregate at the southeast gate on Atwater /  
Les manifestants se rassemblent à la porte sud-est sur Atwater)

Rally: around Noon / vers midi

(Office of Premier François Legault, corner McGill College & Sherbrooke /  
bureau du premier ministre François Legault, coin McGill College et Sherbrooke)

**Target raised, then exceeded again****Ascension parish capital campaign expected to exceed \$1.3M**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Three years after launching a \$1-million capital campaign to raise funds for repairs, preservation and polish at Ascension of Our Lord Parish, church officials are expected to announce that the results exceeded their greatest expectations.

The Sherbrooke St. church launched its capital campaign in late May 2019 in order to repair a leaking bell tower, replace the linoleum flooring below the church pews and begin the restoration of the original Casavant Opus 1344 organ dating from 1928.

“Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends, the campaign was very successful, exceeded its goal, and thus almost all of the projects requiring repair, replacement or restoration were completed,” said Don Taddeo, who chaired the campaign coordinating committee.

In order to celebrate the successful conclusion of the campaign, the parish is organizing an official campaign closing ceremony, which will take place on Sunday, May 22, beginning at 10 am.

The proceedings will begin with a mini-concert/recital presented by the Ascension of Our Lord choir and organist Joel Peters.

This will be followed by Sunday mass, during which campaign co-chairs John Peacock and Barbara Cefis will address the congregation following the reading of the Gospel.

“Instead of giving a homily, our pastor, Father Lawrence MacEachen, has agreed that our campaign co-chairs will say a few words,” said Taddeo.

**Showcasing the organ**

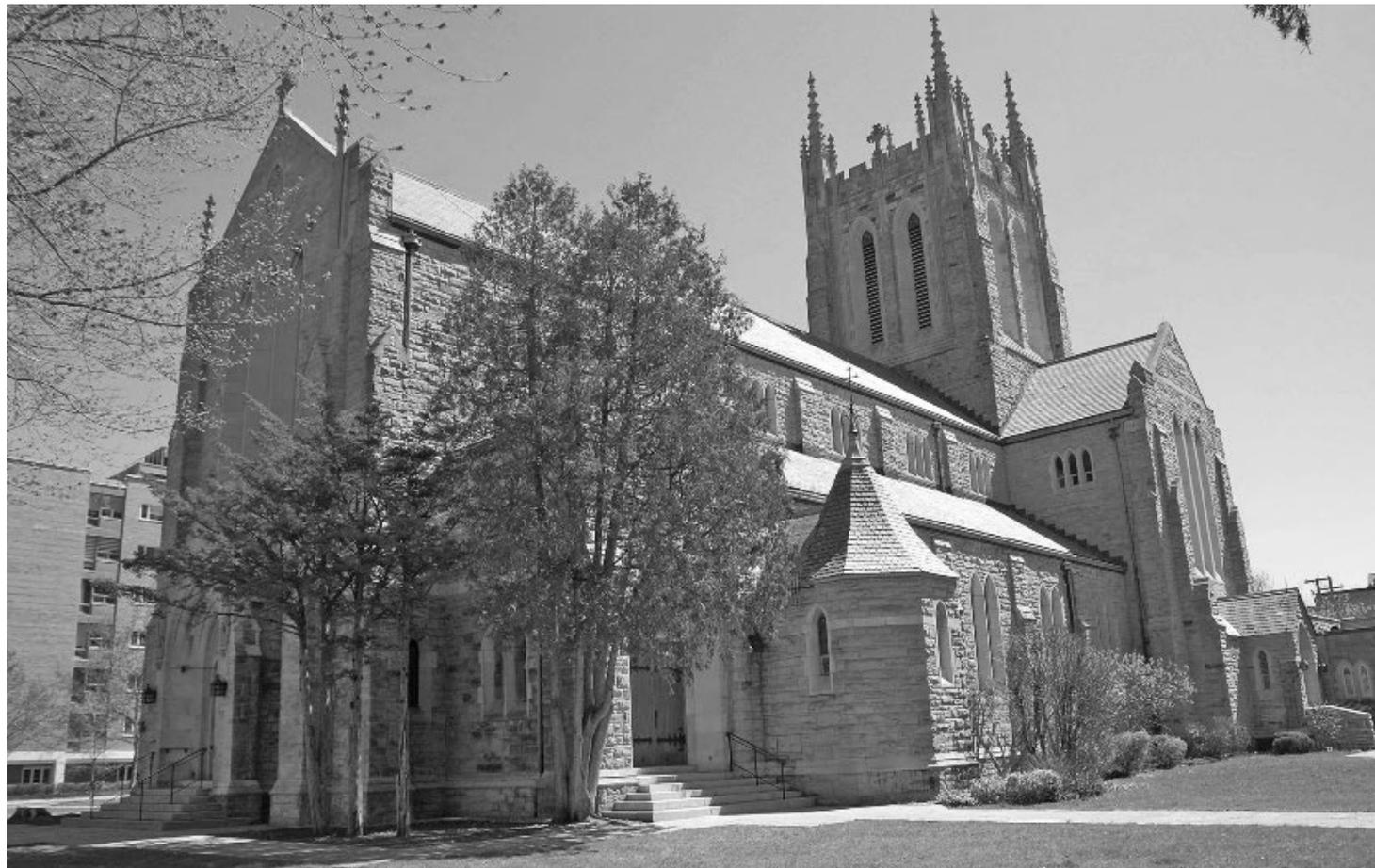
Before issuing the final dismissal, MacEachen will invite the congregation to be seated as he introduces organist Joel Peters, who will explain the piece he will play, which was especially chosen to highlight the clarity, conciseness and flexibility of the newly-restored organ.

Following the performance of the piece, all will be invited to the back of the church

**Police report, cont'd from p. 3**

corner of Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. Pimentel said a photo attached to the text served as proof that the car had been delivered, while also indicating where it was parked. The key was left in a secure place inside the locked vehicle, since the owner had a second key.

However, the owner, a gentleman said to be at least 80 years old, only went to pick up the vehicle four days after delivery, by which time it had vanished.



Seen here on May 6, Ascension of Our Lord Church at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Clarke Ave. has undergone a range of repairs, replacements and restorations thanks to a successful capital campaign, the final results of which will be announced on Sunday May 22.

to look at a donor recognition book and to enjoy a reception organized to mark the closing of the campaign.

Although Taddeo didn't want to reveal the final amount that the campaign managed to raise, the campaign coordinating committee told parishioners as early as October 2019 that a donor who wished to remain anonymous had given an amount that placed the \$1-million initial target within easy reach.

At that point, it was decided to stretch the campaign goal to \$1.3 million, and by September 2020 it was announced that this new target had also been reached. The final tally to be announced on May 22 is expected to exceed this.

As for the organ restoration project, it is being carried out with campaign donations from parishioners, as well as a major grant of \$176,000 received from the Conseil du Patrimoine Religieux du Québec in June 2021.

Isabelle Demers, currently the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ at Baylor University in Texas, who will soon become associate professor of organ at McGill University's Schulich School of Music, will be performing the inaugural concert of the

restored organ on Sunday, May 29 at 3 pm. The concert is scheduled to last one hour.

There is no admission charge, although freewill offerings will be welcome.

**Montrose derogation, cont'd from p. 1**

one of the criteria, if not granted a minor derogation.

This conformed to an opinion from the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) in an unfavourable recommendation to the council March 22.

“Several extensive scenarios in conformity with the regulations are possible,” stated the PAC opinion. “These included a shallower and wider addition with the same surface area as the proposed extension.”

Peart announced his decision to vote against the minor exemption in remarks at the start of the council meeting, while saying that the situation brought to light by the Montrose proposal was probably not “unique” and that the city's By-law 1303 may need “some reconsideration” in this respect.

In terms of what he considered the correct use of the derogation by-law, he provided an example of a desire to re-build damaged front steps that had been built

under previous regulations but now required a small deviation over current requirements when no other solution exists.

**Serious harm?**

During the meeting, Aronson questioned the project's architect on what serious harm would be faced by the applicant if the minor exemption were not received. He later told the *Independent* he would like to have voted to grant the request but was not persuaded that sufficient harm would be caused to the home owner without the derogation.

He said he viewed an example of “serious harm” as being a case where the city's by-law “gets into the way of access to the home of a mobility challenged person.”

While “opinions” of the PAC – an advisory committee – were referred to only as such in the council resolution, no mention was made that they included an “unfavourable” recommendation to the council.

Shoppers, merchants should speak up: Cllr. Aronson

## Make Greene 'a true pedestrian street,' Lambert asks

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Has the city considered completely closing Greene to traffic and adding the necessary features to create a true pedestrian street?

The question was put to city council at its meeting May 2 by Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount.

He stated that closing Greene to traffic would not only benefit the local businesses but also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The closure of some 20 commercial arteries and local streets over the summer in the city of Montreal plus added features had "demonstrated that people are more attracted to animated commercial streets

without car traffic and parking," he said.

The city has introduced some measures towards pedestrian safety but has not closed streets completely except for a sidewalk sale, Mayor Christina Smith replied.

Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes economic development and sustainability, pointed out that closing Greene would be "a major adjustment" for some shoppers and merchants. He encouraged anyone to speak up in this regard. He pointed out that this year the city is narrowing de Maisonneuve in front of Dawson College and adding street furniture along with similar efforts on Greene and the west commercial district along Sherbrooke between Victoria and Claremont.

## Public Security takes man to hospital after fall at the WAG

When public safety officers received a call for medical assistance at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) May 1 around 3:30 pm, they found a man seated at a picnic table assisted by four people, Public Security officials said.

The local resident, aged 78, reported he

had fallen in the washroom when his legs "gave out." He was unable to explain the reason but remained very lucid.

Meanwhile, his wife had gone home to get some medication for him and an officer took them to the Glen super-hospital so the man could be checked out.

## PSU: Stay on trails, keep dogs leashed in Summit Woods

With the bird nesting season under way at Summit Woods when dogs are required to be on leash, extra Public Security patrols have been added to check dogs and their licences, department officials said last week.

Walkers, with and without dogs, are reminded to remain on the trails so as not to disturb the birds or trample on the spring wildflowers that are protected in the bird and flora sanctuary. No tickets were reported to have been issued.

## Coiffure Jean John

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Homme Men    Femme Women    Enfants Children



The closure of the accesses to summit lookout via Summit Circle, top, and Sunnyside Ave. effectively shutters Sunnyside Park too, as seen May 9.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

### Summit lookout, cont'd from p. 1

2021, p. 12).

Its analysis, stated a notice on the city's website July 21, 2021, indicated that "some

aspects of the lookout had reached a critical point of deterioration and require a replacement or restoration program. These elements are the foundation walls, the structural slab, and the interior structural elements."

How much of that work is included in the current contract for reinforcement was not available from the city at press time.

Last fall when a previous call for tenders was launched, no bids were received "for reasons of a lack of labour and materials," stated a follow-up city posting November 20.

"It's been a very sad, forbidding spot and we will all be delighted if the work proceeds and it gets open again," said Harry Bloomfield, of Surrey Gardens, after the contract was awarded.

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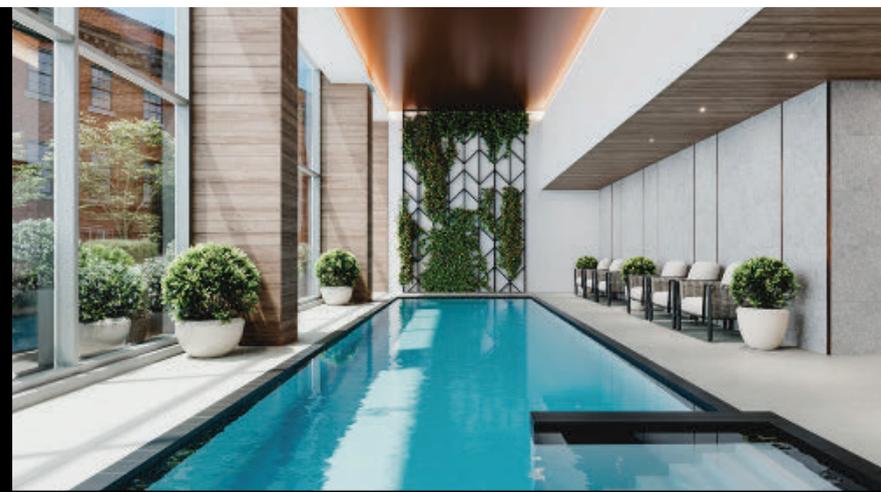
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## Mysterious green light over Westmount Park



This light was photographed May 4 at Lansdowne and Sherbrooke, looking east into Westmount Park. See p. 1 for more. PHOTO COURTESY OF MANISH DHORE.



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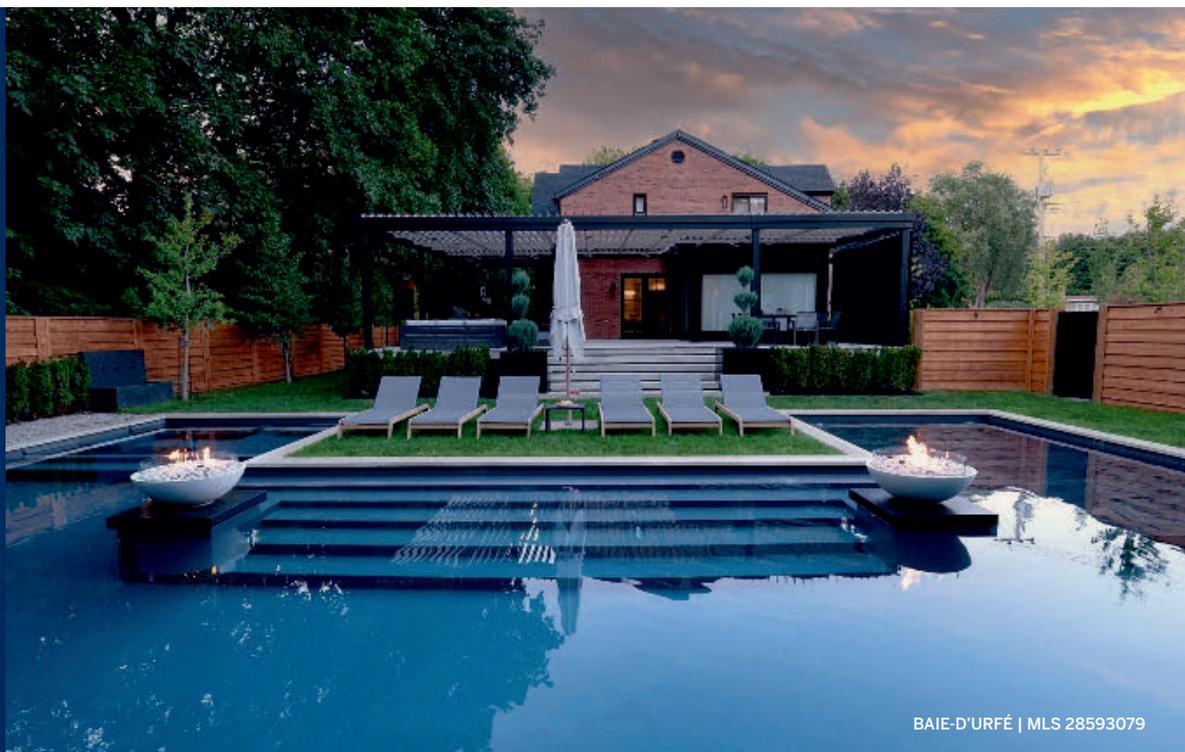
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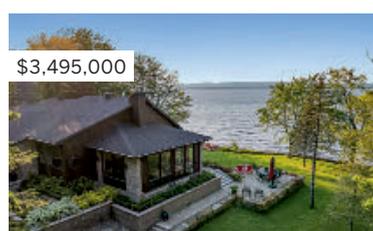
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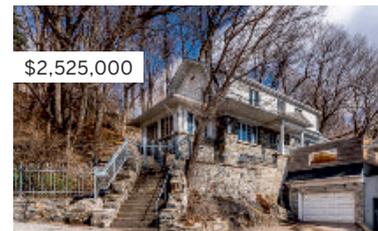
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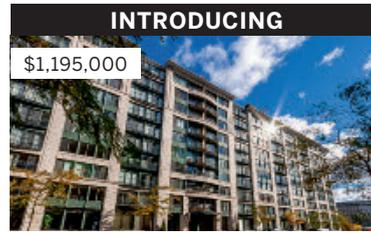
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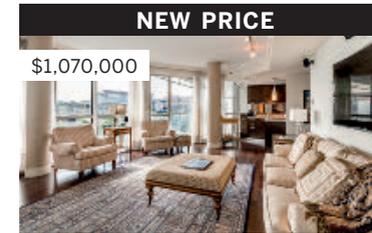
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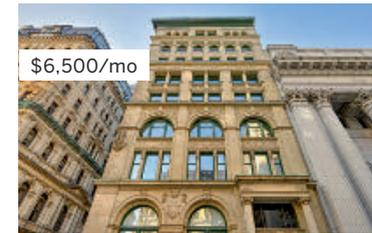
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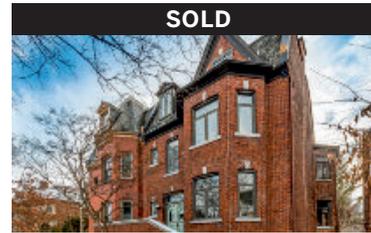
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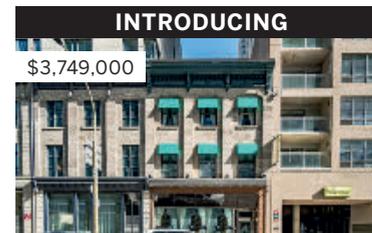
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## Signs of spring



Left, “Wordsworth’s ‘host of golden daffodils’ Westmount style!” writes *Independent* columnist Veronica Redgrave about these flowers photographed May 5 on de Maisonneuve; right, eight hockey pucks found in late March by Arthur Emmanuel in Devon Park. He “wanted to make sure that the hockey players knew that he will bring them out next season to ensure people can continue playing,” said father Jean-François. LEFT PHOTO: VERONICA REDGRAVE; RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF JF EMMANUEL.

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**CONTRE LE PROJET DE LOI 96**



# **Demonstration Against Bill 96**

## ***Manifestation contre le projet de loi 96***

**Saturday May 14, 2022 / Samedi 14 mai 2022**

Start/Début: Dawson College 10 a.m.

(Marchers congregate at the southeast gate on Atwater /  
Les manifestants se rassemblent à la porte sud-est sur Atwater)

Rally: around Noon / vers midi

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Curious Diesel

added to his regular check-ups.

Diesel is a happy and social companion, a joy to be with. If you would like more information on him, please do not hesitate to refer to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and scroll to the information page with his identification number A49849562.

Once there, you can click on the “Fill out the form” button, which is linked to the adoption coordination group and a form for you to complete in order for them to contact you.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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LYSANNE FOWLER

In conversation with Toby:

“Well, I am just a young dachshund and I got into a spot of trouble...I am convalescing now from my broken leg, getting tons of love and attention in my foster family and from everyone who meets me. They took me in for the volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy’s Rescues & Adoptions and I am socializing very well.

“I am only six months old and it would be great if you would give me my best life as a growing pup in your family and home.”

Toby has said it all. He is keen on the love and attention around him from people and dogs. A kind and gentle soul, he is very friendly and affectionate, kissing and

## Ah Toby, how did you do that?

cuddling.

Toby is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and puppy health plan. He is neutered and microchipped.

He is a bit of a barker still, so it would be best for his new family not to live in an apartment or condo, and to be with children who are a little bit older as well, since he still needs to be doted over for his little leg.

If you would like more information on Toby, please enquire at the Gerdy’s Rescues & Adoptions website at [info@gerdys-rescue.org](mailto:info@gerdys-rescue.org) to find out more about him. If interested, please contact them at their email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) and they will forward a questionnaire as a first step for the adoption process.

Your neighbour,  
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## Local dentists confirm lack

# Dental hygienists' industry group: Province needs 1,000, but only graduates 230 annually

BY JENNIFER BALL

The federal Liberal and NDP agreement to offer coverage for lower income Canadians will start this year for children under 12, but Jean-François Lortie – president of the Québec order of dental hygienists – is unclear on how the program will work or even where the professionals to provide the care will come from.

“Are they [the federal government] going to do a transfer to the province and the province is going to manage their own program?” Lortie queried. “We have a [provincial] program already with the Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec – it is not perfect – but it covers 10-year-olds and younger without any preventative treatment.”

### Hygienists can now practise 'own activities'

Quebec's Bill 15, passed into law on September 24, 2020, provides for dental hygienists to leave the dental office setting and have their own clinics in Quebec. “For us, it means a lot because since the beginning of the profession in 1975, dental hygienists were allowed to do certain activities but under the supervision of dentists and under their rules,” Lortie said.

“We had examples of the growing competency of the dental hygienists in the field. That is why since the '90s we were asking to have our own activities under our own.”

In either setting – their own clinics or dental offices – hygienists assess the oral condition, de-scale, polish teeth and apply fluoride treatment, etc. Unfortunately, there are currently not enough of them in the province, according to Lortie. “They cannot even take the patients that they



Jean-François Lortie, president of the Québec order of dental hygienists, located at 606 Cathcart St. downtown, on April 13.

want to for their current practice. In the last year, we have taken a lot of action to sensitize the minister of higher education, Madame Danielle McCann, because right now there are not enough students in the dental hygiene program either.

“We need 1,000 dental hygienists working in the province and, right now, we have 230 that graduate every year, so it is impossible to catch up if we don't open more programs or if the current programs don't open up to have two cohorts, instead of

one.”

On the English side, there is only John Abbott College, where “32 will be graduating, if they complete their clinical training,” Lortie advised.

For their Westmount Square practices that include in-house dental hygienists, doctors Douglas Hamilton and Jeffrey Indig are acutely aware of the dearth.

“I know dentists who used to have four or five hygienists and now they have none,” Dr. Hamilton said. “What [the federal gov-

ernment is] talking about could create a great deal of upset, stress, and put in a program that has absolutely zero impact. We do not have enough hygienists, so you are going to add 30 percent patient load? Where are they going to go?”

If hygienists are scarce, can dentists pick up the slack? No, according to Dr. Indig. “If I have to spend an entire day cleaning, it is a loss. You cannot break even.”

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Teenagers hearing from cadets 'more meaningful than a much older general'

# Gregory has a mission to promote 'Peace, Security & Prosperity'

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As far as Steve Gregory is concerned, few if any high-school teachers in Canada today want to talk about military history.

"Canadians don't see themselves as a military power – we see ourselves as peace-keepers," says the founder of an educational outreach program known as the International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity.

The program's core beliefs can be summed up thus: Without justice, there can be no peace, and without security there can be no justice.

"Only when justice and security enable freedom can sustainable peace support the development of a society and its ultimate prosperity," said Gregory, who is honorary colonel of the 2nd Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery, which is headquartered at the Côte des Neiges Armoury northeast of Westmount.

The forum's mission is to bring students, policy-makers, researchers and the wider public together with representatives of justice, public order and national armed forces through conferences, online events and publications to explore how the basis for a flourishing peace and prosperity can be established.

"It strikes me that if our young teenagers saw people that were just a few years older than them fighting for peace, it would be more meaningful than a much older general," he said in an interview with the *Independent*, explaining why the forum seeks to bring together civilian students with their military academy counterparts.

"They would be able to see for real that these young military leaders are studying peace," added Gregory.

Since 2006, he has been reaching out to schools in Sicily to tell the story of Operation Husky, in which Canadian soldiers played a role in liberating Sicily from the



Long-time Westmount resident Steve Gregory, founder of the International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity, is seen on April 22 at the forum's St. Ambroise St. offices with mementos handed out to past forum participants.

event, available online to anyone around the world, as well as on site in Sicily. This year's forum was held on April 7 and 8. Forum participants who were on site in Sicily participated in a "Walk for Remembrance and Peace," where the sacrifices of the civilian population and the fallen from all sides were honoured.

In all, 75 high schools from around the world participated in the student essay contest. A Canadian student, Hanna Ton That of Montreal, who attends Collège Ste. Marcelline, won third prize in the contest. Additional information about the International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity is available on their website: [www.psp-forum.org](http://www.psp-forum.org).

## We welcome your letters

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Axis powers during World War II.

### Aims to engage youth

However, he believes the study of history isn't necessarily as relevant as the immediate need to engage youth in a conversation about what it really takes to make and keep peace.

As such, the Forum for Peace Security & Prosperity strives to engage youth in a conversation that examines the nature of a "positive peace," while exploring principles that support and sustain peace, as well as the limited role the military can play in reaching that objective.

The forum is held annually as a free

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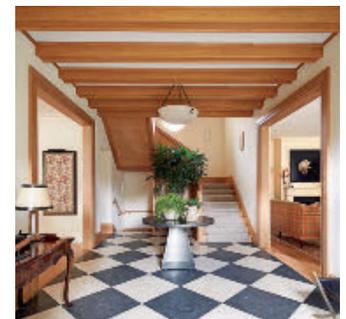
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# Lanken's *Architecture of Victor Bourgeau* now at Victoria Hall

BY HEATHER BLACK

This exhibition celebrates the work of ecclesiastical architect Victor Bourgeau (1809-1888). Reproductions of his original plans are on display. However it is architect Peter Lanken's colour photography and beautiful ink drawings of church interiors and exteriors that communicate Bourgeau's extraordinary talent.

Curated by Lanken, exhibition panels relay Bourgeau's beginnings. An apprentice joiner and carpenter, Bourgeau moved to Montreal around 1830 where his work on St. Patrick's Basilica's ornamental in-

*“Bourgeau was the only truly great architect of his time, not only in Quebec, but in North America”*

teriors was first noticed in 1847. During the 1850s, he was appointed architect for Sainte Rose de Lima in Laval, St. Grégoire le Grand near St. Jean d'Iberville and La Visitation de l'Île Dupas – all historic sites today.

Bourgeau's early plans – meticulously drawn – convey his unique style. Photographic images of ornate and brightly coloured church cornices or well-known exteriors such as the Grey Nuns' motherhouse Couvent de Congrégation de Notre Dame remind viewers of his contribution to local architecture. However it is Lanken's large, black-and-white renditions of elaborate church interiors and exteriors that bring the exhibition to life.

Among these a sketch of Église de St. Isidore de Laprairie's stone exterior.



Véronique Robert at exhibition opening on April 19.

Another depicts the building's elegant interior with New Testament scenes. St. Vincent de Paul's ornate church columns are drawn with fine lines to create shadow. These reveal Bourgeau's skillful incorporation of Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque elements into Quebec architecture.

Lanken, an architect himself – whose work includes the Saidye Bronfman Centre

and Price Waterhouse Montreal – is well-known in restoration circles. The president of Save Montreal (1973-1982) – he began studying Bourgeau's work in 1990. Visiting sites and taking intricate measurements with surveyors' instruments, drawing allowed him to develop a deep appreciation for Bourgeau's artistry.

But this exhibition also reveals Lanken's

fascination with the man himself who – from humble beginnings in Lavaltrie – became a leading light. He wrote: “I have come to believe that Bourgeau was the only truly great architect of his time, not only in Quebec, but in North America.” *The Architecture of Victor Bourgeau* was opened by Lanken's agent, Véronique Robert, on April 19 and will continue until May 20.

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# 'Art Space Ecology': Grande explains art based on, in nature

BY HEATHER BLACK

Art journalist and curator John Grande presented the illustrated talk "Art Space Ecology" at Victoria Hall on April 23. A Westmount Earth Week event, this engaging lecture featured nature-based art installations from around the world. Works varied from sculptures as waterfowl nesting sites or erosion protection to varnished roots as decorative art.

Some installations were designed to offset global warming or were representative of lost habitats.

Underwater human sculptures by Jason deCaires Taylor encourage algae growth, which protects coral from bleaching – a consequence of warming waters.

Bob Verschueren's nest-like park sculptures commemorate diminishing avian species.

Another – a small tree en-

circled by flat upright stones – *Transformation Plant* by New Zealand artist Chris Booth – reflects growth.

A "slow art" sculpture – as the tree grows and dislodges the rocks – it resembles a blossoming flower. Created for the VanDusen Botanical Garden 2012 Earth Art Exhibition in Vancouver – and in consultation with the Musqueam community – this work combines land, ecology and human history.

The curator of *Transformation Plant*, Grande spoke of our relationship with land and on the role of art – and artists – in celebrating and commemorating nature. Commenting on the intersection of art, space and the climate crisis, he said: "Even beauty can be political!"

Grande is the author of *Art Space Ecology: Two Views – Twenty Interviews* published by Black Rose Books in 2019.

◀ John Grande at Victoria Hall April 23. The Union Jacks were for the queen's jubilee tea the next day.

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*Retail Review*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Tadhana brings cosmopolitan flavour to Vic village

Spanish, southeast Asian and Chinese – to mention a few. We use annatto – both the seeds and the oil – as well as lemon grass,

chili oil, bay leaves and thyme.

“One of my favourite marinades is calamansi, also known as a Filipino lime,

which we import. The tart combination of lemon, lime and orange gives a burst of flavour.”

Tadhana’s charming space is more than welcoming, seating 36 upstairs and 34 downstairs.

“Downstairs has its own bar and a DJ,” adds Eric. “We already have a booking for a private event.”

Filipino wood carvings adorn the walls. A photo accessorized with real boxing gloves sparks my curiosity. It is an image of Emmanuel (“Manny”) Pacquiao, the Filipino world renowned as a prize-winning professional boxer. He is now a senator who is running for president.

For now, Tadhana is only open for dinner. Try the tapas (octopus kilawen or arroz caldo bone marrow), cauliflower steak pinakbet or kare kare rib eye steak with peanut-butter sauce.

But first you might like to “sip” a sunset in the spirit of Palawan, an island paradise in The Philippines. You’ll love the little umbrellas.

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Tadhana’s Ryan Oabel and Eric Lazaromagno.

There was a definite spring in the steps of local robins (and residents) after the sun-rain-sun-rain combo of last week. So May 3 was a perfect time to open a restaurant. As cities around the world become more cosmopolitan, so Westmount is an echo.

Proof? A wonderful new place to eat.

Located in the heart of Victoria village, Tadhana offers Filipino-inspired cuisine. “Tadhana” means “destiny” in Tagalog/Filipino, explained co-owner Ryan Oabel who showed me the interesting menu with business partner Eric Lazaromagno.

They know of what they speak. They already have two successful restaurants in Montreal: Sanwitz and Le Petit Tribe. Seated at the bar (they are licensed) for our chat, I viewed some brightly coloured drink umbrellas. Some might see these drink additions as corny, but I think it is great fun to see them make a comeback!

Under their stylish shade, drinks are served with edible flowers. “We offer a modern Filipino twist on traditional dishes. Through our country’s many colonizations, Filipino food is a mixture of

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Artists sell work for Ukrainian refugees



It was a cloudy, threatening eve April 26, but it did not deter art lovers from attending Artists for Peace, a fundraiser for Ukrainian Refugee Support held at the McClure Gallery.

The majority of the artists in the exhibition donated 100 percent of their sales.

Contributing their work were Ann McCall, Alexandra MacDougall, Kai McCall, Gael Eakin, Charles Colby, Jennifer Hornyak, Mary Martha Guy, Odile Cloutier, Sara Peck Colby, Philippe Van Eetvelt, Andras Csaszar, Bonnie Shemie, Cathy Benny, Cynthia Van Frank, Elisabeth Galante, John Bailey, Kay Aubanel, Lorna Mulligan, Maxine Cutler, Nina Cherney, Sean Wilson, Susan Joiner, Theresa Passarello and former Visual Arts Centre director Victoria Leblanc, who graciously volunteered to hang the show.

Even before the gallery opened five works were already sold. The event was the initiative of Andrea Lavergne, vp, Portfolio Manager, Connor Clark & ..... Lunn Private Capital, and *continued on p. 26*

► Amber Berson and Victoria Leblanc.

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**Social Notes, cont'd from p. 25**

co-organized with Odile Cloutier.

Lavergne's daughter Thérèse Casgrain was a volunteer, ably assisted by Edward Rutenberg. Guests were welcomed by the Visual Arts Centre director Amber Berson, who explained that the posted QR code could also be used to donate to the cause.

Noted at the vernissage was Marta Korwin-Szymanowski of the Szymanowski Foundation, which recently organized the Concert for Peace, a concert at the Notre Dame Cathedral to raise funds for Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

"The Korwin-Szymanowski family was the inspiration for the event," said Andrea Lavergne.

Also seen was Victoria Ave. neighbour Sisi Bortoluzzi, whose rhinestone-studded mask – perfect for May's Met Gala! – was a stylish relief from the ubiquitous medicinal white ones. She attended with Irwin Levy.

Mingling in the gallery space were Thea Koper, Peggy McGrath, Margo Kyle. Supporters included Susan and Ken Millman, Miriam Cooper, Robert and Sandy Presser, Christine Harkness, Penny Westman and Marc Germain.

High-Touch Communications volunteered the poster art work and graphics. Artists helping were John Bailey, who created the website, online for two more months to continue selling art for the cause, and Mary Martha Guy, who invited artists to participate. Artist Philippe Van Eetvelt volunteered for two days helping to set up and also staying to wrap up.

► Philippe Van Eetvelt and Marta Korwin-Szymanowski.

▼ Thea Koper and Peggy McGrath.



Thérèse Casgrain and Edward Rutenberg.



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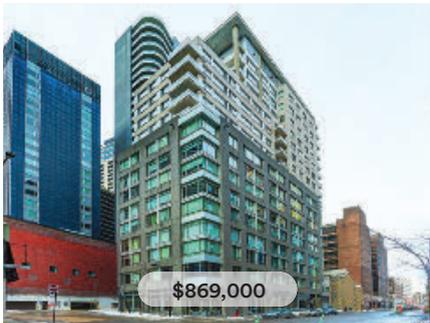
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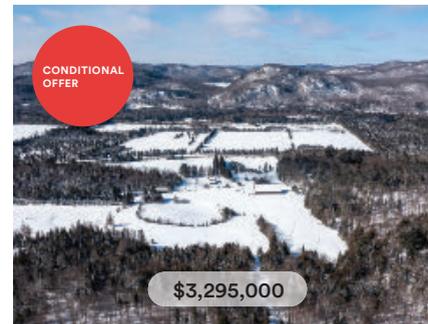
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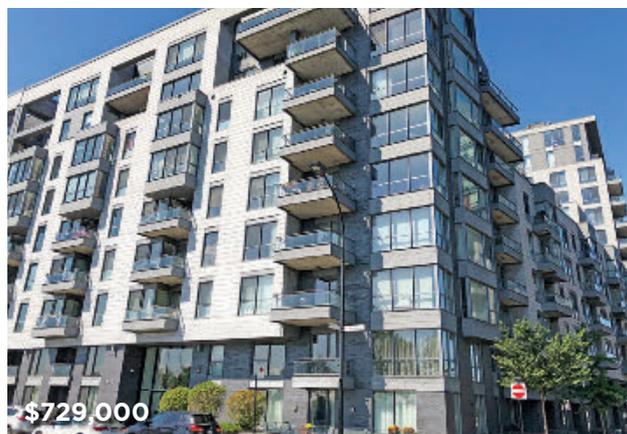


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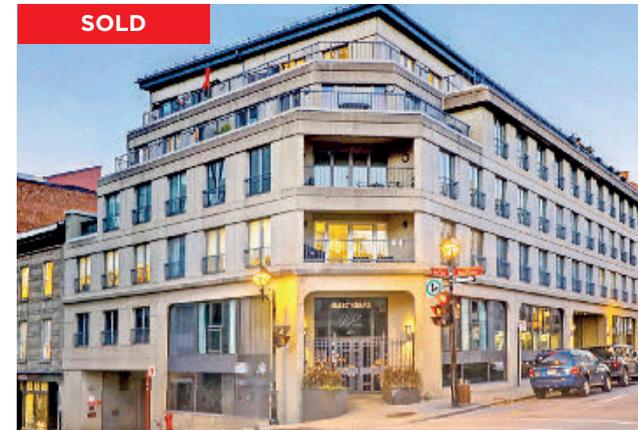


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