

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 16 No. 5c

We are Westmount

May 17, 2022

New games: bubble soccer & 'axe' throwing Family Day returns May 28 after two missed years

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

How about playing soccer in an inflated bubble? Or "axe throwing" using an inflated safety one?

These are two new attractions being added to the long list of regular features when the city's Family Day returns to Westmount Park after a three-year/two-event COVID absence. The 45th rendition will take place Saturday, May 28 between 10 am and 4 pm.

"We're just so excited to be back," said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. "It's the biggest activity we do to open up and bring summer to Westmount."

The event typically attracts hundreds of participants to the park.

Most of the regular attractions will be set up on the main Melville field. These include Eurobungee, five inflatable games, a petting zoo, pony rides, a make-up booth, traditional and novelty races, carnival booths and a train ride through the park pathways.

Also on the main field will be exhibits from Public Security, police, the Royal Montreal Regiment and fire department. Public Security will offer child seat inspections on Melville Ave. Community groups including Contactivity and Scouts will provide exhibits on the main pathway.

continued on p. 7

Westmount Park's 'Dolls of Hope' headed to refugees



Using a pattern provided by Dolls of Hope, students at Westmount Park elementary school cut out fabric shapes and mark the placing of the nose and eyes for teddy bears. The bears will be sent to the Dolls of Hope charity, which sends them on to refugee children. See p. 8 for story.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Four requests heard at long Demolition Committee meeting

City's old incinerator to go, private Murray Ave. garage stays

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A city demolition meeting to hear four requests one after the other May 5 took well over two hours as members of the Demolition Committee, comprising all member of the city council, deliberated and rendered a decision on each file.

Two involved garages described as accessory buildings. One was behind a Cat-

egory I house at 1 Murray Ave. – a request that was denied, as recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The other, at 665 Belmont, had already been removed on an emergency basis as recommended for acceptance by the PAC on condition the area be landscaped.

Another request related to property at 45 Roxborough, where a bungalow had exceeded *continued on p. 10*

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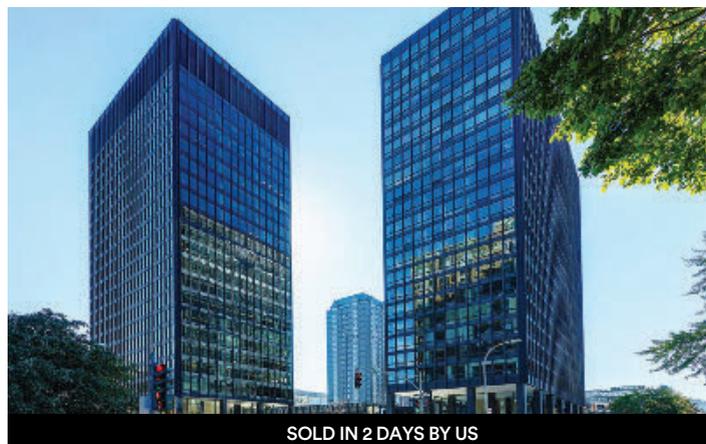
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Cyclist falls on bike path, taken to hospital

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A cyclist was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé May 10 after falling on the bike path in front of 4998 de Maisonneuve at Claremont, Public Security officials said. Though the incident occurred only a proverbial “stone’s throw away,” from the

MUHC super-hospital, she was transported to the CHUM, though the reason was not reported.

The cyclist, described as a 21-year-old woman from Côte St. Luc, was initially assisted by public safety officers called to the scene at 9:08 am.

She suffered pain in the left leg and was having trouble supporting herself. The pavement was checked but nothing found to suggest a reason for the fall and it was believed she had made a “false manoeuvre.” It was the first bike lane mishap reported recently.

on Sherbrooke with blood on his hands, they tracked him down as he “nonchalantly” crossed Victoria, department officials said. Keeping him under surveillance, they called police.

When police arrived, they stopped and questioned him on Lansdowne south of Côte St. Antoine to be told he had been trying to cope with the issue of a leaking urine bag.

Urgences Santé was called and transported him to the CHUM.

Described as “homeless and inebriated,” he was aged 52.

Library opens full time June 6, back to summer ‘normal’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It’s been a long time getting there, but starting June 6, the Westmount Public Library will be operating with full staff and on summer hours, it was announced last week.

It has operated on reduced time including no evenings since re-opening to the public February 14 after pandemic closures.

“It will be so good to get back to normal – to where we were before the full closure in March 2020,” said library director Julie Anne Cardella. “It’s a long time coming.”

This means the library will be open 10 am to 9 pm every weekday and Saturday 1 am to 5 pm. It will be closed Sundays, as usual during the summer, until September 4. Masks are no longer required and restrictions will be lifted on using photocopiers, the self-check machine and online public access catalogues from within the library.

The library has now hired 11 summer students, which helps alleviate the staffing challenge posed by the lack of part-timers during the pandemic, “so it’s all coming back together!”

Dog leashed in ‘Woods’ only after spotted by officer

A Westmount man was issued a ticket for \$277 for walking his dog off leash in Summit Woods May 10 at 5:30 pm, Public Security officials said. The German shepherd was spotted walking ahead of the man who, on seeing the patroller, ran up and leashed the dog. The man was described as known to the officer who had had “an interaction” with him in 2018.

2 ticketed for jumping lookout fence

Tickets for \$153 were issued May 9 at 9:38 pm to two 18-year-old Montreal men for trespassing in the restricted area at the summit lookout. Public Security officials said the two had been seen on the city’s surveillance camera as they jumped over the fence and went along a wall. One lived in NDG, the other in the Ridgewood area. Work to “reinforce” the damaged lookout is expected to start soon with an aim of re-opening it at the end of June or beginning of July (see story May 10, p. 1).

Homeless man tracked down, taken to hospital

When Public Security received a call May 8 at 9:38 pm for a man walking east

DON’T MISS OUR PULL-OUT

Spotlight

real estate section after p. 10

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List of 2021 transactions, p. SL-23

House history:

202 Côte St. Antoine/
472 Strathcona, p. SL-28

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Maccarone recognize St. Leo's orthopédagogues, students



From left, top row: Jennifer Maccarone, orthopédagogues Jailene Mingarelli, Edwige Nicolas, Lucie L'Archevêque and Gabrielle Livernoche, and Pascale Gingras, assistant director of the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (French school board); front row: students Othmane El Mariky, Jacob Michael Fiorilo Justiniano, Suran Dou, Yiguo Dong, Yifeng Dong and Yimo Cai.

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Provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis Jennifer Maccarone recently recognized teachers and students from St. Leo's elementary school with Quebec's Medal of the National Assembly and attesting certificates.

It is the highest honour that a member of the provincial assembly can bestow.

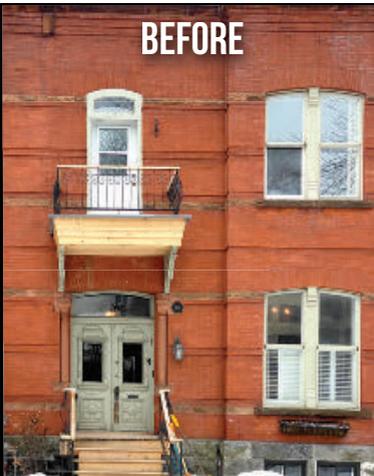
The school's entire team of orthopédagogues (resource teachers) was recognized. The French-only webpage of the L'Association des Orthopédagogues du Québec explains the term as the science of evaluating, and intervening for the benefit of, students who have or are susceptible to scholastic challenges, including learning

difficulties.

Students were chosen for their good behaviour, achievements, engagement, effort, perseverance and on the recommendation of teachers, according to Quentin Parisis, a counsellor at the province's Bureau des communications et de la participation citoyenne.

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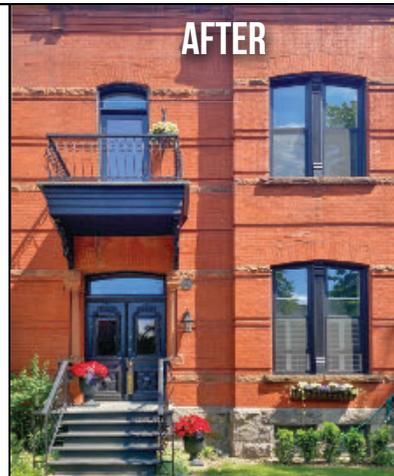
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Contactivity hits Westmount Park



A group of members from Contactivity participated May 10 in one of the seniors' centre's new in-person activities launched this month. Called "Walk in the Park," it takes place every week. Two staff members accompany participants at a "slower" pace through Westmount Park.

"We give each member a pedometer to see how many steps they do at each walk," said Benita Goldin, the centre's executive

director. "It's a fun and healthy program to get everyone back into regular outdoor exercise. Participants bring their own lunch and the group has a picnic in the park after the walk."

Also shown are Contactivity's new water bottles, which will be available for sale along with other items at Westmount Family Day, May 28 (see separate story, p. 1).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CONTACTIVITY.

Mother's Day returns to Miss Vicky's



From left, Melina Agarwal with Amaya, Madonna Abou Nassar with Cristian, Cristina Di Giovanni with Charlotte, Lea Cristante with Dalia and Carla Bogdaneris with Milo. PHOTO COURTESY OF R. METTLER.

"We were delighted to celebrate our annual Mother's Day breakfast again, after a two-year interruption," said Miss Vicky's administrator Reggie Mettler by email May 10.

The pre-school is located on Church Hill in St. Matthias' Church.

The pre-kindergarten students invited their mums for a Mother's Day breakfast on May 6.

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EDITORIAL

We are 15 years old – Thank you

Our first edition was published May 16, 2007, making us 15 years old.

I would like to thank everyone who has ever helped us, be they advertiser, source, reader, supporter in writing, supporter by word of mouth or advisor.

I would also like to thank all team members – past and present – regardless

of their expertise, including reporting, opinion writing, photography, design and layout, editing, sales, back office, printing, distribution and specialty advice.

It's been a great ride so far, and we hope to be here for many years to come.

Warm regards,

DAVID PRICE, Editor

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.
May 16, 2007 – Vol. 1 No. 1

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Building projects push limits, heading for a busy year

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

With the construction and renovation season shifting into high gear, Westmount could be headed for another trend-setting year.

In the first quarter alone, the value and number of building permits issued for alterations to one- and two-family dwellings are already running well ahead of those for the same period last year. And building activity in 2005 was higher than at any other time in the last five years.

The renovation boom can largely be attributed to the aging of homes and the desire of residents to increase living space, explains Joanne Poirier, urban planning director.

With the building envelope maximized, people are starting to look for new ways to make their houses grow from the inside," she said.

These are reflected in requests to recover space in attics and under sloping roofs, to build roof-top decks, and even excavate deeper to create sub-basements and multi-car garages.

It's this trend toward so-called monster houses – pushing upward and underground – that is raising new challenges for Westmount's city planners con-



This imposing home being built by Paul Nassar directly east of the location can be seen from Sherbrooke St. Following the curvature of the road, it occupies the former site of 22 Summit Circle and an adjacent property.

Freak peat moss fire damages apartment

In a rare occurrence, all the right conditions combined May 5 to ignite peat moss in a balcony planter causing damage estimated at \$4,000 to both the exterior and interior of an apartment at 3033 Sherbrooke St. (near Vignal).

Fire officials said the heat was so intense that it broke the window, allowing smoke to enter the dwelling on the fifth floor.

No injuries were reported.

Caused by spontaneous combustion, the fire was quickly doused by firefighters using a portable extinguisher from the building.

Such an unusual fire is difficult to prevent, says local Fire Prevention Chief Daniel de Vries.

"You need the right combination of perfect humidity, compaction at a certain temperature and strong sun." The wind also played a factor.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LET'S MOVE INDOOR POOL FORWARD WITH CITIZEN COMMITTEE

During question period at the recent May 2 city council meeting, Westmount resident Conor Sampson asked when the findings of the \$99,000 indoor pool location study awarded to TLA Architects Inc. in late 2021 (Professional Assessment Mandate INV-2020-056) would be made available.

Mayor Christina Smith responded that she would "have to get back to you on this." When Mr. Sampson pressed on asking if Councillor Mary Gallery (commissioner of sports and recreation and parks and greenhouses) was the point person for the project, the response was "no." End of discussion.

As an avid swimmer and strong proponent of the need for a year-round dedicated aquatics facility available to all Westmount residents, I get the feeling the pool project has again been relegated to the back burner.

And this, despite statements made by several candidates during the candidates' meeting at Victoria Hall on October 27, 2021, prior to the municipal election. The following are excerpts published in the November 2, 2021 issue of the *Westmount Independent*:

- Anitra Bostock (District 5) – "... said that for Westmount's seniors, an indoor pool 'is probably the most important and excellent exercise to keep our seniors mobile. And so, an indoor pool is definitely part of what we need in our city and something that we can work with other organizations to make sure that it happens."
- Matt Aronson (District 7) – "I would

love to give you a specific date. But as I am just a resident like you, I can't. I can't because there isn't enough transparency at city hall.' He said that, if elected, he would make sure 'you have that information so you don't have to wait four years and come to a public meeting to ask people for a date. You should already know what it is.'"

- Kathleen Kez (District 8) – "... an indoor pool is 'something that has been discussed' by city officials 'and at this point, before even coming to a date, we would have to find a location. So, that's where it's at now ... Locations are being evaluated. Absolutely.'"

Much as I appreciate the challenges of juggling infrastructure spending and numerous other capital works needs within the confines of the city's limited budget, it is equally important for our elected officials to follow through with their campaign promises.

This means providing clarity, being responsive, showing interest and being proactive.

Westmount is fortunate to have a strong contingent of residents with expertise in real estate development, construction, architecture, engineering and finance, to name a few. Why not capitalize on the city's best assets – its citizens?

I propose the city consider creating an Indoor Pool Committee composed of qualified residents tasked with guiding an indoor pool project through its various stages to eventual fruition. Committee members would be selected on the basis of experience/credentials and would carry out their duties in a voluntary capacity.

CLAIRE PANET-RAYMOND,
BLENHEIM PLACE

continued on p. 7

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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Sorry, everyone: No ET, no aurora

Westmounter Conor Sampson of CS-Design on Victoria Ave. contacted the *In-*

dependent to explain the "mysterious green light" seen over Westmount Park by Manish and Shaurya Dhore on May 4 (see May 10, p. 1). Sampson is a lighting designer and architect who is familiar with its source: Place Desjardins, located downtown at Jeanne Mance and St. Catherine. The shade of green

used to light up the building is actually the specific green of the *Mouvement Desjardins* logo. Sampson points out that this light needs clouds to be seen, whereas the *aurora borealis* needs the absence of clouds to be visible.

Anne-Marie Lacombe, assistant director of the Westmount Public Library, emailed us soon after with the same information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MANISH DHORE.

Invasive Japanese knotweed spreading

Fewer birds, more people this spring in Summit Woods

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Are more people the result of fewer birds sighted in Summit Woods over this spring's migration period?

The question was pondered last week by John Fretz, an almost-daily visitor to the bird and flora sanctuary at a time that so many species, including ground nesters, return from their winter habitats.

Fretz, a resident of Lansdowne, keeps "watch" over the area and recently organized a tour of the emerging wildflowers that attracted 18 people.

"I don't know whether the decrease in birds has to do with changing bird habits that take them to places like Île Notre Dame, or is it related to the growing number of visitors to the woods that has been increasing during the pandemic and even since the complete closure of Summit Circle?"

"It may be too early to tell about the birds," he added, suggesting that the coming week or so would will be "a deal

breaker to know. Regretfully with the closure of the lookout, we can't get to see what's happening in the hedgerows down in Sunnyside Park."

A member of Birds Protection Quebec, Fretz also spent many years as a member of the city's former Summit Woods Advisory Committee and the *ad hoc* former Friends of Summit Woods, which he hopes to resurrect.

Need maintenance

His concerns continue to be the protection of the natural habitat of the summit area and especially its wildflowers, trees and the condition of the trails, which he has asked for recently during city council question periods. The paths continually need to be maintained and new wood chips added, he said.

The lack of rain this spring has adversely affected the growth of wildflowers.

Invasive plants "are a real problem," he explained. Among them are wild carrots (Queen Anne's lace).

As well, the Japanese knotweed "is starting up again." This had been removed bordering Summit Circle as part of the project to permanently close the north section to traffic in 2017, he said.

The knotweed was also spotted recently outside a building on the north side of St. Catherine at Park Place, according to Kenneth Hilliam of Lachine, who keeps noticing knotweed in various areas. He told the *Independent* last week that the issue should be given greater attention across the Montreal area and people be made aware that it should not be added to composting.

Ontario, for example, has regulated Japanese knotweed as "restricted" under its Invasive Species Act. The need to remove this tall, invasive plant that spreads easily is documented in detail on the city's website under Environment/harmful and invasive plants.

Japanese knotweed: an exotic invader

Japanese knotweed, it states, is "an exotic invader that has been identified in

Westmount." Invasive plants are exotic species of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers spread by human activity, it explains. "They often have the ability to reproduce and spread rapidly and displace native species, causing an imbalance in the ecosystem."

Japanese knotweed is an aggressive semi-woody perennial native to eastern Asia. It was introduced to North America in the 19th century as an easy-to-grow ornamental plant and was used to counter coastal soil erosion because of its strong roots.

"Once found mostly along roadsides, ditches, and streams, its past commercial popularity and aggressive root system means it is now found everywhere and is often confused with bamboo."

The website says the best way to eradicate Japanese knotweed is to deprive the plant of sunlight and energy by cutting off all shoots on the ground.

These can apparently spread some 10 feet deep.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT HAPPENED TO WESTMOUNT?

As I return home for the summer, I note many differences around Westmount from my childhood memories.

The greenhouse is greatly missed after so long being closed; the water feature in Murray Hill Park has not worked for many years now, and shows no signs of being repaired; the basketball net in Murray Hill Park is still barricaded, although this seems like a simple project that could be completed for the summer; the tennis courts adjacent to the library are not in working order; and the lookout up at the summit remains closed.

In addition, the walking paths in Murray Hill Park are crumbling and are still dirty from the winter, benches are few and far between, and a number of park lights are not functioning (a safety risk). In several cities where I have lived there is an age-friendly initiative in parks and community spaces for repairing paths to reduce fall risk alongside re-designing benches and seating to ensure universal access for all ages.

I would urge Westmount to put some badly needed resources into our very special King George/Murray Hill Park, which seems to be particularly neglected (except for the toboggan run in the winter).

My hope is that my infant daughter will be able to enjoy the Westmount parks and amenities that I so fondly recall from years ago. For now, the good news is that despite how bumpy the disintegrating park paths make her stroller ride, she seems to sleep right through.

DIANA ANDERSON, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

Editor's note: In fairness to the city, the greenhouse project is quite far along, even if it did not meet an April opening date (see March 1, p. 1), and city council just voted funds to repair the summit lookout sufficiently to target a June/July opening. (see May 10, p. 1). – DP.

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE DUCKS

I am so grateful to be living in Westmount with its beautiful green spaces, especially Westmount Park, where ducks are now arriving in the lagoon. The only thing that dampens the joy is trying to explain to well-meaning folks that feeding the ducks is detrimental to their health and to the park environment.

Perhaps more signs are needed? westmount.org/en/resident-zone/safety-parking/community-safety/#1439316861782-de09e64b-b34f

Thank you.

LONI CORNAX, GROSVENOR AVE.

Family Day, cont'd from p. 1

Westmount Public Library will also have an exhibit launching its TD Summer Reading Club for this year with a theme of "Once Upon a Time: Myths and Legends."

Differing times

While most of the attractions open up in the morning, the games (egg and balloon toss, and tug of war), are scheduled for 12:30 to 1:30 pm and the carnival booths are to operate between 2 and 4 pm.

Food and refreshments will be provided for purchase throughout the day by the Café Mouton Noir, Girl Guides and Venturer Scouts.

A city flyer listing schedules is to be delivered to all homes and will also be available on the city's website.

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Ruth Stalker Antiques



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Westmount, Quebec
H3Z 1W1

Teddy bears likely headed to young Ukrainian refugees

Westmount Park elementary students make 'Dolls of Hope'

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount Park elementary school grade 6 teacher Sabrina Pianese had a project idea for her class last January: to make 100 bears for Dolls of Hope, in order to bring a little joy, hope and comfort into the lives of children living in a refugee camp somewhere in the world.

On May 10, Principal Marco Gagliardi welcomed the media to see the results so far. At 10 am, 21 students were hard at work cutting, stitching and stuffing the pint-sized teddy bears. Ninety-one bears were already crated up at the front of the class.

"We will deliver 100 bears to Dolls of Hope," and then "teacher Christine Vidal will drive them to the USA where they can be shipped to Dolls of Hope more cheaply," said Pianese.



The students show off some of the finished bears.

Destination of bears – origins of charity

Although the bears are not designated for any particular group, Pianese expects that they will be given to Ukrainian refugees. Dolls of Hope (www.dollsofhope.org) was started by a mother of five, who, while visiting Greece, came across a refugee camp and decided to launch a fundraiser



Teacher Sabrina Pianese, left, and student Mais Aboasali carefully stitch "bear fabric" with a sewing machine.

to bring a little joy and comfort to children in refugee camps.

She started making handmade dolls and bears to send to refugee children all over the world. Since 2016, Dolls of Hope has distributed handmade bears and dolls to more than 52,180 children in 41 countries. The teddy bear is a universal symbol of love for kids worldwide.

Pianese was proud of the cultural cross-section that is her class of 11- and 12-year-olds, which includes refugees, children of temporary residents and Canadians; and children from China, Japan, Somalia, Libya and Bangladesh.

"They join the class and immediately make friends," said Pianese. The stuffed bears will shortly be transported into the hands of displaced and refugee children, hopefully distracting them and providing comfort to their uprooted lives.

See also photo on p. 1.

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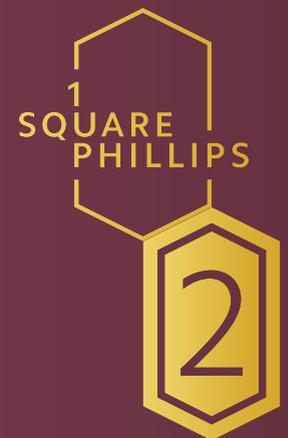
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Demolition Committee, cont'd from p. 1
the amount of permitted demolition three years ago, leaving what was described as an "unsightly" vacant lot. This request was now granted, with the building to be replaced by a two-storey house previously approved by the PAC.

The fourth request came from the city itself. This was to demolish an unused and highly contaminated building, the former city incinerator historically used to burn garbage and melt snow.

With its address as 30 Bethune Ave., the building rises behind Hydro Westmount at 995 Glen Rd. and straddles the Public Works yard at the top of the cliff. It is in the shadow of the newly built Highway 136 (the former 720). This request was granted in order to build a storage facility on the same site, whose design was not recommended by the PAC, as reported at the hearing.

Details of the decisions follow:

1 Murray: committee cites alternate uses

The garage, built in 1917 behind the 1905 Category I house, was described as showing significant deterioration and mold. The plan was to replace it with greenery and build a garage under the house. Even with demolition of the garage, the site coverage would be 31 percent, over

the 30 percent allowable limit so that nothing could be built on the space after demolition, Councillor Conrad Peart pointed out.

The committee's decision not to allow demolition was based on the fact that the garage could be converted into another use such as a greenhouse or garden studio (even though it could not be significantly modified because of the site coverage, significant cost to fix it up, remove mold and heat it), and that the PAC recommended the request be denied.

665 Belmont: urgent removal already done

This 1914 detached garage behind the house had been taken down on an emergency basis in December 2021 due to structural destabilization, according to the city presentation. It had been altered by the use of an enlarged door. The committee's decision to approve demolition after the fact referred to the above information. The replacement project was described as an in-ground pool and landscaping.

45 Roxborough: 'eyesore' site must be cleaned up

A Category III 1956 bungalow at 45 Roxborough went through a demolition hearing June 17, 2019 to remove the roof and add a second storey (see story June 25,

2019, p. 5). The current application was to endorse the 89.9 percent demolition work already undertaken, which exceeded the permitted amount.

The request was accepted unanimously by the committee, based in part on the PAC's favourable recommendation but taking into consideration the concern of a neighbour at 38 Surrey Gardens that the site be beautified "so as not to be such an eyesore."

Mayor Christina Smith said she understood that the project was an "irritant," had been a "long, long disruptive process" and that its unkempt state had "gone on for too long."

Incinerator, 995 Glen Rd.: no longer considered 'historic'

After 20 minutes of deliberation, the decision to allow demolition was read out by Councillor Conrad Peart based on a number of reasons. These included the fact that its historic importance had been reduced by the removal of the upper part of its chimney, that the building had not been used since the 1960s, contained a high degree of contaminants and that the unfavourable recommendation by the PAC pertained to the replacement structure.

"Most people don't even know it's there," Mayor Smith said in conclusion.

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And all this in the heart of Westmount. Manoir Westmount has inside access to Westmount Library, Victoria Hall and the soon to reopen greenhouses. Steps away from the shopping and restaurants of Victoria Village, nearby doctors and dentists and only a few blocks from the Glen hospital.

Visit our website for more photos and information, or call to arrange a tour. We would love to show you and your family all that is offered at Manoir Westmount.



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The Manoir is our own oasis of peace at the end of our long road. We are spoiled by a fantastic staff, always smiling and so very helpful. We have never seen such cooperation ... nurses, receptionists, maids, dining room helpers. ...Thanks for celebrating each special holiday ... not to mention the birthday teas each month. Thanks for all the activities: morning exercises, the arts and crafts, choir, book club and so many others! Thank you all for making us forget the passage and ravage of the years, you are all doing a fantastic job making us happy. We love our new family. – *Pauline & Stanley T*

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I want to express how much our family has appreciated the excellent compassionate care and comfortable accommodation my mother has had for the past almost 6 years. She so enjoyed her very full life there; ... the garden on the patio, the always delicious meals, and the many friends she made. During the last few years, as she became less active, she appreciated the extra kind care and attention she was given. – *Eleanor T*



infoWESTMOUNT

2022.05.17 • Vol. 3/09

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount**NOUVELLES**PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL**Mardi 7 juin****30 mai : ouverture de la piscine**

La piscine du CLW ouvrira pour la saison estivale le lundi 30 mai. Les réservations ne seront plus nécessaires, sauf pour la baignade en longueur en matinée. L'horaire de la piscine sera disponible sous peu. westmount.org.

Fin de l'obligation de porter un masque à l'intérieur des édifices municipaux

Conformément aux directives de la santé publique, le port du masque n'est plus obligatoire.

Bureaux municipaux fermés le 23 mai

N.B. : fermeture lundi pour la Fête nationale des patriotes. Les collectes ont lieu comme d'habitude.

Compost gratuit pour les résidents

Une quantité limitée de compost est disponible à côté des entrées des jardins communautaires du TAW. Apportez un contenant et une pelle.

Dépôt Belvédère : nouvel horaire

Le dépôt pour résidus verts est ouvert aux détenteurs de permis du lundi au jeudi de 7 h 30 à 16 h et le vendredi de 7 h 30 à 11 h.

Plan d'action du parc King George

La Ville a entamé la première phase de son plan d'action de 5 ans pour l'intervention ou le remplacement de certains arbres du parc King George. En savoir plus : westmount.org.

Jeux d'eau ouverts

Les jeux d'eau sont ouverts aux parcs Westmount, Stayner et Prince-Albert.

Bois Summit : chiens en laisse

Du 16 avril au 15 juin, les chiens au bois Summit doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS.

Inscriptions en cours

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

NEWSNEXT COUNCIL
MEETING**Tuesday, June 7****Pool opens May 30**

The WRC pool will open for the summer season on Monday, May 30. Reservations will no longer be required, except for the morning lap swim. The pool schedule will be available soon. westmount.org

End of mandatory masks inside municipal buildings

In accordance with public health guidelines, the wearing of face masks is no longer mandatory.

Municipal offices closed May 23

Please note the Monday closure for the Victoria Day holiday. Collections will take place as usual.

Free compost for residents

A limited quantity of compost is available at the WAG next to the community gardens. Bring a container and a shovel.

Belvedere Depot: new schedule

The garden waste depot is open to permit holders Monday to Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 7:30 to 11 a.m.

King George Park action plan

The City has begun the first phase of its 5-year plan for the intervention in or replacement of certain trees in King George Park. Find out more: westmount.org.

Splash pads open

Splash pads are available in Westmount Park, Stayner Park and Prince Albert Park.

Dogs on leash at Summit Woods.

From April 16 to June 15, dogs in Summit Woods must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES.

Registration underway

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

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES**Reprise de l'horaire régulier d'été**

À partir du 6 juin, la Bibliothèque sera ouverte du lundi au vendredi, 10 h-21 h et le samedi, 10 h-17 h. Visitez westlib.org pour l'horaire en cours. La Bibliothèque sera fermée les 22 et 23 mai.

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.

StoryWalk® : Sentier de Munsch

Parc Westmount. Découvrez le livre *Tout plein de câlins*, écrit par Robert Munsch et illustré par Michael Martchenko. westlib.org

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Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

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

Atelier d'écriture (9 à 12 ans)

Mercredi 18 mai, 16-17 h sur Zoom. Le nombre de places est limité. Inscris-toi à westlib.org.

Bercer le temps

Samedi 21 mai, midi à 18 h, parc Westmount. Une installation pour toute la famille, en partenariat avec *Festilou* et *les Berceurs du temps*. Apportez un pique-nique. westlib.org

La musique de film dans le parc

Mercredi 25 mai, 16 h, parc Westmount. Concert par le Senior Concert Band de l'école The Study.

Exposition jeunesse

Du 27 mai au 15 juin, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Des oeuvres d'étudiants de Westmount, en collaboration avec le concours d'écriture McEntyre.

Journée familiale de Westmount

Samedi 28 mai, 10 h-16 h, parc Westmount. Il n'y a rien de mieux pour fêter l'arrivée de l'été!

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**Return to regular summer hours**

From June 6, the Library will be open Monday to Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Consult westlib.org for the current schedule. The Library will be closed May 22 and 23.

Seed Lending Library

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

Munsch StoryWalk®

Westmount Park. Discover the book *Hugs*, written by Robert Munsch and illustrated by Michael Martchenko. westlib.org

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Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition

April 19 to May 20: The Architecture of Victor Bourgeau by Peter Lancken. westmount.org

Writing Workshop (9-12 year olds)

Wednesday, May 18, 4-5 p.m. on Zoom. Space is limited; register at westlib.org.

Lulling Time

Saturday, May 21, noon to 6 p.m., Westmount Park. An installation for the whole family in partnership with *Festilou* and *les Berceurs du temps*. Bring a picnic. westlib.org

Movie Music in the Park

Wednesday, May 25, 4 p.m., Westmount Park. Concert by The Study's Senior Concert Band.

Youth exhibition

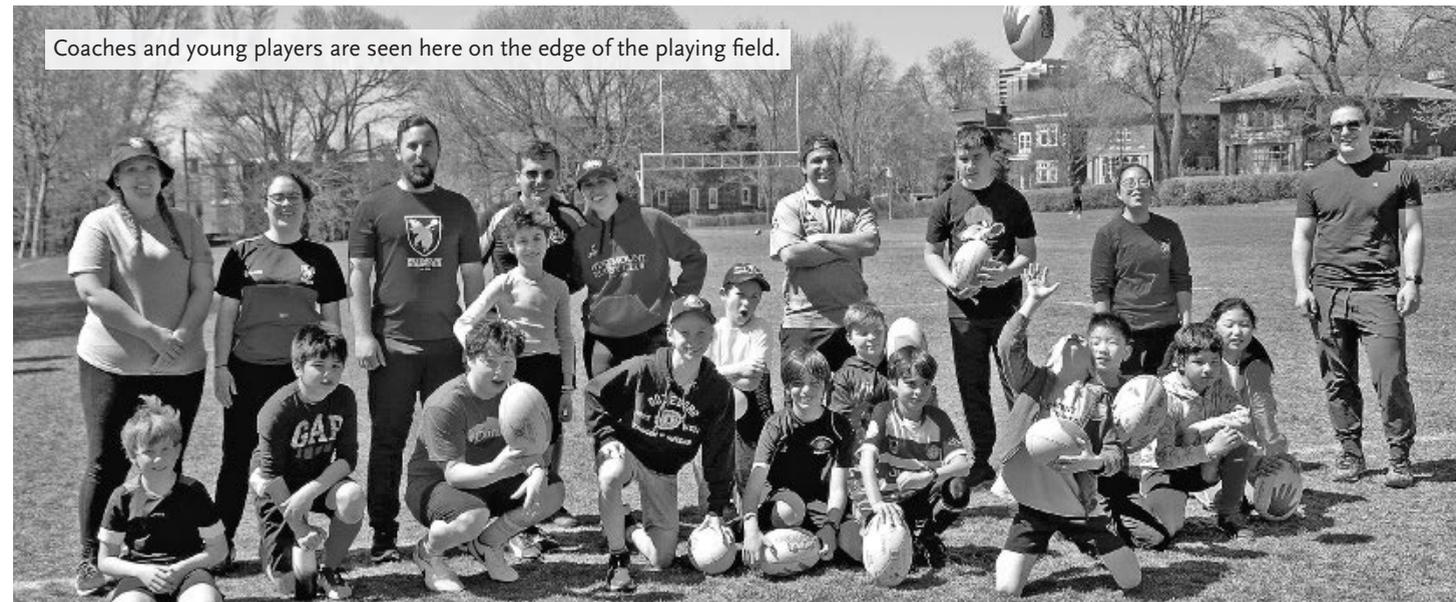
May 27 to June 15, Gallery at Victoria Hall. Works by Westmount students, in collaboration with the McEntyre Writing Competition.

Westmount Family Day

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westmount Park. The best start to the summer!

Westmount Rugby Club re-starts juniors' training program after 2-year COVID hiatus

Coaches and young players are seen here on the edge of the playing field.



BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While rugby on the surface may seem more straightforward when compared to North American football, there's a lot more to it, according to Westmount Rugby Club co-president Tiffany Luong.

On the morning of Sunday, May 8, kids and parents from Westmount gathered on the playing field at King George Park on Westmount Ave. for the first practice in 2022 of the WRC's juniors' program.

There was great sun, enthusiastic players, and some hopeful beginners in rugby.

Although rugby and the type of football most of us are familiar with have a number of things in common, one of the most apparent differences with rugby is how quickly the ball gets passed from player to player during a single play.

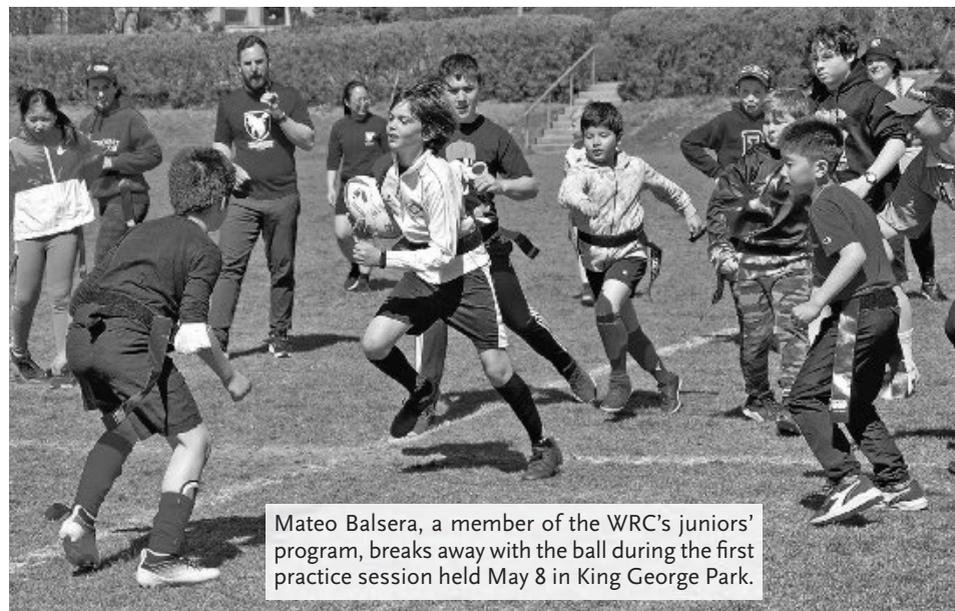
But rest assured, the complete set of rules for rugby "is a bit more complicated," Luong said, while noting that for the sake of the children's introduction to the sport

"we simplified it a lot," she added.

In addition to its juniors' program, the WRC has two men's rugby teams, as well

as a team for women.

The juniors' program is for kids from ages 8 to 14. As of last week, there were 25



Mateo Balsera, a member of the WRC's juniors' program, breaks away with the ball during the first practice session held May 8 in King George Park.

children in the program, which been on hiatus over the past two years during the COVID pandemic.

The young players will be practising every Sunday until the end of June in King George Park, with the possibility of "jamborees" to be held in the month of July.

Luong said the jamborees will be matches bringing the young players together with junior members of other Montreal-area rugby clubs.

The WRC has a website (westmountrugby.com), a Facebook page, and can also be found on Instagram. Westmounters with questions about the program can send e-mail to Tiffany.luong@live.com.



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Police Report

Suspect goes pantless after breaking into Dawson College

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

“Not your typical B-and-E,” is how Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel described a break-and-enter incident that took place at Dawson College around 4 am on May 7.

Whatever the motive of the presumed male perpetrator who forced his way into the college through a small window, he left the scene near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Wood Ave. minus his pants, which were bloodstained after he suffered cuts from broken window glass.

The break-in was initially reported to the college's security staff by passers-by, who said they had found blood on the ground outside in the yard near the shattered window.

Security personnel followed the trail of blood inside to a locker room, where they found discarded and bloodstained clothing, identified as a pair of shorts, although no sign of a perpetrator. “They seized it in case it belonged to the suspect,” said Pimentel.

He said the investigators sent the shorts to a specialized police lab for forensic analysis, and they are verifying whether se-

curity cameras captured images of the suspect – before or after he removed the shorts.

Dog food stolen

Another rather unusual forced entry took place around 7:30 pm on May 6, when an unknown perpetrator broke into a basement storage locker in an apartment building near the corner of Grosvenor Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Although the locker reportedly contained a variety of items, the suspect decided to take just one thing: a significant quantity of dog food being kept there.

“That’s all they stole,” Pimentel said.

Get-paid-but-reimburse scam

Although fraud incidents in Westmount have been relatively few in recent weeks, compared to a large number over the past few months, investigators at Station 12 have opened a file on a recent case involving a *modus operandi* that is being seen more often.

A local resident complained at the station on May 11 that he was contacted on the internet by an individual who offered to pay him \$500 for the rights to use pho-

tos posted on an Instagram account.

The resident was sent an e-transfer payment in the amount of \$2,000, which was confirmed to have been deposited in his bank account. The suspect then told him he would need to reimburse \$1,500, since they agreed on a \$500 payment.

After transferring \$1,500 back to the suspect, the resident found out a few days later that the \$2,000 transfer had been reversed because the suspect's deposit was found to be invalid.

This kind of scam is possible because of payment- and cheque-clearing processes used by banks, which typically take several days.

“This is another kind of fraud that’s been going on – making a deposit and asking for reimbursement of the difference,” said Pimentel. “We don’t see it too often, but it’s still something to guard against.”

We welcome your letters

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

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Zuzu alone now

fectionate, she has only known stability until now and is a bit shy in this new phase of her life.

Zuzu was doted on and well cared for and, at 14 years young, is an engaging and healthy senior. She is spayed and will be up to date with her inoculations shortly.

She is on a wet-food diet and she has a great appetite for meals and treats. If you would like to find out more about Zuzu, please do not hesitate to contact Emily at editor.wilkinson@gmail.com.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Precious Zuzu will have new joys in her life, with so much caring and companionship, if we can be there for her with a helping hand. Her master has very recently passed away, and his family is reaching out to us as neighbours to find a new home for Zuzu as soon as possible.

She is a beauty, a delicate marmalade tabby with huge green eyes. Sweet and af-



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Happy, happy Jax



He is the most affectionate and playful fellow!

Jax is so keen on a new life in a family setting in our neighbourhood, a perfect environment for this active ever-so-hand-some beagle type.

Jax is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, ready to go to a new life of companionship and play. He adores cuddling and is always keen on a good walk as well.

He was in a home where there was less exercise and a lot of treats, so he will certainly appreciate an active lifestyle to trim down a bit.

He is classified as a humanitarian adoption with a reduced adoption fee because he is a bit roundish and requires a committed family to set the lifestyle goal to reach his best weight.

Jax is six years old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He would be best in a house environment, as he is vocal at some points, whereas this should calm down a bit as he gains self-assurance in a routine.

To catch up on his bonding, he should be the only pet in the home. He was not used to children in the past either, which would be new.

If you would like more information on Jax, please do not hesitate to refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, referring to his information page under his identification number 50057135.

Once you have opened his profile page, please click on the "Fill out the form" square, which sends your completed adop-

tion form request to coordinators to offer more information and to schedule an appointment for a visit.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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VILLE DE | CITY OF
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit and for a preliminary program for the accessory building located at **178 Côte-Saint-Antoine Road**;
2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **June 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount and will be broadcasted live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>

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

www.westmount.org

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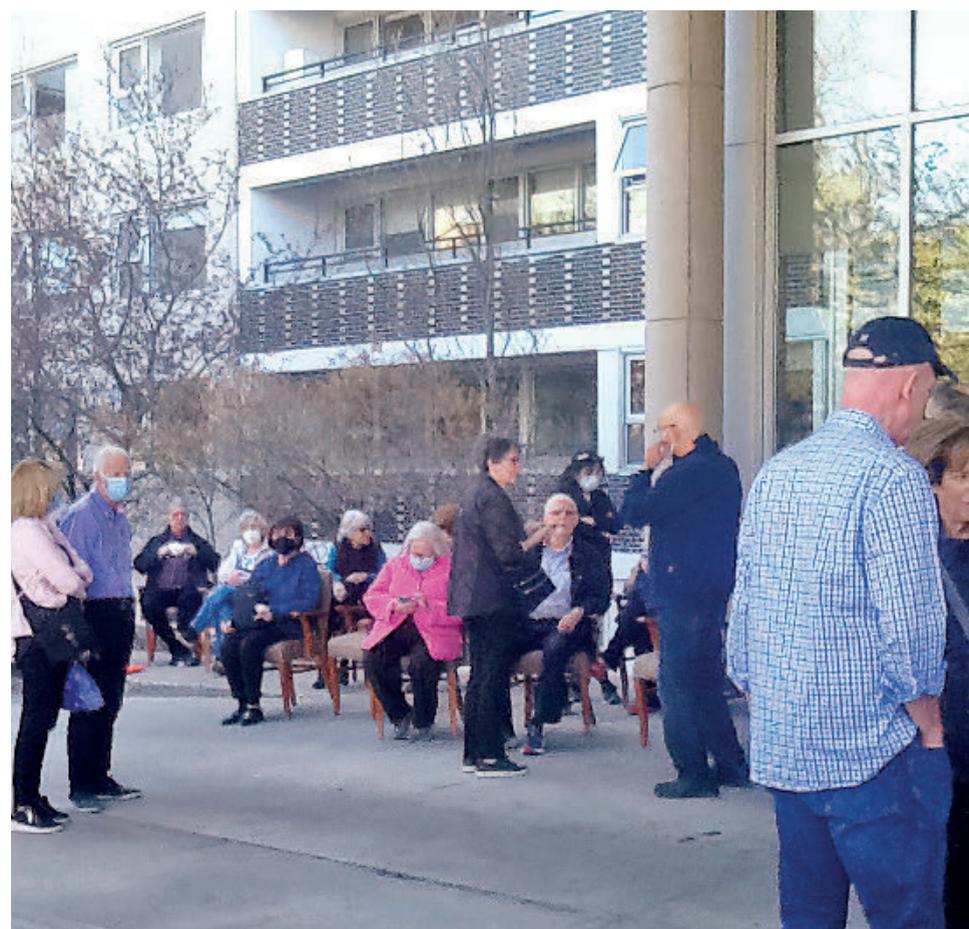


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Fire alarm at '4300' – motor burnout takes out a second elevator



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There was a fire alarm at the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment building the morning of May 9.

The cause was a motor burnout in one of the west wing's three elevators, according to resident Michael Price, leaving only one elevator working out of three in that wing.

He speculated that the fine weather increased residents' willingness to leave the building, resulting in a higher than usual number reacting to the alarm.

Montreal firefighters were well received and received a cheer as they left.

Price is the father of the *Independent's* editor.

History

Calls to the fire department are a fairly frequent occurrence at the building. Indeed, a source at the Montreal fire department's Station 76 told the *Independent* earlier this year (February 15, p. 12) that eight calls in less than six weeks was not extraordinary given the size of the building and the number of seniors living there. Despite the number of calls, the source said that the building was "right up to code."

Concerns about elevators in residential buildings are not a new issue in Westmount (see, for example, October 1, 2019, p. 8).



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Find your 'Angle' by June 23

and this just in: a waxed-cotton week-end bag.

Charming hand-drawn watercolours of Quebec birds, flowers and sea creatures can ease the onslaught of Photoshop-ped “perfect” social-media minutiae messages.

I loved the little Bambi grouping and the whale – appropriate right now as wayward minke whales have been sighted near Montreal.

There is also the finest toy doll collection I have ever seen. No Barbies here. No

plastic faces – or bodies for that matter.

Each is hand-made with accessories such as little dresses and sleeping bags.

“We are truly a pop-up,” Nadine explained. “We are here until the end of June, so we show two seasons: spring (including Mother’s and Father’s Day) and November-December (“*temps des fêtes*”).

Théo adds that they “choose craftspeople from all over the province; the principal tenet being the quality.”

There are hand-made chocolates, perfumes and clothing. I smiled at the fun elephant with holes in his back to hold crayons; or why not pens to cheer up a work space?

My favourite piece was a striking orange Scottie dog. In fact, he is made of folded special paper! An awesomely amusing accent piece for any room. In all, there are 40 local artists, designers and crafters. But you have to go yourself to discover. And touch.

ANGLE MTL
4205 St. Catherine St. (corner Greene)

Monday: 10 am to 5 pm

Tuesday: 10 am to 6 pm

Wednesday-Friday: 10 am to 7 pm

Saturday: 10 to 5 pm

Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm.

Pop-up store closes June 23.



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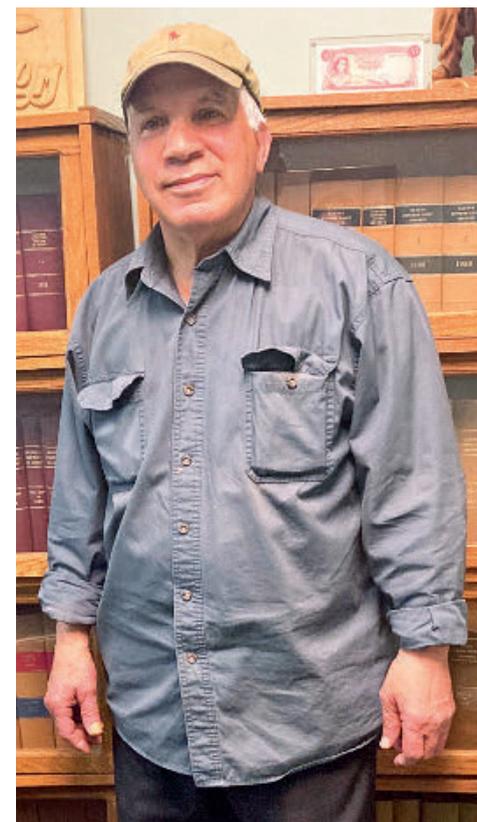
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Nouredine Staali turning 72

Long-serving superintendent of 310 Victoria Ave. office building retires in June



Nouredine Staali May 11 at 310 Victoria Ave.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Nouredine Staali has been superintendent in charge of 310 Victoria Ave., corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd., for a decade and late in June – on a day that happens to coincide with his 72nd birthday – he is retiring.

Staali credits Barry Friedberg, the landlord of 310 Victoria, with giving him a chance when he really needed a job.

“The owner is very good to me. I asked if he had any work and he said ‘Yes, come and work on the weekend.’ I started part-time in 2012 and in 2014, I replaced the janitor and stayed on permanently.”

The offices of the *Westmount Independent* are on the second floor of the build-

ing.

“Nouredine has been a great addition to the building,” said David Price, editor of the *Independent*. “He has always had a kind word and a joke at the ready, even during these past two years of COVID. We will miss him and we wish him well in retirement.”

‘Canada is a very good country, too’

Originally from Tunisia, Staali moved to Canada in 1976. It is “best country in the world,” he said referring to his native Tunisia, but “everybody says that their country is the best, but Canada is a very good country, too.”

Staali is retiring because “my left foot hurts me now and I cannot walk like I did

before, so maybe it is the time to stop. But I really like it here. I do not want to stop.”

Staali is busier now, he said, because 310 Victoria’s office workers got tired of working remotely and have returned to the building.

“Many people now come every day. I will miss the people the most. I like the people very much and when I go outside the building, everybody knows me and I am very happy here.”

His immediate plans upon retirement are to garden and return to vacation in his native Tunisia. There he plans to ride camels, he said, but with a smile and a wry wink – so those excursions may or may not happen.

Mini Social Calendar: No Masks. Hooray!

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE, COLUMNIST

Friday, May 27

The MUHC Foundation presents Le Bal Rouge/On Fire! Co-chairs Mélanie Bernier, senior vice president and chief legal officer, PSP Investments; Ian L. Edwards, CEO, SNC-Lavalin; and Ivan Vella, chief executive – Aluminum, Rio Tinto.

6:30 pm

Dress: Black tie with a touch of red.

Windsor Station, 1100 Avenue des Canadiens de Montreal

Tables of 10: \$50,000, \$35,000 or

\$20,000. 2 tickets \$5,000

Contact: Mary Arvanitis 514.743.4253

Maria.Arvanitis@MUHC.MCGILL.CA

Lebalrouge.com

Tuesday, June 7

Place des Arts hosts the 11th edition of Future Stars’ Grand Première, featuring harpist Valérie Milot, artistic direction and guest conductor Hubert Tanguay-La-

brosse, and soprano Myriam Leblanc with emerging artists Emrik Revermann, (violin); Elisabeth Pion (piano), Romain-Olivier Gray (cello) and Devon Packer (piano and composition). Also performing are Zal Sissokho (kora), the Orchestre de l’Agora and Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal.

6:30 pm cocktail

8:00 pm performances

9:30 pm dessert-and-wine reception

Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

175 St. Catherine St. W.

Tickets \$500

514.285.4535 or evenement@

fondationplacedesarts.com

Friday, June 10

La Nuit des Balkans. Orchestre Nouvelle Génération, founded by maestro Yuli Turovsky and now directed by his daughter Natasha Turovsky. Featuring virtuoso soloists Paul Merkelo (trumpet), Alexandru Sura (clarinet) and André Moisan (cymbalum).

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Centre St. Jax

1439 St. Catherine St. W.

Tickets \$40. \$35 (seniors) and \$25

(students)

info@orchestrenouvellegeneration.com

Wednesday, June 15

Chez Doris presents Gimme Shelter – Day and Night! Honouring campaign co-chair Elizabeth Wirth. Co-chairs Mila Mulroneu and Louise Roy. MC Ben Mulroneu. Benefit cocktail to celebrate the close of Chez Doris’ successful major campaign and to pay tribute to campaign co-chair Elizabeth Wirth. Proceeds support Chez Doris’ new emergency overnight shelter and its new permanent residence.

5:30 – 8:30 pm Cocktail-dîatoire

Le Salon Richmond

550 Richmond St.

Valet parking

Tickets \$300. Sponsorships \$1,000-10,000

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