

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 16 No. 6d

We are Westmount

June 21, 2022

Demo hearing for 178 Côte Rd.

City council okays interior updates to super-protected Goode House

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In what could turn out to be a landmark decision, city council June 14 at a demolition hearing rendered unanimous approval to allow updating of the interior of the historic stone Goode House at 178 Côte St. Antoine. A large, two-storey addition at the rear of the house has yet to be okayed by council, but the approval of these interior updates clears a major hurdle for that project.

This is a distinctive 1840 Category 1* house relatively untouched over time that two years ago by a city by-law became the

province's first private residence to have its interior and landscape protected under Quebec's Cultural Heritage Act. The exterior is governed by the city's regulations for 1* buildings.

The council decision followed a passionate appeal from the homeowner and a lengthy detailed presentation by Architem architect Mira Katnick on their proposals to "dismantle" and restore some of the protected elements to render the house habitable for today.

"If we knew at the time, we would never have bought it," owner Robert Sibthorpe said of the *continued on p. 4*

City's greenhouse to open June 23



The inside of the city's greenhouse/conservatory on June 16, a week before the planned re-opening. It was closed in 2015 for safety reasons and is located between the Westmount Public Library and Victoria Hall, on Sherbrooke near Lansdowne. See story, p. 10.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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To be ready for the fall: Mayor Smith

City to bring back its plan to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's been four years and counting since the city announced an intended ban on gasoline-powered leaf blowers but then

No issue next week (June 28)
Next issue: July 5

granted landscape contractors a reprieve based in part on waiting for Montreal to require similar regulations.

Last week, however, after city of Montreal boroughs to the west and east of Westmount announced a similar ban to go into effect that week, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* that Westmount would now be following *continued on p. 22*

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Contactivity marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONTACTIVITY.

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, a contingent from the Contactivity Seniors Centre held an in-person “show of solidarity” with Ressources ethnoculturelles contre l’abus envers les aîné(e)s, a Montreal organization dedicated to the cause.

The day is one created by the United Nations and marked around the world to provide an opportunity for communities to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons.

The group walked from Westmount Square and around Westmount Park ending with information tables outside Contactivity. It was the first time to mark the day in person after a two-year hiatus, according to organizer and the centre’s outreach worker Fiona Smith.

Shown with them near Melville are two police officers; two police cadets from Sta-

tion 12; Kim Colquhoun, assistant director of Westmount Public Security; and city councillor Kathleen Kez, commissioner of public security.

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Heroic measures needed to re-balance Summit Woods’ ecosystem by Diana Bruno, p. 6

Trees need close companions to thrive by Tony Moffat, p. 7

Breaking from the (Quebec Liberal Party) past by Colin Standish, p. 11

Indie’s summer schedule

June 28: no issue
(Dominion Day observance)

July 5 & 12: issues

July 19 & 26 and August 2:
no issues
(usual summer break)

Beginning with August 9 issue:
weekly until Christmas

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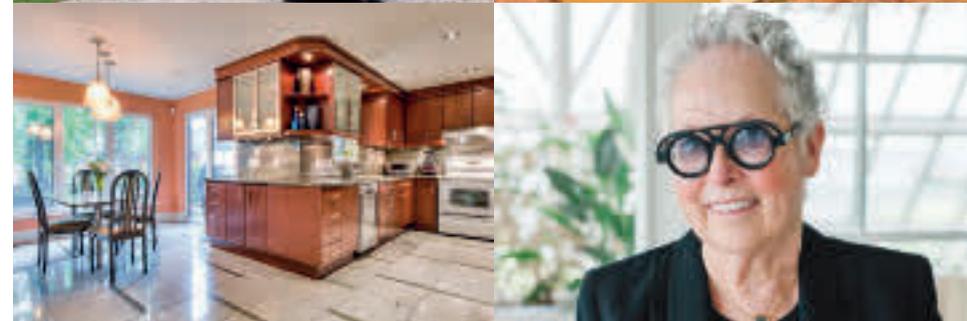
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Goode House, cont'd from p. 1

home's protected interior status. This, he contended, had been "withheld from us under false pretenses" at the time of sale on June 15, 2020 as well as until the city's by-law was legally received.

"It is expropriation without consultation" he alleged.

Preservation requires a family

"To preserve this house, it needs a family to live in it," Sibthorpe continued. "This is a family's house. It is our house, not the city's house or the citizens' house." The process to make it habitable had been a great expense to the family, which, he

said, had been subjected to emotional stress, intimidation and invasion of privacy.

The city's decision, read by Councillor Mary Gallery, was based in part on the "respect for protected key elements" in which rotted and crumbling building materials would be replaced by other original ones while plaster and wood moldings would be preserved or faithfully reproduced.

The work involves dismantling and reconstructing the front vestibule, demolishing accessory buildings at the rear – a lean-to and greenhouse – as well as lowering window sills on the rear to provide a



This is a new rendering of the planned two-storey addition from Architem architects.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF ROBERT SIBTHORPE.

connection with the proposed addition, whose style was not subject to the demolition meeting, Mayor Christina Smith pointed out.

The plan also calls for updating for safety purposes the interior staircase between the first and second storeys, and removing one coal-burning fireplace, again because of the addition.

There is also to be a swimming pool added at the south end of the large property.

An initial plan depicted on the city's website to make an opening through the west façade of the house to access the basement was recently changed to provide an access from what is to be the new addition. This reduced demolition from 0.9 to 0.5 percent.

Past the point of return: Cllr. Roux

Commenting when the decision was announced, Councillor Elisabeth Roux said she had been to the house and was "surprised to see the state of the deterioration." Some of the conditions had "gone past the point of return" making the house impossible for a family to live in.

Councillor Matt Aronson spoke about the owners' perseverance to make the house livable for a family, showed that the

"process works" and that the decision was "not the beginning of a slippery slope" regarding work to a Category 1* house.

For Councillor Jeff Shamie "tonight we all made a unified decision," which he said was a "shout-out to our democracy."

Councillor Conrad Peart, the commissioner of urban planning, was out of the country but was known to approve of the proposal, Mayor Smith said.

The city had long maintained that the house needed to be modernized and updated to be suitable for today's living. The by-law, however, would serve to highlight the design elements of high value during any requests for changes (see stories July 7, 2020, p. 8 and September 22, 2020, p. RE 14.)

For and against

While the city had received 20 letters of comment as part of the consultation process, most of them opposing the plan, representatives at the meeting from the Local Heritage Council challenged the council's power to disregard its opposition to the plans while others spoke at the meeting in favour.

Richard Dufour, of Anwoth, who built an infill house on Lansdowne, said that people "had to have faith in the professional expertise of the city."

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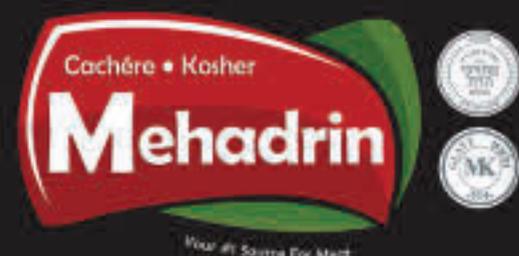
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Canada Day Splash Bash and St. Jean

Celebrations return in force after pandemic hiatus



BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the two upcoming holiday weekends, the city is making up this year for the two when celebrations were missing in 2020 and 2021 over pandemic shut-downs after 2019.

Starting with a full line-up on June 23 the day before St. Jean/Fête Nationale, Westmount Park will be full of activities and programs followed on Friday, July 1 by the traditional afternoon Canada Day Splash Bash, BBQ, pool games and birthday cake.

No citizenship ceremony

The only thing missing this year is the Canada Day citizenship ceremony that usually takes place on Canada Day but was not offered this year, Mayor Christina Smith said last week. “The sessions are only virtual this year,” she explained.

“We have an amazing line-up in Westmount Park,” for the St. Jean/Fête Nationale festivities starting off at 5 pm, June 23 in Westmount Park (south of the playground), said assistant library director Donna Lach, who is organizing these activities for the city’s Community Events department.

They are set to start with “picnic time” at 5 pm when Cirque 3-2-1, a circus family

Remember pre-COVID Splash Bashes at the Westmount pool? In 2019, James Sugden, at the time a lifeguard and university student, made one of the most spectacular splashes of the afternoon.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

of four, will perform with juggling, climbing and playing on a trapeze. The kids then have their turn. It’s during this time that food trucks and Scouts’ cotton candy will also be available.

Then at 6:30 pm, a new Story Walk will be launched by Mayor Smith and Jennifer Maccarone, Westmount’s Quebec legislative representative, when they read *Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox* by Métis author Danielle Daniel.

Music

This is to be followed by words of welcome with cupcakes available for all. Events will be capped off with a concert at 7:15 pm by Grosse Isle, a traditional music trio fusing Irish and Québécois repertoires.

Throughout the time, from 5 pm to 8 pm, caricatures will be provided by Patrick Dea through an iPad so people can receive them on their own equipment. Also planned is face painting along with a colouring table.

It is expected that the newly restored greenhouse/conservatory, including the “frog pond,” will be open at this time (see separate story, p. 1).

July 1 will be a red and white day when Canada Day kicks off at the Westmount recreation centre with the traditional BBQ on the upper deck at noon followed by the Splash Bash at 2, the traditional cake cutting by Mayor Smith at 3, and fun and games and music at the pool through the afternoon until 5 pm.

“Everything is ready to go,” said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. “We will be sending a flyer to all households.”

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Guest column

Heroic measures needed to re-balance Summit Woods' ecosystem

BY DIANA BRUNO
AND KATHERINE WALSH

Westmount's natural treasure, Summit Woods, is the site of silent warfare between indigenous botanical species and non-native colonizing invaders.

On April 30, nature enthusiasts of all ages responded to Westmounter John Fretz's offer, written in a letter to the *Westmount Independent*, to lead an early-spring tour of Westmount's urban forest.

The morning walk in brilliant sunshine on the southside trail was a moment in time glimpse at a variety of wildflowers in bloom – tiny blue-flowered scilla, delicate white-flowered bloodroot (*sanguinaria canadensis*), yellow-flowered trout lilies (*erythronium americanum*) with their distinctive green and brown dappled leaves, and early meadowrue (*thalictrum dioicum*), their buds still tightly closed on the emerging flower stalks.

Two weeks later: May 14 walk

Two weeks later on May 14, when John Fretz led a second walk, the flowering landscape had changed. In bloom were delicate, creamy white-flowered false Solomon's seal (*maianthemum racemosum*), bellwort (*uvularia grandiflora*) with nodding, bell-shaped, pale yellow flowers, and hillsides of white trillium (*trillium grandiflorum*) in the northeast area of the woods. A portrait of harmony in paradise. Not quite.

At 201 meters above sea level, Summit Woods includes the highest point in Westmount and the lowest of Mount Royal's three peaks. It covers 23 hectares with 3.1 kilometres of meandering narrow paths and wider trails. According to a 1998 city-commissioned survey, there were 43 plant species, 13 shrub species, and 20 tree species, including four invasives. In 2013, botanist Jane Atkinson's comprehensive study of flowering plants and shrubs from spring to fall listed about 90 different species.

John Fretz estimates that less than half remain today.

Invasive plants thrive near trails

Stopping at sites of botanical survival of the fittest, Fretz explained that most of the wildflowers grow along the sides of trails where there is sunlight. Over years of regular visits to the woods, he has observed more and more opportunistic non-indigenous species spreading along the trails and into the wooded area where sunnier conditions are created by the city's felling of trees.

Among the aggressive species battling for territory with the native wildflowers is wild carrot (*daucus carota*), also known as Queen Anne's lace, an import from Eurasia.

Wild carrot is the most prevalent invasive threatening to take over the ground cover replacing wildflowers. Fighting back, the native trout lily's strategy for survival is to bloom ahead of the wild carrot's encroaching, suffocating dense foliage. Bloodroot is spared some of the wild carrot onslaught as it also blooms first and has wide leaves to catch the sunlight.

Bellwort and false Solomon's seal are other targeted plants.

A trio of invasives

Three invasive species in the southwest entrance area – goutweed (*aegopodium podagraria*), stinging nettle [*Urtica dioica*], and poison ivy – have pretty much wiped out false Solomon's seal and trillium there. Like a bulldozer, goutweed, a tuberous spreading plant that creates a difficult-to-remove mat on the forest floor, effectively displaces native species in its way.

Under attack by both wild carrot and stinging nettle, false Solomon's seal uses height – by growing a tall stem – to seek out and catch sunlight.

Although eradicated by root injection a few years ago, non-native Japanese knotweed (*polygonum cuspidatum*) is returning

in force. For now, it's localized along the north face section below the promenade, the gravel path that in 2016 replaced the paved road surface of northern Summit Circle, and on the hill above the Westmount lookout.

Making inroads alongside trails is another colonizer, garlic mustard (*alliaria petiolata*) with 2- to 4-foot-tall stalks covered with numerous small four-petaled, white flowers in May. It's aptly named as all parts of the plant release a characteristic odour of garlic.

These invasives all work the same way – they crowd out native plants, including wildflowers, and take over the forest floor. In contrast, indigenous plants flowering as if on cue, take their space and time to bloom and then bow out, replenishing the forest with nutrients from each cycle of bloom and decay, nourishing other species like birds that feed on the insects attracted to the plants.

Invasive trees present, too

Dr. Robert Zimmermann, a former biogeography professor at McGill, pointed out the same struggle for space by native tree species. Originally Summit Woods was a mixed deciduous, hardwood forest of long-living native red oaks (*quercus rubra*), sugar maples (*acer saccharum*), black cherries (*prunus serotina*) and ashes (*fraxinus americana*). These indigenous trees were and

continue to be displaced by scrubby, fast-growing, short-lived non-native species such as Norway and Manitoba maples (*acer platanoides* and *acer negundo*).

After the 1998 ice storm, the common buckthorn (*rhamnus cathartica*) proliferated, overwhelming and killing the surrounding plants and shrubs. A grove of mid-height canopy trees like the common buckthorn has barren ground underneath; nothing grows under its branches that reach for the sky. And, like other invasive trees, it provides nutrients for birds for a limited time only.

Trees in a forest need undisturbed areas for their seeds to regenerate and continue a multi-generational age structure which ensures there will always be replacements for aging trees.

Summit Woods is a nature reserve, not a park; the aesthetics are necessarily different. A forest where plant, and especially tree, debris is allowed to decompose on site provides the soil with nutrients for new growth and nurtures new seeds. Pileated woodpeckers can often be heard helping the process.

History of Summit Woods

In 1895, Sir William Macdonald, the tobacco magnate, saved the summit of Westmount Mountain from developers by buying up the land, farms and estates on and around it and donating it to McGill University.

In 1940, McGill sold the land to Westmount to protect it from further encroachment, providing that it remain a "park and playground in perpetuity." Until 2010, it was known as Summit Park, when it was renamed Summit Woods to better reflect its urban forest ecology.

This nature reserve, wildflower and bird sanctuary also attracts a different kind of invasive species, spotted in greater numbers since mid-March 2020 when the COVID pandemic started. Visiting two-legged invaders include hikers, joggers, dog walkers, birdwatchers, forest bathers and nature lovers.

Cumulatively, it is both what is and isn't done that affects the ecosystem of the woods. When people or dogs stray from the trails and paths, especially in the spring, emerging perennials get trampled, and in summer and autumn, the urban forest floor, effectively slowing down the forest's capacity to regenerate. When the trails and paths are not regularly maintained, the combination of poor drainage and accumulating puddles causes them to widen, leaving the native wildflowers with less continued on p. 7



Foliage of invasive stinging nettle.



TONY MOFFAT

Trees need close companions to thrive

synthesis process to manufacture food and grow.

Trees also provide shade in the summer and protection from cold winds in the winter, and they are key in holding the soil from eroding – much superior to a grass lawn. They also provide habitat for many living creatures from insects to larger animals, all part of our important bio-diversity. For humans, trees are also beautiful and help make cities like Westmount a green paradise.

Trees helps trees

But trees do better when they are in groups, where they can communicate with and help each other – something that has only been recognized relatively recently.

As Simard points out from her own forefront research at UBC (including her

excellent TED Talk), this is facilitated via huge networks of fine fungal fibres (how's that for triple alliteration?) called mycorrhizal networks.

These in turn link up with tree-roots underground and provide crucial minerals for the trees in return for sugar from the trees that the fungi cannot produce themselves, because they have no chlorophyll but need sugar as energy to survive. This symbiosis works well for both, but functions best when there is more than one tree.

Meaning of mushrooms

(By the way, it is fascinating to note that the mushrooms we see bursting out here and there especially towards the end of the summer are the above-ground “flowers” of the underground mycorrhizal networks that pop up and spread their zillions of

pores in the reproduction process.)

So why plant trees in isolation, as seems to still be the normal custom in cities like Westmount?

Even the trees in Westmount Park are mostly too far apart for this symbiotic process to function properly and enhance the quality of our trees. Therefore, I am asking Westmount to consider this important element when it comes to any future tree planting, i.e. please plant like trees in close groups rather than solo, be it in parks or by sidewalks – and only native species.

That's how Summit Woods does it naturally and look how popular the Summit Woods are! Follow Simard and make WWW stand for “wood-wide-web.”

As British-Canadian author Jessica Lee says in the title of her latest book: *Two trees make a forest.*

Summit Woods, cont'd from p. 6

space to grow and thrive, and affects the balance of the ecosystem. It may sound contradictory, but unlike a wilderness forest, an urban forest needs maintenance to stay natural.

Summit Woods used to be lush with a profusion of botanical species and over 100 bird species nesting in the spring. Now, only a few lush pockets remain, for example, along the Promenade towards the north facing woods, beautiful and thick, still attracting migrating birds such as warblers and indigo bunting.

Today, Summit Woods risks long term ecological impoverishment. Invasive species simply do not provide the nutrients needed to keep an urban forest and its

biodiversity of plant, animal, and insect life healthy. They destroy the harmony of the forest; they do not integrate but instead take over the natural ecosystem which has evolved over thousands of years. The result is a loss of habitat, especially for migrating birds.

Amis de Summit Woods?

By the end of the Saturday walks, the takeaway for both groups was the importance of protecting the natural state of the Woods. Why not create an Amis de Summit Woods, inspired by Mount Royal's Les Amis de la Montagne whose volunteers protect its biodiversity and native habitat by helping to manage invasive species and planting native trees while gaining insight into a forest ecosystem? Why not include a QR code on the site's information boards linking to a website with detailed botanical information, and much more, about what should be an extraordinary Westmount green space?

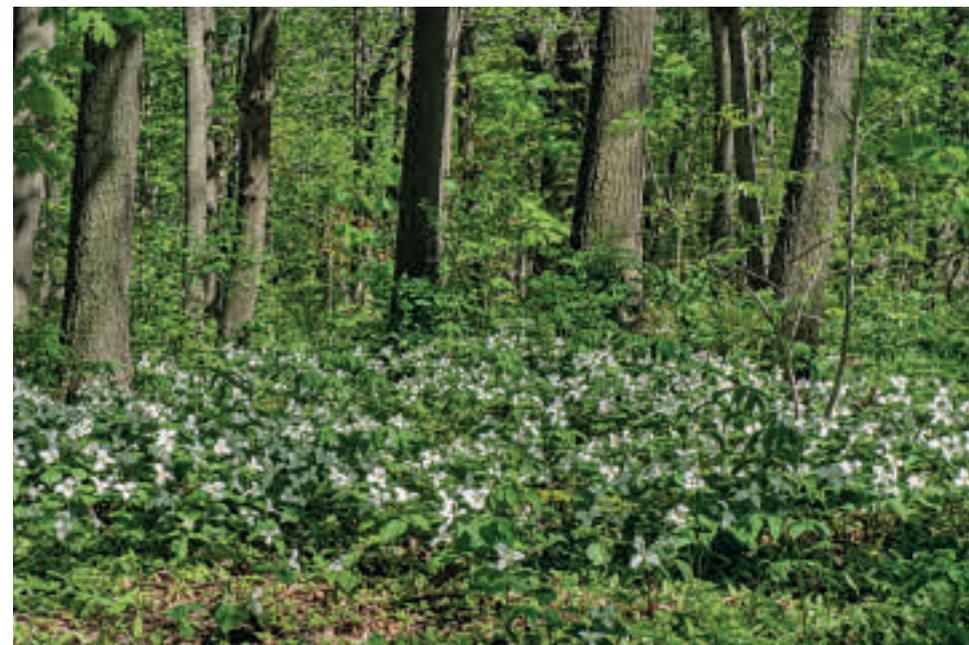
The city's Summit Woods Advisory Committee, in which John Fretz was active for many years, appears to be dormant. Eventually, only heroic measures will restore Summit Woods to a balanced ecosystem. Without leadership and timely action, Joni Mitchell's words will become reality: “Don't it always seem to go, you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.”

Photographer Diana Bruno is a longtime resident of Westmount who was president of the Westmount Horticultural Society from 2000 to 2003.

Katherine Walsh is a longtime resident of Westmount and has a master of environmental science degree.



Scillas in bloom.



A carpet of trilliums in the forest.



Bloodroot flower and leaves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHY CAN'T ARLINGTON AVE. HAVE MAIL, OR TEMPORARY MAILBOXES?

Open letter to Andrew Laplante, city of Westmount Engineering department

Before I launch into complaints, I would like to say that [the city's contractor] ForAction and its employees have been universally friendly and helpful since they began work here on Arlington, in particular when it comes to helping us all navigate our way up and down the road, whether by foot or by car. Never have we felt in any danger as a result of the work, which, once one has seen the holes in the pavement, is clearly necessary, if inconvenient.

Which brings me to the question – why are the postal workers no longer willing to deliver our mail? My husband and I walk up and down numerous times a day, either with our dogs, or going to work and doing errands. Since both of us have long qualified as seniors, I am surprised that the younger and fitter Canada Post and Puro-lator employees deem it too difficult. We note that other delivery services continue to find ways of providing for their customers.

Instead, we must find time and energy either to walk to Greene, and/or to pay to park our cars while we go to collect our mail. The city of Westmount has clearly negotiated with the various companies responsible for waste collection – Thank you! – so why is mail service not deemed important? The rumour here is that it will take six weeks if we get a temporary box.



Temporary mailboxes on Sherbrooke St. for Mt. Stephen Ave. residents during road construction last year, as seen October 1. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

What a joke.

EMY BENJAMIN & GRAEME LOW,
ARLINGTON AVE.

REACTION, AGREEMENT, AND CONTRASTING EXPERIENCE

In the *Westmount Independent* of June 7, a trio of items:

1. Two full-page ads from the city of Westmount re: "THE CITY IS INVESTING IN ITS STREETS."

Ahhh yes, one invests in the streets and as my wife is fond of saying "Yes, one invests in the streets to calm the traffic, while one enrages the drivers." I do not have an economics degree or any great knowledge of economics but being still a car driver, I really wish the city would first fix all the roads that are in poor condition before spending millions to pretty up etc., etc., etc. existing beautiful streets.

2. In letters to the editor, "What's wrong at Westmount city hall?" by Michael R. & Marielle A. Wertheimer. Please note that I have been a fairly frequent commenter re items from city hall for over the past 40 years. And while under prior administrations I would at the least get an acknowledgement and usually a reply, yes, sadly, I have found with the recent administration, starting with Mayor Smith, that neither she nor her councillors reply, nor do they even acknowledge receipt of any communications I have sent.

3. Front page re: "Public demo hearing on Goode House set for June 14."

I am amazed at the largesse Westmount is now showing regarding changes to one's property and to a heritage designated building!!! I still remember trying to get the permit for new roofing for our house 12 years ago. Our house had regular asphalt roof shingles, and after several repairs and replacement of the standard, as-per-Westmount-specifications asphalt roof shingles, we decided on using special shingles that looked *identical* to the Westmount-required roof ones. Except whereas in those days the asphalt shingles came with a five-year guarantee, the shingles we wanted came with a 50-year one. Of course, they were also more expensive. The horrors that we went through to have it accepted by Westmount we still remember.

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

CLLR. KEZ RESTORES FAITH IN POLITICS

Notwithstanding all the complaints about the non-responsiveness of city hall to its constituents, I would like to give credit to [District 8 councillor] Kathleen Kez. My experience has been that she is extremely prompt in answering emails, and unfailingly helpful in offering whatever solutions are feasible; a model councillor in my opinion.

She restores my faith in the political process!

MARJORIE GRIFFIN, DORCHESTER

IF ENGLISH IS SPOKEN, AND NO PERSON HEARS ...

Premier François Legault is concerned about the reported decline in the number of people who speak French "in the home." Does the demographic research include single persons living alone "in the home"? I live alone in my home with my dog. I talk to her often, secretly in English, hoping never to be caught.

CATHERINE KIERANS, ST. CATHERINE ST.

PUBLIC SQUARE WOULD BE BETTER THAN PICNIC TABLES

The evening of June 8 was perfect. The sun was out, there was a light breeze and the temperature was a very comfortable 22°C. It was the kind of night you would expect Greene Ave. to be "animated" with dozens of people sitting at one of the 26 picnic tables and 10 benches placed on the street.

Only, the tables were completely empty.

So, if on a perfect evening no one is making use of them, why are they still cluttering the street, reducing visibility for drivers and pedestrians, making it much more difficult to park, and leading to constant traffic gridlock?

Let's be clear; this is a failed experiment that never had any merit to begin with. It was a solution to a non-existent problem, and one that led to a whole bunch of new problems. If city councillors who championed this initiative had any vision, they would have created another public square or two, on the other corners of de Maison-neuve and Greene, or they would expand the seating area at the existing public square.

Having another seating area similar to the one at 5 Saisons would create a true public square, one worthy of Greene Ave, and would allow the city to remove those hideous, low-end picnic tables.

But of course, they won't do this, because it's clear one of the motivations behind this council's actions is to make driving as disruptive as possible for the city's residents.

It should be noted that Councillor Kez, to her credit, recognized last summer that the placement of tables on Greene below de Maisonneuve was in retrospect a bad idea, and asked council to remove them, but was of course denied.

This season, she was again overruled by the omniscient council when she asked for her section of Greene to be table-free. So what's the point of having councillors if they aren't free to make decisions in the

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

best interest of their districts?

It seems there is a growing consensus from Westmount residents against having these tables. Let's see if city council finally pays attention and does the right thing.

STEVE MYRO, WESTMOUNT SQUARE

PEDESTRIAN STREET WOULD BE BETTER THAN PARKING LOT

Greene Ave. has always been my favourite street in Westmount, since I moved here in June of 1977 to work at '1310' CKGM and now 35 later, I'm closer than ever, living at Rosemount and Sherbrooke. Now "post COVID" – if there is such a thing – I notice the "Greene scene" has undergone a new direction, although traffic still goes in the same direction.

Festive circus colours adorn the street plus picnic-table seating is quite welcoming...however, I notice that because vehicle parking is now allowed on both sides of Greene, only one lane of traffic moves through in the middle. Today, it dawned on me why there's always a line-up of cars barely moving in the centre lane! Because every time a parked car tries to leave its spot, plus the car driving in the middle sees a soon-to-be-vacant parking spot, a whole line of traffic naturally comes to a standstill

from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine and all points in between...proving this idea, though well intentioned, is not at all practical in keeping even a low level of traffic moving... Back to the drawing board Westmount! Perhaps make Greene a pedestrian-only street (party)!

DOUGLAS PRICE, ROSEMOUNT AVE.

Correction: St. Stephen's church hall demolished

Contrary to what we wrote in our May 24, p. 1 story, the church hall of St. Stephen's Anglican Church was demolished *on purpose* in 2001. Former incumbent (2011-16) and priest-in-charge (2000-2002) Reverend Nick Brotherhood explained by phone June 16 that the building had become unsafe and been condemned by an engineer. Of interest to local historians: it was the original home of The Open Door homeless shelter. – DP.

No issue next week
(June 28)

Next issue: July 5



VILLE DE | CITY OF
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BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS FERMÉS Les vendredis 24 juin et 1^{er} juillet 2022

Les bureaux municipaux et la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount seront fermés le 24 juin en raison de la Fête nationale du Québec et le 1^{er} juillet en raison de la Fête du Canada. La Bibliothèque sera ouverte le samedi 25 juin et le samedi 2 juillet.

Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED Friday, June 24th and Friday, July 1st, 2022

Westmount's municipal offices and Public Library will be closed on June 24th for the Fête nationale du Québec and on July 1st for the Canada Day holiday. The Library will be open on Saturdays, June 25th and July 2nd.

The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

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City's heritage greenhouses set to re-open June 23



The city's greenhouse on June 16 and, right, the attached wing containing the "frog pond."

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

They're ready to be visited this week! Just shy of their closure seven years ago, the city's newly restored heritage conservatory and "frog pond" are expected to re-open to the public June 23, complete with plants.

Mayor Christina Smith provided the long-awaited news last week just as finishing touches were being made to the accessibility ramp and workers were still going in and out of the historic cascade greenhouse section. Details of the opening were still being finalized.

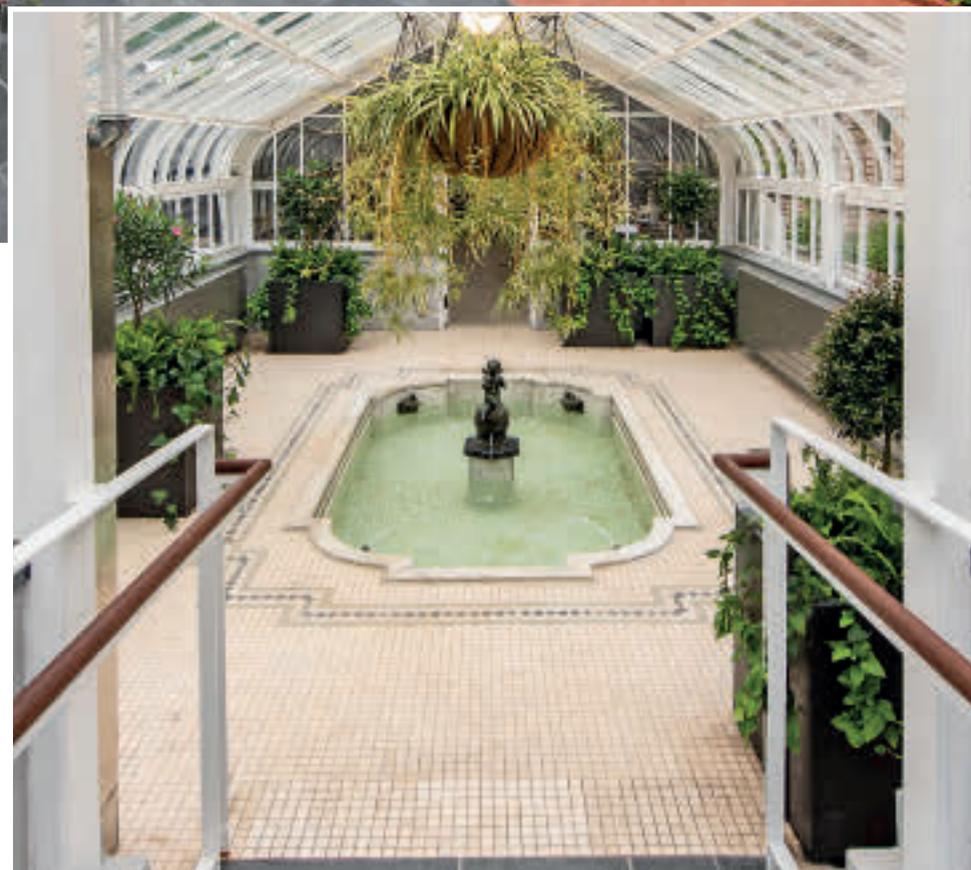
Some \$6 million later, a decision has yet to be announced on the future of the remaining work/grow houses that form a sprawling complex behind the restored

conservatory. All city plants were once grown in these currently derelict buildings. Most of the bedding annuals used outside by the city are now purchased and planted fully grown.

One scenario suggested by Mayor Smith was levelling these greenhouses and using the space to provide much-desired community gardens.

The two heritage areas that have been restored were closed for safety reasons when a pane of glass fell from the conservatory (the display area) September 20, 2015, narrowly missing a man seated on a bench below. Other panes were subsequently discovered to be loose and the structure in need of painstaking work (see story October 20, 2015, p. 1).

See p. 1 for another photo.



Guest Column

Breaking from the (Quebec Liberal Party) past

BY COLIN STANDISH

“We only speak French in the assembly,” said the staffer of a Quebec Liberal Party minister in April 2012.

I had been chatting in English in the inner sanctum of the assembly, outside the cabinet boardroom.

“Oh, really? Section 133 of the constitution legally ensures all Quebec laws, regulations and the legislature have to be equally English and French. As you know, right?” I responded.

He scowled.

The June 7 *Gazette* piece co-signed by five former Quebec Liberal Party MNAs (Lawrence Bergman, Clifford Lincoln, Russell Copeman, Geoffrey Kelley and Russell Williams) reminded me of this moment.

English-speakers need to break from our “Stockholm Syndrome” to the Quebec Liberal Party.

Quebec Liberal Party has failed

Here is why: The Quebec Liberal Party has failed on the core issues they ostensibly represent: federalism, human rights, language rights and economic prosperity. These core values have eroded, and in truth, never really existed.

Let’s explore how the Quebec Liberal Party has failed to advance its stated values, policies and Quebec’s best interests.

The Quebec Liberal Party does not protect language rights.

The Quebec Liberal Party has passed more language laws than the PQ and the CAQ. They repeatedly increased the budget of the OQLF to pursue small business owners for trivial linguistic violations, from menus to buttons on air conditioners. The Quebec Liberal Party passed Bill 22, allegedly making Quebec the only “officially French province.” They have renege on promises of bilingualism and in-

voled the notwithstanding clause to suppress language rights.

The Quebec Liberal Party has defended minor language infractions in court, intervened to diminish French protections in the ROC and has reinforced laws to curtail judgments.

On human rights and identity politics, the Quebec Liberal Party has betrayed all Quebecers.

The Quebec Liberal Party has the same flawed definition of state secularism as the PQ and CAQ. This form of state-sanctioned religious coercion forces Quebecers to choose between employment, essential government services and their personal beliefs.

In fact, the Quebec Liberal Party were leaders of it: they proposed the first attempt to legislate secularism with Bill 94 in 2010 and passed Bill 62 in 2017 on, “State religious neutrality.” Anglade’s solution to Bill 21 is to remove the notwithstanding clause in two years time.

But, wait, they stand for federalism and our constitution?

Nope. The Quebec Liberal Party does not recognize the 1982 constitution nor the Canadian Charter. The Quebec Liberal Party gave us two constitutional accords that would have Balkanized Canada, devolved federal powers, categorized Canadians into hierarchies, and inserted a “distinct society” into the constitution. The Quebec Liberal Party-initiated Bélanger-Campeau Commission recommended... a referendum on independence.

Addressing criticisms of Canadian Party

Let’s now address the inaccurate narratives cast onto our party:

The Canadian Party of Quebec is a new party, not an Equality Party 2.0.

We offer a new paradigm for language,

identity, governance and prosperity for all Quebecers. We will fight for the rights of all Quebecers, including English-speakers. We envision a society where old divisions recede, where our languages are respected and celebrated. We envision a Quebec that reclaims its mantle as a leading free, culturally progressive, bilingual, and innovative society in Canada and North America.

The Canadian Party of Quebec is not a protest party.

We are proposing the formula and vision for a prosperous and inclusive post-Quiet Revolution Quebec: the answer to petty identity and language politics, perverse incentive structures and an ever-diminishing socio-economic fabric. We intend to establish ourselves as leaders beyond the current election.

The Canadian Party of Quebec is not exclusively for English-speakers and minorities.

While being fiercely grounded in the protection of minority and language rights, we believe this is a unifying policy for the betterment of Quebec. We support a new cohesion and sense of collective purpose

for all Quebecers.

The Canadian Party of Quebec will not make Quebec a “Louisiana.”

Though, we do support more Cajun cuisine, Mardi Gras and jazz!

We intend to incentivize French-language and culture in a constructive way, while respecting human rights and dignity, language rights and the economy. We stand tooth-and-nail against proposals that cripple human dignity, individual liberties and our unity as Quebecers.

CAQ’s laws aim to extinguish English

Bills 21, 40 and 96 have restructured our country and society in fundamental and illegitimate ways. These laws seek to extinguish the English language, speakers and institutions from Quebec.

In this election, acquiescence is no longer an option. We offer a new blueprint for post-Quiet Revolution Quebec. Join us in embracing a new political option. The future of our ability to exist in Quebec and our nation (Canada, that is) depends on it.

Colin Standish is the leader of the Canadian Party of Quebec.

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terviews, archive documents and original music inspired by places.”

It can be accessed by downloading the Portrait Sonore application from the App Store or Google Play, according to a city press release.

The city has been protecting the various religious sites for their heritage value and contribution to community life including a historical and heritage project initiated in 2015 (see story July 7, 2015, p. 4). A walking tour also was provided by the Local Heritage Council and the Westmount Historical Association (see story – September 25, 2018, p. 8).

Exploring city’s religious sites

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents interested in knowing more about Westmount’s 11 places of worship can now access a documented “sound walk” to the locations using an app to provide interviews and original music inspired by the houses of worship.

The project was launched June 16 by the city’s Urban Planning department, the Local Heritage Council and Portrait Sonore, an independent non-profit organization.

Portrait Sonore produces documentary walks across Canada in the form of “immersive urban and dynamic journeys: in-

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‘On jase tu?’ held across province

Westmount Park sparkles for seniors

A local *On jase-tu?* event took place June 4 in conjunction with others held across

Quebec. The goal was to join an intergenerational movement against the social isolation of seniors. Members of the city of Westmount’s Community Events team welcomed over 130 seniors to Westmount Park for tea, coffee, Timbits and an out-

door concert of classic songs from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s by Gary White. Student volunteers served refreshments, talked to the members of the audience and placed sparkle tattoos on the arms of the attendees.

“It was enchanting to see (and hear) the crowd sing along with Gary as he played beloved ‘golden-oldies’ that you never forget the words to,” assistant Westmount Public Library director Donna Lach told the *Independent* via email.



Andrea Feldman with her sparkle tattoo.



Crowd raising their cups to “Three cheers for Tim [Horton’s],” which “graciously supplied the refreshments,” according to Westmount Public Library assistant director Donna Lach.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA LACH/WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.



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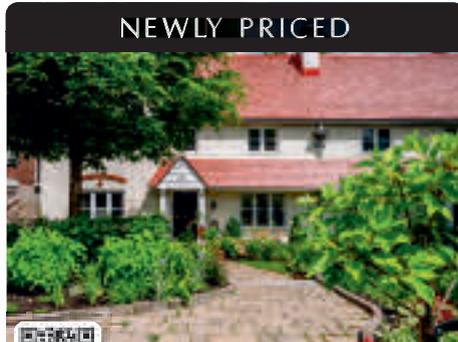
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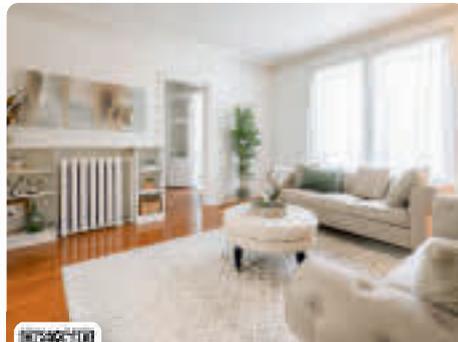
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Bitcoin: Local connections, local views

BY JENNIFER BALL

Unlike traditional assets, Bitcoin has no intrinsic value to underpin it. There's no bricks and mortar, no revenue stream and no inventory. It is a de-centralized digital currency that can be transferred on a peer-to-peer network. Transactions are verified through cryptography and recorded in a ledger called a blockchain.

A sharp plunge in the value of this “crypto-currency” occurred this month. At time of writing, it was down 58.68 percent year to date. Compare this to the Toronto Stock Exchange, which was down 10.80 percent over the same period.

Globex's Pereira: Bitcoin for people seeking 'fast buck'

“Bitcoin is basically [for] people who think they are going to make a fast buck tomorrow,” George Pereira of the currency exchange bureau Globex 2000 on Greene Ave. told the *Independent*. His business does not trade it because “you need special licenses for that. We are not licensed and our bank will not accept us doing banking with them if we do any sort of Bitcoin,” Pereira said.

Westmount business owner Michael Toulch is the co-owner of Optik Avenue, at St. Catherine St. near Wood Ave., with Earl Asimov, formerly of Vision 21/20. He has followed the story behind the rise of crypto-currency with interest, although they don't currently use it for purchase transactions in the boutique.

“What appealed to me is that it is a de-centralized, non-governmental, ‘free to everyone to purchase’ currency, and that is something that has never been achieved previously,” Toulch said.

Another of the Bitcoin's mysteries is not when or if it will return to its peak price, but who its founder or possibly founders are. Little is known about him or them, and it is impossible to verify if he/they own a material amount of Bitcoin, as is alleged.



A BTM at Lee Discount House on June 15.

Westmount's sole BTM?

As things currently stand, Kyum Kim, the owner of Lee Discount House Inc. at 4843 Sherbrooke St. near Victoria, owns the only Bitcoin ATM (or BTM) in Westmount that the *Independent* was able to find after scouring local shops and services. The convenience store has been in operation for 32 years and when asked if he was keenly following Bitcoin's valuation, he replied “I know nothing about the price of Bitcoin.”

When asked why he made the decision to install the BTM, he said “to make money.”

Indeed, the appeal for a convenience store to offer a BTM is that it takes up a minimal footprint inside a store and can offer the owner solid monthly returns. The rental fees for BTM are often tied to the monthly transaction amounts going through the machine, with many owners profiting whether Bitcoin is bought or sold or their premises.

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Another view of Murray Park

A 180-degree fish-eye photograph of Murray Park's black locust trees taken May 29. The bottom of the



photograph is the southeast side of the park where Murray Ave. comes to a dead-end at the park.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON FOR THE WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT.

Police Report

Late-night 'after party' promise turns into a robbery on Clarke

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A 22-year-old man who was robbed on Clarke Ave. in Westmount during the early morning hours of June 12 will probably be thinking more carefully from now on about the sort of people he chooses to hang around with.

According to Montreal police department Station 12 interim community relations officer Michel Yigit, the victim had spent the evening at the Typhoon Lounge bar on Monkland Ave. in NDG.

"The young man was there drinking," said Yigit. "And then he met three individuals who offered to take him to an after-party in Westmount."

The four boarded a car sometime between 3 and 5 am, and headed east to Westmount, stopping on Clarke Ave.

According to an incident report given to investigators, the three suspects surrounded the victim after they had disembarked from the car, ordered him to empty out his pockets, took some of his belongings, and then drove off.

According to a partial description furnished by the victim, the suspects were in their early to mid-twenties, and the victim had never met them before.

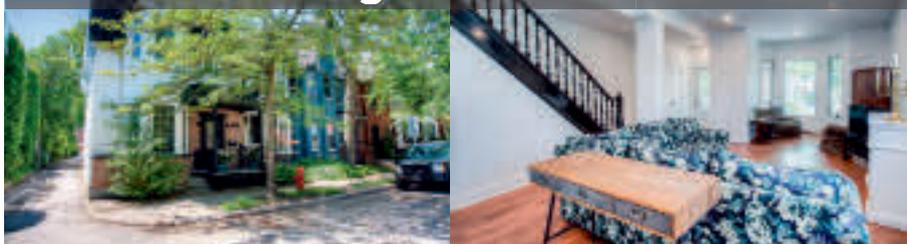
Although weapons weren't used, the suspects face charges of armed robbery, based on their use of verbal threats.

The Criminal Code of Canada defines robbery thus: "Every one commits robbery who steals, and for the purpose of extorting whatever is stolen or to prevent or overcome resistance to the stealing, uses violence or threats of violence to a person or property."

The police don't know what the suspects looked like because the victim was unwilling to provide them with detailed information.

"For some reason, the gentleman in question was not very cooperative with the police," said Yigit, while adding that the victim was not a resident of Westmount.

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Roslyn School 'block party' returns

BY RALPH THOMPSON

After a two-and-a-half-year shutdown, joyful chaos returned to the Roslyn Elementary School playground for its usual "block party."

"The 'block party' was normally held at the beginning of the year with a corn roast and at the end of the school year. It is very popular with students and parents," said Leslie Symansky, president of the parent volunteer group HandS (Roslyn Home &

School Association).

Roslyn has 575 students and many of them were partying June 2 between 5 and 8 pm. The line-up for the Dilallo food truck stretched halfway across the playground all evening, as did the line for Helder Roques Mobile DJ Elites3 photobooth, where kids – and some parents – hammed it up for the camera along with hats, giant glasses, lollipops and bottles of Hershey's chocolate syrup, plastic axes and hammers and a large picture frame.

Kids swarmed onto the playground climbing equipment, and the basketball area looked like a waterfall of basketballs coming from all directions, plus a few water bottles thrown in for good measure.

There was a long table managed by Suzanne Wexler selling books, pens, pencils, erasers and puzzles, a glitter tattoo artist and Everblast games in the side yard. Another table top had a large array of unclaimed "lost and found" clothing, mainly hoodies available for free.

It was one more step back to normality. Parents were clearly pleased to have their children to let off steam again in a playful space.



From left, grade 6 students Sabrina Tilden, Emma Johansen, Rafla Beinechek, Sarah Chaudhury and Dylan Miaou at the photo booth.



Roslyn School governing board member Prosanto Chaudhury, centre, along with HandS volunteers, from left, Annick Davies, Debbie Stock, Leslie Symansky (president) and Rachelle Hauser.



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Bailey patronage makes acquisition possible

Quebec Iron Hill scene becomes first Doig acquired by Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) patron Brian Bailey hosted his second *Fête Champêtre* in early June.

Bailey, a long-time friend to the MMFA, welcomed guests along with Mary-Dailey Desmarais, chief curator at the MMFA. Held on Bailey's country estate just outside Toronto, the benefit raised close to \$1 million for the museum.

Over 600 guests attended, eager to be elegant after years of pandemic. In addition to the monies raised, world-renowned artist Peter Doig donated *Study for Iron Hill* (1991), a canvas depicting a Quebec countryside. Born in Edinburgh, Doig spent time in Montreal in the 1980s and today lives in Trinidad.

The MMFA held a Peter Doig exhibition in 2014 but this is his first work to enter the MMFA's collection.

"Brian's love of art is only equalled by his friendship for artists, which has allowed us to acquire this unique work from Peter Doig, one of the greatest painters of our time," said Stéphane Aquin, MMFA director. – VR.



Mary-Dailey Desmarais and Brian Bailey.



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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

May sales: Volume way down, prices stay up (for now)

million range.

The drop in sales agreements has also affected a rise in the number of available houses, to 85 by mid-June compared to only 58 in January. Of the 85, 50 houses were asking less than \$3 million compared to only 26 in mid-January, and in fact only two are currently on the market asking more than \$10 million, compared to four or five in earlier months.

Many houses for rent, not many rental deals

There has been a big jump in the number of houses for rent, increasing from 15 in mid-January to 21 in mid-June, with the range now between \$4,200 and \$17,400 per month, compared to the range between \$3,000 to \$14,800 per month in mid-January.

So far this year, the number of houses rented is only 10, way down from the 26 houses rented by this time last year.

Only two more condominiums – both apartments in high-rise buildings – were added to the list of second-quarter condos sold, including one in late April and one in early May.

The late-April sale became the highest price so far in the second quarter, which is still waiting for the June sales list. The \$2,550,000 paid in late April was almost 80 percent more than its city valuation, the highest mark-up in the quarter, while another \$2-million condo in early May represented the lowest mark-up of the quarter, at only 1.7 percent. All five of the second-quarter condos involve apartment building-type condos, with the lowest price at \$768,000.

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in May 2022. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Rising interest rates and the spectre of even higher ones as the summer progresses do not appear to have had any effect on prices in Westmount yet, but certainly they have made buyers hesitate in committing upwards of \$2 million for local real estate.

Only seven transactions

Only seven houses were reported sold by local realtors in May, for prices ranging from \$1,699,000 to \$5,300,000 – though only that latter sale was higher than \$2,375,000, while three of the seven sold for less than \$2 million.

The average price was \$2,526,000 and the median price was \$2,295,000. In April, on the other hand, 18 houses were sold, and in fact the first four months of 2022 averaged 15 sales, thus clearly indicating how much the volume dropped in May. Whether this means that prices will eventually drop remains to be seen. Certainly one of the goals of the Bank of Canada is to throttle the rise in real estate prices nationally, but certainly there are still some buyers for houses in the \$2-million to \$5-

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2017 to May 2022, based on accepted offer dates



Poem

A Tree Falls in Westmount!

BY LAWRENCE DIAMOND

A tree came down today, a tall old tree, probably 70 feet high with heavy branches that reached out around it for some 50 feet.

It was destroyed by a chain saw, a man, and a decision considered in favour of convenience.

For over 20 years it was my stoic companion outside the window of my home office. It was quite animated, it swayed in the breeze, withstood heavy rain, snow, and ice storms—always rejuvenated each spring with green growth leaves.

It was not just a tree, but it was exercise and home for the energetic squirrels as well as perches for the many colourful birds that landed in its branches.

Imagine all the life that I *cannot* see that was dependent on this tree for birth and nourishment throughout their existence. Where will they all go?

Now my view is only the buildings next door and in the distance. No more colour or activity to distract me or add flavour to the hours that pass by, and keep me observant seeking flora and fauna that was there before.

ONLY A TREE?

Leaf blowers, cont'd from p. 1

meeting.

“We’re putting the same motion forward now that Côte des Neiges-NDG as well as Ville Marie [downtown] are doing it,” she said. “Everything should be in place by the fall.”

The city’s proposed prohibition on gasoline-fired leaf blowers to reduce noise and GHG emissions had been proposed for April 1, 2018 but, before that, Mayor Smith met with the contractors and received many calls from residents facing significant monthly charges if their gardeners had to suddenly invest in electric equipment (see story February 1 & March 6, 2018, p. 1).

“I realize the industry was not ready for the timeline,” she had said. As well, enforcement would be easier and more effective if Montreal also has similar regulations.

Shapiro Group hosts chef Cecchini, devotee of Dante & AC/DC

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

“We chose the Atwater Club for our event,” said Kalaydjian, “because we could put his large grill outside.”

There, Cecchini oversaw the meal’s preparation by his *squadra*/team – yes, brought in from Italy. The menu, in Italian (much to my delight!), included *pinzimonio di verdure* (raw vegetables, but sounds so much better in Italian, don’t you think?), *faggoli a l’olio* (white beans in olive oil) and of course steaks, including the famed *Fiorentino bistecca*.

Accompanied by his wife/translator **Kim Wicks**, Cecchini chatted expressively about his history and discussed his philosophy on food, as he prepared the meal in the centre of the dining room.

Adding to the mood of the moment was AC/DC – played at Cecchini’s request, something he always has while he presents/performs.

Among the Westmounters thoroughly enjoying the special and *über* delicious moment were **Heather and Danny Gauthier, Bonnie Hamilton and Boris Stein, Jill and Xeno Martis, Judith Wolfe, Andrea and Neil Wechsler, Sue and Karel Nemec, Warren Katz, Nathalie and Dave Miller, Nancy Nadler Engels and Stephen Engels,**

A quote from Dante’s *Inferno* headed the invitation from the Shapiro Group of RBC Dominion Securities inviting guests to a *Carne diem* – a pun on *Carpe diem*: seize the day, or, more roughly, enjoy yourself.

And, indeed, it was an amazing night. Hosted by Shapiro Group senior portfolio managers **John Kalaydjian** and **Ted Kalil**, it starred **Dario Cecchini**, the world-renowned eighth-generation butcher and chef.

Kalaydjian and Kalil flew the meat maestro and his team in from his hometown in Italy. Not only is this chef famous for his food, but he is a Dante *cognescente*, often quoting long excerpts by heart.

Featured in the popular Netflix series *Chef’s Table*, Cecchini created the special menu for the evening, and scoured the city to find the best beef.



John Kalaydjian, Arthur Pervin and Ted Kalil.

Ea Dawson and Jeremy Oldland, and Amanda Dawson and Christian Matossian.

Also present were **Hélène and Arthur Pervin**, a founding partner of the Shapiro Group RBC Dominion Securities. Pervin explained the firm’s background, named after decorated World War II war vet and group co-founder Harry Shapiro (now deceased) whom he met in an elevator in

1977: The rest is history. John Kalaydjian and Ted Kalil thanked the crowd for attending their fundraising dinner for the respiratory department at the MUHC, held in honour of the Shapiro Group’s 45th anniversary.

To let me know about your social event, please email me at veronica@redgravepr.com.



Karel Nemec.



Sue Nemec and Claudia Beattie.



Marvin and Harriet Corber.



Dario Cecchini and his wife Kim Wicks.



Bob and Victoria Cowling.

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Issues include less foot traffic, personnel

Westmount's bakeries face rising prices, scarcity of inputs

BY JENNIFER BALL

Near the mid-way point of the calendar year, five Westmount bakery owners sat down with the *Independent* to discuss factors affecting their bread and butter: the owners of Boulangerie Le Fournil on Sherbrooke St. in Victoria village, and Forno West and Brioche Dorée of Greene Ave.

Soaring fruit prices, flour delays and a scarcity of bakers and baristas are just some of the ingredients souring the bell jars.

Everything that is for sale at Le Fournil is made by hand by the sisters Robyn and Tawn Friedman, Tawn said. "There is nothing that we outsource. Everything we make from scratch," and that intimate knowledge of their products has led them to brace for work-arounds and price increases.

Grain issues – yes, but fruit too

"There are going to be a whole bunch of problems," Robyn said. "I know that everyone is concentrating on Ukraine and the grain, but one of the major things that we have not even seen yet is the impact on the fruit from the BC fires and the droughts.

"Our fruit comes from BC and along the west coast, and we have not seen the influx of those prices yet. We will probably see that in September or October."

"It is inflation and then it is stack inflation," Tawn said to summarize price press-

ures squeezing their trade. "It is worse on top of worse, and it is going to have to blow sometime."

At Forno West, Carmela Argento, co-owner with her husband Leonardo Calderone, indicated, "We are seeing shortages and a lot of items are out of stock. Flour, corn starch, eggs: all the primary products that we need to bake."

Argento and Calderone bake for their Westmount location and also their Westbury one, which is on 5273 de Courtrai in Côte de Neiges.

"We plan to make certain items and when our stock is delayed, our whole schedule gets bumped. We have orders – we have people that ordered for certain days – and it puts a lot of pressure on us because we want to deliver a quality product, that they are used to, with the ingredients that they are used to... but it is out of our control."

Specialized fruit

The fruit that the bakery uses to decorate cakes and tarts is specialized – it cannot be too small or organic because it needs to look pretty and retain its freshness.

The prices for that produce are moving targets, Argento said.

"The importer said they used to pay \$3,000 for a shipping container and now it has gone up to \$18,000!"

Jérôme Moutonnet, the owner of a Brioche Dorée franchise, said foot traffic that could have benefitted his business is



From left, Carmela Argento, Leonardo Calderone and Emanuel Tomasino at Forno Bakery at 1235 Greene Ave. on June 2.

down 30 percent on Greene Ave. because office workers have yet to return fully.

And "Elderly people in the neighborhood – they have been so frightened. There is a couple of people that I haven't seen in a couple of years and I don't think anything bad happened to them. I just think they

stay in their apartment," he said.

The biggest issue facing Moutonnet's business is lack of talent behind his counters, he said. He is "looking for [staff] that will help. The wheat stock will be a price issue: prices will go up, but nobody will starve."



Jérôme Moutonnet at Brioche Dorée at 1236 Greene Ave. on May 30.



From left, Robyn and Tawn Friedman at Boulangerie Le Fournil at 4910 Sherbrooke St. on June 1.

Has Finland found the answer?

Latimer tells Rotarians a lasting fix for homelessness is possible

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Is it possible to imagine Montreal as a city where one day no one is homeless?

For the second time in a little more than a year, the Westmount Rotarians were told by an advocate for homeless people that homelessness should not only be reduced, but can be eliminated altogether.

Eric Latimer, a research scientist at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, was the Rotarians' guest speaker during their weekly noon-hour webcast gathering on May 11.

Among other things, Latimer has been the lead investigator in Montreal for a major research and demonstration study on the connections between mental illness and homelessness.

According to Latimer, Canada is cur-

rently among the G7 countries with the lowest number of housing units per thousand inhabitants.

"The US is close, but we're actually even a little bit worse than the US," he said, while adding that the situation will not improve given our current rate of immigration.

Noting that homeless people who live outdoors year-around tend to die 15 to 20 years before the general population, he said many homeless still refuse to live in shelters for a number of reasons.

Among these are concerns about bedbugs, fears for personal safety, refusal to comply with certain rules, as well as objections to the lack of privacy in shelters. Latimer said a shift in thinking has been taking place in recent years in the approaches that could be taken to deal with

homelessness.

"We've been moving away from thinking of homelessness as an inevitable by-product of living in a modern society, to a problem that can be ended if we set our minds to it."

Finland, with a population and wealth level similar to Quebec's, "has nearly eliminated homelessness at this point," he said.

There is one homeless shelter with 50 beds left in Helsinki, he added, and "it is difficult to find anybody sleeping outside, and most of the remaining homelessness is of the couch-surfing type. So, it can be done."

Latimer's words reflected what another Westmount Rotary Club guest speaker said around a year earlier on the viability of permanently ending homelessness.

On April 7, 2021, Old Brewery Mission CEO James Hughes told the Rotarians he believed homelessness could and should be eliminated altogether.

"At the end of the day, we can house folks for a lot less than it costs to provide emergency services on a continuous basis," Hughes said. "I put to you that we can afford to house everybody and that we can afford to end homelessness."



Seen here during the Westmount Rotarians' May 11 webcast meeting, Eric Latimer, a research scientist at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, concurred with a previous Rotary speaker that homelessness can be eliminated permanently if there is enough will to do so.

'Pedestrian' includes ducks



This duck and her ducklings, seen at Metcalfe and Sherbrooke, seemed to be on their way Westmount Park June 8. "I called Public Security and someone came over to watch over them and help crossing Sherbrooke St. Public Security is not allowed to touch them and therefore could not scoop them up in the lid of a carton and take them to the park or even facilitate crossing the street. When I phoned Public Security the following day, I was told it took about 30 minutes of Security's time until they crossed."

PHOTO COURTESY OF SORYL ROSENBERG.



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Ten Vizsla puppies born on Belmont Ave.!

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Those who are fortunate enough to know what it's like to have a litter of kittens or puppies born at home don't need reminding of the uniquely warm and fuzzy feeling the experience can bring into a household.

A litter of 10 purebred Vizsla puppies is the first that Shana Rotstein successfully bred recently, after becoming a registered dog breeder.

They were nearly six weeks old as of June 15 when the *Independent* dropped by the Rotstein home on Belmont Ave.

The Vizsla is a Hungarian breed of sporting dog that is highly regarded for its hunting characteristics, as well as its value as a household companion.

The Rotstein family adopted Pax, as their female Vizsla is called, from a breeder in Ontario. After speaking on and off with the breeder for more than a year, they decided to mate Pax with a champion male named Rocket.

And so, with the help of several local veterinarians as well as a few Montreal-area breeders, the Rotsteins raised the litter – a large one at that – in their home.

"They're all thriving, active and healthy right now," said Shana, adding that the pups have all been reserved by families in several communities in the Montreal re-



More views of the puppies.

gion, including Westmount, Laval and Châteauguay, as well as in more distant locations such as Gatineau near Ottawa and Sudbury in Ontario.

She described the pups as "extremely active dogs in terms of being athletic. They do agility and scent training. They can do hunting.

"But they're amazing family pets, as

PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW COURTESY OF SHANA ROTSTEIN.



well, because they love to be with people. That's why they're called velcro Vizslas – because they always want to be with you in the house and they bond with the family."

While three sons have been raised in the Rotstein household, "This is my girl," Shana said regarding Pax.

"Throughout her pregnancy, the boys were participating. They were there during the labour. The timing actually worked out perfectly. They watched each puppy being born, one every 15 minutes."

Although the family had initially been expecting seven pups, based on the results of some x-ray scans, they were surprised when numbers eight, nine and ten also came out. Pax "has been an amazing mother. She's very caring and got the maternal instinct right away," added Shana.

"And the boys have been helping me weigh the dogs every day to make sure the little ones are fed first so that everyone is strong and healthy. It's been a process of teaching and learning, but it's also been an amazing experience."



Seen here on June 8 on the front lawn of their Belmont Ave. home with the litter of 10 puppies and their mother, Pax, are, from left, Alexander, Jayden, Shana and Ethan Rotstein. PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

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If you would like more information on her, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, referring to her information page under her identification number 50015599 where you will click on

the "Book a visit" square, which leads you to the adoption-counsellor information form, which, once filled out, they will respond to and then schedule an appointment to discuss adoption.

Abandoned-kitten season under way, please donate!

Every spring, the Montreal SPCA takes in many unweaned, orphaned kittens requiring constant and attentive care.

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As the SPCA is expecting over 150 kittens this year, your generosity is more crucial now than ever. Please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and donate online for this vital service to complement the dedicated volunteer work by the loving foster families.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Benji Puppy

out. They will then respond to schedule a visit with them for the beginning of the adoption process. Please do not hesitate, Benji is a wonderful pup.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

What an adorable little face! Bringing Benji home would be so perfect. He is cute as a button and sweet as can be. An affectionate and playful 10-month-old, he is in need of a family now. Yes, he is waiting at the Montreal SPCA to be adopted and given his spot in a home life in our neighbourhood.

Benji is very healthy, up to date with his puppy inoculation protocol, neutered and microchipped. He is social with other dogs on his walks and playtime, and has not met cats yet. For more information on him, please go to the www.sPCA.com website, scroll to his information page by his identification number 50395095, then click on the "Book a visit" square, which leads you to the adoption-counsellor form to be filled

Indie's summer schedule

June 28: no issue
(Dominion Day observance)

July 5 & 12: issues

July 19 & 26 and August 2:
no issues
(usual summer break)

Beginning with August 9 issue:
weekly until Christmas



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Peace party at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom



Nancy Strohl, Jewel Lowenstein, Glenna Uline, Susan Szalpeter, Marcia Bronfman, Risa Scherzer, Brian Bronfman, Temple senior rabbi Lisa Grushcow, Cynthia Telio, Sandy Martz, Leslie Alcorn and Penny Echenberg.

dressess. And, yes, the eternally-elegant LBD (little black dress).

Westmounters noted included Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, her wife Shelley Grushcow and daughter Alice Myers, Jewel and Paul Lowenstein, Leslie Alcorn, Minna

Shulman and Stephen Rotman, Honey Dresher, Martha and Mark Oppenheim, Betsy Pomerantz and Sam Berliner, Monica and David Berger, who attended with his mother Ilse Hattam (“about to celebrate a very important birthday!”), Cynthia and

Andrew Telio, Nancy Maklan and Marty Smith, Penny and Gordon Echenberg, Betty Palik and Michael Prupas, Laura and Jesse Prupas, Alana Geller and Aren Prupas, and Betty and Eliot Goldwarg.

continued on p. 30



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Rabbi Lisa Grushcow and Brian and Marcia Bronfman.



Throat singers Lydia Etok and Nina Segalowitz.



Joelle and Victoria Kent.



Andrew Molson and Andy Nulman.

Social Notes, cont'd from p. 29

Local res **Helen Antoniou**, there with her husband **Andrew Molson**, spoke about the honorees. MC was Temple member **Andy Nulman**, attending with his wife **Lynn Harris**.

Also seen were **Janice Greenberg** and retired justice **Joel Silcoff**, **Lillian Vineberg Goodman** and **Morris Goodman**, **Sandy**

and **David Martz**, and **Lillian and Bryant Shiller**, tribute committee members were **Nancy Cummings Gold** (honorary chair), **Amal Alsana Alhjoog** and **Anwar Alhjoog**, **Claudine and Stephen Bronfman**, **Marsha Bronfman**, **Paul Bronfman**, **Rita and Charles Bronfman**, **Jean-Guy Desjardins**, **Maureen and Jack Dym**, former governor general **Michaëlle Jean**, **Phyllis Lambert**, **Lynn and Andy Nulman**, **Nadine St. Louis**,

Susan and Jonathan Wener, and Temple president **Neil Wiener** and his wife **Sylvie Plante**.

Singer **Sarah-Maude Desgagné** and guitarist **Henri Oppenheim** delighted the crowd with a medley of songs in several languages. Guests were particularly touched when **Nina Segalowitz** shared that although born an indigenous Canadian, she was raised by Jewish parents and event-

ually had her biological father meet her adoptive family. She and **Lydia Betok** performed throat singing to a spellbound audience.

Then, as shadows lengthened, guests enjoyed gourmet doughnuts and coffee to go while they collected their valet-parked cars.

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cast in 1966 under the supervision of the artist's
estate (Frances Gray Archipenko, Archipenko
Associates) by Sheidow Foundry, West Virginia.

This bronze edition of 12 is included in The
Archipenko Sculpture Catalogue Raisonné compiled
by The Archipenko Foundation (Work No. 2664).

Provenance

Estate of the artist (Frances Gray
Archipenko) Acquired from the above by Dominion
Gallery, Montreal, January 1968 (Inventory No. D4750)
Acquired from the above by Mitzi & Mel Dobrin, 18
October 1972

Exhibitions

Montreal, Man and His World, Dominion Gallery
exhibition at the France Pavilion, June 1968.

Literature

Irene Heywood, "Impressive Show at Man and His
World," The Gazette, 15 June 1968, p.47.

\$60,000 USD



Scan QR Code to view
additional images and details

Montreal

1448 Sherbrooke Street West
514.284.9339

Toronto

190 Davenport Road
416.233.0339



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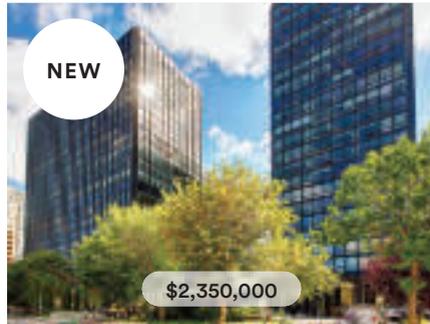
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\$2,725,000

Westmount
466 MOUNTAIN AV.



NEW

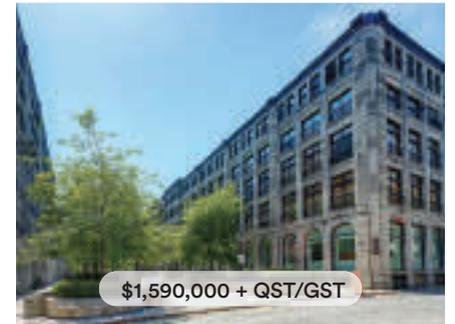
\$2,350,000

Westmount
3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 1016



\$1,625,000

Westmount
4700 STE-CATHERINE ST. WEST, APT. 613



\$1,590,000 + QST/GST

Old Port
54 DE BRÉSOLES ST.



NEW

\$839,000

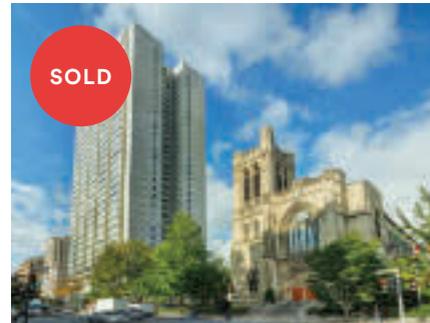
Nuns' Island
80 BERLIOZ ST., APT. 207



NEW

\$399,000

Ville-Marie
1288 DES CANADIENS-DE-MONTRÉAL AV.,
APT. 1005



SOLD

Golden Square Mile
PORT-ROYAL, APT. 807



REVENUE
PROPERTY

\$775,000 + QST/GST

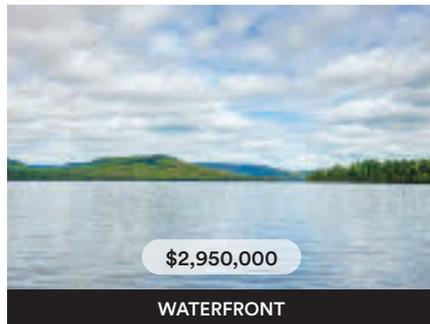
Tremblant Region | La Conception
96 CH. DES EXPLORATEURS



\$4,650,000

18 ACRE DOMAIN

Mont-Tremblant
RIVE DU LAC-TREMBLANT,
LAC TREMBLANT-NORD



\$2,950,000

WATERFRONT

Saint-Donat
CH. COUTU, LAC ARCHAMBAULT



\$2,950,000 + QST/GST

18 ACRE DOMAIN

Tremblant Region | La Conception
CH. DES RÊVEURS, LAC-XAVIER



CHIC
SHACK

ONLY 4 LOTS LEFT

Tremblant Region | La Conception
CHIC SHACK PROJECT: REVENUE PROPERTY