

*No timeline yet for opening on Atwater below St. Antoine St.*

## Resilience Montreal receives \$3.8 million to upgrade new locale

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A day shelter at the corner of Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St. that has offered support to Montreal's homeless native community since November 2019 will be receiving a \$3.8-million grant from Ottawa to renovate and restore a new location situated on Atwater south of St. Antoine, south of the Westmount border.

NDG-Westmount Liberal MP Marc Garneau provided assistance to the organization, Resilience Montreal, to obtain the subsidy from Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Building Fund.

Ten percent of the fund's current \$1.5-billion national budget is earmarked for projects involving Canada's native communities. A joint announcement was

made last week by Infrastructure and Communities minister Dominic Leblanc with Crown and Indigenous Relations minister Marc Miller.

Resilience Montreal's new locale is in an older building requiring extensive renovation work, according to Garneau. A significant part of the money will be used to make the building more energy efficient.

The exact location is not yet public, and there is no timeline yet for the renovations and opening, but work has begun.

"I spoke to them about a month ago," said Garneau, "and they said they had hired an architectural firm and they were pretty close to finalizing the design. They were saying to me that once they get the official green light with ..... the funding from the fed- *continued on p. 24*

## Cardella to retire – Lacombe to take over



Westmount Public Library director Julie-Anne Cardella, left, and assistant director Anne-Marie Lacombe at the library August 4. Cardella is retiring September 9 and handing over the reins to Lacombe. See p. 10 for story.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Director general Hakim on leave, council names Larue substitute DG

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

City council at its meeting August 1 appointed assistant director general Michel Larue to the position of substitute director general. This is a back-up designation that has been held by several senior department heads over the years, latterly by Engineering director Elisa Gaetano, who is currently on leave.

The appointment of Larue comes dur-

ing the absence on leave of director general Hadi Hakim, the city's top administrator. While no mention was made of his leave at the city council meeting, it was later confirmed by Mayor Christina Smith, who had thanked Larue for taking on the "added responsibilities."

Julie Mandeville, who had also been assistant director general before departing the city July 18, was de- ..... scribed to the *Independent* *continued on p. 3*



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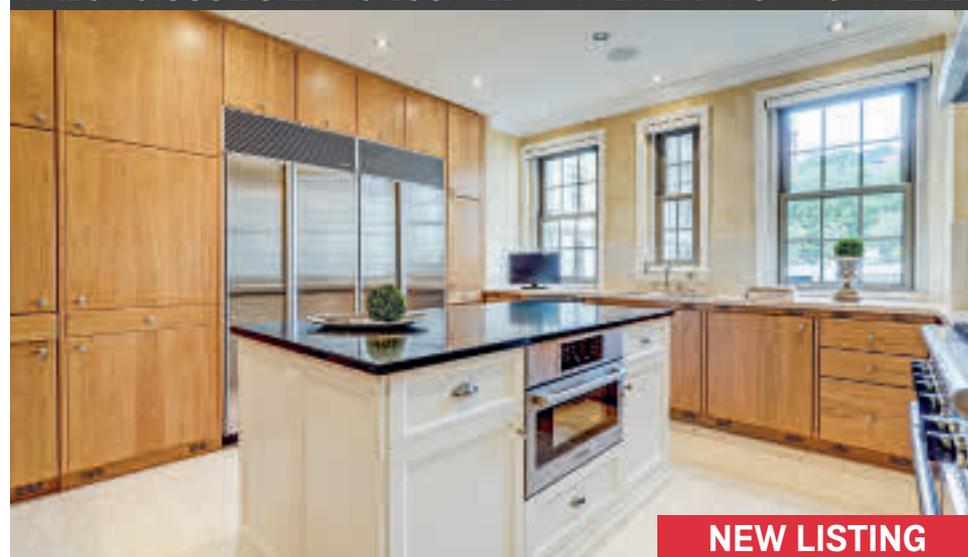
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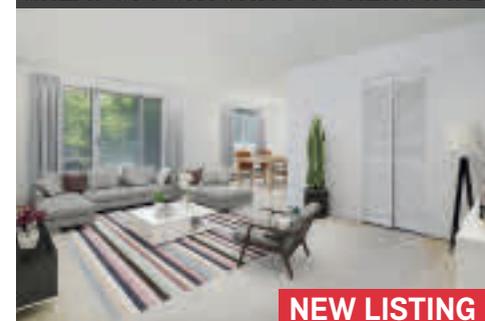
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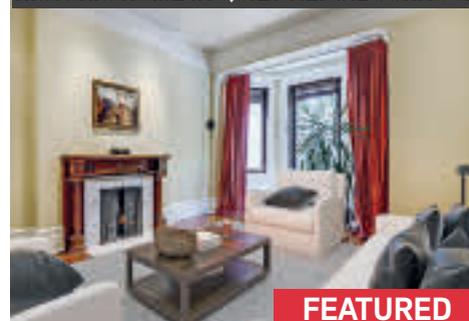
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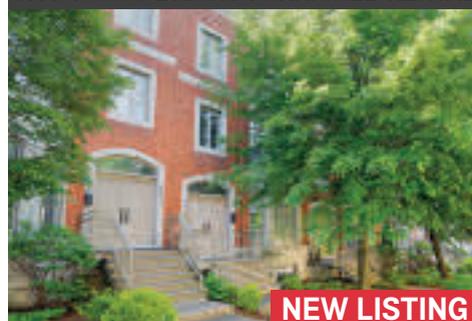
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**FEATURED**

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2150 Av. d'Oxford, apt. 112 | \$415,000

## Seriously injured when leash entangled legs PSOs use medical training to help spooked dog

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public safety officer returning on foot from an overnight shift at 6:30 am July 26 spotted a white and beige dog resembling a greyhound stumbling along Côte St. Antoine. Its rear legs were entangled in a black leash, department officials said.

A man and woman who also saw it tried in vain to stop it until it was finally caught in a driveway just west of Lansdowne. The leash had become so tightly wound around the legs that another patroller was called to cut off the leash and used a medical kit to treat a bleeding front leg and paw.

The Public Security dispatcher, meanwhile, had been contacted by the dog's

owner, a resident of NDG, who reported that it had run off when "spooked" as she was trying to get it into the car after going to King George (Murray) Park. It was described as "a rescue from overseas that had been trained using a stick."

The woman took the dog to a vet clinic in Brossard that was open at that early hour and which reported that the front legs had been shattered to such an extent that surgery was required at the veterinary school in St. Hyacinthe.

"This was a case where our officers were able to use their medical training for humans to help the dog," said Public Security director Greg McBain. "We were happy to be there."

.....  
*DG, cont'd from p. 1*

at that time by the mayor as "understanding the role of her service to the municipality and was a great example of this. She had a big job (as treasurer) and built a wonderful team. I wish she would stay."

Both Larue and Mandeville had been appointed assistant directors general October 4 in a new city structure (see story October 12, p. 4).

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## 2 of 8 dogs found without required licences

In a recent check of dog runs at the Westmount Athletic Grounds, King George (Murray) Park and Westmount Park, two of eight dogs were found in violation of the requirement for Westmount dog licences, Public Security officials said. Both were reported to be NDG residents. Local licences are required to use the runs.

## Driver of truck ticketed for hitting Greene overpass

A public safety officer on patrol on Prospect St. August 1 witnessed a northbound truck on Greene hit the railway overpass August 1, at 9:35 am despite flashing lights and other warning signs, Public Security officials said (see photo, p. 4).

Canada Pacific was contacted, a tow truck called to remove the truck and a ticket was issued by CP, as is the usual case when such as incident occurs.

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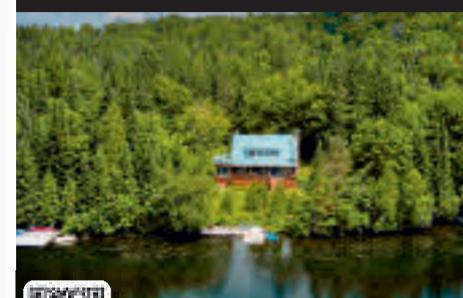
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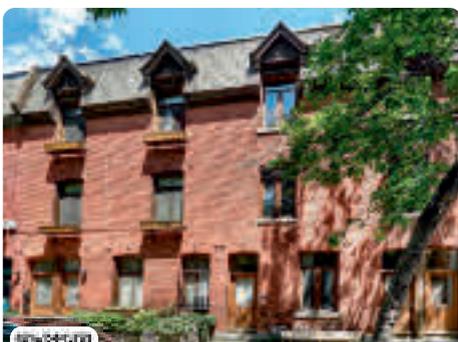


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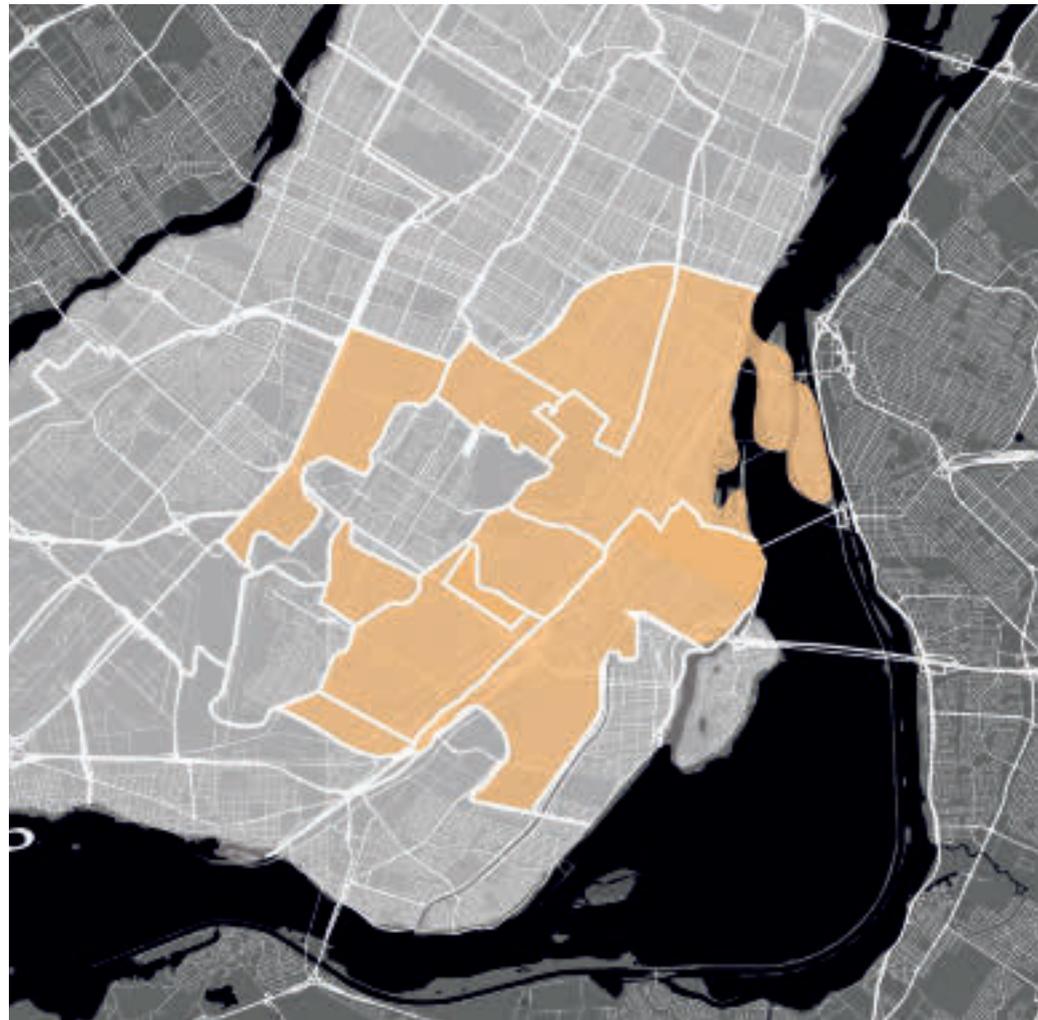
# 2022 FIRST SEMESTER REVIEW

Dear Neighbours,

The residential real estate market in Montreal continues to remain dynamic as the economic environment moves into new territory with recent increases in interest rates.

While inventory levels were at an all-time low in 2021, the first six months of this year showed an increase in homes available for sale, which has started to level the playing field between buyers and sellers.

We closely monitor statistics and market indicators that predict the right time to buy and sell. For over 16 years, we've been tracking trends to get a solid, reliable indication of what's to come.



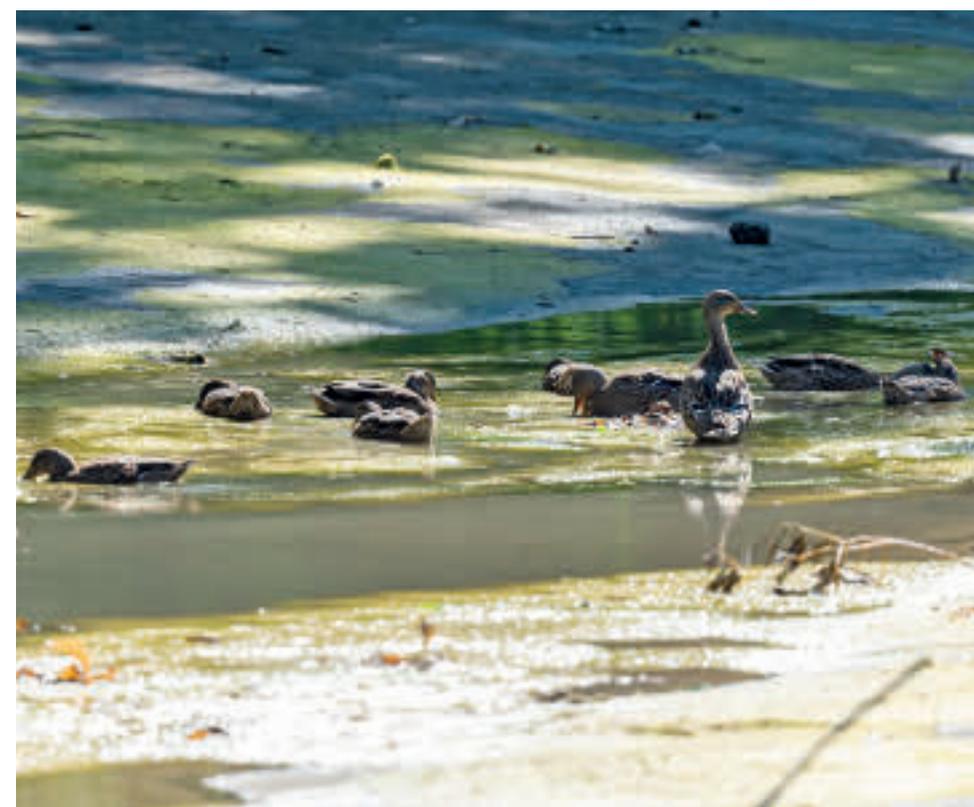
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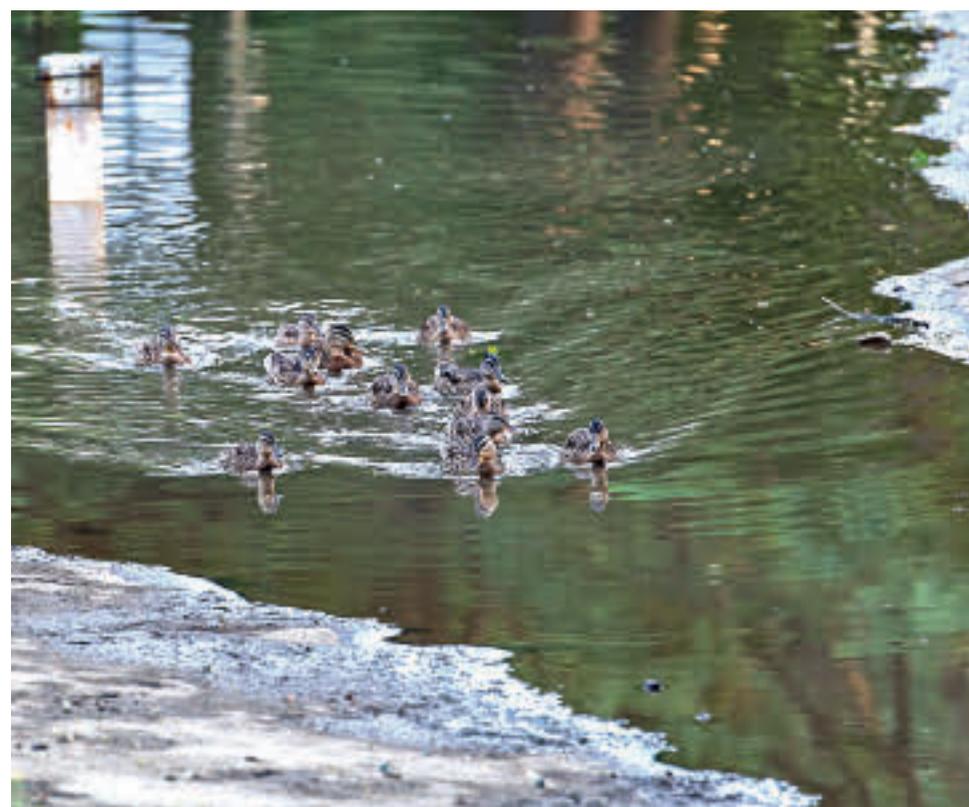
**Scan the QR Code to view all of the relevant statistics of our top 10 neighbourhoods.**



## Ducks survive lagoon draining



On July 25, a large group of ducks waddled around in the messy, slimy, algae-choked remnants of the Westmount Park lagoon after it was drained of most of the water. The last remaining mother and chick were nowhere to be seen.



By late afternoon on July 26, the city had started to refill the lagoon. A couple of groups of ducks were afloat again. The *Independent's* environment columnist, Heather Black, praised Westmount Public Works for "draining the pond in stages so it was only 24 hours when it was more or less dry." All 13 ducklings survived.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Summertime vibes



## Another bridge strike



Unofficial strike #11 of the Greene Ave. rail bridge below Dorchester Blvd., as seen August 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MO RAHIMI.

## EDITORIAL

## Kudos for local businesses

Some businesses make things difficult, as though they are trying to be as unresponsive as massive bureaucracies. (Canadian chartered banks, I am looking at you.) Others make you fall in love with capitalism all over again: responsive, helpful, quick, versatile. Here are three of the latter.

**Nathalie Supino**

I do not like cell phones, but for years my expert guide in this unfortunately necessary area of human endeavour has been Nathalie Supino. She used to manage the Rogers/Planète Mobile on Greene Ave., which then moved/consolidated to Alexis Nihon. She continues to work with Planète Mobile, where she sometimes handles small accounts like ours here at the newspaper. Ideally, she works with businesses with larger cell phone needs (20+ lines).

If you need expert advice in this area, contact her (nsupino@planetem.com). You won't regret it.

**McHenry Plumbing**

Who wants plumbing problems? No one. In my case, acid water from my furnace had corroded a small drain pipe, requiring a whole new filter and plastic set-up. Dan from McHenry Plumbing was punctual, polite and helpful – and just plain happy to be there.

He made it look easy and left me smiling. Problem solved.

(Don't ask me about the recent visit from an electrician who was so rude and unhappy that I ended up feeling sorry for him. I had to live with him for a morning. He lives with himself all the time.)

**3 Amigos**

We are all getting used to being back in restaurants. The reasonably priced food and unpretentious atmosphere of 3 Amigos at the Palais des congrès was the setting for a recent meal of mine. As we enjoyed the company, food and drinks, the restaurant was closing down around us and we paid our bills.

But – serious problem – the party had not ended! Could we get a few drinks before we left? Yes, but they had to be simple ones (no cocktails). And then they even let one of our group order one of those. So many places would have handled this issue heavy handedly, but it was accomplished with smiles and grace.

Thanks for a great night out.

\* \* \*

And one final kudos. Thank you to the waiter (young man with black/dark brown curly hair and round glasses with tortoiseshell frames) at the Lido California beach club who found and returned my wallet. He saved me from all sorts of hassle!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## General mail

**CYCLISTS NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**

Situation: Today (July 14) at 5:15 pm, I was crossing from the north side of Greene towards the south, with a group of people moving the same way within the 18 seconds for the walkers. The cyclists on de Maisonneuve didn't even stop or reduce speed to let people complete the way out of the bike lane. The light was RED for them. Note: This is not the appropriate nor responsible way of respecting the use of public spaces.

Observations:

1. If anyone is entitled to ride a bicycle, they should also take the responsibility of showing the appropriate behaviour.
2. Please can Public Security or police take hands of this matter? Someone can be hurt and this is avoidable.
3. I speak on behalf of the many citizens living in the neighbourhood (District 6).

EDUARDO LOPEZ BANCALARI,  
SHERBROOKE ST.

**INSANE DE MAISONNEUVE CYCLISTS**

*Open letter to Mayor Christina Smith*

I was wondering if you have ever walked along de Maisonneuve Blvd. and witnessed the insanity that is going on with the cyclists?

I walk along there daily, and am appalled at what I see. The cyclists do NOT stop at the red lights or stop signs. They speed along in both directions as if they are rehearsing for the Tour de France. They act as if they are the only ones on the road.

Today [July 19] at Greene Ave and de Maisonneuve, a little girl was crossing with her mother and younger brother on a green light. I was there. She was side-swiped by a cyclist who did not stop at the red light, racing to his destination. She was almost knocked down.

I wonder how many people have been hit? How many cars have had accidents? I am curious to know how long you are going to let these drivers ignore the law? Just driving in and out of a driveway on this street is really hazardous. I'm wondering what your plans are to ameliorate the situation? This is unconscionable.

FARLA SHATNER COHEN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

**FLAG, ENGLISH-ACCESS BLUES**

For some months, I have noticed the Quebec flag held at half-mast fronting the high school on St. Catherine St.

Does this symbol express the sadness among francophones (adults and children) over the parts of Bill 96 that introduce such roadblocks to success? The previous arrangement whereby French speakers could attend certain English institutions is gone. The future for bright unilingual francophones is thus somewhat lessened in Quebec, where so many businesses prosper by inter-provincial and international trade.

Is it possible that some provisions of 96 will be softened after the election?

BOYD WHITTALL, ST. CATHERINE

**WHAT'S WITH THE CONSTRUCTION SIGNAGE?**

Thank you for the obvious caring about our city exhibited in the editorial policy of the *Westmount Independent*.

Most of us have noticed (regardless of the crazy COVID times) that a certain amount of fixing seems to have been under way in Westmount for several years during the relatively good weather months. While this is a good thing, there often seems to be a rather haphazard regard for logic in the placement of signs or signaling to drivers that such things are happening. I am not certain who makes the decisions where to plop down those cautionary signs (and often bollards) that are meant to stream we drivers into certain lanes, but often it seems quite random...and is rarely ever aesthetically pleasing...as well, often signs bear little sign of logical consideration. We have a great team of Public Works workers...I talk to them...they are often as frustrated and confused as I am as to the logic of certain situations brought about by workers under contract from the city to accomplish x, y, or z...and often it isn't clear who is quite in charge.

I am attaching a photo of a sign that has been in quite obvious evidence on my street for several weeks. While its comic value is wonderful, its placement there makes little sense and it is virtually ignored...as are most of these kinds of signs I have observed...whether they are right-side-up or up-side-down! Drivers don't care about signs much...(including those NO U-TURN signs on my street!...but, that might warrant another letter to the editor!)

Our beautiful Westmount often looks messy...let's face the reality...between work projects and all those randomly placed and often illogical signs, the litter of masks and various things randomly thrown from car windows (which when I take walks I pick up...if the city would please issue me one of those trash poking ..... things and a bag to put *continued on p. 8*

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As postscript, I wish to state that because Leo is short for Leopold, it would be disrespectful to place an apostrophe “s” after an abbreviated form of a saint’s name. St Leopold, who lived from 1073 to 1136, was canonized on January 6, 1485 and is the patron saint of Austria.

Together with Lila Sillery, I trust you will grant her dearly important wish to call her school St Leon School of Westmount. And especially after the summer holidays, Lila will be the happiest child to step into her grade 3 classroom in the newly renovated and elegantly enlarged St Leon School of Westmount.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

*Editor’s reply to Izak Rubin and Stephen Chin:*

For readers keen to discuss hyphens, and accents, and the letter “n” in as much depth as possible, I refer you to a previous iteration of this debate (October 14, 2008, p. 6) and some history on the term “St. Leo’s” (October 28, 2008, p. 5).

As for the specific issues raised here: (1) Ideally, my reply about any of our practices should not vary depending on the identity of the complainant. I aspired to be unpointed and polite in my reply to Lila, but also to explain my view, as I would to an adult. What better way is there to avoid condescension and to show that I take her opinion seriously?

(2) Stephen Chin has now changed his desired spelling by removing the apostrophe and “s,” for interesting reasons of his own.

Proving – for the second time – the chaotic and individualistic nature of English, he continues to omit the accents, hyphens and French words (“École,” “de”) that the official, French-language name (École Saint-Léon-de-Westmount) has.

Okay, I guess, but my main point still stands. Speakers and writers of many (all?) languages do translate proper nouns, including these examples:

- into English: München/Munich, Montréal/Montreal, Québec/Quebec, España/Spain, Italia/Italy, Roma/Rome;
  - from English: London/Londres, Newfoundland/Terre Neuve, British Columbia/Colombie-Britannique, New York/Nueva York, Canada/Kanada, McGill University/Université McGill, Concordia University/Université Concordia, United States/États-Unis;
  - from English usage: Nova Scotia/Nouvelle Écosse;
  - a three-fer: Deutschland/Allemagne/Germany;
  - a five-fer: Nederland/Netherlands/Holland/Dutch/Pays-Bas;
- and, of course, every proper noun originat-

ing in a non-Roman alphabet or writing system (e.g. Chinese characters, Arabic, Greek, Cyrillic) has to be “doubly” translated.

None of these usages is derogatory or

## Arlington Ave. affair

**DÉMOCRATIE BASÉE SUR LE DÉBAT DES IDÉES**

Je suis fervente lectrice de mon journal local. J’ai donc lu avec grand intérêt votre éditorial du 5 juillet (p. 8 & 10).

Je préfère m’exprimer ici dans la langue de Molière car je désire nuancer mes propos, vue le sérieux de la question.

Je n’ai pas de critique sur le fond car je ne connais pas suffisamment les tenants et aboutissants qui sous-tendent cette épineuse question. Je voudrais cependant partager avec vous mes réflexions sur la forme. Je résumerai ma pensée en deux points.

1. Je demeure, comme vous, convaincue que la démocratie est basée sur le débat des idées et NON sur la peur de s’exprimer. Je crois profondément en la liberté d’expression, verbale, écrite, artistique. Quand la peur de s’exprimer prédomine, le risque est grand de bâillonner les idées.

Si les citoyens/citoyennes craignent d’être poursuivi(e)s, ils s’exprimeront moins dans leur journal local. C’est clair.

2. L’utilisation des fonds publics ne devraient pas, à mon avis, se faire par des membres non élu(e)s, s’ils/elles ne sont pas appuyé(e)s par des membres élu(e)s. Pour des dépenses d’envergure ou discutables, elles devraient même être appuyées, encore à mon avis (mais bon, je ne connais absolument pas les règlements de la ville à ce sujet), par la mairesse.

Des frais d’avocats, ça peut monter rapidement. C’est bien connu. Les causes à défendre, payées par les citoyens/citoyennes (dont je fais partie) ne devraient-elles pas être soutenues par un ensemble de membres élu(e)s de la ville de Westmount, pour éviter de s’enliser dans des causes futiles et non avenues?

J’aime beaucoup ma ville de Westmount. Nos parcs sont superbes. J’aime y courir, hiver comme été. La verrière est un véritable joyau, au cœur de la ville. On s’y sent vraiment en paix et en sécurité.

Cette situation que vous avez décrite, M. Price, devient comme un pavé dans la mare.

Pourrait-on obtenir, de la ville de Westmount, plus de précisions sur le fait de judiciaire si rapidement un questionnaire qui m’apparaît, au premier abord, plutôt simple et honnête, de la part de ci-

inaccurate in any way. Why would a school in Westmount be exempt from this uncontroversial practice? Why would anyone want it to be? Why is there a desire to impose one’s preferred usage on others? – DP.

toyens?

Ça m’apparaît pertinent.  
À mon humble avis.

LUCIE DES PAROIS, DE CASSON RD.

**MAYOR NEEDS TO ASSERT AUTHORITY**

I read your accounts of Westmount DG Hakim’s threats to sue, ...

1. His behaviour was indeed unacceptable.

2. Mayor Smith needs to start asserting her authority over this DG. Please let us know what happens in this regard.

3. You are indeed a real paper with real journalists doing fine investigative work. As Brandeis said “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.”

Keep up the good work.

ALEX SIMONELIS

**IF ONLY THE CORRESPONDENCE HAD BEEN PRECISE, CORRECTLY TARGETTED, IN FRENCH**

*Whoa, whoa les nerfs.* In the July 5 *Independent*, I followed the story about a letter written by residents complaining of mail-delivery problems, a reference in an article on the Selby building to similarly named individuals, replies by the city’s clerk and lawyers threatening legal action, and editorials by the editor of the *Independent*.

Starting with the benign, each subsequently escalates to the irrelevant, to the overkill, to the dangers to democracy. And now finally, in the July 12 issue (p. 7), we get the city council attempting to placate the situation with a double negative? “In the two cases cited, we do not believe they should not have been issued.”

I am sometimes befuddled by the English language. Would someone please let me know where the council stands?

This might never have happened if the initial correspondence had been addressed to the proper party, Canada Post, in a clear and precise language (like French, perhaps?).

By the way, anyone who feels inconvenienced by construction has not had to live on St. Antoine St. for the last seven years.

Much ado about nothing!

CLAUDE DAVID



over my shoulder, I could pick up a lot of trash...well, in fact, I do!) our Westmount seems to have an air of randomness that isn’t what I remember from times past.

I am wondering if fellow citizens have noticed this, too?

Thank you for all that your newspaper does to help keep us all connected and communicating.

ARLENE MCGIBBON, METCALFE AVE.

**HOW ABOUT ST-LÉON?**

I agree with Stephen Chin [and his letter of June 14, p. 10]. The fact that you would even engage with an eight-year-old who takes pride in her school makes me wonder. Your unwillingness to accept that you are wrong shows a lack of courage. You should be congratulating Lila Sillery for her efforts in defending what she feels is correct.

IZAK RUBIN, REDFERN AVE.

**HOW ABOUT ST LEON?**

Your comments on my comment on St Leon School of Westmount [sic] grade 2 pupil Lila Sillery’s letter a couple of weeks ago to the *Westmount Independent* (June 14, p. 10) are unclear and somewhat incomprehensible to me and, I believe, to other *Westmount Independent* readers as well.

Therefore, to cut the narrative short and not make a mountain out of a molehill, I trust you will print my last word on it. Although there is no record of a formally canonized saint named Leo, there is a pope called Pope Leo I, who was widely regarded as a saint by early and later Christians.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Tangents to Arlington Avenue

## POST OFFICE TO BLAME ON OTHER STREET

I cannot resist the urge to comment on this issue and it is only indirectly related to the issues you raise in your July 5 p. 8 editorial. However, it focuses on the real culprit here, the post office.

I understand the frustration of both parties – i.e., the city employees trying to help but not succeeding, and the residents not getting their mail.

The source of their frustration is the same, the post office and its utter disregard for common sense. Unfortunately, the post office seems impervious to it and also seems sadly immune from any repercussions for its often idiotic and arbitrary behaviour.

I personally have had numerous and always negative run-ins with this organization and the postman representing it. I have complained many times to the post office and its ombudsman, to no avail – a useless and frustrating experience. I have always lost any confrontation with both. The organization including the ombudsman will always support its actions, no matter how stupid, inconvenient and illogical they are.

Some of my own examples:

Postman refuses to deliver mail due to alleged shaky iron railing on one side. The logical question arises: can't he go over to

the other railing, after all, the staircase is double-sized as it is meant to serve two dwellings. No, for some reason, he can't, or won't! One warning given, if it is not fixed by the next day, mail will be stopped! Mail is stopped, whether the problem is fixed or not, because if it is fixed, the message is not given in time to the postman, who is apparently in great danger until he is given the go-ahead by HQ: an investigation must be made – apparently, he cannot check on his own if it is fixed. And when mail is stopped it could be months before you get it, with illegible writing on it, indicating something definitely not good for you and often it is sent to the wrong address before coming back to you, if it in fact ever gets there.

Postman refuses to deliver mail because bike has been locked on one railing and the bike handle protrudes about two inches into the stairway. Same logical question arises as above with same answer: no he can't, or won't climb the stairs on the other side! Why? We don't know and never will. Safety of the same big strong postman at issue. Same result as above.

Branch overhangs part of the walkway. Warning given – remove by next day or poof, no mail delivery. Branch does not belong to me and neighbour is more than willing to remove it, but cannot do it by next day. Knowing the consequences, I pay to get it cut that day, but as noted, message not received in time for yes, again, mail stoppage. Same results follow, mail arrives months later, all crumpled with indecipherable writing on it.

I have other examples, but don't want to bore you. By the way, other delivery services – Amazon, Wayfair, Home Depot – have no problem or complaint with any of these issues. Deliveries are made all the time, in a timely way, in fact a lot more timely than Canada Post – only our dear post office, paid by our taxpayers' hard-earned money have, boo-hoo – SAFETY problems that it cannot figure a way around even when a solution is staring it in its face. And I am talking big, burly strong fellows in far better shape than the poor resident waiting for her mail, i.e., me.

And by the way again, the post office chat line and other complaint mechanisms are – please take it from me – utterly useless, asking for all kinds of info over and over again and giving circular answers that remind you of living in the middle of a Kafka novel. Do not waste your time or compromise your peace of mind.

Also do not waste your time on writing to the ombudsman. He/she takes ages to

answer (reason – investigation needed!) and when he/she finally does answer, the problem is often academic at that point (probably the real reason for the long delay). Anyway, the answer is always in support of the post office decision to stop the mail – safety of that big burly postman. A long letter, yes – our tax dollars at work – but always the same reasoning.

So, to return to Arlington Ave. and its issue, I was not surprised by the terrible outcome due to the decision of the post office, nor was I surprised that it did not come up with a better solution – even when the city official called it and asked for one. It seems (and no surprise again!) that it didn't even bother to answer. In a way it's comforting to know it applies its dumb decision-making on an equal opportunity basis but that is no compensation for the inconvenience suffered.

DEANA SILVERSTONE, GROSVENOR AVE.

## NEED MORE AGITATING, CRUSADING EDITORS

Perhaps surprisingly, I don't intend to comment directly on the “great Arlington controversy.” Between the *Indie*, its editor, and city council, all that needs to be said has been said ... or written.

I admire what David Price had done since he became the present editor of the *Indie*. Regarding the Arlington issue, I fully support his decision to lay it all out so readers can judge for themselves who has been most grievously wronged... if anyone.

However, I want to comment on his personal note that appeared on p. 10 of the July 5 issue. He stated that he chose to serve as editor as “a businessman” and “not as a Woodward and Bernstein wannabe.” As a former editor of a medical journal, I think Price misses the mark. Good editors should seek to emulate Woodward and Bernstein and others with similar, laudable intents to tackle wrongdoing when they see it.

In my view, doing so is not incompatible with being a successful businessmen, especially the few who actually keep their promises.

We need more agitating crusading editors of this kind, not only at the local level but also provincially and nationally.

In fact, I seem to recall Price venturing in this direction on several occasions in the past. The *Indie* is indeed a “real newspaper,” but from time to time, occasions and situations arise when it could be made even more real without stepping too far out of editor's comfort zone.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

**Editor's reply:** Thank you for your kind comments. What I meant by the “Woodward and Bernstein” comments was that I aim to do the job of editor as well as I can, but that I am not looking for controversies or conflicts. If I were, I could have found many, many more over the lifespan of the newspaper, whether I was editing it directly (like now) or as its chief businessman (which I have always been).

For most issues, I have left it up to the residents to fight for the kind of municipal government and policy that they want. We'll provide facts. Westmount is a democracy, inside a democracy, inside another democracy. Residents can do what they want with the information that we provide.

When our ability to operate as a newspaper is impaired (and other select cases), I will speak up. – DP

## Man taken to MGH from Westmount Park

An 88-year-old man was taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé July 28 from Westmount Park behind the library when found feeling weak and dizzy, Public Security officials said. He was believed to be suffering a stroke or heart attack but did not lose consciousness. The fire department's first responder unit was called, leading to his transport to hospital.

## Disoriented man speaks, understands only Russian

A call to Public Security July 29 at 5:05 pm for a disoriented man on Argyle led to patrollers finding a 72-year-old old described as “incoherent” and unable to understand or speak English or French, Public Security officials said.

Suspecting he was speaking Russian, they used an application from which they were able to determine his date of birth and that he needed to take a train to get home. The man, along with this information were turned over police. He was reportedly living, or staying, on Fulton St. in Côte des Neiges.

## We welcome your letters

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## Clarifications: 'Do not believe'

In the city council's column “Mayor, council respond to last week's letters-of-demand coverage” (July 12, p. 7), the sentence above the “Addressing situation” sub-head should have read: “In the two cases cited in the coverage, we do not believe the letters of demand should have been issued.”

## PAC against Goode House permit

In a story July 5 (p. 16) on the city council's approval June 20 of a permit for an addition to the Goode House at 178 Côte St. Antoine, one of the reasons listed was reported as the proposed design having been favourably recommended by the Planning Advisory committee (PAC). In fact, Councillor Conrad Peart, who moved the motion in a lengthy resolution, stated that the council had received “the opinion” of the PAC. This opinion had in fact been an unfavourable recommendation. – DP

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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After close to 13 years at the helm of Westmount Public Library and Community Events, retiring director Julie-Anne Cardella was thanked by city council August 1 when assistant director Anne-Marie Lacombe was appointed to succeed her. Both attended the session.

The city owes Cardella “an enormous amount of gratitude especially in the last two years,” during which she worked to ensure the library’s services were made accessible during the pandemic, Mayor Christina Smith said.

Cardella “led the team” this year to achieve a 99-percent rating from the Association des Bibliothèques Publiques du Québec (ABPQ), Councillor Elisabeth Roux, commissioner of the library and community events, announced while also thanking her for her service.

“I was so touched,” Cardella later told the *Independent*. “Working as the director in Westmount was a dream come true for me because the city believed in the power and importance of a public library to the community.” She expects to leave September 9 at the end of a 36-year career in library management.

**Highlights listed**

Along with the recent rating (see separate story at right) another highlight of Cardella’s tenure was the facelift and re-arrangement of the library’s interior to include allowing in more natural light (see story June 13, 2017, p. 1). During this renovation period, a pop-up library was created at Victoria Hall.

But perhaps the most important highlight, she said, was how the library maintained its position as one of the community’s most-used public institutions. “I am proud of both its evolving and traditional services, and seeing how it fulfills its role



From left, Anne-Marie Lacombe and Julie-Anne Cardella at the August 1 council meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY OF J-A CARDELLA.

in the community.”

Among the new programs and features she initiated were the rooftop beehives, multi-touch table, new website, the position of outreach librarian, the Kanopy streaming service and many online services such as e-books magazines and press-reader.

The seed-lending library, teen section and merger with Community Events are others.

Cardella came to Westmount in 2009 as director after 18 years at the Town of Mt. Royal library and five in Montreal/Verdun.

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The rating of Westmount’s library under the BiblioQUALITÉ program recognizes, on an objective basis, a number of the investments and efforts undertaken by each municipality regarding their public libraries.

Among the valuation criteria based on 2019 before the pandemic outbreak, are: collection development budgets, opening hours, surface (square footage), number of seats and human resources (full-time employees such as librarians and library technicians).

In terms of comparison with Westmount’s library’s score of 99 percent, the average was 67 percent, for all Quebec public libraries, as well as libraries serving a similar population in size as Westmount (between 10,000 and 24,999 residents).

**We welcome your letters**

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# 'Th3rdPlace' helps university students cope with loneliness

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While it's well-known that the COVID pandemic made many people feel lonelier and more isolated, a group of international university students in Montreal co-founded by a Claremont Ave. resident has actually been doing something about it.

Since earlier this year, they've taken the initiative of holding several social events, with the ultimate goal being to safeguard themselves against depression through daily activities and networking.

The group, which calls itself Th3rd-Place, was co-founded by Yuqi Yang, a graduate student in psychology at McGill University. Their latest gathering took place in Westmount Park on July 23.

"Most of our students are marginalized groups like international students, racial minorities," Yang said in an interview with the *Westmount Independent*.

"We want to promote the importance of peer-to-peer connection and how we can build social resilience to prevent loneliness, and mental illnesses like depression and anxiety."

The Westmount Park activity was the third to take place this year. The events which are held at various venues in Mont-



Seen here on July 23 are more than two dozen Concordia and McGill students who gathered in Westmount Park for one of Th3rdPlace's gatherings encouraging social resilience and peer-to-peer connection.

real attract Concordia and McGill students who are here from countries that include India, China, Iran, Rumania, Algeria and Tunisia.

Students from native Canadian communities, as well as from some distant locations in Quebec, have also decided to join to help alleviate some of the loneliness and isolation they feel while being so far from home.

Yang said the idea for the group sprang from her personal experience while pur-

suing her studies at McGill.

"I found it very lonely studying there in a very competitive environment," she said. "After I graduated, I started having the idea of doing something to benefit other students. This is not only about loneliness, but also about improving student experience in university."

While universities provide student counselling services in addition to programs of study, Yang said counselling isn't always available and international students

don't always qualify for the full level of service. As well, she noted that psychotherapy can be expensive for students struggling on very limited budgets.

Hence the need for a self-help group like Th3rdPlace to help students form social connections while improving their resilience to prevent depression, she said. The group hopes to encourage university students who may be living in Westmount to support their student-led initiative by visiting the web page, Th3rdplace.com.



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## Homeless man sets small fire at Dawson College



Two Dawson College security guards confront a man who had just set a fire on August 4.

BY JENNIFER BALL

A homeless man was confronted at 3.55 pm on August 4 by two Dawson College security guards after setting a small fire that sent plumes of smoke over the Centre de la Petite Enfance Dawson. The building is north of de Maisonneuve at Wood Ave. near the CEGEP's parking lot entrance.

There were no children in the play-

ground at the time the man was setting things alight. It appeared that he was burning papers and plastics. Accompanying him was an unleashed dog. The guards instructed him to put out the fire, which he did using water from a container that he had with him. While heated words were exchanged by both parties, the man moved off promptly from the premises after releasing his dog.



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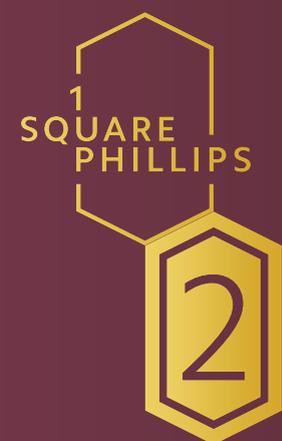
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## Putting the 'green' into 'house'

# Mayor explains conservatory's plants, layout



*Araucaria heterophylla.*



*Calamondin.*



*Monstera deliciosa* variegated *tradescantia* red leaved *croton* "petra."

BY JENNIFER BALL

The city's conservatory and greenhouse re-opened on June 23 (see story July 5, p. 25, which details the extensive restoration work on this heritage structure). Westmount's green-thumbs, no doubt, will be interested in the current flora on display as well as learning what future months of



*Guzmania* with *ficus lyrata* leaves. As photographed on July 18.

budding and sprouting might produce.

The buildings closed in 2015 due to safety concerns and one of the reasons that it took seven years before the re-opening was the availability of glaziers and workers who were as specialized as Lord & Burnham, the notable greenhouse manufacturer behind the 1927 construction.

The *Independent* initially requested that Sebastien Samuel, division chief – Communications at the city, provide contact information for the horticulturalists on the project, but Westmount mayor Christina Smith preferred to be the city's spokesperson.

"The conservatory, with its curved glass, takes an extensive maintenance project to ensure that this lasts generations," Mayor Smith said.

"That is the difficulty in why it took so long. It is finding a contractor who is developing the restoration plan but also getting people to do the work. It is a very specialized trade."

During the closure, Smith supposes that residents missed it most during the winter months. "Probably January, where you can sit in a little oasis, and it's warm and things are in bloom."

The heating and cooling systems are brand new and the horticulturalists are trying to find the perfect balance now be-

tween the humidity in the summer and the dryer winter months.

They selected *araucaria heterophylla*, *calamondin*, several varieties of *guzmania* with *ficus lyrata* leaves, *monstera deliciosa* with variegated *tradescantia* and red-leaved *croton petra*, to name but a few.

"All decisions from the horticultural perspective made along the project were oriented by the horticulture consulting firm HETA in order to provide a base planting selection allowing the widest transition possibilities for future concept development," Smith said.

"The current tropical plants found in the base planting are not specifically subjected to bloom in different seasons. However, tropical plants for the most part are selected for the particularities of their leaf colours that are maintained almost throughout the year.

"Our internal horticulturists are currently working on different planting scenarios fulfilling the requirements of different operation orientation that will include season blooming and that are subjected to be implemented in an imminent future."

There are few limitations on plant selection to grow in a greenhouse in terms of lighting, moisture and air temperature, "except for plants that would require shading to grow. The mechanical character-

istics of the building allows the environment to be modulated to a wide range of conditions, permitting the accommodation of almost any sorts of plants," Smith said.

"As for plants requiring shade, the introduction of such plants will first require the surrounding plants to expand their coverage and provide a suitable environment."

Future plans for the greenhouse also include signage that identify plants and flowers, "because a big part of it too is an educational aspect and having different angles that you can look at the plants."



*Guzmania.*

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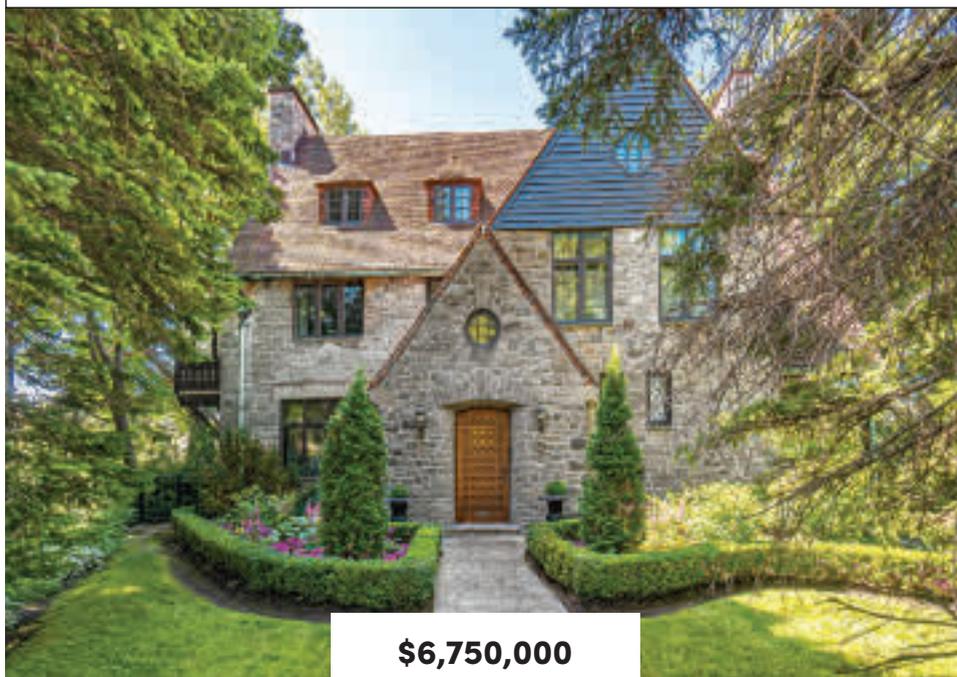
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# March transfers: An average month

Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

was only \$3,750,000 compared to prices in January as high as \$5,800,000 and in February, \$7,300,000. Under the circumstances, it is perhaps more telling that the median price in January registrations was \$1,900,000, going up to \$2,150,000 in February and then back down to \$1,918,000 in March.

The highest March price, then, was registered in the price of 4455 Montrose Ave, a large detached brick house. The lowest price of \$1,400,000 involved the semi-detached house at 1109 Greene Ave., corner of Stayner St. The average mark-up over valuation was 43.5 percent, with individual mark-ups ranging from 5.3 percent for a duplex at 338-40 Olivier Ave., to 150 percent for 653 Grosvenor Ave, which sold for \$3,350,000, reportedly after only three days on the market. That house had been pur-

*Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2022, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.*

March of 2022 turned out to be a “month of averages,” with 12 one- and two-family sales compared to 10 in January and 14 in February, averaging \$2,274,708 compared to an average so far this year of \$2,585,528, and an “adjusted average” (compared to valuation) of \$2,777,632 in March compared to \$2,676,150 for the year-to-date. The reason the average price is so much lower is because the highest price



1109 Greene. All photos July 29.



4455 Montrose.

chased for \$1,359,500 in January 2019.

Four condominiums sold in March, including one portion of a duplex and three in larger apartment buildings. Because we keep statistics for condos by quarter, and adding on one late arrival that was sold in January, the totals for the first quarter numbered 14 condo sales grossing \$18,521,000 for condos with a total valuation of \$14,527,000. The total 27.5-percent average mark-up was lower than for any of the first three months for one- and two-family homes. Two of the March condo sales included 394 Lansdowne, which sold for the highest mark-up in the quarter, 65 percent, and Apt. 303 at 175 Metcalfe Ave., which sold for only 2.2 percent above its valuation, the lowest mark-up on the quarter.

The only duplex to sell in March was 338-40 Olivier, and no commercial or multi-residential sales were included in the information available to the *Independent*.



338 Olivier.



653 Grosvenor.

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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in March 2022

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
429 Argyle	Sabine-Laure Giesbert	\$2,525,000	\$1,801,700	40.1%
495 Claremont	Karine Paule Rechtman & Stéphane Charles Lassignardie	\$2,350,000	\$1,599,400	46.9%
4157 de Maisonneuve	Jean Cohen	\$1,800,000	\$1,170,100	53.8%
4471 de Maisonneuve	Jill Quinlan & Stephen Bird	\$1,688,000	\$1,005,300	67.9%
1109 Greene	David Freiheit & Marion Van Horn	\$1,400,000	\$849,100	64.9%
653 Grosvenor	Sarantos Iliopoulos	\$3,350,000	\$1,340,000	150.0%
17 Melbourne	Peter William Hutchins	\$2,260,000	\$1,819,000	24.2%
4455 Montrose	Alexander Grach & Natalia Lisochkino	\$3,750,000	\$3,128,600	19.9%
349 Olivier	Jonathan Lavy	\$2,900,000	\$2,016,100	43.8%
653 Victoria	Stephen Claude Martin	\$1,880,000	\$1,502,400	25.1%
<b>DUPLEXES</b>				
338-40 Olivier	George Drogaris & Georgina Alivizatos	\$1,720,000	\$1,632,700	5.3%
421-23 Victoria	Hélène Archambault & Stéphane Morin	\$1,673,500	\$1,161,200	44.1%
<b>CONDOMINIUMS</b>				
394 Landsdowne	Jake Leibner	\$969,000	\$584,400	65.8%
175 Metcalfe #309	Jair de Almeida Garcia & Ana Claudia Polins	\$1,560,000	\$1,527,000	2.2%
215 Redfern #406	Joyce Hart	\$1,570,000	\$1,390,000	12.9%
215 Redfern #603	Heidi Helen (Kasimirski) Berger	\$1,665,000	\$1,285,100	29.6%
<b>JANUARY CONDOMINIUM SALE</b>				
205 Victoria #303	104149 Canada, Inc.	\$695,000	\$524,800	32.4%

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## NOUVELLES

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Mardi 2 septembre

## NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETINGTuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**Réaménagement du parc Devon**

Des travaux de réaménagement du parc Devon débiteront en septembre 2022. Le projet vise à revitaliser et adapter cet espace à la topographie et à installer une nouvelle structure de jeux. [engage.westmount.org](http://engage.westmount.org)

**Inscription d'automne en cours**

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant à vos activités préférées de sports et de loisirs. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Cours de loisirs gratuits dans le parc**

Participez à des cours de conditionnement, de yoga et plus, les mardis et jeudis de 10 h à 11 h au parc Westmount. Horaire : [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

**Travaux : fermeture du ch. Belvédère entre Le Boulevard et Sunnyside**

La Ville de Montréal reprend les travaux sur le réseau principal d'eau du 15 au 31 août. Pendant cette période, le ch. Belvédère sera fermé entre Le Boulevard et l'av. Sunnyside (la circulation locale sera maintenue). Pour plus de détails, visitez [westmount.org](http://westmount.org) ou [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca).

**Kiosque fermier au Square Prince-Albert**

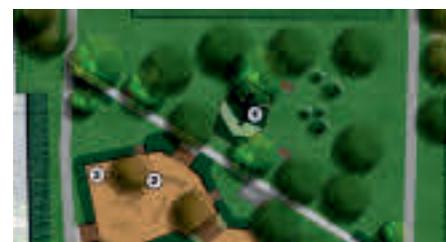
La Ville vous invite à son kiosque fermier au Square Prince-Albert tous les jeudis de 14 h à 18 h. Vous y trouverez des légumes biologiques de saison. Annulé en cas de pluie. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Rappel : fraude aux grands-parents**

Le Service de police du quartier constate une augmentation de cas de fraude téléphonique qui visent les personnes âgées. Renseignez-vous et parlez-en à vos proches. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Jeux temporaires au parc Westmount**

En attente d'une nouvelle structure de jeux au parc Westmount, la Ville offre des jeux supervisés pour les jeunes au parc de 9 h à 15 h, jusqu'au vendredi 12 août. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Renewal of Devon Park**

Work to redesign Devon Park and replace the play structure will begin in September 2022. The project aims to revitalize and adapt the space to the topography, and install a new play structure. [engage.westmount.org](http://engage.westmount.org)

**Registration for fall activities**

Register now for your favourite sports and recreation activities. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Free recreation classes in the park**

Join the fitness, yoga and other classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. in Westmount Park. Schedule at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

**Water work: closure of Belvédère Rd. between The Boulevard and Sunnyside**

The Ville de Montréal will resume water main work from August 15<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. During this period, Belvedere Rd. will be closed between The Boulevard and Sunnyside Ave. (local traffic will be maintained). For more details, visit [westmount.org](http://westmount.org) or [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca).

**Farm stand at Prince Albert Square**

The City invites you to its farm stand at Prince Albert Square every Thursday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., where you will find fresh organic vegetables. Cancelled if rain. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Reminder: grandparent fraud**

The local police department is reporting an increase in telephone fraud targeting seniors. Find out more, and speak to your family and friends. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Temporary games at Westmount Park**

While waiting for the installation of the new play structure in Westmount Park, the City is offering some supervised games for children from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Friday, August 12. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

**Capsule temporelle de Westmount**

**Participez au concours!** Cet automne, la Ville dévoilera le contenu d'une capsule enterrée il y a 100 ans. Pour perpétuer la tradition, la Ville lance un concours pour déterminer le contenu de la prochaine capsule. Détails à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Club de lecture d'été TD 2022**

Inscris-toi au CLETD, participe à la bataille des livres, relève des défis et déniche le livre parfait! Thème : *Mythes et légendes!* [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Promenade mystère :****La disparition du collier du corgi royal**

Utilisez votre téléphone intelligent pour lire l'histoire et résoudre les énigmes. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Exposition estivale**

Jusqu'au 19 août, Galerie de Victoria Hall. Œuvres de dix artistes de Westmount.

**Marche littéraire au parc Westmount**

*Parfois je suis un renard* de Danielle Daniel.

**L'aventure du Pique-nique mythique**

Participe à cette promenade mystère interactive au parc Westmount (4 à 12 ans). [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Concerts d'été au parc Westmount**

Les dimanches, 14 h, près de l'étang.

Apportez une chaise et une pique-nique.

14 août : Macka Jazz (reggae-jazz);

21 août : Noteworthy (folk). [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Projection interactive : Grease (1978)**

Jeudi 18 août, 20 h, parc Westmount. Les costumes sont encouragés et la participation du public est essentielle. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Film sous les étoiles : Encanto (2021)**

Jeudi 25 août, au crépuscule, parc Westmount. Apportez vos chaises et couvertures. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**CLETD : fête de clôture**

Samedi 17 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall.

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Westmount Time Capsule**

**Take part in the contest!** This fall, the City will reveal the contents of a time capsule that was buried 100 years ago. To continue that tradition, the City is launching a contest for the contents of the next capsule. More details at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

**2022 TD Summer Reading Club**

Sign up to the TDSRC: take part in the Battle of the Books, work on challenges, & find the perfect book. Theme: *Legends and Myths!* [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Mystery Walk:****The Curious Case of the Corgi's Collar**

Use your smartphone to read the story and solve the riddles. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

**Summer Group Exhibition**

Until August 19, Gallery at Victoria Hall. Works by ten Westmount artists.

**StoryWalk® in Westmount Park**

*Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox*, by Danielle Daniel.

**Mythic Summer Picnic Mystery Walk**

Take part in this interactive walk in Westmount Park (ages 4-12). [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Summer concerts in Westmount Park**

Sundays at 2 p.m., near the lagoon.

Bring a chair and a picnic.

August 14: Macka Jazz (reggae-jazz);

August 21: Noteworthy (folk). [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Interactive screening: Grease (1978)**

Thursday, August 18, 8 p.m., Westmount Park. Costumes are encouraged, and audience participation is essential. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Movie Under the Stars: Encanto (2021)**

Thursday, August 25, dusk, Westmount Park. Bring your chairs and blankets. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**TDSRC closing party**

Saturday, September 17, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall.



# Pandemic effects: Never too many cooks in the kitchen for Westmount's kitchenware stores

BY JENNIFER BALL

While restaurants have been at least partially open since late January, some people are still hesitant to return to public, interior spaces and that could mean that the demand for baking staples, quality pans and good knives continues to spike for Westmount cookery stores, just as it did during the first years of the pandemic.

Michael Harroch of Westmount Gourmet in Westmount Square, David Hutman of Wilfrid and Adrienne and Melissa Perrotte of La Cookery – both on Sherbrooke St. in Victoria village – dished about their recent triumphs and travails.

Harroch said that Westmount Gourmet has been in operation for over 30 years although he only bought the store three years ago. “After the first [government mandated closure], absolutely there was an increase in interest in the store,” he said.

## Sales up

“I mean it translated into sales, of course. A lady walked in she used to spend like \$80 or \$90 on a pan. Now, she took interest in the higher-end pans. She said ‘Well, I’m cooking a lot at home. I want something good,’ then she would spend more money.

“People who used to spend a lot of money in restaurants, they then spoiled themselves and asked for higher-end stuff. That’s given me confidence now to go into that direction a little bit more.”

Hutman who has run Wilfrid and Adrienne for 15 years, said “a lot of people who weren’t big cooks before now took the time to cook or to bake.

“They realize that they want a good knife, a good cutting board and they gave it value whereas beforehand someone would say ‘Oh, I don’t cook’ and they would just buy the basics. There was that uptick,



Michael Harroch of Westmount Gourmet in Westmount Square on July 29.

definitely.”

There were also challenges in that business owners found themselves needing to carve out large chunks of their work day to handle bungled logistics. Tracking all the missing components that would make up a complete set of flatware or glassware became a circuitous game of phone-tag, Hutman said. Those items, after all, were often purchased for dates that were set in stone like bridal showers, weddings and anniversaries.

“If you ordered a dozen, you could receive six,” Hutman exhaled. “You could order five sizes of something and you received three; or you would receive one today and one in two months, because sometimes they’re splitting up a shipment. So, there are definitely shortages and sometimes to a real detriment. If someone wanted a dozen, they don’t want to receive just eight.”

Perrotte opened La Cookery in November 2020 and her business plan factored in



Melissa Perrotte on July 22. It is located on Sherbrooke St. at Victoria Ave.

pandemic economics. “COVID didn’t hit us from out of the blue. I was perfectly aware of it when I made the decision to open the store,” she said.

The biggest challenges she faced was with sourcing, the limits vendors placed on their products and with items being dis-



David Hutman on July 28. It is located on Sherbrooke Str. at Claremont Ave.

continued.

“You have to work a lot harder and fight a lot harder, especially as a new business that just opened. Even if it costs me, I’m better off making sure the customer is satisfied and that hopefully they will come back.”

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#newsmatters **FEATURE**

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

NEWS FOR YOUTH:

## Community newspapers encourage young readers

BY RUBY IRENE PRATKA

As younger readers turn increasingly to social media platforms and mobile apps for news, newspapers across the country are wrestling with the question of how to keep younger readers engaged with their content, while continuing to publish the print publications that older generations rely on. Quebec's community newspapers are confronted with the same puzzle. Here are three creative ways that QCNA member papers have connected with younger readers.

## IT'S A SNAP

Data from News Media Canada confirms the cliché that Millennials are less likely than older generations to get news from print newspapers – 42 per cent of self-identified Boomers prefer to access news in print compared with only 27 per cent of Millennial/Gen Y readers. However, nearly 90 per cent of Millennial and Gen Y readers engage with news content; they are just more likely to do so on a smartphone or laptop than with a print newspaper.

Lily Ryan, publisher of the *West Quebec Post*, *Gatineau Bulletin*, *Pontiac Journal* and *Aylmer Bulletin* and mother of two teenage daughters, enjoys telling a particular story that illustrates this – and illustrates the fact that the stories published in community newspapers still resonate with young readers.

“Shortly before the pandemic, my daughters’ friends were chatting in the kitchen and I heard one of them say, ‘Did you hear Rosie’s mom was on the front page of the *Bulletin*? She won the marathon!’ I thought, ‘How cute! The kids read the *Bulletin*!’” Actually, someone left the paper sitting out on the table and a kid saw it, took a picture of it and shared it on Snapchat. That’s how that story got from one medium to another and one generation to another,” she recalled. “Local news is still of top interest.”

The incident pushed Ryan to rethink her papers’ social media strategy. Although all four papers use social media to share news, Ryan ultimately decided she didn’t have the time or money to invest further in websites. However, she did receive a Quebec government grant to support a digital transition. As a first step, the paper is equipping staff with the same smartphones its readers use, and investing in training staff.

## STARTING IN SCHOOLS

*The Gaspé Spec* in the Gaspé Peninsula region is one of several community newspapers that work with local public schools. At the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, through funding from the Community Media Strategic Support Fund, the *Spec* sent kits with cameras, recorders, notebooks and journalism guides to all English and Indigenous public schools in its coverage area, along with monthly suggestions for topics to cover.

“We’re sending them reminders that the *Spec* would like to hear from them and that we’re there to support them, and we’re starting to reap the benefits of that,” said *Spec* publisher Penny MacWhirter. Schools “are contacting us and, as a result, our readers are learning about all the exciting activities happening in those schools.”

In the future, MacWhirter hopes that when young people “have something exciting that they want to tell the public about, *Spec* will come to mind right away. ‘We’re doing a fundraiser for school; let’s write something and send it to *Spec*.’ One article at a time, MacWhirter and her colleagues are creating a new generation of *Spec* readers.

## THE WELCOME WAGON

Every September, Bishop’s University in Lennoxville, the only English-language university in Quebec outside of Montreal, welcomes thousands of

students from across the country and abroad. Publisher Sharon McCully and her colleagues at the *Sherbrooke Record* see these students as new neighbours and potential readers.

“...someone left the paper sitting out on the table and a kid saw it, took a picture of it and shared it on Snapchat. That’s how that story got from one medium to another and one generation to another...”

Three years ago, the *Record* worked with a group of Bishop’s students to produce a video tour of Lennoxville. “We did a walking tour and said ‘Here’s the pub and here’s where you can get pizza and health food.’ We can’t expect students to come from another part of the country and embrace a community they know nothing about. So, it’s a bit of a greeting, ‘Hi, welcome to the whole community, not just Bishop’s. Meet your neighbours,’” McCully said.

Traditionally, at the beginning of every school year, the *Record* also offers a free digital subscription to students at Bishop’s and at Champlain Regional College, the local English-language CEGEP. Students see volunteer opportunities in the paper and get involved in organizations like Meals on Wheels. “It helps them see that they’re part of a community, and learn about what’s going on off campus,” she said. “All they have to do is log on.”

This  Quebec Community Newspaper Association special feature is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors:

CEDEC



Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
English Montreal School Board

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Canada

## Police Report

# Dog bite incidents to be taken seriously, says police spokesperson

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A dog bite incident in Westmount last month has prompted a Montreal police spokesperson to remind canine owners of their responsibilities while handling their pets and the consequences of failing to do so adequately.

According to Station 12 spokesperson Cst. Michel Yigit, an elderly woman was bitten by a dog on July 11 during the early afternoon at the corner of Wood Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

After the woman was bitten, the dog's owner said relatively little, then quickly left the scene.

Cst. Yigit said the dog didn't initially be-

have aggressively towards the woman, but was boisterous and not fully under the control of the owner.

"The woman put her arm up to protect herself and the dog bit her," he told the *Independent*. "The owner told her not to worry because the dog had all his shots, and then he ran off."

He suggested that a significant number of Westmounters seemingly decided during the pandemic when they were confined indoors to become dog owners, while perhaps not being fully aware of the responsibilities.

He said that a number of dog bite incidents in Westmount had taken place over the past few months, although they went

largely unreported.

Cst. Yigit said that should anyone find themselves in a similar situation and the dog owner fails to identify himself or herself, the police should be called immediately.

He said that as an overall protocol observed by police following dog bite incidents, the dog must be kept under observation by the owner for possible changes in health over a 10-day period, and that victims must also be monitored over the same time.

He said that a person in charge of a dog who leaves the scene after a bite incident without following the appropriate measures could face a civil action as well

as a criminal charge.

"If someone were bitten and they came down with an infection and died, then a criminal negligence charge could come from that," he said citing an example.

He said that in the case of the July 11 dog bite incident, the owner is now regarded as a suspect because he left the scene while failing to identify himself, just as leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident without following normal procedures is considered a criminal act.

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## Graham goes to games – Canada Summer Games



Westmounter Toby Graham has been selected as a member of Quebec's first female box lacrosse team for the Summer Canada Games that began August 5 in Niagara, Ontario. Graham began playing field lacrosse with the Westmount Lynx when she was 10 and was a member of the Quebec field lacrosse teams of 2019 and 2021.

Graham was the tournament MVP in Team Quebec's prep event, the Nelson Cup, in New Brunswick in June.

◀Toby Graham holding her tournament MVP hat at the Nelson Cup in June in New Brunswick.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN GRAHAM.

## Overheard

Victoria and Sherbrooke, August 3, 4:30 pm, one man to another, jestingly:

"I have been pre-stalking you: showing up places 10 minutes before you all over the place."

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## Ferdinand Cheval: The Postman Who Delivered a Palace

# Renaud's new book relates how 'nothing is impossible'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What child has not been fascinated by fairy-tale castles and fancy stones?

Though the two do not usually have much in common, the latest book by prolific children's author Anne Renaud relates how almost 300 years ago a rural postman in France without architectural training built a monumental castle using one ornate stone at a time.

Called *Ferdinand Cheval: The Postman Who Delivered a Palace*, the book tells how over 33 years and despite public ridicule at the time, he created what has become a national treasure, showing that nothing is impossible.

"It's a story of resistance and persistence with the very simple notion that you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it," Renaud said last week. "It also introduces the concept of naive architecture," i.e. buildings built by amateurs.

Written for 5- to 8-year-olds, the lavishly illustrated picture book explains to the young reader how "Every morning, Mon-

sieur Cheval set out with a bag of mail, destined for the farmers and villagers scattered throughout the French countryside." That was "until one day when a rock on his path made him stumble."

The rock was nothing like he had ever seen before, he thought, as he dropped it into his mailbag. He marvelled at it, found more and used them to create the castle with his bare hands and a few basic tools.

"He did not stop when his muscles ached," the book states. "Nor when his stomach grumbled. Nor when his hands burned with lime. Only when his eyelids grew heavy would he leave his stones and go home... Monsieur Cheval never did believe in the word impossible."

Published by Reycraft Books and illustrated by Ana Salopek, the book is to be available next month in bookstores and at the Westmount library's children department. Renaud, a fully bilingual Westmount resident, also has a book in French appearing this month called *Une histoire si'l te plait*. It too will be available at the library.

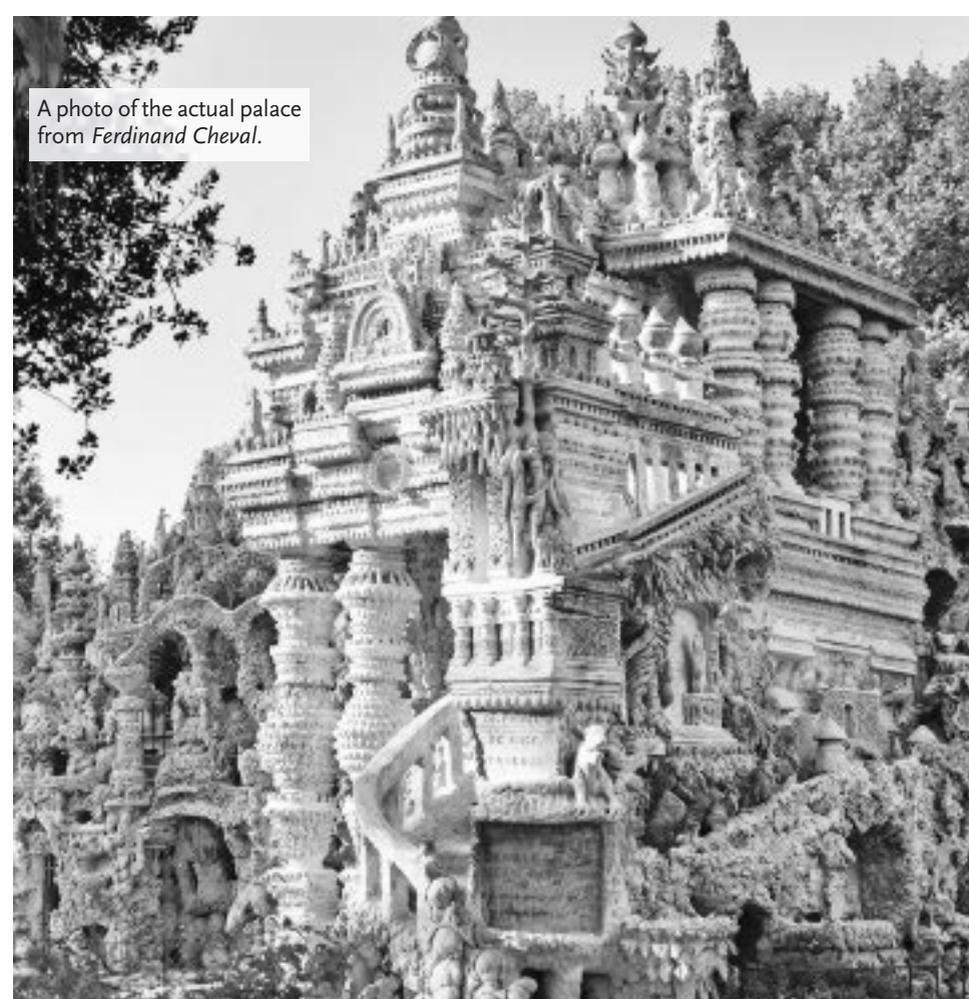
### Resilience Montreal, cont'd from p. 1

eral government, they'll be pretty quick off the mark.

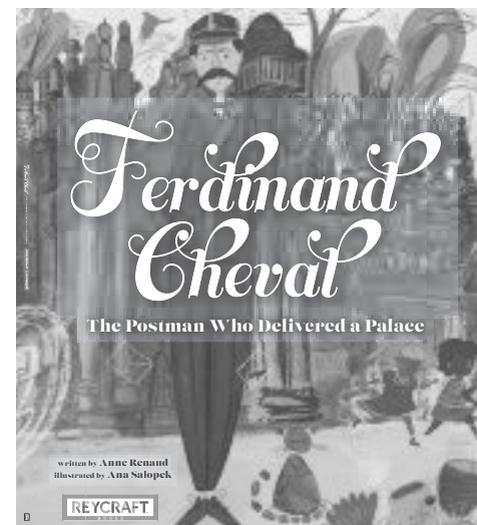
"They've got to replace the roof, most of the windows, fire escapes, put in a sprinkler system, and turn it into a place that can accommodate up to 150 people, generally from the Indigenous community but also from the Inuit community, who are looking for services," he said.

As Garneau pointed out, Cabot Square, on the opposite side of Atwater from Resilience Montreal's current location, has become a popular gathering spot for native people in Montreal. While not all are homeless, he said many are in need of social services that are culturally appropriate.

Garneau estimates that as many as



A photo of the actual palace from *Ferdinand Cheval*.



1,000 residents of Quebec's far-northern Nunavik district are present at any given time in Montreal.

They come here on short and long-term stays for a variety of reasons, including a need for specialized medical attention that is unavailable in the province's far north.

As the closing of the Open Door day centre four years ago seriously impacted the availability of help for homeless people, Garneau said many Westmounters had expressed their concerns to him.

"They're worried about whether we're looking after their welfare and trying to help them because many are in need," he said. "If we are a compassionate society, we should be doing more."



NDG-Westmount Liberal MP Marc Garneau on August 2 on the edge of Westmount Park along Sherbrooke St.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Mr. Visitor: Abandoned or lost or stray?

ing if he belongs to a Westmount resident or is a stray who has somehow managed to survive on wildlife and the kindness of neighbours.

“He is very skittish and cannot be approached but is becoming a little less shy every day. We are aware of the rescue steps to follow and he has already been listed on Pawboost. Westmount no longer has a contract with the SPCA so that avenue is closed.

“However, if anyone recognizes this beautiful cat or has any information at all about him, please get in touch by email: [auerpets@gmail.com](mailto:auerpets@gmail.com).

Your neighbour, Lysanne

I have been asked by our neighbour on Arlington Lane to help the family move forward in helping this beautiful grey short-hair with a white shirt and mittens, quite handsome with huge golden eyes.

Mr. Visitor has been outside in their back lane and they have been feeding him as he seems to have nowhere to go. After months of this situation, it is time for this poor fellow to go back to his family or be taken in as an adoption. The first step is to share our neighbour's message and help spread the word:

“This cat has been hanging around Arlington Lane for months. We are wonder-



## Cute Cooper re-considered

Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

“Was it the previous photograph? But I am sooo cute!”

Shocked, I am shocked ... Yes, we presented young Cooper some weeks back and he is still not in a family.

Let's blame it on cats, as the 9 Lives cat column must have gotten all the attention that week!

So here is this handsome two-years-young Chihuahua dandy with a striking coat of white, caramel and brown shades. His expressive eyes say so much. This darling little fellow picks up on everything around him.

Cooper is presently in a foster family

for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. The family has great praise for his interest in people and dogs on his walks, his affection to all in the home and his adaptation to the daily routine.

Bright, affectionate, playful, Cooper is an ideal companion for an adult family and possibly another small dog as he enjoys playing with a pal. He is active in the fenced back yard, enjoying the family when there is someone at home and retiring to his crate, which serves as his little bedroom, when he is on his own.

Cooper is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and micro-chipped. If you would like more information on him, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) to refer to his information page, and please do not hesitate to write to the group's volunteers at their email at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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# Cooke contributes to anthology on Vale Perkins, Quebec

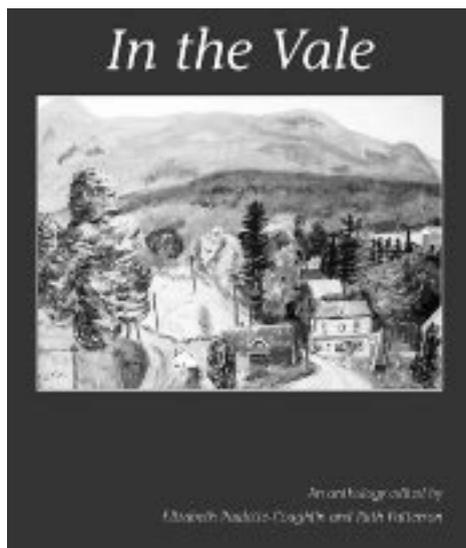
BY JENNIFER BALL

Westmount resident Nathalie Cooke is among the contributors to Studio Georgeville's third published book, *In the Vale*. It is an anthology of memoirs in prose and poetry about the hamlet Vale Perkins. It is co-edited by Ruth Patterson and Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin.

The book was conceived when Patterson and Paulette-Coughlin noticed that Vale Perkins was transforming as the nearby Owl's Head ski resort was being developed into a four-season tourist destination.

"There was a lot of environmental and ecological change," Paulette-Coughlin said. "A lot of the old cottages along Girls Camp Rd.," a main artery in the hamlet, "were being torn down. Just the nature of that change started our conversation because we noticed that these families were not there anymore."

The fact that the demographics were shifting so drastically and that memories and stories could be forgotten enticed the duo to put out a call for submissions as



a way to encode memories, she said. To create "a permanent record of the Eastern Townships so that it would become part of social history," was their intention.

## Lockdown upped time

Cooke has been to the Vale for long spells since 2020 and, like some others

who found themselves in lockdown outside metropolises, she said she discovered a wonderful connection to "the natural world."

"We found time, that we traditionally had spent with acquaintances and with friends, for just observing the landscape around us. So, we watched some eggs hatch and the birds learning to fly," she said.

"I became much more familiar with birds around the cottage and could start to pick out their calls. I even got to the point, I am pretty sure, that we had a particular bird, and I could catch this bird's call and distinguish it from some of the others."

Cooke's contribution is titled "Comings and Goings" and it illuminates how life changed when her father-in-law moved in with them after becoming a widower. "It offered a place where we could live with multi generations. We had three generations for close to 15 months."

## Former Westmounter Abbott contributes too

The afterword, an appendix and book

production management were provided by former Westmount resident Louise Abbott.

"That entails overseeing every aspect of the production of the book," Abbott said, describing the latter. She also produced a cinematic companion to the book that will be screened locally in July titled *Memories of the Vale*.

Sandra Jewett of the Jewett's General Store – the heart of the Vale Perkins community – is among those interviewed in the book. "She's written historical material for local brochures but she had never written something personal like that," Abbott said.

Jewett also reads her work in the film and it zeroes in on the book's chief argument: "...however, inevitable change is insistently pressing in and we feel impotent. The stain of development, indelible. Vale Perkins: the place that has always seemed more a state of mind, may not survive in the form we recognize..."

*In the Vale* is available to purchase at the following locations:

- Studio Georgeville, 20 Carre, Carr Copp, Georgeville
- Brome Lake Books, 45 Lakeside, Knowlton
- Jewett's General Store, 3 George R. Jewett Rd., Vale Perkins

## Problem ... solved



Looking north on Victoria Ave. at de Maisonneuve on July 31, left, and August 8. The traffic light had been fixed by August 5.

PHOTOS: CATHERINE MCKENZIE, LEFT, AND INDEPENDENT.

# Contactivity to hold two 'Drum Circles' Aug. 11 and 18

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Contactivity seniors' centre is to host two music therapy events called drum circles on August 11 and August 18. Both are taking place from 10 to 11 am in front of Westmount Park United Church where the centre is based.

The activity brings together isolated

seniors to create music, socialize and improve their overall mental-health, according to Emily Rill, program director for Contactivity.

A similar event June 7 called "outdoor drum circle energizer" was so successful that it is being repeated, she explained. After that, "one Contactivity member said that she felt like a kid again and was able

to release pent-up emotions from being isolated the last two years."

The sessions are being led by a music therapist and the musical instruments are being loaned by Westmount Music Therapy. This a group that provides private and group music therapy for children, youth and young adults, also based at the church.

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War through the eyes of a 10-year-old

# Nguyen publishes account of Vietnam War, escape by sea



T'S TAKES

RALPH THOMPSON

"I belong to the boat people. I left Vietnam with my mother and my seven brothers at the end of April 1975, on the day Saigon fell and the Americans withdrew.

"We are among the lucky ones. We all survived," said Westmounter Maï Nguyen, who recently published the story of her heart-wrenching departure from Vietnam. *Rien de beau sur la guerre* is published in French by Les éditions du passage, in collaboration with Patrick Froehlich.

For an innocent 10-year-old who had spent her whole life surrounded by war, life was a bustling market with her mom Kim Cuc Trinh on a cyclo; exotic scents; old women hunched over cooking; vendors selling toys; colourful, fragrant maï flowers.

Sadly, these would not be the only memories etched in her mind.

Curled up in bed in Da Nang in March 1975: distant explosions, just like other nights. Then loud explosions, getting closer. Light flashes. Pulled out of bed. The ground quaking. Crouching under a table, mother lying on top of her. Next morning, everything was different. Chaos. Neighbours carried on stretchers, dead.

But a 10-year-old must get to school. Where's her best friend Hoa? They always walked to school together. They'd never see each other again.

Father was a captain in the South Vietnamese army. She didn't see him again for 25 years.

March 28: elder brother Tuân arrived at night with a windowless black truck from



47 years after evacuating Vietnam by sea, Maï Nguyen looks out over the less foreboding waters of the Lachine canal.

the American consulate. Mother, Maï and her seven brothers quietly slipped into the truck. They headed for the dockside. Next day, they were being crowded onto a military barge, just a cold metal platform without rails, along with 800 others. People falling, screams, loud voices, a rough sea. The barge was towed out to rendezvous with *SS Pioneer Contender*. Boats colliding, people scrambling to board the ship. The barge tilting perilously to one side. People in the water. Mom stays calm. They hold back. Belongings discarded. Peeking through closed eyes, Maï sees large Caucasian hairy arms. Hairy arms put her down in a corner onboard the *Pioneer Contender*. Maï crouches, along with 5,600 evacuees. The sea looks like a huge black hole. Eventually, the family is reunited.

March 29: the boat docks in Cam Ranh. They're flown to Saigon.

They listen to the armed forces radio for the evacuation code "White Christmas."

April 30: they leave their lodgings. Departure from the American embassy by helicopter is impossible. The family heads for Khanh Hoi port. Amongst a mass of soldiers, they board the *Fortune* and sail down the estuary under cover of darkness for eight hours to meet up with the navy ship *Kimbo*. From there to the Philippines, where they remain on the beach until an American Hercules flies them to Guam. Two months later, they fly to Pennsylvania. No home or belongings, but now they feel safe.

Mom chooses to settle in Montreal. But the memories never disappear. Maï would lie with her feet in the air or against the wall, so she wouldn't fall sleep and have nightmares.

By the autumn of 1975, Maï had started school at École St-Leon de Westmount.

Forty-seven years later, she is married and has two wonderful sons: Tyler and the younger Noah, an adopted Vietnamese

orphan.

*Rien de beau sur la guerre* is dedicated to her mom, Kim Cuc Trinh, who passed away some years ago.

Maï Nguyen was born in 1964 in Saigon. She studied fashion design, tourism management and creative writing at Concordia University in Montreal. She has been an actress, model and stylist. For the past 30 years, she has been a make-up artist for the Montage agency; her work has been featured in numerous advertising campaigns and magazines.



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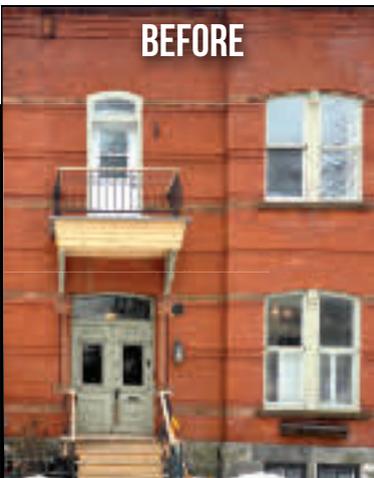
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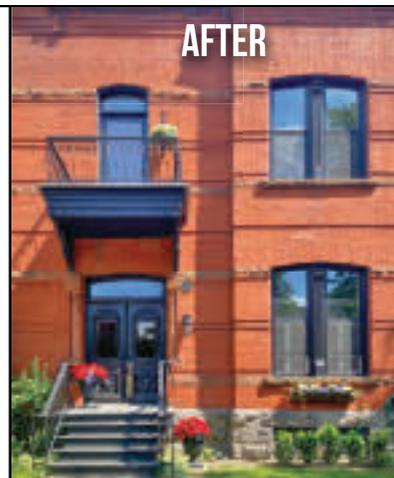
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## Retail Watch

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Galerie Blanche goes Greene

perer” sculpture in Old Montreal.

Greene Ave.’s Galerie Blanche offers eclectic exhibitions ranging from editions of moody photographs mounted on aluminum by Thierry Quenette to Italian artist Bruno Capolongo’s “kintsugi” unique pieces. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing areas of broken pottery with lacquer or powdered gold. Quenette’s large “Deep Blue” canvas illustrates this philosophical concept beautifully; the mesmerizingly crisp blue of the large bowl complements the tactile wavering lines of the gold “mending” its cracks.

Works by local artist Amélie Desjardins address immigration with painted scenes “framed” by a collage of carved vintage wood pieces. Along with Quebec artists, Parent features international work. Mark Tennant “shows in New York and Europe.” Gallery director Sharon Galbraith advises clients and changes the window art. She has to: It is often sold.

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Tuesday to Friday: 11 to 6 pm

Saturday: 10 to 6 pm

Sunday: 12 to 5 pm



Once a tony avenue where gleaming chauffeured Cadillacs idled outside a famed couturier house, today Greene has become an urbane-urban art destination.

The street’s third gallery just opened. (Well, actually, fifth if you count Galerie de Bellefeuille’s two locations.)

Galerie Blanche is the second art gallery for owner Lyne Parent. Her first, on St. Paul St., celebrates 15 years this month. “But I have been in this business for 30 years,” she explained.

After a stint at a law firm, she followed her passion. (After all, isn’t that what art is all about?) During the 1990s, offering her services as a volunteer she worked at Sherbrooke St. galleries “to learn about art and how galleries ran.”

Then, after studying at UQAM, her dream came true. In 2007, she opened Galerie Blanche.

Today she carries the same artists in both spaces. They include the now 99-year-old Rose-Aimée Bélanger, who created the famed “Whis-

# Political pundits, CEOs, authors and journalists gather



Brian Mulrone and Bill Fox.

**Mila and Brian Mulrone** recently hosted an elegant cocktail-*dinatoire* honouring the launch of the new book *Trump Trudeau Tweets Truth, A Conversation with Bill Fox*.

Author **Bill Fox** acted as Prime Minister Brian Mulrone’s press secretary and then went on to attain his master’s and PhD.

He attended with his wife **Bonnie Brownlee**, who was

Mila Mulrone’s executive assistant in Ottawa.

The guest list was among the who’s-who of political commentators.

Amidst those noted were **Anthony Wilson-Smith**, former editor-in-chief *MacLean’s* magazine and CEO *Historica Canada*; film director **Denys Arcand**; **Wendy and Jeffrey Simpson**, former national affairs columnist for *The Globe and Mail*, who has won all three of Canada’s leading literary prizes; former diplomat and author **Ian MacDonald**; **Christiane Fox**, deputy minister Intergovernmental

Affairs and Youth; political analyst and author **Luc Lavoie**; **Véronique Mauffette**, director affaires litigieuses et immobilière, Exo (Metropolitan Transportation Network); and **Jacques Maurice**, Jacques Maurice Group – Scotia Wealth Management.

Fox’s tome describes how trends are torqued, discussing how social media and digital platforms have transformed the arena of political discourse; a seismic shift in the way information is transmitted. Some information is news; others narratives. – VR



Bonnie Brownlee, Christiane Fox and Veronique Mauffette.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Hellenic Ladies embrace the Roaring '20s



Yiota Papadopoulou, Maggie Pagonis, Bernice Tzicas, Jennifer Katsaros, Nitsa Melas, Katie Papoutsis, Sandra Khoury. Seated: Belle Grivakis.

“I can see clearly now, the rain is gone” (with apologies to singer Johnny Nash) could have been **Belle Grivakis’** greeting to her guests mid-July.

After a thunderous wet afternoon, Belle and **Ernie Grivakis** hosted a cocktail dîna-toire under Greek-blue skies. The event launched the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society (HLBS) Ilios Centennial “Roaring 20s” Gala planned for Friday, October 7.

The HLBS, a non-profit organization, addresses the needs of the less fortunate in the Hellenic community of Montreal and its vicinity. November 2022 marks the HLBS’s 100th anniversary. The goal of the gala is to raise \$100,000.

It will be held at the Théâtre St-James, under the distinguished patronage of senators **Leo Housakos** and **Tony Loffreda**, who arrived from Ottawa for the launch event.

Honorary co-chairs are brothers **Chris** and **Alex Karamatsos** of KRB Lawyers. HLBS president Belle Grivakis is working with co-chairs **Kathy Hamelin**, **Nitza Melas** and **Bernice Tzicas**, as well ..... as event directors **Daisy** *continued on p. 30*



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**Social Notes, cont'd from p. 29**

**Giagkos and Katie Papoutsis.**

The dynamic women on the organizing committee are **Eugenia Dourakis**, **Jennifer Katsaros**, **Dina Kefallinos**, **Sandra Khoury**, **Maria Korogiannis**, **Christina Maroudas**, **Maggie Pagonis**, **Yiota Papadopoulos** and **Ellee Platis**.

Noted supporters enjoying the evening were **George Alexopoulos** (Belden) along with his wife **Peggy**, **George Antypas** (Pilaros), **Sandra Dampolias** (BMO) along with her husband **Chris Fafaras** (RBC), **David Ferrante**, (Pembroke), **Ernie Grivakis** (VVS Films), **Elliot Lifson** (Peerless Clothing), **Constantine Kyres** and **Sia Maniatakos**, **Ioannis Panagiotou** (KPMG), **Pat Savoia** (RBC) and his wife **Lia**, **Paul Kamateros** and **Melpa Kamateros** (director, Shield of Athena), **John Theodosopoulos** (president, Hellenic Congress of Quebec), and **Helen Tyros** (PearTree Canada) along with hubby **Bill Kampouris**.

Guests enjoyed delicious bites from CuisineOpera owned by chef and tenor  **Davide Bazzali**. His gracious support at the gala's live auction – catering in a private home and singing to the guests – is often overbid.

The soirée was lovely. Elegant white flowers were reflected in a myriad of silver-framed family photos. The sun set in a watercolour sky.



Senator Tony Loffreda, Belle and Ernie Grivakis.



Chris and Alex Karamatsos.



George Alexopoulos and John Theodosopoulos.



Lia and Pat Savoia.



Maggie Pagonis and David Ferrante.

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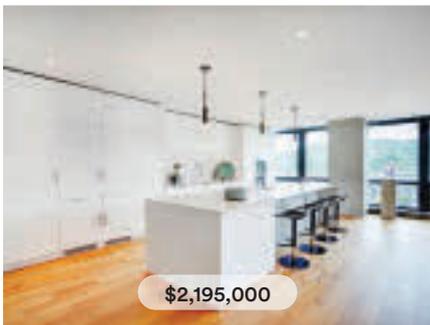
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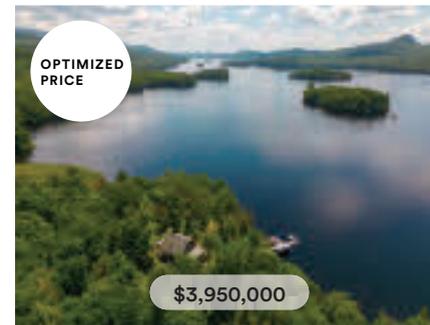
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