

## Homeless under Ville Marie Expressway pledge to stay despite eviction order

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Despite an order from Transports Québec that a small group of homeless people camped beneath the Ville Marie Expressway vacate the site, members of the tightly knit group say they have no intention of leaving.

Up to 16 people have spent the past winter living in tents underneath the Highway 136 deck just west of Atwater, within the boundaries of Westmount. Transports Québec wants the squatters out so that it can safely carry out repairs to the underside of the overpass.

Some have been squatting there for up to five years. One of them, Sabrina, who was interviewed by the *Independent* last

year (see November 15, p. 5), is pregnant and expects to give birth in around eight months, according to her partner, Enzo, with whom she shares a tent.

Jacco, another long-time resident who has taken on a leadership role within the group, said Transports Québec told them they could arrive without warning at any time to close down the site.

While the squatters appear to maintain the area in a generally clean state, a section is being used to accumulate and store a considerable amount of recyclable materials, including old cans and bottles, said Jacco. He said they are complying with an order to remove the materials from the site.

Still, he and Enzo *continued on p. 6*

*Where are we?  
Late winter?  
Early spring?*

We don't know! But regardless, long-time Westmounter Thea and rescue dog Riley were enjoying a snowy March 4 in Westmount Park. The next day, a sunny Sunday, had Westmounters ditching some of their winter clothing as temperatures spiked. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



**Man carjacked by gunman in broad daylight**

See **Police Report, p. 6**

*Former councillor Lulham outlines goals for 2023*

## Merchant associations hire first GM to revitalize districts

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's two separate merchant associations, comprising the east- and west-end commercial districts, have combined efforts to help revitalize their economies by creating and hiring a first-ever general manager.

Announced last week, former city councillor Cynthia Lulham was chosen to fill,

and accepted, the full-time role. She had decided not to seek a new term in 2021 after some 25 years on council.

Lulham, in her city commissionership of economic development, had been a driving force in helping the two associations obtain non-profit status. This enabled them to accept grants, including one from the city of ..... \$20,000 to help with pro- *continued on p. 8*



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Going away for spring break?

# Residents reminded to notify Public Security in absences

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As various schools take different March/spring breaks this year, Public Security officials last week reminded residents who plan to be away to register their homes for the department's "special passing attention" (SPA) program.

This enables patrollers to take special note of those homes bearing tell-tale exterior signs of absence including a special focus on parcels left outside unattended or signs that break-in attempts might have occurred.

"In previous years, everyone had gone away at the same time," said Public Security director Greg McBain. Residents should remember to cancel newspapers, attach lights to timers, have snow shovelled as it comes down and arrange to have someone check inside for possible water leaks from frozen pipes and/or heating malfunctions.

The department also asks residents to leave a contact number in case they need to be notified in emergency situations.

Now that so many people order deliveries online that may arrive after they depart, officers reported that over the Christmas holiday season, the station's dispatch office resembled a post office from

so many items that patrollers had picked up from residents registering for SPA.

## No safety measures? Contractor gets ticket for \$1,317

A contractor who had obtained a city permit to park a crane on the sidewalk was issued a ticket March 1 for \$1,317 for failing to adhere to its conditions for safety measures, Public Security officials said. The crane was spotted by patrollers on Roslyn at 8:17 am with the stabilizers deployed as it loaded and unloaded material without using warning cones, a signaller or other specified provisions for pedestrian and traffic safety.

## Hit-and-run topples pole at Greene, Prospect

A hit-and-run truck was believed to have knocked over a city lamppost February 28 at Prospect and Greene, according to Public Security officials. The damage was reported at 8:17 am by Public Works stating the pole at the southeast corner had been cracked and broken off. Hydro Westmount was informed and officers ensured that traffic was controlled during that rush-hour period.

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## Scotiabank coming to Vic village

A branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia is coming to Victoria village, where the Pier 1 used to be on the north side of Sherbrooke west of Grosvenor (see "Pier 1 Imports closing its Westmount location," August 9, 2016, p. 7).



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*Hockey player-of-the-month for February*

# MacMartin impresses with attitude, willingness to learn

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Finlay MacMartin, 13, a forward for Westmount's M13 B "Wings" hockey team, has been chosen by his coaches as the city's player-of-the-month for February.

Announced last week by Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), Finlay was cited, he said, "in a very moving explanation" from coach André Brosseau for efforts to improve his skills and focus on helping his team.

"As a young player," according to Brosseau, Finlay "quickly impressed us by his attitude and willingness to learn. During our first game and on every shift, he would insist on knowing what else he could do better to improve his skills. I thought it was a refreshing attitude for a young player to realize that he still had things to improve on."

As the season progressed, Brosseau explained, "this attitude evolved as well from focussing on his skills to focussing on the team's and learning how he could contribute more. Our



Finlay MacMartin. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

focus with him was to teach him how to have a positive attitude on and off the ice and learn the principles of teamwork."

**Burgeoning leader**

While this is Finlay's second season with the Wings, he is reported to have participated for several years in the recreation department's program. Today, said Brosseau, Finlay "has become a stronger player and more importantly as a burgeoning leader ready to move forward and access stronger levels."

"Each month, the city's hockey coaches are asked to nominate a player from their respective teams as player-of-the-month," Maislin explained. In this case, the nomination of Finlay also came from the team's other coaches Marcel Behr, Nicholas Shinder and Michael Mossop.

"Congratulations to Finlay," he said. "I would like to encourage all players in Westmount Minor Hockey to keep up the good work. Playoffs are right around the corner, starting March 13. 'Go Wings go!'"

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No ransom paid – or demanded – from cyberattack: Mayor Smith

## Hiring of IT cybersecurity specialist approved by council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In the city's effort to beef up its Information Technology (IT) department, city council February 20 approved the appointment of Francis St-Yves as a division head for information systems security of digital information technologies hired on a contract basis.

A specialist in cyber security, St-Yves assumed the Westmount position February 21, Mayor Christina Smith explained last week. This was three months after the cyberattack on some of the city's servers discovered November 20 (see story December 13, p. 14).

Among St-Yves' many roles are to identify, define and improve security processes, and participate in the execution of vulnerability assessments and security audits.

A previous appointment December 5 of Eric Moreau effective January 16 as the new department head elevated the position to that of a department "director" from the previous title of division head held by the retiring Claude Vallières.

Mayor Smith confirmed the city had not

paid any ransom nor had any been requested, contrary to some reports on the attack. In fact, she said, she was not aware of any demands having been made. Under emergency powers held by the mayor, the city had hired an external firm dealing with cybersecurity through Raymond Chabot.

"We don't believe anything was published," she added.

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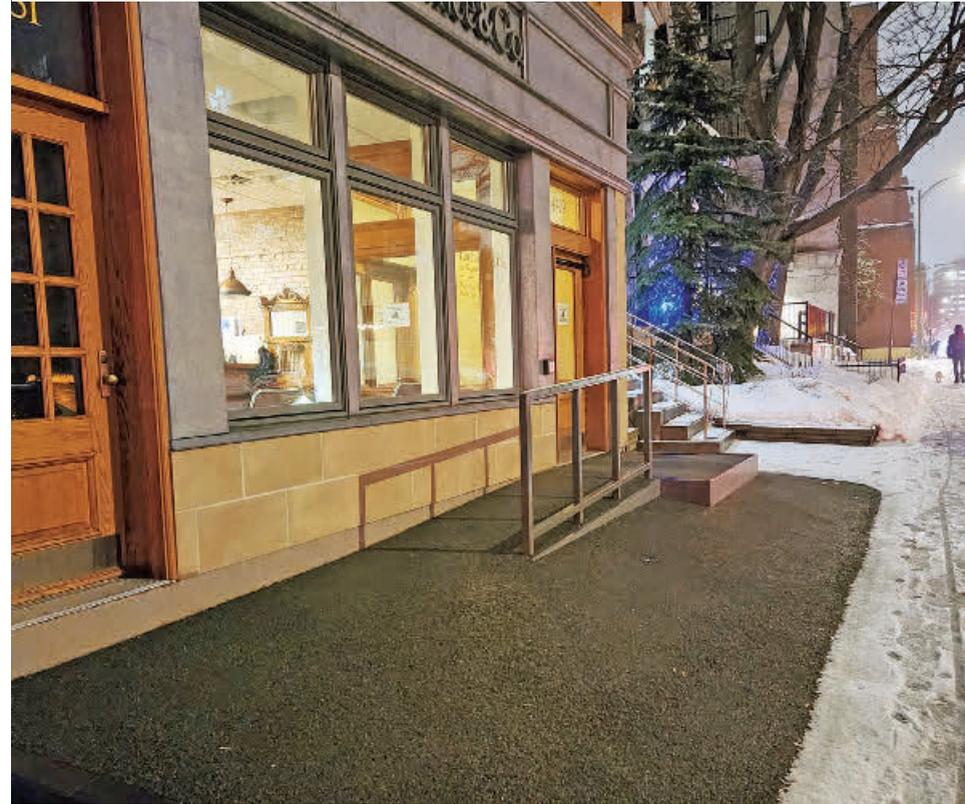
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We wanted to ensure that our patients could easily access our building and, upon reaching our walkway, immediately find themselves in a safe place. The decision to heat the pavement came with the restoration of our building in August 2019. And that decision has entertained kids, young and old, ever since.

*Next issue:* Our new name is Lachance & Co. What happened to Mark? Find out in our next article.

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From left, Jacco and Enzo on March 1 beneath the Ville Marie Expressway in lower Westmount.

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

acknowledged that in spite of their best efforts, the presence of rats is sometimes problematic. And even though the temperature in Montreal on some days this past winter dropped below -25°C, it seemingly didn't bother them a bit.

**Cold weather? – 'This is nothing'**

"This is nothing – we're lucky this year," said Enzo, noting that the weather was milder than usual and they'd lived through conditions far worse than this before.

With a child on the way, Enzo said he and Sabrina have no idea where they will end up. Like many other homeless people, they signed up with social services to move into an apartment, but have no idea when they'll be called.

Sarah Bensadoun, a spokesperson for Transports Québec, told the *Independent* that the ministry has no current set timeline to remove the squatters, although time is running out. She said work at the site has been on hold over the winter, but will be resuming in the weeks ahead.

"Unfortunately, it won't be possible for them to stay there," she said, pointing out that the work can't be done safely with the squatters present.

Since Transports Québec hasn't the necessary expertise or resources to remove them, she said the department will be relying on support from the ministry of Health and Social Services, the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal, the Montreal police and the city of Westmount.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

**Blossom & Bruce, bonded in foster care**

The beauty of finding a friend and wanting to be together, this is the story of Blossom, a long-haired grey five-month-old, and Bruce, a short-haired black one-year-old.

They met in their foster family for the Montreal SPCA cattery and have formed a loving bond even though each is unique in looks and temperament. They are both very healthy kittens, up to date with their inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Having come from rescue, they started out shy but now are moving forward in their socialization as they grow.

Being together has also helped them become more confident, playful and affectionate. For more information on these two young

*continued on p. 8*

**Police Report**

**Police report a carjacking and two car thefts in Westmount**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A carjacking committed in broad daylight near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Wood Ave. on February 22 was one of three auto theft-related incidents in Westmount over the past few weeks.

Around 1:15 pm on February 22, the driver of a rented car with Ontario plates parked near the intersection was approached by two suspects, one of whom brandished a handgun while using threatening language, and saying they were taking the vehicle.

"He showed him what appeared to be a handgun, which obviously is threatening, and told him that he needed the car," said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, adding that the suspect's actions constituted theft and armed robbery.

According to a police report of the incident, the suspects drove off along de Maisonneuve heading west. The report also stated that the driver who rented the car was waiting for a CAA-Quebec vehicle to turn up and provide help for a tire pressure issue when he was confronted by the carjackers.

Pimentel noted the unusual nature of the crime. "It's not something common, a carjacking," he said.

**Best buddy Jordan**

Consider Jordan, a classic sleek Black Labrador with the softest brown eyes and a great disposition. A handsome hunk, he is presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA. He is a loving companion, a great playmate with balls and toys, and an enthusiastic explorer.

Jordan is nine years young, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Please search the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), scroll to Jordan's information page by his identification number, A0051769610, then click on the "Fill out the form" button to provide your contact information for the adoption counsellors to reach out to you. Jordan is a fantastic friend and loving companion, please make room in your hearts for him.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

**Toyota stolen**

A more straightforward vehicle theft incident took place sometime between 11 am and 3:30 pm on February 27 near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Olivier Ave.

The owner of a Toyota sub-compact who had parked a short distance from the intersection saw upon returning that it was missing, while presuming at first that it had been towed away.

When that was verified as not being the case, the police reported the car as stolen.

**Toyota #2 stolen**

Another vehicle of the same make went missing in Westmount last week.

Sometime between 11:30 pm on March 1 and the late morning of March 2, a Toyota SUV parked near the corner of Victoria and Westmount avenues was stolen off the street.

According to the police report, the owner returned to his vehicle after parking the night before, only to see that it was no longer there.

Station 12 investigators are verifying whether there were any nearby security cameras pointed in the direction of the incident while it was in progress in order to get a description of a suspect.

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**\$20k raised so far**

# Caddell: Task Force on Linguistic Policy needs \$100,000 for Bill 96 challenge

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy is falling short on a fundraising goal it set to contest Quebec's Bill 96 in court, but hopes to make up the difference through new pledges.

"It's been somewhat disappointing – we haven't gotten the kind of response that we would have liked to have seen," says Andrew Caddell, a Westmount resident who is president of the task force.

The TFLP was set up in 2021 by a group of English-speaking Quebecers in response to the CAQ government's Bill 96 and the federal government's revision of

**Takeaways from FCM sustainability conference**

## Gathering insight, models from other municipalities

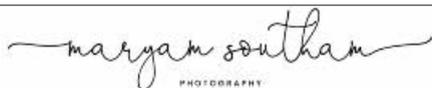
BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainability Conference provided an "excellent opportunity to take measure of where we, as a city, presently find ourselves," Councillor Matt Aronson said last week on his return from the sessions on February 7 to 10. The meetings and workshops took place in Ottawa.

Aronson, whose commissionership includes sustainability and climate change, was sent to the event by council along with Councillor Mary Gallery (see story January 31, p. 5).

"We gathered a lot of insights, inspiration and models we can use to reach net-zero carbon emissions in city operations by 2035 and across our territory by 2050," he said. This, he added, includes the protection of biodiversity, fostering resilience against severe weather and other climate-related challenges.

The city also sent Jayme Gerbrandt, horticulture and arboriculture inspector, as well as Patricia Racette, division head for the environment.



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the Official Languages Act, Bill C-13.

Bill 96 was passed into law by the Quebec legislature in June 2022, while it is expected Bill C-13 could be passed by the house of commons in Ottawa by this spring.

### Who's being represented?

The TFLP hopes to represent English-speaking Quebecers who stand to be impacted by Bill 96, including plaintiffs on constitutional questions; businesspeople whose businesses will be affected by Bill 96 and don't have the capacity to comply with the new requirements for francization; and businesses whose internal documents and software only use English and that would be liable to arbitrary search and seizure by the Office Québécois de la

**Resident priority ends but general sign-up continues**

## Youth tennis, new pickleball fill up quickly for spring

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As priority registration for Westmount residents ended last week with many programs filled, others remain open to all holders of valid facility cards – including those such as soccer that depend on the availability of volunteer coaches.

Reporting last week on the results of registration so far, Andrew Maislin, as operating manager for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), said that the new pickleball instruction filled up quickly as did youth and adult tennis along with many indoor programs such as kids' Drama for Fun and some of the classical ballet ones.

langue française.

The task force has chosen the Bergman law firm to act as its litigation counsel. The plan is to file a comprehensive lawsuit against Bill 96 in its entirety.

"We've raised about \$20,000 – which isn't bad," says Caddell. "But we need to raise about \$100,000. And the only way we're going to get that is if people understand that, you know, we can win."

"But this will be a long and fairly drawn-out battle."

Task force organizers will be holding an online legal info session on the Bill 96 issue with Bergman law firm associates on Wednesday, March 8 from 7:30 to 9 pm. Registering for the event can be done on the the TFLP's home page (protectourrights.ca).

The city is still pushing for baseball to make a comeback after a hiatus during COVID, but Maislin said he believes that "if you build it, they will come."

One registration innovation has generated "amazing results," he said. This is a form that allows volunteer coaches to sign up online, which had already generated at least 44 submissions for team sports such as baseball, rugby and soccer. "This is a good start." The registration numbers for team sports depend largely on the number of coaches.

Youth soccer sign-up continues until April 29, at which time the city aims to have attracted an equal split of 50 percent girls/boys.



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### Merchants, cont'd from p. 1

motion (see story March 12, 2019, p. 4 and 5).

"I believe that Quartier Greene and Victoria village are fabulous shopping and restaurant districts that are not well publicized or well known beyond Westmount," Lulham said last week. "We need to change that."

Lulham presented goals for 2023 to both the Quartier Greene Merchants' Association and the Victoria Village Merchants' Association, at their annual general meetings February 15 and 16.

#### Listing goals for 2023

These common goals, she told the *Independent*, include increasing membership in both associations, researching funding opportunities, and revamping websites as well as promoting use of social media. They also include polling members on potential events, creating an annual calendar and working to attract more destination shoppers through promotions, events and publicity.

The need to hire full-time help to develop and brand the shopping districts was among recommendations made at a city meeting for local merchants (see story April 3, 2018, p. 18) but interrupted by pandemic restrictions.

The economic recovery process after

COVID is a bit of a "reset," from the city's grant in March 2020 just before COVID, according to John Campbell, of Campbell Picture Framing. He is the president of the Victoria village association.

Both he and Rob Callard of Chez Nick's restaurant, who is president of the Greene merchants' group, said last week that as small business owners they work so hard just keeping their own businesses alive that they need someone like Lulham to drive district revitalization and to take advantage of different incentives being offered by Quebec and Montreal.

"Historically, the two associations have had a hard time getting the merchants involved and obtaining non-profit status," Callard explained.

Lulham, he pointed out, had been so instrumental in helping them achieve non-profit status that hiring her now was "a no-brainer."

Before running for council, Lulham had worked in marketing and retail as manager of La Cache on Greene and for its US operations. She organized a 20th anniversary event in 1995 for La Cache, which turned Greene Ave. into a giant party complete with camels, peacocks, circus performers and barbecues (see story February 17, 2009, p. 14).

## Members of both merchant boards

City councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes economic development, will sit on both association boards as a non-voting member. District 5 councillor Anitra Bostock will also be a non-voting member of the Victoria village association while District 6 councillor Mary Gallery will serve in that capacity on the Greene association.

#### Voting board members for Victoria association:

**John Campbell** (Campbell Picture Framing);  
**Cheryl Hodge** (Clinique Modica);  
**Tom Forestell** (Westmount Stationery);  
**Silvia Bortoluzzi** (Boutique Sisi);  
**Margo Picard** (Pharmacie Guy Lachance);  
**Mike Pakhan** (Aux Vivres).

#### Voting members for the Greene association:

**Rob Callard** (Chez Nick's);  
**Carlo DeLuca** (S16 Gallery);  
**Glenn Neven** (MyShoeShop.ca);  
**Corinne Asseraf** (Galerie 203);  
**Charles Altman** (Little Bear);  
**Nina Dyson** (Emma Boutique);  
**Daphne Tsadilas-Shamie** (L'Art Glacier).

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### 9 Lives, cont'd from p. 6

fellows, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), scroll to Blossom's information page by his identification number, 52012565, and do the same for Bruce at 51571563. Then go ahead and click on the black "Fill out the form" rectangle, providing your contact information for the adoption counsellors to get back to you.

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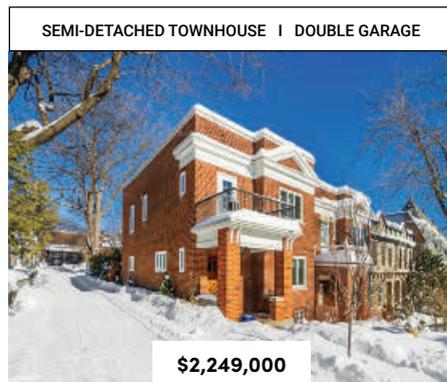
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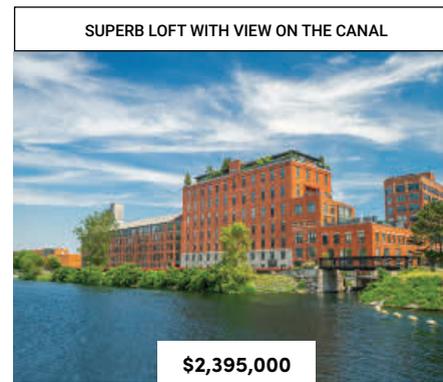
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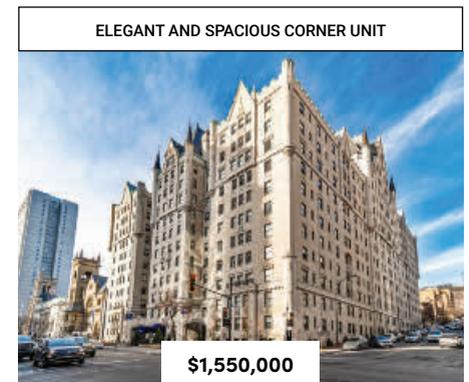
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

# September transfers: Lots of high-priced action!

far as prices were concerned.

Six of 11 houses in Westmount sold for more than \$3 million, with two selling in the \$4-million range, two more in the \$5-million range and the top price of \$7,379,000, for a relatively modern structure at 57 Sunnyside Ave., sold by a numbered company represented by Tania Dupont, a residential real estate investor.

Her name has appeared on various deeds for Westmount properties in recent years. Her company purchased 57 Sunnyside in November 2020 from the original owners, who built it in 1975, for \$3,300,000. The 2020 valuation was catching up to that sale price, but the \$7-million-plus price leaves it in the dust, at 172.1 percent above the valuation reflecting – in part – the improvements made to the property over two years. The sale is the fourth-highest

*Note (1) The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in September 2022, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 11.*

*(2) The city STILL has not published any more lists of transfer tax bills that might reveal private sales and non-residential real estate transfers that have taken place SINCE LAST APRIL. The last list of transfer duties was included in the council minutes of November 7.*

If August last year was a lacklustre month with no high-priced (by Westmount standards) real estate transactions, September was the exact opposite, at least as



57 Sunnyside on March 1. It sold in September for \$7.4 million, the highest for the month.



57 Clandeboye on March 1. It was sold for the lowest price in September: \$1.4 million.

price in Westmount in 2022, including the \$23 million sale of 9 Gordon Crescent, which will be published in the October list of sales (see December 13, p. 1 for story).

Only one sale in September brought a price below \$2 million, as 57 Clandeboye Ave. sold for \$1,400,000. It is a stonefront row-house. The next-lowest price of \$2,200,000 for 640 Lansdowne Ave. represented the lowest mark-up in September, only 10.6 percent above the 2020 valuation.

The average price for the month was \$3,712,227, the highest average price since November 2021, when 15 sales brought an average \$3,787,333, including the \$18,500,000 sale of 12-14 Sunnyside Ave., the highest priced house in Westmount up to that time (see December 14, 2021, p. 1).

## Mark-up high too

The average mark-up of 52.7 percent is the second-highest in comparison to the 2020 valuation roll, less than the 75 percent logged in June last year, but well above the third-place 43.5 percent reported in March 2022.

The list of sales adds six condominium sales registered in the third quarter of 2022, including two in July, three in August and one in September, averaging \$1,545,667 and an average mark-up of 41.5 percent.

The highest price of \$2,699,000 involved Apt. 308 at 215 Redfern Ave, while the lowest saw 243 Melville Ave., one floor of a divided former triplex, sell for \$809,000.

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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in September 2022

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
614 Belmont	France Margaret Belanger	\$2,710,000	\$1,815,500	49.3%
3730 The Boulevard	Jodi Heller	\$4,300,000	\$2,489,500	72.7%
57 Clandeboye	David McIntyre & Kathleen Smith	\$1,400,000	\$1,243,900	12.5%
3 Forden	Siim Vanaselja & Mary Christodoulou	\$5,100,000	\$4,000,000	27.5%
640 Lansdowne	Joseph Dubrovsky & Alexandra Paperman	\$2,200,000	\$1,989,400	10.6%
336 Metcalfe	Donna Girard	\$5,282,500	\$2,856,400	84.9%
466 Mountain	Agnès Coquet & Pierre Falardeau	\$2,690,000	\$1,918,600	40.2%
1 Murray	Viviane Zicherman	\$4,100,000	\$3,331,300	23.1%
485 Roslyn	Yingquin Liu	\$2,395,000	\$1,866,600	28.3%
578 Roslyn	Mei Hua Wan	\$3,278,000	\$2,525,000	29.8%
57 Sunnyside	9387-5409 Quebec Inc.	\$7,379,000	\$2,712,200	172.1%
<b>CONDOMINIUMS (THIRD QUARTER 2022)</b>				
461 Grosvenor (Aug)	Eric Sarrazin & Iana Alexova	\$1,136,000	\$712,800	59.4%
11 Hillside #202 (Sep)	177724 Canada Inc.	\$830,000	\$583,400	42.3%
243 Melville (Jul)	Raj Pande & Susan Ridley	\$809,000	\$684,400	18.2%
215 Redfern #308 (Aug)	Claude Mercier & Diane Goudreau	\$2,699,000	\$2,030,800	32.9%
4175 St. Catherine #603 (Aug)	estate Agnes Biro (Rona)	\$1,250,000	\$1,123,600	11.2%
4175 St. Catherine #803 (Jul)	Norman Issley & Renata Nowak	\$2,550,000	\$1,418,900	79.7%

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## Comin' Up

### Tuesday, March 14

The Westmount Horticultural Society presents "A Cut Above: how to prune trees, shrubs and vines," by David Wees, faculty lecturer at McGill University. Westmount Room, Westmount Library. Free for WHS members (\$25), guests \$7. Tea, coffee & cookies: 6:30 pm. 7 pm.

### Saturday, March 18

"Sarah Was Ninety Years Old" and other works performed by Ensemble Vocal One Equall Musick. \$25, \$15 students. Saint-Léon de Westmount, 4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. 8 pm.

### Saturday, March 18

"The Disruption Versus Giridharadas," a lecture by L.S. Cattarini, will examine how anti-Trump liberals (such as Giridharadas) and pro-Trump conservatives (aka the "Disruption") both reject the American economic elite. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. \$5. Info: 514.483.0934. 1:30 pm.

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# À la carte cookbook raising funds for Montreal Children’s Hospital



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Rebecca Fruchter-Klein, Marie Dumas and Carolina Moens at the Boutique Marie Dumas on Greene. It is one of the retailers that will be selling the *À la carte* cookbook to benefit the Montreal Children’s Hospital, although it is currently closed until after March 18.

The book includes suggestions for breakfast, vegetarian and main courses as well as desserts and all-important snacks. Beautiful images – some taken in participating restaurants – were taken by renowned photographer **Riccardo Cellere**. He volunteered, as did **Neal Caminsky**, Red Dream Studios, graphic design and website development; **Carolina Moens**, final layout design and iconography; **Galia Zagury**, home chef, recipe developer; **Hanna Hajilou** of *À La Table* by Hanna, food stylist and social media consultant; and **Susan Schwartz**, book, website and communications editor.

Printing was paid for by sponsors. Furthermore, no shop selling the book takes a commission.

The result means that the entire \$50 price goes to the cause. It is available in over 30 locations in Montreal, Laval and the West Island. ([alacartecookbook.com](http://alacartecookbook.com)). In Westmount, it is available at Marie Dumas, Appetite for Books, Ben & Tournesol, Westmount Stationery and the National grocery store. It is also at one of my favourite shops, the must-visit Librarie Bertrand Bookstore in Old Montreal. (Although not available at Westmount Library, perhaps someone will make a delicious donation.)

What a great idea! And what an amazing team!

**Rebecca Fruchter-Klein**, a nutritionist by profession, spearheaded a project raising funds for the Montreal Children’s Hospital, in particular The Healthy Kids Fund. With a talented group – “everyone was a volunteer and worked on this over quite a few years” – she has just launched a cookbook.

*À La Carte* is not just any cookbook. It is also a story book. Patients, parents of patients and medical professionals tell their tales. Along with these heart-warming anecdotes, there are contributions from well-known Montreal chefs and restaurants.

“Recipes are easy to follow,” local res **Carolina Moens** pointed out. The committee of volunteers tried each recipe, five to 10 times. These tasting “edits” – fun moments that included children’s input – took the 450 submitted recipes down to 150.



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# Documentarian Lewis Cohen meets Roslyn grade sixers



Cohen establishing a rapport with enthusiastic grade 6 students.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Emmy Award-winning documentary film-maker and producer Lewis Cohen met Roslyn Elementary School grade 6 students February 9 in the school library. What was planned as a presentation about Cohen's illustrious career path so far, to help students think about their vocation, turned out to be a tsunami of questions and answers.

Cohen, a former Westmount resident and Roslyn student, went on to study film making and then moved into documentary film, consulting and content production. His 13-part series *Fire Within*, which follows six Cirque du Soleil performers, won an Emmy Award in 2003 and his documentary *Lovesick* about Cirque performers

won a Gemini Award in 2007.

When asked what he was working on now, Lewis described his docufiction project based on one of his own real-life experiences of a slightly-out-of-control, highly mixed-breed dog that bites someone.

An inquisitive student asked what the film would be called.

Cohen hadn't decided yet, which generated a flood of suggestions from the young audience: "Dog Bites," "Charlie and the Dog Bite Factory" and so on until it was suggested that students provide all their suggestions to their teacher, who would forward them to Cohen, who in turn said if one of the titles is selected, then credit would be given in the film.

Other Cohen projects include teaming up with Westmounter Annabel Soutar,

whose series of plays *The Assembly* deals with political polarization. A similar-themed series written and produced by Cohen, *Truth and Lies*, is available on TVO ([www.tvo.org/programs/truth-lies](http://www.tvo.org/programs/truth-lies)).

The chat with students soon drifted towards a documentary about Roslyn.

Cohen, students, principal Joanna Genovezos and vice principal Mireille Tehbelian were positive.

There was no doubt about the enthusiasm of students and chemistry between Cohen and the students, so don't be surprised if you see more budding film-makers emerging from Roslyn Elementary School in the future.

► From left, Roslyn Elementary School principal Joanna Genovezos, Lewis Cohen and vice principal Mireille Tehbelian.



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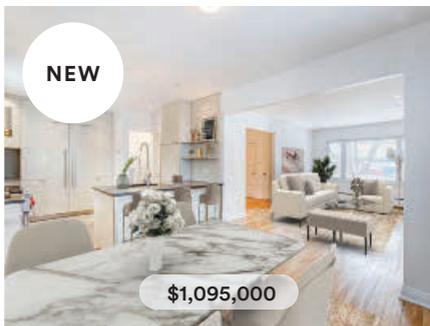
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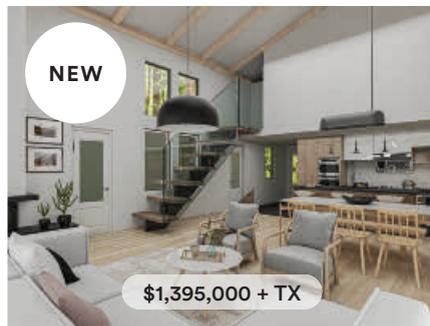
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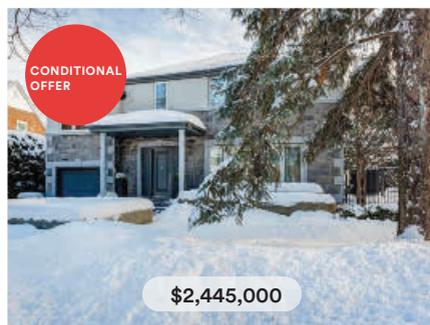
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