

Indoor pool, greening, destination for St. Catherine

Highlights released on consultations for south-east development

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the city gears up for the possible revitalization of the long-discussed development of the south-east sector, highlights resulting from a city public consultation meeting June 12 and online survey were released by the city September 24 based on findings by Lemay consultants.

The residential and commercial sector – bounded by Sherbrooke, Atwater, Dorchester, St. Catherine and Wood – stretches further north than the previously discussed one, which had involved consultations in 2016. That one focused on the city-owned Tupper parking lots and into the commercial sector but was never pursued by the incoming councils in 2017.

Listed first among the recent nine highlights, though not necessarily by priority, was a “strong demand” to build an indoor

pool that “could be complemented by additional sports facilities.”

This came right after by a desire to find solutions to safety and sanitary problems related to the high homeless population in the area, and was followed by adding green space and street trees.

Multifunctional space

An emphasis was also put on creating “multifunctional” public space, a priority that also had been raised when developing the parking lots.

The recent findings “did not favour Dorchester becoming a one-way street but “strong interest” was listed in creating a Dorchester “esplanade” and a possibility of making St. Catherine one-way and transforming it into a “destination” street. This would emphasize restaurants and terraces.

continued on p. 26

Enjoying the autumn sunshine



Gerry Bergeron, left, was walking through Westmount Park September 27 with his wife Sally Spilhaus and support worker Andrea Henderson. A conversation ensued about walker frames and electric wheelchairs. Bergeron said it's difficult to find a walker that you can sit on and has footrests. Electric wheelchairs can move very fast, said Henderson, so users have to be careful. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Autumn festival, activities announced

Pumpkin activities feature in Vic village sidewalk sale October 5

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In keeping with the season, pumpkin games with candy prizes are among many attractions in the line-up of events planned for the autumn sidewalk festival in Victoria village on Saturday, October 5. The program includes live music in Prince Albert square, face painting, pumpkin decorating and mask making.

“Our merchant members will be holding sidewalk and in-store specials and promotions listed on our website, www.villagevictoria.ca,” said Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the association. For the pumpkin-decorating workshop, pumpkins will be supplied.

Also listed to perform throughout the village are circus performers, a magician and musi- *continued on p. 3*

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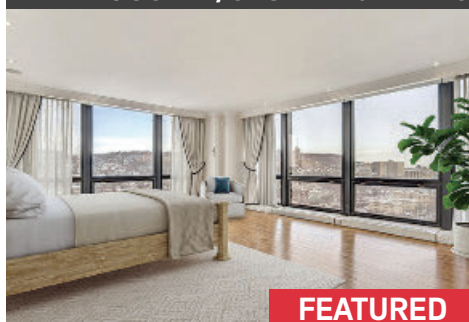
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Car rolls downhill, damages stop sign, 2 retaining walls

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A car parked on Argyle Ave. on September 24 began moving backward down the steep hill as the owner tried in vain to stop it, Public Security officials said.

The driver just missed being hit by the open door as the car backed onto three properties across the street before stopping on Thornhill.

“He was very lucky,” said Public Security director Greg McBain.

The incident at 7:28 pm was reported to have damaged a city stop sign in several places as well as three private properties including a flower pot and retaining walls of large rocks. The driver, described as a 39-year-old man from Dollard des Ormeaux, was found to have a red burn-like mark on his back.

Urgences Santé evaluated the driver for injuries but he declined to be taken to hospital.

The incident was reported to have occurred when the BMW’s handbrake failed, illustrating how important it is on Westmount’s hills, in particular, to park with wheels against the curb, McBain said.

It was not known exactly how this case had occurred.

Woman, 83, falls but refuses to go to hospital

A Public Security patroller noticed a woman lying on the ground outside 4746 Grosvenor in Montreal, just outside the border with Westmount, September 25 at 10:15 am, officials report. Appearing confused, she was reported to have said she might have tripped.

The officer provided preliminary treatment to the back of the woman’s head, which appeared to have recently been bleeding, and called Urgences Santé. She was reported to have refused transport to hospital even after their arrival. No other details were reported.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

Vic village festival, cont'd from p. 1

cians, while merchants are to display various merchandise on the sidewalk.

As well, Westmount children’s authors Anne Renaud and Judith Henderson will sell and sign their books, as they did at the recent Greene event (see September 17, p. SL-21).

Musicians listed

On the music scene, George Bowser, one half of the musical comedy Bowser and Blue, will perform with singer/songwriter Josée Brault.

Others musicians include singer Ema Jean, Celtic folk band Solstice (with Patrick Lesyk on acoustic guitar and lead vocals, Dave Gossage on flutes and whistles, and Kate Bevan-Baker on fiddle and vocals), as well as singer/songwriter Dimo James, “armed with just an acoustic guitar, distinctive voice and soulful energy.”

Man ticketed \$156 for prowling at night

Public Security patrollers kept an eye on a man seen “aimlessly wandering around” at 2:14 am on private properties in the area of Wood Ave., September 24, department officials said. He was intercepted when he opened a car door and set off an alarm. Police were called and the man was described as a 50-year-old from the city of Montreal. Public Security issued him a ticket for \$156 for prowling at night based on having seen him on properties and in laneways.

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Guest column: Amending Quebec’s provincial constitution, p. 23

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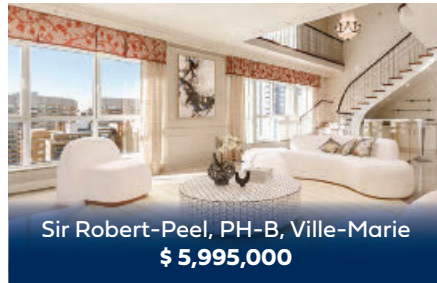
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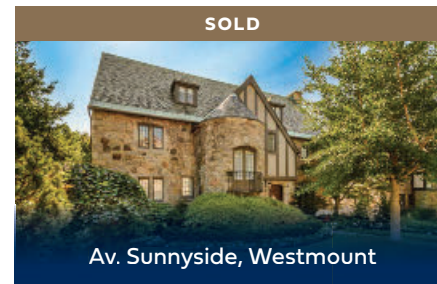
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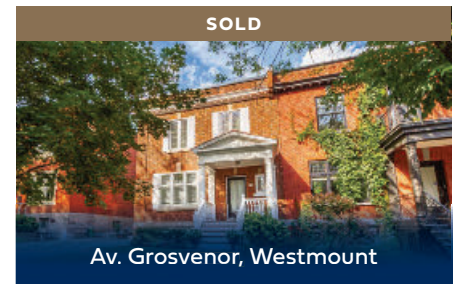
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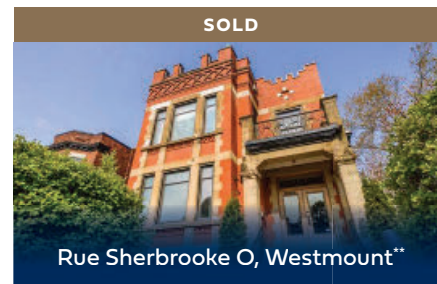
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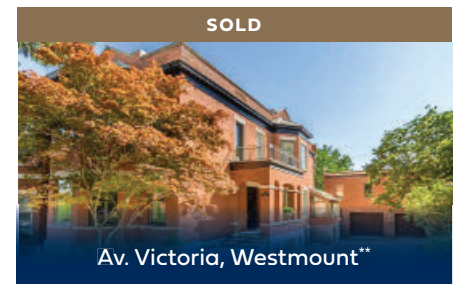
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Westmount Lawn Bowling and Curling Club welcomes seniors for 4th or 5th year

New Horizons program marks end of this year's season

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Some 40 seniors attended the closing day August 28 of this year's New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) at the Westmount Lawn Bowling and Curling Club, according to president Brian Lambert.

The club's New Horizons program helps seniors in Westmount learn how to lawn bowl and play croquet with coaching by club volunteers.

"We reach out to seniors' groups in Westmount such as Contactivity," Lambert said. "We're planning to run the program again next year."

Fourth or fifth year

This is the fourth or fifth year that the local program has operated at the club as part of a federal government initiative called New Horizons.

This offers grants for such programs though the Westmount club does not apply for these, he added.

Among those working closely with the program was the club's past president Bruce St. Louis and volunteer Beverley Hutchison.



Among the group were club past president Bruce St. Louis, Mayor Christina Smith, Jennifer Maccarone, legislative representative for the Westmount-St. Louis provincial riding, and club volunteer Beverley Hutchison.

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Police Report

Station 12 assists Nunavik police with organized crime

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St. is one of several Montreal-area precincts where staff took part last week in a new type of operation to deal with organized criminals victimizing members of the Inuit community from northern Quebec who are living in Montreal.

The Montreal police and the Nunavik Police Service announced last week that they created joint patrol units that are deployed in several areas of Montreal for a few weeks.

In a joint announcement, officials from both police forces said that criminal gangs from Montreal and other parts of southern Quebec were threatening and intimidating Inuit people in Montreal, including many women, who had been recruited to transport alcohol and drugs to Nunavik.

It is estimated that more than 1,000 Inuit are in Montreal at any given time to attend school or to receive medical treatment that is not available in northern Quebec.

A significant number of them congregate at Cabot Square, just outside West-

mount on the east side of Atwater Ave.

Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit took one of the delegations from Nunavik on a walking tour of western downtown and eastern Westmount, where he regularly patrols.

He said the purpose was to give them an understanding of the native situation in Montreal so that they could bond with local Inuit community members, some of whom they might recognize or know from Nunavik.

"It's to understand what is going on," said Yigit, acknowledging that organized criminals are involved. "A lot of the members of the community here fly back and forth. Since I have a close relationship with many of them, I was able to introduce them, and some of the officers did recognize some people here too."

"They patrolled with me and I introduced them to the various areas – Cabot Square in particular," he added. "So, by visiting places like that, they got a visual of how things work."

Although they walked through parts of lower Westmount, he said it was a relatively minor aspect of the tour.

Quiet crime week:

Break-in on Hillside Ave.

In terms of criminal acts committed in Westmount recently, the last 10 days or so were relatively quiet.

According to Station 12 incident summaries, only a household break-and-enter and a stolen vehicle were reported.

On September 20, the owners of a residence on Hillside Ave. in lower Westmount, who had been away for the weekend, reported a burglary committed during their absence.

According to their complaint, a cleaning lady who entered the dwelling before the owners returned noticed that a window was broken and that a patio door had been compromised.

She notified the police, who arrived to investigate. An alarm system motion detector recorded movement in the dwelling around 9:30 pm on Sept. 20. Jewellery was stolen, said Cst. Yigit.

Quiet crime week: Tacoma stolen

On September 26, a Toyota Tacoma compact pick-up truck disappeared overnight from a driveway at a home on Gros-

venor Ave.

According to the police report, the owner was on a visit from the US to see relatives in Montreal.

Security camera images recorded that the theft took place around 4 am, when a man of slender build was seen breaking a window on the vehicle's passenger-side rear door.

The Toyota Tacoma is on a Canadian insurance industry list as one of the most stolen vehicles in Canada.



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EDITORIAL

Who is the paper for? What should you read? How best to suggest stories?

I received this email from Mayor Christina Smtih, whom I have told several times that she is never off the record with me, on September 24:

I hope all is well with you. I have some feedback and some questions for you. We have had some significant and very positive events in the city that have not been covered in the paper. The 150th tea and the sports banquet are two examples that were not covered by the paper and we sent photos when we realized that no one was there to cover the sports banquet. These two events were great and represented such a huge part of our community. Parents love to see their children celebrated in the paper.

Is there a reason these types of events are not getting covered yet the letters to the editor (often written by the same handful of people) are given ample space?

One has to really wonder how it is that happy occasions are not celebrated in the press but the petty complaints are given lots of space? It feels rather imbalanced and I must say very personal lately.

* * *

I will reply here for everyone's benefit. The *Independent* is not the city of Westmount's PR organ, nor is it an attempt to be an exhaustive census of what happens in Westmount. It is also not primarily for city of Westmount elected officials. It targets rather the general Westmount resident. As such, it aims to be interesting and different each week, and engage people who think about things other than Westmount in most of their daily lives.

All other readers are welcome and appreciated, of course, including a whole spectrum from the most keen participants in municipal politics to non-Westmounters from as far away as Australia, but our focus is on this general reader.

One section that readers love and that is constant (hence its continuous use of "ample space"), but that politicians might not like, is the Letters to the Editor section. It is often the *de facto* complaints section of the paper and can be quite spicy. Indeed, I have joked with the mayor that she is the head of the official complaints department and I am the head of the unofficial complaints department. If anyone – politician or not – dislikes complaints, don't read it!

We do have our regulars (yes, I've noticed), but look at some fresh critical voices that have written in just the last two months: Tom Robitaille (September 27, p.

6), Fabrice Weill and Vera Bondy (September 17, p. 6), Shona & Richard Meltzer (September 10, p. 6), Thomas Rolain, Bruce Vineberg and Susan Zegray (September 3, p. 22) and Jonathan Sigler (August 20, p. 18).

Regardless, criticizing government, even a well-meaning municipal one, is a near-sacred democratic practice and I don't plan to stop publishing many, but not all, the negative letters that I receive, including ones critical of us.

I have always told the mayor that she can respond to letters and complaints, but as a personal policy and preference (with two rare exceptions that I can think of), she has not. In future, if she finds the letters so "petty," these pages are still open for her to make that case at any reasonable length.

Outliers?

Until that day comes and she convinces me otherwise, it is not my view that our negative letter writers are petty outliers. Walking around town and talking to people, I find a lot of the "letters negativity" present on the streets too.

And someone can be positive about a city sports or social event or medical assistance by Public Security, but negative about some mix of garbage-collection changes, the coming plastic mega-bins for recycling, the state of the streets and sidewalks, the fireplace ban, the state of the parks, permanent and pilot changes to Lexington and Clarendon, consultations/studies that went nowhere (e.g. "Imagine Westmount 2040," Westmount Park, pre-2024 versions of planning for the southeast, the possible indoor pool, urban planning regulations), various aesthetic adornments and other things.

On these issues, the current council seems to have found (created?) a broad consensus of opposition, but don't blame me! I would not recognize many (most?) of the vocal critics if I met them on the street, and many (most?) of these issues (one way or the other) are not high priority for me personally.

Unless there's a poll, we won't know how widespread the opposition is. That said, newspapers do not present themselves as substitutes for polls. We aim to share what we found to be true and interesting over the time period in question. In the case of opinions, one way that we alert readers to the *truth* that an *opinion* exists is to publish a letter by a resident. Obviously, the writers have agendas. Our goal is not to endorse a position or even (primarily) to serve the writer, but rather to

inform the reader about this viewpoint. The reader might agree, or disagree (and want to work against that opinion) – or might just say, "Hmm. Food for thought."

The Letters section fulfills other functions too, and I also tire of the negativity. Without promising to do so forever, I have in recent times put positive or thank-you letters first (for very recent *municipal government* examples, see "Thanks for the Summit Woods improvements," September 24, p. 6 and "Thank you, PSO Michael," September 10, p. 6). Even in this opinion section of the paper (just one of many total sections), I am not obsessed with negativity.

On the news front, I, too, love having children, including young athletes, in the paper. Look at an example from just last week: "Westmount Soccer Club's U-16 girls triumph" (p. 12).

Also on the news front, we cover a *great many* positive and celebratory city events, including page-one coverage of a previous 150th celebration, i.e. a cocktail and performance night at Victoria Hall (February 27, p. 1). Must we cover them all, or be deemed negative or biased by the city?

Specific examples

Regarding the two specific examples that the mayor brings up, I do not recall and cannot find in my inbox a press release or press invitation to the 150th tea or the recent sports banquet; nor had I been sent the list of the recent sports season's winners when I received her email. The city has many, many events (e.g. sports events, library gatherings, lectures and consultations, including very local ones). We can't cover them all, nor do I want to. When the city wants to highlight one, it should alert us. Yes, the city sent its own photos of these events, and we can and do run other people's photos all the time, but it is not my preference for the bulk of the paper.

In my view, while coverage is not automatic or guaranteed, the city did not put its best foot forward last month, but I have no desire to punish children for this city-newspaper *malentendu*. After the mayor's email, I reached out to Sports & Rec and asked for the sports banquet winners. They quickly replied – thank you – and the winners are listed on p. 25.

One last question for you, dear reader: Is this kind of email from the chief elected official of a jurisdiction to a newspaper editor appropriate? Good?

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

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Restoring trust: Presuming good intentions in public service

Councillor's column

ANITRA BOSTOCK
DISTRICT 5



we wanted to serve and contribute to a place we deeply care about.

What we didn't anticipate when we were elected was having our integrity questioned at every turn.

We didn't expect to be accused of having hidden agendas or to face personal criticism and harassment, no matter how openly or honestly we worked.

None of us could have predicted the unprecedented challenges of governing during a pandemic. And we certainly didn't foresee people twisting our words, spreading lies or even resorting to actions like leaving garbage on our lawns, yelling at our children, or making a trip to the gro-

cery store a challenge.

For months, we've had to sit through council meetings, enduring baseless accusations that often border on harassment. In any other professional setting, this kind of behaviour would be considered unacceptable, but it seems that in public service, such actions are tolerated, if not encouraged.

When negative toxic rhetoric, distrust and personal attacks dominate, it drives away those who genuinely care about their communities from leadership roles. If we let this continue, it's only a matter of time before the only people left running for office are those who thrive on conflict or pursue personal interests – people whose decisions may not reflect the needs of the entire community.

Okay to disagree

It's important to recognize that it's okay to disagree with a decision. In fact, healthy, productive debate is crucial to the democratic process. Constructive discussions around differing opinions allow us to explore diverse perspectives and find better solutions for the community. What is not okay is turning disagreements into personal attacks or spreading misinformation.

We can debate issues respectfully without undermining integrity.

We often hear people say, "I don't know how you do it," after watching council meetings where we are publicly berated for hours or seeing us endure false accusations in social settings, even at funerals. It makes people who care think twice about stepping up to serve.

We need to reflect as a community on how we treat each other, especially those in public service. We need to believe in the goodness of people and stop assuming there's always a hidden agenda. Simply put, we need more humanity in how we engage with one another and in how we treat those who dedicate themselves to serving our community.

It is a privilege to work alongside the many dedicated and hard-working members of the city staff who serve our community with integrity and passion. We should all be grateful for their contributions and the vital role they play in making our city a better place.

Let's remember to *presume good intentions* as we move forward, re-building a sense of mutual respect and appreciation for everyone working to make our community thrive.

City collects desirable, undesirable goods



From left, public safety officer William Lamontagne, parks cadet Emma Eillison and public safety officer Julie Noiret work at Public Security's first collection of clothing, warm blankets and other items at the city's semi-annual household hazardous collection on September 28 in the library's parking lot. The donations were to be sorted and delivered to the Resilience shelter at the former site of McDonald's and Miso restaurant near Cabot Square.



Cars lined up most of the day on September 28 for the city's hazardous waste collection in the library parking lot.



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COLLECTE DES ORDURES AUX DEUX SEMAINES

D'octobre à mai, la collecte des ordures aura lieu toutes les DEUX (2) semaines pour les maisons unifamiliales et les immeubles de 2 à 8 logements.

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westmount.org/garbage

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ADVERTISEMENT SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED

There continues to be a lot of debate about dog regulations in Summit Woods, some of which has played out in the pages of this newspaper. On p. 7 of the September 17 issue, I saw a full-page commentary on the situation in Summit Woods that ended with a request for money. As printed, it wasn't clear to readers whether the commentary in question was editorial content or a paid advertisement. With experience as a journalist and communication professor, I know how important it is for media organizations to make careful distinctions between the two. May I suggest that in future issues you would best serve the public interest by clearly labelling paid content as an "advertisement"?

I have also noticed that, in past issues (e.g., April 30, p. 3), the labeling of certain content as "opinion" is separated from the actual content. Would it not be more in line with journalistic standards to clearly label opinion pieces as such immediately after the article's byline?

It might seem like I'm being overly critical for a local newspaper, but the *Westmount Independent* serves a really important role in our community. Given the evident public interest and the demands

placed on city officials, improving transparency in these ways would be tremendously helpful.

ALISSA SKLAR, PH.D., UPPER ROSLYN AVE.

Editor's reply: Credentialism ("communication professor") and condescension ("local newspaper") are not arguments, but, on my side, I do see evidence present and absent on p. 7 of our September 17 issue that make it clear it to the general reader that the item there is a paid advertisement. Any one of these items would likely be enough to show the page in question to be an ad. Together, they allow for a conclusion that seems very clear to me. (There have been and will be minor exceptions to the practices referenced below, but they are rare and explainable. The exceptions prove the rule. And a newspaper is not a court of law focused on perfect consistency anyway.)

What is present in this ad, but not in our content? 1) An illustration in the top right corner showing generic people and trees. We do not illustrate or decorate stories with pre-made images. Our images are generally either relevant photographs by the journalist or pertinent custom items (photos, architects' drawings etc..) taken from other sources, with credit. 2) The ad is "signed" by a group, Sauvons Summit Woods, which is also mentioned in line 1 of its text. Our material is generally signed by people (who might also represent groups), whether it is letters, articles (except very brief ones), opinion columns or editorials. 3) The advertisement has a prominently displayed QR code, which we have never run inside our content (i.e. news articles, columns, letters). Similarly, the group's Facebook page and email address are prominently displayed in a bolded, centred paragraph at the bottom. We don't do that inside content, not even editorials. That "call to action" conclusion has the layout of an ad, unsurprisingly, because the page is one. 4) The ad further uses a variety of advertising-esque layout techniques: e.g. a black frame around the

whole ad, the bullet points in column 2, the loose typesetting, the division of the top of the page into a two-column header, which left room for the illustration.

The page is obviously an interest group's ad (another tip-off: it is asking for money), is obviously not by one of our opinion writers (whose columns have names prominently displayed in rectangles, usually with the columnist's name and photo), is obviously not a guest column (which are labelled as such) and is obviously not a part of the Letters to the Editor section on the facing page, which looks very, very different (and which continues from p. 6 to p. 8, skipping the ad on p. 7 altogether, with a clear notice of doing so).

What is absent from this ad, but present in our content? 1) A byline or sign-off, except for very brief pieces. 2) Four columns of text. 3) Our precise font at its constant size.

Lastly, we do have articles or columns that fit perfectly onto one page from time to time, but they don't look so tidy, so advertisement-y. – DP.

NEWSPAPER EMBRACES GENOCIDE MACHINE

Interesting to see our usually apolitical local paper embrace the Israeli genocide machine and its domestic supporters (see September 17: "1 Wood resident adds 'intimidation' to complaints," p. 4 and "Federation CJA's March to Jerusalem returns after 10-year hiatus," p. 12). Seems that those who have the temerity to demonstrate against extreme rightists like Netanyahu, Ben-Giver [*sic*] and company should be stopped from doing so because they make too much noise and may hurt people's feelings.

Perhaps you should stick to pumping up local real estate and stay out of topics you obviously know nothing about.

RICHARD SWIFT, MELVILLE AVE.

Editor's reply: I see no bias in the two news stories mentioned, which happen to be by

different reporters. Even if you dislike the views explained in, or people interviewed for, those articles, you are now informed about them, which information you can use to advocate for your cause.

Would you rather think – erroneously – that everyone thought like you?

More broadly, coverage of an event is not endorsement of it. If so, we would be in an incomprehensible position in this debate (and many others) since we have covered demonstrations by both sides (e.g., from the very first days of this phase of the dispute: October 17, 2023, p. 8 & 9). The goal of news is to inform both the neutral person and the partisan. What they do with that information is on them.

While the Israeli-Palestinian dispute has many, many details (like most topics when you delve into them), it is not esoteric or hard to "know something about," to echo your phrase. If events related to complex international issues happen in Westmount or to Westmounters, we will cover them when we find them of interest to our readers. – DP.

PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM PROTESTS' BLOCKED STREETS, NOISE, INSULTS

In Westmount and in Montreal, neither mayor is doing her job.

This is certainly not the way of Westmount – not to protect residents from another weekly visit from a gang yelling angry distorted insults and waving oversized Palestinian flags in our faces [in front of the Israeli consulate at 1 Westmount Square], interrupting our lives, blocking our streets, keeping us from entering our homes and horrifying us with their bad behaviour.

This is not the world we all knew. We are told by our Westmount mayor to call the Montreal mayor, who has done nothing for the last year about this situation! (Just like the Westmount mayor.) Both have done nothing!

We did not invite this unruly crowd here to protest and scream insults into their megaphones at our community! We ask why you are giving them a permit to do this?*

We, the many residents and businesses, did not invite them here. We (and I am not alone) recommend you DO NOT give them a permit to encroach on us! It's up to you to prevent this and don't blame the police. They are doing exactly what you are telling them to do.**

SUSAN STEIN, WOOD AVE.

Editor's notes: *I caution readers not to assume that a permit has been granted when they see a protest. As I wrote in our September 13, 2022 issue (p. 13) and which I still believe to be true: "I asked [about a

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

permit for a protest from that year]. There was no permit issued by Station 12 on Stanton St. for the August 10 [2022] demonstration in Westmount. It is my impression, after talking to our police reporter Martin Barry, that many demonstrations take place without permits. So, as a matter of analysis, not approval (or disapproval) by me: I encourage readers (1) not to assume that a permit has been issued because they see a demonstration in progress, and (2) not to expect the police to try to terminate a protest because it does not have a permit. Readers are, of course, free to criticize this state of affairs and advocate for another, in these pages or elsewhere.”

**Please note that the Westmount mayor does not control the Montreal police. – DP.

LITTLE-KNOWN PROVINCIAL BILL ALLOWS FOR AUXILIARY DWELLING UNITS

Quebec recently passed Bill 31, introducing certain modifications to housing and zoning regulations across the province. Among these changes, adopted in February 2024, is Article 94, a provision requiring municipalities to allow auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs) – commonly referred to as

granny flats or in-law suites – in all detached, single-family homes, providing they comply with all other existing municipal zoning and building regulations.

This measure allowing ADUs took effect in late August 2024 and will remain in place until at least August 2029.

For Westmount residents, this means that homeowners of detached, single-family houses can now incorporate one additional dwelling with a separate entrance – whether through home extensions, basement conversions, or subdividing an existing interior space. This offers a practical solution for multigenerational living or providing affordable rental units, all while respecting Westmount’s existing zoning rules.

One advantage of this law is its ability to address diverse housing needs, including those of our aging population. Seniors looking to downsize can create a smaller, more manageable living space while remaining in their community. Additionally, families can use ADUs to house elderly parents, affording care and independence under one roof.

It’s important to note that all existing Westmount regulations, including parking require- *continued on p. 21*

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Another rally planned for Oct. 7 anniversary of Hamas attack

Pro-Palestine, pro-Lebanon protesters denounce Israel in front of consulate

BY JENNIFER BALL

A large assembly of pro-Lebanese and pro-Palestinian protestors were in Westmount, and they had a one-finger message for Israel. Or at least to an Israeli flag carrier present at the 1 Wood Ave. condominiums, whose balcony loomed high above them.

The cohort had marched from downtown Montreal on September 28 and started filing into the crossing of Wood Ave.

and St. Catherine St. at 4 pm, with their destination being the Israeli consulate's building at 1 Westmount Square. Many such protests have occurred in the last year, but not all of them have been covered by the *Independent*.

It was a different mix of protestors than when the *Independent* first reported on largely pro-Palestinian protests immediately after Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel (e.g. October 17, 2023, p. 9).

Last weekend, there were a roughly

even number of pro-Lebanon and pro-Palestine protestors.

According to widespread media reports, Israel has drastically intensified its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon over the past two weeks.

The *National Post* reported September 26 that another rally is planned at Westmount Square for Monday, October 7, the one-year anniversary of Hamas' attack, citing a group's Instagram post.

The article also mentioned a planned rally for Saturday, October 5.

Protesters frequently decline to comment

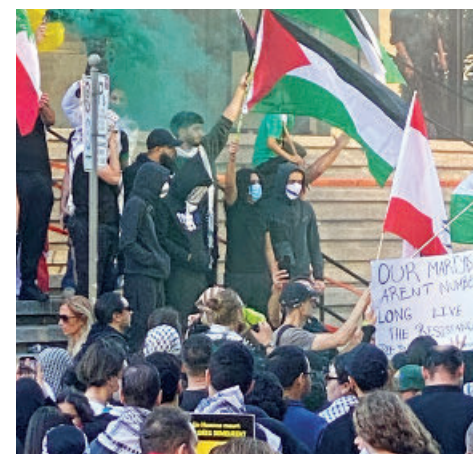
While their local spokespeople had microphones to amplify their messages, almost all protestors outside 1 Westmount Square were mum when asked to comment by the *Independent* on why they showed up.

One woman declined to answer questions, but said "I have done so for another interview [that appeared in another media outlet] and my comment was quoted pretty well, but the article around it was extremely biased, so I would rather not give my voice anymore."

Layel (who declined to indicate whether that is her first name or surname) said, "I am Palestinian-Lebanese, and my family has been bombarded yesterday as well as many other people and we want this invasion to stop...It is really horrible to be bombed every day..."

"I am 50 years old, and I was living on the [Lebanon-Israel] border in 1974. This is nothing new. We have been attacked with missiles and they have been killing people since forever...We just want to live in peace."

A Lebanese man, who told the *Independent* that he had to remain anonymous, said he was there because, "...there are already more casualties than there were in 2006, and my fear is that it is just going to



Protestors, including one holding a sign saying: "Our martyrs aren't numbers – Long live the resistance," on Wood Ave. near St. Catherine on September 28.

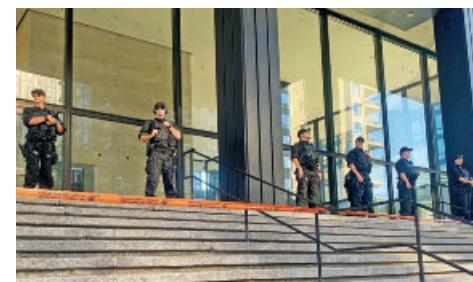
keep escalating."

He was referring to the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war, which was a 34-day armed conflict in Lebanon and northern Israel.

"The whole country [of Lebanon] is already in an economic crisis, so no one needs a war!"

Communicating with the crowd was a person from the 1 Wood condominiums, who waved the Israeli flag from a Wood Ave. balcony for several minutes before leaving it draped over a railing.

The protestors on the street had a wordless reaction: a middle finger. No words required.



Police guarding 1 Westmount Square.

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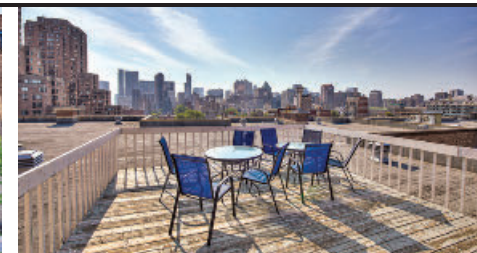
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Strathcona street party brings together residents of all ages



PHOTO COURTESY OF D. BRUNO.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Bruno who took the photo.

"We had amazing warm weather, which is quite a change after last year's cold September," said Faten Hodroge, who organized the event with Alicia Hamilton. "We had a large pot luck table, marshmallows

and barbecue, which were quite popular with the young ones. The oldest member on our street (in her 80s) organized a race for the youngest kids, as we all watched and applauded them."

"The event has seen a large turnover on our street and it is heartwarming to see so many new kids, new friendships and the newcomers embracing our street party tradition," explained Doug Hamilton.

The annual street party on Strathcona took place September 15 as part of a tradition that began in 2008 and also involved residents of Springfield, including Diana

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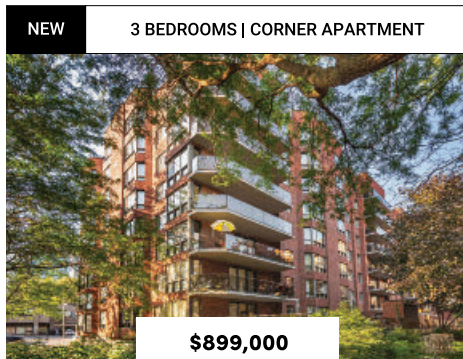
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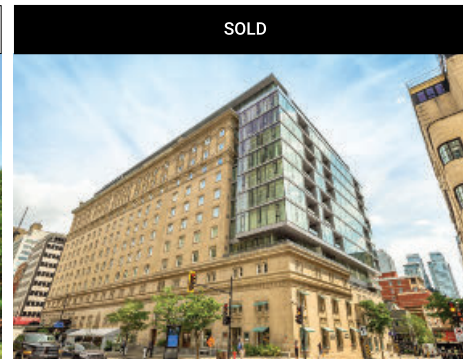
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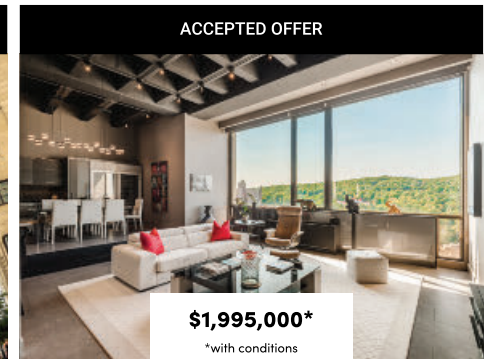
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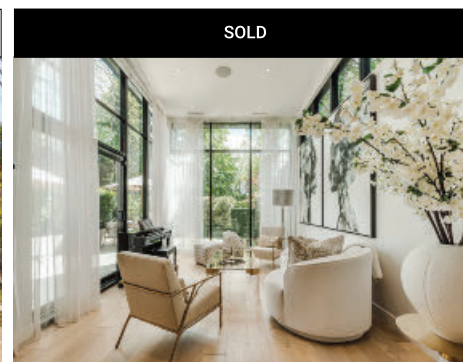
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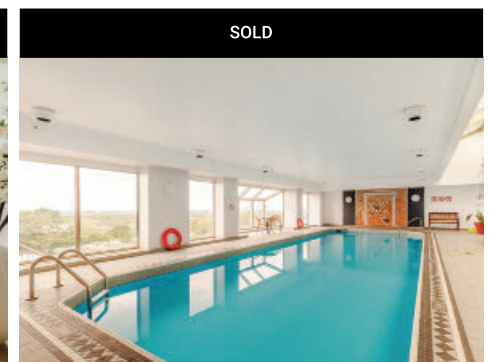
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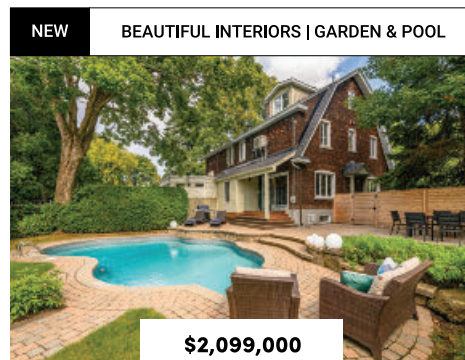
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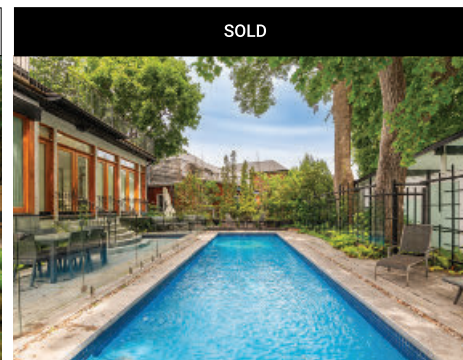
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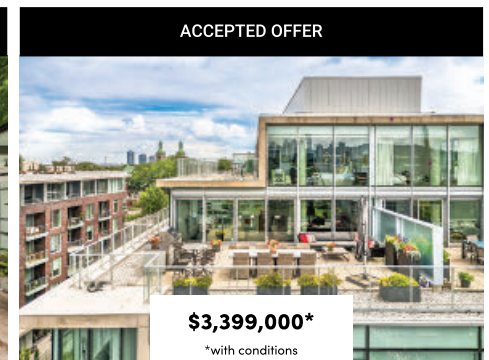
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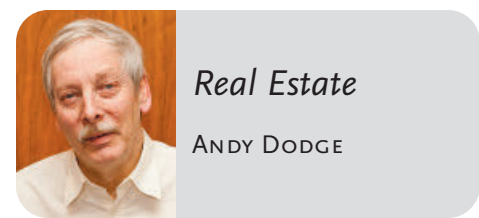


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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

June transfers: Glimmers of hope

large detached home at 537 Grosvenor Ave., just below Côte St. Antoine, while the lowest price involved a house just a block away, as 505 Victoria Ave. went for \$1,710,000, some 23.1 percent below its municipal valuation, the biggest mark-down of the month.

The biggest mark-up, on the other hand, was 38.1 percent as 642 Murray Hill sold for \$2,590,000, while evaluated at \$1,874,800.

Overall, the 14 sale prices totalled \$33,325,000 for property with a total valuation of \$32,029,400, thus an average price of \$2,380,357 and an average mark-up of just four percent.

For the year so far, the average Westmount single-family price is \$2,637,235 and the average mark-up is 5.4 percent. Still, five of the 14 sales registered prices below valuation while the other nine at least cleared parity, while in May the over/under score was exactly even at 6/6.

Condos picking up?

Westmount's condominium market



642 Murray Hill Ave.

appears to be picking up, with five sales in June adding to only one in May and three in April, bringing the total for the second

quarter of 2024 to nine, after a first quarter of only four condo sales.

The highest price in June was a stunning \$4,600,000 for a 21st-floor penthouse at Château Westmount Square, among the largest condominiums in the city.

Only one of the June condos sold for less than \$1 million, a third-floor apartment at 4410 St. Catherine St., which sold for \$640,000.

For the second quarter, the average mark-up was 9.51, up from a 7.5-percent mark-down in the first quarter, which brought the year's average to just 2 percent, lower than for one- and two-family homes.

continued on p. 23



505 Victoria Ave. All photos September 25.



537 Grosvenor Ave.



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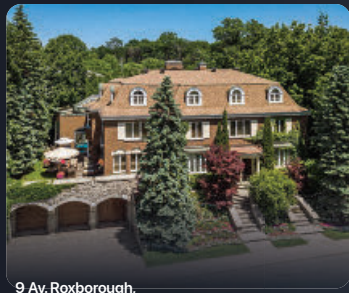
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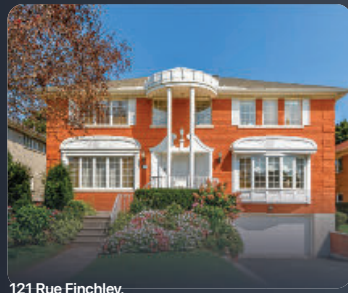
Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2024

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
460 Clarke	Jeffrey Segal	\$2,380,000	\$2,587,100	-8.0%
444 Elm	Lynda Feldman	\$2,280,000	\$2,207,600	3.3%
537 Grosvenor	Alexandre Hersans & Christel Hersans	\$3,715,000	\$3,692,200	0.6%
347 Kensington	estate Lillian Abusz	\$1,825,000	\$2,235,100	-18.3%
497 Mountain	David Brownstein & Ann Gilad	\$2,525,000	\$2,376,000	6.3%
642 Murray Hill	Anuja Singh	\$2,590,000	\$1,874,800	38.1%
473 Prince Albert	Jasmin Uthoff & Andrew Robb	\$1,780,000	\$1,720,600	3.5%
613 Roslyn	Katherine Garbarino, Kristofer Avakian & Carrie Kastner	\$2,710,000	\$2,323,400	16.6%
89 Sunnyside	Evelyn Jerassy	\$2,415,000	\$2,003,300	20.6%
24 Thornhill	3036901 Canada Inc.	\$1,795,000	\$1,816,500	-1.2%
789 Upper Belmont	Allan Sandler & Loredana Bucci	\$2,250,000	\$2,329,200	-3.4%
505 Victoria	Mark Andrews & Tanya Steinberg	\$1,710,000	\$2,224,700	-23.1%
609 Victoria	Rebecca McCaig & Tyson Hubley	\$2,700,000	\$2,239,200	20.6%
613 Victoria	Sovack Enterprises Ltd.	\$2,650,000	\$2,399,700	10.4%
CONDOMINIUMS				
200 Lansdowne #706	Marie-Josée Rousseau & Francis Dupuis	\$1,100,000	\$1,083,400	1.5%
4175 St. Catherine # 302	Michelle Greenberg & Michael Breaman	\$1,725,000	\$1,194,900	44.4%
4175 St. Catherine #2102	estate Anna Brojde	\$4,600,000	\$3,745,700	22.8%
4410 St. Catherine #3D	Sha Hu & Chunmei Lu	\$640,000	\$682,600	-6.2%
1 Wood # 501	Jeannette Fainboim	\$1,950,000	\$2,189,500	-10.9%

continued on p. 23



9 Av. Roxborough,
Westmount
\$14,000,000



121 Rue Finchley,
Hampstead
\$3,295,000

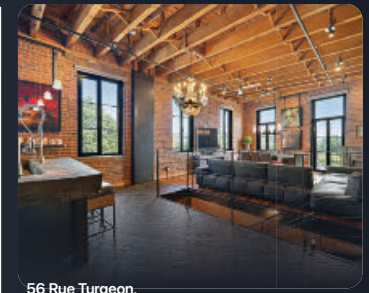


CHATEAU WESTMOUNT

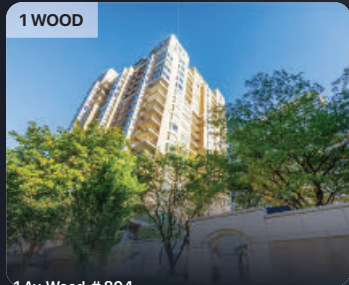
4175 Rue Ste-Catherine O., #801
Westmount
\$2,750,000



320 Rue Dufferin,
Hampstead
\$1,795,000

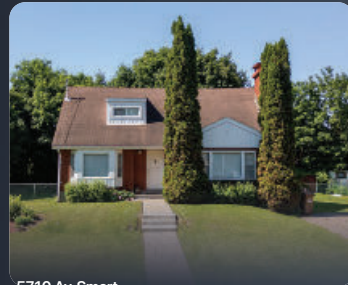


56 Rue Turgeon,
Le Sud-Ouest
\$1,695,000



1 WOOD

1 Av. Wood, # 804,
Westmount
\$1,649,000



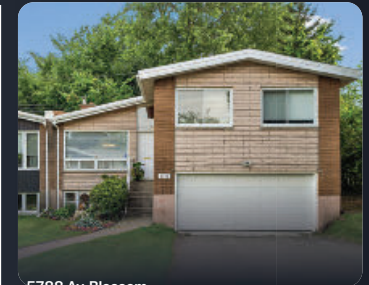
5710 Av. Smart,
Côte-Saint-Luc
\$1,249,000



6565 Ch. Collins, # 904
Côte-Saint-Luc
\$1,195,000



1947 Rue Baile,
Ville-Marie
\$1,185,000



5788 Av. Blossom,
Côte-Saint-Luc
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Place Kensington centenarian attended Lenin's funeral

Sarah Small remembers Moscow, Depression-era immigrant experience

BY JENNIFER BALL

For one centenarian, it is up in the air if the world is a better place now than it was over a century ago.

Sarah Small was born on June 30, 1922 in Moscow just after the Russian Revolution of 1917, which was one of the most explosive political events of the 20th century.

The violent revolution marked the end of the Romanov dynasty. Economic hardship, food shortages and government corruption had all contributed to disillusionment with Czar Nicholas II.

Small and her family lived within proximity of Red Square in Moscow before they emigrated in 1931 to Canada.

“As a child I loved it,” she told the *Independent* on September 23.

She now resides at the Place Kensington seniors’ residence.

Jewish experience in Eastern Europe

Small was born into a Jewish family.

“One day, I knocked on my neighbour’s door – I must have been about six – and one of the children answered. She looked at me and she said, ‘You’re not one of us!’...



Sarah Small in her apartment in Place Kensington on September 23.

“I came back, and I asked my mother ‘What does that mean?’ And she may or may not have explained it to me, but I’ve never forgotten that. So even at that time, we were outsiders...”

“I didn’t know that being Jewish was so different from everybody else.”

Small said her father wanted to go to the United States after leaving Russia but they would not let the family in. Upon arriving in Canada in 1931, her family worked as newsagents, including Small and her younger sister.

“The Depression was difficult. My father had no real profession. We were not poor, but we weren’t rich.”

Family life

Professionally, Small worked as a bookkeeper in Montreal before she got married. She is mother to Gail Small, who is the former CEO of Ometz, a Jewish social services organization, and Dr. David Small, a pulmonologist at the Jewish General Hospital.

While being very proud of them personally, she said that she also thinks about what her father would have thought.

continued on p. 21

Support young cancer patients on Sarah’s Floor at the Montreal Children’s Hospital!

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“He – who came here as an emigrant, ran a newsstand and sold newspapers outside in the cold – I think of how proud he would be to see his grandchildren.”

When asked if the world has changed for better or for worse in her lifetime, Small said, “Right now, what is going on in Israel and what is going on in the States, I would say that it is horrible...”

“Things are happening in the States that absolutely shock me! That people can be so cruel...”

“It just seems to me that everybody is angry.”

Regrets, longevity

Small is, yet again, not one of them. On reflecting on her long life, she said that the only regret she has is not taking up the opportunity to go to university and explore opportunities that she could have then made her life’s work.

Then she shared an anecdote that frames her longevity and well-lived life’s continuance.

She was having dinner with her children and grandchildren and during the dinner she regaled them with a story about a funeral she had once attended of a very famous person.

Her granddaughter picked up immediately on the deceased person’s surname and asked, “Bubbe – you were at John Len-

non’s funeral?”

“No darling,” came Small’s response, “Vladimir Lenin’s!”

Letters to the editor, cont'd from p. 11

ments, site coverage, set-backs, ceiling heights and architectural integration must still be respected. For now, this provision applies exclusively to detached single-family homes. New additional dwelling units cannot be situated in a separate detached building on the same lot, and each residence is limited to one ADU.

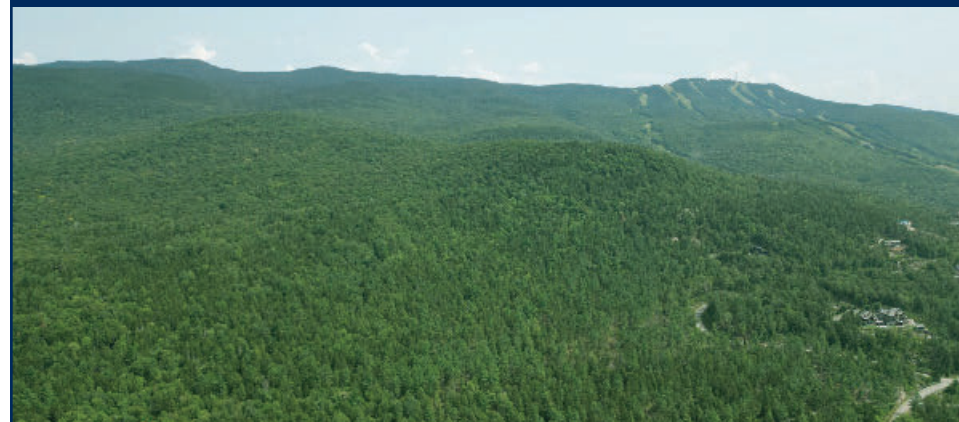
The Westmount permits staff have confirmed these guidelines, and Councillor Peart, commissioner of urban planning and architecture, acknowledged the new provincial Bill 31 at the September 10 council meeting.

As we move forward, let’s hope our city fully embraces the principles of Bill 31, staying aligned with a 2015 council resolution that committed to “responsibly increase density.” This could be a crucial step in addressing the housing needs of our community while maintaining the character of our neighbourhoods.

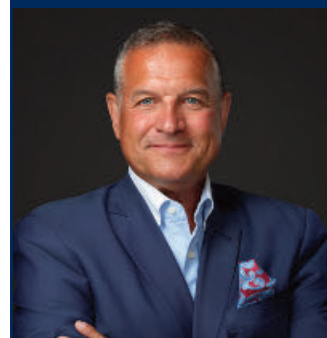
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Guardians of post-nuclear ginkgo saplings walk for peace to recognize Peace Day

BY JENNIFER BALL

The guardians of local ginkgo peace saplings walked on September 19 in recognition of Peace Day (also known as “World Peace Day” and “International Day of Peace”) September 21.

All the places on the route are home to ginkgo biloba saplings that were grown from seeds from a ginkgo that emerged from the ash in the aftermath of the atomic bomb, which was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. (See August 23, 2022, p. 19 and November 28, 2023, p. 13 for previous coverage on this initiative.)

The guardians walking last month were Natalie Kepka of Dawson College, Sister Maura McGrath of Congr gation Notre Dame, Dawid Jagiello of the Atwater Club, Meaghan Scholefield of Selwyn House, Rev. Neil Whitehouse of Westmount Park United Church and Barbara Goode of the Unitarian Church.

The pilgrimage was led by Whitehouse. The peace pagoda on Dawson’s campus was the starting point and the Unitarian Church was the final stop on the peace trail.

All the trees along the pilgrimage route are public and they are widely different in size and maturity. They are growing at the following locations:

- Dawson College: 3040 Sherbrooke,
- Congr gation Notre Dame: 2330 Sherbrooke,
- Atwater Club: 3505 Atwater Ave.,
- Selwyn House School: 95 C te St. Antoine,
- Westmount Park United Church: 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.,
- The Unitarian Church: 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Rev. Whitehouse encouraged the pilgrims to touch the leaves of the tree, “so that you have that physical connection to the real story...

“This is more than symbolism...

“This tree is the progeny to the survivor tree [in Hiroshima].”

The pilgrimage included a class of Dawson students that walked from their campus along the route. At each location, the guardians shared a message of peace.

Sister McGrath said, “I do stop every morning, and I try to breathe in that incredible resilience. I really feel very connected.”

She read a passage from Gabriela Mistral, a Nobel laureate from Chile, and she focussed on the ones who suffer grievously during war. Not just during the actual war years, but for how ever long it takes to repair their communities.

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children. Neglecting the fountains of life...Many of the things that we need can wait. The child cannot! Right now is the time...”

Us versus others

Jagiello spoke about “us versus others,” which, he felt, is so often an impetus for



Meaghan Scholefield with Selwyn House’s ginkgo at 95 C te St. Antoine.

war.

“I am Polish, and I grew up in communist Poland where I experienced a certain regime. Then I lived in Germany, which historically would be an enemy of Poland... Then I lived in China where I experienced another regime – or what we think of as a regime...”

“Throughout all these travels – and living in all these different countries – people are all the same. They all want the same thing: they want a peaceful life, they want to be successful, they want to be able to feed their children and have a roof over their heads.”

The fourth stop on the pilgrimage was Selwyn House. There, Scholefield told the *Independent* that their ginkgo tree punctuates Remembrance Day services.

“Last year, my grade 4 class started learning about ginkgoes and their significance and about the history of this sapling and the project in general...”

“It is important to us and now the students have [this tree as a reference to peace].”



Rev. Neil Whitehouse with the Westmount Park United Church ginkgo at 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. All photos September 19.

Outside his church, Rev. Whitehouse recapitulated the potency of Peace Day. “The objective is not to suggest solutions to conflicts but to admit the human needs they represent...”

“The point would be to acknowledge the pain and yearnings for peace and hold up the resilience we find in nature, like the ginkgo tree: to nourish hope.”



Sister Maura McGrath of Congr gation Notre Dame with Ann Price, who is an exterior raised-beds garden volunteer at Westmount Park United Church.

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Guest column

The ‘legal’ erosion of the Canadian constitution... *in italics*

BY COLIN STANDISH

“Well, its italicized!” the member of parliament laughed.

This was their response to mine and two colleagues’ insistence that the illegitimate and illegal modification of the Canadian constitution this summer was of critical importance to the government of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada and to all Canadians.

In my several courses on statutory interpretation at Osgoode Hall [York University] and Laval, I am at a loss to recall what notable constitutional scholars Peter Hogg and Henri Brun said of italics.

Legally irrelevant, as far as I know.

Constitution changed, for the worse

Silently, almost imperceptibly, the Canadian constitution was detrimentally changed over the summer. It seems to have escaped public notice.

The department of Justice has amended the official version of The Constitution Act, 1867 by inserting Bill 96’s controversial amendment in italics:

“FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF QUEBEC

“90Q.1. Quebecers form a nation.

“90Q.2. French shall be the only official language of Quebec. It is also the common language of the Quebec nation.”

The amendment proclaims a Quebec nation in two distinct ways: “Quebecers

form a nation.” A sub-provincial, sub-national ethno-linguistic group is a hitherto unknown concept of recognizing a people as a nation in our constitutional framework.

And, a “Quebec nation” recognizes it as a province with a defined territory, defined jurisdictions and legal status in the 1867 constitution. This territorializes the concept of nationhood.

‘Nation’ is inserted into a constitution with a binary power structure: the federal government and provincial governments. A “nation” is not contemplated in our constitution.

Until now.

The Canadian constitution is being amended willy-nilly by provincial legislation, under the false aegis of provincial constitutions, as mentioned in section 45 of the 1982 Constitution.

The footnotes drafted by Canada’s department of Justice have actually sought to give legal legitimacy to these changes:

These provisions aim to amend the constitution of the province under the unilateral amending procedure set out in section 45 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Bill 96, the Saskatchewan First Act and Quebec’s Oath Act all fail to mention the constitutional amending formula with which they purport to add to the constitution.

We can thank the government of Canada, minister of Justice Arif Virani and Lib-

eral MPs for inventing the legal rationale for the legal Balkanization of Canada, where no province has explicitly mentioned the Section 45 provincial amendment process.

Though, it seems, the minister of Justice has not added Saskatchewan’s Section 3.1 to the Saskatchewan Act, which is considered an integral part of the Canadian constitution due to its explicit incorporation in the 1982 constitution.

Provincial constitutions

Provincial constitutions do exist, little talked about, and are a mix of local laws (which can be considered quasi-constitutional), unwritten rules from the United Kingdom, the date of reception of British common law and their jurisdictions under the 1867 constitution. A province can unilaterally amend aspects of its internal constitution, falling with the framework of the Canadian constitution. However, until 2021, amendments to the written constitution outside the formal amending procedures were unthinkable.

One of the constitutional amendments reads as such:

In the Oath Act;

The Constitution Act, 1867 is amended by inserting the following section after section 128:

“128Q.1. Section 128 does not apply to Quebec.”

Such is the current day, largely un-

spoken, constitutional crisis:

- Our constitution is no longer inviolable,
- Provinces are carving out their own new jurisdictions unilaterally,
- Quebec has a distinct legal status no other province has,
- The Quebec and Canadian governments have worked in concert on this initiative.

What is to stop Quebec, in the near or distant future, from passing provincial legislation stating:

The Constitution Act, 1867 is amended by inserting the following section after section 3:

“3Q.1. Section 3 does not apply to Quebec.”

Thus, dissolving Quebec’s place as a province in Confederation?

As it currently stands, politically and legally, nothing.

This appears to be the intent.

When thinking of the modern state of the Canadian nation, I sometimes reflect on the famous stanza from T. S. Eliot’s poem “The Hollow Men”:

*This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.*

These lines were italicized in Eliot’s original poem.

If Canada ceases to exist at all or in its current form, as appears to be the elite consensus, let it go out with a “bang.”

Canada deserves more than a whimper.

I hope you will join me, and others, in making a lot of noise.

Colin Standish is the co-leader of the provincial Canadian Party.

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2024 continued from page 19

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
SHARE SALES				
376 Redfern, 2.0526%	Danielle Schwarz	\$435,000	\$311,995 ¹	39.4% (Apr)
376 Redfern, 2.3974%	Sarah Peyrebrune	\$565,000	\$364,405 ²	55.0% (Apr)
376 Redfern, 2.8239%	Samuel Yaffe & Dana Carsley	\$610,000	\$429,233 ³	42.1% (Apr)
376 Redfern, 2.1263%	Nicole Reid Workman	\$460,000	\$323,198 ⁴	42.3% (May)
3459-63 St. Antoine, 39%	Jesse Hedge & Anne-Laure Piaraly	\$625,000	\$473,382 ⁵	32.0% (Jun)
OTHER				
19 Stayner	Investissement Kedo Inc.	\$4,000,000	\$2,581,700	54.9%
4420 St. Catherine, Suites #1 & #2	174712 Canada Inc. (Jack Rothenberg, pres.)	\$3,000,000	\$2,719,600 ⁶	10.3%
4493 Sherbrooke	Elayne Romoff	\$1,150,000	\$982,400	17.1%

¹Valuation is 2.0526% of \$15,200,000. Exclusive use of Apt. 2.

²Valuation is 2.3974% of \$15,200,000. Exclusive use of Apt.10.

³Valuation is 2.8239% of \$15,200,000. Exclusive use of Apt. 12.

⁴Valuation is 2.1263% of \$15,200,000. Exclusive use of Apt. 33.

⁵Valuation is 39% of \$1,213,800. Exclusive use of 3463 St. Antoine.

⁶Valuation is \$1,774,500 for Suite #1, \$945,100 for Suite #2. Also four parking spaces at 4410 St. Catherine.

Dodge, June transfers, cont’d from p. 18**376 Redfern after-market begins**

Also included in the most recent sales were four shares of the five-storey apartment building at 376 Redfern Ave., corner Sherbrooke St., which finally succeeded in

selling all of the apartments to the tenants earlier this year.

As a co-op building, the units are the first to be sold since then, three in April and one in May, all for well over the representative valuation for their shares of the building.

One other share-sale, for a flat at 3459-63 St. Antoine St., sold in June for \$625,000, again a good 32 percent above its proportional amount of the city tax value.

Among the “other” sales in June was the small 11-unit apartment building at 19 Stayner St., at the very end of that street

and opposite Stayner Park, which sold between companies for \$4 million.

Two condominium offices in the made-over building at 4420 St. Catherine St., home to Rothenberg & Rothenberg, changed hands, as did a commercial building at 4493 Sherbrooke St.

Westmount Soccer's U-10 boys win silver at tourney



From left, back row: coach Matt Ward and parent-coach Dan Roberts; middle row: Elliott Irvine, Jacob Roberts, Tomas Bolte, James Bailey, Jack Giacomini, Carter Stroll, Ayoub Badawy and Sidney Shahin; front row: Leon Nataf, Micah Cusiacc-Barr, Alistair White, Mika Huynh and James Brown. Not pictured: player Iago Martello Cardarello.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA BROWN.

“Westmount Soccer Club’s intercity boys U-10 D2 finished off their season in style with a silver medal at the Trois Lacs Tournament,” parent Victoria Brown told the *Independent* by email September 27.

“D2” means Division 2, which is just below the highest division, D1. The U-10s (under age 10) do not have a D1 team.

Twelve teams faced off in a round-robin format in subgroups of four on September 21. Westmount finished first in its group and won its semi-final game the next day. They lost in the final 0-2 against the St. Laurent Orange Team “in a hard-fought match.”

Concluded Brown: “Still, the boys left the pitch with their heads held high, confident in the knowledge of the enormous progress they have made as a team this year.”

The Westmount Soccer Club is independent and distinct from the city’s Sports and Rec. program.

First strike of Greene bridge protector?



At about 3 pm September 27, the new southern protective beam of the Greene rail bridge below Dorchester sustained what was, to the *Independent*’s knowledge, its first truck strike.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW BERKLEY.

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Westmount Sports and Recreation's Semi-Annual Awards Night– Spring/Summer 2024

Held SEPTEMBER 4 at Victoria Hall.

SPORTSMANSHIP & MOST IMPROVED award for **BASEBALL CLINIC**: Bassam Masri • Jacob Tarshis Trudeau

SPORTSMANSHIP award for **INTER COMMUNITY BASEBALL LEAGUE**: Joseph Halperin • William Nesbit

MOST IMPROVED award for **INTER COMMUNITY BASEBALL LEAGUE**: Isaac Urman • Oscar Dorfman

MOST IMPROVED award for **FLAG FOOTBALL**: Henry San Gregorio Thomas Rodriguez • Aya Karam Okawa • Zev Shahin

MOST IMPROVED award for **ULTIMATE FRISBEE**: Agastya Hooja Rachel Li

GIRLS U14/16 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Vancouver (Abigail Iny, Alice Klein, Aria Prupas, Bianca Martella, Gayoon Han, Halia Souweine, Kyara Sakura Chalabi Midani, Leonie Duffar, Lexi Pathy, Lorena Mandri Lugo,

Romy Lalonde, Rytedj Belarbi, Sabrina Guay, Sophie Hediard, Willa Garschagen). Coach: Isaac Souweine.

SPORTSMANSHIP awards for **GIRLS U14/16 SOCCER**: Rytedi Belarbi • Lina Khalifa

BOYS U14/16 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Uruguay (Ashton Virasith, Boran Dong, Emanuel Rozhansky, Felix Jaclot, Freddy Oldland, Gabriel Brandt-Synnott, Hao Hu, Ivan Pell, James Grise, Jiyu Han, Sacha Nataf, Shimon Isaac Rozhansky, Spencer Chu, Timothée Klein, Toby Dunn, Tristan Kaulbach, William Depow). Coaches: Nick Kaulbach, Adrian Dunn, Jeremy Oldland.

SPORTSMANSHIP awards for **BOYS U14/16 SOCCER**: Felix Chadwick • Timothée Klein

GIRLS U12/13 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Ottawa & Toronto (Alice Perras, Anabel Abou Nassar, Anna Muchantef, Cate Rylee Sophia Sanggalang, Clara Bolton, Clara Cheung, Clara Kano, Elise Crandall, Esmeralda Anaïta Assadi, Gabriella Hamelin, Isabelle Ince-Cushman, Leah Wesetvik, Marina Lavarenne, Noémie Nataf, Olivia Jackson, Yanlin Huang, Zoe Karamchandani, Antonia Baez Guerra, Astrid Goth, Carolina Mendez, Cecilia Chadwick, Eden Commock, Elizabeth San Gregorio, Eva Nahorniak, Flavia Silva Soto, Gabrielle Korne, Kum Ying Chloe Ho, Laurence Renauld, Lielle Lesk, Mathilde Hediard, Sabrina Ullah, Seo Yoon Lee, Sofia Azana Manrique, Stella Morganstein, Tali Greenberg). Coaches: Krystyna Blaikie, JC Hamelin, William Nahorniak

SPORTSMANSHIP awards of **U12/13 GIRLS SOCCER**: Leah Wesetvik • Sofia Azana Manrique

BOYS U12/13 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Italy (Alwaleed Saed Waleed Abdul Kareem, Cristobal Cardot Briceno, James Burhop, Joey Tang, Leonardo Rojo de la Vega Rodriguez, Lincoln Sala, Lucas Burhop, Mateo Balsera, Matvii Shvyrlo, Oscar Mendivil, Spencer Lewis, Theodore Finch, William Schwartz, Xavier Chavez-Rosado, Yujun Jang, Zev Shahin). Coaches: Jose Rodriguez Rojo de la Vega, Marco Palma

SPORTSMANSHIP awards of **U12/13 BOYS SOCCER**: Lucas Coblentz-Soares • Lincoln Sala • Jake Grigsby Gabriel Abdo

GIRLS U10/11 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Charlottetown (Amelie Lopez Ricaurte, Caroline San Gregorio, Daphne Pickwood, Emerie Garcia de la Vega, Emma Speirs, Freya Irvine, Harper Graye Hubble, Julia Moyal, Lily Schwartz, Mina Lee, Sarah Ullah, Vanessa Mendez Plata, Vassia Long, Victoria Retter). Coaches: Sara Lithwick, Scott Speirs

SPORTSMANSHIP awards of **U10/11 GIRLS SOCCER**: Jamie Li • Abigail Waters • Julia Moyal • Tabatha Salvador

BOYS U10/11 SOCCER CHAMPIONS Team England (Alexander Perlman, Bofang Zheng, Corey Zhengxin Li, Geonmuk Lim, Henry Charby, Joes Bijl, Louis Gill, Moses Hauerstock, Mylow Jadoul, Nate Cohen, Nolan Purdon, Oscar Vamos-Darwish, Shea Martin-Shirreff, Zihang Zhang). Coaches: Antonin Jadoul, Michael

Gill, Martine Biljl

Presentation of **SPORTSMANSHIP** awards of **U10/11 BOYS SOCCER**: Shea Martin-Shiffreff • Jude Guyot • Minseong Choi • Elliot Irvine • James RH Brown • Sebastian Mendivil

GIRLS U8/9 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Granby (Alba Grassi Tropea, Athena Desmarais, Aya Canel, Emma Khazzam, Eve Schwartz, Hayley Frenkiel, Keren Yeboue, Liora Van Gelderen, Margot Pathy, Mia Hashida, Mila Goldberg, Sarah Renaud, Sofia Zarrabian, Vera Hirschl Nguyen). Coaches: Adriana Embiricos, Jessica Pathy, Yashar Zarrabian

SPORTSMANSHIP awards of **U8/9 GIRLS SOCCER**: Theya Ni Ogain • Sophia Molson • Keren Yeboue • Estelle Flynn Zamprelli

BOYS U8/9 SOCCER CHAMPIONS: Team Switzerland (Arthur Chapheau, Charles Khazzam, Eric Hudon, Hugo Chemin, Jack Turcotte, Jacob Tarshis Trudeau, Jun Song, Liam Aho, Liev Potter, Luca Falsiroli, Simon Cohen, Solomon Prupas). Coaches: Aren Prupas, Daniel Khazzam

SPORTSMANSHIP awards of **U8/9 BOYS SOCCER** Alexander Hoffman • Yubeen Kim • Vinicius Dos Santos de Morais • Kieran Tinker • Jun Song • Simon Mareek • Nikan Shayesteh • Louis Donzé

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Truffle purring on a lap



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

friend in the family and in the home. Truffle is such a darling, she will bring joy to all.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



A happy kittie, Truffle is quite cuddly while she nestles on a lap for a snooze. In foster care for the Montreal SPCA, Truffle has shown great affection and playfulness in her temporary home.

Presenting a beautiful sleek onyx shaded short-haired coat with a white bib, she is memorable for the stunning contrast of her long white whiskers and large amber eyes. A very healthy two-year-old, Truffle is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like more information on her, please go swiftly to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to her information page from her identification number, 2000132280, and click on the “Fill out the form” black rectangle on the upper right-hand side of the page. You will then be able to provide contact information so the adoption coordinators at the cattery can get back to you in order to discuss your interest and adoption for Truffle.

She is a wonderful young cat, a great



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Taking Madeleine home from the pound

Yes, this affectionate and bright one-year-old is at the Montreal SPCA pound. Still a pup (as a Labrador is at that age), Madeleine is ready for a new family as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to adopt her as she most adorable and very healthy. Madeleine is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then check on Madeleine’s information page from her identification number, 2000189633.

Take this opportunity to plan your visit to the Montreal SPCA as it is open every day of the week, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.

It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

Go for a visit with Madeleine and an onsite discussion with regard to adoption with the counsellors. If all goes right, she can happily join you on the car ride home.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



..... Southeast consultations, cont'd from p.1

Another highlight was ensuring that new buildings fit into the surrounding context while preserving local architecture.

The recent consultation process took place as part of a special planning project (SPP).

This is to form part of the city’s master plan regarding zoning and future development, for which a zoning freeze in the sector has been in place pending the SPP (see stories January 29, 2023, p. 1, and June 18, 2024, p. 1).

Details of the current highlights can be found on the city’s Engage website.



The western, left, and eastern Tupper parking lots on September 27. They are located between Greene, Dorchester, St. Catherine and Atwater and are owned by the city.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

CrowdChange software appears to have glitched

Westmount's Terry Fox run fundraising target more than doubled but not by the run's organizer

BY JENNIFER BALL

The Westmount Terry Fox run fundraising target was raised from \$3,000 to \$8,000 just days before the charity sporting event – and not by the run's organizer.

The *Independent* reported on August 27 that the Westmount Terry Fox run objective was to raise \$3,000, of which \$725 had already been pledged (see August 27, p. 10 for original story).

Shortly before the event, which took place on September 15 at the Westmount Athletic grounds between Hallowell Ave. and Hillside Lane, the fundraising target was increased to \$8,000.

Rookie run-organizer Marina Carricaburu Ortiz – who had only a month to organize the event – told the *Independent* on September 15 that “I didn't [increase the fundraising goal]. Somebody else did. I don't know if it is automatic or whether they [changed the webpage].”

The day before the run, \$2,400 had been raised and on September 17, two days after, Carricaburu Ortiz indicated that she had raised a little over \$5,000.

The *Independent* reached out to the Terry Fox Foundation on September 17. It was asked to review the webpage associated with Westmount's Terry Fox run, run.terryfox.ca/69779, to explain.

On September 20, Lyne Benoit, director of Quebec, community and school runs, said that the increase was caused by a problem with the platform they use for donations.

“This was simply a problem with Crowd change [sic] and this was fixed since.”

According to CrowdChange's website, it is a portal for fundraising and donor management that lists over 800 entities who are clients, including the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and Special Olympics Canada.

In 2014, Gartner, Inc. an American technological research and consulting firm based in Stamford, Connecticut, acquired the company.

The software aims to be an all-in-one fundraising solution that helps organizations create campaigns. The *Independent* reached out to CrowdChange on September 25 to enquire how – to Benoit's statement – its product could result in a fundraising target increase.

There was no response by the *Independent's* press deadline.

By Carricaburu Ortiz's estimate, local volunteers surpassed their fundraising goal by 60 percent, but if the “problem with the platform” had not been resolved, they would have fallen short of the higher goal, achieving only 62 percent of it.



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We welcome your letters

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

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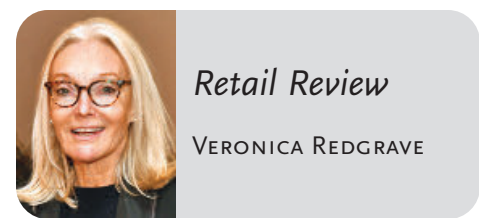
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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Olimpico brings a bit of Italy to Victoria Ave.



Rick Testa and Elijah Canivel.

not the plastic-looking curly-topped mounds one sometimes sees. The Olimpico team understands branding. One can

buy Café Olimpico coffee (my favourite), a shopping bag (to carry Olimpico's outstanding *panettone*), hats and gift cards

(great idea).

Outdoor banquettes are a soothing dark green, and the day I went were shared shoulder-to-shoulder by well-behaved dogs, families, “it” bag tote-ers, and other coffee lovers enjoying the magic moment.

And for those who prefer a quieter time, inside there is a tucked-away corner. A gallery of vintage photos on the wood-panelled walls and an Official World Cup Soccer Ball (1974) link the legacy.

That inherited spirit is carried on by owner Johnathan Vannelli. “We’re absolutely thrilled with the turnout and incredibly grateful for the warm welcome from the neighbourhood. We feel blessed to be part of this community.” John is the third generation owner. His grandfather, Rocco Furfaro, founded Olimpico in 1970. “My one-year-old son will be fourth generation, also called Rocco!”

Café Olimpico – “Open da night” – is ready to serve at 6 am and closes at midnight, just like in Italy, where such magnets for aficionados are known as coffee bars.

357 Victoria. Just look for the banquettes built onto the sidewalk and quickly grab a seat – if you can.



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Balloons, cupcakes and a dog – Ben & Tournesol return to Vic village



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

What a joy to see balloons! Not only do they trigger childhood memories, they are just plain fun.

Thus Ben & Tournesol/Wilfrid & Adrienne recently re-opened with a bouquet of balloons, cheerfully announcing “We are here” beside Westmount Florist. Formerly a large shop on Sherbrooke St. until earlier this year, the new smaller space is an Aladdin’s cave of delights.

Entering on a black-and-white tiled floor, a tapestry of treasures awaits. Owner John Benoit showed me the gorgeous Portus Cale line of premium perfumery, infusers and soaps, the blue-and-white packaging recalling tiles in Portugal where the products originate.

Colourful pyjamas and could-be-used-as-summer-coats dressing gowns hang alluringly.

As guests sipped Prosecco and munched on cute cupcakes iced with a “B,” they



Maxime Grondin and John Benoit.

admired brightly coloured glass lamps, Onedia softly hued glasses, and the Italian

Brocato Spode tableware collection – also blue and white, so you can now replace

your willow pattern plates.

Gorgeous garden-themed place mats, Botanic Harmony by Pimpernel, offer a wish list of choices so one can change the look of each meal. As holidays approach, new table settings can be found here. Along with dining room needs, the kitchen department at the back of the store is a shining lure for bakers and chefs.

But along with gifts for grown-ups, there are baby things, the cutest being tiny wool sweaters.

And one cannot forget dogs as “Sally is the boss,” John pointed out. Well, she’s actually probably an influencer. I’m sure she likes the dog-themed items: slippers *et al.* The shaggy Leonberger has greeted guests for years and was recognized at the party, which attracted over 500 fans.

Celebrating over 30 years, Ben & Tournesol has a charming history. John Benoit called it Ben “after my father” and added Tournesol, “as it’s my favourite flower.” On arrival, the graphics on the wall read: “Hello sunshine. Walk in” – the perfect welcome to our neighbourhood.

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A Westmount Life

Charlotte Picard-Veilleux, traveller, investor, mother (1921-2024)

BY J. D. GRAVENOR, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

A melodrama starring Rudolph Valentino was advertised on the marquee at the Princess on Bleury St. Meanwhile a Mack Sennett production about a Mountie getting his girl was playing at the nearby Imperial cinema, kitty corner from Morgan's department store. It was June 16, 1921, and 30 miles southeast of Montreal in Napierville, the cries of a newborn baby, to be named Charlotte, were to be heard for the first time.

It is mind-boggling to think how much the world has changed since the birth that day of Charlotte Picard-Veilleux, who passed away on September 20, aged 103 years.

Westmount francophone

In the course of her lifetime, Charlotte made her mark and contributed to the visibility of the francophone community of Westmount, which she called home for 71 years. Proving that women really can have it all, Charlotte had a lasting marriage, two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A gifted investor with an eye for real estate, she travelled the world and provided generous financial support to multiple causes.

Along with her husband and on her own, Charlotte helped underwrite construction of the Westmount recreation centre (see April 23, 2013, p. 3 and September 24, 2013, p. 26), build new front steps of the Church of St. Léon de Westmount and transform a former church into a new wing for the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Likewise, there were recurrent donations to institutions including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, la Fondation de l'UQAM and Théâtre Duceppe.

The second-youngest of nine children, Charlotte (née Picard) was raised in St. Martine, where her father operated a hotel



near the United States border.

"That was the first stop for a lot of people coming from the States during Prohibition," said Cynthia Veilleux, 74, of Clandeboye Ave., whom Charlotte raised in Westmount along with her brother, Claude, 72.

US boarding school graduate

After graduating from a boarding school in Albany, NY ("She never took her school ring off, right up to her dying day," Cynthia said), Charlotte met and married Guy Veilleux. In 1949, the couple bought a home at 4037 Dorchester Blvd. Fourteen years later, it was expropriated and demolished as part of a municipal re-development scheme.

With a daughter and a son attending the nearby academies of Saint-Paul and Saint-

Léon, respectively, they then purchased a house on Prospect St. and, shortly after, invested in a second one on Clandeboye Ave.

Charlotte had a knack for real estate.

"If my father had not stopped her, they would have bought every house on Clandeboye," Cynthia said.

The couple went on to buy a country house in St. Hippolyte and a building lot in then-sleepy St. Bruno.

Guy, who passed away in 2005, was a die-hard (provincial and federal) Liberal who sported red suspenders and was active with local service organizations, including Les Chevaliers de Colomb. The couple had a shared interest in travel, but Guy disliked flying, so they logged all of their "together miles" by automobile.

"They drove all across North America," Cynthia said. "My father loved driving. Hand him the car keys and he was gone. They travelled from St. Pierre and Miquelon to Victoria, BC, from Alaska to Yucatan, Mexico – all by car.

Charlotte loved flying and visited Africa, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Russia and beyond. In 1979, she was among the few foreigners to walk on the Great Wall of China. A decade later, she witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall (see November 24-25, 2009, p. 16 and November 18, 2014, p. 19). In South America, she once hired a taxi driver to chauffeur her north and south – all the way to Tierra del Fuego.

In more recent years, with her travel days behind her, Charlotte still had a few destinations ahead. In 2020, she moved into the Fulford Residence on Guy St., only to leave when it closed in 2022. Returning to Westmount to stay at her daughter's home temporarily, Charlotte's worsening condition suggested it might be time to enter a hospice.

Outlived palliative care

"It was decided to send her to palliative care. But she didn't die so they kicked her out," Cynthia quipped.

In fact, Charlotte was transferred in 2023 to the CHSLD Vigi Reine-Élisabeth on Northcliffe Ave. in NDG to receive long-term care. She celebrated her 103rd birthday there this past June and recently enjoyed what was to be her final lunch on a sun-drenched balcony with her daughter by her side.

Longevity is a mystery: what's good for one may be bad for another. But one of Charlotte's little indulgences didn't appear to do her much, if any, harm.

"Every night, she had a glass of whiskey," said Cynthia. "She preferred premium brands but at the end she was happy with a regular glass of Canadian Club."

A memorial service will be held for Charlotte Picard-Veilleux on Sunday, October 27, from 1 to 3 pm at the Urgel Bourgie funeral home at 3955 Côte de Liesse Rd. in Ville St. Laurent.



On the Great Wall of China in 1979.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VEILLEUX FAMILY.

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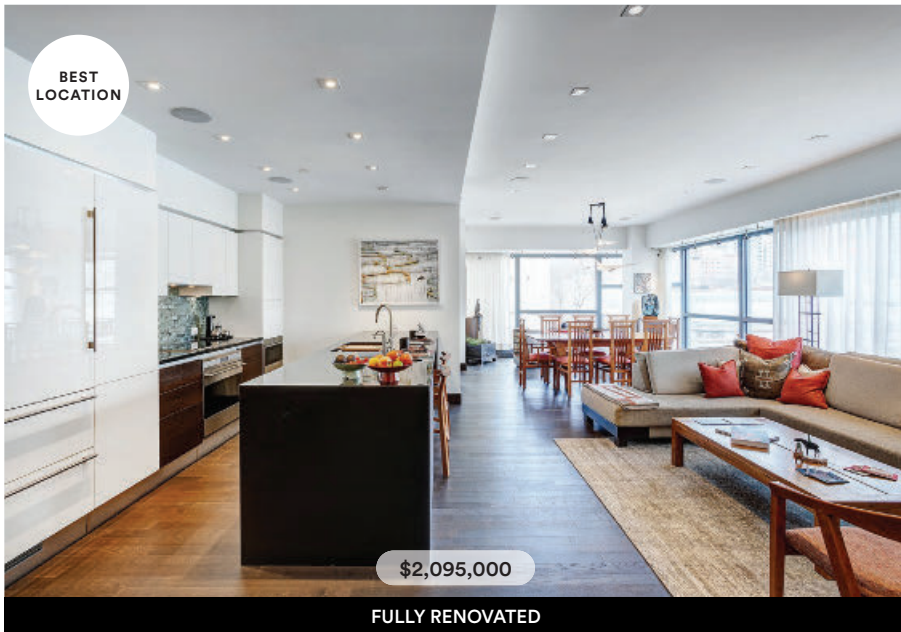
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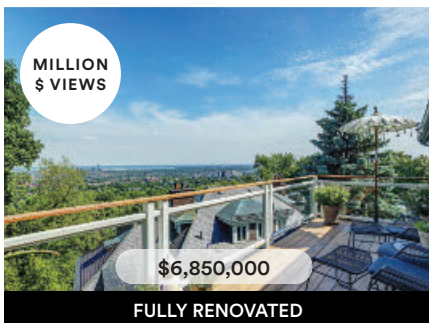
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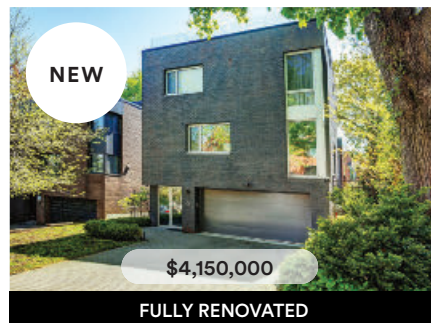
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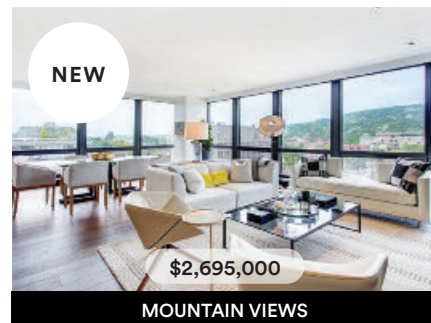
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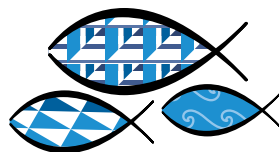
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