WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 18 No. 10b

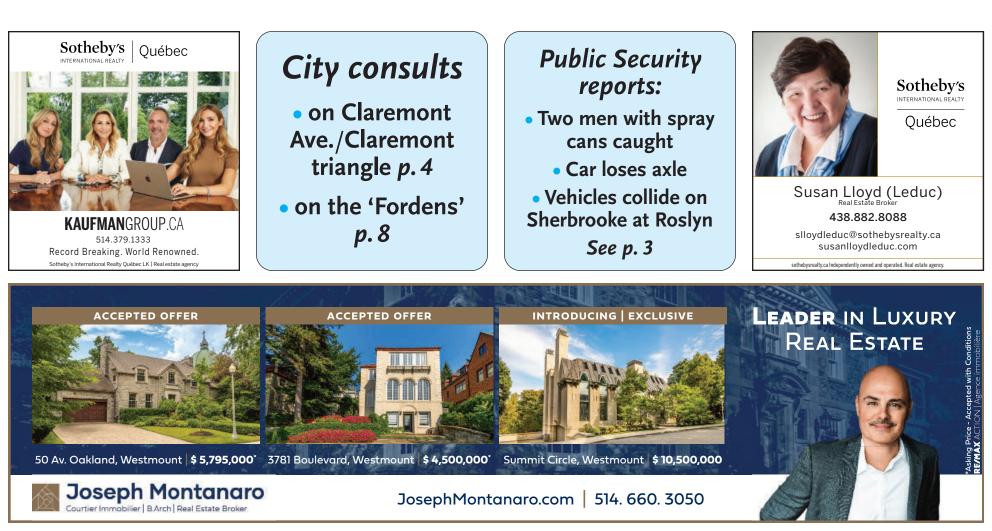
We are Westmount

October 8, 2024

Turkeys take time to tour town



From left, wild turkeys on Renfrew and Grenville (September 29), on The Boulevard near the former Mountainside United Church (September 27) and on Trafalgar Ave. just east of Westmount (May 4). Insert Thanksgiving joke here.



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Public Security catches 2 hiding at Hydro Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two men clothed in black were found hiding at Hydro Westmount's Glen power station at 1:38 am September 28 after three had been spotted on a surveillance camera entering the property, Public Security officials said.

Officers found one at the south side of the building and another behind a cement wall. The third was reported to have gotten away. A discarded backpack was found containing a wallet and cans of spray paint.

Police were called and \$158 tickets were given to a 26-year-old NDG man and a 28year-old from Verdun for trespassing after hours on city property without authorization.

It was the second time in less than a month that two men had been caught at the power station, in which the headquarters of the city of Westmount's electric utility is located. That was on September 9, when the two were caught with a camera (see story September 17, p. 3).

Front wheel breaks off car axle on Sherbrooke

The front wheel of a car broke off the axle during afternoon rush hour September 30, blocking traffic on Sherbrooke at Arlington, according to Public Security officials. Officers controlled traffic while a tow truck was awaited to clear away the disabled Hyundai Electra.

Letters to the Editor, p. 6

Police Report, p. 8



Pet page, p. 16InfoWestmount, p. 17

Cars collide at Sherbrooke/Roslyn

A two-car collision occurred September 27 on Sherbrooke at Roslyn when a Public Security patroller was stopped at Lansdowne at 5:26 pm. Department officials reported one of the cars had been pulling out of Roslyn when it was hit on the driver's door by a car heading east. One car was a Ford Edge; the other a Hyundai Accent.

Urgences Santé was called for a woman who complained of trouble breathing and public safety officers blocked the area until 6:30 pm while awaiting a tow truck.

Boots of mystery



These boots or shoes were seen on Sherbrooke east of Clarke on September 23.PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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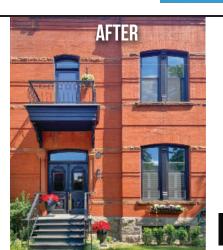
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Bike paths, wider sidewalks, safer crossings Residents assess many new options for busy Claremont

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

An estimated 80 to 100 people attended the city's second participatory public consultation meeting on the reconstruction of Claremont and Lorraine September 25, to which a "pilot project" for closing the diagonal Claremont "triangle" shortcut from NDG Ave. to Westmount Ave. had been added.

"It was heartening to see so many attending the meeting," said Mayor Christina Smith.

To this, Claremont resident Elizabeth Currie agreed, saying that "everyone brought an open spirit."

She suggested, however, the pilot triangle project required its own separate public consultation sessions, after discussions had taken place with the CDN-NDG borough since the pilot project has been found to back up traffic there and on NDG Ave. "It's been too rushed," Currie said.

The recent consultation "workshop" took place at Victoria Hall. Initially organized for between 5:30 and 7:30 pm, the session continued to beyond 8:30 pm. Attendees, seated in small groups, assessed three presentations with different options for Claremont from Sherbrooke to NDG Ave. and another three for the pilot "triangle" project in front of Marianopolis.

Many options

Options for the north-south stretch of Claremont included widened side-walks, the inclusion of bike paths, and relocated pedestrian crossings and bus stops.

The reconstruction in 2025 also aims to improve the capacity of underground infrastructure, manage run-off more efficiently, and improve safety as well as develop green space. It was suggested, however, that the drainage aspect had become lost in the traffic issue.

The various presentations with options and plans can be accessed on the city's Engage website.

Frank Philpott, who has lived many years on Claremont near Windsor, said that given the two regular bus routes and one school bus on Claremont, along with its two-way traffic, steep hill and high volume of morning and late afternoon traffic, the street isn't wide enough for many of the proposed options.

"The hill is so steep that many cyclists have to walk their bikes up," he said. He also noted that when the large six-storey residential project at 500 Claremont is finally "online" with its garage access directly onto Claremont south of Windsor, the situation "is going to be very confusing."

There has already been enough consultation, he said. This has included an online questionnaire, which is now closed.

On the other hand, more communication is needed, maintained Currie. "The idea should be to try to reduce the number of cars. One way, she told the *Independent*, would be to discourage the driving of the CEGEP students to Marianopolis.

Donations for homeless fill 2 patrol vehicles

Response to Public Security's first collection of clothing, blankets and other items for the homeless held during the city's household hazardous waste event September 28 filled two patrol vehicles, Public Security director Greg McBain reported. After being sorted back at the station, the donations were taken to Resilience Montreal at Cabot Square.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAYOR SMITH'S EMAIL OUT OF LINE – BUT NO SURPRISE

Newspaper editors – and I mean good newspaper editors – and politicians – and I mean all elected officials – should not be best of friends. Of course, treating each other with respect is always recommended, but there must be some distance for media to remain objective in its coverage of municipal politics to best serve its readers.

I, for one, am glad the *Westmount Independent* is not, as editor David Price wrote in last week's edition (p. 8), "the city of Westmount's PR organ ... It is also not primarily for city of Westmount elected officials" and that "all other readers are welcome," including non-Westmounters.

Although I no longer live in Montreal, I do get a digital version of the Westmount Independent in my inbox every week. I used to spend a lot of time in Westmount, although I was never a resident, and so when my copy of the *Independent* slips into my inbox, it's like receiving a little piece of home. Even if I am working, I stop what I'm doing and take the time to read it - all of it - because it connects me to a place I know and it reminds me of good community reporting, with a wide range of coverage. I especially like the letters to the editor. Sometimes, I recognize the names of the letter writers, and I always enjoy the minor - and major - grumblings of a local population that really cares.

Should Westmount mayor Christina Smith have written that letter to Price? In my opinion, no. Am I surprised that she did? Again, no. She's not the first, and she won't be the last elected official to raise issues with, and about, the media.

Marlene Eisner, Toronto

Editor's note: Eisner was the editor of the *Free Press* from 2012 to 2014. The *Free Press* existed from 2009 to 2017, covered NDG (initially) plus Hampstead and Côte St. Luc (eventually), and was published by Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., which also publishes the *Independent*. Before that, she was the editor of *The Suburban.* – DP.

CITY PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED, REPLIED TO CONCERNS

RE: Editorial "Who is the paper for? What should you read? How best to suggest stories?" (October 1, p. 8)

I fully agree with Mr. Price. I myself used to write letters to the city of Westmount about my concerns about various city actions that I felt were not quite safe. Note that, as a former engineer, I was responsible for activities in foundries, smelters and complete plant projects *before* there were any safety regulations that thankfully exist now.

Under the former Westmount administrations, if I sent a letter to the administration, I would ALWAYS get an acknowl-

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

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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Owned and published by: Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9 edgement *and* a reply. Of course, all replies were not what I wanted, but I did get an acknowledgement and a reply. Now, I do not even bother to write because I have never gotten an acknowledgement or a reply. So, am I happy? Of course not.

Note that I also wrote, recently, a letter to the *Westmount Independent* extolling the beauty of the present greenhouse, which Mr. Price put in the *Independent* (August 27, p. 6) so hopefully people who saw the article, which included a picture, and who loved flowers might also come for a visit. ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

Accused as 'petty'? – Learn from Petty

Dictionary definition of "petty": "trivial, trifling, minor, insignificant, unimportant."

In a letter to editor David Price recapped in an editorial in the October 1 issue (p. 8), Mayor Christina Smith takes the *Independent* to task for not covering certain local events (e.g. the city's 150th anniversary tea) while, she said, giving "lots of space" to "petty complaints" from readers.

Au contraire. The letters page is not a Hyde Park soapbox. It informs on what matters to people (and their pets) inside and outside their homes, and expresses what locals believe city hall is doing right by us, or not. But sometimes this page is also a resident's last, best hope for the mayor's ear, and help.

So who might the "petty" complainers be?

Are they residents who can't get heard at council, or who don't want to risk a humiliating shut-down before council? Are they residents frustrated by radio silence when the mayor or an elected official does not respond to email or a phone call? While the mayor's time is at a premium, most of us have the good sense to judge when her involvement is needed to resolve a situation.

Correction: Bélanger, not Hutchison, pictured

In our story on New Horizons' program at the Westmount Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club (October 1, p. 6), we erroneously wrote that volunteer Beverley Hutchison was pictured. She was not. In fact, the woman pictured there and here is Anne-Marie Bélanger. We apologize for the error. – DP. But let's return to the "petty complaints."

So I ask Mayor Smith:

- Is it petty to repeatedly point out the decrepit condition of local streets and sidewalks?
- Is it petty to expect that necessities (infrastructure) will be taken care of before discretionary spending (e.g. a \$6-million greenhouse)?
- Where is the pettiness in asking the city to restore side collection of garbage?
- What's petty about pointing out unkempt conditions when so many waste collection bins are put curbside way before the permitted time?
- Is it petty trying to make Westmount understand that it's no longer living in a 1960s bubble? In the last decade, several major, years-long construction projects on the border with Westmount (as well as within) have impacted neighbourhood residents. At the least, the city should appoint a liaison officer to intervene on behalf of locals with related complaints. No resident should ever have to handle this on their own.

To my fellow letters writers with the "petty" complaints: Take heart from the title of the Tom Petty song "I Won't Back Down."

As for the city's recent 150th anniversary tea: may I suggest this tea should have been the public tribute long overdue to the city's employees for being there for all of us during the pandemic.

Dorothy Lipovenko, York St.

IS THERE AN AGENDA BEHIND THE NEW, BIG RECYCLING BINS?

Re: "Focus on recycling plastic, not distributing it as wheeled bins" letter by Peter Trent, September 10 (p. 6).

As the city continues to move forward with its new waste management program, I am left with the feeling that there is more than meets the eye here.

First came the changes to the garbage being picked up at the rear of the homes together with the reduction in the weekly pick-up [to every other week from October to May].

I have lived in the city for approximately 40 years and have become very accustomed to the weekly garbage pick-up. I am not looking forward to when it will be only every two weeks and that it is happening during the winter months. (This change was enacted without any consultations with the citizens.) I attended a council meeting August 5 and asked the mayor and the council to verify what the additional cost would be in going back to the previous system of picking up garage at



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the back of the home.

I provided them with different scenarios to show that the cost would be insignificant on a per-household basis. They committed to getting back to me with an answer. As of this day, I have not heard back from the mayor or council. (See also my letter, August 20, p. 6.)

With the supply of these new 360-liter bins, I see the writing on the wall. The next thing we will find out is that given that the city has supplied us with 360-liter recycling bins, they will say that they can now further reduce the recycling pick-ups to once every two weeks or once a month given that they have supplied us with the capacity to store an enormous amount of recycling.

I am left with the feeling that we are continuously moving in the direction of getting less while paying more. I never would have thought that shrinkflation would have extended itself to the various city services in one of the most affluent cities in Canada.

I sincerely hope to hear back concerning my questions.

Rony Cukier, Rosemount Ave.

MANY DOWNSIDES TO HUMONGOUS BLUE BINS

Open letter to city council

Currently we use a 50-liter blue bins for recycling. It is sufficient for our needs and is stored indoors. Meanwhile, the province is ramping up its program to separately handle glass bottles, including wine bottles. Bottles of all kinds of course take up a lot of space in the blue bin as they include a volume of dead air. So in the near future our need for the blue bin will be reduced even below the current 50 liters.

The province wants to eliminate plastic blue bags and wants standardized containers. This is understandable.

The Gazette reported that Montreal has negotiated that its new bins will be 67 liters

bins in densely populated areas similar to lower Westmount, and 120 liters in less dense neighbourhoods. This has been known for nine months.

So why is Westmount imposing humongous 360-liter bins on residences, which is seven times greater than our current need, and 10 times greater than the future need once bottles are recycled separately?

- It's a huge waste of taxpayer money.
- Wasting money is not environmentally friendly.
- Unnecessary bins made from petroleum products are not environmentally friendly.
- The bins are huge and must be stored outdoors, summer and winter.
- In most cases, they can only be stored in front of the house, an eyesore that I am astounded is acceptable to Urban Planning and PAC, not to mention the citizens who cherish the beauty of our community. It certainly decreases the "curb appeal" of Westmount homes and reduces their value.
- Many homes above Côte St. Antoine have long setbacks from the street, often with stairs, and moving the large bins to the street will be most difficult in summer and impossible in winter.
- They are too heavy and awkward for seniors to deal with in any case, and Westmount has the second oldest population in Quebec. It is inadvertent ageism, one more insult to our elder residents, forcing them to consider moving out of their homes.

The city has decided that residents can opt out of the programme by writing to environnement@westmount.org. It should have invited residents to opt in, not out. I canvassed six neighbouring houses and found that only one of them recalls receiving a notice, and five of them do not want the huge bin. There is a real danger that a very large percentage of bins will be returned to the city by unhappy residents, compounding the financial and logistical dif-



ficulties.

In the absence of a true public consultation on this proposed major change to our lifestyle and property values, I am writing an open letter to council with copy to the *Independent* to notify and engage the residents.

I implore council to reconsider this programme, and correct it before it is too late. PATRICK MARTIN, THE BOULEVARD

Editor's note: Patrick Martin was a city councillor from 2006 to 2017. – DP.

More tax dollars down the drain

I second the comments by Vera Bondy (September 17, p. 8) regarding the hideous wooden arches installed near the library entrance. Calling them an "eyesore" was very generous. I would have used stronger language. Who on earth approved this expenditure? More of our tax dollars down the drain.

Elaine Stark, Clarke Ave.

Editor's note: The arches are gone (see September 24, p. 4). We haven't been able to find out what happened to them, and don't know how much was spent initially or net of any return or sale. – DP.

Satire

Not a Grey area – *Indie* should have covered the tea

Let's face it – the *Independent* failing to cover the 150th tea may go down as the most scandalous event of the year in our good city.

If only *Indie* team members had shut off their fancy computers and read the tea leaves instead, they might have anticipated the public outcry driven by us tea lovers and our staunchest champion, the honorable Mayor Smith. Greatness was brewing in those teapots, and yet, not a single mention appeared in the paper.

Maybe it's because they were too busy publishing the petty complaints again. As if the opinions of the public mattered more than perfectly steeped Earl Grey!

> Joshua T. Leaf, Sherbrooke St.

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'The Fordens' to be redesigned One-way north among options presented to residents

By Laureen Sweeney

As the city prepares to draw up plans for the reconstruction of streets in 2025, a second public consultation took place September 11 for residents of Forden Ave., Forden Crescent and area, to view and comment on three options for the redesign of these streets. This is to lead to a detailed report expected at the end of October with an outline of the next steps in the process.

Forden Ave. is probably the shortest street to have generated consistent traffic concerns over many years, along with its connecting crescent, where a cyclist was involved in a fatal accident with a car on June 16, 2020 (see July 7, 2020, p. 15).

The "avenue" has long been used by drivers as a route south – down from Westmount Ave. to Montrose – especially in the morning commute downtown from NDG and western Westmount. To help address this, preliminary options propose variations of one-way traffic for both the avenue and the crescent.

Models also include affected intersec-

tions including the need to provide access to King George (Murray) Park from Forden Crescent.

More consultation set for December

Based on reaction and feedback from residents, a preferred scenario is expected to make its way onto the drawing board for integration into the reconstruction project next year.

Councillor Elisabeth Roux, who grew up and continues to live on the crescent, had said that while campaigning in District 2 in 2021, traffic was among the frequent concerns she had heard (see story December 12, 2023 and January 24, 2024, p. 7). To preserve her impartiality during the recent workshop, however, she refrained from comment but previously had said she was "just happy people would be heard."

Consultants hired

The contract to improve the design and safety of the Fordens was awarded to Avizo Experts-Conseils Inc. in January at a cost of \$366,770. At that time, the area was described as being of "confusing street design." A public consultation contract for re-design subsequently went to Conscience Urbaine for \$97,154.

Three years ago, on recommendations from a coroner arising from the cyclist's death, initial steps were taken to remove blinding foliage and shrubs on "islands" at the intersections of the Fordens and make the crescent one-way southbound (see story May 25, 2021, p. 3 and background August 11, 2020, p. 4).

Police Report Several vehicles stolen or recovered

By Martin C. Barry

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. filed reports recently showing that several vehicles stolen in Westmount in the past few weeks were recovered in the end.

Grosvenor/Tacoma

A Toyota Tacoma compact pick-up truck that disappeared overnight from a driveway at a home on Grosvenor Ave. on September 26 was among the vehicles recovered, according to Station 12 communications officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

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.

Anwoth/CR-V

In a second recent incident, a Honda CR-V that had been stolen downtown on September 29 near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Sanguinet St. was re-

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covered on Anwoth Ave. in Westmount on October 2.

"It was parked on Anwoth and residents realized it wasn't moving, so they called the police, who went to check on it and found out it was stolen and had been abandoned," said Yigit.

Metcalfe/Highlander

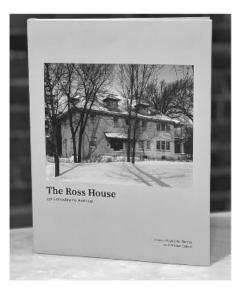
In another recent vehicle theft incident, a Toyota Highlander that was parked on Metcalfe Ave. on October 2, was stolen but was found a few days later in Longueuil on Montreal's South Shore.

"It was very typical: they parked overnight and the car just disappeared," Yigit said regarding the disappearance in Westmount.

It was recovered in the end, he added, largely because a Longueuil resident saw that the car had a shattered driver-side window, which looked out of place, so he called 911 to report it.



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Ready for Remembrance Day



A path and steps near the cenotaph in front of city hall were re-done last week. The city's website was forecasting up to 10 days for the work but it was done much faster. The main photo is from October 5 and the inset from October 4.



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Rogers' father was a Westmount policeman Place Kensington centenarian has lived a century within a 7-kilometer radius

BY JENNIFER BALL

Centenarians living in Canada make up just 0.03 percent of the population and Margaret Rogers is about to join this very diminutive club. The Place Kensington seniors' home resident is turning 100 in November.

Rogers sat down with the *Independent* on October 1 and reflected on living almost a century within only a seven-kilometer radius. She was born on Clinton Ave. in Town of Mount Royal in 1924. Her twin brother did not live and died shortly after birth.

The family moved to Westmount when she was a child, and she lived by Murray Hill Park and on Claremont Ave. She and her husband then set up home on West Hill Ave. by Cavendish Blvd. in NDG and she said she lived in that home for 73 years before leaving for Place Kensington, at 4430 St. Catherine St., in 2022.

Misses cooking

"I really would like to go back!" Rogers said about her West Hill Ave. home. She





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said she really misses being able to cook her own meals, something which she did until 2022, especially "roast beef with vegetables."

Growing up, she said her father, Jim Barnfield, was a policeman in Westmount after returning from World War I, an event during which her father sacrificed greatly. "His legs and his arms were burnt during the war."

After returning from serving, Rogers says, "He went to work for the Westmount police, and he liked it in Westmount, but there were no traffic lights at the time, so he had to stand directing traffic and that was hard due to [the condition of] his legs."

The Westmount police force was absorbed into the island-wide Montreal police in 1972.

Work life, misses friends

Rogers worked at Stelco, a Canadian steel company, in the payroll department for between 35 and 40 years. "I liked it very much." Stelco was founded in 1910 by the amalgamation of several smaller firms, and it continued for almost 100 years until it filed for bankruptcy in 2007.

Rogers retired, she said, when her husband did so at age 55.

Her husband worked at the Royal Trust, and he died 14 years ago. Besides grieving for her husband, Rogers, who has no children, said "It's especially hard when your friends die...

"They all died in their 80s. I miss my friends."



Margaret Rogers, who turns 100 next month, in her Place Kensington home at 4430 St. Catherine St. on October 1.

Rogers lived alone for 12 years but then, as some seniors do, she had a bad fall. When she was in hospital recovering, she said, "I got upset because I have nobody to help me."

Without children and extended family living in proximity, she knew that her days of independent living were over, and it is that loss of a helpful and caring community that has led Rogers to believe that "the world has gone downhill" from the one she knew in her youth.

"I guess it's not the community it used to be."



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Re-think plantings, prevent blowing of Oratory leaves Lexington resident asks city to lift ban on leaf blowers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After several years of reconstruction work on Lexington, a resident of the street asked city council September 9 for more "appropriate" plantings next summer at the corner of Devon. The tall grasses, which she called "the prairie look," did not seem in keeping with the "stately homes" on the street or beautiful city plantings



elsewhere, she said.

Jewel Lowenstein, well known for her garden expertise, also asked for a barrier (or removable seasonal fencing) to help reduce leaves blowing around from the nearby wooded triangular Oratory property that acquired a 25-year designation as a nature reserve under Quebec's Natural Conservation Act a decade and a half ago (see story March 2, 2010).

She also asked for the city to allow use of electric leaf blowers year-round rather than only during the spring and fall exemptions. The autumn period went into effect October 1 (to December 1).

Mayor Christina Smith thanked her for the comments concerning the plantings as well as the leaves from the Oratory land but did not "relish" re-opening the debate on leaf blowers – despite Lowenstein's argument that the current smaller electric ones were no noisier than a lawn mower.

We welcome your letters We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

Different governments, different messages?



The Canadian flag at Westmount High was at half mast October 2 when the *Independent* passed by, unlike its provincial counterpart. By press time October 7, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) had not replied to a question sent the same day about why this was so. Could it be because the province does not recognize the federal holiday called "National Day for Truth and Reconciliation," which inspired (as "Orange Shirt Day") the paper hearts on the school's front lawn?



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Guest column Bill 96 disproportionately penalizes Indigenous students

I recently wrote to you (September 24, p. 15) about the unfortunate situation we're facing as a community under the leadership of the CAQ and François Legault. There is another, less talked about, issue that I would like to share with you.

Since the introduction of Bill 96 (now Law 14), our CEGEPs, in collaboration with several representatives of Indigenous communities, have expressed concerns about the impact of this law on access to higher education and student success. The new provisions of the Charter of the French Language impose multiple systemic and discriminatory barriers and compromise the transmission of several ancestral languages.

Rules for English certificates complex

The reality is Bill 96 disproportionately penalizes Indigenous students. The conditions for obtaining a certificate of eligibility for studies in English are complex, and often inaccessible to students who have already graduated from high school, a rule that contradicts the principle of accessibility to higher education. Additionally, many young Indigenous people in Quebec do not live on reserves due to the lack of adequate housing, infrastructure or other factors, and therefore do not meet the conditions to benefit from an exemption.

Bill 96 also requires Indigenous students with little or no knowledge of French to take courses beyond their level of ability, thereby compromising their chances of academic success, particularly the *Épreuve uniforme de français*.

The consequences for the future of this generation's Indigenous youth are numerous, and the absurdity of this law is that it will in fact reduce graduation rates at the expense of them learning their own language and culture.

While considerable efforts made in recent years have significantly increased the number of Indigenous students in our CEGEPs, and most notably Dawson College, the current situation will discourage many from pursuing their studies, or they will turn to other provinces or territories for their higher education. For those who still choose CEGEP, there are very real concerns regarding their ability to succeed, their mental health, their families and their ability to thrive in Quebec.

Since July, my team and I have been

working with committed students from the Dawson College Student Union to address this issue. Together, we have deposited a petition in opposition to Bill 96, calling for a complete exemption for Indigenous students. On August 27, I had the privilege of supporting the launch of the petition at Dawson College. As socially conscious and informed citizens of Westmount – St. Louis, I invite you to sign and share this petition in support of our local CEGEP and Indigenous students across Quebec.

Let's work together

Now more than ever, I believe we need to work together to build a brighter future for our youth and our province. And I can never say it enough, it is an honour and a privilege to be your MNA, and to represent you in the National Assembly.

Eng: www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimezvotre-opinion/petition/Petition-10915/ index

Fr: www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/exprimez-votreopinion/petition/Petition-10915/index

Jennifer Maccarone is the provincial representative for Westmount-St. Louis.

SOIRÉE ENCAN ET TIRAGE DES CÈDRES

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9

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CHÂTEAU D'IVOIRE

The downside of anger



T's Takes Ralph Thompson

Anger – all this ferocity – it drives me mad. It makes me furious. The rage builds, fury radiates, wrath boils - and to what end? And what causes it?

In one recent letter to the editor criticizing a legitimately elected council and mayor (September 24, p. 6), the author referred to "Putin-like" and "Russianesque," and made references to the Pentagon, CSIS, state secrets and national security.

What? All this in our little old town?

My response: "I've told you a million times not to exaggerate!"

There are far too many countries around the world where authoritarianism rules government. Most of us who live in the West have little understanding of what it is like living in a country where freedoms are restricted; where rigid, non-elected parties rule with an iron fist; and people live in fear.

Sadly, 38 percent of the global population live in "Not free" countries (see freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/ 2022/global-expansion-authoritarian-rule).

Our elected council and its detractors

To compare our local government in these terms is rather silly. Our mayor and councillors went through the process of being elected, giving up their own time and I assume on their own dime. If other people did not wish to run or citizens couldn't be bothered to vote, that's not the fault of those elected. Elections take place every four years. In 2021, only 28.2 percent of eligible voters made the effort to vote in the five contested councillor races (the mayor and three councillors were acclaimed).

In Westmount, each one of our councillors and the mayor are elected as individuals with no party affiliation. That seems like a good idea to me.

I personally wish to thank them all for what is a thankless task, i.e. we criticize them constantly and rarely thank them.

How would you react if you picked up the last juicy watermelon in Marché Metro and the person behind called you a fascist dictator? Would you think "Oh, amazing. I have so much respect for that person. Here, you take the watermelon."

Our accessible council and its formidable task

The mayor and councillors are access-

ible. I meet and speak to all of them in and around Westmount regularly. Phone numbers and emails are available on the city website. Council meetings are open to the public at the beginning of each month and, to maintain a level of order and integrity, questions are to be submitted between 8 am and 4 pm on the day of the meeting.

The population of Westmount is around 20,000, excluding the dogs, cats, marmots, racoons et cetera. I expect on any given issue, there would be 30,000 different opinions: for, against, and everything in between.

Imagine being a parent in a family of 20,000 teenagers. How often would you all agree on what to do, what is right or wrong, or what to eat for supper? Answer: never. One day, they'll grow up and be respectful.

Our mayor and city councillors have many issues to address, including standing committees, municipal organizations that include citizens, the Montreal agglomeration, ongoing projects and, not least, the budget. With all the goodwill in the world, everything can't be fixed, and if it could, imagine the noise and traffic chaos with all roads being under repair at the same time.

I admit to being a slouch. I've never run for council or mayor. I've never volunteered for any of the committees and I confess: I don't walk around Westmount Park picking up litter or patching potholes. I am very happy to have someone else do this for me.

Anger doesn't work

But in my opinion, getting angry doesn't get the desired results. A calm presentation with supporting facts, with good humour, dignity and decorum will generate respect and admiration. You know, the way you ask your kids to act.

Is the anger inspired by social-media exchanges that rapidly race to the lowest level, or do we have a quiet admiration for the disarray south of the 49th parallel?

What you want is maybe not in the budget or established plans, or maybe someone else would like a different solution. That's an unfortunate reality. Sometimes diplomacy is the only route forward.

But at least with humour you'll retain your dignity. Anger will just generate contempt and most likely give you a headache.

Announcement of Dissolution

Arts & Cultures Exchanges Association China -Canada (L'association des échanges des arts & cultures Chine - Canada) has intention of requesting the dissolution,

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Date: 8 October, 2024

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Westmount

Alfie puppy

org to find more great photographs and

news from his foster family. You can also

email them directly at their info@gerdys-

rescue.org address, to discuss adoption

and your interest with their coordinators.

Alfie is a wonderful little fellow. Do not

hesitate to find out more about him.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Lysanne Fowler

Young Alfie is a delight. Cute as a button and friendly with all, he is presently in a foster home for the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions volunteer group.

Enjoying cuddles from family members, this 12-pound Yorkie-type gets attention and laughter from all. Happy as can be, he runs around merrily and plays in the fenced backyard with fetch toys and other little doggie friends. Alfie is quite attentive and clever, and is eager to learn new tricks and games.

At one year of age, he is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

If you would like more information on Alfie, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.



VILLE DE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

PROGRAMME TRIENNAL D'IMMOBILISATIONS 2025-2026-2027

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que :

- 1° Le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2025, 2026 et 2027 sera déposé pour adoption lors d'une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal qui se tiendra le lundi 21 octobre 2024, à 19 h 00, dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount ; et que
- 2° lors de cette séance extraordinaire, les délibérations du conseil et la période de questions porteront exclusivement sur le programme triennal d'immobilisations.

FAIT à Westmount. le 2 octobre 2024.

PROGRAMME OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES 2025-2026-2027

NOTICE is given that:

- 1. The three-year programme of capital expenditures for the fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027 will be tabled for adoption at a special sitting of the Municipal Council to be held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount; and that
- 2. At said special sitting, the Council deliberations and question period shall deal exclusively with the three-year programme of capital expenditures.

GIVEN at Westmount, on October 2, 2024.

Me Paule Geoffroy Béliveau Greffière adjointe de la ville / Assistant City Clerk

www.westmount.org

Tiny Mika growing up



Lysanne Fowler

Mika was born outside in our neighbourhood as one of five kittens. Her mother would come for food, and she brought them closer to our neighbour's backyard as they were getting older. They are all inside their foster family's home now and ready to join new families. Through the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions volunteer group, the first kitten to be presented in order to be taken into other loving arms is Mika.

Most gregarious, she purrs with happiness when handled, enjoying belly rubs and cuddles. She wrestles with her siblings and, bold as brass, brings back stuffed dog toys borrowed from the family's puppy to their kitten bed at night.

A very healthy kitten at 3.5 months of age, she is up to date with her kitten inoculations and on program for her treatments and spaying when age appropriate.

If you would like to find out more about





Mika and her little family, please contact

the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescue & Adop-

tions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org

or refer to their website at www.gerdysres-





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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL

Lundi 4 novembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 4

Reconstruction de l'avenue Claremont L'avenue Claremont se transforme et votre avis est essentiel ! Exprimez vos idées en participant au questionnaire en ligne, disponible jusqu'au 8 octobre à 23 h 45. Rendez-vous sur la page web du projet. engage.westmount.org/projetclaremont

Mois Cyber 2024 : sensibilisation à la cybersécurité

Durant le mois d'octobre, la Ville participe à la campagne #**PensezCybersécurité** du gouvernement du Canada. Suivez-nous sur Facebook et Instagram pour des conseils pratiques. **westmount.org**

Célébration du 150^e anniversaire de Westmount

Le **9 octobre** au Victoria Hall, soyez des nôtres pour une soirée élégante et festive ! Célébrez la Ville en honorant les personnes et lieux qui ont façonné notre communauté. **westmount.org**

Séance extraordinaire du Conseil

Une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal aura lieu le **lundi 21 octobre 2024 à 19 h** pour la présentation du Plan triennal d'immobilisations (PTI) 2025-2026-2027.

westmount.org/seancesduconseil

Visitez un centre de tri et un site d'enfouissement

La Ville invite les résidents de 8 ans et plus à visiter un centre de tri de matières recyclables le **24 octobre à Lachine** (8 h 45 à 12 h 45) et un site

d'enfouissement le **31 octobre à Terrebonne** (8 h 45 à 13 h 30). Départ du CLW en autobus. Inscrivez-vous au **westmount.org/visites**

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Rencontre d'auteur – Marc Garneau

16 octobre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Marc Garneau discutera de son nouveau livre, *A Most Extraordinary Ride*. Il y a quarante ans, Marc Garneau est entré dans l'histoire en devenant le premier Canadien à aller dans l'espace. Sa biographie retrace son parcours dans la marine, en tant qu'astronaute et en tant qu'homme politique. **westlib.org**



Visites de la Bibliothèque

Jusqu'en décembre. Célébrez le 125^e anniversaire de la Bibliothèque publique ! Découvrez son histoire, son architecture et les activités qui y sont planifiées. Visites en français ou en anglais. Inscription individuelle, places limitées.

Info: 514 989-5355 ou refdesk@westmount.org

L'heure du conte pour les enfants (de 6 mois à 6 ans)

Les jeunes lecteurs sont invités aux heures du conte à la Bibliothèque publique, où des histoires captivantes prennent vie **chaque semaine**. Animées par une équipe passionnée en anglais et en français, ces séances offrent une excellente occasion d'explorer le monde des livres. **westlib.org**

Club de jeux de société

17 octobre, 18 h, Salle Westmount. En anglais. Avec Dorian Pineros. Tous sont invités à notre Club de jeux de société bihebdomadaire. Nous fournirons une variété de jeux, mais vous pouvez apporter le vôtre ! Ouvert aux membres de la Bibliothèque. L'inscription est requise. **westlib.org**

Portes ouvertes : Le Studio!

18 octobre, 16 h, Bibliothèque publique. Aucune inscription n'est requise. Participez à l'inauguration tant attendue du nouvel espace de création de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount : Le Studio ! **westlib.org**



Reconstruction of Avenue Claremont

Your opinion is essential to shaping Avenue Claremont's transformation! Share your ideas by participating in the online questionnaire, available until October 8 at 11:45 p.m. Visit the project page at **engage.westmount.org/claremontproject**

Cyber Month 2024: Cybersecurity awareness

During the month of October, the City is participating in the Government of Canada's #GetCyberSafe campaign. Follow the City's Facebook and Instagram accounts for practical cybersecurity tips. **westmount.org**

Celebrate Westmount's 150th anniversary

October 9 at Victoria Hall, be part of an elegant and festive evening! Celebrate the City and honour the people and places that have shaped our community. **westmount.org**

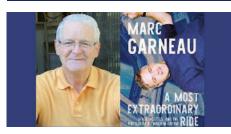
Special Council Sitting

A special Council sitting will be held on **Monday**, **October 21, 2024, at 7 p.m**. to present the Capital Works Programme for 2025-2026-2027. westmount.org/councilmeetings

Visit a sorting centre and a landfill

The City invites residents aged 8 and up to visit a recycling sorting centre in **Lachine on October 24** (from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.) and a landfill site in **Terrebonne on October 31** (from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.). Departure from the WRC by bus. To sign up, visit **westmount.org/tours**

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



Author event – Marc Garneau

October 16, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Marc Garneau will discuss his new book, A Most Extraordinary Ride. Forty years ago, Marc Garneau made history as the first Canadian in space. His biography chronicles his time in the Navy, as an astronaut, and as a politician. **westlib.org**

Library Tours

Until December. Celebrate the Public Library's 125th anniversary! Join us on a tour to learn its history and architecture, and hear about the activities happening throughout the year. Tours available in French or in English. Register individually. Space is limited to 15 people per tour. Info: 514 989-5355 or refdesk@westmount.org

Storytime for children (from 6 months to 6 years old)

Young readers are invited to storytime at the Public Library, where captivating stories come to life each week. Led by a passionate team in both English and French, these sessions provide a great opportunity to explore the world of books. westlib.org

Board Game Club

October 17, 6 p.m., Westmount Room. With Dorian Pineros. Are you new to board games or a seasoned pro? Join us for our biweekly Board Game Club. We'll provide a variety of games, or you can bring one of your own! Open to Library members. Registration is required. **westlib.org**

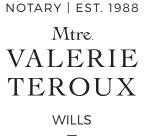
Open house: The Studio!

October 18, 4 p.m., Public Library. No registration required. Join us for the long-awaited unveiling of Westmount Public Library's new makerspace: The Studio!

westlib.org







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Trespassing now added to 1 Wood residents' complaints

By Jennifer Ball

A resident of 1 Wood has told the *Independent* that anti-Israel protestors were removed from the lobby by building staff. The resident had called 911 and police were on scene, but did not help, according to her.

As reported last week (p. 12), by 4 pm on September 28 a large group of pro-Palestine and pro-Lebanon protestors had filled the corner of Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. to protest before the Israeli consulate at 1 Westmount Square.

When she spoke to the *Independent* October 1, the resident conjectured that the interlopers' intention was to gain access to the complex and confront a counter-protestor who was waving an Israeli flag from a balcony, as also related in last week's coverage.

According to the resident, the protestors told 1 Wood staff that they needed to use the toilet.

The resident said that after she placed the 911 call, she met with two Montreal police officers. The *Independent* viewed a video of a police officer in the complex – but no police report was ever filed.

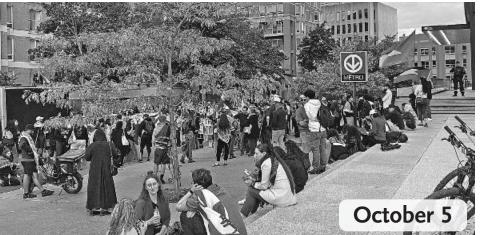
Police reports only filed in certain cases

Manuel Couture, media relation officer in the Montreal police's media relations department, spoke with the *Independent* on October 2 and, after rifling through his files, said: "I do not have any mention, in any reports, that the police showed up or talked to someone or that there was a 911 call...

"Normally when there is a break-andentry or mischief, we do have a report and there is no report at all in the area...

"It can happen, too, that people call 911 and police officers presented themselves at the address, but there is no report because there is no criminal activity. They are just there to secure people."

The resident has a different view: "The



As forecast in last week's issue (p. 12), a pro-Palestinian and pro-Lebanese protest did take place at 1 Westmount Square in front of 1 Wood on October 5. It was relatively small. The *Independent* cannot say whether or not the second forecasted protest took place the evening of October 7 – the anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel – because of the newspaper's 10:30 am press time on the same day.

WOOD Classified in the **Ruth Stalker Antiques** FINISHING INDEPENDENT **ON-SITE SERVICE** Why list your goods (or services) on •Touch-ups and Repairs i.e.: fly-by-night, who-knows-who-is-replying scratches, water marks, worn surfaces websites when you can list (and sell) Polishing and locally? Staining Buy a classified in the Kitchen Cabinets WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT 155 Hillside Avenue Jamie and Alison Stalker Fine Furniture 514-664-6138 514 931-0822 Westmount, Quebec HENRY CORNBLIT, professional craftsman FREE ESTIMATE 514.369.0295 alison.stalker@bellnet.ca H3Z 1W1 Buy locally to sell locally www.woodfinishingmontreal.com

six to 10 people who tried to come into the building as trespassers on private property."

The resident added that "Somebody was coming in the back door with her daughter and one of the [demonstrators] came running in after her and pushed their way in."

She said that the door attendant came and made sure that they were led back out.

"At the same time, there were other [demonstrators] trying to get in the front door. I called 911 because I saw the door man – who is not a security guard – trying to push these guys out...

"The police did nothing."

What is required to protest?

Couture said, "Since 2014, there has been no obligation to ask for any permits whatsoever for protests...

"Everybody has the right to protest, and they do not have to ask for permits."

He said they do not always have advance notice of protests either. "The people that are organizing the protest often go to the police station and say which date, which hour, which corner of the street [the protest will be] and that is because we need to have security measures to protect them...

"It happens sometimes that they don't reach out to the Montreal police, and we learn that there is a protest because there is a lot of people on the street."

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Luluthia brings new scents to Westmount Square



Retail Review

Veronica Redgrave

Westmount Square has a new scent. Now, tucked in a corner near the Greene Ave. stairs is a fabulous floral shop: Luluthia – "it means 'flowers' in Greek," explained owner Manny Sgourakis, who is from Crete.

This is his third location, so he knows his petals. In fact, his flower shops are listed on the Preferred Vendors List for Montreal weddings. His boutique is a little jewel. My eye was caught by arrangements



Shahrzad Borjian and Manny Sgourakis.

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IAN SUTHERLAND

www.constructionangus.com angusconstruction83@gmail.com Tel 514 262 3320 of towering orchids underplanted with trailing ivy; humble-but-easy-to-keep succulents and seasonal fresh flowers cooly waiting in the fridge.

I also noted tumbling masses of almostreal artificial blooms. Hydrangeas – always happy looking – as well as reach-for-thesky delphiniums sit alluringly in the "Wellness Corner."

Here are soothing candle scents and Manny's creations: towel wraps. With an elasticized waist, velcro closure and pockets, they sell out for men and women.

Not only does the shop, expertly managed by Shahrzad Borjian, carry cut flowers, but it offers "bespoke bouquets," Manny added. While I was there, a customer brought in her vases and asked for a special arrangement for a dinner party. And I walked out with an incense candle: "Brunch *de Weekend*" seemed appropriate.

LULUTHIA Westmount Square 438.375.1273 Shop.luluthia.ca Monday to Friday: 10 am to 6 pm Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm Delivery seven days a week



↓ Lxterior balconies and stair ♦ French drains and

water infiltration.

♦Pave-uni and retaining walls.

English-language school board election

November 3, 2024



School board	Positions up for election
English Montreal	Chair of the council and commissioners for the 10 electoral divisions
Lester B. Pearson	Commissioners for the electoral divisions 2, 6 and 9

Check your entry on the list of electors

If you wish to vote, your name must be on the list of electors of the **English-language school board** that serves your domicile. Check your registration by contacting your returning officer or by reading the notice you may receive in the mail by mid-October.

Your name is not on the list of electors of the English-language school board or you would like to change your entry?

You have to make a request to the board of revisors no later than **October 15**.

To be registered as an elector as part of these elections, you must:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- be domiciled in the territory of the English-language school board;
- have been domiciled in Québec for at least six months;
- not have lost your right to vote.

You must also:

- either have a child attending the school board's educational services or who has completed their studies there;
- or have no children attending a French-language school service center. In this case, you must submit a written request to the English-language school board in order to be registered on its electoral list.

For more information:

- contact your returning officer;
- contact Élections Québec:
- www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/schools;
- 418-528-0422 or 1-888-353-2846;
- info@electionsquebec.qc.ca.





Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

At its September 19 annual general meeting, board chair Steve Sebag outlined Federation CJA's vision for 2024-25, namely to continue its work in expanding efforts in security, combating anti-Semitism and strengthening ties with Israel.

Stephen Bronfman presented the



Laxer presented Bronfman Medal at CJA AGM

Samuel Bronfman Medal to past president Susan Laxer. The medal, the most prestigious award granted by Federation CJA, is in recognition of extraordinary service and leadership to the Jewish community.

Laxer's passion for the community inspired her work in Jewish education and roles as vice-president of Akiva School; board chair and vice president of Hebrew Academy, and president of the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre.

Her stint also marked the "last" March to Jerusalem (in 2014), an event that Federation CJA revived this past summer (see September 17, p. 12).

Engaged in community

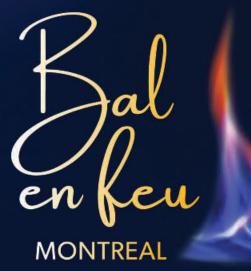
"These past 40 years have afforded me the opportunity to be engaged in many places." Laxer talked about how community involvement was passed down from her grandparents to her parents and onto her own involvement, "which afforded me an amazing view and understanding of the extent and richness of services here in Montreal."

Federation CJA president and CEO Yair Szlak gave an emotional address about how the October 7 terror attacks in Israel affected the Jewish community.



Susan Laxer and Stephen Bronfman





Join us for the inaugural Bal en feu on November 16 in Montreal.

This elegant black-tie charity gala is a party with a purpose.

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Visit arthritis.ca/balenfeuMTL for tickets.



Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

The McCord Grand Ball took place in Montreal's newest hot spot: the ninth floor of the former Eaton's store. The masterpiece of Art Déco architecture re-opened

McCord ball brings flash to Eaton's ninth floor

after 25 years and much careful heritage restoration.

Event design guru **Dick Walsh** ensured the flash-themed décor was magnificent, combining fashion and photography in his inimitable style.

Honorary co-presidents were **Bernard Leblanc**, CEO La Maison Simons; **Emmanuelle Legault**, CEO Palais des congrès de Montréal, and **Delphine Le Serre**, chair EdHu2050.

Committee members were Jean-Michel Lavoie (Sun Life); Elisabeth Starenkyj (La tête chercheuse); Pierre Wehbi (TD Asset Management); Félix Rhéaume (Rogers Communications); Andrea Soueidan (Altitude Connections); and Amélie Saint-Pierre (director general McCord Museum Foundation).

Noted amidst the black-tie finery were the McCord Foundation's board chair Jean-Michel Lavoie and Anne Eschapasse, CEO. Also seen were provincial government ministers Christian Dubé (health) and Ian Lafrenièfre (responsible for relations with the First Nations and the Inuit); as well as Bente continued on p. 22



Emmanuelle Legault, Bernard Leblanc and Delphine Le Serre.



David Bourget and Elisabeth Stanrenkyj.







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Lise Bastien, Ghislain Picard, Alison Obomsawin and Grand Chief Sky-Deer.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

Christensen and Gerald Shadeed, Scott Yetman, Carolina Gallo La Flèche and her son Charles-Erik Richer La Flèche, Lise Bastien, Ghislain Picard, cineaste Alison Obomsawin, Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer, Rebecca Moreau, Mael

Smail Akdim and Serge Sasseville. Delicious dishes by Brera Catering Co. were harmonized with wines donated by the Société des alcools du Québec. The event ended with dynamic dancing to D J Frigid.



Jean-Michel Lavoie, Amelie Saint-Pierre and Anne Eschapasse



Scott Yetman, Carolina Gallo La Flèche and Charles-Erik Richer La Flèche.



with an unforgettable evening presented by

The Doc Show

Friday, November 15 at 7:30 pm.



A benefit concert for our nonprofit organization

to be held at the Leonardo Da Vinci Centre in St. Léonard. Tickets: \$70 at www.cldv.ca



Rebecca Moreau, Mael Smail Akdim, Dick Walsh and Serge Sas.







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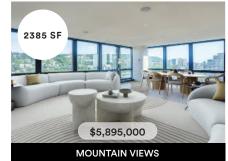


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