

## Editorial

# Rest in peace, Eddy Nolan – the ‘Terry Fox’ of Roslyn School

Retired Roslyn School caretaker Eddy Nolan was well known in Montreal for his fervent and steadfast support of and participation in Terry Fox Runs, beginning in the very first year of their existence and through which he helped raise over \$1 million, including \$300,000 at Roslyn.

Eddy has himself been suffering from cancer since 2011 and was recently approved for medical assistance in dying (MAID). He chose April 12, the date that Terry Fox started his run across Canada in 1980. As he put it on Facebook, “I have followed his Dream since then.”

Others likely see it that way, too. In the minds of many, Nolan’s story will be forever linked to Terry’s, so let’s start there.

In my view, Terry Fox is the greatest and most inspirational Canadian ever. At a time when “runs benefiting...” cause X, Y or Z were not normal or even heard of, Terry took it upon himself to run across

the country – via consecutive marathons, at age 21, on one leg! – to raise money for cancer research. And it wasn’t just hard to explain the concept (apparently some laughed). It was hard logistically and culturally. On the roads, cars were king. Jogging was not a big thing. Dedicated spaces for exercise like bike lanes weren’t normal. “Kicking cancer’s ass” and “cancer survivor” were not expressions. Diseases were treated and discussed in hospitals and clinics, not schools or offices.

Terry had a major role in changing all that, including – most importantly – the outlook for countless cancer patients. For many, it has become a treatable or curable or liveable condition, not a death sentence.

Terry Fox impressed other people in Westmount too, one of whom – Eddy Nolan – has stood out for years in his dedication, perseverance and ..... example. Indeed, in my 17 *continued on p. 17*



Eddy Nolan leading Roslyn's kindergarteners on their own Terry Fox run September 23, 2010, his ninth run at the school. Earlier, then-grade 5 student Latrell Reid checked off the \$10,000 mark on that year's fundraising results poster. By press time that issue, Roslyn had reported \$20,000 and counting. PHOTO: DAVID PRICE.

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## Swimming, tennis, pickleball follow on April 23

# City day-camp sign-up starts April 16, Rec. dept. needs soccer coaches

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The annual rush to sign up children for the city’s summer camp sessions is expected to start this week. This is when priority registration for Westmount residents opens April 16 for most of the Sports and Recreation summer programs, to be followed by swimming, tennis and pickleball registration April 23.

“It’s important for people to register on time,” said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe in pointing out the priority schedules offered for local residents. “Many of the summer programs fill up quickly.”

Meanwhile, the city is in need of more soccer and baseball coaches for the start of their season April 27, he ..... added. *continued on p. 22*

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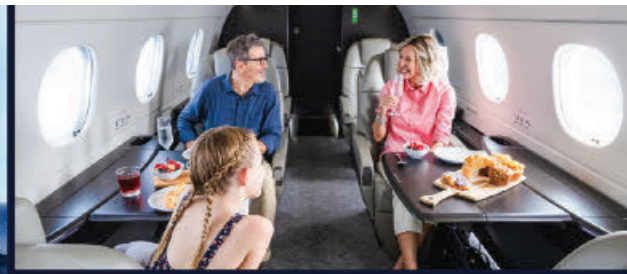
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# Massive truck blocks Sherbrooke, both ways, during rush hour

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

When a patrolling public safety officer came across what was described as a “heavy” truck broken down on Sherbrooke at Claremont April 8 at 6:25 pm, it was found to be blocking traffic in both directions, according to Public Security reports.

The size and weight of the vehicle was such that a regular tow truck was deemed to be insufficient to remove it, requiring the city to call in specialized towing equipment.

It was reported to be some 30 minutes before this arrived, during which time officers controlled the traffic.

## Contractor ticketed \$464 for using gasoline-fired leaf blower

A contractor using a gasoline-fired leaf blower from a backpack was fined \$464 April 9 on Elm Ave., according to Public Security officials. He was spotted at 8:45 am and informed of the prohibition against the use of the gas-fired equipment.

The use of electrically powered blowers is allowed at certain times of year related to cleaning up spring and fall leaves, but the gas-fired ones are no longer allowed. “Again, this is a reminder that the gas blowers are no longer permitted in West-

mount at any time, said department director Greg McBain.

Additionally, contractors wanting to use the electric leaf blowers must obtain a permit from the city.

## Cyclist caught biking through park paths

A patroller spotted a man riding a red mountain bike southbound on a pedestrian path in Westmount Park April 10 at 7:24 pm, Public Security officials said. The Westmount resident was issued a ticket for \$81 for cycling on a park path in violation of regulations. The only permitted cycling in the park – and indeed in any park in the city – is on the east-west de Maisonneuve bike path.

## Loose ‘beagle’ tracked down, ID-ed via licence tag

When Public Security received a call about a beagle-type dog running loose on Lexington Ave. April 8 at 3:54 pm, patrolers managed to track it down on Surrey Gardens. Thanks to a licence worn by the dog, the owner was identified. “This highlights one of several important reasons for registering a dog in the city’s system, enabling it to be returned as soon as possible,” said PSU director Greg McBain.

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Dodge on March real estate, p. 19

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Social Notes: Hope & Cope at Stotlands’, p. 25

### News & views on unleashed dogs at Summit Woods

Coverage of city council’s toughened stance on rule breakers, legislated list of dog facilities, p. 4

Letters for & against status quo, p. 6

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## Is Summit Woods a dog park?

# Council seeks to toughen dog by-law in search of 'balance'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While it has been suggested in the past that it takes a dog issue to fill the city's council chamber at a regular meeting, an on-going issue concerning dogs in Summit Woods did just that April 8.

Some residents asked for dogs to be leashed at all times in the bird and fauna sanctuary while others wanted to retain the current off-leash times.

Mayor Christina Smith stated the city would strike a balance by presenting a draft by-law hiking fines for offences of current regulations and increasing enforcement by re-allocating public safety officers from other duties.

The draft by-law proposed almost doubles the fines for most cases such as off-leash and licence violations. These jump to \$250-\$750 (from \$150-\$300) for a first offence and to \$500-\$1,000 (from \$300-\$600) for subsequent ones.

A table added to an appendix in the draft bylaw lists four "dog parks or dog run facilities" as being in Summit Woods, King George (Murray) Park, Westmount Park and the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG).

The dog issue consumed slightly more than the one-hour allocated to the opening

question period and pushed 18 internet questions to the end of the business agenda while "lumping" several similar ones together.

Concerns voiced by some included uncontrolled dogs jumping on people, spoiling their enjoyment of a pleasant walk in the woods, and those of nearby residents saying their driveways were blocked by parked cars.

One questioner proposed capping the maximum number of dog licences issued to non-Westmount residents.

### Does it meet the definition?

Councillor Antonio D'Amico, who represents District 1, in which Summit Woods is located, questioned what its definition as a dog run or dog park meant. Was it therefore subject to similar regulations as fenced areas in the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), Westmount Park and King George (Murray) Park?

"I would rather take the decision to another government level," meaning the province of Quebec, he said.

It has been suggested at other times that provincial law requiring dogs to be leashed in public applies to Summit Woods or the municipal government itself.

Mayor Smith assured D'Amico that "We're in complete compliance in Summit Woods." She also added that it was the city's role as a municipality to determine such regulations.

D'Amico further explained that "as in a family, we have a disagreement" within council. In this case, what is the definition of a dog run or dog park? "That's the crux of it."

Having researched some similar wooded areas, he mentioned examples of how a section in Beaconsfield's Angell Woods had in fact been fenced off to create a dog run. McGill's Morgan Arboretum in St. Anne de Bellevue limits the number of dogs allowed at a time.

Dog owner Dana Evan stated she had collected more than 1,200 names backing the status quo. The petition states that the "entitlement of poor behaviour of a minority shall not impinge upon the privilege of the majority who uphold laws while enjoying the sanctity of the Summit Park."

Some questioners asked for improved and more frequent signage, with which the mayor concurred. This was requested throughout the woods and along the gravelled stretch of the previous Summit Circle now blocked to traffic.

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## Remembering Mavis Young

# Fought against artificial turf in Westmount Park, council's 'ways'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mavis Young, who ran unsuccessfully for city council in two of Westmount's municipal elections, died April 7. Friends were invited to her home on Melville April 19 at 6 pm in honour of what would have been her 82nd birthday.

Motivated by a fight against artificial turf proposed for the playing fields in Westmount Park some 17 years ago, she declared in her first run for the council seat in District 7 in 2009, that she wanted to change "a cavalier attitude in which residents are consulted by council after basic decisions are made."

### Save the Park!

Young, who held a master's degree in immunology and an MBA in finance, was a co-founder of the city's Save the Park! Movement, which was formed to combat the artificial turf proposal.

She pursued a career as a medical researcher with the World Health Organization (WHO), with the Jewish General Hospital – where she was elected to the board of directors as a staff representative – and subsequently with Health Canada as



Mavis Young at the time of the 2009 municipal election. She also contested the 2013 one, in both cases against sitting councillor Cynthia Lulham.

a regulatory affairs project manager in Ottawa.

### Commuted while campaigning

In the latter role, she commuted back and forth between Ottawa and Westmount during her election campaigns of 2009 and 2013 against seasoned councillor Cynthia Lulham, winning 46 percent of the votes in 2009 and 43 percent the next time around.

Born in the Scottish town of Arbroath near St. Andrew's, she was raised in Montreal. She attended Trafalgar School and the University of Montreal.

She campaigned for an end to the council's closed-door-committee meetings and was an active voice in the building of the city's plans for the Westmount recreation centre, calling for a needs assessment of an indoor pool.

"Mavis never turned down an opportunity for a lively discussion or to share in a conversation about one of her many interests," according to an obituary posted by the family.

She raised her three children, Simon, Christopher and Alexandra, in Westmount and is also survived by three grandchildren: Avery, Camden and Aspen.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MORE DOG RESTRICTIONS  
AT SUMMIT WOODS UNFAIR

I'd like to offer a response to the citizen who shared their grief in their letter "Unleashed dogs have unseen effects" (April 9, p. 6).

Considering that Westmount is home to 12 parks and 22 green spaces [where dogs must be leashed], without including Mount Royal Park and its 692 acres, which is almost 10 times the size of Summit Woods, why choose to restrict the only place where dogs are allowed to go off leash when there is no lack of options where this issue [of unleashed dogs] won't be encountered?

Why add more restrictions and ruin a place that's so special and unique for our beloved furry friends and their owners who don't have anywhere else to go? Placing additional restrictions is wrong and unfair.

EMMA ROY, VICTORIA AVE.

WHERE WILL THE  
'DOG RUNS' STOP?

RE: Summit Woods to change vocation to a "dog run facility."

Council presented us with a notice of motion amending By-law 1522 regarding dogs.

It is clear that one of the reasons for the amendment is to correct the fact that Westmount is not compliant with provincial law [#128 Article 20 chapter 38.002].

The provincial law states "... in a public

space a dog must be at all times under control of a person capable of controlling it, except in a dog run facility." Compliance is required by municipalities in virtue of the province's law #47 Municipal Powers Act, which states in Article 3 that municipalities cannot pass by-laws that violate laws of Quebec.

Throughout North America, a dog run facility is fenced. Mayor Smith and many council members are arguing that the whole of Summit Woods is a dog run facility and as such, Westmount is compliant with the provincial by-law.

So why are they presenting a motion to amend their By-law 1522? And why did the director general of Westmount write to us and say "...we are taking steps to update By-Law 1522 in order to formalize the city's compliance.."

The answer is in the amendment, where they propose to now define, Westmount dog park, quoting p. 2 "dog run facility (*parc canin*): an area marked by signs affixed by the City indicating an area where it is possible to run freely without a leash.."

So once this amendment passes, signs will be going up all around Summit Woods naming it a "dog park." This will become its heritage for our future generations. Forget about bird sanctuary and botanical reserve.

Also, what will stop the city from one day declaring Surrey Garden medians a dog park?

I am in favour that dogs should be

leashed when not in a fenced-in, dedicated space, but there are compromises that can benefit all sides.

Councilman D'Amico is the only voice that spoke to compromises and suggested altering the hours and times of the year or making a fenced-in area in a section of the woods.

Mayor Smith and the other council members must consider and present options. They cannot pass the amendment behind closed doors. Failure will make Westmount the laughing stock of Montreal as it failed to preserve the heritage of Summit Woods (or should I say "Summit Dog Run"?).

B. CHAMANDY-COOK, OAKLAND AVE.

CONCERNED FOR  
SUMMIT WOODS

As a resident of Westmount for 40 years, I have witnessed a degradation of Summit Woods and have serious environmental concerns for its future. Trails have increased in size and number, hence negatively impacting its flora, bird nesting, biodiversity and animals. Maintenance and protection of its trees should be a concern to all.

Parking during winter has greatly increased in the adjoining streets, especially since COVID, because it was one of the rare places open for promenades with dogs after the closure of Mount Royal Park.

Summit Circle is a narrow *cul-de-sac* thus posing risks when cars are parked. This ultimately leads to dangerous vehicle maneuvers and encroachment on private driveways as well as hindering snow removal. Parking restrictions should be implemented during this period to improve congestion.

Provincial law 128 concerning public areas restricts dogs off leash unless an area is fenced in. Summit Woods is a public area that should be used by families with young children and all who want to enjoy a beautiful walk in nature. Dogs being off leash from November 1 to April 15 from 5 am to midnight restricts all those who are not comfortable with this.

A motion by city council to table a new amendment to By-law 1522 wants to designate Summit Woods as a dog run/exercise area. Westmount residents should be consulted on this very important by-law.

PATRICIA LALIOUZ, SUMMIT CIRCLE

## SENSIBLE SIGNAGE

The *Independent* of April 9 (p. 7) depicts the "Attendez le feu vert" sign at Sherbrooke and Claremont, with an ironic comment on its purpose.

The sign indicates to eastbound drivers that they should wait for a green light *even though the westbound lanes are able to proceed*. The light thus allows westbound

autos a grace period to turn left onto Claremont southbound before the oncoming traffic makes that maneuver impossible.

It is certainly more useful than the "Advanced Green When Flashing" signs that erroneously labeled intersections in the past.

ROGER JAY, SHERBROOKE ST.

## ROBBED OF MEANING?

The Police Report (April 2, p. 10) headline "'Flash mob' thieves rob Sherbrooke boutique..." left me confused. Are the perpetrators thieves, or are they robbers? Fortunately, the body of the article helped to clear up the confusion. Since the perps just grabbed the clothes and walked out, and did not use violence or threaten violence, they're just shoplifters, not robbers.

I also wondered, do two people constitute a "mob"?

The next item, about cars being broken into and robbed, is also misleading. While banks and stores can be robbed or held up, with the implication that the people inside were intimidated or subjected to violence, a car without its occupants cannot be "robbed" or high-jacked. It can be stolen, though, and its contents can also be stolen, although if the car is unlocked, the perp would not need to break into it.

When we read headlines that escalate theft into robbery, we start to believe that we live in increasingly dangerous times, we become more suspicious of each other, and our voting swings to the right, calling for more police, longer jail sentences, and more surveillance cameras.

In reality, the numbers for Station 12 show that criminality has decreased by 37 percent over the 10 years from 2012 to 2021. So, please, tone down the scary headlines!

HENRY OLDERS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## EV CHARGING BLUES

EV owners are all in need of some new vocabulary. It needs to be bilingual. As an anglophone, I will need your help.

The problem is what to call the gasoline-powered-vehicle driver who parks in a spot designated for charging your electric vehicle. What do you call this type of inconsideration, when you drive up and his or her gas-guzzler is filling the space?

Personally, I feel "electro-efed" by a "garsehole." My son says they are "gas-sholes."

These "terminal terrorists" are becoming ubiquitous. Here in Westmount, the "coup de gasoline" is perpetrated by "socE-Viopaths," "hook-up hoarders" and other "Westmountebanks."

In our neighbouring community, the "coup de Notre Dame de Grâce" is perpetrated by "switchshitters," "gasos-losers"

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and “dEViants,”

The “*coup de gasoline*” and “vehicular EVcide” is continued throughout Montreal by “terminal sequestrators,” “socket selectors” and “electropathetic E-failers.”

What can we do about all this? “Evacuation” from our parking spots is needed. Put them up on a “charge”? “Electro-termination”?

We need legislation to get these “electro-criminals” towed. In EV-charging spots, green plates good; the rest ticketed for wrongful possession.

Your suggestions please.

ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### A PRICELESS RING

On Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:27 pm, I was at the Westmount Lawn Bowling & Croquet grounds.

Awesome. A “wow” just escaped me! A very brief minute and a half without glasses. The diamond ring really was priceless!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

### WESTMOUNT, OR MOSCOW?

So, what happens when, as at the April 8 city council meeting, you point out to the mayor a discrepancy between, on one hand, her public statement in which she affirmed that multiple assessments had been made by the city of the RMR army, and that the JLL study was jointly commissioned by the DND and the city of Westmount, and on the other hand, the sworn testimony of the director general, Julie Mandeville, that both these statements were false?

No, you don’t get a response saying that she was mistaken.

Nor do you get a response as to why she made statements that were not true.

And when you repeat the request, you finally get a definitive statement: “Sit down or I will ask you to be escorted out of the room.”

Charming. I’ll bring my own handcuffs next time.

JON BRESLAW, GROSVENOR AVE.

**Mayor’s column:** Majority of council supports some off-leash times for dogs at Summit Woods, p.10

### Overheard

Man to woman at Royal Bank in Vic village March 26, 3:10 pm:

“My aunt’s 88 and she is still cleaning a few houses.”

\*

Woman into cell phone at Greene and St. Catherine, April 13, 1:15 pm:

“I feel weird.”

### 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:

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## Petition to Save Summit Woods

The city of Westmount council wants to redefine Summit Woods as an unfenced Dog Park. This will mean dogs are not required to be leashed at all times and can run freely at times when accompanied by their owners.

This will forever change Summit Wood’s primary character as an all-season perpetual Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary for families, kids, joggers, bird watchers and leashed dogs! Dogs have the freedom to run in three true dog parks.

**Please sign our petition via the QR Code and let council know we want to protect Summit Woods and oppose its redefinition as a “Dog Park.”**



[www.change.org/SaveSummitWood](http://www.change.org/SaveSummitWood)



Screen grab from the city of Westmount tape of its April 8 city council meeting, as first submitted by J. Breslaw but re-done from scratch for technical reasons by the *Independent*.

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## Police Report

# Bomb threat forces evacuation at downtown school

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A bomb scare phoned in to the Sacred Heart School on Atwater Ave. just outside Westmount's eastern limits on April 12 resulted in the evacuation of faculty and students and the arrest of a suspect far from the scene of the crime - in Georgia, USA.

Cst. Mike Yigit, a foot patrolman as well as the community relations officer at the Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St., was there for part of the morning and during the afternoon.

Although a report on the incident, which began around 11:30 am, hadn't yet been processed when the *Independent* spoke with Yigit late last week, he said the called-in threat was traced to a specific

county in the state of Georgia where police arrested a suspect.

"Apparently, he is known to do that often," Yigit said regarding the suspect's previously known pattern of behaviour.

He said that police department units that were deployed included the tactical squad and that the fire department and Urgences-Santé paramedics also responded.

In accordance with an evacuation protocol used by the police under such circumstances, Sacred Heart School students were evacuated to the Collège de Montréal campus on Sherbrooke St. east of Atwater where parents picked them up.

### Police to meet merchants after bold thefts

Crime prevention officers at Station 12

have agreed to meet business owners from Westmount's two main commercial districts after a second brazen robbery in recent weeks at a luxury swimwear boutique on Sherbrooke St. during which thousands of dollars worth of high-end apparel was stolen.

The latest robbery, on April 12 at Vilebrequin at 4912 Sherbrooke, followed an initial incident on March 23. While the perpetrators struck at mid-day several weeks ago - walking in briskly around 3 pm, grabbing clothes off the racks and walking out - they did so in the middle of the night this time.

According to Cst. Yigit, who was on the scene to take a complaint from the store manager just a few hours after the burglary,

nearby residents reported hearing a banging noise on April 12 around 4 am. When police arrived, they found the boutique's front glass window had been smashed.

He confirmed that prevention specialists from Station 12 plan to meet store owners from Greene Ave. and Sherbrooke St. so that "we can give them advice on how to better secure the neighbourhoods," said Yigit, although no date was set as the *Independent* reached deadline late last week.

### Garage door damaged

Although criminal charges are unlikely, a Kitchener Ave. home owner will be filing a claim with insurers after a garage door was seriously damaged by ..... an unknown motorist. *continued on p. 20*

## 'We have a switchyard in our backyard': Hillside resident

# Neighbours: 'Temporary' idling of trains causing psychological distress

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A six-month closure of the Lucien L'Allier Metro station for renovation work at the east end of the EXO commuter train route is generating widespread complaints

from residents in Districts 7 and 8. This is where the parked trains are now left to idle between Hollowell and Atwater east of the temporary terminus at the Vendôme station.

"Residents received no information or

notification," a resident of 100 Hillside told the council meeting April 8. "We have a switchyard in our backyard," he stated.

The noise and pollution emanating from the trains' engines "permeates our homes," and is causing psychological distress. "Why were residents not consulted?" he asked. And how is Westmount going to "attack" this?

Mayor Christina Smith explained that the issue involves the trains run by EXO, but on CP tracks and under federal jurisdiction. As a result, the city has been contacting all three, she replied.

"How can we help you?" he asked.

"Call EXO," she said. This is listed on the city's website at 1-833 allo-exo (255-6396) as follows:

- Monday to Friday: between 8:30 am and 12 pm and 7 pm and 9 pm;
- Saturday: between 12 pm and 1:30 pm and between 8 pm and 10 pm;
- Sunday: between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm.

The week before the council meeting, Councillor Kathleen Kez told the *Independent* that "Unfortunately," Westmount does not have much say in the matter since railway lands and infrastructure belong to CP, which controls and authorizes train traffic.

"Sound measures will be taken, and EXO assured us that every effort will be made to shut down the locomotives while they are idle. However, there will be instances where they may need to remain running temporarily due to regulatory or operational constraints. All in all, it is very frustrating."

A notice on the city's website from EXO posted April 5 explains that the trains will stop on a section of the railway line in the area between Hollowell and Atwater in the area while waiting for their return to the station. "This exceptional measure will be in place for a period of approximately six months."



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## Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

# Majority of council supports some off-leash times for dogs at Summit Woods

For decades, Westmounters have walked their dogs at Summit Woods. At certain periods of the year, and during specific times, they are allowed to walk their dogs off leash within the woods. Many in our community greatly appreciate this privilege, and many fear that the changes to our by-law will take it away from them.

On the other side of the issue, some residents living near Summit Woods have expressed concerns and are asking us to ban off-leash dog walking at Summit Woods at all times. Many of these concerns are similar to what we hear from residents who live near any of our large parks or schools.

### City can make leash rules

Let's be clear, as established by the province, the city has the right to designate places where dogs can or cannot be leashed. This is a municipal decision.

A majority of council members support the right to walk your dog off-leash at Summit Woods at certain times of the year and during certain hours. Antonio D'Amico, councillor for District 1, where Summit Woods is located, advised the council that

he would like the provincial government to decide whether to recognize Summit Woods as a park where dogs can walk off leash. However, this decision is up to us. As council members, it's our responsibility to ensure that our municipal by-laws are up to date, that is what we are elected to do.

The city will, therefore, continue to allow Westmounters to walk their dogs off leash in dog parks at the WAG (Westmount Athletic Grounds, behind Westmount High), Westmount and King George parks and, during specific periods and times, at Summit Woods.

### Increased enforcement, fines

What will change is the increased presence of our Public Security Officers at Summit Woods and other dog parks to ensure that all dogs have a Westmount dog licence. This is imperative if we want to ensure that all dogs are vaccinated and that we have the names and addresses of their owners. This also allows us to manage the small number of dangerous dogs in our city.

The fines for offenders will increase to

\$500 per infraction. We must also remember that our parks must be accessible to everyone. No matter where you live, you can come and enjoy our green spaces as long as you respect the rules.

### Everyone has a part to play

I want to reiterate our commitment to preserving Summit Woods by strengthening the enforcement of our regulations. Everyone must do their part. Ensuring no new paths or entrances are made and managing the tree canopy is critical to the woods. We will also continue to seek the best advice from experts to properly manage the beautiful green spaces that are the pride of our city.

I often walk my dog Charm in Summit Woods and use our dog runs. These are places where many members of our community come together. A place where new friendships are formed. A place that brings joy to animals and people alike.

We will do everything we can to enforce the rules so everyone can peacefully and safely enjoy the dog runs and Summit Woods, and respect the neighbourhoods they are in.

### Two sides of issue

Many of you spoke on these topics at the last two council meetings, and I wanted to clarify the council's position on this matter and to assure you council has heard the concerns raised by residents.

## Goodbye, winter?



As seen in the Victoria Ave. Metro grocery store's parking lot on April 12 and on Somerville near Claremont on April 3.

# metro

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\*Specials in effect from April 18th to April 24th, 2024 at Metro Queen Mary (5201 Queen Mary Road, Montréal), Metro Plus Wilderton (2875 Van Horne Avenue, Montréal), Metro Plus Westmount (4840 Sherbrooke W Street, Montréal). The regularity of fruit and vegetable supplies is at the mercy of weather conditions. We reserve the right to limit quantities. In the event of a shortage, please ask for a deferred purchase voucher. No sales to merchants. Photos for information only. TM : brand owned by METRO RICHELIEU INC.

## Earth Day Clothes Swap returns April 20



BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Last year's first Earth Day Clothes Swap met with such success that it's being held again by the city at Victoria Hall April 20 from 1 to 4 pm with the aim of providing

Seen here during the clothing swap in Victoria Hall on Earth Day last year, April 22, 2023, are, from left, Westmount city councillor Elisabeth Roux, Sports and Recreation department coordinator Claude Danis, library assistant director Donna Lach, community events technician Melissa Denis-Daigneault, and community events coordinators Emily Gamble and Rachel Conove.

a way for residents to renew their wardrobe sustainably. It is one of the city's many events related to Earth Day.

Up to 10 clothes for the "exchange" must be clean and in good condition, and may be dropped off ahead of time at the same location on April 18, and 19 between 8:30 am and 9 pm or on the day of the sale until 11 am. "Then come and see what others have brought and pick out some treasures," the city states.

Other events related to Earth Day, which is actually on the Monday, April 22, include

a clean-up of Westmount Park rain or shine on Friday, April 19 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm to be followed by the traditional household hazardous waste collection on the Saturday from 9 am to 4:30 pm in the library parking lot.

Also on Saturday, a guided tour of the trees in Westmount Park will be led by city arborist Alberto Dias-Meideros. As well, the city's environment team will be at Victoria Hall that afternoon from 1 to 4 pm to answer questions on the city's waste collection and management.

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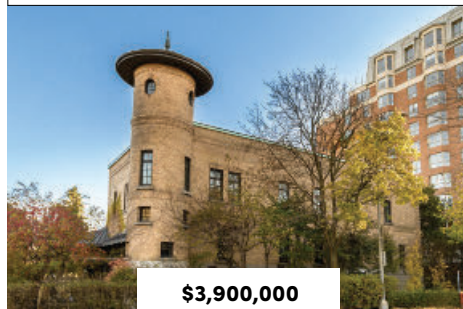
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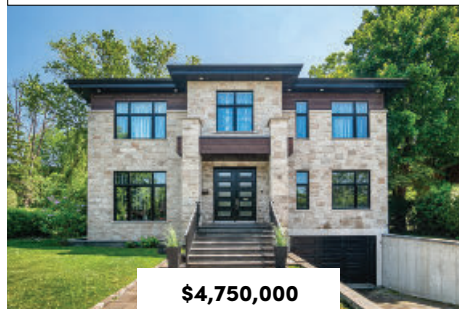
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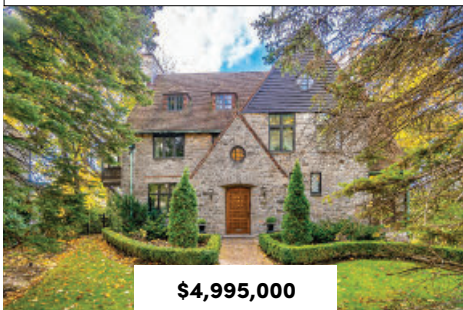
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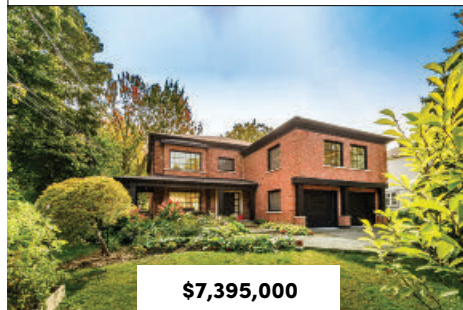
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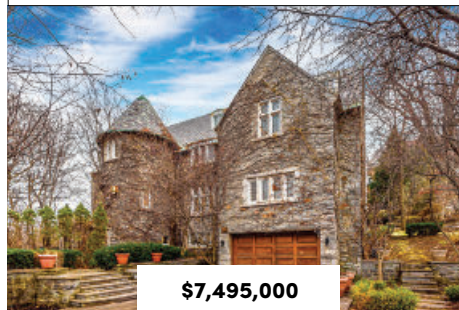
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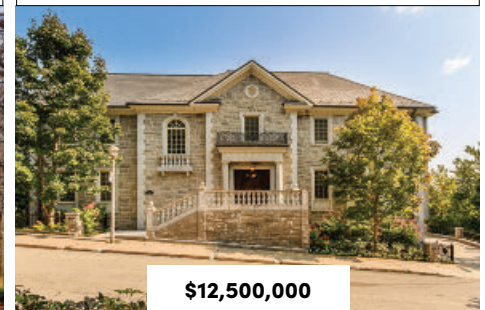
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## Remembering Eddy Nolan in Westmount



**2011 – months after cancer diagnosis**

After being absent most of the year while receiving treatment for cancer, Nolan returned on September 28, 2011 to lead the children in the school's Terry Fox Run.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY



**2012 – a marathon year**

The entire student population of Roslyn and grade 5 and 6 students from Westmount Park School, numbering some 600 in total, gathered along Sherbrooke in Westmount Park to cheer along Nolan, April 12, 2012. Nolan ran his own 42-km marathon from Montreal West to Montreal East. He carried the Terry Fox flag and his purpose was "simply to honour Terry Fox."

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON



**April 2013**

Hundreds of Westmount students braved the unseasonable snow on April 12, 2013 to cheer on Nolan as he marked the 33rd anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Students from Roslyn and Westmount Park School were in attendance and lined Sherbrooke St. in front of Westmount Park, chanting "Go, Eddy, Go!"

PHOTO: MICHAEL MOORE



**September 2013**

On September 26, 2013, for the twelfth year, Nolan led Roslyn students on a fundraising run to collect money for the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research. Up to that point, Nolan had managed to raise \$228,000 for the cause with the help of Roslyn School students.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY



## Roslyn honours Eddy Nolan – Student: ‘It is very sad’

*Eddy Nolan, cont'd from p. 1*

years at this newspaper, meeting Eddy was one of three or four stand-out positive experiences.

I hadn't expected it to be.

Despite my high opinion of Terry Fox, when I walked up the hill about 14 years ago to cover “this caretaker who has led Roslyn's Terry Fox Run for eight years,” I looked at it as just an ordinary task that I didn't have the time or budget to sub-contract to one of our professional reporters. By that time, Terry Fox Runs had been held for 30 years all over the world, country, province, metropolis and city.

I would take a photo and go.

And then this man appeared, very different from the school caretakers of my youth. He looked more like a gym teacher or athletic coach. He moved through the crowd of kids like a game show contestant high-fiving his way to the stage, or a rock star getting ready to perform.

And he spoke like a (genuine) inspirational speaker. I will never forget his short call-and-response style speech.

Nolan: “WHO ARE WE RUNNING FOR?”  
Kids, in unison: “TERRY FOX!”

It gave me my headline, and warmed the cold, cold cockles of this jaded editor's heart.

\*

And then the tale got “better” as a newspaper story, and so much worse as a



Over 500 Roslyn students gathered April 12 to honour Eddy Nolan, a former caretaker who ended his life with medical assistance in dying (MAID) that day after 13 years of cancer. As the children walked around the school, they chanted: “Eddy, Eddy, Eddy.” Throughout his life, Nolan had been inspired by the courage and strength of Terry Fox. Principal Joanne Genovezos, centre foreground, and vice-principal Mireille Tehbelian, to the right of her, said when they had talked to some of the older children about MAID, one boy said, “It is very sad.”

human one.

After losing two sisters to cancer, Eddy was himself diagnosed with throat cancer soon after that 2010 run, giving poignancy to his longtime support of cancer fundraising. And he still showed up a year later for Roslyn's run, despite having been off work for treatment in most of the intervening months. Wow.

And then he continued to run, year after year around Montreal, including a whole marathon from Montreal West to Montreal East that we were able to cover, until completing his final run just last year. Amazing.

\*

I am sure that Eddy had a similar inspirational effect on countless others, young and old. We will remember him.

And I am not forgetting the years to come. I hope at some future date to be at a Roslyn Terry Fox Run where someone asks the kids:

“WHO ARE WE RUNNING FOR?”

And they reply:

“TERRY FOX AND EDDY NOLAN!”

*David Price is the editor of the Independent.*

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# Bethel Gospel Chapel undertakes repair work

By JENNIFER BALL

The Bethel Gospel Chapel is an assembly of Christians known as brethren. They believe in salvation from accepting Jesus Christ as saviour and in eternal life. Their church building, on the other hand, is having difficulty with that concept. It requires exterior restoration work that became more extensive under inspection.

Bethel gospel chapel Montreal Inc., at 4250 de Maisonneuve at Olivier Ave., is a corporation that bought the church building and land in 1972. According to the city of Montreal's property assessment role, the year of construction was listed as 1963.

The church does not have pastors for its services. It has a plurality of elders and senior elders as church leadership.

Rodney Selman served as their spokesperson when he answered the *Independent's* question as to why there has been a construction vehicle parked outside the church for several months.

Selman said exterior work needed to be undertaken when neighbours across the street – who are on the same level at the top of the church – saw some exterior damage and let them know.

Selman attributes this to a series of harsh winters. "Because of the weather [the



The Bethel Gospel Chapel at 4250 de Maisonneuve on April 3.

building] needs some enhancements and maintenance to make sure that everything is safe...

"We noticed that there was some wood that was showing some wear and tear, so we had to replace that. We have replaced some in the front and we need to replace some more on the side of the building..."

"Because of the height of the building, it was not so easy to see what defects there were."

### Scope of work grows

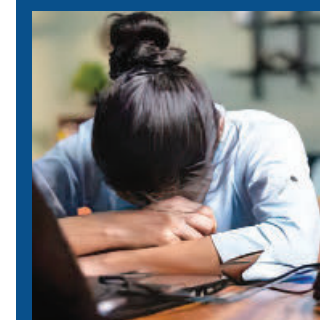
The scope of the work originally was to replace exterior bricks and replace rotten wood. Selman said that the company Restaure-Action-Maçonnerie Montréal, whose

construction vehicle has been parked outside the church for months, began work, but they themselves noticed there were defects that needed to be addressed before they could proceed any further.

"It is a large undertaking, and it is a considerable sum [of money to complete the entire job]," Selman said. He declined to share the numbers.

Selman said because the company that undertakes the work will need to respect and replicate the original brickwork exactly, they are currently looking for a company that can do the work appropriately and complete all the work to code.

The funding for the repairs will not fall to the congregation members and the chapel will not be fundraising, Selman said.



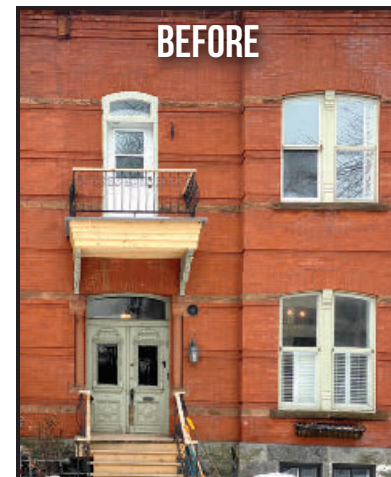
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houses which were on and off the market for well over a year each.

## Condos

One more condominium sale at 200 Lansdowne Ave. in March rounded out the first-quarter figures for condos, with seven sales averaging \$1,498,357 for property with a tax value of \$1,332,386, thus a 12.5 percent mark-up or about the same as for single-family homes. The first-quarter results show the third-highest price for a penthouse condo in Westmount's history, at \$4,600,000 in January.

Only one of the first-quarter condo sales involved a made-over duplex on Grosvenor Ave., which went for \$785,000; the rest were in apartment buildings.

## Adjacent to Westmount

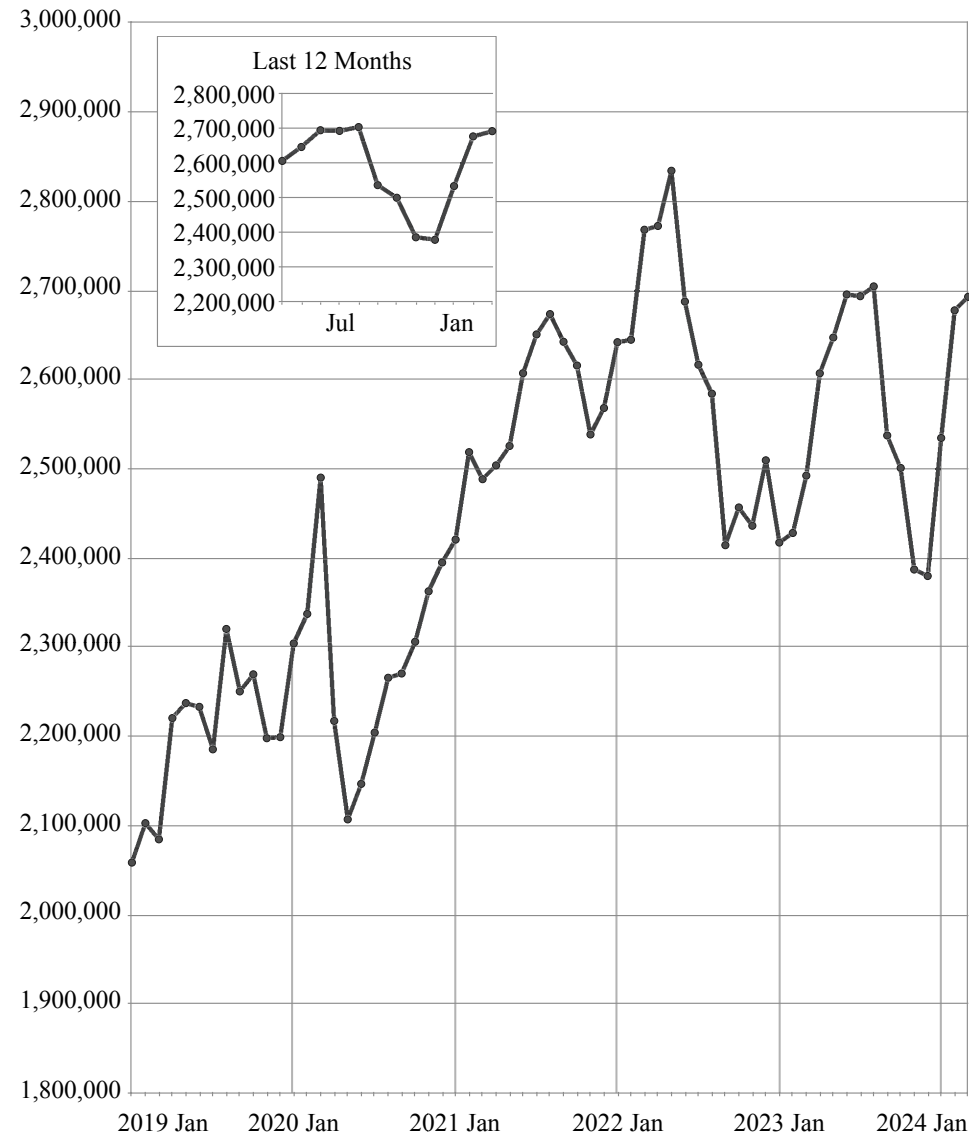
The adjacent-Westmount market has not been quite as exciting as in Westmount proper. Thus far this year, the Côte des Neiges district north of the city limits has logged seven sales with an average price of \$1,604,286, while the NDG district just west of Westmount has seen six sales averaging \$1,589,833. The real disappointment has been for houses in the Square Mile, where three sales this year have averaged only \$1,141,667 and the average price:valuation ratio has been -34.7 percent.

As of early April, there are a stunning 113 houses now listed in Westmount, the most since late 2019, and the number now listed at less than \$1 million has climbed to two, again the highest number since early 2020.

The biggest category increase has been those asking between \$2 million and \$3 million.

The two top asking prices in Westmount are both \$15,500,000 each, while elsewhere on the island, one on Redpath Crescent downtown is asking \$25,900,000 and another in Senneville is going for \$19,000,000.

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2019 to March 2024, based on accepted offer dates



Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in March 2024. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

The range of sale prices in March's real estate market is extraordinary, with three of a dozen sales over \$6 million each and two under \$1 million, the first time since May 2019 that there have been so many sales under \$1 million.

Top price in March this year was \$9 million for a mid-level Westmount mansion, which also represented the highest mark-up over city valuation of 60.8 percent. It was followed by sales chiming in at \$7,500,000 and \$6,860,000, and three more over \$3 million. On the other hand, the two lowest were \$700,000 for a house on Burton Ave. and \$900,000 for another on Abbott Ave. The Burton sale also represented the biggest mark-down, -30.2 percent.

## High raw average

With all these extremes, the average price ended up at \$3,460,833, the highest raw average monthly price in Westmount's history. The average mark-up over valuation was 15.1 percent, showing a gradual improvement during this year, with averages of -4.6 percent in January and +1.8 percent in February. In March, there were six mark-ups and six mark-downs. Houses spent an average 152 days on the market, with a median selling time of 99 days, much more both as an average and a median from February, but including two



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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### Minor Exemption Application

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a minor exemption for the property located at **384 Olivier Avenue**;
2. The application will be reviewed at the regular sitting of the Municipal Council that will be held on **May 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, in Westmount and will be broadcast live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: [www.westmount.org/council-live](http://www.westmount.org/council-live).

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

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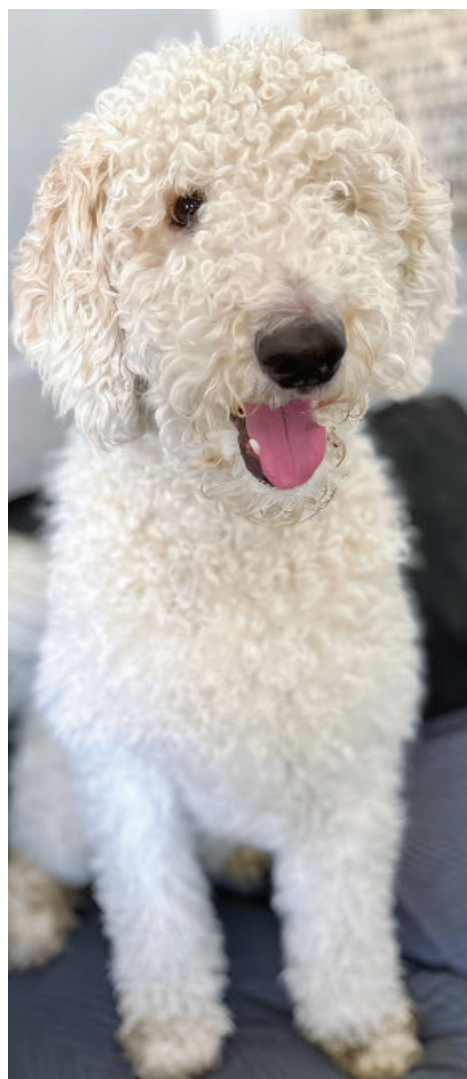
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# Here is Jenson, a perfect buddy to all



**Westmount  
A-dog-tions**

LYSANNE FOWLER



He was the puppy baby until there was a baby.

So now this adorable young doodle is in need of a family that will be into play, cuddles and walkies galore.

Jenson is a very healthy two-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

He is presently in a foster family through the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions volunteer rescue group, where they report that he is a lovely and intelligent companion, falling into the routine and keen on socializing and playing. If you would like more information on Jenson, please refer to their website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) and email them for more details and photographs at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



**9 Lives**

LYSANNE FOWLER

# Sweet Wendy

so she is current in that regard.

She is doing well in the foster home, but she was initially shy from the transition. She is only now interested in the family and the resident cat, which is normal since coming from a home where she had a routine and less presence from outsiders.

Here is a silver beauty who has had to transition from her adoptive family to a foster family through the same rescue organization that took her in with her kittens as a young mother cat.

Wendy is back with the cat rescue organization Moustache Adoption de Chats in a foster family until she is in a new family's loving arms.

Wendy is a very healthy silver shorthair, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She recently had a full dental examination and some extractions

If you would like more information on Wendy, please contact the volunteers at Moustache Adoptions. You can refer to their Petfinder listing, where Wendy's identification number is 69211815. Then please do not hesitate to go to their website at [www.moustache.petfinder.com](http://www.moustache.petfinder.com) and contact them at their email [moustacheadoptiondechats@outlook.com](mailto:moustacheadoptiondechats@outlook.com).

Your neighbour, Lysanne



## Police report, cont'd from p. 8

The owner complained in a report filed with the police about finding the garage door damaged around 5:30 pm on April 10.

"There was considerable damage to the bottom of my garage door," the owner stated, adding that "it seems someone drove into my door while backing up."

While Yigit acknowledged that causing damage to private property without advising the owner can be prosecuted criminally, it's unlikely in this case as there were no nearby security cameras to record the incident nor any other tangible evidence left behind.

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## Westmounters 'eclipsing'



April 8's solar eclipse. Top row: on the roof of the Westmount recreation centre; bottom left: on the front lawn of Westmount Park United Church/Contactivity; bottom right: the early birds on the roof of 310 Victoria (the crowd grew significantly). Many other rooftops had observers too. See p. 24 for photos of the eclipse itself.

TOP PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN AND BOTTOM-LEFT PHOTO OF SAM BEITEL; BOTTOM RIGHT: INDEPENDENT.



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### Recreation department, cont'd from p. 1

"We are only at 70 percent of what we need."

As for the soccer registration for May and June, this year's numbers were slightly below last year," with a total 691 compared to 711 in 2023, "but we most likely will get more registrations before the start of the season on April 27," Lapointe said.

With the start of summer registrations, a long list of other programs for youth, adults and seniors can be found in the program brochure on the city's website. These range from hockey tune-up to the new adult "singing for fun."

The eight weekly camp sessions run from June 25 to August 12 for children ages 6 to 14 while those aged 15-17 may register as councillors in training (CITs).

The camps feature sports, team building, leadership activities, arts and crafts, swimming and water games as well as time "to relax and hang out with friends."

Pool activities include swimming lessons, aqua fitness and masters' swim times while numerous sessions are detailed for tennis instruction for youth and adults throughout the summer and into September.

# Total eclipse was a once-in-a-lifetime experience at ECS



From left, foreground, Kate and Chloe Honsberger took in the changing phases of last week's total solar eclipse from the play yard at the ECS girls' school on Mount Pleasant Ave.

ECS pupils Laurie Cheng, Amelia Waters and Emma Shadeed were among the grade three students who helped organize the eclipse day event at the school.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Whether it was while playing Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*, "Space Oddity" by David Bowie, or Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart," students, staff and parents at ECS School got seriously into the mood last week while watching the total solar eclipse from the school's play yard.

Grade three entrepreneurial students at the Mount Pleasant Ave. school were largely responsible for organizing the once-in-a-lifetime eclipse viewing event (in Montreal) on April 8.

Students worked to make it so that those attending, including not only students and parents but also people from the surrounding community, could safely view the eclipse indoors or on the ECS backfield.

In the gym, the students mounted displays of solar system games, student news reports, do-it-yourself tutorials for making eclipse glasses and 3D art exhibits.

In the preceding weeks, the school had welcomed former astronaut Julie Payette (via Zoom link-up), as well as an ophthalmologist who spoke on the eye damage that could result from looking at the partially-eclipsed sun.

While some schools opted to cancel classes for the day, "we decided we did not want to take the path of fear, but rather try to take another path," said Casey Sherriffs, the director of entrepreneurial platform at ECS.

### Some of the organizers

Among the grade three pupils who helped put the day together were Laurie Cheng, Amelia Waters and Emma Shadeed.

"You need to wear glasses, because it can burn your eyes and you're going to go blind forever," Laurie said in an interview with the *Independent*, sharing some of the things she learned about the eclipsed sun's effects.

"There are several kinds of eclipse," added Amelia, noting there are total as well as partial eclipses. According to Emma, one of the next total eclipses will take place in 2026 over southern France and northern Spain. Since she has family in Spain, she said it's likely she'll be able to see it there in person.

Among those from the surrounding community who took part in ECS's solar celebration was Jason Halprin, a freelance filmmaker from Outremont. Although his children attend The Priory, that school's eclipse day event was solidly booked, so he decided to drop in to ECS.

Knowing that the rays of the sun can inflict serious damage to the light sensors inside digital cameras as well as on human eyes, he brought along a vintage 16mm Bolex analog motion picture film camera

to record the trajectory and phases of the eclipse.

"I'll take it home and process it myself," he said, noting that he would archive the resulting footage for future projects.



Freelance filmmaker Jason Halprin shot 16mm film footage of the eclipse for archival purposes from the ECS school yard.

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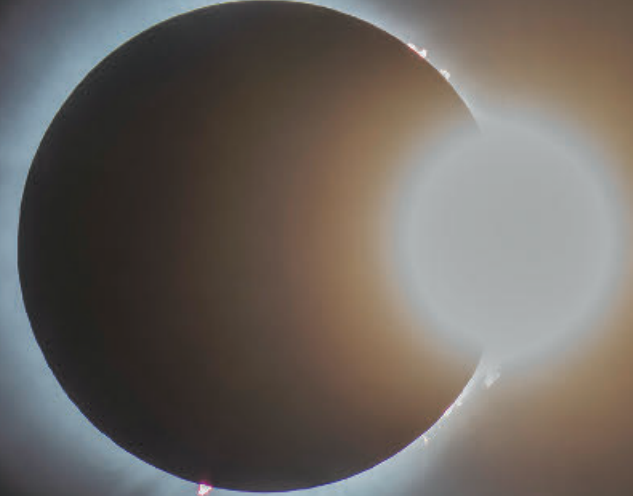
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# Eclipsing Westmount



At left, totality. The red flames appearing around the edge of the moon are solar prominences. At right, the sun re-emerges after the eclipse. As seen April 8.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## OUR DOCTORS



# Hope & Cope raises funds with showroom/gallery at Stotlands'



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Despite the deluge that day, the fund-raising event for Hope & Cope hosted by Vivian Stotland was a huge success.

Vivian had wisely hired **Bob Perras** whose valet team was *über* efficient so ladies could arrive in style. (There were no consorts.)

The Stotlands' elegant home was transformed into a *de facto* showroom. The tightly-crowded space also morphed into a gallery thanks to **Corinne Asseraf**, owner Westmount's Galerie 203, who brought in a professional team to display art works she curated for the event.

Collections were presented by Boutique Ritsi/Sonia Rykiel, Funky Frog, Lysa Lash (fun furs and bright boas), Robert Poirier's Vintage Musts (period jewels), Boutique Sisi (bling-studded little bags were a hot hit), Boutique Surprise, and Retyche, Rockland's famed secondary market authentic designer bags. A table full of treasures was presented

*continued on p. 26*



Vivian Stotland.



Corinne Asseraf and Cheryl Glense.



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**Social notes, cont'd from p. 25**

by Boutique Marie Dumas.

As the event was a fundraiser for Hope & Cope, Dumas, there with her sister **Stephanie Dumas**, featured table-settings adorned with butterflies, the symbol of that organization.

Present from Hope & Cope were **Suzanne O'Brien** and the new executive director **Rick Simoneau**. Fashion-forward was the mood of the moment, full of luxe and logos.

Noted were chic jackets (Chanel *et al.*), designer-initialled bags, and look-at-me ankle boots; one studded with sparkles, another with pearls. Black was the seasonal wardrobe choice with the most elegant being Vivian Stotland's simple dress. (Perhaps she wore it to match her two black Labs: the best accessories ever!)

Noted enjoying the mood and party sandwiches were **Lillian Vineberg Goodman**, **Cheryl Glense**, **Susan Alper**, **Cheryl Goffman**, **Therese Brownstein**, **Joy Bulz**, **Gloria Kakon**, **Sandra Khoury**, **Dale Boidman**, **Maita Kraft**, **Corinne Asseraf**, **Cindy Naimer**, **Cheryl Brownstein** and **Sarah Rubin**.



Joy Bulz, Stephanie and Marie Dumas, and Therese Brownstein.



Robert Poirier of Vintage Musts and Vivian Billick.



Dale Boidman and Sarah Rubin.

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