

New garbage collection system coming May 1 City tweaks plan, allows pick-up from a few private locations

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The city's new contract for the collection of garbage kicks in May 1 requiring waste material to be picked up curbside at the front of most properties, but with a slight modification made April 8 for the owners of a few private lanes or properties deemed accessible to collection trucks.

This modification provides for an agreement to be signed to allow the city or its contractors to continue using these areas for lane-side pickup.

Confusing? As Councillor Elisabeth Roux later explained to the *Independent*: "It wasn't clear to me either at first. After some explanations, my understanding is that some lanes in Westmount that we see as public lanes are in reality private lanes,"

therefore, this resolution "allows the city to enter into agreements with the owners of those private lanes in order to allow contractors to use them for waste removal."

The main goal, explains Patricia Racette, division head of the environment, is to limit liability in case of damage in "pivotal areas such as school parking lots and the lane behind the houses in front of the train station [at the foot of Victoria Ave.]."

"The agreement is mostly for private parking lots on which collection trucks circulate to get to waste bins (such as for schools). Only a few private lanes are accessible and used by waste collection trucks. This agreement applies to private passages currently used by waste collection trucks, and that all concerned parties will be con- *continued on p. 15*



Former Westmount fire captain Craig Davis died on April 16 after three months fighting glioblastoma – a form of cancer that has been associated with continued exposure to toxins experienced by firefighters. At different times during his time at Mount Sinai Hospital in Côte St. Luc, he was visited – in fire trucks – by both fellow retirees and current Montreal firefighters working out of Station 76 on Stanton St., where the Westmount brigade that existed before the city's forced merger with Montreal in 2002 had been headquartered. Davis, centre with cap, served in Westmount for over three decades, first joining the Westmount fire brigade in the early 1970s and rising through the ranks until retiring some 20 years ago.

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Province replies to Cllr. D'Amico: Off-leash dogs must be 'enclosed'

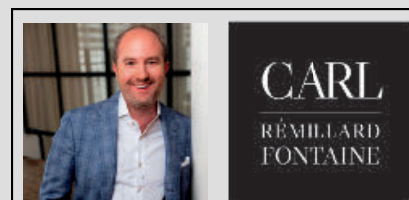
BY LAUREN SWEENEY

On the heels of the contentious issue of unleashed dogs in Summit Woods at the April 8 council meeting, Councillor Antonio D'Amico, who represents the area, turned to the Quebec government to ask "whether a fence was required" around a dog run. On this point, the meeting had been told the city is permitted to make its own regulations.

As a result, D'Amico made his own request to the provincial government to which, on April 17, he received a written reply stating that under Quebec law, dogs must be on leash and under the control of the handler at all times in public areas unless in a fenced enclosure.

There was, however, no definition "in the law or regulations" as to what constitutes such an enclosure *continued on p. 15*

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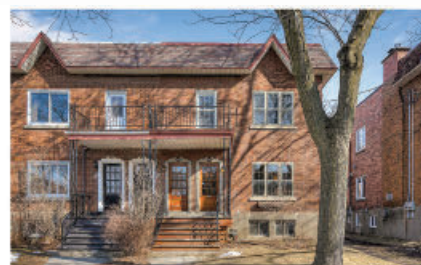
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Ongoing use of prohibited gasoline-fired leaf blowers brings more fines

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A well-publicized prohibition against the use of gasoline-fired leaf blowers in Westmount starting this spring resulted in more tickets for \$464 issued to gardening contractors on three separate occasions last week, according to Public Security officials. Others had been reported the previous week.

On April 16, a call was received by the Public Security dispatcher at 2:20 pm concerning a blower in use on Mountain Ave. On arrival, an officer noticed a contractor had quickly removed the blower from a backpack and tried to hide it, to no avail, in a pick-up truck.

The day before, a ticket was issued on Summit Circle to a gardening contractor who had been previously warned. He was reported to have said he needed the blower to remove some gravel, but was nevertheless ticketed \$464 and also issued a ticket for \$81 for working without a valid permit in Westmount.

He was noticed when a patroller was answering an unrelated complaint from the Urban Planning department on nearby Summit Crescent regarding the illegal cutting of a tree without a required permit,

which generated a ticket for \$664.

Also on April 15, a contractor was tick- etted for using the prohibited device on Belvedere Rd.

Check of dog tags brings \$232 ticket for lack of licence

A dog found without a licence April 15 in the Westmount Park dog run gener- ated a ticket for \$232 during a Public Security check of dog runs, department officials said. While a woman with the dog was reported to have said the dog belonged to her partner and was licensed, a check of the city's database revealed no up-to- date licence. The ticket was issued in her name.

"Again, it's important to ensure that all dogs are licensed," explained Public Secur- ity director Greg McBain.

Rider injured when electric scooter and car collide at 1:22 am

The rider of a red electric scooter was found to have suffered facial injuries April 13 when a Public Security patroller dis- covered him seated on a bench at Sher- brooke and Metcalfe at 1:22 am. Depart- ment officials said he had a bloodied face including a laceration on the forehead.

He was moved to a patrol vehicle while awaiting police and Urgences Santé, who had been advised by a Good Samaritan. The victim reported he had been hit by a red SUV that left the scene.

The scooter was removed from the intersection by the Good Samaritan, who helped escort the victim down the street while awaiting other emergency services. No details concerning the victim were reported.

Letters to the Editor, p. 6

Pet page, p. 19

Police Report, p. 20

Social Notes:
Vézina turns 60, p. 21



InfoWestmount, p. 16



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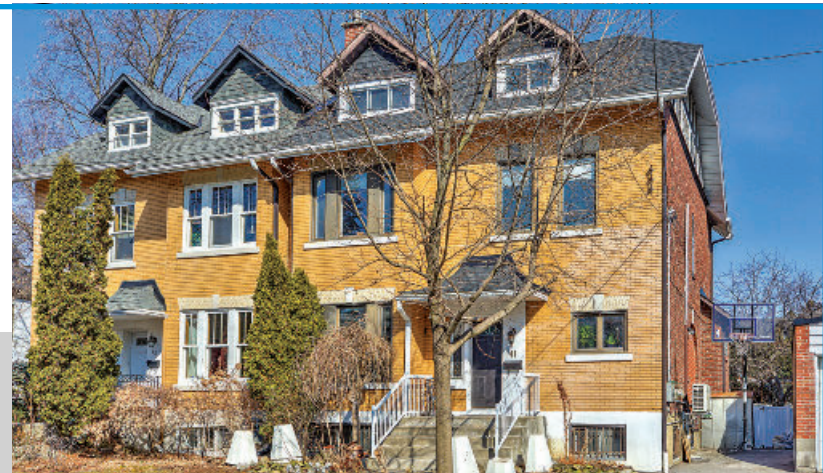
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Celebrating city's postponed Canada Day event

Citizenship ceremony moved to RMR armoury April 23

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The postponement last summer of the traditional citizenship ceremony in Westmount on Canada Day was re-scheduled to take place Tuesday, April 23, after the *Independent's* press time, and hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 14 (RMR Association) of the Royal Montreal Regiment. The event was slated to take place at 11 am at the armoury on St. Catherine St.

Committed to inclusivity

"As a symbol of our commitment to inclusivity and community engagement, the ceremony is open to the public and will welcome new citizens into the Canadian family," according to retired lieutenant-colonel Colin Robinson, a former RMR

commanding officer.

The ceremony "embodies the values of unity, diversity, and strength that Canada stands for," he said in a press release last week.

The previous date of the ceremony as part of the city's usual Canada Day celebrations was cancelled just before the pending strike of the city's blue-collar workers.

The city had "requested a Canada Day citizenship ceremony," Mayor Christina Smith had told the *Independent* at that time "but there is a backlog because of COVID so they are not doing one in Westmount on July 1. We are hoping for the fall." (See story June 20, 2023, p. 1).

Memorable occasion

"The ceremony promises to be a mem-

orable occasion, not only for the new citizens but for the entire community, as we come together to welcome our newest members," Robinson explained.

"The RMR Association looks forward to sharing this special day with all who attend."

During the ceremony, participants typically take the oath of citizenship, receive

their citizenship certificates and sing the national anthem.

"A citizenship judge or official presides over the ceremony and leads the oath of citizenship. The ceremony official says the oath in English and in French. As a group, participants will repeat the words to the oath in at least one of the official languages and are encouraged to say them in both."

Two 3-day merchant festivals to kick off summer May 31 & June 7

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

"With summer on the way," the dates of two merchant street events in Westmount were announced last week by Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the two merchant associations in the east and west commercial districts.

Quartier Greene's is the first festival, set for Friday, May 31 and continuing on the Saturday and Sunday. This is to feature "sales and promotions, live music, live art and family fun as well as pet activities," she said.

The following weekend is the turn for the Victoria village merchants to hold their three-day event. This is to start off Friday, June 7 with a village-wide sidewalk sale to include live music, art workshops, children's activities and food events.

"Given what has been the recent great weather, I've been asked what dates these street festivals will take place," Lulham said. "This year will be even bigger and better than last year with more merchant participation. We are busy booking music and looking to create fun events in both districts."

Highest amount in 7 years

Library's quality used book sale raises \$16,645

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

"The turnout was outstanding," said Carolyn O'Neill, of the library's spring book sale held at Victoria Hall April 13 and 14. As president of the Friends of the Library group that organizes the semi-annual sales, she also announced the total proceeds of \$16,645. This surpasses last year's spring sale as well as the pre-holiday fall event.

In fact, adds library director Anne-Marie Lacombe, it is the highest amount for a Friends of the Westmount Public Library book sale since COVID and the second highest-grossing spring book sale since 2003. The highest was in 2017, with revenues of \$16,990.

The proceeds will go towards library services, collections and programs during

the year 2024. "This is excellent news," she said. "We had a terrific turnout on Saturday where most of the revenues were made, even with the rainy weather. The line-up went far outside Victoria Hall."

Although the group's mandate is to generate funds to enhance the collection of the Westmount Public Library, O'Neill said she couldn't help thinking of the sale as a book exchange. "We notice from the stickers that so many of the books donated have come from one of the previous sales."

The type of book reflects both the library's reference department and its A/V section, she said. The popularity of the donations and purchases remains high despite the inroads of current technological programs that render some of the "older" material obsolete. In fact, biographies remain high on the list.

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."



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THANK YOU, STATION 12 POLICE!

We, a group of citizens of the vibrant city of Westmount and various other municipalities, feel compelled to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the police of Station 12 in Westmount.

Our purpose is not just to highlight a single act of exemplary service but to acknowledge their unwavering dedication and compassionate approach towards animal welfare within the Westmount community.

On November 30, 2023, a distressing incident was captured by a residential security camera on Montrose Ave., where a man was seen mistreating his dog with a leash. The footage, which rapidly circulated across various social media platforms, including Westmount community groups, prompted immediate public outrage and a collective call for action. The following morning, with heavy hearts and a resolve for justice, we reached out to the police, unsure of the response that awaited us.

To our relief and admiration, the police responded with nothing short of exemplary professionalism and urgency.

Constables Patricia Drouin and Antonio Petrotta took the call and assured us that they would look into the incident. They did not merely acknowledge our concerns; they sprang into action, collaborating seamlessly with Troy Griggs of Westmount Security to follow up on leads.

Their diligence and swift action led to the identification and subsequent interview of the dog's owner that very day – a testament to their commitment to justice

and the well-being of our community members, regardless of their species.

Within a week of their intervention, a resolution that speaks volumes of their dedication was achieved. The dog was voluntarily returned to its breeder for re-homing. This outcome not only alleviated our concerns but also highlighted a significant issue regarding the advice and methods propagated by some pet trainers. The dog's owner, misguided by such advice, realized the severity of his actions and the inability to provide the care the dog deserved.

Constables Drouin and Petrotta treated the matter with the seriousness and empathy it warranted, demonstrating their profound respect for all living beings and the laws that protect them. Their actions reflect the core values of the police and underscore the importance of their role in fostering a safe, respectful, and compassionate community.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for the incredible work and dedication of the police. Their response to this incident reassures us that Westmount is a community where the welfare of all beings is a priority and where the guardians of the community's safety go above and beyond to uphold these principles.

Thank you, police of Station 12, for your outstanding service and for ensuring that the community remains a place where compassion and justice prevail.

With utmost respect and gratitude,
SABRINA SABBAAH, SPRINGFIELD AVE.;

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CANDICE WAGNER, MONTROSE; EMMA DUBROVSKY, UPPER BELMONT; TINA & FRED DUBROVSKY, UPPER BELMONT; RICKY & ELAINE DUBROVSKY, LEXINGTON; DEEP KHOSLA, SPRINGFIELD AVE.; AND CLAUDIA BLAIS DROLET, MIRABELLE; SOPHIA SKOTIDAKIS, MONTREAL; BLANKA KUCOVA, MONTREAL; CATHERINE GIRARD, MONTREAL; MELISSA CRAWFORD, MASCOUCHE; ALYSSA GIRARD, BROSSARD; FREDERIC CHEVARIE, BROSSARD; KRISTINA DAVIDSON, LONGUEUIL; ZACHARY PITTS, TERREBONE; AND MARCO BASILI, ST-BRUNO DE MONTEVILLE.

WHAT REALLY MOTIVATES THE LEASH LOBBY?

As a frequent visitor to Summit Woods, celebrated for its tranquil environment and recognition by the city as a bird sanctuary, I have been closely following the debate over allowing dogs off leash. I respect the ecological concerns raised by neighbouring residents advocating for increased regulation to protect our local ecosystem.

However, I was disheartened by a recent observation that calls into question the sincerity of these purported conservationists.

Despite municipal regulations banning gasoline-powered leaf blowers, I witnessed individuals on Oakland using one of these loud devices to remove leaves from the manicured grass lawns of residences along the end of the street next to the forest. The noise and smoke permeated the woods, which was in theory several days into the protected bird nesting season. Those involved seemed clearly aware of the illegality, as a rather obvious look-out was posted on the corner to watch for approaching Public Security vehicles.

The irony is palpable: on one hand, there is a push to ban off-leash dogs in the name of protecting wildlife, while on the other, some of these same individuals show a blatant disregard for laws designed to preserve the peace and biological diversity of the area. This hypocrisy undermines legitimate conservation efforts and suggests that the motivations behind banning dogs might not be as altruistic as presented.

Our community deserves consistency in its environmental protection efforts. We must question whether the call to restrict dogs is truly about conservation, or merely a distasteful inconvenience to a few whose actions speak louder than their words about their actual commitment to our shared environment.

RICK HOGE, SNOWDON

PEOPLE NEED SAFE GREEN SPACES

When I was just five years old, my mom and I faced a horrifying attack by an unleashed dog. My mom bravely shielded me,

resulting in the dog biting her. We were simply out for a walk when this unrestrained dog lashed out.

Dogs, no matter how well trained, are still animals with instincts that can be triggered unexpectedly. It's a simple matter of fact that a dog will always have the upper hand in speed and agility over a human.

Westmount boasts the luxury of not one, but three fenced dog runs, a rare privilege in the heart of an urban centre. So, the question should be asked: Why does the Westmount council insist on converting areas like Summit Woods, Westmount Park and Murray Hill Park (none of which are currently fenced) into additional dog runs? Shouldn't the needs of humans take precedence over those of dogs?

Summit Woods, formerly Summit Park, is a beautiful unfenced forested area meant for the enjoyment of all residents. It would be a shame to sacrifice this space for the convenience of a few dog owners. It's interesting to note that provincial law (#128, Article 20, chapter 38.002) requires dogs to be leashed in public areas, which is contradictory to the proposed designation [by the city in By-law 1522-2024-1].

Additionally, municipalities cannot pass by-laws that conflict with Quebec's laws.

The green spaces are more than just patches of grass and trees; they're essential for the community's well-being, offering a place to relax, exercise, and connect with nature. Allowing dogs to roam freely in these areas – or any public space – not only compromises safety and enjoyment, but also demonstrates a blatant disregard for the community's needs by selfish and inconsiderate dog owners.

In many works of utopian, dystopian and science-fiction literature, the most cherished and valuable elements are often the green spaces. So, how can the Westmount council expect us to accept that these precious green areas must be shared with unleashed dogs?

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.
***Editor's note:** Unless it is intended as hyperbole or prediction, this sentence does not well describe the draft by-law being moved forward by council. Firstly, there is no change being proposed for Westmount or Murray parks. Secondly, the legislative changes described in our April 4 issue (p. 4) aim to preserve the regulatory status quo at Summit Woods. Yes, they are legislative changes, but they would not be changing what has been allowed, and not allowed, in Summit Woods for many years. – DP.

SUMMIT WOODS' 30-YEAR DECLINE NEEDS TO STOP

The state of Summit Woods has been deteriorating over the time that we have lived in Westmount. Thirty years ago, Summit Woods was a major birding stop-over *continued on p. 7*

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

Work starts now/soon to improve city's parks, especially Westmount Park playground

ed, and around 100 trees will be planted in various locations across the city. Maintenance work will also be carried out at Summit Woods in the upcoming weeks.

Westmount Park work starts April 29

The playground area at Westmount Park will also be completely revamped, it is a necessary project as the previous play structure was no longer functional.

This major project includes, among other things, the enlargement of the sand-pit and the installation of new play modules and structures for children. There will be more equipment, and it will be modern, safer, suitable for children aged 0 to 5 and will be accessible to all. The park furniture will be updated to provide more seating, and the paths that are in very poor condition will be restored and paved. Trees will be planted to cool and reduce the heat-island effect, and new plantings will enhance the park's beauty. We want children and parents to feel safe in the new playground area. The space will also be laid out better for families. There will also be new features for those seeking peace and quiet in the park.

The work will start on April 29, which is earlier than we expected, and should be completed in the fall. The work zone, including the playground, will be closed to the public during the works, but the rest of the park will remain accessible. I know this is a major disruption for those who are users of the playground, but it is necessary and the end result will be worth the wait because there are some very fun new features coming to this park that we have not had in Westmount before.

The playground area for the older children is being kept and the new structures and features will be replacing the smaller structures that were put in until a larger plan was developed. Those smaller structures will be relocated in other parks.

Luckily, we have many other parks in the city that can be easily accessed. Information and updates on this project will be available on the city's website.

Memorial Garden to be inaugurated this fall

Another project particularly close to my heart is Memorial Garden. This memorial is in honour of the victims of sexual abuse by a city employee who worked for Westmount between the 1950s and the 1990s. This memorial is the result of several years of working with the victims and their

families to find the right space with a tribute to Doug Ellis, one of the victims who has passed away.

The memorial will be located close to the Westmount recreation centre and near the site of the old arena. This is an important part of the class action that was settled with the victims of sexual abuse that happened in our city.

As mayor, as a Westmounter, as a mother, this tragedy has touched me deeply. The creation of this memorial is a tribute to all victims of abuse. With this memorial, we also want to raise awareness in our community about the need to be vigilant and to work together to ensure the safety of our children. The Memorial Garden will be inaugurated this fall.

I know that the work that will take place in parks is disruptive, but it is very much needed. If you have any questions about these projects, please be in touch. I encourage you to follow social media pages and website of the city, which has information on all of these projects that are happening this summer.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

during the spring migration.

It is no more.

Increasingly, dogs have run freely in on-leash times, discouraging wild life feeding, nesting and reproduction. As an avid birder and frequent visitor to Summit Woods, I have rarely seen Public Security in the woods, perhaps three or four times in the last 25 years.

The issue is not ignorance of the rules about leashing, because many owners either leash their dogs when they see birders coming their way during on-leash times, or else ignore requests to put their dog on a leash.

Up to now, the problem has been enforcement of the rules and any increase in fines will tend to make Public Security more reluctant to issue tickets for infringement of the rules, rather than make dog owners more compliant.

As clearly indicated in a letter to the editor published April 16 ("Where will 'dog runs' stop?" p. 6), Mayor Smith wants to change the official designation of Summit Woods to a "dog-run facility" so as to maintain the existing rules in favour of dog owners, bring the Woods into conformity with provincial law, and retain the city's authority over the park. Throughout North America, a dog-run facility is a fenced space.

Either the city of Westmount should turn Summit Woods into a true forest and nature reserve (and require dogs on leash at all times) or, as our councillor, Antonio D'Amico, advocated, leave the future of Summit Woods to the provincial government.

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Spoke at Shaar

MP Lantsman: 'Not enough is being done to combat anti-Semitism'

BY JENNIFER BALL

On March 16, Conservative member of parliament Melissa Lantsman gave a talk to the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, on the role the federal government should play to combat anti-Semitism. In her opinion, it should be much wider and more effectual than it currently is.

A Global news investigation, published February 20 and written by Stewart Bell and Jeff Semple, yielded data that the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel has sparked a dramatic surge of anti-Semitism across Canada.

Julie Wiener, director of communication at the Shaar, which is found at 450 Kensington Ave., explained that the event was not open to press as it was held during Shabbat, but on April 12, the *Independent* caught up with Lantsman to hear her talking points.

She is the Conservative member of parliament for Thornhill, Ontario, and deputy leader of his Majesty's loyal opposition.

Anti-Semitism in Canada, Montreal

Lantsman said that she spoke in depth with the Shaar's congregation five weeks

ago about that increased level of anti-Semitism, which, she believes, has not been seen before in Canada.

"Montreal is no stranger to [it]! We saw incidences of schools being shot at and businesses being vandalized and just intimidation in the community. So that's a big portion of the [March 16] conversation."

Did Lantsman feel that Justin Trudeau's government was doing enough?

"No," she said, without hesitation. "Subjectively and objectively no, and I think that if you asked any member of the Jewish community and frankly allies to the Jewish community - and there are many such as the Persian community, the Hindu community and many in the Christian community - [they would say] 'What is going on?'"

Freedom of expression

The *Independent* wondered when does freedom of expression in Canada, identified as "fundamental freedom" by section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, tip over into the realm of hate speech or anti-Semitism?

"I'm a big proponent of freedom of speech, freedom to protest, freedom to say whatever you want, despite how much I don't like it, but there are clear limits and they are delineated in Canadian law. I think we don't have a law problem in this country. We have an enforcement problem..."

"You could say anything you want in this country that I disagree with, but it does have limits. When you are threatening and you're putting in danger the lives of other Canadians [it is no longer acceptable]."

Who pays?

Should words lead to actions or the threat of actions, who should pay for the expense of enhanced security, was a query put to Lantsman.

"The government. We [Conservatives]

are the government that brought in what was called the [Security, Infrastructure Program or SIP]. These are grants that have been given out to places of worship..."

"Now, unfortunately, those grants no longer meet the needs [of the communities that are facing stress and intimidation]. And these are not just for Jewish communities... We find that a lot of these communities themselves are on the hook for a lot

of this cash."

Created in 2007, under Stephen Harper's leadership, the Security Infrastructure Program supports the implementation of projects to help communities with a demonstrated history of being victimized by hate-motivated crime through the enhancement of their security infrastructure. It is managed by Public Safety Canada.

Handful of residents turn out to public consultation**Draft by-law identifies city's 'heat islands' for mitigation steps**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city public consultation meeting on draft By-law 1616 regarding "heat islands" took place April 16 to a handful of residents. It was chaired by Mayor Christina Smith accompanied by councillors Elisabeth Roux, Anitra Bostock and Kathleen Kez. This by-law amends urban planning plans.

In a short presentation, Urban Planning director Frédéric Neault explained that the identification by municipalities of areas subject to urban heat islands is required by Quebec Law 67 adopted in 2021.

These were depicted on a map of Westmount in red, with lesser hot spots in orange and yellow.

These, he pointed out, tend to be concentrated close to highways and commercial areas.

The draft by-law is a first step leading to amendment of the urban planning by-law and mitigation steps.

Four questions

This presentation was followed by a brief question period in which Richard

Dufour of Anwoth Rd. asked for Westmount to have a by-law on white and green roofs along with a reduction of parking ratios to allow for conversion to more cooling/garden space.

A resident of Victoria Ave. asked for an action plan on the planting of more trees while Denis Biro, of Burton, raised the point of a city proposal to create a synthetic turf playing field at Marianopolis College.

Penny Arsenault, of St. Catherine St., suggested that even a field of natural turf would involve the cutting of many cooling trees. On the loss of trees, she "lamented" that the city had cut two trees at St. Catherine and Lansdowne. This - she claimed to have been told by workers - was to make way for the Doug Ellis Memorial Garden, though Mayor Smith quickly stated those trees had nothing to do with the garden project.

In the absence of questions from an internet audience, the 7 pm meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

A map of the city's identified heat islands was to be posted on the city's website.

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Happy birthday, Jill



Serious Habs fan Jill Candiotti, left, was celebrating her birthday last week at Gentile Pizza Parlour on St. Catherine St., when owner Anthony Gentile, centre, brought over Canadiens winger Cole Caulfield for a photo.

PHOTO: ARLEEN CANDIOTTI.

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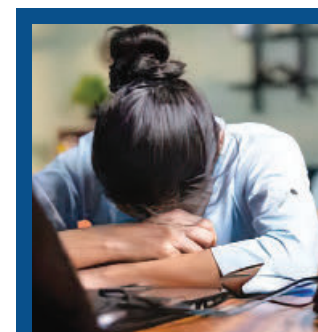
City hosts sports banquet for young athletes

By RALPH THOMPSON

The city's semi-annual sports banquet erupted in Victoria Hall April 17, resulting in the consumption of dozens of large pizzas, hundreds of drinks and the handing out of over 100 trophies, medals, cups and plaques.

The doors opened after a countdown from 10 and swarms of noisy, enthusiastic youngsters scurried into the hall, politely lining up for drinks and staking out the best seats and tables. They were served pizza by the mayor, city councillors, recreational centre staff and volunteers.

The awards were handed out with hearty handshakes by Mayor Christina Smith and councillors Jeff Shamie, Matt Aronson, Anitra Bostock, Elisabeth Roux and Conrad Peart. Finally, an appeal was made for more volunteers to support the growing list of Westmount's sports activities.



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City puts down new wood chips in parks

By JENNIFER BALL

Yellow danger tape in Queen Elizabeth Gardens on April 15 and 16 denoted that a spring clean-up was under way, not that suspicious activity had been in play.

The *Independent* queried Mugisha Rutishisha, division chief communication – citizen experience at the city as to why the children's playground in Queen Elizabeth Gardens was entirely fenced off the morning of April 16 with canary-yellow tape that spelled out the word "danger."

Rutishisha explained that the park, which is enveloped by Sherbrooke to the south and Barat Rd. to the north, was getting its playground replenished with wood chips.

Rutishisha said "on Monday, April 15, wood chips were spread in certain areas of Queen Elizabeth Gardens, Prince Albert Park, and King George Park. That is why certain areas of those parks were closed."

"...Tuesday, April 16, the spreading will be done at the Bruce Tot-Lot, Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) and Somerville Tot-Lot."



Danger tape cordoning off access to the children's playground in Queen Elizabeth Gardens on April 16.



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In the *Canadian Team Math Competition* in Quebec offered by the *University of Waterloo*, Kells **ranked 1st** amongst 11 teams in Montreal. In addition, the Kells team **ranked 1st** in the Relay Event and was awarded the title of Distinguished Mathletic Team!

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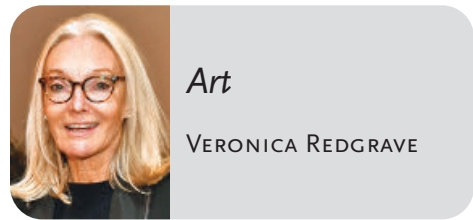
Kells students had 10 projects nominated to the Montreal Regional *Hydro Quebec Science Fair* with several moving on to compete in the *Super Science Expo*, as well as the *International Science & Engineering Fair!*

Day in and day out

To us, the success of Kells students is not a surprise or a secret. Year after year, winning results like these stand as examples of what our students achieve each school day in their clubs and classrooms. All of us at Kells are so proud of our students success and we celebrate their remarkable achievements.



‘Plural’ art fair attracts artists, art lovers, little ones



Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Future collectors admiring a “crochet” work (wool and aluminum) by Alissa Bilodeau presented by Artroduction.

Plural, formerly known as “Papier,” celebrates the best of contemporary art in Canada. Indeed, art galleries (46) showing work hailed from coast (Halifax) to coast (Vancouver) during three days April 12 to 14.

Local – well, “Westmount adjacent” – Bradley Ertaskiran starred its top artists, and Westmount res Antoinetta Grassi showed at Patrick Mikhail’s eponymous gallery.

VIP opening night was sold out: all the better to buy “finds” early. The one rule of thumb is “buy what you love” at this affordable art fair. Séminarts, art talks, sponsored by the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation, suggested the same, and guided tours offered expert presentations.

Art ranged from editions (more than one copy of a work; each numbered, as in 1/30) to oil paintings and photography. Sculptural pieces included a bright construction by Olivier Moian-Dufour and a

black Lego castle called “A Sacred Place” by Ekow Nimako shown at ELLEPHANT.

It was a magnet for miniature art lovers. (Crowds of chattering children were encouraged to “touch only with their eyes.”) And speaking of kids, what fun their eager energy brought to the fair! Niro siblings Rafael and Paloma along with Celeste and Charlotte Dolan raced to find their favourites.

Speaking of favourites, my eye was caught by a fun red-feathered bird creation by Rajni Perera at Galerie Hughes Charbonneau; chromatic colorations by Claude Tousignant at Art Mûr; a Antoni Tapiès lithograph at Galerie Jean-Claude Bergeron (sadly, already sold); and Charlie Oscar Patterson’s minimalist colour fields at Duran Mashaal.

Presented by Banque Nationale, Plural is more than about the art. For three days, the art fair is like a European capital during fashion week: ladies wore fabulous outfits; long sweeping coats or short leather bombers and covetable accessories.

Many guests held tiny hands; those of eager children or grandchildren. Little faces were lit up with the sheer joy of discovery.

Best to start art appreciation young. (SOLD!)

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Public Security staffs information table at Summit Woods



Westmount public safety officers Troy Graggs, left, and Ten Phong Vong set up an information table in Summit Woods April 12 from 1 pm and 5 pm to share information regarding dog regulations. They also planned to be there April 13 and 14. Fortunately, they had also erected a tent as it was raining quite hard Friday afternoon. Tyler Cavell, right, was walking his dogs Puppy, a goldendoodle who could not help snuggling (inset), and Jacques, a husky mix. Officer Graggs explained that “Federal, provincial and Westmount regulations apply everywhere in Westmount. For example, choke leashes are not allowed, no leash that restricts the dog’s breathing is permitted, and a potentially dangerous dog must wear a muzzle, but also they are not allowed at all in Summit Woods. All dogs must be licensed. This applies to both residents and non-residents, and a number of specific restrictions apply in Summit Woods. [For instance,] dogs must be on a leash [at all times of day] from April 16 [to June 15] to protect the migrating birds and plant life.” The *Independent* wrongly reported the planned dates of this outreach (April 9, p. 3) and apologizes for the confusion.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Dog run, cont'd from p. 1

dog run).

In relating his efforts, D'Amico told the *Independent* that he had initially contacted the ministry of Public Security April 12. He was referred to the ministry of Agriculture as being responsible for enforcement of the concerned law: an "Act to promote the protection of persons by establishing a framework with regards to dogs" (Chapter P38.002) as of September 3, 2020.

With respect to the lack of a definition of a dog enclosure, the response from April 17 states that: "It is generally recognized," that such areas are organized so that dogs can play freely off leash and socialize with each other without supervision, for example, by a fence and sign.

D'Amico forwarded the provincial reply to the *Independent* saying he felt "compelled" to do so "as it relates to public health and public security." These are two issues that are "very important to me," he explained.

Were you expecting this?

In the pdf that is posted on the city's website of draft By-law 1522-2024-1 regarding dog rules and dog-run regulations, the definition of a dog is: "Dog (Chien): includes bitches and puppies." – DP.

Garbage collection, cont'd from p. 1

tacted by the city."

Councillor Roux, who voted for the motion without explanation, told the *Independent* afterwards that she had voted for it because it was a form of consultation with the public, which she had advocated regarding the new garbage contract.

Later in the meeting, she opposed the adoption of By-law 1617, the waste management by-law, in order to be consistent with her original position seeking public consultation before requiring garbage be picked up curbside when traditionally most collection took place on private property (see story January 16, p. 1).

This recent change does not affect the many inaccessible lanes for which an interactive map can be found on the city's website under Engage Westmount, projects/eco-responsible initiative.

(Likely) fox spotted

A reader spotted what appears to be a fox at Aberdeen and The Boulevard at 10:30 am April 21. Westmount Public Security was advised by phone.

We welcome your letters

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



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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, May 6



Rinçage des conduites d'eau

Du 22 avril au 1er septembre, la Ville effectuera des travaux d'entretien sur son réseau d'aqueduc, ainsi que le rinçage et l'inspection des bornes d'incendie. Détails à westmount.org.



Work on City's water mains

The City will be carrying out maintenance work on its water main network, as well as fire hydrant flushing and inspection, from April 22 to September 1st. Details at westmount.org.

Subventions vertes

La Ville de Westmount offre des subventions pour vos achats durables. Les résidents peuvent demander un remboursement pour l'achat de produits éligibles. Détails à westmount.org/subventionsvertes.

Des Canadiennes inspirantes

Visitez l'exposition « Women Are Persons! » à l'hôtel de ville d'ici le 15 mai et soyez inspirés par les « Famous 5 »! Détails à westmount.org.

Changement aux collectes dès 1er mai

À partir du 1er mai, toutes les collectes se feront uniquement en bordure de rue ou dans les ruelles accessibles aux camions de collecte. La collecte obligatoire des résidus alimentaires pour les logements de 9 à 29 unités commencera également le 1er mai. Détails à engage.westmount.org.

Bois Summit : Chiens en laisse

Rappel : les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse en tout temps au Bois Summit pendant la période de nidification printanière, jusqu'au 15 juin. Détails à westmount.org.

Green Grants

The City of Westmount offers a number of grants for your sustainable purchases. Residents who meet the general conditions can request a subsidy for eligible products. Details at westmount.org/greengrants.

Inspiring Canadian Women

Visit the "Women are Persons" exhibition at City Hall from now until May 15 and be inspired by the "Famous 5"! Details at westmount.org.

Waste collection changes as of May 1st

As of May 1st, all waste materials will be collected streetside or along waste truck accessible lanes only. Additionally, mandatory food waste collection for buildings with 9 - 29 units begins. Details at engage.westmount.org.

Summit Woods: Dogs on leash

Reminder: dogs must be kept on leash at all times at Summit Woods during the spring nesting period, until June 15. Details at westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Festival littéraire des enfants TD-Metropolis bleu

Jeudi 25 avril, 10 h, Bibliothèque. Visite d'auteure avec Tara McGowan-Ross.
Vendredi 26 avril, 10 h, Visite d'auteur avec Paul Tom. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Rencontre d'auteur : Nathan Hellner-Mestelman

Vendredi 26 avril, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Préparez-vous à voir l'univers comme vous ne l'avez jamais vu avec l'auteur de *Cosmic Wonder*. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Conférence : *Understanding Artificial Intelligence Today*

Mercredi 1er mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec Behnoosh Saboonchi et Marion Isabelle Muszynski. Cet événement vise à sensibiliser les participants au pouvoir de transformation de l'IA et à les aider à comprendre ces changements. En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

**Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition
Jusqu'au 3 mai 2024.** Œuvres de Emma June Huebner. westmount.org.



Soirée de danse : Ballroom Blitz

Samedi 4 mai de 20 h à minuit, Victoria Hall. Le Ballroom Blitz Combo vous propose une soirée de danse swing et ballroom. Les œuvres classiques et moins connus de l'époque des big bands swing ainsi que les rythmes de ballroom, tango, mambo samba et valse. Billets au westmount.org.

Ciné-club : Nouvelle date !

Mardi 21 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *You Hurt My Feelings* (2023). Venez partager notre passion pour le cinéma ! Joignez-vous à notre Ciné-club où nous regarderons un film sur grand écran, dans une ambiance décontractée. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Children's Literary Festival TD-Metropolis bleu

Thursday, April 25, 10 a.m., Library. Author visit with Tara McGowan-Ross.
Friday, April 26, 10 a.m., Library. Author visit featuring Paul Tom. Register at westlib.org.

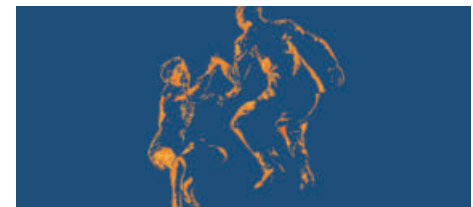
Author Event: Nathan Hellner-Mestelman

Friday, April 26, 1 p.m., Library. Prepare to view the universe like you've never seen it before with the author of *Cosmic Wonder*. Register at westlib.org.

Lecture: *Understanding Artificial Intelligence Today*

Wednesday, May 1st, 7 p.m., Library. With Behnoosh Saboonchi and Marion Isabelle Muszynski. This event aims to raise awareness about the transformative power of AI and guide participants on understanding these changes. Register at westlib.org.

**Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition
Until May 3, 2024.** Works by Emma June Huebner. westmount.org.



Dance Evening: Ballroom Blitz

Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m. to midnight, Victoria Hall. An evening of swing and ballroom dance music with the Ballroom Blitz Combo. Dance the night away with classics and less commonly heard gems of the Big Band swing era as well as great ballroom, tango, mambo, foxtrot, samba, and waltz rhythms. Tickets at westmount.org.

Film Club: New date!

Tuesday, May 21, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *You Hurt My Feelings* (2023). Come share our passion for cinema! Join our film club where we will watch a great film on our large screen in a relaxed atmosphere. Register at westmount.org.



The other recycling

Locals return drink containers for variety of reasons

BY JENNIFER BALL

Are we leaving money on the table by not returning our cans and bottles that have deposits on them, especially now that many more are worth 10 cents, up from five? Who is picking up the slack? And are there assumptions about them?

On April 10, the *Independent* met a woman, who preferred not to give her name, at the Metro grocery store on Victoria.

She had a large black bag of cans with her to recycle – so many, in fact, that the recycling machine needed to be shut down and re-booted before she could re-start the process of inserting them for crushing.

She suspected it would take her about an hour or an hour and a half to recycle all the cans. They did not come from her personal stock: she collects them from her weekly rounds in Westmount, mostly around Victoria village.

It turns out that her weekly sojourn can net quite a bit of money. In her opinion, it is stupid for people to just throw out money.

She guessed that many individuals in Westmount do not return their cans and bottles because they do not want to be seen at the returns machine – being possibly mistaken for a homeless individual (which she is not) or looking like they need the money.

Returning cans changes life

On April 14, Michael came forward at the IGA in Alexis Nihon near the de Maisonneuve entrance.

Michael suspects that Westmounters do not return their cans for another reason: “They do not want their neighbours to know that they are big drinkers.”

He said he has been returning cans for a long time and sees cans hidden inside of black garbage bags rather than blue semi-transparent recycling ones.

“Or they may just leave it on some corner randomly, so that it is not near their home, and you know then that it is a donation.”

Michael says that he was homeless but he no longer is, and that returning cans and bottles – especially at the recent, higher values – has kept him housed.

Self-returners too!

Back at the Metro on Victoria, John, who lives on Grosvenor Ave., was returning his own stock. He said his returns netted him just under six dollars. Why does he make the effort, the *Independent*



Inside the returns machine at the Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave. after too many cans necessitated that it be cleared out on April 10.

wondered?

“So that the Quebec government won’t get the money!”

And it all comes back to government. Not only did it create the return system, but it has recently tweaked it.

According to a September 28, 2023 article by La Presse Canadienne, phase 1 of the modernization of Quebec’s returnable container deposit-refund program began on November 1, 2023 by standardizing the price of most containers at 10 cents and by including all aluminum beverage cans.

The article explained that “all returnable containers, with the exception of glass bottles from 500 millilitres to two litres, will be adjusted to 10 cents. That means there will be an increase in the deposit-refund price for all types of cans, except for large cans of beer, for which the deposit will go from 20 to 10 cents. A can of soft drink, for example, will see its deposit price increase by five cents...”

“Glass bottles will be refunded at 25 cents.”

Worked with Le Corbusier, Safdie

Noted architect Walford turns 100 at Place Kensington

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A 100th birthday luncheon was held at the Place Kensington seniors’ residence on April 17 for Dorice Walford, a retired architect who is considered to be one of the first Canadian women to specialize in designing buildings for institutions.

Walford was born Dorice Brown in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. She received a BArch from the University of Manitoba and a MArch from McGill University.

Over the span of her career, Walford worked in the office of noted Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, and then at the Office of Foreign Buildings Operations in Paris. She also worked at the Paris offices of American architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

After working in London for two years, she returned to Montreal in 1955, working for Marshall & Merrett. For Expo 67, Walford worked with renowned Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie on Habitat 67, as well as on the Bell Telephone Pavilion.

Some other projects to which she contributed include the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building at McGill University, and the chemistry building at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. She managed to accomplish all this and more while raising four children.

Walford’s daughter and son, Joanne and Mark, as well as her son-in-law, Martin Spalding, were on hand for the lunch-hour celebration. She was presented with a certificate acknowledging her as an official member of Place Kensington’s Centenar-



Place Kensington executive director Sylvia Zagury, right, congratulates resident Dorice Walford April 17 on the occasion of Walford’s 100th birthday.

ian & Plus Club.

“She has displayed courage, humour, wisdom and character,” the certificate noted. “As she embodies some of the very best of our ideals, we salute her in great admiration.”

Sylvia Zagury, Place Kensington’s executive director, said Walford was “an inspiration to me and to every woman,” while affirming that it is possible for women to succeed professionally while raising a family.

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Not purple, white or gold

Easter colour at Westmount Park United Church? Green!



BY JENNIFER BALL

The Westmount Park United Church is one of the greenest churches in Montreal, if not the greenest. With approximately 85 plants, the sanctuary was blooming and scented and Reverend Neil Whitehouse's closest competitor for an Easter houseplant extravaganza is a church in the West Indies.

The strategy for the Easter day ceremony, Rev. Whitehouse said, was to grow plants from seed and to give them to the congregation, which attends Sunday services at the church, located on de Maison-neuve Blvd. at Lansdowne Ave.

Plants, seeds & Easter

"I usually give away something as a memento to give people a talking point for what they experience at church on Easter

day, the most important day of the Christian year...

"This year, I am giving away a pot with a seed in it that has germinated, and the seed is from a date palm. It will take a while to show a leaf, but I know that the roots are working away in the soil...

"It's an interesting theme that I do explore in the sermon on Easter day. It is a faith to exercise in life about life's potential..."

"Jesus himself is recorded as talking about seeds. Unless the wheat seed is willing to die, then it cannot produce more wheat. It is a great gift for a memento for Easter Sunday because that process of life dying to produce more life continues..."

"The choice of a date palm is interesting because the palms recall Palm Sunday and the fickleness of the crowds to proclaim Jesus on Sunday and condemn him on the Friday."

Rev. Whitehouse said that four of the other seeds are different: they are desert roses. "They are succulents and recall Jesus' time in the wilderness."

Green rationale

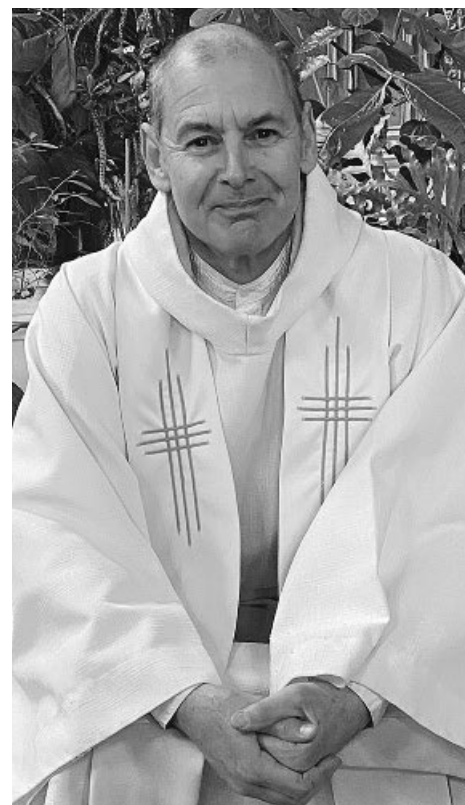
The *Independent* wondered why it was important for Whitehouse to have a green church and even speak at city council meetings on the benefits of re-wilding lawns – as he did in December 2022.

He said he believes it's a very timely need to find meaning and hope in a world where we're facing unprecedented change and the pressure of human population

upon the planet is like never before.

"The consequences of that threaten the status quo, the stability of the climate and many other levels of life that we are only partly aware of..."

"A church – a place which offers hope and meaning and prophecy – that is green is able to point us in a direction that we all need to go in and encourage one another



▲ Plants at the church on March 31.

not to despair, because that is a temptation, but to act differently."

The importance of the house plant project – which is an initiative that Rev. Whitehouse started to give away plants to the community that the church propagates from existing plants – is easy to start and it's powerful to keep it going, he believes.

"The pleasure that is to give someone a plant is wonderful. The rapport that we can make between ourselves, and a plant is perhaps one of those easy first steps towards reconciliation with nature."

Rev. Whitehouse said he had filled the sanctuary with false shamrock, Chinese hibiscus, Jerusalem cherry, a tall Norfolk Island pine and a blooming fig tree, to name just a few, because the houseplant teaches a lot about the bigger picture.

◀ Rev Neil Whitehouse and houseplants in the sanctuary at Westmount Park United Church on March 31.

More on Rev. Whitehouse, Westmount Park United

- "Atwater Club, Selwyn House receive 'Green Legacy Hiroshima' ginkgos" November 28, 2023, p. 13,
- "Sharing the Faith – Part 4: The United Church – 'When God created man, he over-estimated his ability,'" February 8, 2022, p. 20.



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LYSANNE FOWLER



Puggy is a sweetheart, handsome and loving, an absolutely great little fellow. Puggy is a small faun-coloured pug with wonderful dark eyes, which likely stole your heart in this photograph.

He is presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA, cuddling and socializing with all. He would find his place so well in our Westmount community, so it would be great if you would consider applying to adopt him.

Puggy is a very healthy 10-year-old – spry, and sociable on walks and in the home. He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

For more information on Puggy, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to his information page from his identification number, 2000075975, and click on the “Fill out the form” black rectangle. This opens the application form to fill out, providing the adoption coordinators with your contact information in order to get back to you.

Please do not hesitate, Puggy is adorable.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Kiki is cuteness



A tiny sleek ebony treasure, Kiki brings joy to all in the home.

She is presently in foster care for the volunteer cat rescue Moustache Adoption de Chats and the family is pleased to comment on her wonderful personality and sociability.

Kiki is a very healthy three-year-old domestic shorthair, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She has the most adorable feature of the feline kingdom, polydactyl paws! She is proud of her mitten front feet and she loves to touch while reaching out for a cuddle.

If you would like more information on Kiki, please refer to the Moustache Adoption de Chats website with Kiki's Petfinder listing number, 71382478.

At her page, you can fill in the adoption application and start a discussion about your interest in her. You can also write to them at their email moustacheadoptiondechats@outlook.com for updates and more photographs.

Kiki is ready for her forever family,

please reach out for her.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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A Westmount Life

Ken MacKenzie, mathematics professor, bagpiper, polyglot

BY RALPH THOMPSON

A former Westmounter, Professor Kenneth MacKenzie (known to many as “K Mac” or “Ken Mac”), passed away April 9 at 7:25 am at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

MacKenzie will have been known to many locals, for different reasons.

Math prof

He may have been your well-liked mathematics teacher at McGill or Concordia, or at Vanier, Marianopolis, the Kahnawake Survival School or the Thomas Moore Institute.

He'd also been a guest lecturer at universities in Pakistan and China.

His lessons were relaxed and fun, his statistics examples would often be barrels of beer or glasses of Scotch, and he would rarely come to classes with notes – they were all in his head.

He could recite π to 50 decimal places (or even 100) or rattle off the alphabet backwards without hesitation as party tricks. He had every friend's phone number in his

head.

His language skills included English, French, Latin, Gaelic and Russian.

A workaholic who taught 10 university courses at a time, he was a man of few superfluous words. He could also be gregarious and funny in his own circles.

He was awarded McGill's Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 2012.

Don't forget the bagpipes!

But Ken Mac had a parallel life as a highly talented musician. He played the Highland bagpipe from a young age, as well as mouth-blow small pipes and the penny whistle. He was an accomplished Gaelic singer.

He organized the Pierrefonds and Rawdon Pipes and Drums and was often seen walking or marching around the city in a kilt, tweed jacket and woollen socks in the middle of winter. He rarely wore a winter coat or hat.

He played with several local bands including Brahan Seer, Men without Pants (they wore kilts), Arisaig Mist and many

ad hoc groups. He toured North America and Europe with the dance troop Les Feux Follets and fiddler Jean Carignan.

Back story

Mackenzie was born in St. John, New Brunswick in 1943.

In 1951, the family moved to Halifax, but the schools soon closed because of a polio outbreak so Ken began learning Highland bagpipes and dancing. He quickly mastered the art of winning competitions and medals.

In 1959, as a brilliant grade 11 student, he entered Dalhousie University at age 15. In June 1962, he skipped his final exams and travelled across Canada as the official piper for the opening for the Trans-Canada Highway.

After hitchhiking to other parts of Canada, he finished his travels in California to visit an auntie. In 1963, he returned home and to university.

After university, he moved to Toronto with party-loving friends, but soon headed for Montreal, where he became an official piper at Expo 67, followed by tours with Les Feux Follets.

After his return, he completed a master's degree in mathematics at McGill and went on to work on a PhD, which he never completed. (Organization was not his strong point.)

I first met Ken 40 years ago at the previous site of The Old Dublin Pub in downtown Montreal (now replaced by a giant condo building), where we had monthly jam sessions switching between Irish, Scottish and *Québécois* traditional music.

K Mac organized the very popular Burns Night suppers at the McGill Faculty Club every January and had been involved with the annual Montreal Highland Games since 1977. He was closely associated with the St. Andrew's Society activities for years and was frequently called upon by McGill



Ken MacKenzie in April 2008.

Police Report**Bike theft suspect returns for more at Villa Sainte-Marcelline**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Thanks to surveillance cameras, investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St. may have a good description of a suspect who was reportedly returned to the Villa Sainte-Marcelline girls' school on Upper Belmont in upper Westmount on the morning of April 16 after allegedly stealing a bicycle there a few days earlier.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, an intruder was spotted in the parking lot one day the previous week and was seen again a week later.

“The police arrived on the scene but they didn't find the suspect,” said Yigit, adding that the investigators were searching through images taken by the school's security system cameras to see whether the suspect can be positively identified.

“When the bicycle got stolen last week, they checked the cameras, they saw the suspect, and then they noticed him again,” he added, pointing out that the person seen the second time in the security video was behaving as though he was looking for another bike to steal.

It's summer – Beware of pickpockets!

With spring now well under way and many restaurants opening their outdoor terraces, pickpockets and purse thieves could be seizing on opportunities to rob unsuspecting customers.

Clients at food courts in shopping malls could also be targeted, according to Cst. Yigit. “Oftentimes, people will drape their coats or jackets over the back of their chair,” he says, noting that people often leave their cellphones and wallets in the pockets.

“And what people perhaps don't realize is that while they're deep in conversation, someone comes to sit beside or in front, and will pickpocket them or pull over their handbags or backpacks on the floor and steal the contents,” adds Yigit.

A rising number of theft incidents like these have been reported in food courts and cafés throughout the Montreal region.

“It's important to know that in places like food courts or restaurants, any object of value should not be kept in a jacket pocket,” he says.

It's also risky to leave handbags or purses hanging off the back of chairs in public places for the same reasons.

University to pipe in dignitaries at special events.

Introverted, laid back, detail oriented

Often introverted and generally very laid back, he could be very quick to correct a grammatical error, morphology or dispute a Latin origin. He was a generous man who is said to have disliked money.

A regular attendee at the secretive Fergusons “speakeasy” British pub alongside Carré St. Louis (now closed) on Friday nights, where we'd play with iconic musicians like Gilles Losier into the wee hours around a large fire.

K Mac will be missed by his partner Sally, daughters Kimberley and Jennifer, his siblings Sheila and Rod, grandchildren Sasha, Vivianne and Morgan, his nieces, nephews and cousins, and his many good friends.

Thanks to Sally and Kimberley and long-time friends Alan, Patricia, Joanne, Susan and Laurence for their contributions to this article.



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Vézina turns 60 in style, with family and friends

Arrivals hailed from different Montreal sectors as Vézina is founder of the Cocktail des Présidentes et Femmes Leaders as well as president of Cities of the Future Man-

agement/Montréal du Futur.

Those enjoying the moon-lit night included **Bernard Synnott**, Superior Court judge and **Tonia Ivelja**; **Catherine Skinner**,

executive administrator, city of Westmount; **Christian Bolduc**, president BNP Philanthropic Performance; **Elisabeth Roux**, Westmount city councillor, and **Roger J. Beauchemin**, president/CEO Addenda Capital; **Eric Lalanne**, partner De Grandpré Chait and **Lydia Raymond**; **Eve Beauchamp**, executive director Jarislowsky Foundation and **Chris Gillett**, portfolio manager Raymond James; **Marina Boulos-Winton**, fundraiser and former executive director Chez Doris; **Kat Coric**, artistic management consultant; **Antoinette von Hahn**, associate director finance Bell Canada; **Isabelle Cossette**, music professor/researcher McGill University, and **Bob McKenna**; **Mark Levitt**, (also known as DJ Mark Anthony) president Levibart, and **Sandra Jean-Bart**; **Mark Morgenstern**, director Ewola Cinema; **Martin Dubois**, president Construction Mada, and **Oliver Rashcovsky**, manager Loyalty Department Air Canada; **Alain Simon**, Alain Simon Fleurs, and **Nina Drewniak**, IT manager TC Transcontinental; **Naomi Thériault**, officer Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada; **Fannie L. Charron**, special events and philanthropy consultant; **Réal Ménard**, former federal MP and former mayor of Mercier-Hochelaga-Mai-
sonneuve borough; and *continued on p. 22*



Pascale Vézina-Gagnon with her uncle, Robert Vézina.

When we are young, we are so excited to have a birthday. Balloons! Cake! Presents!

But somehow – growing older – the excitement fades. It shouldn't. And **Robert Vézina**, who grew up in Westmount, decided just that. He celebrated his 60th with a bash. With his husband **Christian Gagné-Cholette**, IT manager Desjardins, Vézina welcomed over 150 guests to the Château Champlain penthouse.

They knew the party would be amazing. A renowned event planner, Vézina, president RJV Communications, is also president of the fun Black & Blue Festival/Carnaval des Couleurs.

Family attending were his siblings **Renée Vézina**, president Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, and her husband **Daniel Archambault**; **Marc Vézina**, president Outdoor Team, and **Julie Rochefort**; and **François Vézina**, partner at Hatch, and **Sophie Migneault**. Robert's nephews and nieces included **Pascale Vézina-Gagnon**, lecturer in psychology Université de Montréal.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

orthopedic surgeon **Michel Leroux** and **Isabelle Sicard**, philanthropist.

Real estate brokers present included **Marie Bourbonnière** (Sotheby's), **Meghan O'Donnell** (director Boiteau Real Estate) and **Stephanie Hoolahan** (Profusion Real Estate/Christie's). Noted from the BCM Foundation were **Caroline Rousse**, **Elizabeth Drapeau**, **Pierre Perreault**, **Ann Joceline Cyr**, **Luc Gillen**, **Lysa-Marie Hontoy**, and **Marc Garceau** and **Eric Beaudry-Archambault**.

And yes! There were balloons (!) and a candle-lit chocolate birthday cake. Robert thanked everyone, focusing on the importance of cherishing the present moment, especially after the recent passing of both his parents, long-time Westmounters **Monique** and **Maurice Vézina**. Robert's 60th was definitely a great occasion to celebrate life.



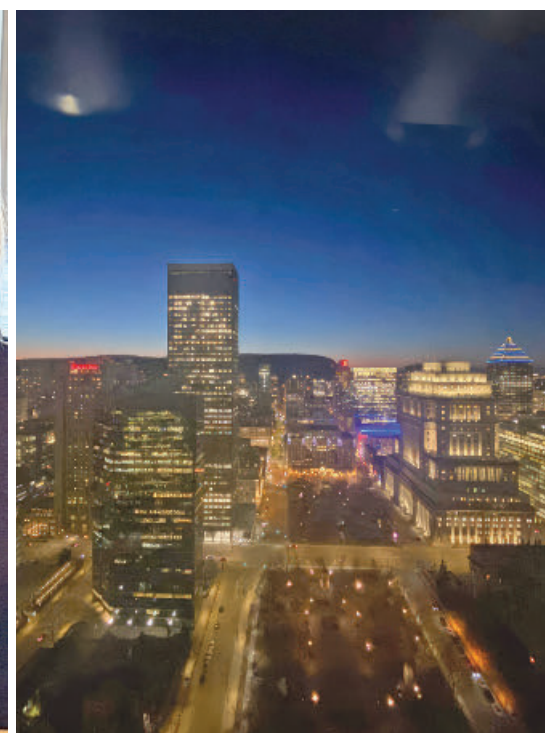
From left, front row: Elizabeth Drapeau, Anne Joceline Cyr, Robert Vézina and Christian Gagné-Cholette
back row: Pierre Perreault, Luc Gillen, Marc Garceau and Eric Beaudry Archambault.



Céline Bernier, Catherine Skinner, Naomi Thériault and Meghan O'Donnell.



Anne Joceline Cyr, Caroline Rousse and Renée-Claude Morin.



View from penthouse.

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Introducing Alfred Pellan's Costume Designs for Shakespeare's Twelfth Night / la Nuit des Rois

Alfred Pellan was the first important Canadian graphic artist who put his creative talents into theater costume design. In France, particularly for ballet, there was a celebrated contribution of costume designs by modern masters including Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Marie Laurencin, and Raoul Dufy.

The history linking Alfred Pellan to these costumes dates back to 1946, when he created drawings not only for costumes but also for the sets of a production of *Le Soir des Rois*, the French translation by Victor Hugo of Shakespeare's play *Twelfth Night* performed at Montreal's Théâtre Gésu by Les Compagnons de Saint-Laurent. The resulting costumes may perhaps have been better anticipated by a 21st-century audience accustomed to the enchantment of *Le Cirque du Soleil*. According to available sources today, the 1946 production was rather spectacular and somewhat controversial.

In 1967, Pellan revisited his original designs, resulting in this generation of artistry. The collection is accompanied by wonderful photo documentation including the image showing Pellan with *1ère suivante* (1st Lady-in-waiting) and *Soldat 'C'* (Soldier) in the background.

These mixed media drawings are presently on view at our Montreal gallery and are available to purchase as a set. Visit Klinkhoff.ca or scan the QR code for more information about this extraordinary collection.



1st Row: *Soldat -C-* (Soldier), *1ère Suivante* (1st Lady-in-waiting), *2ème Suivante* (2nd Lady-in-waiting), 2nd Row: Photo of Alfred Pellan, *Sir André (Idiot) -C-* (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), *Olivia -C-* (Lady Olivia).

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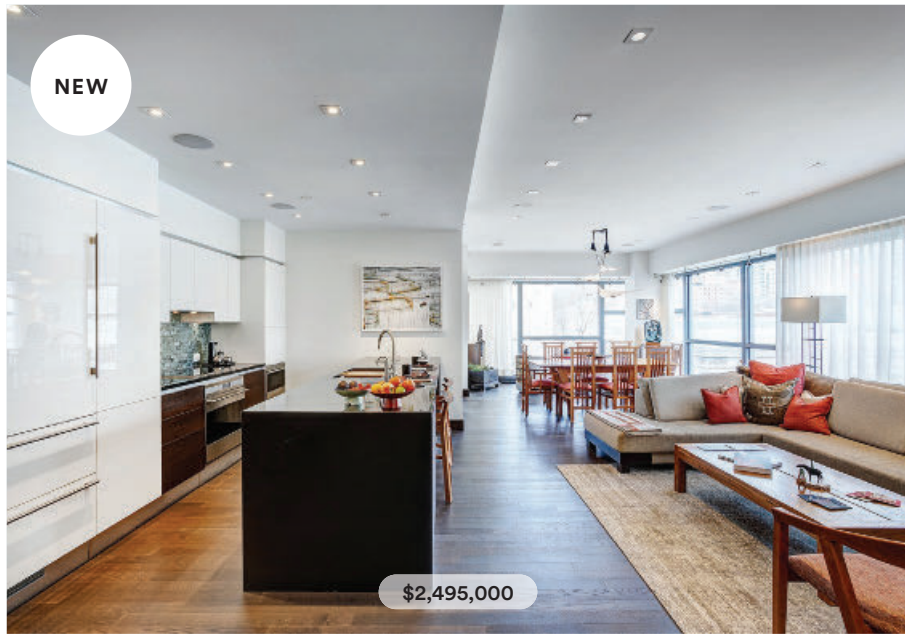
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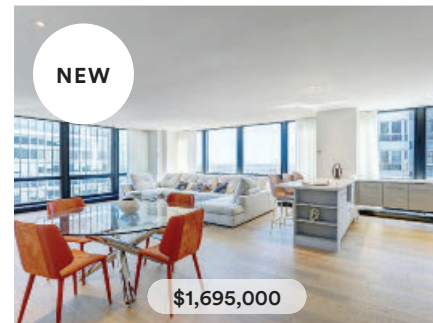
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