

## City planning for southeast back on front burner, seemingly

BY JENNIFER BALL

A public consultation on Westmount's southeast sector took place on June 12 with the objective of the evening being to generate "impactful" ideas that will inspire the content of the special planning program (SPP) based on pre-established themes.

The inclusionary question of the evening was: How do we portray the identity of Westmount within the space that we are creating?

On a map of Westmount, the SPP has Sherbrooke St. as its northern border, Wood Ave. to the west, Atwater Ave. to the east and Dorchester Blvd. to the south.

Kiosks were set up for residents that reflected the following five themes: greening, openness, identity, community and animation; and each theme had five or more international photos for visual representation, presumably to provoke a reac-

tion.

Citizens could place Post-its on the photos with their ideas and comments, and place red or green dots to register either their approval (green) or disapproval (red) of the approach for the sector. They could also fill out a survey to have their input included.

### Consultation report coming

There will be a public consultation report that will be accessible online merging citizens' input, although no ballpark date was given.

Mayor Christina Smith described the event as "a really important step in the process of looking at the southeast sector... which is our gateway into Westmount."

Councillor Kathleen Kez, whose District 8 contains the most important parts of the area in question, said, "I ..... know that this area has *continued on p. 20*

## The new face of Greene Ave.



Artist Adam Vieira stands in front of his mural on June 15, the date of its unveiling at a block party. The mural project, facing north into the municipal parking lot on Greene, was designed by the city's newly retired director of Communications Sebastian Samuel, Westmount Public Library director Anne-Marie Lacombe and Vieira. He is also a co-owner of S16 Gallery, whose Greene location is just south of the mural.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## Residents: Who okayed plans for park playground, memorial garden?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the second consecutive council meeting June 3, questions were asked concerning the major construction work to expand the playground in Westmount Park and redo pathways that have been described as in a state of disrepair.

Specifically, who had reviewed and approved the plan for the work, asked landscape architect Sophie Robitaille, a resident

of de Maisonneuve. Citing the park as a beautiful, unique and historic place, she asked why no public consultation had taken place. This comment drew much applause from the overflow audience.

The work had been part of the construction contract awarded to the firm of BC2, which included a landscape architect on the team, replied Mayor Christina Smith.

"Could it have been ..... communicated better?" *continued on p. 7*

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*A picture says a thousand words*



As seen on Wood Ave. at Sherbrooke June 14. Where do we start? Sherbrooke St. East is nowhere nearby, and the arrow is pointing away from its location and left down Sherbrooke St. West, *direction ouest*/westbound.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Owner fined \$664 for third incident

# Loose dog evades Public Security until distracted by another

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A loose dog was reported running around without a leash in the area of King George (Murray) Park June 8 at 4:53 pm, Public Security officials said. The dog was immediately recognized as a collie living on Willow Ave. that had previously escaped March 21 and April 18.

Appearing scared of anyone attempting to catch it, the dog headed down to Sherbrooke as the son of the owner made his way on his bike to join the searchers.

Despite four or five attempts to catch it, the dog was finally followed into a driveway on Forden, where it encountered another dog, enabling it to be grabbed and held. In the owner's absence in Toronto, a neighbour on Willow was contacted and reported to have taken charge of the dog.

The owner was subsequently issued a ticket for \$664 for the third incident.

## Gas leak on Murray brings many responders

A gas leak outside 5 Murray Ave. June 13 brought an array of emergency responders to the scene around 1:35 pm, according to Public Security officials. Along with police and PSU, these also included seven fire vehicles and two from gas company Energir.

The incident was reported to have occurred during work on private property, which damaged the gas line. No evacuations were reported and the line was reported capped at 2:35 pm.

## 'Fender bender' brings driver's father to scene

A car accident June 10 on Sherbrooke near Mountain was reported to have occurred around 9:04 am when a car

changing lanes drove too close to a parked BMW, pushing it onto the sidewalk, according to Public Security officials. It was not immediately determined whether the lane might have been too narrow.

The driver was a 19-year-old Montreal woman, whose father was called to the scene, and details were left in the hands of police.

## Wandering onto private property brings ticket for \$155

A man driving a pick-up truck was reported to be wandering around on private properties on the upper levels of the city June 9 around 9:42 am, Public Security officials said. Patrollers finally spotted him going door to door on Sunnyside.

The licence plate number was taken and the pick-up followed to Belvedere Rd. and Belvedere Circle, where the driver was noticed going onto private property and questioned by Public Security. Police were called when he stated he did not live at the various properties where he had been seen.

Identified as a 42-year-old resident of St. Anne des Lacs, he was ticketed for \$155 and described as "up to no good." The information was turned over to police.

## Indie's summer schedule

June 25, July 2 & 9: issues

July 16, 23 & 30 and August 6:  
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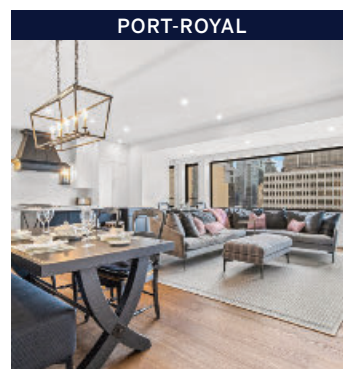


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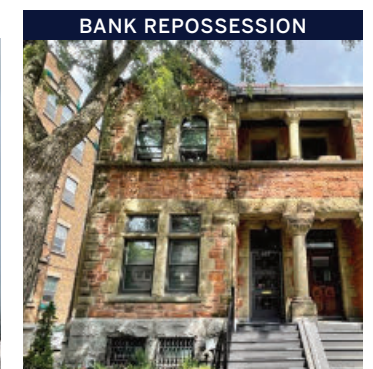
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## MiraGeoscience turns 25



Mira Geoscience, headquartered on Victoria Ave. and founded by Westmounter John McGaughey, celebrated its 25th anniversary June 4 with a celebratory luncheon and an "Amazing Race" through Westmount, followed by cake and champagne. The race was a series of 33 team challenges using geo locations and live streaming. Meanwhile, the company's Vancouver

The Westmount team of Mira Geoscience on June 4.

PHOTO COURTESY OF L. LALONDE

team was challenged with clues in an escape room.

The company has a 45-person team spread over offices in Westmount, Vancouver, and Perth and Brisbane, Australia. It provides consulting and software services delivering "advanced geological modelling, interpretation and data manage-

ment solutions for mineral exploration," explained director of human resources Lyn Lalonde in an email June 3.

"Our team is made up of geoscientists (geophysicists and geologists), software engineers and developers, and an operations team."

## Westmount's Equinoxe buys Elizz

Home healthcare provider Equinoxe Lifecare has purchased Elizz, a division of SE Health.

Equinoxe is headquartered on St. Catherine near Wood Ave. According to its June 10 press release announcing the acquisition, the company specializes in senior care, chronic disease management, post-operative care and comfort care.

The acquisition follows the recent introduction of LifeCare Plus, which uses "discreet" sensors to continuously detect, predict and prevent "unwanted" events. It

works through acoustics, not a wearable technology.

The press release also referred to a study by the Jacques-Parizeau Research Chair at HEC Montreal that states that if the current support system is maintained until 2040, the province will see a 70-percent increase in autonomous living support needs, rising from 324,400 individuals requiring care to 547,900.

Equinoxe is a private company and the purchase price of Elizz was not made public.

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**Join us Thursday, June 27 to explore opportunity to revive church building, preserve its history**

# Injecting new life into the Mountainside United Church site

As any of us drive on The Boulevard between Roslyn and Lansdowne Avenues, we may wonder what has happened and, more importantly, what will happen to the beautiful stone building of the Mountainside United Church that no longer serves as a place of worship, nor has for a few years now...

**As our community evolves, our buildings must also evolve to adapt to the cultural reality.**

Recent studies, planning reports and evolving architectural designs having been presented to the City, have opened the door to envision a win-win solution both for the citizens of Westmount, as represented by their professionals and elected councillors, and the creative owner/project-developer, who has so far agreed to a series of compromises driven by the City, and interpreted with creative dexterity by the team of design professionals on his behalf.

**The owners now need your support in arriving at and bringing about the win-win solution.**

**As an integral part, we wish to host an interactive Information Session held with you; with its discussion subjects and consensus to be presented to the City.**

We really hope that interested Westmounters will attend and comment, suggest, critique and ultimately, in two-way dialogue, endorse with enthusiasm the exclusively residential, family homes proposal being shown. We now can envision the impasse to be broken with the project that is now presented to you and the City.

## The proposal

The development proposal is conceptually very simple:

- On the one hand, the beautiful and historically valuable building(s) are to be integrally preserved, and are to be re-purposed as single-family residences,
- On the other hand, the vacant, asphalted former parking lot on Lansdowne will become three new single-family homes; one detached, and the other pair attached,
- The very visible corner of The Boulevard and Lansdowne will remain as landscaped green space, affording wide-angled views of the majestic structure that is being preserved and thereby protected.

**In fact, the entire project as intended is perfectly compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood.**

So where is the problem?

Why has this not happened yet, in spite of the owner's readiness for 5+ years?

## History

A bit of background at first of how we got to this stage, and only after all of these years.

It was in 2017 that the congregation conceded that it could not continue maintaining the Church for its intended use. Subsequent to targeting other religious institutions as potential acquirers without any success, the Church Board authorized going to the private market. Inasmuch as the building was located in a clearly defined residential zone (but benefitting from



acquired rights of use as a church), an experienced residential developer emerged in response to broadly targeted solicitations.

The buyer brought forward was Daniel Revah!

Mr. Revah is a highly touted, extremely creative and respectful residential developer, as witnessed most clearly from his current monumental project on Mont-Royal, "le 1420," ([www.le1420.ca](http://www.le1420.ca)), on the hill in Upper Outremont; having created luxury condos from a religious residence and having preserved the Church therein – a daring project of great beauty revealing enormous respect for the original building.

Mr. Revah, who resides in Westmount, is also known for his condominium building replacing the Reader's Digest offices in a residential zone in Westmount, the 215 Redfern; as well as in Montreal for building the 42+ story T.O.M. condominium building on Union Street downtown, amongst other unique projects.

## The transaction

After multiple discussions of potential development alternatives between the interested developer with his architects and the City of Westmount's Urban Planning Director while the agreement to purchase was still conditional upon the approval of the proposed development for residential use, and with encouragement therein from the City of Westmount with reference to the existing legal right to occupation for residential use, the Purchase and Sale Agreement was finalized – and the transaction was closed at the Notary.

**In short, residential zoning was in place at the time of purchase; otherwise there would be no transaction!**

Shortly thereafter, ignoring all the meetings, the City of Westmount enacted a new by-law creating a previously non-existent 'religious cult zone' applicable to the sites of the churches in Westmount – specifically excluding residential occupation in them as a clearly defined part of this new by-law.

The new owner of Mountainside United Church property, who had paid millions and 'rescued' the congregation, was never even notified of the by-law change newly in process.

## Invitation

**Our Information Session will be held as follows:**

**4 Westmount Square, 2nd floor  
Thursday, June 27 at 7 pm**

**Kindly respond to confirm your attendance by emailing me at [trria@aol.com](mailto:trria@aol.com)** so that the venue be can prepared to accommodate you, including refreshments.

It is my own privilege and pleasure to be asked to work on the Mountainside United Church revival with the entire team in order to resolve a problem – ongoing for years. **We are now on track towards a win-win.**

Thank you, and looking forward to meeting you all in person at the Information Session. I will be your 'host' for the event on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Revah, who and whose project I support proudly, and with great enthusiasm.

Thomas Robert Reiner – Architect + Urbanist  
[trria@aol.com](mailto:trria@aol.com)

## Summer park patrollers supplement Public Security



This summer's Public Security park patrollers, shown June 14 in King George (Murray) Park, are, from left, Emma Ellison, Mylene Audette, Damek Godina and Faye-Michelle Poirier.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

## Obituary: Sandra Warren Valdmanis (1940-2024)

Matriarch of the Valdmanis family, celebrated Higgins Beach watercolor artist and former Montreal educator, Sandra Warren Valdmanis passed away peacefully on May 10, 2024 in Scarborough, at the age of 83, surrounded by her four sons, three daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren.

Inspired by the works of Maine watercolor painters Winslow Homer and Andrew Wyeth, Sandra captured the beauty of southern Maine, the dynamic forces of the Atlantic Ocean, and the joy of local and vacationing families. Her art endures in the collections of prominent art enthusiasts in the U.S., UK and Canada.

Born on July 22, 1940 in Montreal, Sandra was the daughter of Ian Warren, a senior executive at Canadian Pacific Railways, and Myra Byrd, an accomplished figure skater. She grew up in the predominantly Anglophone Montreal enclave of Westmount. As a student at independent girls school ECS, Sandra made friends who supported and sustained her for the rest of her life. She met her future husband, Gundars Valdmanis, a McGill University student and son of a former Latvian finance minister, on a



tennis court in Westmount Park. Married in 1962, the couple had four sons before an amicable divorce in 1978.

Trying to find a suitable spot for a family vacation at the ocean, Sandra discovered, in the late '70s, Higgins Beach, a six-hour drive from Montreal; it was love at first sight. With help from a dear friend from her ECS days, she eventually bought a home on Greenwood Avenue in 1995 and moved there after retiring from her work as the activities director at the Westmount Senior Citizens Center, Contactivity.

Sandra believed deeply in education, founding the Dominion Douglas daycare school in Westmount in the early 1970s. She earned her B.A. in Education at Concordia University in Montreal and taught

at St. George's Academy and served on the Board of ECS. She later earned a master's in Gerontology from the University of Southern Maine, and volunteered for many years at the Scarborough Public Library. During the last eight years, Sandra enjoyed the oceanfront view from the Yellow House at the end of Morning Street, which further inspired her landscape art.

Sandra will be remembered for her incredible warmth, sense of humour and her love of life, nature, friends and family. Sandra is survived by her devoted children, Thor, Robert, Warren, Richard and daughters-in-law, Kristin, Kelly and Lisa; and grandchildren, Elisabeth, Ian, Laird, Dylan, Finlay, Anna, Philippa and Teddy; her beloved nephews Paul and Mark Husken and her beloved dachshund, Marigold.

A celebration of Sandra's life will be held on October 5 at 11 am at The Church of St Andrew and St Paul, 3415 Redpath St, Montreal, Quebec H3G 2G2.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Lymphedema Society [lymphnet.org/donate](http://lymphnet.org/donate).

## City awards tender to replace WRC's water 'tower'



The WRC's water "tower" at Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve showing the café Mouton Noir in the background, as seen June 13.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The water tower for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) is to be replaced following city council's approval June 3 of up to \$436,191, including taxes, for the project. This was awarded following a second call for tenders after the first bids were deemed too high.

Such a tower, is used "to cool water and is a heat exchanger," according to Dave Lapointe, director of culture, sports, recreation and social development. It expels "heat into the atmosphere and returns colder water to the machinery."

As the name implies, a water tower is usually found on the roof of a building as in the case of the old arena, he added. The

current one, however, was built underground in a pit because the WRC is underground.

It is located at the corner of Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve, across from Westmount Park Church, from which in cooler weather steam is often seen arising.

The contract was awarded based on various factors to Plomberie Charbonneau for \$398,301 including tax credits and a maximum of \$436,191 compared to three others whose maximum quotes ranged from \$402,183 up to \$746,334.

Typically, the life span of a water tower is said to be 15 years, Lapointe told the *Independent*, but in this case it is diminished since the unit is enclosed. The WRC was completed in 2014.

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# Invitation to the Church Conversion Project Presentation

## Dear Westmount Neighbours,

As a resident of Westmount and neighbour who appreciates our community's rich history, on behalf of the owners I invite you to an important presentation regarding the transformation of the Mountainside United Church site on The Boulevard. Let's engage in a two-way dialogue!

The purpose of this information session is to present and discuss the FRW Architects' designs and our owner's proposals for re-purposing the unoccupied church site with its adjacent parking lot. BC2's planning recommendations will also be shown. We invite you, the interested neighbours and Westmounters to participate in an interactive meeting, and encourage your feedback and anticipated support.

## Information Meeting:

**Date:** June 27, 2024 **Time:** 7:00 PM

**Venue:** 4 Westmount Square 2nd floor (entrance from Sainte-Catherine Street near RBC).

Light refreshments will be served.

## Project Overview:

- **Objective:** Revive the vacant former church with a new use compatible with its immediate neighbourhood, while preserving its architectural and historic integrity.
- **Location of the property:** The beautiful stone building on The Boulevard between Roslyn & Lansdowne.

- **Community Evolution:** Our community is evolving, and our buildings must adapt to our reality.

## Community Harmony:

- **Tranquility and Quiet:** There has not been any long-term interest by any other church or synagogue to take over the edifice. All offers to date would have altered the peaceful quality of the neighborhood.

## The Opportunity:

- **Unoccupied:** For years, the church has remained unoccupied.
- **Win-Win Solution:** Recent planning reports and evolving architectural designs presented have opened an opportunity for development with total integration into the neighborhood.

## Our Vision:

1. **Main Church Residence:** The main church building will be converted with complete respect into a single-family home. The views from three exposed sides will be maintained as they are.
2. **Leslie Hall on Roslyn:** The smaller old church attached will be transformed into two single family residences, with the architectural integrity of the building maintained.

## 3. Empty lot on Lansdowne and present parking area:

The adjacent land, including the parking area, will be reimaged as a pair of semi-detached residences and one stand-alone home.

- 4. **Green Space:** The creation of landscaped green spaces carefully designed will enhance the overall appeal of the site.

## Presentation Details:

Please join us for an informative presentation. During this event, we will:

- Share the architectural vision and renderings for the entire project.
- Discuss the project timeline.
- Receive your comments.
- Answer any questions you may have.
- Your comments are invaluable to us.

Your presence matters as we shape the future of our community.

I am pleased to present all of the work that has gone into the project by all of the intervenants on behalf of Daniel Revah's family, owners and Westmount neighbours, while seeking your feedback and support.

Kindly respond to confirm your attendance by emailing me at [trria@aol.com](mailto:trria@aol.com)

Warm regards and we hope to see you there.

Thomas Robert Reiner – Architect + Urbaniste  
[trria@aol.com](mailto:trria@aol.com) 514-515-4706

# Sujet : Invitation à la Présentation du Projet de Conversion de l'Église

## Cher voisin,

En tant que résident de Westmount et voisin appréciant la riche histoire de notre communauté, je vous invite à une présentation importante concernant la transformation du site de l'église Mountainside United. Engageons un dialogue à deux voies!

L'objectif de cette séance d'information est de présenter et de discuter des conceptions des architectes FRW et des propositions de notre propriétaire pour la réaffectation du site de l'église inoccupée ainsi que de son parking adjacent. Les recommandations urbanistique de BC2 vont aussi être présentées. Nous vous invitons, en tant que voisin intéressé et résident de Westmount, à participer à une réunion interactive et à nous faire part de vos commentaires et de votre soutien.

## Détails de l'événement :

**Date :** 27 juin 2024 **Heure :** 19 h 00

**Lieu :** 4 Westmount Square, 2e étage (entrée par St. Catherine à côté de la RBC).

Des rafraîchissements seront servis.

## Aperçu du projet :

- **Objectif :** Revitaliser l'ancienne église tout en préservant son intégrité architecturale et historique.
- **Emplacement de la Propriété :** Le magnifique bâtiment en pierre sur le boulevard Roslyn/Lansdowne.

- **Évolution communautaire :** Notre communauté évolue, et nos bâtiments doivent s'adapter à notre réalité.

## Harmonie communautaire :

- **Tranquillité et calme :** Aucune église ou synagogue n'a montré d'intérêt à reprendre l'édifice à long terme. Toutes les offres à ce jour altéreraient la qualité paisible du quartier.

## L'opportunité :

- **Inoccupée :** L'église est restée inoccupée pendant des années.
- **Solution gagnant-gagnant :** Des études récentes et des conceptions architecturales en évolution ont ouvert une opportunité d'intégration totale pour le quartier.

## Notre Vision :

1. **Résidence Principale de l'Église :** Le bâtiment principal de l'église sera soigneusement transformé en maison unifamiliale. Les vues des trois côtés exposés seront préservées telles qu'elles sont.
2. **Leslie Hall sur Roslyn :** L'ancienne petite église sera transformée en deux résidences unifamiliales; l'intégrité du bâtiment maintenue.
3. **Terrain vacant à Lansdowne et aire de stationnement actuelle :** Le terrain environnant, y compris l'aire de stationnement, sera réimaginé sous la forme d'une

paire de maisons jumelées et d'une résidence individuelle.

- 4. **Espaces verts :** Création d'espaces verts et d'aménagements paysagers pour améliorer l'attrait global.

## Détails de la Présentation :

Nous vous invitons à une présentation informative.

Lors de cet événement, nous allons :

- Partager la vision architecturale et les rendus pour le projet global.
- Discuter du calendrier du projet.
- Recueillir vos commentaires.
- Répondre à toutes les questions que vous pourriez avoir.
- Nous sollicitons vos commentaires.

Votre avis et appui sont inestimables pour nous.

• Je suis fier de présenter M. et Mme Daniel Revah et famille, les propriétaires, et leurs visions représentées par l'équipe professionnelle. • Votre participation et soutien compte alors que nous façonnons l'avenir de notre communauté.

Veillez confirmer votre présence en nous envoyant un e-mail à l'adresse [trria@aol.com](mailto:trria@aol.com).

Cordialement, et nous espérons vous y voir.

Thomas Robert Reiner – Architecte + Urbaniste  
[trria@aol.com](mailto:trria@aol.com) 514-515-4706

## Questions at council, cont'd from p. 1

the mayor said. "Absolutely."

The play structure was 10 to 15 years old and the paths were "a safety hazard," she said. The contract for \$2.5 million had been as given out at the February 26 meeting (see story March 12, p. 1).

The closing of the playground without much notice or consultation had been raised several times at the May 6 council meeting including the inconvenience the work presented over the summer. Signs and plans have since been posted on the site's construction fencing.

Richard Dufour, of Anwoth Rd., followed

up on the approval processes for public spaces, stating that there seemed to be "inconsistent" approaches between what was required for private versus public spaces.

He asked, for example, whether the work to create the Doug Ellis Memorial Garden near the southwest corner of the park at Lansdowne and St. Catherine had

gone through the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). Mayor Smith pointed out that this garden had been part of a class action court judgment and "approved" by the mother of one of the victims of abuse by the late city of Westmount hockey coach John Garland leading her son to take his own life (see plan March 19, p. 10).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## IMAGINING A TEMPORARY SCREEN FOR ST. CATHERINE BLIGHT



The empty lot where 4014-4022 St. Catherine once stood, as seen June 14. The fences are now festooned with banners containing logos from the city's newly re-launched southeast consultation and planning project (see p. 1 for story).

PHOTO & CAPTION: INDEPENDENT.

I am encouraged to learn that our city is investing in public artwork, as demonstrated by council's approval on June 3 to pay a local art gallery and artist \$70,000 to install and maintain an outdoor mural on Greene Ave. (see story, p. 1).

But why does such concern for the embellishment of our public spaces not extend to areas in dire need of attention?

Consider the gaping hole that remains following the demolition of 4014-4022 St.

Catherine across from Alexis Nihon Plaza. The city confiscated a \$1.4-million deposit from the former developers as a penalty for their unfulfilled obligation to construct a mixed-use project on that site. The now-vacant lot and recently exposed walls of adjacent buildings serve as reminders of unmet promises and unrealized opportunities to revitalize the neighbourhood.

Additionally, the entire façade of the adjacent abandoned Category 1 building

(former Packard garage at 4024-4032 St. Catherine) is shrouded in unattractive netting, further contributing to the area's blight. Why not commission a decorative screen, as is common in many European cities, to install in front as a temporary measure while these buildings are undergoing renovation or construction?

Westmount's entire southeast sector is currently under review by the city, and hopefully long-term solutions will be proposed to improve the area. But until then, why not invest in beautifying this unsightly block? The money is available; imagination seems to be in short supply.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.

## LONGING FOR A DEDICATED THEATRE

Thank you to Jennifer Ball for her interesting article about Dramatis Personae, Westmount's Community Theatre (June 4, p. 24), which is celebrating its 40th anniversary – quite a record for a small community theatre.

It was nice to be recognized. We sometimes feel as if we fly below the radar of the Westmount community!

It's great to welcome large audiences again after the break caused by COVID, when we performed over Zoom, reaching people living as far away as the UK and Turkey, but there's nothing like the thrill of performing to a live audience.

May I add some names that were omitted in Ball's article? This season we have welcomed three new excellent actors: Nicholas Raphael, Helen MacIntyre and Val Montague.

Among the long-standing members of our team, we are particularly thankful to

include Roger Jochym as sound and light technician. Along with Malcolm McRae and stage manager Karen Sauder, he is also responsible for building the stage set-up, an exhausting and complicated procedure that makes us long to have a real small theatre, even if "All the world's a stage" and we are "merely players."

How about the old railway station? Any other suggestions?

ANN ELBOURNE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

## REMEMBER ATWATER LIBRARY'S ROLE, BUILDING IN SOUTHEAST PLANNING

The city of Westmount has embarked on an exercise of re-developing our southeast sector – St. Catherine St., Tupper St. and Dorchester Blvd. The Atwater Library is a vibrant southeast community hub and we urge civic leaders to protect our beautiful heritage building as decisions are made on building height restrictions and the re-routing of traffic.

The Atwater Library is a National Historic Site, built in 1919, which has recently been restored and updated with a large elevator and an accessible entrance on Tupper St. Our building is an architectural jewel with well-kept green space. All of this happened with the generous backing of many Westmounters.

The Westmount consultation invites people to share their vision for greening, improving mobility and connectivity, encouraging animation and strengthening community life in our sector. The Atwater Library rings all those bells.

LYNN VERGE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
ATWATER LIBRARY

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The Atwater Library on June 17.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



## In Westmount, dogs ride



The Westmount Park dog run "mascot" hitched a ride on a Komatsu forklift on June 11 in order to return to the de Maisonneuve/Lansdowne entrance to the park.

PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL

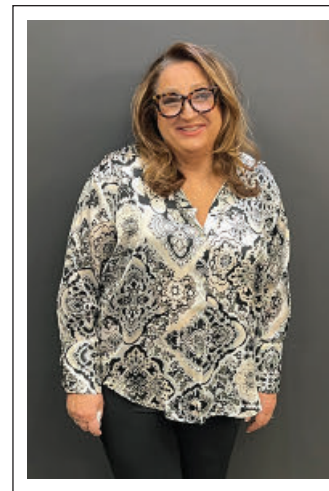


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I am **Mary De Santis**, proud owner of **MDS Estate Sales**. For over 15 years, I have been an estate liquidator and collaborate with reputable experts in fine art, Oriental-Asian items, jewellery, gold, silver, coins and bullion, books and comic books.

My motivation is driven from my love for this industry. My devoted team & I are fully dedicated to our work & esteemed clients.

Another one of my great passions is giving back to my community. Over the past 20 years, I have helped raise over one million dollars for the Sun Youth Organization and Cedars Cancer Institution. Currently, I am assisting in raising funds for the SITN Foundation (Strangers In The Night).

If you are liquidating your own personal valuables, the treasures of a loved one or just simply want to know the fair market value of an item, you can rest assured with **MDS Estate Sales**. Our mission at MDS is to help our customers liquidate their items with full transparency & trust, whether it's due to the loss of a loved one, downsizing or relocating.

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Most importantly, I would like to share a few handy tips & key points that are imperative to follow before embarking on an estate sale & signing with a liquidator (especially when more often than not it is during a vulnerable period in your life).

Most commonly, an estate liquidator will be referred to you by a realtor, a friend, or a relative. When interviewing potential liquidators, it is important to know who you are dealing with.

A contract should be drawn up before the mandate begins. This allows for accountability and provides protection for all your sale items.

It is recommended not to give or sell your expensive pieces, such as gold, silver, and coins, without having them weighed, tested for purity, and properly documented on company letterhead.

Keep an inventory list. All of your items should be priced and documented before any sale. It is important that you receive all sales reports via email for accountability.

Ensure you obtain all written contracts between your estate liquidator and any auction house engaged in the sale of your items. You generally have access to view your items & monitor the sales online at all local auction houses for at least 5 years (length of time may differ).

It is recommended to never name an estate liquidator in your will. This should be a family member or friend, or alternatively, a lawyer or accountant.

For customers engaging in an estate sale from out of town, I urge you to have trusted individuals present on the premises when liquidators have access to the house. Your items are valuable, and we want to ensure they are in trustworthy hands.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding your estate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Mary De Santis*

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*'Happy Birthday' marked by cupcakes, popcorn, souvenirs*

# Hundreds turn out to celebrate library's 125th anniversary

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Hundreds of people of all ages turned out June 9 to an afternoon of celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the Westmount Public Library, which continues to be the city's best attended facility.

While numbers were estimated by library officials at approximately 550, many were seen coming and going throughout the events.

While waiting for birthday cupcakes to close the afternoon, Mayor Christina Smith presented a summary of reports from the library's start in 1899 noting that "Right from the start, you could see it: West-mounters loved their library."

Access to the library driveway was blocked to enable safe access for the many attending throughout frequent cloud bursts, and people continued to line up for free ice cream outside Victoria Hall. The line backed up the staircase inside where the smell of popcorn – also free – quickly became apparent.

## Party was a 'blast'

"The birthday party was a blast!" said Anne-Marie Lacombe, director of the



The Alice in Wonderland tea team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

library and community events.

The events started off with an *Alice in Wonderland* tea and play at the library. Meanwhile, the adjoining Gallery was festooned with drawings and selected excerpts from the McEntyre Writing Competition on what the library means to its younger readers.

Throughout the afternoon, anniversary souvenirs were available to purchase in the concert hall, including a jigsaw puzzle of the library.

The agenda at Victoria Hall featured a concert from Ensemble la Cigale, a quintet specializing in music of the Renaissance and Baroque eras, followed by two winners of the McEntyre Writing Competition reading their entries.

Among those attending was former

library director Julie-Anne Cardella, making her first visit back after retiring two years ago and embracing Lacombe, her successor, who starts a 13-month maternity leave in early August. For this period, a position has been posted for an interim director of the library and community events.

## Cakes for all

The afternoon concluded with a resounding rendition of "Bonne fête à toi" and "Happy Birthday to you!" followed by the serving of birthday cupcakes by Faith Holness and Dawna Hobbs costumed respectively as the March Hare and Queen of Hearts from *Alice in Wonderland*. Both are desk clerks at the children's library.

The afternoon was organized by mem-

bers of the library's 125th celebrations committee who were introduced along with many council members attending.

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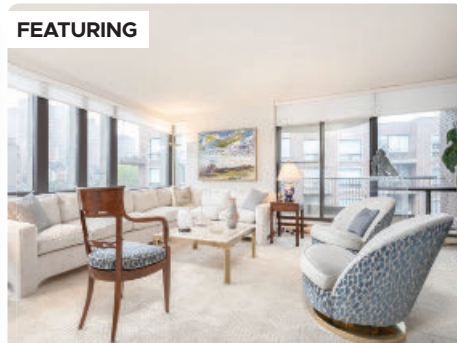
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## All four Efrat family members survived

# Be'eri kibbutz couple describes rescue by IDF on October 7

BY JENNIFER BALL

An Israeli husband and wife who were in North America on a speaking tour shared their harrowing experience of an encounter with Hamas fighters on October 7 during an attack that claimed the lives of at least 10 percent of their kibbutz. During 20 hours of fighting, they were unaware of each other's status as well that of their son and daughter.

Rabbi Eric Grossman, Akiva head of school, introduced Adi and Avishay Efrat to the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim community on June 7 at its location of 450 Kensington Ave., corner of Côte St. Antoine. The couple were residents of Be'eri kibbutz on October 7, 2023, and live in separate houses.

### Adi's story

On the morning of October 7, Adi said she started receiving WhatsApp messages from concerned neighbours in the morning, saying that fighters had entered the kibbutz and were setting homes ablaze.

Of the Hamas fighters who entered her home she said, "They wore civilian clothes, and they had flip-flops on their feet, but

they had guns."

They forced her out of her home, Adi said, because they needed a car. "They did not understand the concept of a kibbutz. I don't have a car!"

She had an advantage of being able to speak Arabic and struck upon an idea to take them to a place where she told them all the keys to the cars could be found. She hoped that she could make her escape *en route*, but they retained her as their human shield.

In due course, she was moved and immobilized, with her hands tied behind her back. There, another woman was brought in whose baby daughter and husband had just been killed in front of her.

"I had no way to console her. I just put my head on her shoulder to try to give her some comfort."

Adi said she was given a job on the day to empty cars that contained dead Hamas fighters. As she started towards the cars, there was an exchange of gunfire between the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and Hamas.

After what seemed like an eternity, she said, she heard Hebrew being spoken outside and the IDF extricated her. Yet, she was still in danger because the battle for



From left, Avishay and Adi Efrat at the Shaar on June 7.

Be'eri raged on.

After 20 hours of distress, she learnt via WhatsApp that her daughter was alive and sometime later she learned so were her husband and son.

### Avishay's story

Meanwhile, Avishay said his nightmare began when he saw Hamas on his door's security camera. He filmed the break-in so that his family would know what happened if he did not survive, he said. He shared

the footage at the Shaar.

At midnight, he heard the IDF coming to rescue him. He had been barricaded in his safe room for hours trying not to inhale smoke from the fire that the Hamas set in his house.

Despite their ordeal, the couple had a positive message for the congregation.

"I am very hopeful that the community will all come back in a few years, and we will rebuild," Adi said in concluding her talk.



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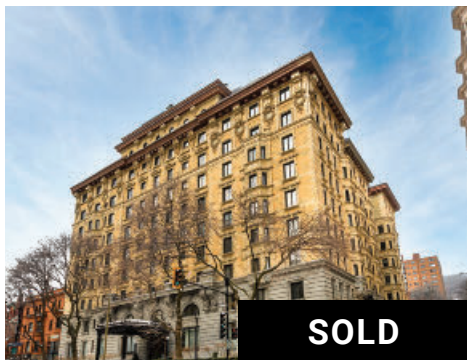
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## NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Mardi 2 juillet

## NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Thursday, July 2



### Écocivisme : la Patrouille verte est de retour!

La Patrouille verte est de retour pour informer, sensibiliser et éduquer les citoyens sur les bonnes pratiques de gestion de leurs déchets.

[westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Rénovations et travaux électromécaniques au Mess Hall

Des travaux de construction sont en cours dans le cadre du projet de rénovation du Mess Hall situé au 15 rue Béthune. Les travaux visent à remplacer les systèmes électromécaniques et rénover les espaces intérieurs. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Souffleuse à feuilles électriques interdites du 1<sup>er</sup> juin au 30 septembre

Conformément au Règlement 1519, l'utilisation de souffleuses à feuilles est interdite du 1<sup>er</sup> juin au 30 septembre. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Changement aux collectes

Depuis le 1<sup>er</sup> mai, les collectes se font uniquement en bordure de rue ou dans les ruelles accessibles aux camions de collecte. [engage.westmount.org](http://engage.westmount.org).

### Chiens sans laisse au bois Summit

Du 16 juin au 31 octobre, les propriétaires de chiens peuvent les promener au bois Summit sans laisse, UNIQUEMENT de 5 h à 10 h, et de 17 h à minuit. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

RECEVEZ DES NOTIFICATIONS ET ALERTES DE LA VILLE : INSCRIVEZ-VOUS SUR [CITOYEN.WESTMOUNT.ORG](http://CITOYEN.WESTMOUNT.ORG)



### Ecocitizenship: Westmount's Green Patrol

The Green Patrol is back to inform, raise awareness and educate citizens about good waste management practices. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Renovations and electromechanical work at the Mess Hall

Construction work is underway as part of the project to renovate the Mess Hall at 15 rue Béthune. The aim of the work is to replace the electromechanical systems and renovate the interior spaces. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Electric leaf blowers are prohibited from June 1 to September 30

In accordance with By-law 1519, the use of leaf blowers is prohibited from June 1 to September 30. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Waste collection changes

As of May 1, waste materials are only collected streetside or along waste truck accessible lanes. [engage.westmount.org](http://engage.westmount.org).

### Summit Woods: Dogs off leash periods

From June 16 to October 31, dog owners may walk their dogs off-leash in Summit Woods, ONLY during the following periods: from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 5 p.m. to midnight. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS AND ALERTS FROM THE CITY, SIGN UP AT [CITOYEN.WESTMOUNT.ORG](http://CITOYEN.WESTMOUNT.ORG)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Lancement national du Club de lecture d'été TD à la Bibliothèque

**Judi 20 juin, 9 h 45**, Bibliothèque, Victoria Hall, parc Westmount. La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount a été choisie pour accueillir le lancement national du Club de lecture d'été TD 2024. Pour l'occasion, le livre du StoryWalk® de cet été, *Plus noir que la nuit*, écrit par l'astronaute Chris Hadfield et Kate Fillion, et illustré par les frères Fan, sera lu par l'astronaute Marc Garneau. Inscription : 514 989-5229. Places limitées. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Concert dans le parc – Shauit

**Vendredi 21 juin, 13 h**, parc Westmount, près de l'étang avec l'auteur-compositeur-interprète primé Shauit. Venez au parc Westmount pour souligner la Journée nationale des peuples autochtones avec un concert en plein air. Information : 514 989-5226 [victoriahall@westmount.org](mailto:victoriahall@westmount.org).

### Fête nationale du Québec

**Lundi 24 juin, 14 h**, parc Westmount. Venez célébrer le début de l'été avec les festivités de la

Fête nationale du Québec au parc Westmount (au sud de la piste cyclable). Nourriture, maquillage, magie et musique avec le groupe folk québécois Jabbour. En cas de pluie, l'événement aura lieu au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest.

### StoryWalk® du CLETD

À partir du jeudi 20 juin et durant tout l'été, au parc Westmount. Faites une charmante balade dans le parc pour découvrir le livre du StoryWalk® (marche littéraire) de cette année : *Plus Noir que la nuit*, des auteur(e)s Chris Hadfield et Kate Fillion, et illustré par les frères Fan. Présenté dans le cadre du Club de lecture d'été TD. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Visites de la Bibliothèque

**Jusqu'au 22 août**, Bibliothèque. Pour célébrer le 125<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Bibliothèque, nous vous invitons à y faire une visite. Vous pourrez y découvrir son histoire, et admirer des éléments clés de son architecture, et en apprendre plus sur les activités qui sont planifiées cette année. Visites en français ou en anglais. Inscription individuelle. Le nombre de places est limité à 15 par visite. Info : 514 989-5355 ou [refdesk@westmount.org](mailto:refdesk@westmount.org)

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Summer Reading Club National Launch Party at the Library

**Thursday, June 20, 9:45 a.m.**, Library, Victoria Hall, Westmount Park. The Westmount Public Library has been chosen to host the TD Summer Reading Club 2024 national launch. For the occasion, this summer's StoryWalk® book, *The Darkest Dark*, written by astronaut Chris Hadfield and Kate Fillion, and illustrated by the Fan brothers, will be read by astronaut Marc Garneau. Limited space. Register: 514 989-5229. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Concert in the Park – Shauit

**Friday, June 21, 1 p.m.**, Westmount Park, by the Lagoon with award-winning singer-songwriter Shauit. Come mark National Indigenous Peoples Day with a live concert in Westmount Park. Information: 514 989-5226 or [victoriahall@westmount.org](mailto:victoriahall@westmount.org).

### Fête nationale du Québec

**Monday, June 24, 2 p.m.**, Westmount Park. Come and celebrate the arrival of summer with the Fête nationale du Québec festivities in Westmount

Park (south of the cycle path). There will be food, face painting, magic, and music with the Quebec folk group Jabbour. Rain venue: Victoria Hall, 4626 Rue Sherbrooke West.

### TDSRC StoryWalk®

**Starts Thursday, June 20 and throughout the summer** at Westmount Park. Enjoy a stroll through Westmount Park while reading this year's StoryWalk® *The Darkest Dark*, written by astronaut Chris Hadfield and Kate Fillion, and illustrated by the Fan Brothers. Presented as part of the TD Summer Reading Club.

### Library Tours

**Until August 22**, Library. To celebrate the Library's 125th anniversary, we invite you on a tour of the building. You will learn about the institution's history, view its architectural highlights, and hear about the activities happening throughout the year. Available in French or English. Please register individually. Space is limited to 15 per tour. 514 989-5355 or [refdesk@westmount.org](mailto:refdesk@westmount.org)

## Hercule's cute tummy



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

He likes everyone in the family routine and was previously in a home with another cat so this option is positive as well.

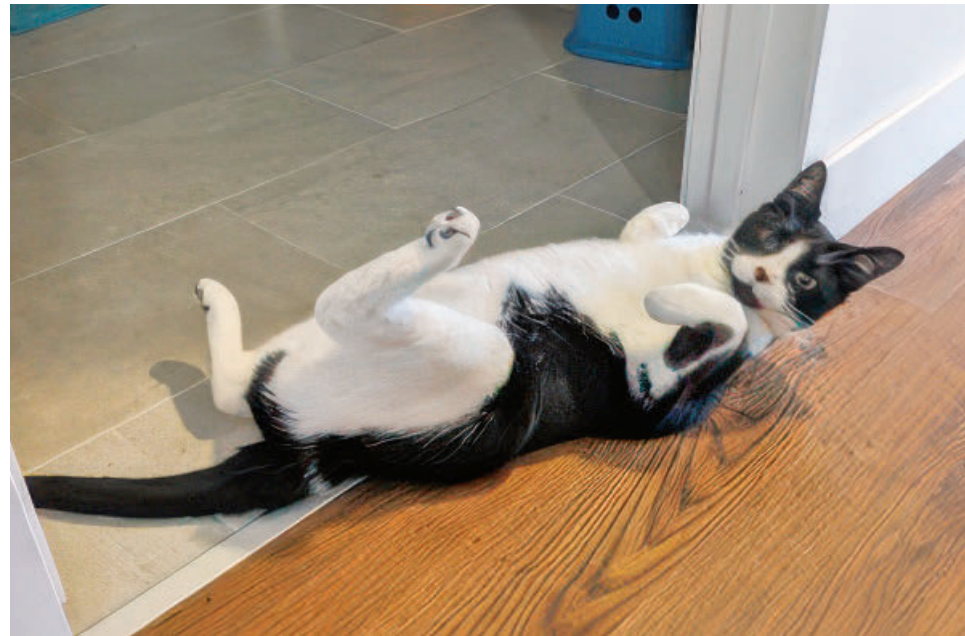
Please do not hesitate to search the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then refer to Hercule's information page from his identification number, 41692687, then click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle on the upper-right section of the page. You will be providing your contact information and interest in Hercule to the adoption coordinators in order for them to get back to you shortly.

Discussing adoption is very important, when you feel a connection with an animal in need, it is worth pursuing. It will not only change his life but yours.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

A kittenish attitude can get a little guy everywhere in life! Hercule is presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA, ready to transition from a foster family to a forever home. Let us help him come to be a cat sunning himself in a living room window in our neighbourhood.

Playful and affectionate, Hercule is a very healthy five-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and micro-chipped. His foster family mention his sweet nature and curious companionship.



## Magnificent Kurby



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

At 11 months of age, you will agree that precious Kurby is a stunning and charismatic shepherd-mix puppy. Already carrying herself with great dignity, it is her time to leave the Montreal SPCA kennel to join the other dogs of summer in a home environment, also enjoying companionship in our parks and summit.

Kurby is affectionate and intelligent, keen on learning routines, and being active in walks and play. She is very healthy, on program for her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

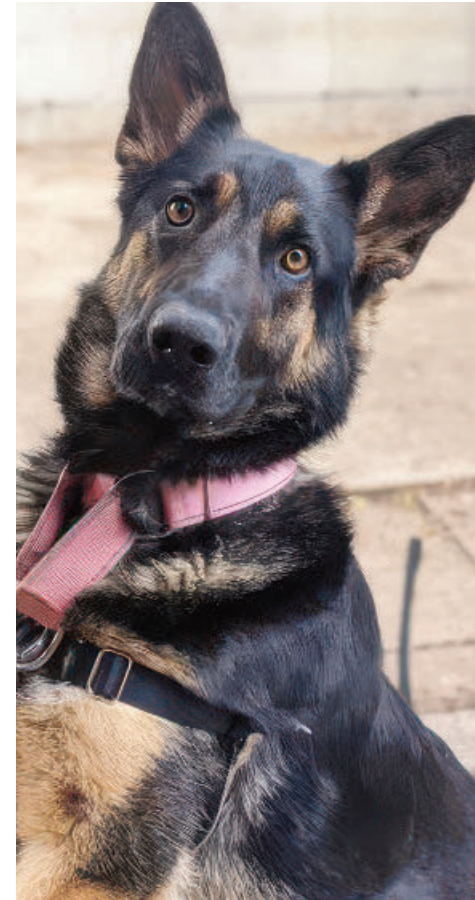
Please refer to the Montreal SPCA's website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), refer to her information page by her identification number, 2000135410. Then choose the earliest day you can drop by the shelter to visit Kurby for adoption.

It is open from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, and from 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

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

Kurby is waiting, in need of a caring family. The kennel is getting ready for the worst part of the season, just before the moving-day abandonments, so please consider adopting now.

A kindness to Kurby but also to yourself, as a best friend in the everyday is priceless.  
Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



## What's a bench for, if not for sitting?



As seen on the north side of Tupper, to the west of Atwater, on June 17. A bench facing this one had the same sign.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Lawn Bowling Club hosts Victorian tea



From left, Anna Cullinan, Paula Pedicelli and Angie Di Nardo, and the swinging tea pot.

The Westmount Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club recently hosted an afternoon tea, echoing the classic British tradition.

Honouring Victoria Day, club members volunteered and the home-made results were delicious. Offered were the classic “savory” (cucumber and salmon sandwiches – crusts cut off, of course) and “sweet” (mouth-watering brownies, tea cakes and scones with strawberries and Devonshire cream; served on tiered cake stands).

The beautifully manicured lawns – one for croquet and one for lawn bowling – were the perfect backdrop for arriving guests, most wearing summer hats. Pretty floral tablecloths held equally pretty teacups.

The success of the sold-out moment was shared by many volunteers as well as spearheads Anna Cullinan (the club’s hospitality director), Paula Pedicelli and Angie Di Nardo.

I found the three ladies in the kitchen and managed to include in the photo the

club’s wonderful silver tea pot, “donated in 1956,” explained Anna, who had just polished it for the occasion.

It was particularly interesting as it is a “swinging” tea pot. No, not from the 1960s. It’s because the large pot holding hot water can be too heavy to pour, so one can simply

leave the pot on its base and swing it over a smaller teapot. Alice, of Wonderland fame, would wonder at the ingenuity.

Speaking of Alice, Anna amusingly added a “Wonderland décor” to an offering of macarons. (The Red Queen looked cross as usual.)

Like the tea served, the club is well steeped in tradition: It is celebrating over 100 years. Amidst the tables of teas, gleaming trophies attested to the talent of club bowlers and croquet players. Although the enchanting spread was attended mostly by women, Wayne Sossin, club vice president, was on hand to welcome guests (and was listed on the clean-up crew) and Phil Silverberg was noted, there with his wife Barbara.

In the midst of Westmount, an utterly charming – and timeless – moment: rules of civility reigned.

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Three authors explain *Where They Stood*

# Anthology covers history of Montreal's black community

BY JENNIFER BALL

*Where They Stood: The Evolution of the Black Anglo Community in Montreal* was published in 2023 by Linda Leith Publishing. Of the nine contributors to the anthology, three were on hand recently at the Atwater Library to discuss their submitted chapters and read excerpts from other writing.

The three young female writers were Amanda Asomani-Nyarko, Donna Fabiola Ingabire and Jessica Williams-Daley. They sat down on June 6 with moderator Ayana Monuma at the library, which is located on 4023 Tupper St., corner of Atwater Ave.

In this collection – produced by the Montreal-based Black Community Resource Centre – nine writers explore the rich histories of the immigrants, labourers and activists who contributed significantly to the cultural, social and political fabric of Montreal.

Williams-Daley said, “My chapter spoke about the World War II era, with central themes spanning the military as well as artistry.”

The chapter included mention of the impact the pianist Oscar Peterson made to put Montreal on the map in jazz circles.

Williams-Daley did not shy away from exposing what she described as systemic racism that some community members experienced in the military. Her chapter, she said, “really speaks about the hardship of the black individuals in the military, in Montreal.”

## 1960s – a turning point

Asomani-Nyarko said, “My chapter focusses on Montreal in the 1960s. There was just so much history in Montreal in



From left: panel host Ayana Monuma, and contributing authors Amanda Asomani-Nyarko, Jessica Williams-Daley and Donna Fabiola Ingabire on June 6 at the Atwater Library.

the 1960s...

“We had newcomers from the West Indies, and they really transformed Montreal.”

Her chapter, she said, “really describes a lot of the changes that took place in Montreal. All the Black Power conferences in Montreal that took place at the time, and it touches also on the Sir George Williams affair.”

That incident was a student sit-in that started on January 27, 1969 at the university and was put to an end on February 11.

Black students barricaded themselves in a computer room on the

ninth floor of the campus, demanding that Professor Perry Anderson's discrimination towards West Indians in the academic year of 1966-1967 be exposed.

Ingabire said, “My chapter is from the 1980 to the 2000s in Montreal...”

“It covers immigration changes. We had immigrants coming from countries that Canada had never admitted before like African countries.”

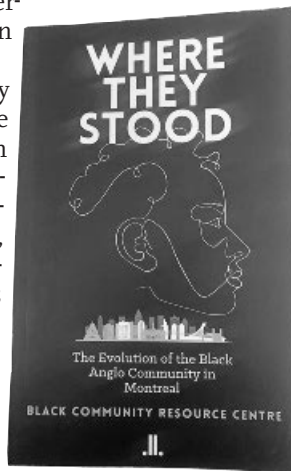
Jessica Williams-Daley is a second-year McGill University student majoring in psychology with a double minor in behavioural sciences and anthropology.

Amanda Asomani-Nyarko is a Montreal-based communications agent, poet, and writer of Ghanaian and Jamaican descent. With a bachelor degree in English literature and a minor in law and society,

as well as a post-graduate degree in public relations and communications management, she combines her passion for words with strategic expertise.

Donna Fabiola Ingabire is a Montreal-based feminist writer and policy analyst. Born in Rwanda and raised across Africa, her experiences as a refugee and immigrant drive her interest in uncovering stories of those pushed to the margins of society. With a background in public policy and international affairs, she aims to amplify diverse voices in diplomacy and policymaking for more effective solutions.

Moderator Ayana Monuma is a project coordinator at the Black Community Resource Centre. She played a vital role in creating *Where They Stood*.



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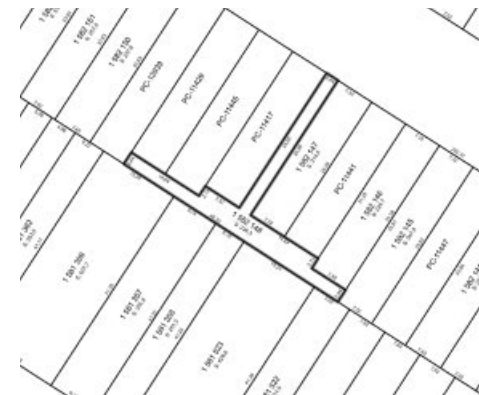
Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

# Sale of 19th century mini-lot on Grosvenor Ave. leads to discussion between neighbours, city



A photo of the purchased alley, which lies between 452 and 454 Grosvenor.



A map of the purchased land, which lies between 452 and 454 Grosvenor.

An interesting deal that found its way into the January real estate transfers (June 4, p.19) involved a small lane on Grosvenor.

An eight-foot-wide laneway leading to a passage running along the backs of lots behind six stonefront duplexes on Grosvenor Ave. met an auctioneer's gavel when it was put up for sale in January for non-payment of school taxes.

The land contains some 236.3 square meters, or just over 2,500 square feet, which was sold by the School Council of the Island of Montreal's management committee, saying the previous owner, and his heirs, had never paid tax on it. According to neighbours, the recent buyer, who lives in one of the duplexes, has informed them of the sale. Efforts to reach him had not succeeded by the *Independent's* June 17 press time.

## History of buildings, lots

The buildings were constructed by Cliophas Roussin, a builder from Acton Vale, Quebec, who took advantage of a decade-long court battle among family members that left all the land undeveloped for many years on what are now Grosvenor and Roslyn avenues, what had originally been the "Omer farm."

The farmland had been purchased by William E. Phillips in 1859.

Upon Phillips' death in 1876, the land

was left fallow even as houses popped up on Lansdowne and Victoria avenues on either side of it, until the families reached a settlement in 1887, and Georgina Alice Phillips was granted title to it.

It took eight years for the property to be sold to Roussin, who built the existing greystones, having re-divided the lots to

allow for the construction of what became six duplexes, 442 to 464 Grosvenor, all 24 feet wide and all – with one notable exception – attached to each other.

## Lane is born

The one exception is the eight-foot-wide lane between 452 and 454 Grosvenor,

which fanned out at the back into a passage to allow people, animals and – perhaps in some cases – vehicles to reach the backs of all six duplexes.

Deeds and the land registry index from then until now sometimes mention the land, describing it from time to time as a right (*droit de passage*) or lane (*ruelle*). The land in question at one time had four lot numbers, which were consolidated into one in the early 2000s. It was this lot, 1 582 148, that was sold in January.

The land is listed separately on the Montreal valuation roll, with a tax value of \$288,300, or \$1,220 per square metre, while the land pertaining to the buildings is evaluated at \$2,440 per square meter.

Other members of the six-duplex community say that they have been appraised



Looking south from the end of the east-west lane into the north-south passage.



Looking north from the end of the east-west lane into the north-south passage.

*Grosvenor, cont'd from p. 18*

of the new ownership by phone calls, texts or emails, and that no official notices have been sent.

#### Other owners push back via city

Those owners have appealed to city hall, which has begun an extensive search to find out how this situation occurred and what documents are available, either to establish rights-of-way or sales of the property, which it intends to complete by June 21.

The owners would also like to see any school or city tax bills that might have been ignored, which would allow for a sale for non-payment of those taxes, and they have asked the city to reverse the sale and to guarantee the rights of all of them to passage on the land, and the city has agreed to look into the matter.

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### Sanctuary for Sale

Animal sanctuary in wine region of Chile. 65 acres, 2 houses, barn, organic fruit orchards and olive groves. Onsite caretakers, amazing views, river frontage, private, pristine setting. Flexible financing available. 595K US\$. Contact: s888th@gmail.com

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## Police Report

# More pick-pocketing activity in Victoria village

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St. are stepping up their efforts following reports of several more pick-pocketing incidents around Westmount's Victoria village.

These latest incidents fit a pattern that began in early May, when a woman leaving the TD Canada Trust branch at the corner of Sherbrooke and Claremont was robbed of \$1,000 in cash by a trio of pickpockets who followed her home and managed to steal a wallet from her purse.

In a separate pick-pocketing incident on May 28 around the same area, a woman who was returning from shopping at the Metro supermarket on Victoria Ave. filed a complaint with police at Station 12 that she was followed by two men who stopped her to ask for information.

"They approached her and asked if she had seen a dog," a Station 12 official said at the time, reading from the incident report.

### New pick-pocketing incident (1)

In one of the more recent incidents, on June 8, a woman driving a vehicle through the parking lot next to the Metro supermarket on Victoria Ave. was approached by a male suspect who claimed some fluid was leaking from her car's engine and that she needed to get out and look at it.

The woman, who got out of her vehicle, later told police that she thought she was being distracted as the suspect was kneel-

ing on the ground while pointing out the supposed leak to her.

She later realized that her wallet was missing after she received a call from her bank alerting her to the fact that at least one of her cards had just been used illegally.

### New pick-pocketing incident (2)

In yet another recent pick-pocketing incident, this time on the morning of June 8, a woman who had been using one of the automated teller machines in the Royal Bank branch at the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke filed a complaint with the police about two suspicious individuals who approached her in a seeming attempt to create a distraction.

"They were standing in front of another ATM, but they weren't doing anything," said Station 12's Cst. Antonino Petrotta. "After she started her transaction, one of them tapped her on the shoulder while trying to distract her and was pointing toward the front window."

However, according to Petrotta, the woman reacted negatively and told the suspect to leave her alone, while saying, "Get away from me," following which both suspects ran off.

The police have a description of the two suspects. They are men around 50 years old, English-speaking, Caucasian with dark complexions and well dressed. Security cameras captured images of them.

### Vehicle theft attempt

While police officials claim to have had

some success in cracking down on a recent wave of organized vehicle thefts, there was an especially brazen attempt to steal a car last week in Westmount.

Around 9:15 pm on June 6, two suspects, apparently intent on making off with a car parked inside a garage at a home on The Boulevard, broke in.

This happened despite the fact that the owner was at home and a security camera system as well as an intrusion alarm were set.

"The signal went off that there was somebody there," said Cst. Petrotta. "The owner went to see and there were two suspects. They ran away, they left." He said the perpetrators drove off in a red SUV.

### Lock, or take in, your bikes

Finally, there was a blunt reminder for bicycle owners last week that leaving a two-wheeler unlocked and in the open – even on your own turf – is an invitation to bike thieves.

Sometime during the night of June 11-12, somebody passing by a home on Rosemount Ave. spotted a bike whose owner had left it parked outside on the property – but not locked.

"It was a theft of opportunity," said Cst. Petrotta. He suggested that sometimes the best way to safeguard a bicycle when not in use is to simply take it in.

## Elena Jones recognized for 'Extra Mile'

Social worker and Westmounter Elena Jones received the Extra Mile Award June 11 from AMI-Quebec for her work in the psychiatry department of the Jewish General Hospital. AMI-Quebec/Allies in Mental Health is a non-profit organization that helps families manage the effects of mental illness through support, education, guidance and advocacy.

According to presenter and family peer support worker Taylor Pettit, Jones "exemplifies the very essence of this award" for having "helped families who have a loved one hospitalized for mental health."

Pettit went on to say: "This is the statistic I really want to emphasize. Last year, Elena single-handedly referred over 40 family members to AMI-Quebec – 40 family members herself, 40 conversations, 40 referrals sent over to me where these family members have the support that they need.

"This made her the top referrer of AMI-

Quebec.

"She also speaks up at team meetings that I have witnessed – team meetings with many, many people sitting around, multidisciplinary teams in the hospital – to promote and remind health professionals of

the services available to family members.

"Elena: your dedication, empathy and extraordinary efforts have touched countless lives and significantly advanced our mission.

"Your work reminds us of the importance of supporting those who support others."



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## Some of Indie's coverage of city's 'southeast project'

2013 council – Mayor: Peter Trent (Christina Smith starting April 24, 2017)

“Citizens weigh in on SE development – Make it ‘green,’ safe & low-rise, vision workshop hears,” January 26, 2016, p. 6

“Narrowing of Dorchester, building heights proposed – minus bike path,” June 21, 2016, p. 1

“‘Street view’ of southeast vision targeted for June presentation,” March 21, 2017, p. 1

“Update on Dorchester vision expected in June,” May 16, 2017, p.1

“Draft Dorchester vision sent back,” May 30, 2017, p. 1

“Planning vision deferred to incoming council,” September 12, 2017, p. 4

2017 council – Mayor: Christina Smith

“City to prioritize St. Catherine before Dorchester, Tupper lots,” October 30, 2018, p. 1

“AGIL report now translated into English,” February 12, 2019, p. 5

2021 council – Mayor: Christina Smith

“City imposes 90-day interim freeze on southeast/Tupper lot development,” August 29, 2023, p. 1

“City extends freeze on southeast development,” October 31, 2023, p. 1

“Design contract awarded for revitalizing city's southeast sector,” January 23, 2024, p. 1

“Next southeast report should reflect neighbours' wishes” (letter), February 20, 2024, p. 6.

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

been a concern for many of us, but I am grateful for this consultation process, so that your ideas and thoughts can be heard...

“Though we may have diverse views and opinions about our beloved southeast sector, I believe we can all work together and come up with a vision where the quality of life will be enjoyable for all present and future residents...”

“This is an area that is wonderful and an area that we can all be proud of.”

Frédéric Neault, director of the Urban Planning department at the city, said, “There is increasing interest in the southeast for private projects. Given this interest, elected officials and the administration are faced with fundamental questions...”

“How can we reconcile our metropolitan obligations to densify while preserving our richly built heritage?...”

### Some of the Independent's coverage of southeast's buildings

“1100 Atwater tenants are mix of local, world-wide firms,” August 18, 2020, p. 1,

“Possible pavilion site [4014-4022 St. Catherine] was south side of St. Catherine west of Atwater – Cancelled Dawson expansion affects city's hopes for district,” February 8, 2022, p. 8,

“Construction guarantee confiscated from 4014-4022 St. Catherine,” March 14, 2023, p. 1.

“What place should the city provide for the more vulnerable population?”

Neault conceded that many residents in attendance at the public consultation have their doubts that their input will come into play on final decisions for the sector.

He reminded everyone that “the process of adopting an SPP is regulated by the provincial act respecting land use, planning and development.”

He said once the consultation and drafting stages are complete, the SPP will be enshrined in the Westmount planning program and then into by-laws: zoning, construction and sub-division. These will have to be brought into line with the contents of this SPP, he said.

On the topic of the timeline, he said, “all this concordance should be in place in about a year.”

### More Indie coverage: Projects blessed – nothing built

“[4014-4022] St. Catherine site near Atwater okayed for demo, building”, February 27, 2018, p. 1,

“Council approves permit for residential development at former St. Stephen's,” May 24, 2022, p. 1,

“It's a go! 4216 Dorchester Blvd. gets final council approval,” January 24, 2023, p. 1.

*Please note that the last two projects are just outside the city's special planning program area.*



Participants at the public consultation for the “Imagine Westmount Southeast” project at Victoria Hall on June 12.

## Loud construction, summer insouciance



These three women (including the woman partially behind the pillar, who was on the phone!) were not going to let heavy construction, and all its LOUD noise and dust, spoil their precious summer terrace time, as seen on Victoria Ave. the morning of June 14.

# Children's Hospital ball raises record \$1.6 million

## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Sandra Chartrand, Julie Godin, Pierre Simard, Renée Vézina, Lucie Opatrny, Sharon Stern, Véronique Black and Jamie Silver.

Children's Hospital Foundation board, and managing partner, Champlain Financial Corporation, and Nancy Spafford; Renée Vézina, president, The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, and Daniel Archambault; Isabelle Marcoux, executive board chair TC Transcontinental Inc., and Kim Thomassin, senior vice president, CPDQ; Charles Émond, CEO, CDPQ, and Renée-

Claude Boivin; Guy Cormier, CEO Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, and Julie Forgues; Philippe Marcotte, associate CYLAD, and Roger Ngassam, CYLAD; Najah Sampson, president, Pfizer Canada, and Ethan Norman; Lisa Swiderski, senior vp distribution strategy and personal banking solutions, National Bank of Canada, and Daniel Hurteau; Luc Maur-

ice, executive president, Le Groupe Maurice, and Roxanne Vachon; Marie-Chantal Côté, senior vp, Group Benefits, Sun Life, and Julie Gosselin; and Martine Alfonso, executive director McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and Philippe Bertrand.

Also noted at the table ..... continued on p. 22



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### Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

Rhian Touyz, executive director/chief scientific officer Research Institute of the MUHC, and David Koppel; Lucie Opatrny, director general MUHC, and Jean-François Tremblay; Bethany Foster, pediatrician-in-chief The Children's, and Lesley Fellows, vice-principal (health affairs) and dean faculty of medicine and health sciences, McGill University; Sam Daniel, chief-of-surgery The Children's; Jean-Pierre Farmer, neurosurgeon The Children's; Indra Gupta, deputy executive direc-



Ben Mulrone and Sienna Feghouli, who starred in The Children's ad campaigns with P.K. Subban.

tor/chief scientific officer Research Institute of the MUHC, and Neil Price; Eva-Flore Bui-Xuan, chief psychiatrist The Children's.

Other luminaries included: David and Robyn Amiel, André Beaulieu and Francesca Trop, Paul Corriveau and Stéphanie Legaré, Paul Desmarais III and Mary-Dailey Desmarais, Harley Finkelstein and Lindsay Taub, Mitch Garber and Anne-

Marie Boucher, former Quebec premier Pierre-Marc Johnson and Hélène de Kovachich, Andrew Molson and Helen Antoniou and Pierre Rodrigue and Sandra Duguet.

Paul Chacra's 1945 band and an amazing after-party with DJ Sandy Duperval ensured guests danced the night away at this super successful *soirée*, which raised a record \$1.6 million.



Steeve Robitaille, Christian Dubé, Robert Carelli, Lucie Opatrny, Sara Joli-Cœur and Jean-François Tremblay.



Pierre Rodrigue, Yves Fortier, Pierre-Marc Johnson, André Beaulieu, Paul Corriveau, Hélène de Kovachich and Jean Charest.



Will Allen, Robert Kriebel, Andrea Kriebel, Jennifer Murphy and Jeremy Whitworth.



Harley Finkelstein.

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Over the years, a number of environmental assaults on the skin can cause wrinkling and loss of elasticity.

These factors can't be stopped entirely, but they can be controlled through innovative cosmeceutical products.

A compounding pharmacist can customize a therapy of cosmeceutical creams prepared for the exact needs of your skin. The result? Protected, rejuvenated skin that looks as young and healthy as it did five, ten, even fifteen years ago!



BERTRAND COHEN TENOUDJI  
pharmacie | pharmacy

5025 Sherbrooke West (west of Claremont)  
Tel: 514-484-2222 | Fax: 514-484-2205

**KENT  
GROUP**

PRIVATE INVESTMENT  
MANAGEMENT

# Excellence in portfolio management

Portfolio management expertise and excellence, depth, professionalism and consistency — this is what has defined our business approach for over 35 years. It is central to how we manage portfolios, control risk, identify opportunities and build relationships.

At the Kent Group, we customize each client portfolio so that it is specifically tailored to meet your needs and expectations. Our personal approach, combined with our outstanding portfolio management, is why the Kent Group is the largest discretionary portfolio management group at RBC Dominion Securities across Canada, with over \$6 billion in assets under management.

## It's time.

If you are seeking outstanding portfolio management and comprehensive wealth management, we would be pleased to discuss how we can put our experience to work for you.

To meet with us, please call:

**Jean-François Dion,**  
Senior Portfolio Manager,  
**or Sholom Tabak,**  
Senior Wealth Advisor,  
**at 514-878-4216**

**1 Place Ville Marie, Montreal**  
**kentwealth.com**

**RBC Dominion Securities Inc.**



**Wealth Management**  
**Dominion Securities**

# J|P

## JILL PRÉVOST

### *Client Testimonial*

*"Jill is personable, professional, and offers years of experience, knowledge, and genuine dedication. Her guidance, care + attention to detail put my mind at ease. I truly felt that she had my best interest at heart."* - Melanie A. Buyer

## HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME THIS SUMMER!

### PRESSURE + PROTECTION

From bricks to pathways, window sills too,  
Pressure-washing will bid all the grime adieu.  
Extend downspouts far from your home's foundation,  
Protecting it from water's infiltration.

### SECURITY + SERENITY

Exterior lights cast shadows soft and kind,  
For safety's sake and ambiance combined.  
A camera doorbell, watchful at the gate,  
Ensures your home is safe and up-to-date.

### SUCCULENTS + STAINING

Enhance the yard with flowers, trees, and grass,  
Landscaping touches that will surely last.  
Refinish decks where friends and family meet,  
Sanding + staining springs a new retreat.

### DECLUTTER + DONATE

Declutter now, with each space organized,  
A tidy home will have buyers mesmerized.  
Take your old stuff, give it a new lease,  
Paying it forward, spreading joy and peace.

I'm here to help. If you've been in your house for over 25 years, it might be time for a change. Call me.

**Let's write your next chapter TOGETHER...**



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