

## Silver & bronze for Westmount Soccer Club



The Westmount Soccer Club's U10 (under 10) girls' and U12 (under 12) boys' teams participated August 9-11 in the Jean Mantha Tournament hosted by the Mont-Royal Outremont Soccer Club. "Both teams came home with medals and made Westmount proud with their good sportsmanship and support for each other," according to parent volunteer Suzanne Owen. The U10 girls' team

won a silver medal, losing in the final match to FC Laval. The U12 boys' team won the bronze medal in their division, winning against Panellinos St. Michel soccer club in the consolation final. The photo is of the two teams together, before the boys received their medals. The Westmount Soccer Club is an independent entity distinct from the city's sports program. PHOTO COURTESY OF S. OWEN.



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*New lease expected by year's end*

## Mouton Noir gets extension to operate at WRC for rest of year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There was good news from the city council meeting August 5 for many residents and their friends concerning a lease extension for the Mouton Noir café that has become somewhat of a landmark at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and its green roof.

The recent extension of the lease that

expires this August 31 was awarded until a new agreement is signed.

Though specific dates and amounts were not mentioned at the meeting, the new rent for this interim agreement "has been established at a fixed \$1,250 per month," according to Dave Lapointe, director, library, sports, recreation and culture.

"A new lease is expected to be signed at the end *continued on p. 8*

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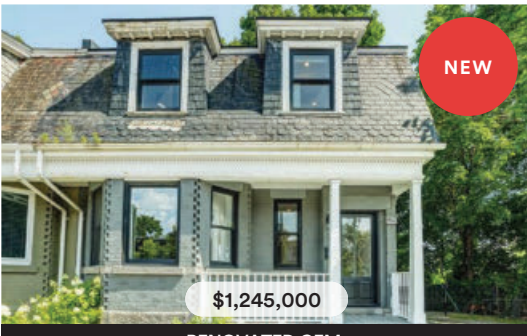
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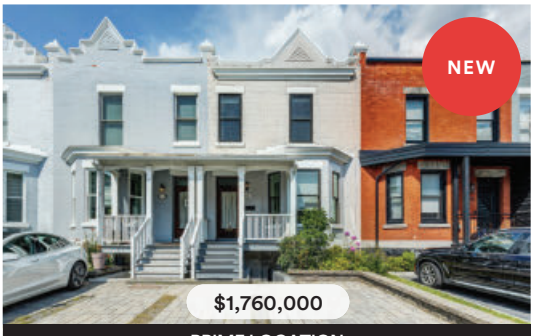


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*'This is not a way to live!': Westmount Square resident*

## Council asked for help over noisy, disturbing protests

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A resident of Westmount Square appealed passionately to city council at the question period August 5 for greater police protection and help concerning noisy and disturbing protests outside the Israeli consulate located there.

Saying she represented some 500 residents who had put up with enough disturbance at all hours over the last 10 months, Arlene Yufe explained that many were elderly, needed protection for themselves and those helping them to enter and exit, and even for getting their cars in and out of the garage.

### Recent case

She related a recent example on a Saturday night of being wakened at 11:40 pm to find a "huge" truck outside with microphones blaring while police "all very nice, stood around but did nothing."

This situation left residents wondering: "Will I be able to get my car out? Will I be able to get home if I go out? Will I be able to get my medication? This is not a way to

live, and not in Westmount!"

Mayor Christina Smith answered that she would arrange a meeting with the local Station 12 police commander to consider the situation, suggesting that barriers might be erected to ensure safe entrances as had been done at the Tavern on the Square at 1 Westmount Square.

It turns out, however, that Mayor Smith will be away until August 27 but that in her absence, her administrative assistant would be "coordinating" a time for such a meeting.

### Rights to protest supersede by-laws?

Mayor Smith had also pointed out that there were many more than 500 residents around Westmount Square when counting those at 1 Wood and other nearby buildings and homes.

She explained that issues regarding the right to protest have also been raised at meetings of the Montreal agglomeration council and "supersede municipal by-laws."

They were also being encountered throughout Canada.

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Public Security warns drivers to obey signallers

# Car plunges headfirst into construction hole

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As back-to-school time approaches and many construction projects work to finish up before winter, Public Security director Greg McBain said last week that one West-

mount resident recently found out how failing to follow the advice of a worksite signaller can end in dire consequences.

The driver, a Westmount woman, was trying to access her property on Mountain Ave. August 8 at 6:43 pm when temporary access due to water main work was denied at Sherbrooke and Mountain. This sent her to attempt it from Rosemount Crescent.

When this also was denied by a signalman because of holes from the work, she tried to approach the property from Mountain and Anwoth but was again warned not to because of the construction holes. Again, Public Security officials said, she persisted and the front end of the Lincoln Navigator fell into a hole, leaving the back wheels in the air.

Police and a tow truck were called and the woman was issued a ticket for disregarding the orders of a flag person. The amount of the ticket was not mentioned in the report.

“The flagmen are there to protect the workers on the site as well as the drivers,” McBain explained. “Please respect their orders.” The traffic incident was one of three that week that generated tickets to drivers.

## Driver ticketed for U-turn

Also that week, the driver of a Jeep was ticketed for making a U-turn on Sherbrooke, hitting a westbound Genesis at 4867 Sherbrooke, Public Security officials said. The mishap was spotted by two parking inspectors, who positioned their car behind the others while the drivers filled out a joint accident form. The Jeep was able to drive away while the Genesis sustained damage to the front left wheel. Neither driver lived in Westmount.

Letters to the Editor, p. 6

Police Report, p. 7

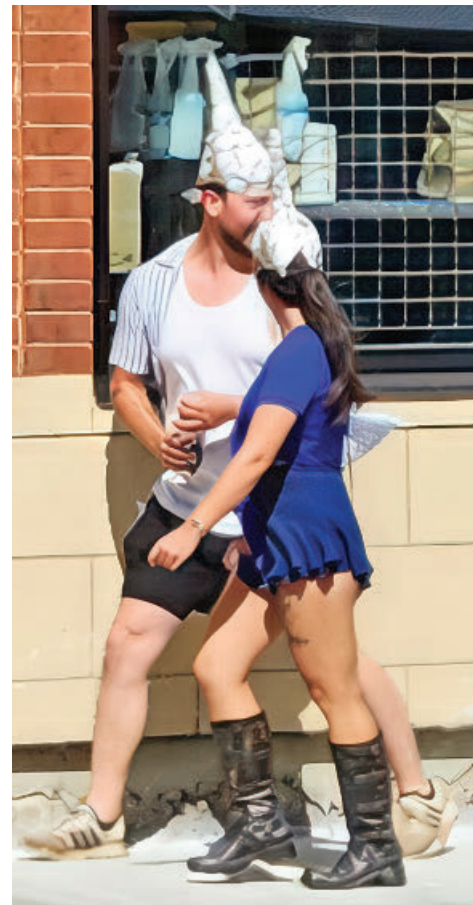
Dodge on July real estate market, p. 14

Pet page, p. 17

Social Notes:  
Evening for the  
Lighter Fund, p. 21

Gardening: Clover, p. 22

## Novel hats observed in Vic village



These two pedestrians on Victoria Ave. near Sherbrooke were sporting interesting hats that appeared to be made of tin foil. Was it Halloween? Mardi Gras? Late in the day on St. Patrick's? No. It was August 11. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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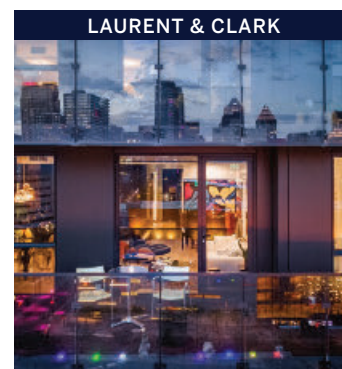
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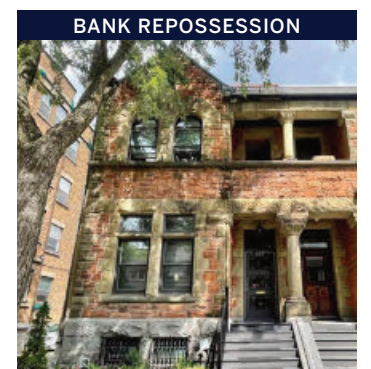
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YET ANOTHER BETRAYAL  
OF ANGLOS

*This press release was received on August 5 by the Independent*

The English-speaking community is right to be angry. The Legault government has gone too far, and the English-speaking community must rise up to oppose it.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy is calling for all fair-minded people to make their voices heard. We are also calling for a summit between all leaders of Quebec's English-speaking community and the Government of Quebec, for changes to the mean-spirited application of Bill 96.

"Anglophones are right to be angry," said Andrew Caddell, President of the Task Force on Linguistic Policy. "They have been discriminated against, betrayed, lied to, ignored and insulted by Francois Legault and his ministers. They were told the objective of Bill 96 was to support the use of French and it's now crystal clear that its intention is to discriminate against them."

Two years ago, the Legault government spent millions on advertising across North America promising services for English-speakers would not change. The content of the ad was patently untrue. We now know that health care, education, access to justice, and First Nations' rights are compromised, and now the OQLF is imposing French predominance in bilingual hospitals and seniors' residences. The latest requirement for a language eligibility certificate for health care in English is unac-

ceptable and must be withdrawn. (Ed.'s note: This situation has evolved continually since August 5. Please check up-to-the-minute sources for the latest. – DP.)

The Task Force continues to receive stories from English-speaking Quebecers who have been denied government service or suffered blatant discrimination. Most are not "historic anglophones," that is, not educated in English in Canada. Recently, a new Canadian contacted us to say Elections Quebec would not provide her with English information on how to vote. Caddell says, "This is an affront to democracy."

Caddell provided an update on the Task Force: "We have renewed our board of directors with several prominent English-speaking Quebecers. We are continuing the collection of stories of discrimination. We have launched a lawsuit and injunction against both Quebec and Canada and we intend to take our fight to the Supreme Court. We have supported demonstrations, we are present in the news media, and we welcome the involvement of dedicated volunteers. We are here to remind Premier Legault there are 1.25 million English-speaking Quebecers, many with roots going back hundreds of years."

*Founded in 2021, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy is the only grassroots not-for-profit organization funded through public donations fighting for linguistic rights on behalf of individuals. We believe in equal rights and bilingualism. Join us, Donate, Volunteer.*

*Learn more at [www.TheTaskForce.ca](http://www.TheTaskForce.ca).*

## WHERE'S THE MEDICAL CARE?

*Open letter to Christian Dubé, provincial minister of Health*

Dear Mr. Dubé,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the current state of medical services in Quebec. For the first time in 30 years, we are experiencing unprecedented difficulty in accessing medical care. The very concept of a "walk-in" clinic has become obsolete, as we are now required to book appointments by phone, only to wait two to three weeks for service. This significant decline in accessibility is unacceptable and undermines a fundamental human right.

Your policies have driven hundreds of doctors to the private sector, creating a gap that will take generations to fill. This has effectively dismantled the public health-care system, leaving countless Quebec residents without timely medical care.

It is imperative to recognize the profound impact of these changes on the well-being of our community. The responsibility for this deterioration lies squarely on the shoulders of those making these decisions, and there must be accountability for such actions.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of these policies and to take immediate steps to restore the accessibility and quality of medical services in Quebec. The health and well-being of our citizens depend on it.

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

THERE ARE BETTER USES  
FOR \$500K THAN WATER-  
ENTRY SUBSIDY

"Council approves subsidies for replacing private water entries" (July 9, p. 23).

Say what? Yearly subsidies totalling half a million bucks to some of the wealthiest homeowners in Canada to maintain their properties? And all because some homeowners don't do this work when they have the chance?

Uh ... is that what property taxes are for? I think not. I guess it'll be payday for a few homeowners thanks to a generous council and administration, all due to those massive budget surpluses the city accumulates each year, but ...

How about fixing the fountain outside of the library that's been broken, oh, since the library was renovated (idea: fill it with dirt and make it a planter so there's no massive plumbing expenses). Or repair these sad lampposts in King George (Murray) Park that have been like this for, oh, a decade or so.

Or, even better, try – just try – to lower our property taxes. We did have property



tax freezes for two years in a row once, so it's very possible. Oh the good old days.

I am confident that these suggestions will make all Westmounters happy – and cost nothing close to half a million dollars.

Thanks to my councillor, Mr. Peart, for voting against this new expense, and I agree: it should be mandatory – that'll solve the problem and there'll be no irksome new budget line to put on the books. But really: if some Westmounters want to ingest lead, I will quote the great philosopher Forest Gump: "Stupid is as stupid does."

I urge council to reverse this decision before any of our taxpayers' money flows out of city hall to benefit the few.

P.S.: We did this work when Chesterfield Ave. was all dug up for sewer and water main repairs; our neighbours too. We negotiated with the installer and got a discount. But sadly, no big cheque from the city. Woe are we. How about my neighbours on Claremont? Cheque? Anyone? Anyone? Ferris?

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

WHAT WOULD OLD WASTE  
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NOT MUCH

*This text is based on the Rony Cukier's notes for his presentation at the August 5 city council meeting*

Good evening, Madam Mayor and city councillors. My name is ..... Rony Cukier and I live on ..... *continued on p. 18*

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## Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537  
editor@westmountindependent.com

## Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

## Graphics

Ted Sancton

## Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567  
advertising@westmountindependent.com

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## Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138  
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Guest column by Anthony Housefather and Deborah Lyons

## Ensure safety of everyone on post-secondary campuses, including Jewish community members

Ed.'s note: *The Independent received this open letter on August 14, which is aimed largely at university and college administrators. – DP.*

Last year, many Jewish students, staff and faculty did not feel safe on campus. They felt unsafe being visibly Jewish, unsafe sharing their identity and unsafe sharing their support for the state of Israel. The fears on campus have spread far beyond those directly impacted. Their family members (parents, grandparents and others) have also been impacted, fearing for the well-being of their loved ones. There has been a general perception that administrations have failed to protect the Jewish members of their college and university family.

This needs to change and it requires your leadership.

Recently the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Hillel International, and Jewish Federations of North America announced a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at combating anti-Semitism on campus in the upcoming school year.

In consultation with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Bnai Brith Canada, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism, we have slightly modified the recommendations for the Canadian context.

On behalf of the Canadian Jewish community and your Jewish college and university community, we ask that you consider and implement the following actions to ensure a healthier and supportive academic year for 2024/25:

- **Clearly communicate and enforce campus rules, standards and policies:** Make clear to students what it means to be a member of the campus community, and ensure students, faculty, and staff are aware of school policies. This must include a clear understanding that encampments are not permitted and what the rules are for protests and demonstrations, including that hateful speech will not be tolerated.
- **Support Jewish students and faculty:** Prevent discrimination, unequivocally denounce anti-Semitism, ensure inclu-

sivity, and provide anti-Semitism education and training from mainstream Jewish organizations to the administration, faculty, and students' associations. Ensure the academic freedom of all faculty is upheld by opposing BDS and academic boycotts of Israel.

- **Ensure campus safety:** Enforce university codes of conduct, maintain clear reporting avenues for anti-Semitic incidents with commitment to response, ensure campus security and staff are trained to address violations of campus rules.
- **Re-affirm faculty responsibilities:** Students have a right to learn in a non-discriminatory learning environment. Communicate and enforce policies regarding "abuse of podium" actions and ensure that faculty members treat all students equally.
- **Prepare for October 7:** Anticipate and mitigate disruptions on the one-year mark of the Hamas attack on Israel.
- **EDI programs:** Ensure that all university EDI programs include the mainstream Jewish community and ensure that the university EDI officer is a champion of Jewish inclusion.

We very much appreciate your kind attention to this letter.

*Anthony Housefather is the Liberal MP for Mount Royal and the special advisor to the prime minister on Jewish community issues and anti-Semitism. Deborah Lyons is Canada's special envoy on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combatting anti-Semitism.*

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## Police Report

# Police report car and bike thefts, and a church robbery

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Several car and bicycle thefts as well as a church break-in and robbery kept police at Station 12 busy in recent weeks during an otherwise quiet summer holiday period in Westmount.

During the early morning hours on August 8, a Toyota Highlander crossover SUV was stolen from a parking spot on Victoria Ave.

The circumstances were all too familiar to the police.

According to a complaint filed by the owner, he had parked the night before, but by 7:30 the following morning the vehicle was missing.

The Toyota Highlander comes in at number five on a list of the 10 most stolen vehicles in Canada in 2024.

### Land Rover stolen

Another car theft took place a few days later.

On August 11, a Land Rover Defender (a luxury SUV) parked on Melville Ave. dis-

appeared overnight in similar circumstances.

Variants of the Land Rover appear on several Canadian lists of most stolen vehicles.

### Church robbed

On August 10, a suspect broke into Westmount Park United Church through an insufficiently secured window.

A cash box containing a relatively small amount of change was reported as stolen from an administrator's office.

### Bicycles stolen

Finally, on August 12 the owners of a Lansdowne Ave. house learned a hard lesson in home security when two bicycles parked in their garage were stolen.

The perpetrators "went into the garage and they left with two bikes," said Station 12's community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

"They found a way to get into the place and they went towards the garage."

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*REFERRED FOR A REASON*

*Rutishisha appointed*

# Council names new Communications head August 5

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

City council August 5 appointed Mugisha Rutishisha as director of the Communications department following the retirement of Sebastian Samuel two months ago (see June 4, p. 11).

Rutishisha started working for the city in March 2019 as communications officer, following which the department began growing in number to five and Rutishisha assumed the position of division head. Its growth resulted in part from the city's increasing use of its website for internal and external information platforms such as the recent creation of the "citizen portal" (see story June 4, p. 11).

Rutishisha told the *Independent* that he holds a postgraduate degree from UQAM's school of management as well as a bachelor's degree in communications/public relations.

His appointment was made at the recent council meeting by Councillor Mary Gallery, who said she had "the great pleasure" of moving the resolution. Councillor Jeff Shamie then welcomed him "aboard" the team of directors.



Mugisha Rutishisha on August 15 front of city hall. He told the *Independent's* photographer that he is enjoying his new role as director of communications for the city.



The Mouton Noir café's terrasse on the roof of the Westmount recreation centre, as seen August 15.

*Mouton Noir, cont'd from p. 1*

of the year," he told the *Independent*.

The concession opened initially in November 2015 for a one-year pilot project (see story November 15, 2015, p. 3). It had its original five-year lease renewed under a three-year option. This allowed it to continue preparation of light meals and take-

out (see story April 20, 2021).

Once the location was re-zoned commercial in 2016, it was able to obtain a permit to serve wine, beer and wine cocktails and soon became recognizable for its terrace with colourful umbrellas at the top of the WRC.

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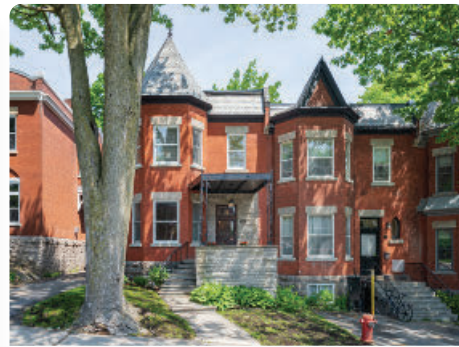
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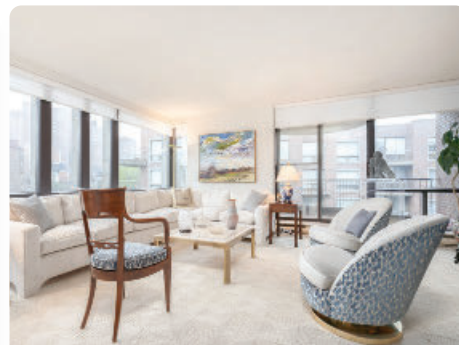
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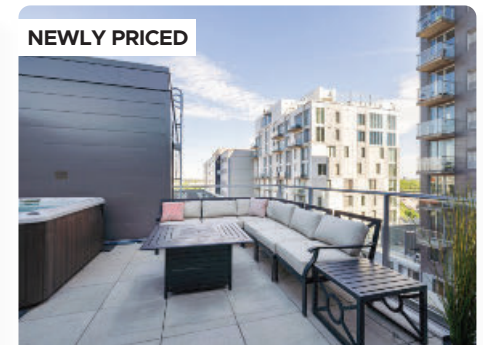
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*Should diagonal from NDG Ave. to Westmount Ave. be permanently removed?*

# City seeks advice on in-progress ‘pilot’ step in upcoming re-construction of Claremont Ave., ‘Claremont triangle’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A proposal that has been “floated” on the city’s website over the last few weeks outlining a trial closure to vehicular traffic of the eastbound diagonal short-cut between NDG Ave. and Westmount Ave. led to most of the topics at the opening of the August 5 city council meeting.

Presented as an “added pilot project” to the consultation process for re-construction of Claremont from Sherbrooke to NDG Ave., this new idea calls for “greening over,” rather than reconstructing the diagonal roadway in front of Marianopolis College that forms the hypotenuse of what is being called the “Claremont triangle.”

“Do we really need to re-build it under the capital works budget?” asked Councillor Conrad Peart at the opening of the meeting.

Or could the 500 square meters of pavement perhaps be “greened over” to create a park area, saving capital and many future maintenance costs.

Peart, whose commissionership includes infrastructure and urban planning, kicked off the topic that led to more than the 45 minutes allotted to the question period.

Residents – many living near the Claremont triangle – lined up at the mic to express concerns ranging from inconveniences to the safety of CEGEP students crossing at three intersections.

## **Will it work?**

Peart emphasized that some of these concerns were what had driven the city to seek opinions and validity from WSP traffic engineering consultants “to see if it will work.” This will also provide an opportunity to examine whether this type of a pilot consultation process might function, he added.

He called it an “open-ended question put to WSP: essentially “what would happen if we closed” this street?”

“No doubt it will cause some inconvenience,” he stated but that “over time people could adjust just as they did after the closure of de Maisonneuve through Westmount Park to create the bike path as well as the closure of Prince Albert Ave. at Sherbrooke, which was eventually made into a public square, and closing off the northern stretch of Summit Circle for a walking trail.

## **Concerns voiced**

The Claremont triangle issue dominated much of the ensuing opening ques-



Above, the diagonal of the Claremont triangle that has been blocked off for a traffic pilot project and, below, a car making the now-compulsory right onto Claremont from NDG Ave., as seen August 12. (Drivers can also go left from NDG Ave. into Marianopolis’ driveway and parking lot, thereby leaving city streets.)

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

tion period as residents – most living close to this “triangular shortcut” area – raised a number of concerns.

One woman referred to the council resolution of May 6 council regarding the city’s conditional financial partnership with Marianopolis over creating a synthetic turf playing field on the campus. Residents should have easy access to a facility for which they were paying, she stated. Both Mayor Christina Smith and Councillor Peart agreed.

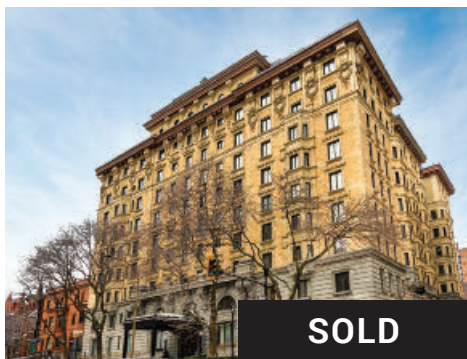
The WSP opinions of the triangle are expected to be relayed publicly “just as soon as we get them,” Peart stated.

Councillor Elisabeth Roux, who represents District 2, was asked if she had been aware of the plan. She answered somewhat hesitantly she had.

She has been a strong advocate of holding public consultation such as over the issue of changes in garbage collection locations.

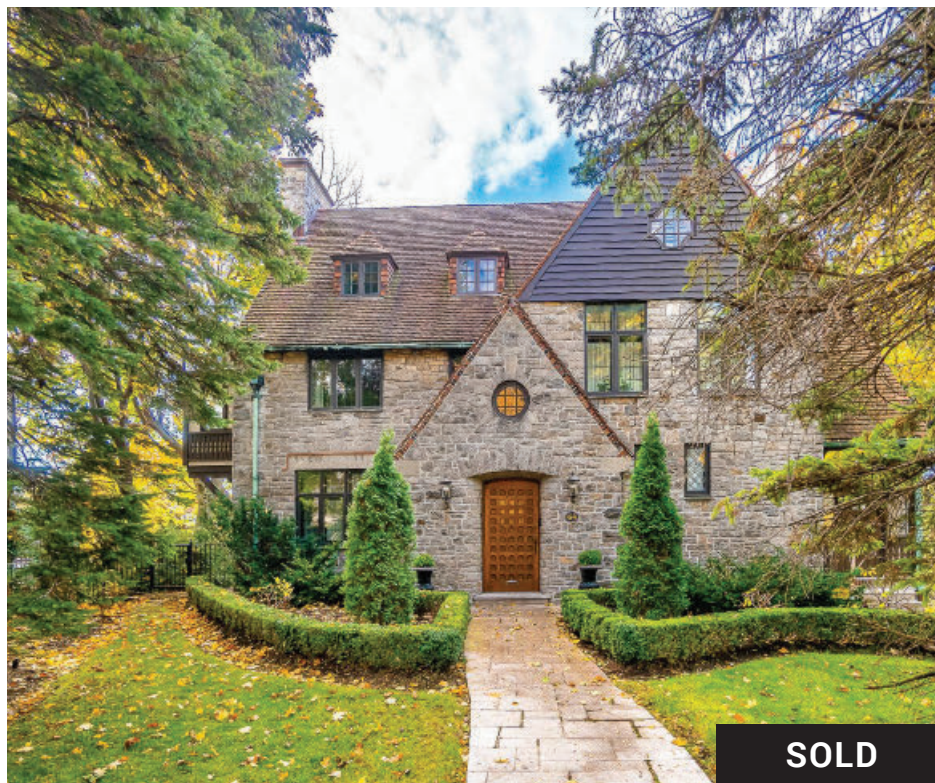


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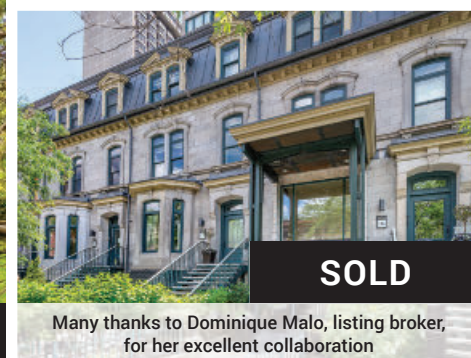
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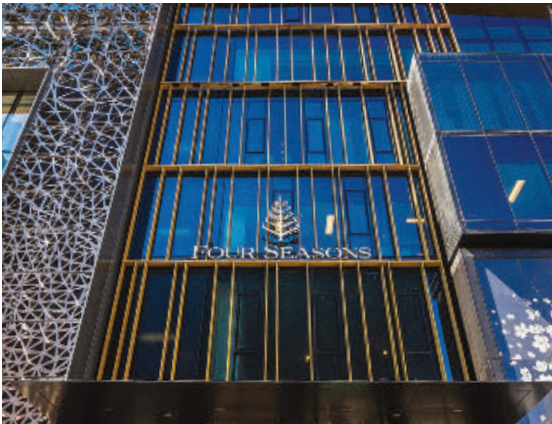
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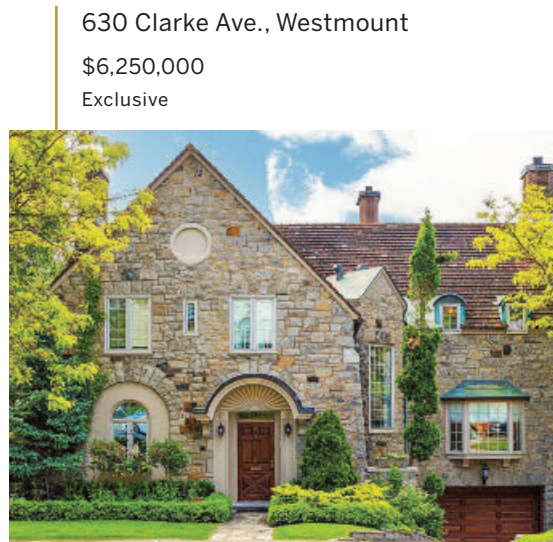
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# July sales: Taking a breather



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

quarter of 2024 with a fairly precise notion of where the market stands.

The four July residences included one sale at nearly \$6 million and one other just over \$1 million, with the other two both under \$2 million. The highest price also represented the highest mark-up over valuation, by a long shot: the 64.3 percent mark-up was far from the  $\pm 10$  percent for the other three. Still, the average of the four is a 27.5 percent mark-up, about the same as the average 29.5 percent mark-up among condos, and the average price is just over \$2,700,000, up slightly from the raw averages for the previous six months.

Adjacent-Westmount areas were nearly as busy as the city proper, with six home sales in June and three more in July (so far posted), showing some wild swings: a house on Ponsard Ave., north of the city, sold for more than \$4 million with a mark-up of 61 percent over valuation; another on Marlowe Ave. sold for 18.8 percent below evaluation, one of five mark-downs among the nine sales in the adjacent-Westmount area.

The Côte des Neiges area has recorded 17 sales so far this year and the NDG area counts 14 one- and two-family dwellings, averaging 5 and 3 percent mark-ups, respectively.

Among only six sales in Trafalgar-Dau-

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



lac just east of the city, the average is a 0.26-percent mark-down. For the Square Mile, the prices of three sales are all in the lower \$1-million range, all with mark-downs between 29 and 43 percent, and no sales have been posted since March.

As of mid-August, the number of available listings has dropped by only one, to

133, but with fewer asking less than \$2 million and increases in most of the other price ranges, including two more asking over \$10 million.

Houses for rent in Westmount have jumped from 22 to 26, and agents report 32 rentals so far this year, compared with 33 as at the same time last year.

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## New water fountain at Westmount Park clay courts now works!

BY JENNIFER BALL

A new water fountain outside the clay tennis courts near the Lansdowne entrance of Westmount Park was installed the week of July 29, only to have its water source turned off once a water leak was detected. It was repaired and operational again on August 14.

Mugisha Rutishisha, director of the Communications department for the city, said, “The repairs to the leaking pipes supplying water to the conservatory and the greenhouses were completed [August 14] ... As a result, the fountain was back in service the same day... in the afternoon.”

Before this development, the water fountain had not worked since at least 2022. See July 5, 2022, p. 29, June 25, 2024, p. 4. and August 13, 2024, p. 2.

◀The drinking fountain outside the clay courts located near the Lansdowne entrance of Westmount Park, as seen August 15.



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# Royal Montreal Regiment bid succeeds in bringing home World War II veteran Mitchell's service medals



The medals of regimental sergeant-major (Warrant Officer Class I) J. A. Mitchell.

PHOTOS COURTESY RMR FOUNDATION.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As the Royal Montreal Regiment Foundation continues to honour and preserve the RMR's history, foundation members recently succeeded in re-claiming a significant piece of their heritage in order to keep

it where it belongs.

The Westmount-based RMR learned that the medals of regimental sergeant-major J. A. "Jimmy Jesus" Mitchell were up for purchase by auction.

By last week, a few days after submitting a winning bid, the RMR was "physically in possession" of the medals, according to retired RMR Lieutenant Colonel Richard Garber, who first sounded the alarm about the impending auction.

Mitchell, who joined the RMR in 1927 and was deployed in December 1939 for World War II overseas service, exemplified "the courage, leadership, and dedication that define our storied regiment," according to a newsletter posted on the web by retired Lieutenant Colonel Colin Robinson, president of the RMR Foundation.

By Robinson's account, Mitchell earned his nickname largely because of his legendary ability to be at the right place at the right time, leading his men to call him "Jimmy Jesus," since he always "saved the day."



J. A. "Jimmy Jesus" Mitchell.

Upon his return to Canada, Mitchell again assumed the RMR position of regimental sergeant major from 1946 to 1950. He later went on to serve as president of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 14 (RMR Association).

"His medals are a testament to his service and a tangible connection to our shared history," wrote Robinson.

Garber, who now resides in Ottawa, was first to learn of the looming fate of the medals when he was contacted by a friend who is a military historian in the UK and who told him they were about to be sold through a prestigious UK-based auction site.

"I raised this with the regiment, that we absolutely should be bidding," Garber said in an interview with the *Independent*, while adding that interest in the medals by some avid military memorabilia collectors was likely to drive bids up.

He speculated that this may have been due to the fact that Mitchell was a participant in an elite commando raid while deployed in Europe, and that he was among the Canadian military's longest-serving members, adding value to the medals.

A subsequent online campaign succeeded in raising around \$7,000, although Garber declined to disclose the amount of the winning bid. He said discussions are currently under way at the RMR to determine how best to display the medals in the RMR's St. Catherine St. headquarters.

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.....  
**Letters to the editor, cont'd from p. 6**

Rosemount Ave.

My questions will concern the new waste removal rules as passed by council recently without any public consultations with the citizens. I would ask that you bear with me till I finish presenting my thoughts and then they will be followed up with my questions.

We have not yet hit the winter season when driveways will not been cleared [instantly.] With Westmount having an aging population, how will the elderly bring their bins through the snow? If you drive around Westmount these days, our streets are adorned by garbage bins or recycling bins, depending on the district you live in and the day that it is.

The current contract for waste removal was awarded in the year 2023 at \$1,064,945.49, with various renewal options.

On p. 19-20 of the existing contract, it allows for modifications to it and outlines how these modifications and price adjustments would work and be adjudicated.

According to Statistics Canada, there are 8,685 private dwellings in Westmount.

Question 1 is: What would the cost be to go back to the old system of picking up the garbage at the rear of the homes?

If the extra cost were 10 percent of the current contract, it represents \$100,000.

Let's do the math. There are 52 weeks in a year. The cost per week of this if the extra were \$100,000 would be a total of \$1,923.07. Divide it by each household, the cost would be \$0.2214 cents per week per household. The cost as per my calculations if the extra is \$100,000 extra would amount to \$11.52 per year per household.

If the extra cost were 20 percent of the existing contract or \$200,000, then it would cost \$0.4428 cents per week per household. That would translate to \$23.02 per year per household.

If the extra cost were 30 percent of the existing contract or \$300,000, then it would cost \$0.6642 per household per week for the additional service and so on. That would translate to \$34.53 per year per

household.

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate that the cost for the service on a per-household basis is relatively insignificant. I think that our elected officials have a responsibility to investigate and report back to us, within a few weeks delay, how much this service would cost us and bring that cost to the community to see if the community is prepared to pay it. I cannot speak for anyone but myself, but I would be very willing to pay substantially more than the \$34.53 per year to go back to what we had before and not have to bring my garbage to the curb.

RONY CUKIER, ROSEMOUNT AVE.

### GIVE LEGITIMATE BUSINESS PARKERS A BREAK

We will begin this October 26 our 30th year as business owners in Westmount. We have proudly been supported by the community all over these years.

We would like to raise to the city a very annoying situation. The flower business is one of constant supply and deliveries. There are no parking facilities for our buildings.

After many requests over the years, the city finally agreed to designate a space on Grosvenor as a *debarcadère* (drop-off area). No time limit was indicated on the sign.

All was fine for a long period of time, up until we started getting parking ticket after parking tickets.

The reason that we were given was that there was a 20-minute maximum use of the space. There was no indication of any kind. The same *debarcadère* sign on Victoria indicates a time-frame limitation (from 8 am to 10 am).

Following a very deplorable situation that happened in June involving Westmount Security and the Montreal police department, a new sign indicating a 10-minute maximum use was installed.

Two ticket officers on duty gave us tickets after admitting that they had been waiting at the corner to see how long we would be parking.

Our vehicles are company owned and

accordingly licensed. The agents denied this by declaring them to be personal cars.

How can we actually run our business if we can't bring in our flowers and deliver our orders after?

We suggest that the city give business owners a parking sticker for business hours. We pay municipal taxes directly or through our share of them included in our rents. Looking at all the empty commercial spaces on the street, and more to come, we can't exactly say Westmount is local business friendly.

Note: To challenge a ticket, we have to go to the Montreal municipal court in Old Montreal. A very time-consuming process.

DENIS D'ETCHEVERRY

– FLORE L'ATELIER, SHERBROOKE ST.

### YES TO MOUNTAINSIDE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT!

I live on Upper Roslyn, and I would like to express my support for the conversion of the Mountainside Church, located on The Boulevard between Roslyn and Lansdowne, to a residential use.

New housing is much needed in Westmount, and there is precious little undeveloped land in our city. Much of the developed land contains buildings that have some historic value. When current uses of historic properties become obsolete, however, it is incumbent on all stakeholders (both the city's elected officials as well as their constituents, the residents and property owners) to consider alternative uses. In so doing, various considerations need to be taken into account such as: one needs to consider location, the appropriateness of use, financial sense as well as impacts such as noise and traffic.

In terms of location, the Mountainside Church is located in an exclusively residential area. There is no retail nor office nor industrial use nearby...only homes. When the owner, Danny Revah, bought the property seven years ago, it, too, was zoned residential. After the purchase, the city changed the zoning. He is now trying to get the zoning back to residential.

In terms of appropriate uses, certain types of properties lend themselves to re-development more than others. Churches can be challenging by virtue of their geometry. The volumes are large, and the spaces are not easily subdivided. Often one sees churches re-developed into nightclubs or other event spaces that can avail themselves of the beauty and drama so often found in them without carving up the space. However, this property's location is not suitable for such a use.

The proposal put forth by the owner is to convert the historic church into a single-family home for himself and build five other homes, including three on what is now an asphalt parking lot. It is rare to find someone ready, willing and able to breathe

new life into such a specific structure while maintaining its integrity. The new homes would be similar in scale to what is on the rest of the block.

This solution is a win-win for all parties concerned: the city would get new housing; the historic property would be preserved; and, a currently vacant property would get new life breathed into it.

I urge the city to restore the Mountainside Church's residential zoning and do what it can to make this project come to fruition.

DEVAN PAILET, UPPER ROSLYN AVE.

### PAVE THE STREETS

When I moved to Westmount over 36 years ago, the city had some of the best paved streets on the island. Today, I believe the opposite is true – we have the worst!

As an avid cyclist, I am distraught with the unacceptable condition of our bike paths on Lansdowne, the Glen, de Maison-neuve and Côte St. Antoine, to name just a few. The pavement is dangerously cracked and bumped out. I no longer feel safe on these paths.

Our streets are just as bad. Sherbrooke St. and The Boulevard are in awful shape. Montreal was able to re-pave up to our eastern border – why could we not continue the job? Forden, Edgehill, Sunnyside west, as well as many others are desperately due for re-paving.

Our city prides itself on a pay-as-you-go plan for re-paving. It's time to abandon this policy and re-pave the worst streets and bike paths now!

JONATHAN SIGLER, LEXINGTON AVE.

### LEASH THE DOGS

The problem of dogs off-leash in Summit Woods has been around for the 25 years we have lived in Westmount. Over that time, there has never been any meaningful enforcement of the existing dog-leash rules. Personally, I have been attacked twice by dogs off leash while jogging through the closed portion of Summit Circle, one dog tearing my shirt from behind.

It is in bad faith that Mayor Smith claims 99 percent of Westmounters are happy with the existing status of Summit Woods, as she said, without any evidence, in July to a *Le Devoir* reporter ([www.ledevoir.com/societe/816225/dechirements-autour-presence-chiens-laisse-bois-summit?utm\\_source=recirculation&utm\\_medium=hyperlien&utm\\_campaign=boite\\_extra](http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/816225/dechirements-autour-presence-chiens-laisse-bois-summit?utm_source=recirculation&utm_medium=hyperlien&utm_campaign=boite_extra)).

A requirement of dogs on leash protects not only plant life and birds, but all forms of wildlife that are potentially attracted to a green space, such as the garter snakes, which I have very occasionally seen in the woods. Wildlife cannot really co-exist with dogs off leash. The only practical solution



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is to require dogs on leash at all times. Such a solution would not affect the exercise routines of dog walkers, but would prevent environmental damage to Summit Woods of the kind outlined in a second article in *Le Devoir* in July ([www.ledevoir.com/environnement/816248/environnement-chiens-laisse-causent-dommages-forets-urbaines?](http://www.ledevoir.com/environnement/816248/environnement-chiens-laisse-causent-dommages-forets-urbaines?)).

ROBERT ARMSTRONG, SUNNYSIDE AVE.

## HOUSE THE HOMELESS

I'm attaching a photo I took of an STM bus shelter at the corner of Sherbrooke and Clarke Ave. in the heart of Westmount. It speaks volumes about the egregious state of homelessness in Montreal.

This "encampment" – with a pillow and a bedspread – has been housing a home-



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less person for the last week [July 8-12]. The stench emanating from the bus shelter is indescribable.

When will our municipal politicians and bureaucrats take concrete and decisive action to counter this epidemic of homelessness and provide housing for the homeless that we more fortunate Montrealers take for granted?

HONEY ARLINE DRESHER,  
SHERBROOKE ST.

## FIX THE SIDEWALKS

I discovered this hole in the Gladstone west-side sidewalk on August 11. Having disembarked from my driver's seat, I dropped my keys on the sidewalk. Only then did I notice this two-foot hole inches from my foot. If I'd stepped into it inadvertently, my injuries would have been



grave.

The Gladstone sidewalk as it reaches St. Catherine St. has a menacing slope into the road corner. Furthermore, a great open crack winds its way on the St. Catherine south side going west.

Voicemails to [city employees] have resulted in no response, neither have messages left with my councillor, Kathleen Kez, and Mayor Christina Smith.

I appreciate the construction improvement occurring on the south side of Dorchester. I live on Bruce. The re-routing of cars west to east through the alley is hell.

However, I witness no attention being

paid by Public Works to the egregious state of our [other] sidewalks or even worse Westmount roads. The potential danger of the latter to pedestrians, mothers with strollers and seniors negotiating their walkers could be egregious if initiative is not taken.

BRONWEN MANTEL, BRUCE AVE.

## WILL ENVIRO TALK LEAD TO ENVIRO 'WALK'?

The newly appointed environment committee (July 9, p. 13) faces two formidable challenges – limited expertise and a short time frame before city elections in 2025. Its broad mandate is to produce policy recommendations for protecting the natural environment, waste management, carbon emission reduction and for resilience.

To succeed, the committee must have access to specialized expertise. Its resident members are unquestionably passionate advocates for the environment but do not appear to have wide professional or educational backgrounds in the environmental sciences. Additionally, municipalities, particularly smaller ones, lack technical depth in the broad environment. Council must provide the committee with the necessary technical capacity from the outside.

Timing has also become critical given that just the selection of five resident members took over a half a year. The committee's output hopefully will include a report listing priority actions, the city's commitments and a timeline.

Can this be accomplished within a year? If not and in the middle of an election cycle, any potential action will likely be passed on to the incoming council for a decision. In Westmount, this move has often been the death blow to projects.

Cases in point. The update of renovation guidelines many with environmental benefits, launched in 2016 and extensively debated during the 2017 campaign, was passed to the newly elected mayor and council for handling. Result eight years on: nothing!

The revitalization of Westmount Park was launched in 2019 with enormous

citizen participation. After extensive feedback, both positive and negative, the final design by Stantec was to be delivered to the newly elected council in November 2021 according to then councillor Cynthia Lulham (May 25, 2021, p. 8). What ever happened to it?

Westmount has a life-changing opportunity here.

As a resident writer so eloquently pointed out recently – so far it has been only talk. It's now time for walk.

DENIS BIRO, 5000 DE MAISONNEUVE, NDG

## Cyclist hit by turning car at Sherbrooke and Victoria

A westbound cyclist on Sherbrooke was hit August 7 at 9:50 am by an eastbound car trying to turn north onto Victoria without realizing that Victoria there was a one-way street, Public Security officials said.

The cyclist suffered a scratch and a sore finger and was treated at the scene by Public Security. The bike was reported to be "no longer rideable" while the car, a Land Rover driven by a 70-year-old Hampstead woman, sustained damage to the front side.

Police issued a ticket to the driver for illegally turning left northbound on Victoria.

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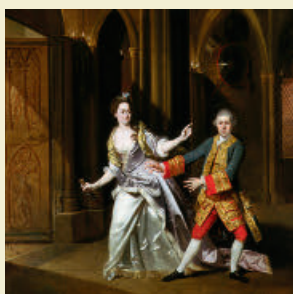


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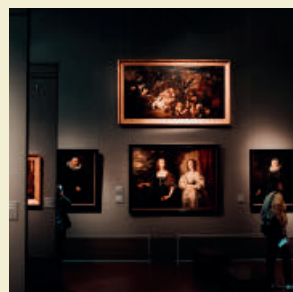
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# Evening adds to mental-health funds generated by Lighter candles



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Amidst the canyons of Griffintown lies a dynamic dining destination. High in the sky, Palma offers amazing city views and an equally amazing menu.

“New American with an Asian influence, and also great meat choices, like a Tomahawk steak, my speciality,” said chef **Nicholas Aronow**, his black outfit accessorized with peek-a-boo neon yellow socks.

A fun eve was organized at Palma by **Jessica Lapointe, Sarah Kaplan, Tory Morton and Alexandra Toulch**. Funds raised from a percentage of drinks and dinner buys went to the Lighter Fund at the Douglas Mental Health Mobile Outreach Program. The fund was formed in memory of **Lauren Lighter**.

In honour of their friend, Sarah Kaplan, Tory Morton and Alexandra Toulch, along with Lauren’s sister **Melani Lighter**, created the Lighter candle and its re-chargable lighter.

*continued on p. 22*



Tory Morton, Jessica Stern, Sarah Kaplan and Alexandra Toulch.



## THE BEAUTY OF THE SWISS EDELWEISS

This exquisite Edelweiss flower necklace is crafted from lustrous mother of pearl, adorned with sparkling diamonds and vibrant sapphires, all set in 18k gold.

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Linda Smith, Erica Segel and Kirsty Stern.



Janet and Jeff Solomon.



Raquel Del Val and Sebastien Gatti.

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

Major sponsorships mean that 100 percent of the elegant ceramic piece's price (\$150) is donated to the fund.

The simple magenta (Lauren's favourite colour) box has "Lauren" on one side and a lightning bolt on the other. The crackling bolt was repeated on black t-shirts worn by Palma staff that night.

Apart from Loa Label fashion designer Jessica Lapointe's dazzling fuchsia cocktail dress, the look of the night was casual. Jeans were high-waisted. Tops were short. Bags had initials.

Noted amidst the vast Palma space were Jessica's daughter Alexandra Gyopar, Kirsty

Stern, Senna Mauro, urban planner **Raquel Del Val** and **Sebastien Gatti**, executive vp Avison Young's Quebec capital markets; **Janet and Jeff Solomon**, CEO Globe Metal; **Linda Smith** and **Erica Segel**.

Also noted were **Richard Stern** and his children **Adam, Evan, Ryan** and **Julia**; **Alex Steinberg**, **Jennifer** and **Dominique Ferst**, **Sophie** and **Karim Halaby**, **Michelle Cola**, **Massimo Paolitto**, **Sylvie Amar** and **Vanessa Pizzi** and **Carlo Verrillo**.

A total of \$10,000 was raised for the Lauren Lighter Fund at the Douglas Hospital Foundation.

## Clover thrives, ecologically & inexpensively



### Gardening

VERONICA REDGRAVE

not only drought resistant, it's inexpensive and needs no fertilization.

Environmentally friendly, the blooms attract pollinating insects. A smart gardening choice, it acts as a perfect backdrop to this land art, where verticals are balanced by roundels of moss. "To make a prairie, it takes a clover and one bee," wrote Emily Dickinson. While some local lawns have heeded "wilding" suggestions, sadly, they often just look messy. This is an artful alternative.

Summertime, and – as they say – the living is easy, particularly when one plants clover instead of grass. This clever clover corner at de Maisonneuve and Olivier is



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