

Hungry creatures can be carnivorous or ‘vegetarian’ – and beautiful



At left, one of six juvenile Cooper's hawks observed in Westmount this summer. It would appear that the pair of hawks seen earlier in the year by the *Independent* has nested in Westmount Park, with this result. Right, a ruby-throated hummingbird seen on multiple occasions in July collecting nectar from the crocosmia flower. It is the only hummingbird commonly seen in eastern Canada.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

Agreements approved for salt, snow removal, dump trucks

City readies for winter with new contracts

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's coming and the city wants to be ready – for snow and ice, that is! But it won't come cheap, as revealed in four winter contracts awarded August 5, with more expected to follow at subsequent meetings.

The most costly of those already approved last week was for the renewal of a contract to Entreprises Pep (2000) for 12-wheel trucks with snow loaders at a total of \$1,449,019 including tax credits and a

maximum of \$1,666,010 including taxes.

This was followed by Westmount's share of a joint purchase of de-icing salt from Windsor Salt Ltd. with the city of Montreal along with its boroughs, demerged cities of the agglomeration and the STM transit authority. This share was in the amount of \$977,900 including tax credits for a total of \$1,124,341 including taxes.

As commissioner of Public Works, Councillor Anitra Bostock explained how the group *continued on p. 20*

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Construction adds to traffic delays

Extra time needed to access schools: Public Security

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Given the many construction projects still under way and adding to traffic, not only in Westmount but also in neighbouring areas, Public Security director Greg McBain advised parents taking children to school to leave earlier than they otherwise might.

“This is in order to expect delays in getting children to school safely,” he explained. “It’s a stressful time for parents,” he noted, “Leave earlier than usual.” This is especially relevant for drivers heading for Westmount elementary schools who

“come from everywhere – even the West Island.”

Re-construction of Upper Lansdowne and its effect around Villa Ste. Marcelline as well as traffic around St. George’s school are prime examples, he explained.

“Public Security, along with police, will be visiting all school zones, paying special attention to cars blocking school drop-off areas and speeding. “We want the children to be safe.” While officers can’t be “everywhere,” he added, “our priority is safety around the elementary school zones so tickets will be issued to cars blocking sidewalks and not respecting stop signs.”



▲ Westmount Public Security has mentioned traffic issues at Villa Ste. Marcelline and St. George’s, but Westmount High is another school with access challenges, in its case due to work on its parking lot and on Hillside Lane. The photos are of a reserved drop-off lane on St. Catherine on August 30. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Smell of gas comes from suspected leak

Public Security stood by a house under renovation on Kitchener Ave. August 26 after the fire department was called at 8 pm to investigate an odour of gas. The contractor was advised but no leak or cause of the odour was discovered.

Dodge on May real estate transfers, p. 16

9 Lives, p. 18

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 21

Letters to the Editor, p. 22

Social Notes:

Dancing at the Shaar, p. 25

Social Notes:

Old Brewery Mission golf, p. 26

No Police Report this week



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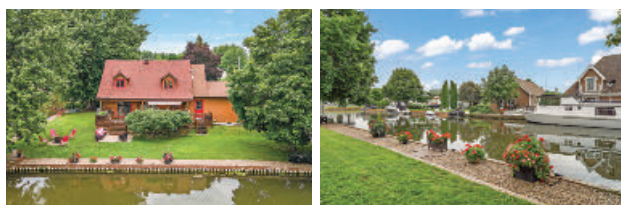
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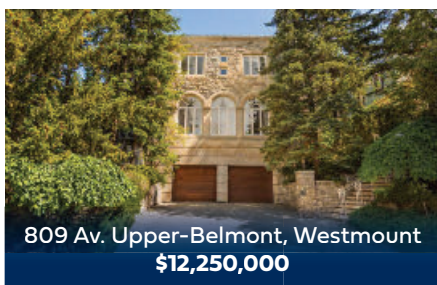


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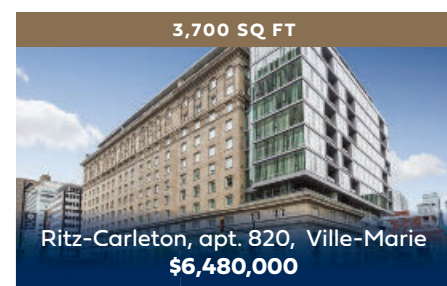


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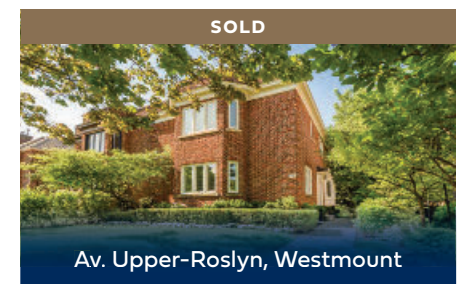
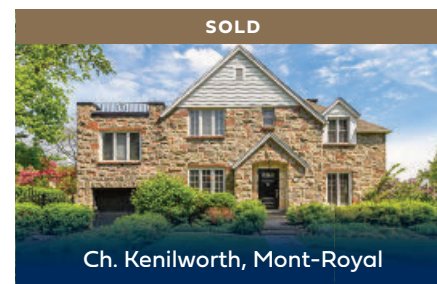
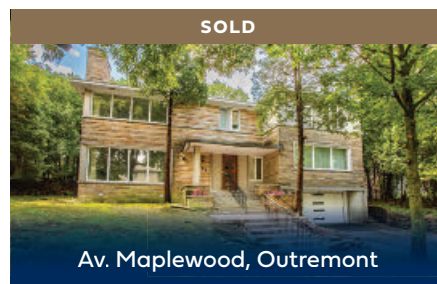
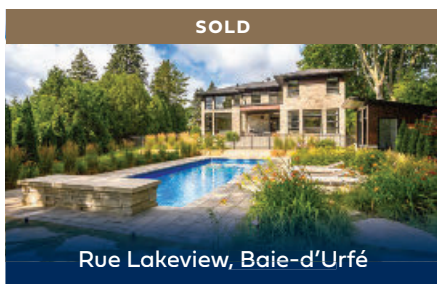
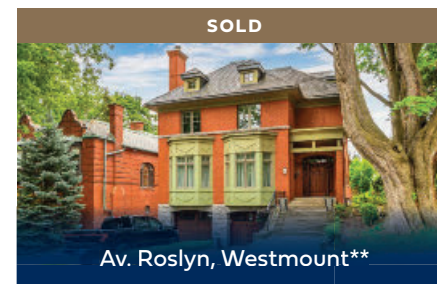
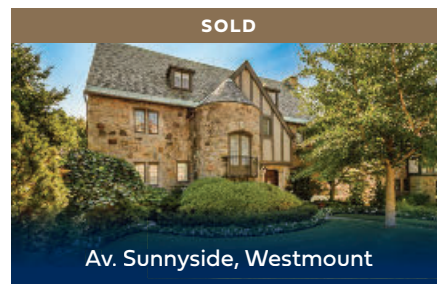
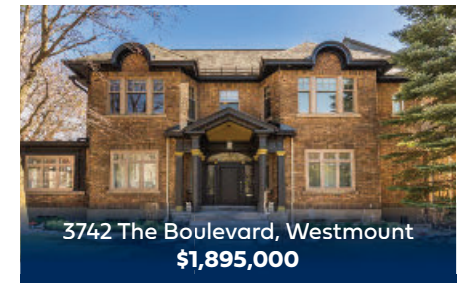


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This weekend's Greene festival announces performers

Adding to the program announced August 27 (p. 1) for this weekend's Greene Ave. merchants' festival September 7 to 8 is a list of features, musicians and performers.

These include a joint sidewalk book exhibit and sale from children's authors Judith Henderson and Anne Renaud on Saturday (1 to 3 pm).

"Now that we no longer have a book-

store on Greene, we're pleased to include these two Westmount authors," said Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the Quartier Greene Merchants' Association.

Among street performers are stilt-walker Amanda Dandelion, juggler Zazou, Monsieur Magic, and musicians Gary White, Emma Jean, Rob Brennan & Casias Lobo along with Montreal bluegrass band Crooked Creek.

Mural unveiling day (June 15, 2024)



Just three months ago, the mural in the municipal parking lot on Greene was unveiled. At the launch, juggler Bekka Rose gave a few pointers in juggling to Nelly (left) and Abby, daughters of Councillor Matt Aronson.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Memories of the Quartier Greene Festival (June 2023)



Quartier Greene event organizer and former city councillor Cynthia Lulham (left), keyboard accompanist Katanha Mikhaylova and coloratura soprano Gerda Findeisen.



Paul Vinet (left) and Jean-Louis Coté enjoyed the shade of the covered picnic table on Greene. Vinet loved the furniture on Greene and the wheelchair access.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

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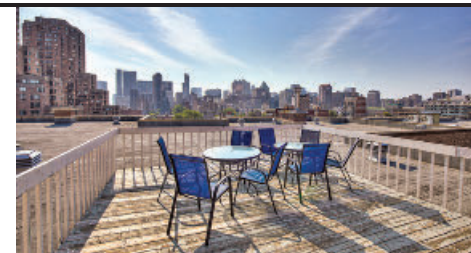
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First registration of seniors' group in new digs started Aug. 30

Contactivity's move to city facilities, Victoria Ave. proved 'smooth': exec director Goldin

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Contactivity Seniors Centre carried out its move from its long-time location at Westmount Park United Church last week to be "completely out" by August 30, according to executive director Bonita Goldin.

This is the start date for registration of its fall programs while the centre's new offices are to open on Tuesday, September 3 at 310 Victoria, suite 102, Goldin told the *Independent*. This is the office building at the corner of Victoria and de Maisonneuve.

Registration was to take place online at contactivitycentre.org and by phone at 514.932.2326. Programs are slated to start the week of September 9 with most at Victoria Hall.

Thursday lunches, starting September 19, will take place at the WRC as will chair yoga, trivia and board games.

The centre had had "a considerable amount" of program and craft supplies as well as fitness equipment and administrative materials at the church, she said. Almost everything was moving to the new office except the fitness equipment, which

is going to Victoria Hall. This includes "our TV so we can continue to offer simultaneous virtual and online programs."

Different rooms are to be used in Victoria Hall including the concert hall for large holiday events. All are accessible by elevator. At the WRC, the centre will use the multipurpose room for lunches and an exercise room for chair yoga.

The move, she said, "will give us greater visibility and enhanced capacity to meet our members' needs."

She continued: "Thank you to the city of Westmount and to the city's Dave Lapointe (director of culture, sports, recreation and social development) and his staff for a smooth transition."

Contactivity had held most of its events on the main floor of the church, for which

it is understood its rent had substantially increased, leading to the move to the city facilities. The city has long helped support Contactivity through annual subsidies based mainly on the fact that the city does not provide similar services geared to seniors.

The move was undertaken by Flex-Dé-ménagement while the city's Public Works blocked off parking for the movers' trucks on Lansdowne and Victoria.



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EDITORIAL

Plan for Murray's tobogganing safety now, install devices early

I applaud the city's foresight in planning for winter with new contracts for snow removal and salt while the weather is still hot (see p. 1).

We aren't the first civilization to think about thinking ahead. The ancient Greeks hit the nail on the head, as they so often did, with the on-topic myth of the two Titan brothers Prometheus ("Forethought") and Epimetheus ("Afterthought").

Epimetheus gave animals all the best characteristics (e.g. speed, sense of smell, warm pelts, sharp teeth and claws, wings) and was left with nothing for mankind; Prometheus compensated with fire – a gift, which although stolen from the gods and so high costing to Prometheus, keeps on giving to this day.

Too often, we emulate Epimetheus when Prometheus should be our guide.

Let me direct the city's elected and unelected officials to another area where forethought would be wise: planning safety for this winter's Murray (King George) Park toboggan runs.

Last winter, very large hills of man-made snow were created by January 20 and left untouched for about a week before any



The tobogganing run on Murray Hill this January 22. Arrows showing no fencing between the man-made hills of snow and Côte St. Antoine Rd. added by *Independent*.

PHOTO: D. PRICES.

runs were sculpted into them, or out of them. The runs, once sculpted, seem to have kept users on track, literally, but they weren't there for days.

Yes, the sledding area was not officially

open until January 25, but this interim on-the-ground situation created the worst of all possible worlds – in matters toboggan, anyway. There were very large hills of man-made snow that could propel users to high speeds, including ones located near the bottom of the hill (overall, a relatively new thing), but no fencing or hay bales at the bottom where the park meets the sidewalk and road (the old way to limit risk).

As a result, a tobogganer – even if he or

she might have been breaking the rules by using the hills before opening day – could have easily ended up on Côte St. Antoine's asphalt, which is – of course – primarily the domain of cars and trucks.

This winter, I urge the relevant people and entities to add safety devices first, likely in November, before any snow is manufactured or added by Mother Nature.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

Looking for Letters to the Editor?
See p. 22

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Another view of Murray Hill on January 22.

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Winter is coming! Winter was here!

Reader Nigel Goddard sent us this December 4, 2023 shot in late March and we thought we would save it to run as a counterpoint to the actual weather. We share it with you now as city council prepares for the upcoming winter (see p. 1). At the time, Goddard wrote: "There are those moments when an amateur photographer can catch the right amount of light, colour, hues and tone to produce a marvelous photo. This house at 649 Côte St. Antoine has been called the 'Doll House,' here covered in the first snowfall of the winter 2023-24 season. We've tried to get a similar photo with different storms but we're most proud of this shot. We hope it is as pleasing to the *Independent's* readers as it is to us."

PHOTO COURTESY OF NIGEL GODDARD.

Car breaks down at busy intersection

A car broke down northbound on Atwater just before turning onto René Lévesque (Dorchester) August 26 at 10:07 am, Public Security officials report. A patroller who discovered it parked the patrol vehicle behind the car and tried without success to start it before calling for a tow truck. This took some 20 minutes to arrive at the busy time of day.

Woman falls using cane, wearing sandals, taken to MGH

A 92-year-old woman fell near the Westmount library August 26, sustaining an open cut on the face and a sore arm, Public Security officials said. 911 had been called and an ambulance arrived on the scene as the woman was being treated by staff from

Manoir Westmount, the seniors' residence nearby. She was taken to the Montreal General Hospital accompanied by her daughter. She was reported to have tripped on the sidewalk while wearing sandals and using a cane.

Bleeding man refuses Urgences Santé

The resident of a house on Victoria Ave. north of Westmount Ave. fell while "missing a step" and injured both legs August 28 at 7:12 pm, according to Public Security officials. The patrollers happened to be nearby helping Public Works with damaged flower pots and left to tend to the man.

Reported to be taking blood thinners, he was treated and efforts were undertaken to restrict the blood flow. He refused assistance from Urgences Santé but was advised about the importance of seeking recommendations of a doctor.



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Target: 5,000 sandwiches

‘Ladies of Sandwich’ to hold ‘Great Sandwich Marathon’ for the homeless

MARTIN C. BARRY

The Ladies of Sandwich, a group of progressive-minded women determined to do something about homelessness, are teaming up with Bread and Beyond, a like-minded charity, to make 5,000 sandwiches – that being the estimated number of people who are homeless in Montreal.

The Great Sandwich Marathon, as they are calling it, will be taking place on Monday, September 16, 8:30 am to 5 pm, at the Centre Greene community centre on Greene Ave.

NDG-Westmount MP Anna Gainey was on hand at Centre Greene last week to express support for the project, while addressing the growing seriousness of the homelessness problem.

Bread and Beyond influences

Out of an office in a church basement in NDG, Bread and Beyond makes sandwiches that are distributed to more than a half-dozen homeless shelters. “B and B” has found a niche, helping to fill in gaps for some of Montreal’s more prominent shelters such as Chez Doris, Dans la Rue and Old Brewery Mission.



Seen here at Centre Greene on August 26, from left, seated: Sara Colby, Morag Howlett, Judy Loader, Judy Clark, NDG-Westmount MP Anna Gainey and Patricia Fox; standing, Westmount city councillor Elisabeth Roux, Jane Wightman, Centre Greene executive-director Heather Hodges, founder and executive director of Bread and Beyond Kirstie Jagoe and Matthijs van Wijck, riding office attaché for Anna Gainey.

Former Centre Greene board chair Jane Wightman and Patricia Fox were inspired to start Ladies of Sandwich after hearing Bread and Beyond founding director Kirstie Jagoe speak about the needs of the homeless.

“So, that kind of just broke our hearts,” said Fox, adding that she and Wightman thought they might try doing something along the same lines.

So, every Monday for the past year, with the help of more than a half-dozen volunteers, they have sat in a Centre Greene meeting room to make more than 200 sandwiches. They estimate they’ve made around 9,000 sandwiches to date.

From 2018 to 2022, the demand to meet the needs of the homeless in Montreal nearly doubled, according to Jagoe. “We were expecting an increase, but we weren’t expecting it to be quite that amount,” she said.

Although Bread and Beyond makes around 3,000 sandwiches a week, it also helps gather donated clothing and other items for partner shelters, while also working to increase awareness of the homeless problem.

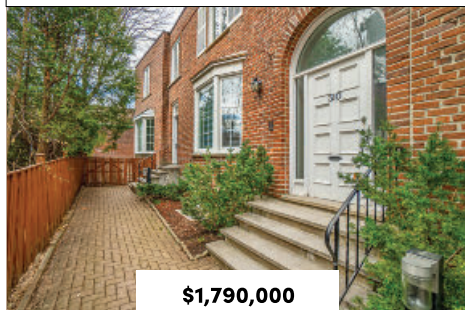


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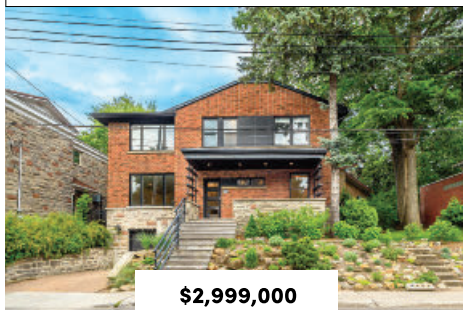
LUXURIOUS TOWNHOUSE | DOUBLE GARAGE



\$1,790,000

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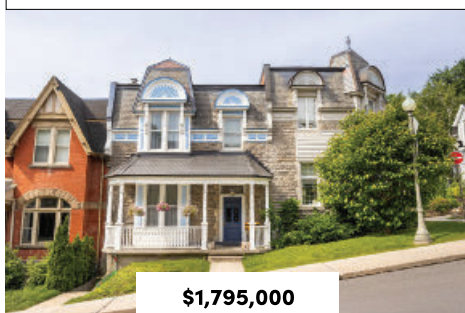
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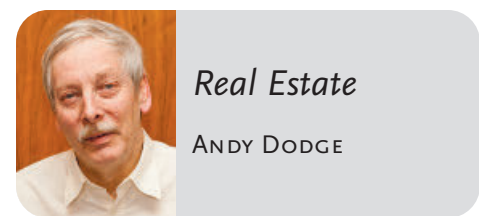
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

May transfers: Lots of extremes

83.1 percent in the sale of 533 Grosvenor Ave., just below Côte St. Antoine Rd., which sold for \$3,020,000.

Below that ratio was the \$6,860,000 paid for 465 Roslyn Ave., a house built in 2015 on property sheared off from the huge mansion at 475 Roslyn, which represented a 54.2-percent mark-up.

Discount to valuation

On the other end of the scale, 38 Church Hill sold at almost 30 percent less than the city had valued it, changing hands from an estate after a very short time on the market. Another double-digit mark-down involved 4400 de Maisonneuve Blvd., which went for \$1,845,000 while evaluated at \$2,180,100, or 15.4 percent less.

Overall, some \$36,690,000 was paid out for 12 Westmount houses with a total city tax value of \$32,540,000, thus a 12.8 percent average mark-up. That figure is distorted by the very high prices involved in some of the highest mark-ups; so far for the year up to May, the average mark-up is only 5.9 percent.

Condos

Only one condominium sold in May, but added to three sales in April, the second-quarter condo sales are all in a range



540 Argyle.

of prices between \$672,000 and \$870,000 with an average mark-up of 0.7 percent, thus virtual parity, with June condo sales still to be added.

The huge office building on the north-

east corner of Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd., including the Bank of Montreal branch, sold in May for \$16,000,000 (see May 14, p. SL-26 and May 21, p. 4), an indication of the strategic importance of

Highest price

The highest price for the month was \$7,500,000 paid out for the mid-level mansion at 540 Argyle Ave., which actually was the second-highest price registered by May this year, after 775 Lexington Ave. went for \$16,750,000 in March.

On the low side, 116 Abbott Ave. claimed the second-lowest price of the year (so far) and the second to go for less than \$1 million, trading hands for \$900,000, while 33 Burton Ave. registered at \$700,000 price in April.

In terms of mark-ups, the highest was



116 Abbott.



533 Grosvenor.



38 Church Hill.



1299-03 Greene Ave. All photos August 28.

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that location. Last August the newer office building on the southeast corner, including the TD Bank branch, sold for \$22,000,000.

One other sale – which may be important when the new valuation roll is deposited a little more than a year from now – involved a parking space in the garage at 4700 St. Catherine St.

It was purchased by a resident of the seventh floor and then absorbed into the valuation of her property, which includes one already. She paid \$40,000 for the garage, even though several privately-owned garages across the street at 200 Lansdowne Ave. have been evaluated for tax purposes at \$50,000.

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in May 2024

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
116 Abbot	David Taylor & Eithne Mary Coyle	\$900,000	\$979,000	-8.1%
489 Argyle	Spencer Keys-Schatia	\$1,700,000	\$1,770,900	-4.0%
540 Argyle	Brenda Rosenzweig	\$7,500,000	\$6,600,000	13.6%
637 Carleton	John Hallward & Karma Price	\$4,200,000	\$4,147,900	1.3%
3245 Cedar	Tian Ying	\$2,190,000	\$2,415,100	-9.3%
38 Church Hill	estate Brian Powell	\$1,700,000	\$2,374,100	-28.4%
409 Clarke	Groupe Trifman Westmount Inc.	\$2,660,000	\$2,215,000	20.1%
4400 de Maisonneuve	Wenting Wang & Jian Zhang	\$1,845,000	\$2,180,100	-15.4%
379 Elm	Lina Hasna Al Farra	\$2,120,000	\$2,216,300	-4.3%
533 Grosvenor	Alexander Sabouri, Poulcheria Kyres & Mary Kyres	\$3,020,000	\$1,649,100	83.1%
77 Holton	Catherine Cook	\$1,995,000	\$1,545,900	29.1%
465 Roslyn	Christine Brousseau-Martel	\$6,860,000	\$4,447,500	54.2%
CONDOMINIUMS				
175 Metcalfe #210	Marie-Julie Trahan	\$870,000	\$794,700	9.5%
OTHER				
1299-1303 Greene	9166-7907 Québec Inc.	\$16,000,000	\$9,150,000	74.9%
4700 St. Catherine #A73	Diane Gahias-Turner	\$40,000	\$50,000 ¹	-20.0%

¹Valuation is estimated at \$50,000, based on the valuation of similar condominium garages in the immediate area.

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Wonderful opportunities! Must see!

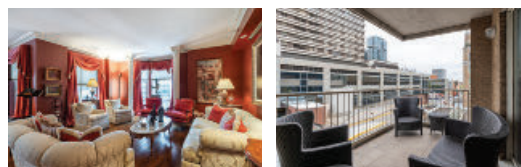
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app. 801 | Westmount

3 2+1
\$2,750,000

1 WOOD



1 Av. Wood, app. 402
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3 2+1
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SOLD



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9 Lives

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Upon arrival at the shelter, it was noted that she is de-clawed on both front and back paws, which makes her an indoor-only cat.

If you would like more information on Dottie, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then scroll to her information page by her identification number, 2000131152. Once there, it is easy to click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle at the top right-hand side of the page.

The information form is short and basic to fill out and send, enabling the adoption coordinators to get back to you promptly. You can then discuss interest in giving Dottie the forever home that she would

share with much joy and affection.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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British MP Amess murdered in 2021**Westmounter Annabi hopes to see terrorism victim declared a Catholic saint**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Alarmed by rising violence in the UK but determined to promote what he believes is a worthy cause, a former UK resident who now lives in Westmount has launched a fundraiser to help gather nearly \$1.8 million for a campaign to have an assassinated British politician declared a saint by the Roman Catholic church.

The Sir David Amess Peace Initiative is being promoted by its founder, Karim Annabi, as “the world’s first interfaith sainthood nomination.”

(Annabi was previously profiled in the *Independent* (March 12, p. 14) on Activate, a social networking platform he founded with the goal of sharing 99 percent of its profits with users.)

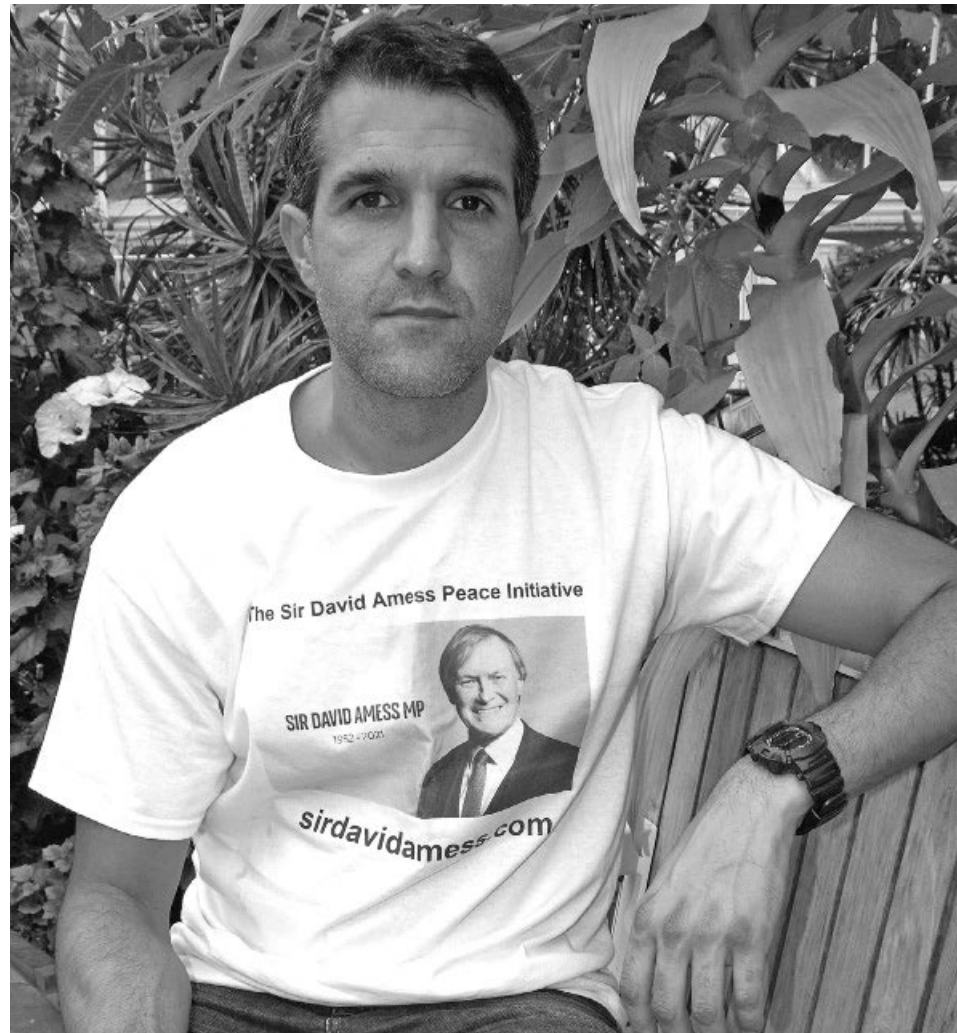
Amess, who was a devout Catholic and served 38 years as a British MP, died on October 15, 2021 after suffering multiple stab wounds inflicted by a Muslim whose actions were later deemed by police to be motivated by terrorism.

Widely respected MP

Although he was a backbench MP with socially conservative views, Amess was widely respected in the UK for his grassroots political abilities while representing local interests in his Southend West constituency, which is located east of London near the mouth of the Thames. Some of his legislative efforts included bills for the protection of animals.

Annabi, who says he is an observant Muslim, maintains the new initiative “has religious and secular components allowing everyone to participate,” while helping to raise one million British pounds to pay for Sir David Amess’s case before the Catholic church.

According to information available on the Catholic church’s vatican.va website, the process to have someone canonized involves four procedural stages, beginning



Former UKer turned Westmounter Karim Annabi, seen here in the Westmount conservatory on August 22, founded the Sir David Amess Peace Initiative, which hopes to see the former UK MP considered seriously for sainthood in the Roman Catholic church.

at the diocesan level, where permission must first be given to open an investigation.

A candidate for sainthood may then be declared a Servant of God, followed by Venerable, Blessed (beatified) and finally Saint. To reach sainthood status, it must be demonstrated to the Dicastery for the Causes

of the Saints (which oversees the process) that the candidate performed at least two miracles after death.

Although rare, according to the Vatican, a pope may waive the requirement for a second miracle after beatification if the College of Cardinals and the Dicastery agree that the Blessed lived a life of exemp-

lary merit proven by actions that were outstanding.

Presidential Medal of Freedom

There is a secondary secular aspect to Annabi’s campaign, in that he hopes, through a petition, to gather enough support to see Sir David awarded the American Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously.

To date, Annabi has received responses from both the Diocese of Brentwood in the UK (where Sir David Amess lived and died), as well as from the pope’s office in the Vatican.

“I very much agree with your remarks about Sir David Amess, MP,” the Rt Rev Alan Williams, bishop of Brentwood, wrote in an e-mail. “He was a ‘shining example’ to people of all faiths, a wonderful politician, and, as you know from personal experience, a generous human being and man of faith.”

“The Secretariat of State has been asked by His Holiness Pope Francis to acknowledge receipt of your thoughtful letter and to communicate that its contents have been noted,” a Vatican spokesperson wrote to Annabi.

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Currently rated STARS/AASHE 'gold'

Dawson College aims for sustainability 'platinum'

BY JENNIFER BALL

Dawson College is endeavouring to upgrade its STARS designation from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to "platinum" from its current "gold" status.

Dawson's office of sustainability, where Chris Adam is the associate director, earned the highest score in North America for the CEGEP in 2020 and in the last four years has been working to better it.

Not Dawson's first enviro accolade

The CEGEP, which is found on Sherbrooke St. at Atwater Ave., also won the honour of being named sustainability institute of the year in 2022 by the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (see August 23, 2022, p. 19).

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) program is a way for institutions to be tracked and ranked on their progress in developing sustainable solutions for their communities.

An institution can be awarded a platinum, gold, silver or bronze designation.

Adam said: "Dawson had a score of 74.59 in 2020, the highest for what is titled an 'associate college' in the US [but what is a known as a CEGEP here in Quebec]. Humber College [in Toronto] is a leader in all things sustainable in Canada and now has a score of 79.01."

But Humber received its gold status in 2023, trailing Dawson by three years.

The *Independent* wondered what this designation bestows on Dawson. And does it warrant so many hours of work since 2020?

"It is controversial," Adam conceded. "There are some people here that don't like, in the simplest of terms, an evaluation of the school..."

"Others say that you're just ticking off



The peace garden at Dawson College, which is found on the northwest sector of Dawson's campus, as seen August 28.

boxes...

"But for me, what it really shows us is what we are good at and the gaps that we need to work on. It compared us to other institutes – not only other colleges – but also universities with massive budgets."

Friendly competition

Adam classifies it as a friendly competition but one that exerts a firm pressure on an institute to remain accountable and be transparent.

In other words, "To be honest with what you are not doing well and to set goals to minimize that, so that you can be a well-

.....
Winter contracts, cont'd from p. 1

purchase reduced costs.

Two other contracts were renewed with Les Excavations Super Inc. One was for snow removal from the city's various parking lots at \$30,509 and a maximum of \$35,078 including taxes. The other regarding snow from the city's alleyways at an expenditure of \$411,992 and a maximum of \$473,668 including tax credits.

rounded institute that represents sustainability and gets away from the stereotype that sustainability is recycling," he said.

The STARS program tracks multiple factors in an institution's overall sustainability, including purchasing of sustainably sourced products, community outreach and sustainability courses within the academic curriculum.

Adam says AASHE rigorously studies the submitted performance data.

"There are about 60 criteria. In some cases, it could be one page of data and in other cases, it might be 50 pages..."

"We end up writing a report that takes us months to write, and we submit that to AASHE."

AASHE is an association of higher education institutions headquartered in Philadelphia. The association aims to improve sustainable practices in higher education by advocacy of sustainable innovation. It encourages people involved in education to promote sustainable development to their communities.

Dawson's submission must be received by December of this year.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Then we have Bo, a delightfully cute mini doodle who, at three years of age, is active and affectionate. He enjoys everyone and makes great dog friends, but comes with no cat experience. He enjoys romping like a pup, playing fetch in a fenced yard and cuddling in the home as he is very companionable.

Please refer to the www.gerdysrescue.org website and read their profiles from their foster families in order to then fill out an application form to find out more and present your interest.

For discussion with the rescue's adoption volunteers, you can also write to them at their email info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Walter and Bo are fantastic fellows. They are presently in foster care for the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions animal rescue volunteer group.

They are both up to date with their inoculations, neutered and microchipped.



Walter.



Bo.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMPOSTING MAKES CITY'S NEW GARBAGE RULES EASY TO LIVE BY

This is yet another letter concerning Westmount's new garbage rules and pick-up schedule, but from a different point of view.

It unquestionably was not an arbitrary decision by council. Public consultations would not have yielded different results.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2021 Canada alone collected 36.6 million tons of garbage, of which one third was organic waste, and almost all was disposed of in landfills.

Large amounts of methane gas are emitted into the atmosphere from decomposing organic waste buried in these pits. Methane is partly responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer* that shields life on earth from the sun's harmful rays and burning heat. In some parts of the world, vast areas have already turned into deserts, and lakes and rivers have dried up.

I've read several reports that claim methane is five to six times more powerful than carbon monoxide, another potent gas that also depletes the ozone layer and comes from motor vehicle exhausts.

Of great concern to governments worldwide is the increased amount of waste generated by a rising world population and, of course, increasing amounts of methane.

Also, deforestation required for new housing as well as finding fields, pastures and potable water to sustain them has also become a problem, not to mention more land needed for landfills. There soon won't be enough greenery left to produce much needed oxygen to sustain human and animal life on earth. It certainly isn't a win-win situation.

David Suzuki maintains that the fastest and easiest way to reduce the amount of methane released is to compost. Westmount joined the fight against global warming, so as a consequence council enacted new garbage rules. Get ready, everyone, for soon the city will make composting compulsory.

Personally, I found composting an easy task to adopt. I simply store bags on a separate shelf in my freezer. On the evening before, or early morning of, collection day, I toss the bag(s) of frozen organic waste into the green bin along with pizza or other food soiled boxes. No mess. No smell. No pests.

I already recycle diligently, and ever since I started composting the size of my actual weekly refuse has been reduced in size to a small loaf of bread – certainly not heavy enough to complain about carrying it curbside every two weeks. I could skip

the odd collection day because, containing no organic waste, it doesn't smell nor does it attract insects and furry critters.

Please, please, please, Westmount residents, join the in the fight against global warming and start composting NOW. While you're at it, take public transportation, use a bicycle or share rides with a neighbour or friend to run errands. Just remember small acts reap HUGE rewards.

ANDREA KLEIN, KENSINGTON AVE.

***Editor's note:** I think that activists make a firm distinction when talking about the greenhouse effect (which leads to concerns about higher temperatures, glaciers melting, and more hurricane and hurricane-like storms) and ozone-layer depletion (which leads to concerns about cancer). Advocates identify different causes (carbon dioxide and methane vs. chlorofluorocarbons), effects (heat vs. allowing in ultraviolet rays) and progress to date (not much vs. quite a bit) in the different areas. – DP.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent public consultations held by the city of Westmount on the reconstruction of Claremont and Lorraine avenues. Residents were stunned to learn during the August 5 city council meeting that the consultations had not been conducted in a fair and transparent manner, undermining public participation and democracy.

In May, the city held two public consultations on the reconstruction of Claremont and Lorraine. However, it was revealed during the August 5 city council meeting that city officials had purposely decided to incorporate an additional pilot project named "Pilot Project: Claremont Triangle" into the re-construction plans without disclosing it to the residents attending the public consultations.*

This project involves closing vehicular access to a section of NDG Ave. on the Marianopolis side of the triangle ("the diagonal") to prevent direct traffic between NDG and Westmount avenues.

The fact that this crucial information was not disclosed to residents during the public consultations is shocking. It was only after persistent questioning by residents that Councillor Peart (commissioner of urban planning, architecture, engineering and infrastructure) reluctantly admitted not having provided all relevant information to residents.*

This lack of transparency shows a blatant disregard for residents' right to be fully informed and involved in decisions affecting their community. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for residents who take per-

sonal time to attend these consultations.

When the city council admitted to misleading residents, Mayor Smith was asked to hold a new, fully transparent set of public consultations, which she refused to do. Her response leaves the city council with only one decent option not to further undermine their credibility: reverting the Claremont triangle to its original configuration. Doing otherwise would raise the following question: Can Westmount residents still trust the current elected city council?

THOMAS ROLAIN, CLAREMONT AVE.

***Editor's note:** To give the other side to the reader: Looking at the video tape of the August 5 city council meeting, I see Councillor Conrad Peart contending (e.g. at timestamp 39:20, in reply to your in-person question) that the undeveloped "idea" of eliminating the diagonal existed at the time of the May public meeting, but not the decision to implement it as a pilot project. – DP.

LOST CITY?

A copy of this letter was also sent to Mayor Christina Smith

Has the city of Westmount lost its way? Slowly what was – *was* – our city that was a model of excellence, is now falling into an embarrassment for those who have witnessed the good and now the bad.

The roads are in a deplorable condition. Signage is allowed to be placed at will, and with no seemingly organizational plan.

City workers seem to be present watching each other work.

Private contractors are not penalized for dirt, disruption, sawing concrete without proper protection, etc.

Garbage is now bordering our sidewalks for hours on end.

Empty lots stand idle with no attention to defending the neighbours' rights for cleanliness.

Work sites are not properly fenced in, to hide the waste, garbage and surplus matter.

As mayor, this falls on you. You lead the city. You are the voice that the residents elected to ensure that Westmount remains a special place. I believe that history will show the exact opposite following your mandate. You have the voice to correct the past ills. I ask, beg, you to act. Westmount deserves better.

BRUCE VINEBERG, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

PLEASE CANCEL THE LEAD-ENTRY SUBSIDY

I'm writing concerning Westmount city council's approval of up to \$500,000 annually for private water entry subsidies. I

agree with everything in Thomas Lapierre's recent letter to the editor (August 20, p. 6).

In addition, it is pretty obvious to me that the most likely scenario is that the companies that are hired to replace water entries will simply increase their quoted price by the amount of the city subsidy. In other words, I doubt there will be any price benefit to any home owner.

I urge council to reverse this flawed decision.

SUSAN ZEGRAY, INGLESIDE AVE.

STATEMENT FROM SAVE SUMMIT WOODS

We, the citizen group Save Summit Woods, are proud to announce that our continuous efforts and determination have finally paid off. We have highlighted and demonstrated the glaring lack of maintenance and management policies by the city of Westmount for the preservation of Summit Woods. This lack of responsibility by the city threatened the ecosystem and integrity of this Mount Royal heritage site.

Thanks to our actions and persistent pressure, city machinery and equipment are now finally at Summit Woods to begin development work. We want to emphasize that this initiative is the result of our commitment. Without our perseverance, it is clear that the city would not have undertaken this work this year.

We proudly declare our ownership of this improvement. It is our dedication to the preservation of Summit Woods that has catalyzed these actions, and we will continue to ensure that this natural space is protected for future generations.

However, these investments will only be sustainable if human and canine traffic is controlled. We continue our work to ensure public safety by advocating for dogs to be leashed and for provincial laws to be respected. We are also pursuing efforts to overturn Regulation 1522-2024-1, which designates Summit Woods as a dog park.

We will restore its pride as a bird sanctuary, not a dog park.

Save Summit Woods remains vigilant and determined to continue the mission of protecting and preserving this important heritage site.

MARYAM KAMALI NEZHAD,

SAVE SUMMIT WOODS

sauvonsleboissummitwood@gmail.com

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them.

Email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com

Releases deal with humorous, serious issues

Renaud's two new children's books address bullying, burping

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two new children's books released this year by prolific Westmount author Anne Renaud hit library and bookstore shelves over the spring and summer – and now just in time for back-to-school reading.

Lavishly illustrated, both deal with age-old topics treated in new ways and published in French after she translated them from her original English manuscripts.

Released August 10, 2024 by Dominique

et Compagnie, *Défense d'ouvrir* (*Don't even think of opening this book*) tempts the 5-to-8-year-old readership to immediately open its pages showing a brilliantly coloured purple character depicted by illustrator Marc Chouinard.

Mon Plan A (*My Plan A*), which had hit the market at the end of February, is – by Renaud's own assessment – now “particularly timely at this current back-to-school period because it deals with bullying, a regrettably common issue in our schools.”

The book's dedication from Renaud is “to all children, to help them realize that every action and word they choose can either encourage or stop bullying.”

She explained: “It helps them see that it is not their fault, while also encouraging those who bully to recognize the significant impact their actions have on others.”

Resources for parents, teachers

At the end of this book is a list of resources on the topic of bullying for parents, teachers and children.

Published by Tourne Pierre, the book includes colourful illustrations by Audrey Jadaud, not only of the main characters, but also of spiders and a pet tarantula.



Emphasizing that “words have power,” the book's bullied victim points out that “some are comforting, others are crushing,” and his bully “always uses words that squash me.”

Available Saturday on Greene

Both books are expected to be available at the Westmount Public Library's child-

ren's department and will also be able for purchase at Renaud's sidewalk exhibit Saturday, September 7 from 1 to 3 pm, which is taking place jointly with Westmount author Judith Henderson (see new additional exhibits p. 6).

We welcome your letters

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

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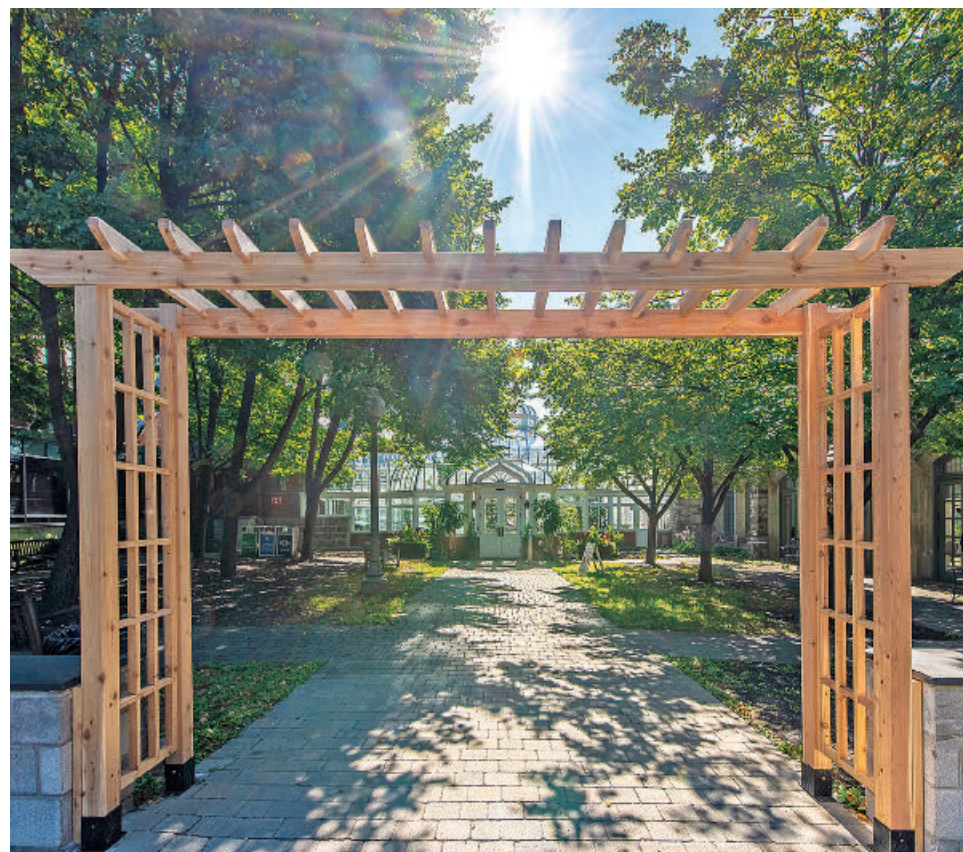
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**Oct 27
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Greenhouse gets new entryway



A new arbor (also called a trellis or pergola) was erected at the entrance to the city of Westmount's greenhouse/conservatory August 28.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Dancing with the Shaar's stars



Dancers and their pros.

How popular is the tv show *Dancing with the Stars*? Well, this year the series enters its 34th edition! And what could be more fun than dancing?

So, what a good idea it was for Westmount's Shaar Hashomayim to hold *Dancing with the Shaar*.

Co-chairs were **Heather Paperman** and **Samantha Mintz-Vineberg**, who welcomed the enthusiastic sold-out crowd along with **Rabbi Adam Scheier**. With support from Shaar professionals, committee members were **Heather Paperman**, **Samantha Mintz-Vineberg** and **Allyson Kassie**, who also acted as MC with **Barry Pascal**.

Each dancer was responsible for raising \$10,000 and most exceeded that goal. Student dancers' goals were \$5,000. Keen Shaar dancers were paired with professionals.

Performing amazingly were **Stephanie Carat** (with pro **Jessie Mineau**); **Marian Levy** (**David Figueroa**); **Carole Gilman** (**Alexander Latorre**);
Carolina Montes (**Maxim** *continued on p. 26*)



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 25

Fomin); Kamy Goldberg (Vincent Corriveau); Suzanne Wexler (Aurelie Perron), and Cristina Comito (N'Gone Gueye) – the winners! Lexie Oberfeld Dimitrov and Brigitte Snively danced as non-competitors.

The event was catered by the Shaar's Jose Dos Santos.

A portion of the proceeds raised go toward two projects in Israel: the re-building of Kibbutz Holit and the Pediatric Emergency Department at Kaplan Hospital.

As a picture is worth many words, here is the mood of the night – “fabulous performances!” Barry Pascal.

The fall social calendar will be published soon. Please send your event information to veronica@redgravepr.com



Left, Heather Paperman and Samantha Mintz-Vineberg. Right, Ralph and Ety Bienstock.



Julie Marcus and Inna Nekhim with her daughters, Arielle and Rachel Korenblit.




Carole Gilman with pro Alexander Latorre.



Claire Berger and Alvin Fagen.

Ken Reed golf tournament succeeds for Old Brewery Mission



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

those experiencing homelessness get off the streets in a sustainable way.

The organization works on several fronts: prevention programs, emergency services and adapted re-housing solutions.

“We are grateful to see our community mobilize year after year for homelessness,” said James Hughes, CEO Old Brewery Mission.

For nearly 20 years, the Tenaquip Foundation has been the supportive sponsor of this fundraiser. In 2006, it was re-named the Ken Reed Golf Tournament in recognition of the long-standing commitment of Tenaquip's founder.

The partnership between the mission and the Tenaquip Foundation continues with Tenaquip Place, an 18-unit project for homeless men that will open in 2025. The event was greatly assisted by generous partners Anbec Construction, Comax Construction, Fuze Logistics, Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand Melançon, Le Square Phillips, and Pipe and Piling Supplies Ltd.

The tournament's success was also driven by the organizing committee Paula

Shannon (president), Diane Drury, John Castellarin, William Hudson, James Ross and Jim Wilson. Michael Fitzgerald (The Tenaquip Foundation), and the Old Brewery Mission's James Hughes and Lynne Dupuis.

Founded in 1889, the Old Brewery Mission is the largest resource in Quebec for men experiencing homelessness and the largest in Canada for women experiencing homelessness.

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The organizing committee. Front row: James Ross, Paula Shannon, Lynne Dupuis, Diane Drury and Jim Wilson; back row: John Castellarin, William Hudson, Michael Fitzgerald and James Hughes.



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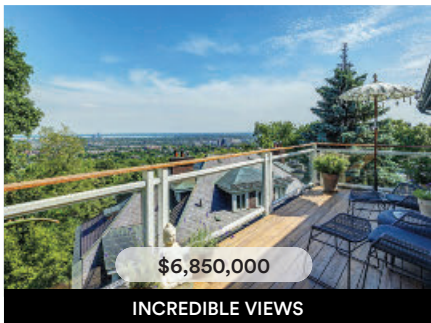


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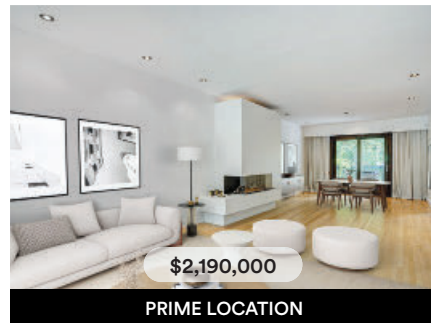


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