

Michael Stern elected next mayor of Westmount

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was a municipal election that might change the direction for some of Westmount's projects.

From the time the first results began coming in at 10 pm, it became apparent that change was on the way as mayoral candidate as Michael Stern quickly took the

lead over Lynne Casgrain and Mary Gallery.

Along with Councillor Jeff Shamie, who had already been acclaimed for a third term in District 3, the "survivors" from the outgoing council were Kathleen Kez, re-elected for a third four-year term in District 8, Matt Aronson in District 7 and Antonio D'Amico in District 1. Both Kez and D'Amico were known for at times opposing council decisions based partly on their own research: Kez *continued on p. 10*

The 2025-2029 city council (by district)

- 1: Antonio D'Amico
- 2: Jonathan Chomski
- 3: Jeff Shamie • 4: Gurveen Chadha
- 5: Shawn Moss • 6: Paul Levine
- 7: Matt Aronson • 8: Kathleen Kez

Existing council members

Re-elected: Antonio D' Amico, Matt Aronson & Kathleen Kez

Defeated: Mary Gallery & Conrad Peart

Acclaimed: Jeff Shamie

50-year-old Rocky Horror Picture Show gets a little help from Indie



Viewers in theatres of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* often use props to partially act out what is happening on screen. But why did these filmgoers have old copies of the *Independent* at the film's 50th anniversary viewings last week? See p. 22 for story.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BENJAMIN CORZA.

Event launches Public Security's holiday food drive

Artisans Westmount to kick off gift-giving season Nov. 8-9

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's annual Artisans Westmount event November 8 and 9 kicks off both the traditional gift-giving season in Westmount as well as Public Security's annual food drive. This is a non-perishable food item or donation of \$2 as admission to the two-day event at Victoria Hall Saturday and Sunday between 10:30 am to 5 pm.

Some 30 specially selected artisans are to showcase their work during the event, featuring handmade goods of "all types," explained Donna Lach, assistant director of the city's library and Community Events department.

These include "one of a kind" arts and craft items including jewellery, ceramics, stationery, accessories, toys and "much more." *continued on p. 3*



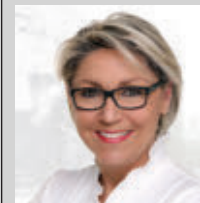
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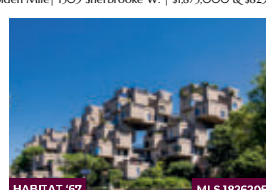
Golden Square Mile | 4005 Redpath



JUST REDUCED

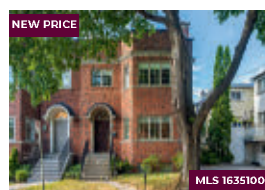
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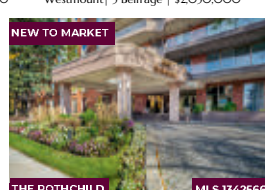
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NEW PRICE

Westmount | 5 Belfrage

MLS 16351000



THE ROTHCHILD

MLS 13425668



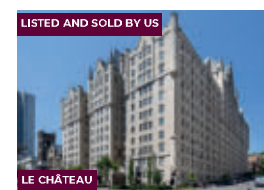
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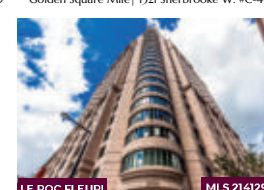
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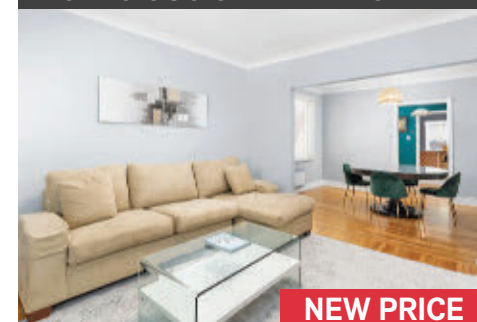
2-BED CONDO IN LUXURY BLDG



FEATURED

Westmount
285 Av. Clarke, apt. 101 | \$1,150,000

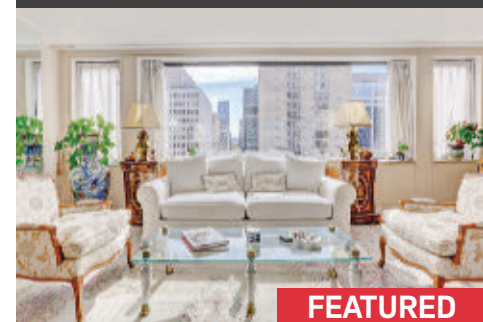
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SPACIOUS 4-BED HOME



FEATURED

Westmount
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BRIGHT 3-BED TOWNHOUSE



FEATURED

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
4413 Boul. Décarie | \$6,100/mo

Move over Chicago, windy Westmount has arrived

Strong winds on October 19 pushed down hoarding panels at the Westmount Square construction site. “Doormen braced against the collapsing panels as the wind intensified, with a nearby pedestrian

stepping in to help steady the barrier,” emailed witness Natasha Arora, who looked up the wind speeds afterwards and found them to be 30 km/h with gusts up to 50.

“Fortunately, no one was hurt,” she continued, “a lucky outcome in an area often walked by elderly residents, caregivers, delivery personnel and visitors. Passing vehicles heading into the driveway also narrowly avoided being struck or damaged. The fencing, however, appeared insufficiently secured, raising concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety in this busy and exclusive stretch... Quick reflexes and a bit of teamwork may have helped avert what easily could have been a much more serious incident.”

Letters to the Editor, p. 6

Police Report, p. 18

Pet page, p. 22

Social Notes:

Ometz, p. 25

Art:

Monkman & VAC, p. 24 & 26



PHOTO COURTESY OF N. ARORA.

Artisans, cont'd from p.1

The event is open and accessible to all.

At the same time, Westmount Public Security will launch its food drive for what is “a tough year for many as grocery prices continue to rise,” said assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun.

This year those in need include seniors, many of them single men, she explained in providing a list of suggested items.

“We need quick meal solutions such as hearty soups and stews in cans, including low-sodium options. We also have many young families so adding nut butters, cer-

eals, fruit purées and maple syrup to their baskets really lifts their spirits.”

Also needed are canned vegetables and fruit, canned beans (chickpeas, black beans, kidney beans) and hearty soup, stews and chilis. The list includes pasta and pasta sauce, rice packs with flavour, and small snack items such as granola bars, fruit cups and apple sauce. She asks that donors respect expiry dates.

Other suggestions include toiletries such as feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, floss and toothbrushes for kids and adults.



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Bridal showers

Engagements

Bar Mitzvah

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Greek salad

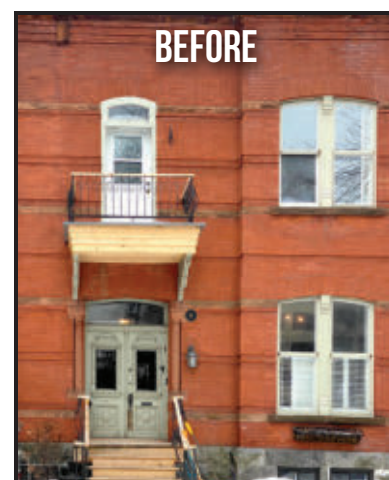
Fried calamari

Fried Zucchini's & eggplant

Tzatziki & saganaki

Grilled meat platter
(Lambchops & chicken)

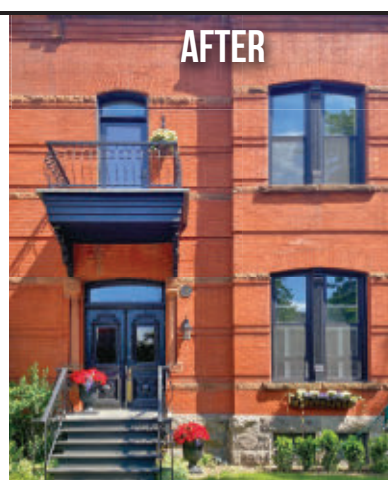
Fish platter
(Mediterranean sea bass)



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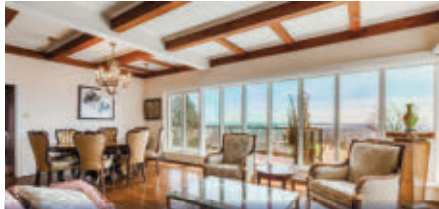
3255 Av. Cedar, Westmount
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5 Ch. Edgehill, Westmount
\$ 5,495,000



614 Av. Carleton, Westmount
\$ 5,250,000



70 Summit Circle, Westmount
\$ 5,250,000



48 Av. Holton, Westmount
\$ 4,795,000



4280 Boul. Dorchester O., Westmount
\$ 4,500,000



57 Belvedere Circle, Westmount
\$ 3,995,000



660 Av. Lansdowne, Westmount
\$ 3,890,000



804 Av Lexington, Westmount
\$ 3,695,000



650 Av. Murray Hill, Westmount
\$ 3,650,000



607 Av. Clarke, Westmount
\$ 3,395,000



3174 Boul. The Boulevard, Westmount
\$ 2,749,000



786 Av. Upper-Lansdowne, Westmount
\$ 2,375,000



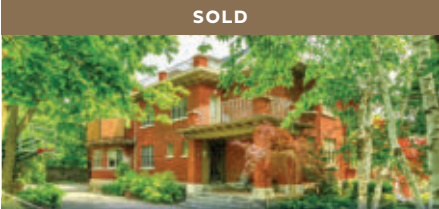
3737 Boul. The Boulevard, Westmount
\$ 2,350,000

INTRODUCING



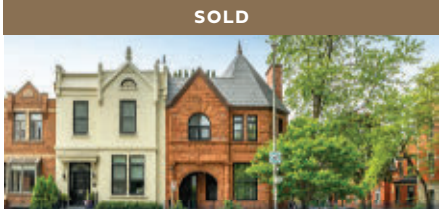
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17 Av. Bellevue, Westmount
\$ 14,750,000



4 Av. Murray, Westmount
\$ 12,950,000



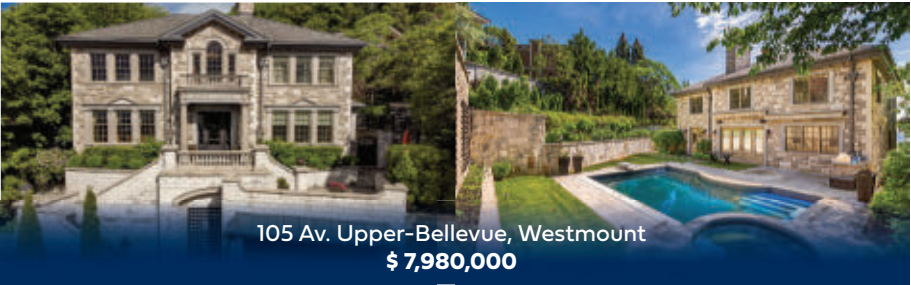
809 Av. Upper-Belmont, Westmount
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665 Av. Belmont, Westmount
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49 Surrey Garden, Westmount
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105 Av. Upper-Bellevue, Westmount
\$ 7,980,000

EDITORIAL

Thank you, volunteer distributors

The workers at Canada Post, the *Independent's* usual door-to-door delivery service, are still in a strike position and are executing rotating strikes around the country. Nevertheless, as explained last week (p. 1), we are again using Canada Post's service for houses and duplexes, for the time being.

I continue to wish labour and management at Canada Post well, and hope that they come to a mutually beneficial agreement soon.

Workers: I have now walked many miles in your shoes. I have always appreciated the excellent coverage that you give us in Westmount, but I now know personally how many challenges you face each day. I am

happy to have you back working with us.

Given this moment, I want to take the time to thank our volunteer distributors for the work that they did during the full-on strikes of September and October (the first strike only affected the "Neighbourhood Mail" service that we use; the other stopped all mail).

In addition to helping the paper and me, many volunteers chose to donate their earnings to charity. More coverage to come...

Hitting the pavement many, most or all weeks were Martin Barry, Jennifer Ball, Georges Flahiff, Dorothy Lipovenko, Michael Polak, Veronica Redgrave, Ted Sancton, Susan Schneir, Pam Soame Gar-

neau and Merylyn Wilk.

Not to be forgotten are my sister Katherine Price and nephews William and Anders Zmijewski, who delivered over a huge and hilly area every week but one (when they were away). They volunteered the minute they heard about the strike. William and Anders were the youngest volunteers by far. William in particular was very helpful because he took over from me the dreaded east sides of Upper Lansdowne and Upper Belmont with all their stairs. Thank you, family members!

On that note, I also thank the Westmounters who offered the services of their minor children, even though I did not feel comfortable saying "yes" in those cases.

I also thank retired team member Beth Hudson, who delivered to a huge area one week, and Rob Valdmanis, who went back

to his paper-boy roots for us for one issue.

I also thank my anonymous dynamic duo, who repeatedly covered another huge and hilly area with dedication and precision, as they did during last year's strike.

Lastly, I thank the Summit Circle resident, whose name I never got, who met me twice on my rounds and offered to distribute to part of his street. The kindness of strangers...

From my own experience, I know how difficult this work can be anywhere and especially here in Westmount with its many hills and staircases. My knees and feet reminded me of my age (52), but many of these volunteers are older than me.

I thank them. They have been great friends to me and to the paper.

David Price is the editor of the Westmount Independent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REMEMBRANCE DAY IS NOV. 11TH

The city of Westmount's official Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph will be on Sunday, November 9. For those who would prefer to observe Remembrance Day at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there will be an unofficial ceremony at the cenotaph, located on the northeast corner of Sherbrooke and Argyle Ave., at 11 am on Tuesday, November 11, to which anyone who is interested is invited.

WILFRID DE FREITAS, KITCHENER AVE. & CATHERINE DUFF CARON, DE MAISONNEUVE

VIC VILLAGE IS A JEWEL

Victoria village has become a little jewel in the heart of Montreal. We have new roads on Sherbrooke and Claremont has just been completed (except near Sherbrooke, to be done next year). I watched a cyclist whizz down Claremont within hours of the workers leaving. I'm sure he enjoyed the safe, smooth ride!

Now while walking, I might look down, not to watch my step, but to admire beautiful new sidewalks.

Thank you, Councillor [Conrad] Peart, Public Works and all the hard-working con-

tractors! The roads are wonderful. Success to Mayor Smith in all her future endeavors.

Gratefully,

HEIDI LEIN, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

THANK YOU, WESTMOUNT, FOR RETURNING MY KEY

This last winter during a dark night, after parking the car in the indoor parking near my home, I closed the entrance door behind me. I put the car's electronic key and the remote control in one of my pockets and walked through the heavy snow back home.

It was not until the next morning that I felt the icy moment of truth, the key was lost. I went back over my steps looking for the kit on the street, with no result. I wasn't proud of myself, but I said, "These things happen." Since then, I have been using the second key provided with the car.

On October 18 during the morning, I received a call on my home phone. It was an officer of the Westmount Security calling from the lobby of the building to return the electronic key and the remote control. What a great moment of happiness and peace of mind.

I am grateful to the Westmount neighbour who found both items and took them to the Westmount police station. I am grateful for the internal research done by the police to track down the owner of the car with the key code number plate printed by the car manufacturer. I am grateful to the Westmount Security officer that handles the items on hand and requested proof of ownership, as the procedure requires.

And I also thank the Westmount neigh-

bourhood! You know WHY!

E. LOPEZ BANCALARI, SHERBROOKE ST

KUDOS TO CITY OF WESTMOUNT

I just want to say that I think the re-dos of Sherbrooke and Claremont are excellent. I have no squabbles. Not one.

The workers were polite and fun, the time it took to complete the work was fine, the noise and the dust (*duh*, it's construction) were not a big issue, parking and access were not a problem, communication was flawless (to those Westmounters who disagree, *uh*, you actually have to read things to be informed – the mayor's not going to knock on your door to tell you what's what), and the end result of the work: lovely.

I particularly like how on Sherbrooke, many sections of sidewalk were left untouched as they were in good condition. See? Things can last, like this section of sidewalk in NDG:



Yes, that says "1964." Older than me.

The director general should be ensuring that all departments insist on, and get, quality work like this 1964 section of sidewalk, for all of Westmount's road and sidewalk and renos and infrastructure re-dos.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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

Accounting: 514.223.6138

office@westmountindependent.com

PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am
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LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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Those sidewalk sections on Sherbrooke are probably just as old as the 1964 sidewalk so didn't have to be replaced.

So to that end, Madame Director General, get stuff like THIS fixed:



Please. It and the other the cracks outside the comfort station in Prince Albert Park are in new construction done about 10 years ago. That sucks and is unacceptable.

If you fix it, Madame Director General, it will last, and then Westmount taxpayers wouldn't be going \$100 million into debt for the first time, ever.

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

CBC reports Sanjeev Sirpal loses bid to regain medical license

The CBC reported October 4 that Sanjeev Sirpal "has lost his bid to regain his license to practise [medicine] in Quebec."

The CBC story continued: "Dr. Sanjeev Sirpal, 38, whose New Brunswick licence was suspended in August after he was charged with sexually assaulting an ER patient in Amherst [Nova Scotia], was stripped of his Quebec [medical] licence three years ago during an investigation into one of two sexual complaints against him in that province."

"The Quebec College of Physicians was looking into a 2020 allegation that Sirpal conducted vaginal and breast exams on a Montreal woman with a head injury – which he denied – when it found he had lied about his academic background in obtaining his licence in 2019 [...]"

"The matter led the board to permanently revoke his licence in October 2022 [...]"

"Ruling [that] Sirpal had failed to demonstrate the board 'made a manifest and decisive error,' the [Professions Tribunal



This photo of Sanjeev Sirpal ran with the CBC's story. The *Independent* has found the best digital version it can from the web.

appeal] tribunal dismissed his appeal [on September 11 of this year]. A previous Quebec complaint against Sirpal was deemed unfounded by the college. In 2019, a woman accused Sirpal of sexually touching her teenaged daughter during an examination."

A caption in a September 4, 2025 CBC story read: "The complainant from 2020 was examined at this Westmount medical clinic, according to the documents."

The clinic in the photo appears to be one in Westmount Square that is no longer there.

According to the September 4 article, Sirpal "did not respond to a request from CBC for an interview."

He is welcome to submit a written statement to the *Independent* (maximum word length: 300 words).

At present, these sexual offences appear to be allegations only. The CBC reporting carried no news of any criminal convictions, and the *Independent* is aware of none. The *Independent* is reporting on the CBC reporting in the public interest. – DP.



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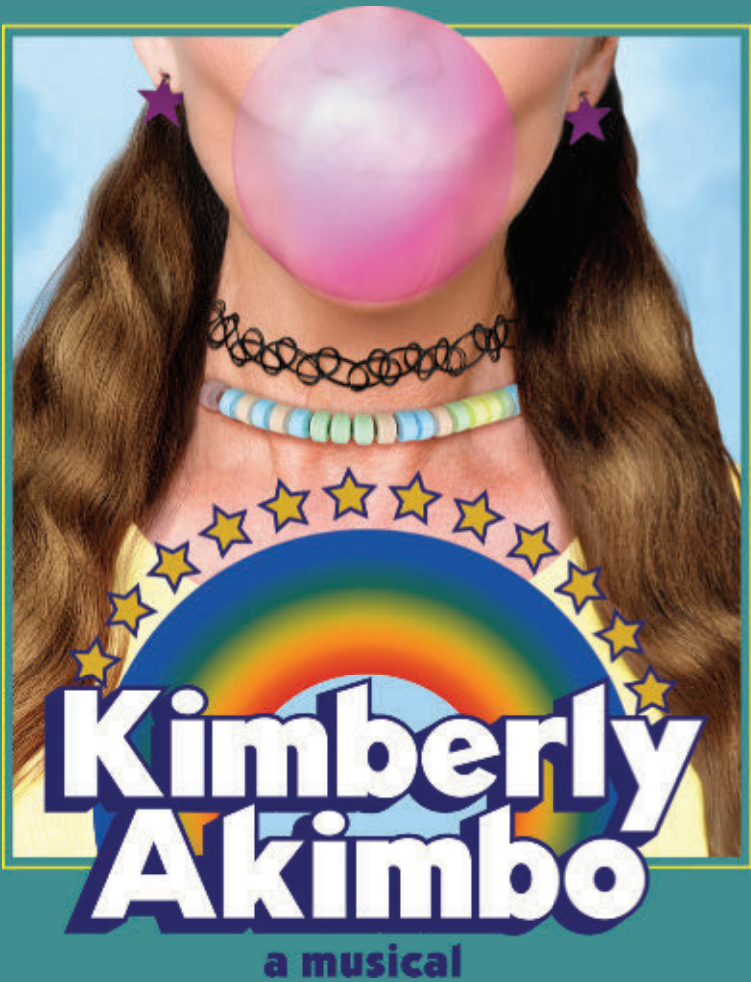
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Rotary Report

42% of Canadians are caregivers – Nova Home Care charity supported 1,300 caregivers and patients last year

By JENNIFER BALL

A series of demographic forces re-shaping Canada has left many adult Canadians “sandwiched” between unpaid caregiving responsibilities for the generations coming before and after them.

Nova Home Care – formerly one of the founding branches of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada – has trained nurses, social workers, home help aides and massage therapists to help 1,300 patients and their caregivers yearly.

Marianne Simoneau, director of philanthropy, introduced the Rotary Club of Westmount to the charity on September 10 at Victoria Hall. Its offices are in Westmount.

The Statistics Canada study: “*Sandwiched*” between Multiple Unpaid Caregiving Responsibilities, published in April 2024, indicated: “In 2022, 13.4 million Canadians aged 15 years and older (42 percent) – over two in five people in this age group – provided unpaid care in the previous 12 months to children younger than 15 years old, or to youth aged 15 years and older and adults with a long-term condition or disability...”

“Of these unpaid caregivers, 13 percent provided care to *both* of these care-dependent groups, meaning that 1.8 million Canadians older than 15 years were ‘sandwiched’ between multiple care responsibilities.”

Nova Home Care assigns health professionals to one care-dependent family, which eliminates the continual rotation of new health care professionals interacting with the patient and caregiver as the public system proffers.

Service, and dignity

Their services are offered in the territory bordered by:

- East: the Canadian Pacific Railway,
- West: 32nd Avenue, Lachine,
- North: Metropolitan Boulevard,
- South: the St. Lawrence River, but including LaSalle, Verdun and Nuns’ Island.

In a statement Simoneau provided on September 11, she stated, “Palliative care offers support and comfort at home to those needing palliative care and their loved ones through specialized nursing care that helps with symptom management, including pain control...”

“We work in collaboration with CLSCs to establish the treatment plan for all visits. Our role is to support the public system,



Marianne Simoneau, director of philanthropy at Nova Home Care, at Victoria Hall, where the Rotary Club of Westmount hold their luncheons. Photo taken on September 10.

so we work in partnership with it.”

Simoneau said, “Our mission aligns closely with Rotary’s ‘Service above self’ [motto], serving our community with dignity and compassion...”

“The caregivers, are an essential part of the solution for everybody...”

“Everyone wants the same thing: dignity.”

Nova Home Care relies on grants from l’Appui, the Grace Dart Foundation, patrons and individual donations to provide services free of charge.

Simoneau said Nova’s executive director, Anne-Sophie Schlader, obtained the group’s first government grant two years ago, which covers nearly 50 percent of its operational budget of \$3,000,000.

“We will get this financing again this year, but for the years to come, it’s still in discussion and not assured,” Simoneau said.

Jennifer Ball, the reporter who authored this story, is a member of the Rotary Club of Westmount.

Guest column

Remembering Westmount's Ralston brothers

By JOHN DEKHANE

When the Second World War engulfed the globe, countless men and women from Quebec did not hesitate. They left behind the comfort of home, the embrace of family and the futures they had envisioned, to face the unknown and confront a relentless enemy. Across continents and conflict zones, they demonstrated extraordinary courage and unwavering commitment in defence of the fundamental ideals of liberty, justice and democracy. Among those who left Quebec and never returned were two brothers from Westmount: William and Herbert Ralston.

William Edward Ralston was born on August 25, 1920, and his younger brother, Herbert James Ralston, followed on September 13, 1921. They were the sons of William Amos Ralston and Hazel Jerrine Ralston and grew up in a close-knit family home at 4701 The Boulevard in Westmount. Both brothers were graduates of Westmount High School, where they excelled academically and were deeply involved in the life of their community.

Bright futures, military service

Following high school, William studied architecture at McGill University in Montreal, and Herbert began his career with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company. But with war raging overseas, and the forces of tyranny gaining ground, both young men felt a strong sense of duty and a desire to serve their beloved country.

Herbert joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, earning his wings at Uplands, Ontario, in January 1942. Meanwhile, William enlisted in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps and became a proud member of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian



Lieutenant William Edward Ralston



Sergeant Herbert James Ralston.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

ians), 2nd Armoured Regiment. Thousands of miles from home, the Ralston brothers bravely served – in the air and on the ground – steadfast in their commitment to the values they believed in. But the war would soon bring unimaginable pain and sorrow to all who knew them.

On 13 July 1942, Sergeant Pilot Herbert James Ralston was killed in a flying accident over the village of Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, England. He was just 20 years old, with so much life ahead and so much to give. His funeral was held at St. Mary's Church in Black Bourton, Oxfordshire, where he was laid to rest in the churchyard. A beautiful white headstone marks his grave as an eternal reminder of a life, a voice, a spirit – stolen by an unforgiving war.

The loss devastated his parents, and tragically, two years later, they would lose their second son. On September 23, 1944, Lieutenant William Edward Ralston was confronting German forces in Italy when he was fatally struck by enemy fire. He was only 24 years old. William now rests at the Cesena War Cemetery in Emilia-Romagna,



William's grave at Cesena War Cemetery in Italy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VITTORIA.



Herbert's grave at St. Mary's Churchyard in Oxfordshire, England.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IVOR.

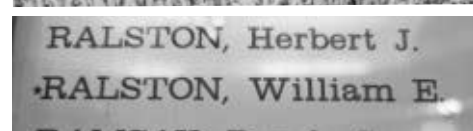
In the aftermath of the war, the memory of the Ralston brothers lived on. A scholarship was established at McGill University in their honour: the Ralston Scholarship. It was awarded to graduates of Westmount High School – a fitting tribute to two young who went there.

It is our solemn duty to remember Herbert and William Ralston, along with all the Canadian heroes who gave everything they had for the freedoms we cherish today.

We must live in a way that honours their memory, echoes their courage and justifies their service. Quebec must carry the legacy of two of its bravest and most selfless sons – who

stepped forward not for glory, but for something greater – and in doing so, left behind a sacrifice that time can never diminish, nor gratitude ever fully repay.

This article was offered to the Independent at no charge by John Dekhane. He is based in France and often writes tribute articles dedicated to fallen World War II heroes "with the sole goal of keeping these often-forgotten stories alive." The Independent thanks him for it.



The Ralstons are commemorated at the Westmount cenotaph east of city hall, top, and on the wall of honour in the lobby of Victoria Hall, as seen October 31. The cenotaph commemorates the dead, but the wall includes all veterans from Westmount who served in World War II, with a star for those "who paid the supreme sacrifice." A star for Herbert Ralston appears to be lacking, perhaps due to his death by accident.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Library's volunteer 'Friends' group

Dozens of quality books prepared for pre-holiday sale Nov. 15-16

By Laureen Sweeney

Concerns were voiced October 30 over the impact that a possible transit strike might have on this year's pre-holiday sale of donated quality books to the Westmount Public Library. These had already been packed in more than 700 cartons to be taken over to Victoria Hall for the quality book sale November 15 and 16. This takes place 10 am to 4 pm each day.

While putting finishing touches on the last of the boxes, members of the Friends of the Library volunteer committee expressed hope that the forecasted labour issues involving public transit would not reduce the sale of books.

While the approaching book sale is one of two held every year, this pre-holiday event is usually the larger one as people start their holiday shopping and make some purchases for themselves. Last year's pre-holiday sale generated some \$18,000 (see story November 26, 2024, p. 8).

Among a few of the projects funded from the proceeds of the book sales held this spring and last year are a new book-sale banner, the Tumblebook database subscription for children, prizes for the child-



ren's McEntyre writing competition, furniture for the children's story-time room at the library, and books for adult special collections. The purchase of two lighted magnifiers on floor stands for reading areas was also made possible as well as support for the purchase of technological devices for The Studio.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of book donations from the community," said Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and Community Events. "It's my pleasure to be working with the Friends of the Library and student volunteers for the entire weekend sale and look forward to seeing fellow bibliophiles there in great number."

◀Friends of the Westmount Public Library October 30 as they packed up more donated books for the volunteer group's semi-annual quality book sale November 15 and 16. From left are Louise Cauchon, Peggy Curran, Howard Krosnick, Kevin Wright and, foreground, Caroline Proctor, the library's executive secretary.

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 REFERRED FOR A REASON

Election, cont'd from p. 1

calling for deferring the southeast development project to the incoming council (on which she will now sit), and D'Amico, concerning Summit Woods, a nature preserve, concerning the city's by-law allowing dogs to run off-leash at certain times.

Conrad Peart, who represented District 4, and had steered the council's infrastructure and zoning projects including the framework for zoning in the southeast development project, also went down to defeat, by newcomer Gurveen Chadha.

Other newcomers to the council along with Mayor Stern are Jonathan Chomski in District 2; Shawn Moss in District 5 and Paul Levine in District 6.

Christina Smith, who did not seek re-election after her two terms as mayor,

issued the following statement to the *Independent* at 1:15 am after the results were livestreamed on the city's website the first time: "I wish the new council and mayor well as they transition their campaign promises into real actions."

Stern's commitment

Stern had cited on his electoral platform a commitment to "Listen, Lead and Deliver" and "respond to citizen requests within a 48-hour deadline (see story September 1, p. 12). He also said he wanted the city to become a leader in "governance and transparency."

Stern graduated from McGill with a bachelor of commerce degree and has been a certified professional accountant since 1979. He retired as a partner with Ernst and Young in 2015, followed by chief financial

officer positions in two technology companies. He has also served as president of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue.

"Westmount needs a new voice at the table, and an experienced leader at this moment in its history," he had stated. "I plan to bring a customer-centric approach to the mayor's office, to make sure that our residents can once again be proud of our storied city."

Livestreamed

This election had been the first time in Westmount that election results had been livestreamed in real time. This meant that the many candidates, families, and campaign members could not await the final results together in the council chamber, though this had not been announced earlier and had led to some confusion resulting from earlier email information regarding public gatherings to hear the results. It was explained that the number of candidates this time could have proven to be a challenge.

Paule Geoffroy-Béliveau, the city clerk and director of legal services, who served as the election's returning officer, had told the *Independent* before the election day that the livestreaming process enabled results to be updated as ballots were counted "with the page refreshing every 30 seconds."

"The official and legally binding results are those (to be) published by Élections Québec," she explained.

See results on p. 14.
See Stern's statement on p. 11.

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Mayor Stern's post-election statement

I am grateful to have the opportunity to be the mayor of Westmount. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Christina Smith and the council for their years of service and dedication to Westmount.

I extend my best wishes to Me Lynn Casgrain, Mary Gallery and all of the people who chose to run in this election for Westmount in a show of the strength of our democracy. I congratulate the eight people who will serve on council.

This has been an amazing journey. I have spoken to thousands of Westmounters. They all say they love Westmount, and I know they will rally behind me, the new council and the administration to get the work done that has to be done quickly. Together, we will ensure Westmount meets all our expectations.

As I said in my campaign, my focus is to ensure our culture is customer focussed. We must listen to our residents and react and respond to them quickly and effectively.

We must drastically improve our infrastructure, which requires a master plan and will take years to complete. In the meantime, we should repair what we can on a timely basis.

Basic services need urgent attention. I will move to immediately restore garbage collection to a weekly service, while we continue to educate people how best to compost and recycle. Our permitting process has to be customer friendly and less adversarial.

Safety and security must be restored – this is non-negotiable. Financial performance measures will be enacted so as to fund our long-term improvements. We have to improve accountability and transparency, so that residents are better informed as to how their tax dollars are spent.

We have a great opportunity to increase our population and tax base permanently, if we properly develop the southeast. The area must build on Westmount's unique character.

Throughout this campaign, I was struck by the desire by all to contribute towards Westmount's community, a place where everyone wants to live.

The objective is to offer our residents the best of everything for all ages with special attention towards welcoming young families, who are our future. We will create a culture of volunteerism for all of our benefit.

There are so many opportunities to improve facilities – soccer, baseball, indoor pool, outdoor and indoor tennis, as examples.

I will be the mayor for all residents. My door will always be open to hear from you, with your constructive suggestions.

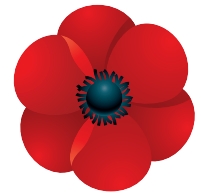
I look forward to working with you and our employees to continuously improve.

I want to thank so many volunteers, too many to mention here. I sincerely thank them all. Special thanks to our core team – Tina Apfeld, campaign manager (and her daughters Amanda and Catherine), and Alana Geller, official agent. I am extremely grateful to my family for their amazing support without which this could not have been possible, particularly my wife Susan and son Aaron, who worked tirelessly on the campaign. Thank you to Bonnie King, who organized our volunteers, to Vanessa Grimaldi and Daniel Smajovits for our excellent social media, Eric Letovsky for IT and website, and Zack of MFB media Inc for timely and excellent printed material.

A special thank-you to the over 30 people who hosted us in their homes and offices.

Let us go forward together to make Westmount the best it can be.

Remembrance Day is Tuesday, November 11th



For those who would like to observe Remembrance Day at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there will be an unofficial gathering at 11 a.m. at the Westmount Cenotaph on Tuesday, November 11th. All are welcome.

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Art of Giving raises funds and awareness for Hadley Community

By MARTIN C. BARRY

There was a good turnout of Westmounters in St. Henri on September 18 for the Art of Giving, an art exhibition held by the Hadley Community in support of its dedicated residence for women, Anne’s House.

The special event brought together over 20 Montreal-area artists to raise essential funds for women overcoming homelessness, trauma, addiction and mental health challenges.

Hosted at the Lachine Canal Complex on St. Ambroise St., the evening offered guests the opportunity to experience a vibrant and diverse collection of art works while directly supporting Hadley’s life-changing mission.

“The goal is to raise awareness and funds because we’re a non-profit organization,” said Sheila Woodhouse, Hadley Community’s executive-director.

“We have people coming in to see us who have nothing, only the clothes on their back. So, we want to make sure they have a clean, safe space, their own bathroom, so they can get on their feet and move forward with their lives.”

“Hadley Community” is the name now used by the charity formerly known as



Seen here on September 18 during Hadley Community’s Art of Giving event are, from left, Hadley Community executive-director Sheila Woodhouse, Joseanne Brunelle, Westmounter Sharyn Scott, Tristin Tondino, as well as John and Glenn Campbell of Campbell framing in Westmount.

Nazareth Community, which operated Nazareth House. It was named in honour of Dennis Hadley, founder of Nazareth House in the Shaughnessy village on the western side of downtown.

Each piece sold at Art of Giving supported the women of Anne’s House, a space that offers stability, care and community during times of transition and healing.

As we approach the end of the pool season we remind everyone of the importance of winterizing the pool equipment, whether you do it yourself or by a pool company, water left in hoses, outdoor faucets, pool heater or heatpump can cause freeze damage this winter. When that is done think about checking your home heating & hot water before winter.



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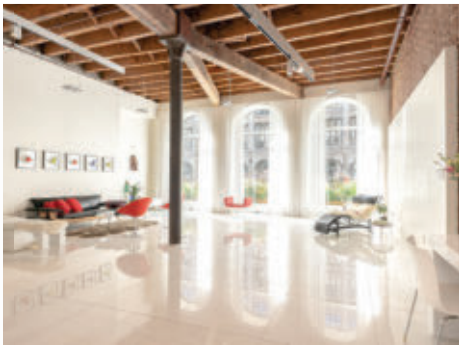
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721 AV. UPPER-BELMONT, WESTMOUNT
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447 AV. ELM, WESTMOUNT
3 BEDS, 3+1 BATHS **\$2,400,000**



64 RUE ST-PAUL O. 512, OLD MONTREAL
3 BEDS, 2 BATHS | **\$1,995,000**



80 AV. SOMERVILLE, WESTMOUNT
3 BEDS, 3+1 BATHS | **\$1,925,000**



124 - 126 AV. IRVINE, WESTMOUNT
DUPLEX | **\$1,495,000**



7716 - 7718A RUE BROADWAY, LASALLE
DUPLEX | **\$899,000**



432 AV. CLAREMONT, WESTMOUNT
3 BEDS, 1+1 BATHS | **\$699,000**



388 AV. OLIVIER 11, WESTMOUNT
3 BED, 2 BATHS | **\$699,000**



4700 RUE STE-CATHERINE O. 503, WESTMOUNT
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Westmount municipal election 2025 results

Winners in bold.

Mayor

Michael Stern: 2,554
Lynne Casgrain: 2,144
Mary Gallery†: 1,686
Outgoing mayor:
Christina Smith (not running)

District 1

Antonio D'Amico*: 369
Pierre Monaghan: 298

District 2

Jonathan Chomski: 398
Thomas Rolain: 240
Jessica Winton: 113
Jean-François Emmanuel: 76
Geoffrey Chambers: 61
Outgoing councillor:
Elisabeth Roux (not running)

District 3

Jeff Shamie*, ACCLAIMED

District 4

Gurveen Chadha: 487
Conrad Peart*: 291
Massimo Mazza: 87
Lynda Lyness: 61

District 5

Shawn Moss: 430
James Murphy: 337
Outgoing councillor:
Anitra Bostock (not running)

District 6

Paul Levine: 442
Jeremy Jonas: 257
Julie Ledoux: 133
Outgoing councillor:
Mary Gallery (running for mayor only)

District 7

Matt Aronson*: 335
Gloria Rosado: 310

District 8

Kathleen Kez*: 469
Alex Chamlian: 129
Christian Laurin: 97
Voter turnout: 45%.

As of November 3 at 9:06 am on city's website.

† Outgoing city councillor for District 6.
* Incumbents.



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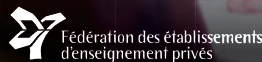
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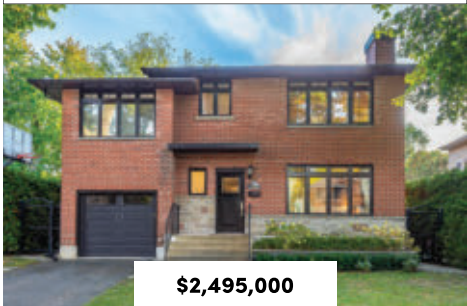
UNLIMITED POTENTIAL | LARGE BACKYARD



\$1,795,000

3244 THE BOULEVARD
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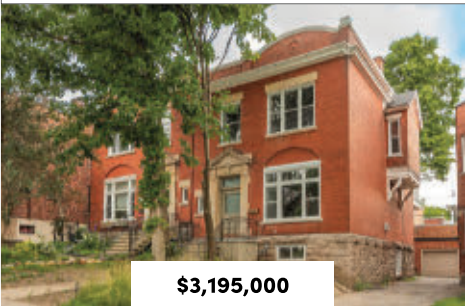
FAMILY HOME WITH PRIVATE BACKYARD



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7370 DE TILLY
GLENMOUNT

RECENTLY RENOVATED | GARAGE



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117 AV. ARLINGTON
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3206 THE BOULEVARD
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in June 2025, gleaned from city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.

June is normally the month when springtime homebuyers sign the deeds, move into their new houses, plan and carry out necessary renovations and set up their living quarters long before the cold sets in. It is also a time when younger families buy their houses, often (in Westmount's case) with family money that gives them enough to buy them, but they then have to start thinking about the kids, schools and jobs and all the other expenses of starting their careers.

Both of these factors are clearly seen in the list of June real estate transfers in Westmount, when 24 deeds were signed to transfer Westmount homes, including the top price so far in 2025 at 8 Forden Ave., which sold for \$12,500,000; two others logged over \$5 million but an even dozen were priced between \$1 million and \$2 mil-



8 Forden Ave.

June transfers: Heavy volume, lighter prices

lion, with the lowest price of \$1,275,000 for 61 Columbia Ave. That is the highest number in the \$1- to \$2-million bracket since July of 2021.

The average mark-up over valuation moved up from 10.1 percent in May to 17.8 percent in June, boosted substantially by the 8 Forden price, which was a stunning 75.4 percent above its \$7,125,000 valuation. On the other hand, 499 Victoria Ave.'s price of \$1,450,000 was 22.7 percent lower than its 2023 valuation, the biggest mark-down of six houses that sold for less than their tax assessments.

Five condominium sales in June added to a dozen other deeds signed in April and May to create a second-quarter condo registration volume, which is the largest for a second quarter since 2019, nearly matching the third-quarter volumes of 19 and 18 in 2021 and 2023, respectively. The second-quarter figures this year included five apartments at 1 Wood Ave, among 12 condos in apartment buildings, which sold for prices between \$350,000 for a ground-floor studio apartment at 399 Clarke Ave. (April) to \$2,450,000 for a 15th-floor unit at 1 Wood Ave. (June), still for less than valuation.

The other condos in the second quarter were once units in duplexes and triplexes, with a much tighter price range between \$816,000 for 15 York St. (April) to \$1,130,000 for 482 Victoria Ave. (April), just below Windsor Ave.

One full triplex on St. Antoine St. sold in June for \$1,045,000, slightly less than the \$1,100,400 municipal valuation. Another sale in May came in the transfer tax list for June, a healthy \$3,750,000 for 635 Carleton Ave.

No commercial or apartment buildings were included in the latest list of transfers.

Corrections to May sales list

Ghosts of sales past found their way into the May transfers list (October 7, p.



61 Columbia Ave.

15), as five transactions from 2023 were somehow included in the list and one address was mistyped.

The list mistakenly included the September 2023 sale of 322 Redfern Ave. and October 2023 sales of 181 Metcalfe Ave., 4293 Montrose Ave., 44 Roxborough Ave. and 4350 Westmount Ave.

The sale of 4287 Sherbrooke St. was misidentified as "4267 Sherbrooke."

The sale of 635 Carleton Ave. did not arrive until after publication date and is included at the bottom of our list of June transfers.

Thus, the correct list for May of 2025 includes 23 single-family transactions totalling \$60,223,000 with 2023 municipal valuations of \$54,682,800, thus a 10.1-percent average mark-up over valuation.

The *Independent* regrets the errors.



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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
38 Anwoth	Jiaoyue Qiao	\$2,250,000	\$2,218,700	1.4%
69 Arlington	Félix Gutierrez & Elif Ozdemir	\$2,065,000	\$1,570,700	31.5%
99 Arlington	Anne-Louise Lafontaine	\$2,332,000	\$2,003,600	16.4%
41 Barat	Marion Trow	\$1,825,000	\$1,599,100	14.1%
385 Claremont	Vihang Errunza & Maria-Jose De Brito	\$1,315,000	\$1,343,000	-2.1%
61 Columbia	Lorraine Shatilla	\$1,275,000	\$1,240,000	2.8%
19 de Casson	Hortense Michaud	\$1,400,000	\$1,640,800	-14.7%
57 Delavigne	Narmin Nimi Nanji-Simard	\$3,550,000	\$2,532,800	40.2%
4474 de Maisonneuve	Milo Shemie	\$1,995,000	\$1,637,900	21.8%
4100 Dorchester	Sophie Meloche	\$2,700,000	\$2,548,900	5.9%
8 Forden	Olivia Bitton	\$12,500,000	\$7,125,000	75.4%
371 Grosvenor	Joshua Cundill	\$1,665,000	\$1,491,800	11.6%
255 Metcalfe	Shelley Twik	\$1,800,000	\$1,954,200	-7.9%
35 Prospect	John Antonecchia & Nathalie Nouvet	\$1,800,000	\$1,378,500	30.6%
244 Redfern	Simona Bignami & Ari Van Assche	\$1,555,000	\$1,471,800	5.7%
351 Redfern	Ines Lenares	\$5,075,000	\$4,605,000	10.2%
10 Roxborough	Stella Flader	\$4,100,000	\$2,950,000	39.0%
482 Strathcona	Zaiyu Zhang & Lei Zhuang	\$2,650,000	\$2,278,000	16.3%
96 Summit Crescent	Investissements Olymbec Inc.	\$6,170,000	\$5,966,100	3.4%
499 Victoria	Refael Hutman & Liana Friedman	\$1,450,000	\$1,876,900	-22.7%
416 Wood	James Shannon & Maude Leblond	\$2,485,000	\$2,247,100	10.6%
428 Wood	Douglas Deruchie	\$1,850,000	\$1,718,400	7.7%
TRIPLEXES				
3243-47 St. Antoine	Marc Gendron	\$1,045,000	\$1,100,400	-5.0%
CONDOMINIUMS				
227 Clarke #1	Alexandre Abitan	\$948,000	\$837,700	13.2%
4410 St. Catherine #5E	Javier Ignacio Manuel Lopez Gonzalez	\$800,000	\$674,600	18.6%
205 Victoria #103	Christopher Matthew Petras & Lila Maria Villareal Witt	\$745,000	\$689,900	8.0%
1 Wood # 804	Radu Suliteanu & Sandra Gilklian Fischel	\$1,435,000	\$1,356,300	5.8%
1 Wood #1501	estate Harold Greenberg	\$2,450,000	\$2,547,900	-3.8%
MAY 2025				
635 Carleton	Xin Zhai	\$3,750,000	\$3,374,000	11.1%



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Police Report

Currency exchange clients targeted by tire-puncturing distraction thieves, say police

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. have issued a warning to Westmounters using the services of local currency exchanges to beware “distraction” thieves who are using a new type of ruse to steal large sums of cash from unsuspecting victims.

It’s part of a wider phenomenon reported by police investigators at neighbourhood police stations in several island of Montreal districts, according to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

“What they’re doing is they’re going to money exchange offices,” he said, referring to suspects who stake out currency exchanges, as well as bank branches, and wait for someone who appears to be a good prospect as the next victim.

One such incident began one day in early October outside a Westmount-based currency exchange business where a suspected trio of suspects watched for customers who appeared to make large withdrawals.

“A team of three were surveilling this customer,” said Yigit, adding that one suspect, seen in security camera footage

viewed by the police, going to the customer’s car and piercing one of the tires.

The client, around 30 minutes after driving off, according to an incident report filed at Station 12, noticed he had a flat tire. When he got out to change the tire, another suspect approached and provided assistance.

But while the client was distracted, a third suspect entered the car and stole the money, added Cst. Yigit.

He agreed this appeared to be a new and more elaborate type of distraction theft, a more notable example being a scam where a suspect approaches someone to offer a piece of cheap jewellery while removing a more valuable accessory item from the victim.

While noting that distraction thefts have also been reported by clients of currency exchanges in downtown Montreal, currency offices in Westmount could also easily be targetted, as Westmounters are frequent travellers, especially at this time of year, and there are several currency exchanges located in the city.

Masked man sees PIN at ATM, steals wallet

After a recent uptick in wallet thefts at Victoria Ave. retail establishments, there was yet another pickpocketing incident – although this time at Westmount’s other shopping district on Greene Ave.

On October 21, a client of a bank at the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve lost an undisclosed sum after failing to be more cautious while using an automated teller machine.

“A lady went to the bank and a gentleman who was next to her looked while she was doing her PIN, got it and stole her purse,” said Yigit.

Although the investigators have security camera images of the suspect, who is believed to have been part of a two-person team, he could be more difficult to find as he was wearing a surgical mask, according to Cst. Yigit.

He suggested bank clients using ATMs should be extra cautious should they be making transactions when a stranger wearing a surgical mask is present.

Justice Harry LaForme: An Anishnaabe Zionist’s Perspective on Israel and Indigeneity

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 | 7:00 PM



Response by
Irwin Cotler



Moderated by
Éloge Butera

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CEGEP's use of book began during COVID

Dawson College, world adopt Sustainable Happiness Semester journal

By JENNIFER BALL

ership and community.

How Dawson uses the book

Jennifer De Vera in the office of sustainability at Dawson explained on October 7 how it is used in the school's practical setting.

"[In 2020] teachers and students in three psychology courses used Version 1 as a textbook and now any [Dawson] teacher [can use it in their course] ...

"We give them homework: '[Select] journal entry three, seven and nine and next week, we will discuss'...

At Dawson, De Vera said, "[The textbooks] are [now being] used by employees and students all over the college and since it is 'prompt journaling,' it is easier if you are not a [habitual journal writer.]"

The second edition was distributed to Dawson in 2021 through a digital licensing agreement that O'Brien and O'Brien Murray created for the CEGEP.

Chris Adam, who retired this summer after 40 years of teaching at Dawson College, has re-imagined his career by working to establish a sustainable happiness centre in Costa Rica (see July 8, p. 19).

He spoke to the *Independent* at a Rotary Club of Westmount meeting on October 1, "Most people think of happiness when you use the term 'joy,' but I am talking about a fulfilled life..."

"[The week of October 6] I'll be starting an institute in Costa Rica that is an international training centre and there'll be one in North Bay, Ontario as well."

Book's use spreads internationally

De Vera said: "I did a national sustainable happiness [course] with Dr. Catherine O'Brien online and they have held international ones – where individuals from around the world can join online..."



Chris Adam was at Victoria Hall October 1 delivering a talk to the Rotary Club of Westmount.

"It is pretty much used worldwide, which is pretty amazing."

Examples of student journal prompts from the sustainable happiness semester:

- "Day Forty-Five: When does a person become an adult?"
- Day Fifty: What would you do with an extra 30 minutes a day?
- Day Sixty-Eight: How has your concept of happiness and well-being changed with age?"

O'Brien Murray spoke to the *Independent* via Zoom on October 6 and shared the feedback she received about the impact on students, staff, and the broader community using her textbook from completed survey data.

"They were really affected by the journal, and it was gratifying that we had created a resource that helped meet the need."

"The reason it is called 'the semester journal' is because it is a 100-day journal, which is approximately the length of a semester. It can be used as both an in-class resource and also as a personal resource. We try to blend the two to get the best of both worlds..."

"The hope would be that sustainable happiness grows and that it spreads naturally and the possibilities – for what is next for that – are really quite limitless."

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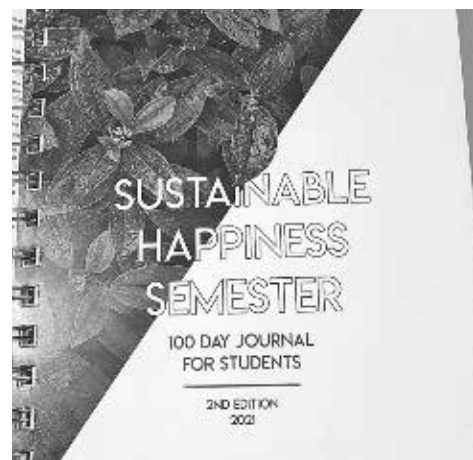
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The Sustainable Happiness Semester Journal textbook. This is the second edition, printed in 2021.

At the Israeli consulate

Orthodox Jews gather to oppose proposed draft of confrères in Israel



The stage and speeches. It would seem that these two flags were different ones from those that were stolen.

By RALPH THOMPSON

Many hundreds, perhaps close to 1,000, Orthodox Jews marched from Atwater and René Lévesque October 28 to de Maison-neuve and then south down Wood Ave. A

stage had been set up on a flatbed truck in front of 1 Westmount Square, where the Israeli consulate is located.

The scene was peaceful by the time the *Independent* arrived, but reportedly some-one from a different Jewish group had

stolen two flags beforehand. The person had bicycled away with police in pursuit.

Publicity handed out by protestors began: “Israel claims to protect Jews, but it is the only nation that forces Orthodox Jews to violate their religion and fight in

violent wars.”

It went on to conclude: “Orthodox Jews worldwide call for a ceasefire to stop persecuting our brethren in Israel. End war, peace now.”



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Kitten brothers Elvis and Elton



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Two tiny marmalade kittens at their most memorable cuteness, very much in need of a home environment as soon as possible, please. They are presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, and it would be best for them to come to you for kitten care at this tender age.

Elvis is the first kitten, with a darker and more red head, while Elton is the second, with a bit of a white-cap marking on his red head.

Precious and cuddly, they are available

for adoption through the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, where you can refer to their information pages from their identification numbers, 2000335271 for Elvis and 2000335272 for Elton.

They are available for visits every day and you can plan to meet them and discuss adoption with the counsellors at the shelter.

The SPCA is open from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, H4P 1X4.

Please bring your carrier if you have one. If not, you can choose a model to tuck both kittens in at their on-site boutique, where there are varied types of kitten food, toys and accessories galore to stock up on before you go home.



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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Please refer to the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org and find out more about Happy at her information page. You should also feel free to write to the volunteers directly at their email info@gerdysrescue.org, while also



applying at gerdysrescue.org/adoption-form to present your contact information and interest in adopting her.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Independent supplies copies for 50th anniversary of Rocky Horror Picture Show



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BENJAMIN CORZA.

Recycling was almost non-existent when *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* premiered in 1975, but its showings in Montreal last week to celebrate the film's 50th anniversary had a recycling (or re-using) theme.

Viewers of the film in theatres often dress up and partially act out scenes from the film, including the use of props provided by the venue.

This year, RHPS Halloween Ball producer and Westmounter Philippe Spurrell found himself in need of the newspapers that one scene requires and emailed the *Independent's* editor David Price asking if he had some.

"I don't think that I have ever emailed anyone back so quickly," said Price. "Did I have extra newspapers? Yes! The Canada Post strike has us constantly guessing how many copies to print and second print runs are not feasible, so we tend to have too many on hand. I was very pleased to see them get used, and out of my hair."

Spurrell was appreciative, telling Price that the audience members feel "naked" without all their appropriate props.

Four viewings of the movie occurred this year in Montreal, two at The Rialto on Park Ave. and two at the Decarie Theatre.

See also photo on p. 1.

Opens early, after short delay

Miele 'experience centre' opens on Greene at former Scotiabank/Lululemon space

BY JENNIFER BALL

Miele opened its experience centre at

street-level at 1394 Greene Ave., corner of Sherbrooke, a week earlier than recently predicted.

The original opening date of late August/early September had been pushed back to mid-October, but it actually opened

on October 7 (see April 22, p. 9 and September 16, p. S1-10).

Eric Tanguay, communications specialist at Miele, told the *Independent* on October 7, "We're excited to share that our store officially opens this morning at 10 am."

The tour

The *Independent* took a tour on October 10, which was provided by store manager Katherine Kisil; home economist George Priniotakis, who holds a hybrid position between sales and hands-on training with the appliances; and Tiana Dimopoulos, who is a sales representative.

The site was formerly occupied by a Lululemon and, before that, a Bank of Nova Scotia branch. According to the Montreal property roll, the estate of Morris Feinstein owns 1394 Greene Ave. The landlord is Barry Feinstein. The work was conducted by the construction company Downs McGovern.

The *Independent* received a press release on October 7 that explains the concept of the 1394 Greene Ave. store. "Designed to support customers in creating their dream kitchen or laundry space in a relaxed and inspiring environment, the showroom greets visitors with excellent coffee and expert guidance from Miele's sales team..."

"Guests can explore Miele's complete range of premium appliances, showcased in a lifestyle setting that demonstrates performance, precision and craftsmanship."



From left, Miele store manager Katherine Kisil, sales representative Tiana Dimopoulos and home economist George Priniotakis on October 10. Right, the east side of the new Miele showroom, which is at the street-level at 1394 Greene Ave., corner of Sherbrooke. The window at left opens onto Greene. As seen October 10.

Out of service for weeks? Months?

Inoperative Alexis Nihon escalator awaits a critical part for repair

BY JENNIFER BALL

The escalator from the Metro level to the street level at the Alexis Nihon shop-

ping mall has been out of order – possibly for several months by the *Independent's* information – and it is currently awaiting a critical part before it can again liberate shoppers from walking up the flight of stairs.

The shopping mall is located at 1500 Atwater Ave. It is situated between Atwater Ave., St. Catherine, de Maisonneuve and Wood Ave., mostly in Westmount with the balance of the mall being downtown in Montreal's Ville Marie borough.

The company that owns Alexis Nihon is Cominar REIT. It owns and manages office, commercial and residential buildings, mainly in Quebec.

On October 14, the *Independent* reached out to Amanda Clement and Sandra Lécuyer in the office of culture and brand at Cominar REIT, asking for them to confirm the *Independent's*

information that the escalator has been out of service for at least two months or to provide other information. They were also asked to explain what caused the escalator to become non-operational, and asked when it will be operational again.

Noémie Palenzuela, senior marketing coordinator at Alexis Nihon, provided a statement on October 16, which did not affirm or correct the date that the escalator went out of service.

Palenzuela said, "We are still awaiting delivery of a critical part to complete the repair. Until it arrives, we have installed special signage and increased security presence to make customer travel smoother and safer. Our on-site team also remains available for any assistance needed."

On October 15, a repairperson was observed working inside the Schindler escalator.



The escalator from the Metro to street level at the Alexis Nihon shopping mall was still out of service when the *Independent* checked November 3.

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Jean Paul Riopelle, *Sans titre*, 1950
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Paul-Émile Borduas, *Abstraction no. 10 ou Figure athénienne*, 1942
AUCTION ESTIMATE: \$100,000-\$150,000

AUCTION PREVIEW

Monkman pushes boundaries, challenges ‘victors’



Art
VERONICA REDGRAVE

I first met Kent Monkman 10 years ago. I wrote about his work for *Vie des Arts*.

Even then, his satire slipped in. His alter ego was already wearing red-soled stilettos. Even then, he challenged canons traditionally representing history. For years, indigenous people were portrayed as an idealized masculinity living amidst grandiose nature.

Monkman adds a gay sensuality, challenging clichés of aboriginal culture. As a First Nations artist of Cree and Irish ancestry, he offers tongue-in-cheek criticism of established views.

His works are as monumental as his message. Classically trained, he often appropriates art history using references and illusions to make his point.

Like Renaissance artists, he adds his own image in his work. He is Miss Chief. (Can you hear the pun?) Genre- and gender-bending.

The Montreal Museum of Fine Art (MMFA) is premiering *Kent Monkman: History is Painted by the Victors*.

The 40 works will stop you in your tracks. Most are massive. Many are humorous. Identities are cosplayed. Created with “my team” (in his words), they challenge the narrative of Western art history by repositioning it to focus on the experience of Indigenous peoples. The “right” boxes are checked: colonization, transgender, sexuality, spirituality, loss and resilience are explored.

Noted at the press premiere were the MMFA’s director Stéphane Aquin; chief curator Mary-Dailey Desmarais; curator of

indigenous practices Léuli Eshraghi, and Anne Hudon Duchesne, director general MMFA Foundation. The project was brought to fruition by John Lukavic, the Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Native Arts, Denver Art Museum, who was also present.

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, main entrance, 1380 Sherbrooke St. West. Until March 8, 2026. Mbam.qc.ca

Memories of another unique person, Jane Goodall

I worked with Jane Goodall on her Roots and Shoots initiative. What struck me was her stillness. And her quietness. Today, both seem not only missing but gone. The iconic influencer, ahead of her time in so many ways, passed away on October 1 at age 91.



Kent Monkman.

Auction Preview in Montreal!

Le Mount Stephen (Algonquin Room): 1440 Drummond Street
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Thursday, November 13th: 9 am - 4 pm
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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

At its annual general meeting (AGM), Ometz welcomed new board leadership.

Attendees were introduced to incoming board chair Linda Schachter, who succeeds Jeff Berkowitz after a term marked by his dedication and vision.

Acknowledgement was also given to outgoing chair Joel Shalit and board mem-



Danielle Pollack and Nancy Cleman.

Ometz welcomes board chair Schachter



ber Geneviève Busbib for their years of leadership and service.

Dominique McCaughey, CEO Ometz, spoke about the flexibility and compassion offered by the organization, whose mission helps people in need to move forward with dignity, strength and hope. The evening

Patrick Benaroch, Susan Kling, Carole Teitelbaum, Dominique McCaughey, Daniella Schwartz, Janice Heft, Lesli Green and Michael Aronovici.

featured moving client testimonials, board and staff leadership messages, and recognition of the many volunteers, donors and professionals.

The AGM served as a reminder of the

vital role Ometz plays in Montreal's Jewish and broader communities, delivering integrated services in mental health, employment, immigration and education with care and collaboration.



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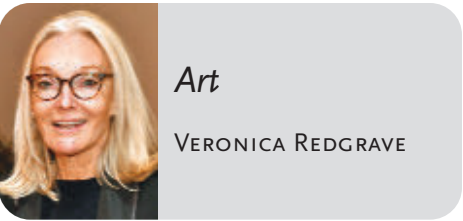
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Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE

I felt like Matisse in Morocco.
Colour was everywhere at the Visual Arts Centre's McClure Gallery. The biannual fundraiser featured 100 artists who submitted their work to an open call. Then a selection committee chose those for the show.
Some work was by emerging artists; others by those more established such as

Chinese Works of Art WANTED



Paintings



Jade



Snuff Bottles



Buddha Figures



Censers



Porcelain Plaque



Porcelain



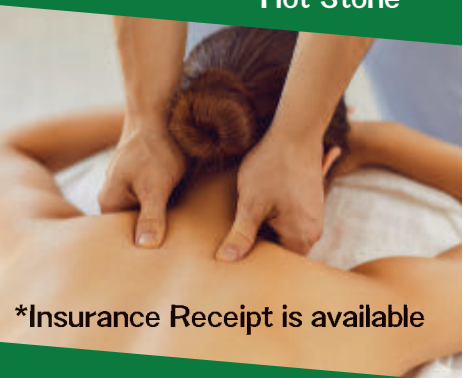
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Colours explode at Victoria Ave.'s Visual Arts Centre



Sid Wilson, Julie Karman, Alysia Yip-Hoi Martin (president), Marilena Bono and Geneviève Masson.

local res Ann McCall and Sarah Colby.
Oeuvres ranged from cats and people to nature and abstracts; from oil and water-colour to collage and photography.
Among the themes, colour captured the eye. Scarlet shone in Louse Champion's *The attractive value of greed* (an ironic shout-out to today's world?); as it did in Isabelle Bredt's *Sarah* (2024) – a photo of look-at-me red lips (a sly nod to today's lip filler trend?).
Indigo blue was luminous in Sarah Galarneau's lithograph *Maison* (2024), Raphael Biscotti's *Sans titre* and Hazel Thexton's appropriately named *Blue* (2024).
Although small, much of the art packed a Pantone punch. And as the centre offers courses in ceramics and jewellery, the exhibition included designs in clay (Paul Mathieu's *Kiss Bowls*) and shimmering metal (Malika Rousseau).
Wandering around the crowded gallery, I saw how the art kindled curiosity. What?

Why? Artists' personal visions could be short stories. Narratives were not linear but ephemeral dialogues to be "read" according to the viewer – thus inviting a dialogue.
The works were a wonderful way to listen to other visions of our world. Each was created by a seer (pun intended): a prophet. (A relief from talk about profit.)
The VAC has its own super story. It was founded by ladies who allegedly "couldn't get into the MMFA Arts School." So their Potters Club bought the building!
Today the VAC is the largest bilingual art school in Canada.
Run by executive director Amber Berson and coordinator Barbara Wisnoski, the organization's community outreach program is outstanding – busy seven days a week with wait lists for many courses.
The show was masterfully hung by gallery technician Carina Kennedy. Board members attending were Alysia Yip-Hoi Martin (president), Meghan Athavale,



Amber Berson.

Marilena Bono, Geneviève Masson, Mana Hemami, Sasha Endoh, Yasemain Eroglu, Alain Fournier, Julie Karman, Oriana Sutorios and Sidney Wilson.
Online bidding ended October 25, resulting in great sales.

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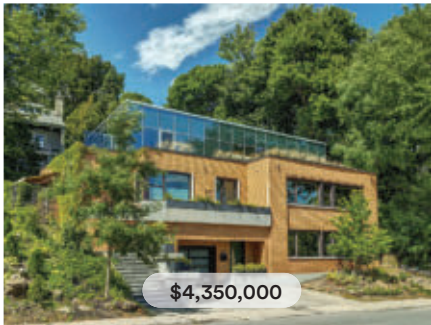
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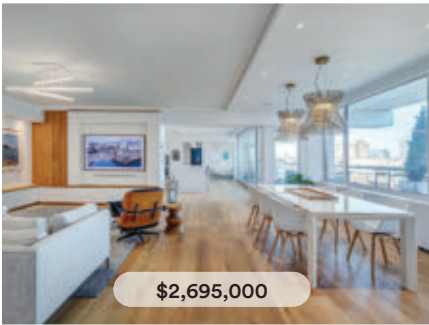
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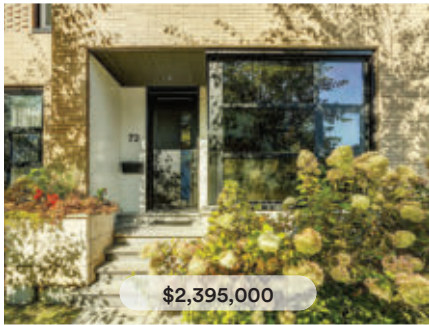
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Ville-Marie
3177 CH. ST-SULPICE



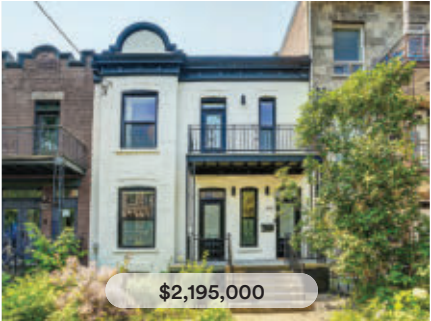
\$2,695,000

Golden Square Mile
1545 DOCTEUR-PENFIELD AV., APT. PH3



\$2,395,000

Westmount
73 HILLSIDE AV.



\$2,195,000

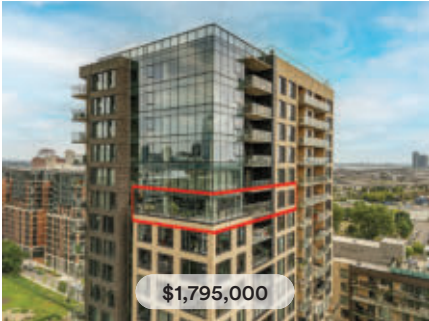
Mile-End
5678 AV. DE L'ESPLANADE



NEW

\$1,795,000

Golden Square Mile
3720 REDPATH RD.



\$1,795,000

Griffintown
1458 RUE DES BASSINS, APT. 1602



\$1,075,000

Westmount
4175 STE-CATHERINE ST. W., APT. 504



\$925,000

Westmount
3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 512



SOLD

Westmount
521 LANSLOWNE AV.



SOLD

Westmount
347 METCALFE AV.



SOLD

Westmount
4872 STE-CATHERINE ST. W.



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\$4,498,000
420 CH. DE LA RIVE-BOISÉE, APT. PH700
PIERREFONDS-ROXBORO



\$1,995,000
1455 RUE SHERBROOKE O., PH7
VILLE-MARIE



\$1,499,000
3940 CH. DE LA CÔTE-DES-NEIGES, APT. B52
VILLE-MARIE



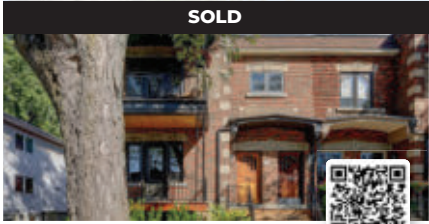
\$1,395,000
1869 RUE DES BASSINS, APT. 605
GRIFFINTOWN



\$1,238,800
3 RUE WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 513
WESTMOUNT



\$1,195,000
279 RUE DE LA GAUCHETIÈRE O.
VILLE-MARIE



SOLD
4577 AV. DE MELROSE
CDN/NDG



\$679,000
900 RUE SHERBROOKE O., APT. 72
VILLE-MARIE



\$569,000
3940 CH. DE LA CÔTE-DES-NEIGES, APT. B54
VILLE-MARIE

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crfontaine@profusion.global

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