

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 19 No. 11d

We are Westmount

November 25, 2025

Cost: \$56k – Mayor Stern: 'It is temporary'

Council brings back weekly garbage collection, for now

By JENNIFER BALL

The newly constituted city council, meeting for the first time November 17,

acted on what it said it had heard from residents when campaigning and restored the city's previous garbage/landfill pick-up schedule, which will temporarily revert to weekly collection as of December 1.

It has been every other week for single-family homes and buildings with two to eight dwelling units in fall/winter since October 2024. To date, it has always been weekly in spring/summer.

In his mayoral report, Mayor Michael Stern said, "There's one issue that needs immediate attention ... garbage collection."

The city's website defines household garbage, or trash, as be- ing any residue, debris or

continued on p. 18

Greene Ave.'s La Cache turns 50



From left, La Cache sales associate Millie McKillip, founder April Cornell, Gabrielle Lisku and Kaitlyn Horlick are seen here on November 21 during a La Cache 50th anniversary gathering for the Greene Ave. store and the brand. See p. 17 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

This issue is the third-to-last one before our usual Christmas break

Issues: December 2 & 9

No issues: December 16, 23 & 30 and January 6

Weekly issues begin again: January 13

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Registration opened Nov. 18

Residents get first chance to sign up for Sports, Rec programs

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Winter registration started November 18 for the city's programs and activities listed for winter programming, for which Westmount residents have the first chance before these will be opened up December 2 to non-residents if space is available.

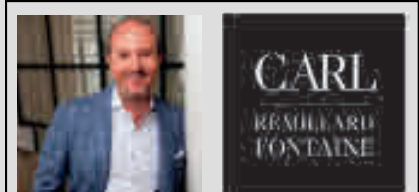
Newly featured by the city's Sports and Recreation department are new day-long

courses in first-aid training for youth and adults aged 13 and up. These are to take place Saturday mornings, January 24 and 31, 8 am to 5 pm at the Westmount recreation centre.

"We started offering Bronze Cross and Bronze Medallion courses last summer" at the pool, explained Dave Lapointe, the city's director of Culture, Sports, Recreation and

continued on p. 5

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All calculations are made and results are submitted based upon data entered into the Engel & Völkers Deal platform.

Public Security helps woman inside to await transport to hospital

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A call to Public Security November 19 for an unconscious person outside 4920 Sherbrooke near Claremont brought two units to the scene around 11:39 am, Public Security officials said. There, the responders found the woman along with a doctor who had been passing by.

Described as weak but having regained consciousness, the 45-year-old woman was helped inside a nearby establishment to keep warm while awaiting Urgences Santé for transport to hospital. Her car was given parking toleration.

Emergency crews attend when car slides down Church Hill

During heavy snow November 10, a car slid down Church Hill and across Côte St. Antoine onto the property of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue, Public Security officials said. A passing patroller was flagged at 10 pm by “a young man” standing beside the Tesla 5.

Few details were reported but the car had been unable to stop on the hill. This also resulted in police and the fire depart-

ment attending from their nearby stations on Stanton St.

Snow brings down branches on Lansdowne

Snow brought down a branch onto a parked car November 10 at 8:15 am outside 547 Lansdowne, appearing to block the street and sidewalk, Public Security officials said. The car was covered with snow, not allowing for possible damage to be assessed. Other branches were also reported to have fallen from the tree.

Woman walks from Smiths Falls, maybe

A woman from Ontario was found “in distress” at Sherbrooke and Victoria during heavy snow at 9:12 am November 11, according to Public Security reports. A passer-by flagged down a passing patroller, to whom the woman claimed to have come from Smiths Falls, which was in accordance with her identification. She claimed to have been walking all night through Montreal.

Though the story seemed to change in details, the woman did not appear to be injured and was driven to local police Station 12 for assistance.

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9 Lives, p. 19

Social Notes:
Under a Tuscan Sun, p. 21



InfoWestmount, p. 8

Starting on p. 11

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Need a Christmas tree?

To raise funds for Scouting activities, the Westmount Park and 2nd Westmount groups are selling Christmas trees (\$80) and wreaths (\$35). The cultivated balsam fir trees are up to 12 ft and can be delivered locally (\$15) or picked up on November 29. If you would like to support local Scouting, please contact info@scoutswestmount.ca.



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Council votes in council members' commissionerships

By JENNIFER BALL

As is usual with a new city council, council members announced at their first-ever public meeting November 17 which councillors would hold which commissionerships.

This was item 9 of the agenda, which fell under the "General business & administration" component of the council meeting.

Mayor Michael Stern said, "We're actually very excited about [the appointments]. You'll see there's a lot of new positions, new phrases, new terminology. We want to focus on things that we believe are important, and we've taken into account the skills and the experience of our councillors."

"We have a great group of councillors

here with different backgrounds, different interests, and different experience, [and a lot of] experience in different areas."

Councillor Jeff Shamie moved that the following councillors be appointed to the following commissionerships:

- Antonio D'Amico, commissioner of finance and Hydro Westmount, and a member of the Finance and Administration commission,
- Jonathan Chomski, commissioner of economic development, infrastructure, and information technology,
- Jeff Shamie, commissioner of public works, accessibility and mobility, and chair of the Finance and Administration commission,
- Gurveen Chadha, commissioner of the library, culture and community events, and a member of the Westmount Public

- Library committee,
- Shawn Moss, commissioner of sports and recreation, commissioner of urban planning and sustainable development,
- Paul Levine, commissioner of public order, liaison with merchants' associations, and member of the Finance and Administration commission,
- Matt Aronson, commissioner of legal affairs and of communications, and the commissioner for parks and green spaces,
- Kathleen Kez, commissioner of public safety, and a member of the Finance and Administration commission.

Mayor Stern will be an *ex officio* member of all commissions and all committees. Councillor Antonio D'Amico was a second order; all were in favour.

\$60k added to \$4M total

Council approves additional amount for Claremont project

By JENNIFER BALL

City council approved at its November 17 meeting a small contingency addition to the large, now completed Claremont Ave. project. The roadway in question is between NDG and Lorraine avenues, and the additional amount was \$61,596.

This was agenda item 15, which fell under the "Contractual matters" component.

Councillor Jonathan Chomski moved that "an additional amount of \$61,596, including the tax credit, be allocated to the contract for repair of Claremont Ave. between Notre Dame de Grâce and Lorraine avenues, PUB 2025033 awarded to Cojalac Inc." and "that the contract awarded to Cojalac Inc., in accordance with this call for tenders be increased to \$4,004,537.97, taxes included, and that the funds required for this expenditure be drawn from the available funds in budget

items 2331051024 and 2331102034."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Paul Levine, and all eight councillors were in favour.

At one point, the city was planning a very different project in 2025 on Claremont Ave., including the early-on possibility of closing the triangle formed by Claremont, NDG Ave. and Westmount Ave.

Project's evolution

The eventually proposed project (without the triangle elimination) would have added a northbound bike lane and eliminated 49 parking spaces (see March 25, p. 1), but as Laureen Sweeney reported in the April 15 issue of the *Independent* (p. 1), it "was cancelled [during a] special noon-hour council session on April 10..."

"According to a resolution to cancel a tender call for the project, 'council is of the opinion that the re-development project does not currently have the required level

of social acceptability to proceed,' and the latest estimate received by the city 'significantly exceeds' the anticipated budget. Tender bids were to have been opened April 23. The estimate is in fact 50 percent more."

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Treasure hunt: Find the nutcrackers

Vic village tree lighting set for Dec. 3

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The annual tree lighting event in Prince Albert square will take place December 3 from 4 to 6 pm involving hot cocoa, cookies, live holiday music ... and a special feature.

This special feature is a treasure hunt announced last week by Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the city's two merchants' associations.

The hunt is planned on a scenario in which "an army of nutcrackers were gathered to adorn the tree but have escaped and are hiding in our shops. Please help us find them," she said. "Each nutcracker will have

a code card with an entry number for participants to enter on an entry form. Six nutcrackers must be found to enter."

Participating shops are to have an official "Nutcracker poster" on display as well as entry forms. A drawing of all entries will take place in Prince Albert square on December 19 at 4 pm, for which there are three grand prizes. These will consist of "goodies, gift certificates, sweets and surprises." All prizes are being donated by the merchant members.

"The found nutcrackers will be hung on the tree, where hopefully they will remain," Lulham said.

Registration, cont'd from p.1

Social Development. "Considering first aid is a prerequisite to these, we wanted to allow more local teens and young adults to be prepared to take those courses next year.

"Also, we believe that first aid is an asset to all, and the more people that are trained, the safer the community will be," he told the *Independent* last week.

"The Quebec Lifesaving Society is offering a subsidy for first aid training, so we can offer the courses to the community at a reduced price," he added. This price is \$60.

Among the many other courses and programs for youth are: Babies on the Move, breakdance, hip hop, karate, "kid-nastix" and "multisport," which introduces kids aged 4 to 6 to a variety of sports such as soccer, badminton, touch football and ultimate frisbee. Others also include basketball, creative writing, ballet and a new "drama time" for kids aged 9 to 13.

Included activities geared to adults and seniors are indoor pickleball, skating, gentle movement, Pilates, co-ed instructional skating, ballroom dancing, belly dancing, basketball, Bootcamp and choir.

À partir du 1^{er} décembre,

la collecte des ordures ménagères reviendra, temporairement, à une fréquence hebdomadaire pour les maisons unifamiliales et les logements de 2 à 8 logements.

westmount.org/collectes

Starting December 1,

household waste collection will temporarily revert to weekly collection for single-family homes and dwellings with 2 to 8 units.

westmount.org/collections



Dear Residents of Westmount,

As I begin my first mandate as Mayor of our beautiful City, and on behalf of all members of your new Council, I want to thank you for the trust you placed in us during the elections. Throughout the campaign, I became keenly aware of how much our community cherishes this City and how much it desires that the men and women who lead it listen to their aspirations and address their concerns.

Among these concerns, the frequency of household waste collection during winter is particularly important. This concern is legitimate. It is for this reason that, at our very first Council meeting on Monday, November 17, we presented a resolution to the City's waste collection contract to temporarily return to a weekly collection for the 2025-2026 winter period. **This decision is not a retreat from our environmental responsibilities; rather, it is a strategic reassessment.**

Restoring weekly pickup for the winter period will give us the time needed to **reevaluate our approach to residual materials management** and ensure that residents have the necessary support and information for a successful transition. We recognize that the comfort and safety of our families, seniors, and all individuals with specific needs, including caregivers, must be ensured, especially during the winter months.

Let us be clear: **our commitment to the environment remains firm.** Changes to waste collection are significant, and they require effective communication and a well-planned transition.

During this period, we will also **review best practices** from other municipalities and explore sustainable solutions to significantly reduce what is sent to landfills. Specifically, we will study a model, similar to the one used in Ottawa, that offers a special consideration program for households with particular needs (medical waste, young families using diapers, etc.). This is a humane and reasonable approach that aligns with our long-term obligations, allowing us to respect the different realities of every resident.

We strongly encourage everyone to continue and intensify your sorting and composting efforts. Often, very little waste is truly destined for landfill. Therefore, sorting residual materials is one of the most concrete actions we can take daily for our planet. In addition to directly reducing the volume of waste destined for landfill sites, increasing the quantity of sorted materials allows Westmount to increase the amount of the service fee (*redevances*) it receives from the provincial government based on the residual materials we generates. Every responsible action therefore translates into a double benefit for our City: environmental and financial.

Our goal is not simply to adjust service levels, but to **get this right.** We aim to build a waste management system that residents understand, respect, and can successfully participate in, today and in the years ahead.

During our first Council meeting, we also approved the distribution of Council members among the City's various committees and commissions. We have taken great care to assign roles and positions based on each councillor's interests, strengths, and experience. The list of councillors and their roles will be available on the City's website shortly. I will have the privilege of leading specific major initiatives, such as innovation across all our processes, the revision of our by-laws to make the City more resident-friendly and efficient, and the development of the South-East sector.

An exciting chapter is opening for Westmount. Together, we can strengthen our parks, sports facilities, programs for families and seniors, and our sense of community. We can grow responsibly, be more transparent, more engaged, and more united.

I will be the Mayor for all residents. My door will always be open. I am grateful to work alongside this Council and our dedicated City employees as we move forward, together.

Let us commit ourselves to continuous improvement, civility, and collaboration. Let us honor the trust residents have placed in us and make Westmount the best it can be. We want our City to prosper and continue to stand out for the quality of life it offers its residents. We have heard you, we understand you, and we will act accordingly.

Thank you.

Michael Stern,
Mayor of Westmount

EDITORIAL

Congratulations, council members! – But I decline to go along with mayor’s spin on ‘not declining’ questions

I congratulate the next city council on their elections and acclamation, including especially the new council members, and wish them well over the next four years.

At the first council meeting on November 17, I noticed both the perennial issues and questioners, but also a relief among participants at the presence of new faces and an openness to a new approach.

My advice to council members: Use this honeymoon period well. In a short time, you will be treated as *the* council, period, and you will – in the public’s mind – own all the issues and problems, including ones that you had no role in creating, going back years in some cases.

I also applaud Councillor Matt Aronson for his vote against (temporarily) returning to weekly garbage pick-up in the winter, even though I disagree with him on the substance. I don’t care a lot about this issue, but I was mildly against the change to every other week in winter on substance. Worse, process-wise, it was imposed out of the blue on an unsuspecting public, including many people to whom it was very important and with whom I sympathize. Additionally, so many of our “green” maneuvers at all levels of government and society are virtue-signalling theatre: lots of costs and talk, with uncertain benefits.

One less such program is a good start. (And, if another level of government is

mandating every-other-week pick-up, why not look for exceptions, or opportunities that might be presented by a change in government, or other ways to oppose it?)

Even though I would not have voted with him on this issue, I thought that Aronson gave a good speech in defence of his view, and more contested votes would be a good thing. When we published the *Free Press* (2009-2017) and covered Côte St. Luc, I noticed that its council of that era routinely and without drama had non-unanimous votes, with councillors not always allying with the same people for each one. It was healthier, in my view, than the predominant Westmount approach of the last 19 years, i.e. unanimity for most votes.

At the *Independent*, we applaud independent spirits. Well done, Matt.

*

I also applaud Mayor Michael Stern for following through on a campaign commitment with this vote, and doing so quickly. Many politicians don’t.

*

What I do not applaud is Mayor Michael Stern’s attempt to say that he did not *decline* to answer the *Independent*’s questions during the election period, as our coverage said at the time. These questions and their answers (and non-answers) were covered during the campaign in our October 21 issue (see p. 10 and following).

In response to Lillian Fox’s question at the November 17 council meeting (timestamp 40:20) as to why he did not answer our questions, Mayor Stern replied, “I didn’t decline. That’s a very interesting question. It’s not right.

“So what it was ... I like to do things properly, so these questions were asked of us and [we were] told specifically give ‘yes’ or ‘no’ for half the questions and [for] the others ones, give a short answer. So I felt that we could not – and that’s what I answered – I could not answer the questions properly in the allotted time, so I cannot answer those [questions] the way you want them.

“For instance, one question he wanted a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer [for was:] ‘Should we have an indoor pool, bearing in mind our financial situation?’ Well, that’s a very long question.

“What is our financial situation? Can we have it done – a pool in the southeast – and can we get someone to pay for it? Can we take the existing pool [and modify it]? I have plans to put a dome on it so that we can use it like an inside pool. It wasn’t a yes or no.

“But the newspaper decided to say that I deliberately declined, which was not true. That was not correct what they put.”

The truth is that candidate Stern did decline to answer our questions. On October 16, he emailed me (emphasis added):

“I believe that to do justice to the questions requires more detailed responses which can be addressed during the debate next week,” i.e. at the Westmount Municipal Association’s meet-the-candidates event. (See addendum on p. 7 for the whole email and the whole exchange.)

By the way, there was nothing odd or out of the box about the questions that we asked, including that they – like many journalists’ questions (or anybody’s) – were meant to be answered in a prescribed format.

While candidate Stern did provide a *rationale* for declining to reply, he did decline. When you dislike a question and you don’t reply, you have still declined to reply. You can think a question is too simplistic, but you have still declined to reply. You may be willing to answer in another forum (like a meet-the-candidates event), but you have still declined to reply initially.

*

I find it interesting that I thrice used forms of the word “decline” in my emails to candidate Stern and his team, as well as in the October 21 paper, but that he is only objecting now.

*

It won’t change whether he declined or not, but the reasons for the format of the questions and for not publishing candidate Stern’s out-of-format email were several.

Firstly, there were 24 candidates, including three mayoral ones, and we could not have several essays from each of them. That is why I wrote to them:

“There are so many of you. Kindly confirm receipt, and please respect the yes/no or short-answer formats. **I cannot accommodate extra contributions, which will be ‘chopped off’**” (October 13 email, emphasis added), and:

“Please remember that, if elected as councillor and present at a meeting, you cannot abstain. So: if your colleagues prepare legislation like the questions here, even if you would prefer a different draft by-law, you will have to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ I encourage yes or no for this reason, but you now have four possible answers [i.e. yes, no, decline and YNTL (yes/no too limiting)].

“Another candidate has not respected the format. Please answer NEXT TO the questions and in the manner explained (yes/no or multiple choice or short answer etc). **More ‘background’ information is not helpful.**” (October 14, 9:29 am email, emphasis added), and:

“Please remember that there are 21 of you [excluding the three mayoral candidates]” (October 14, 9:29 am email).

*

More importantly, I thought it was important for the voters to get some information about what candidates *thought*. Our profiles by reporters Laureen Sweeney and Martin Barry introduced the people running, some of their motivation and approach, and their CVs, but did not get much into the substance of municipal policy or their views.

Voters might be very impressed with candidates’ professional background, but if they disagreed with candidates on something that mattered to them, why would they vote for them? Similarly, you might vote for a weaker or weak candidate who is going to vote your way. The idea, like much of journalism, was to give voters some useable information.

Anyway, in my view Stern did *decline* to answer our questions, and I share our email correspondence on p. 7 so you can come to your own conclusion.

David Price is the editor of the *Independent*.

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EDITORIAL ADDENDUM

Candidate Stern declined to answer *Independent's* questions

BY DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

Please note that I informed all three mayoral candidates by email October 6:

I take this opportunity to say that I never go “off the record” with mayors (or, I say now, mayoral candidates). If you want to talk to me or email me, great, but it will be on the record.

*

On October 13, I sent 13 questions to all the candidates in the municipal election. I supplemented these questions twice by email on October 14, as explained in our October 21 issue (p. 19).

On October 16 at 10 pm, Stern wrote back to me:

Thank you for these important questions, David. You requested either yes/no responses or short answers. I believe that to do justice to the questions requires more detailed responses which can be addressed during the debate next week [i.e. at the Westmount Municipal Association's meet-the-candidates event]. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

*

I took, and continue to take, this reply from Stern as declining to answer, but I wanted to check anyway and so, on October 17 at 8:55 am, I wrote back:

Hi, Michael and Tina [Apfeld, Stern's campaign manager],

Just to be clear: that is an across-the-board “decline”?

Thanks, David

*

I received no reply to this email, but Stern did try to answer the questions in a different way after the October 21 issue came out.

*

On October 21 at 2 pm, Tina Apfeld, Stern's campaign manager, wrote to me:

I would like to ask if you'd be willing to allow Michael [Stern] to respond to questions posed to the other two mayoral candidates. The issues they're responding to are also issues which Michael would be willing to address. In the interest of fairness, we're hoping you'd allow Michael the opportunity to also respond.

*

On October 21 at 2:52 pm, I wrote back:

Hi, Tina & Michael,

Which questions? Michael declined to answer the 13 questions posed and answered in this week's issue.

Best regards, David

On October 23 at 10:05 am, Tina Apfeld wrote back:

Thank you for your response. Regarding your 13 questions, Michael felt that that it would be difficult to answer many without any explanation and so he preferred to address them at the debate.

As you noted, candidates have been afforded (and will be afforded) the opportunity to respond to letters that address them in writing. As these questions can sometimes give the candidate an opportunity to share their platforms, we believe it would be fair for Michael to also be able to address these questions in writing. Would you be amenable to that?

*

On October 23 at 10:13 am, I wrote back:

Hi, Tina and Michael,

No. All candidates had a chance to answer the “13 questions” in the prescribed format. As clearly stated, it was a one-time offer, not for subsequent issues, and had to be in the format. Michael declined. It is not a big deal, but it is done.

Those “13 questions” are also a separate thing from my openness to letters from candidates that are answering letters that refer to them.

Best regards, David

*

In reply to Mayor Stern's contention at the November 17 council that he had not “declined” to answer the *Independent's* questions, questioner Lillian Fox said “Everyone else managed” (timestamp 41:28).

This statement by Fox is not quite true. Several candidates replied too late and two did not reply at all, and many questions were answered in the wrong format.

But one thing is certain: all candidates had a chance to answer and some declined, including the current mayor.

First Canadian so honoured

Sotheby's International recognizes Kaufman as one of its Top 100



Liza Kaufman and Philip A. White, Jr., CEO of Sotheby's International Realty, at the Top 100 recognition dinner in New York City on November 13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Sotheby's International Realty Québec has announced that their longtime Westmount representative Liza Kaufman has been recognized among the Top 100 Sotheby's International Realty real estate brokers for 2025 within the brand's network of 26,100 professionals across 1,100 offices worldwide.

“This prestigious distinction reflects her exceptional expertise, dedication and commitment to delivering outstanding service to clients,” Sothebys' International Québec said in a statement.

“Her continued success exemplifies Sotheby's International Realty's enduring reputation for real estate excellence in Québec, across Canada and around the world,” they added.

Kaufman was a founding partner of Sotheby's International Realty Québec. (For the brand's one-year Quebec anniversary and Westmount launch, see December 19, 2007, p. 3.)

She is the first Canadian to be recognized as one of the Top 100 by Sotheby's International Realty.

“I have been privileged to be part of the brand's global network for more than 20 years,” she said. “I am deeply proud of how far we have come.”

Kaufman said she could still remember Sotheby's very first global networking event held in the Cayman Islands, when fewer than 50 markets were represented.

“To have been part of our network's growth to 1,100 offices across 84 countries has been an extraordinary journey,” she said.

“Today, the strength of our global marketing and referral network is unmatched,

giving our clients reach, visibility and access that no other brand can offer.”

Kaufman said that being recognized among the Top 100 within a community of 26,100 Sotheby's representatives “is an honour and a reflection of the trust my clients place in the breadth and power of this network.”

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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, December 8



Collecte des ordures ménagères

À compter du **1^{er} décembre 2025**, la collecte des ordures ménagères reviendra, temporairement, à une fréquence hebdomadaire pour les maisons unifamiliales et les immeubles de 2 à 8 logements. westmount.org



Household Garbage Collection

Beginning **December 1, 2025**, household garbage collection will temporarily return to a weekly schedule for single-family homes and buildings with 2 to 8 units. westmount.org

Ateliers d'art écologique

Créez des cadeaux zéro déchet tout en soutenant des artistes locaux grâce à trois ateliers : réparation visible et broderie, mosaïque avec matériaux récupérés, et création de bijoux à partir de matériaux recyclés. westmount.org/evenements

Panneaux d'affichage de vitesse

L'équipe de la Circulation et de la mobilité est heureuse d'annoncer l'acquisition de plusieurs panneaux d'affichage de vitesse à radar. Ces dispositifs aideront à déterminer si une rue répond aux critères pour l'installation d'une mesure permanente d'apaisement de la circulation. westmount.org/actualites

Eco-Friendly Art Workshops

Create zero-waste gifts while supporting local artists through three workshops: visible mending and embroidery, mosaic with reclaimed materials, and jewellery-making from recycled materials. westmount.org/events

Speed Display Signs

The Traffic and Mobility team is pleased to announce the acquisition of several radar speed display signs. These devices will help determine whether a street meets the criteria for the installation of a permanent traffic calming measure. westmount.org/news

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Carte d'accès aux installations sportives 2026

La carte d'accès aux installations sportives de Westmount 2026 sera disponible pour les résidents en personne et en ligne à compter du 1^{er} décembre. westmount.org/carte

Get money back for your ecofriendly purchases!

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2026 Facility Access Card

Westmount's 2026 Facility Access Card will be available to residents in person and online as of December 1. westmount.org/card

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

La guignolée des Fêtes de la Sécurité publique

Depuis plus de 30 ans, la Sécurité publique de Westmount organise une guignolée au bénéfice des familles dans le besoin à Westmount. Déposez vos dons dans les boîtes désignées à cet effet dans les édifices municipaux jusqu'au 7 décembre. Merci de votre générosité ! westmount.org/guignolee



Conférence : Secrets of the Black Belt Investor

3 décembre, 19 h, Salle Westmount. Participez à une rencontre avec Mary Hagerman, auteure de *Secrets of the Black Belt Investor*, et découvrez comment la connaissance de soi, la discipline et la confiance peuvent guider votre parcours vers la prospérité financière. westlib.org

Collecte de sang Héma-Québec

27 novembre, 13 h 30, Victoria Hall. Faites un don de sang et aidez à sauver des vies. Héma-Québec recommande de prendre rendez-vous avant de se présenter à la collecte. westmount.com/evenements

Héma-Québec Blood Drive

November 27, 1:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Donate blood and help save lives. Héma-Québec recommends booking an appointment before going to the blood drive. westmount.org/events

Chanukah Celebration

December 15, 5 p.m., City Hall. Friends from all backgrounds, faiths, and religions are welcome! All are invited to join in a celebration of this festival of lights. In collaboration with Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. westmount.org/events



Illumination du sapin de Noël

1^{er} décembre, 17 h, en face de l'hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux élus du Conseil municipal à l'occasion de cette célébration. L'illumination de l'arbre de Noël aura lieu en face de l'hôtel de ville, avec musique et boissons chaudes. westmount.com/evenements

Fête de la Hanoukka

15 décembre, 17 h, hôtel de ville. Bienvenue aux amis de toutes origines, croyances et religions ! Vous êtes invités à la célébration de ce festival des lumières. En collaboration avec la Congregation Shaar Hashomayim et le Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. westmount.org/evenements

Christmas Tree Lighting

December 1, 5 p.m., in front of City Hall. Join City Council members for this holiday celebration. The tree lighting will be held outside City Hall, followed by music and hot drinks. westmount.org/events

Debris seen in Clarke snowbank



A snowbank seen November 14 at Clarke Ave. and de Maisonneuve showed exposed construction debris from a Hydro Westmount project. The city told the *Independent* November 18 that Hydro Westmount was in touch with the contractor that had generated the debris in order to have it cleaned up. A similar situation with private construction debris caused snow-clearing delays and complaints at the end of last winter (see March 11, p. 8).

PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL.



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More than 2,000 attend Friends of the Library event
Pre-holiday book sale raises \$15,471



Workers at the book sale, from left: Taylor Ash, Shuyan Zhu, Donna Lach and Lily Lam.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

This year’s pre-holiday book sale for the Westmount Public Library November 15 and 16 raised a total of \$15,471. The event at Victoria Hall was attended by a total of more than 2,000, reported as 1,367 on the Saturday and 678 on the Sunday, despite icy conditions that day.

Held by the Friends of the Westmount Public Library volunteers, “we had some 75 student volunteers from École Internationale de Montréal, Collège International Marie de France, The Study, Villa Maria and Westmount High,” said Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and Community Events.

These students, together with the Friends of the Library, she said, “worked incredibly hard to get ready for the sale, help welcome attendees, man the cashes and then re-box the remaining books to be returned to the library. I was very impressed by their enthusiasm and the incredible way they interacted with the community... and how they all worked together in such a respectful and engaging manner.”

So many books had been donated for the sale that those unsold were packed up again awaiting a decision on their future, Lach said. Last year, unsold ones were donated to Renaissance.



Shopper Will Ambeault waits his turn to pay, saying he attended last year as well.

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Tips for first-time holiday hosts

The holiday season is a busy time of year. From holiday shopping to readying the home for guests, there's no shortage of things to accomplish in a relatively brief amount of time. Seasoned holiday enthusiasts may be ready to put their game faces on and tackle tasks with ease. But for first-time holiday hosts, the prospect of crossing items off to-do lists may require a little extra assistance.

According to Dr. Vanessa Kennedy, a clinical psychologist at Driftwood Recovery, holiday hosting can “lead to the pressure to curate picture-perfect moments, creating stress and anxiety.” The following are pointers those new to holiday hosting can employ to simplify the process and enjoy the holidays.

- Do as much prep work in advance as possible. Giving yourself extra time to get things done can help immensely. Grocery shop one day, prepare food the next, clean the house one day, and set the table on another. Minor tasks can be left for the day guests arrive.
- Cook and freeze items. Utilize recipes that enable you to cook in bulk and then store foods until you need them. Casseroles, baked pasta dishes, freezable soups, and ready-to-bake cookie doughs made in advance will

- save a lot of time closer to the holidays.
 - Stock the pantry. If holiday hosting involves overnight guests, be sure to keep easy items on hand so guests can help themselves. Dry goods or pre-packaged muffins for breakfast, chips or pretzels for late-night snacks, granola bars, or store-made croissants. Stock the refrigerator with water, seltzer, iced teas and sodas, and make a full pot of coffee in the morning so guests can pour their own.
 - Avoid complicated cocktails. You don't want to be stuck mixing drinks all evening. Make it simple for guests to help themselves. Wine, beer, premade punches, or even one specialty drink.
 - Consider hiring a caterer. If the idea of a homecooked meal feels like climbing Mount Everest, swap out some items for store-bought alternatives, or work with a restaurant for foods that only need to be re-heated and served.
 - Free up closet and room space. Guests will be coming with a lot of stuff. Make room in the entry closet for guests' coats and boots. Be sure you can accommodate suitcases or overnight bags. Set aside an area where guests can deposit their wrapped gifts.
- MCG



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A beginner's guide to wreath-making

Wreaths are popular decorative items that can be customized for any season or occasion. Wreaths are particularly popular during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, especially when adorned with evergreen boughs and berries. Learning how to make a wreath can be a handy skill.

Those new to wreath-making need not worry, as it's relatively easy to learn the technique. Here are the basics, which can then be adorned as desired.

Materials needed

The first step to making a wreath is having the right tools and materials on hand.

- **Wreath form:** This is the frame upon which the materials will be attached. Choose a form diameter that matches the desired size for the centre ring of the wreath, as longer flowers or branches can be attached to create a larger finished wreath. A 10-inch wreath form is good for getting started. The form can be made from metal or grapevine. For a foam form, you'll be poking wire into the form instead of wrapping it around it to secure your greenery and decorations.

- **Paddle wire:** Choose 22- to 24-gauge paddle wire to attach greenery and additional items onto the form.
- Clippers and wire cutters,
- Craft scissors,
- Foliage, flowers and boughs,
- Decorative items and accessories,
- Floral tape,
- Door hanger.

Prepare your work station

Once you have collected your supplies, it's time to begin. Place all materials on a protected surface. Trim foliage into workable sizes that will fit neatly on the frame, and set aside.

Build bundles

The first step to making a wreath is to make small bouquets or bundles of greenery that look good in small bunches, suggests Homesteading Family. Hold the bundle tightly and use floral tape around the stems to keep each bundle together. Repeat this process until you have several bundles to attach to the wreath form.



Start attaching the greenery

Begin by laying a bundle onto the form and using a piece of paddle wire to first wrap around the form, and then wrap around the bundle stems to hold in place. Experts suggest pointing the stems inward and arranging the leaves and greenery to point outwards to create a fan shape. Always place the next bundle slightly overlapping and on top of the previous bundle to cover the stems. Repeat this process all around the wreath

form until you reach the starting point.

Add your embellishments

Fill in any sparse areas with some decorations, such as small ornaments, bows, pinecones, ribbons or plastic gems. Simply wrap a piece of wire around the decoration and attach it to the form as you did the bundles. When adding embellishments, work in odd-numbered groupings, as they look more aesthetically appealing on a circle, say the floral experts at Team Flower. Twist all wire ends tightly to avoid scratching your door or wall when the wreath is ready to hang.

Hang the wreath

Place the wreath holder on your door or in another spot. Determine what is the top of the wreath and twist two pieces of your paddle wire together to thicken it.

Fashion the wire into a loop shape so you will have a "hook" for hanging the wreath onto the holder, which makes it more secure.

Making a homemade wreath is inexpensive and a perfect craft project for the holiday season. – MCG

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Exterior decorating safety tips

Decorating the exterior of a home for the holiday season is a beloved tradition in countless households. In the movie *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, Clark Griswold had "250 strands of imported Italian twinkle lights," each with 100 bulbs per strand. His grand total of 25,000 lights caused a temporary blackout. While driving around to take in holiday lighting displays, many people may see some that emulate Clark Griswold's vision and be inspired to create their own designs.

Lights are just one type of home decoration. Wreaths, inflatables, metal or wooden structures, and much more are part of holiday displays as well. While decorating can be fun and festive, it's also important to ensure that it is done safely. The following tips, courtesy of Travelers Risk Consultants and Meyer Landscaping & Design, can help keep everyone safe.

- **Plan ahead.** Determine how many electrical outlets you have and plan the display around the accessibility of those outlets. Be sure to calculate the maximum amount of wattage allowed so you do not overload the electrical system. Never exceed the maximum

number of strings or devices that may be linked together. Lighting packaging should provide such information. Also, plug all outdoor lights and decorations into ground-fault circuit interrupters to reduce the risk of electric shock.

- **Test the lights.** Only purchase lights that have been tested for safety. Look for a certification mark from UL, ETL, CSA, or another nationally recognized laboratory.
- **Go with LED (light emitting diode) string lights.** They run cooler, last longer and use less energy than incandescent lights.
- **Inspect decorations.** Make sure all the lights, electrical cords, lighted holiday décor, and inflatables are in good condition before use.
- **Use only outdoor-rated products.** Be sure the extension cords and any other products are rated for the outdoors. Electrical connections should be kept clean and dry before plugging things in, and an extra step of wrapping plug connections with electrical tape can further reduce moisture.
- **Practise ladder safety.** Ladders are often utilized when adding lights or other décor to homes. Always be safe

on and around ladders. It's essential to maintain three points of contact while on the ladder. Don't risk leaning too hard to one side while on the ladder, and always have a spotter. Use wooden or fibreglass ladders when stringing electrical décor and lights, as metal ladders conduct electricity.

- **Identify where power lines are located.** Be mindful of power lines when decorating outdoors. Keep oneself and decorations at least 10 feet away.
- **Skip staples and nails.** Nails and staples should not be used when decorating. They can puncture the protective layers of a home, allowing moisture to get in and break down the structure of the home. A nail or staple also may accidentally puncture an electrical cord. Use hooks and other attachment devices specially designed for holiday décor.
- **Avoid items that can contribute to roof damage.** Heavy items on the roof can cause unnecessary stress to shingles and result in damage. Only use lightweight and appropriately anchored items on the roof.
- **Dress appropriately.** Before hanging holiday decorations and lights, assess the conditions and wear the proper clothing for the weather. If the weather is rough, skip it for a safer day. – MCG



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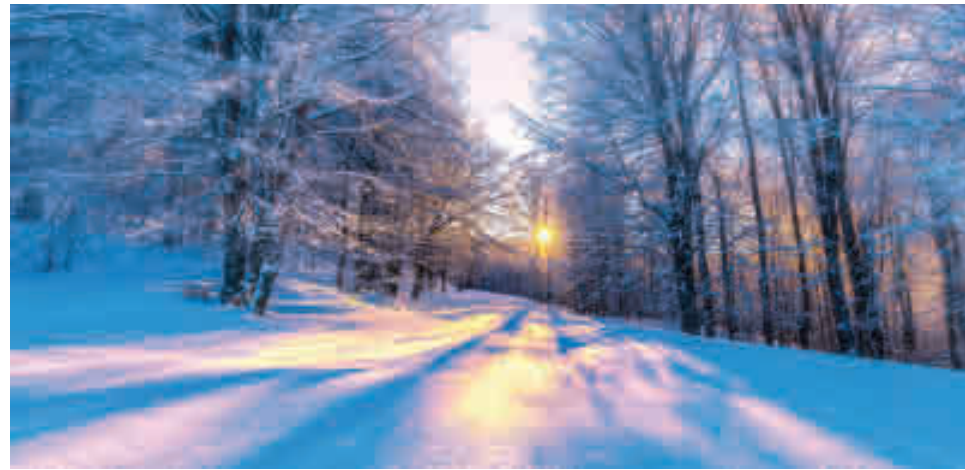
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14 facts about the winter solstice



The winter solstice occurs each year during the month of December in the northern hemisphere.

Solstices are significant events that occur twice per year in the winter and the summer. The winter solstice also is known as the first day of winter and occurs when the Earth's pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun. People will experience the shortest period of daylight. Here are 14 fascinating facts about the winter solstice.

1. Depending on the hemisphere, the north or south pole will experience continuous darkness or twilight around its winter solstice.
2. The winter solstice sometimes is referred to by the term midwinter.
3. Even though the solstice is marked by a whole day, it actually is just the moment of time when the sun is exactly over the Tropic of Capricorn.
4. The word "solstice" can be translated from Latin as "sun stand still."
5. The Tropic of Capricorn is located at 23.5 degrees south of the equator.
6. Tourists flock to Stonehenge to track the Sun's movement. The stones frame the sunset on the winter solstice and in summer the sunrise.
7. Ancient cultures viewed the winter solstice as a time of death and rebirth.
8. Important events in history have taken place on winter solstices. The Apollo 8 spacecraft launched on the solstice in 1968. Pilgrims also arrived at Plymouth on the solstice in 1620.
9. Each planet in the Earth's solar system has its own solstices and equinoxes.
10. The southern hemisphere experiences the winter solstice in June.
11. A full moon on a solstice is even more rare than a blue moon. The last full moon to occur on the winter solstice was in 2010 and the next one won't happen until 2094.
12. Earth is closer to the sun around the winter solstice in December. However, the northern hemisphere receives less sunlight and has cooler temperatures because it is tilted away from the sun during winter.
13. Even though the winter solstice features the shortest amount of daylight of any day during the year, it does not have the earliest sunset. That takes place roughly two weeks prior. In 2021 in New York, the winter solstice took place on December 21, but the earliest sunset occurred on December 7 at 4:28 p.m.
14. Meteorological winter begins December 1 rather than the 21. – MCG

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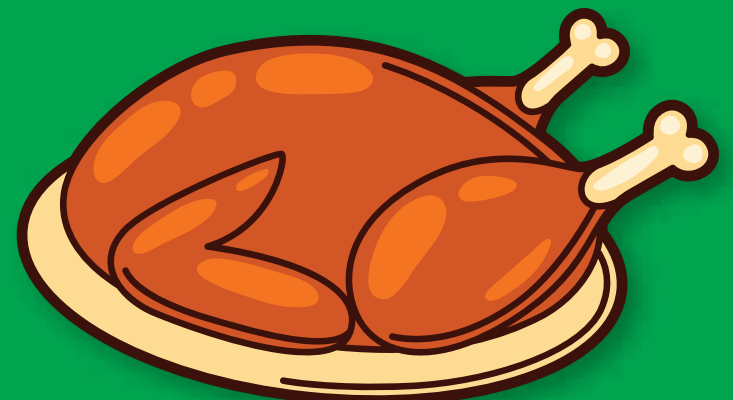
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What to know about seasonal affective disorder

There's much to look forward to when winter begins. Outdoor enthusiasts may relish a return to the slopes to ski or snowboard each winter, while others praise the crisp fresh air and lack of insects as more conducive to activities like hiking.

Winter indeed has plenty to offer, but some people find that less daylight has an adverse effect on their mood. The National Institutes of Mental Health notes that shifts in mood and behaviour that align with changes in the seasons could be indicative of seasonal affective disorder, also known as SAD.

What is SAD?

Johns Hopkins Medicine characterizes SAD as a form of depression in which individuals' mood and behavior changes when the seasons change. The NIMH notes SAD is sometimes referred to as the "winter blues."

Is SAD exclusive to winter?

Though SAD can affect people at any time of year, the NIMH reports that most cases of SAD start to affect people in late fall or early winter before symptoms begin to subside during the spring and summer. Johns Hopkins Medicine notes researchers believe the shorter days and thus fewer hours of daylight that occur each winter set off a chemical change in the brain that leads to a person experiencing symptoms of depression.

What are the symptoms of SAD?

- The NIMH points out that, since SAD is a type of depression, symptoms of the condition include those associated with depression. Such symptoms include:
- A persistent sad, anxious or "empty" mood most of the day. This occurs every day for at least two weeks,
 - Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism,
 - Feelings of irritability, frustration or restlessness,
 - Feelings of guilt, worthlessness or helplessness,
 - Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities,
 - Loss of energy or feelings of fatigue.



Some also feel as if they have slowed down,

- Difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions,
- Changes in sleep or appetite or unplanned weight changes,
- Physical aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that have no explanation and do not subside even after treatment,
- Suicidal thoughts or attempts or thoughts about death.

It's important to note that the above are symptoms of depression that people with SAD may experience. Additional symptoms of winter-pattern SAD include:

- Hypersomnia, or oversleeping,
 - Overeating that leads to weight gain.
- The NIMH notes people with SAD may have a particular craving for carbohydrates,
- Social withdrawal.

How is SAD treated?

People who suspect they have SAD are urged to speak with their physicians. Various treatments, including light therapy, psychotherapy or antidepressant medications, can help to treat SAD. Individuals may also be prescribed vitamin D supplements.

Can I prevent SAD?

The NIMH notes that since SAD is tied to seasonal changes, people can take steps in an effort to prevent it. Starting treatments prior to a change in seasons may help.

Many people experience difficulty when fall transitions to winter, and such troubles may be attributable to SAD. More information about SAD is available at www.nimh.nih.gov. – MCG

Aronson sworn in – Council is complete



Councillor Matt Aronson was sworn in November 17, 10 days after the other recently elected councillors, due to a court contestation of his election, at which he prevailed (see last week, p. 1). A small audience attended, including his family and Rabbi Lisa Grushcow. City director general Julie Mandeville welcomed them and had Aronson read and sign the oath of office.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

April Cornell returns to La Cache for 50th anniversary event

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

La Cache founder April Cornell was back in Westmount on November 20 at the Greene Ave. boutique that was at one time the cornerstone of a clothing and household décor empire.

While Cornell, who now lives in Vermont (but who once had a home on Westmount’s Prospect St.) has been known to occasionally drop by the Greene Ave. store, the reason for her visit this time was the chain’s 50th anniversary.

“We decided to do a little celebration for our customers,” Cornell said in an interview with the *Independent*, while pausing momentarily from autographing shopping bags for longtime customers who are loyal fans of La Cache’s stylishly vintage clothing, linens and home accessories.

From the one original store, which opened on Greene in 1975, La Cache gradually expanded into a network of 107 company-owned outlets all over the US and Canada.

Things began to change radically with the rise of online retailing in the early 2000s. After filing for bankruptcy protec-

tion in 2006 in the US, multiple store closures followed.

Today, La Cache (which operates in the US under the “April Cornell” brand) has two corporate-owned stores in Canada and three in the US, where the flagship outlet is in Burlington, Vermont.

La Cache’s wares are also offered at hundreds of associated independent retailers across North America. According to Cornell, more than 80 percent of the company’s revenue comes now from online sales transactions.

‘I love retail’

While some entrepreneurs might have thrown in the towel, Cornell loved the business she was in too much to give it up forever. “You know, I love retail,” she said.

“I love meeting the customer in person. I love creating the environment. I’m like a retailer at heart. But I think that if you’re in business, you also have to be flexible and be where your customer is. And since we can’t be in every town, she can reach us online and I still feel very close to her.”

US president Donald Trump’s new regime of *continued on p. 18*

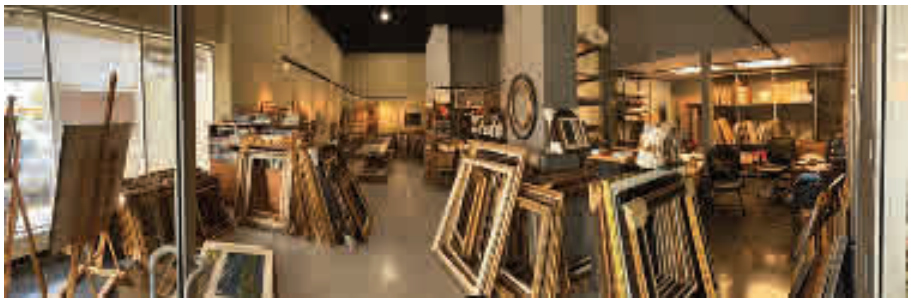


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MANY THANKS FOR HELP ON AN ICY NIGHT

A big thank-you to the very helpful Roslyn Ave. couple with the Italian family name who helped me on Saturday night, November 15 at around 11:15 pm, when they saw me walking downhill from The Boulevard on ice.

ELLEN ALFIN, MONTROSE AVE.

A THANK-YOU FOR THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Can there be other feelings than sheer delight when we see the little convoy of children with their stubby legs, packed into warm snowsuits, holding on to the wide straps in order to stay in line walking to or from the park?

There are sounds of babbling, single words of exclamations, as they concentrate on keeping up with the others and take in the surroundings at the same time.

Once in a while, I have observed a child sitting down, refusing to get up, letting the world know how unhappy she/he is with this imposition. Staff try to convince the little rebel to get up, but when that fails, the child is gently picked up and placed on a seat on the wagon with the even smaller toddlers.

Watching these children gives me hope.

Here they are, representing all different colours of skin, hair, shape of eyes, walking together, and, when back at the daycare program, eating together, napping together, playing together, and sometimes fighting because they want the same toy.

Sometimes pushing and hitting each other, because they do not yet understand that these actions are hurting the other child.

Here they are, making friends, learning, expanding language skills, sometimes two at the same time depending what language is spoken at home. Developing gross and fine motor skills, social skills such as sharing, listening and settling into routines under the watchful eyes of caring workers.

Here they are, innocent and still ignorant of colours and accents, and not yet influenced by ideologies and prejudices.

I hope – oh, do I hope – that later, in elementary school, in high school, in adult life, even when some have taken on ideologies and unwavering points of view, that they will deep down have retained some of

that innocence, some of that inclusiveness, and that they will never, never embrace pre-judgement.

Now, they will be experiencing the celebration of Winter Solstice, or Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or just the arrival of that jolly old fellow with his white beard, the one who is flying over roofs in a sled, packed with presents, pulled by tiny reindeers. And how those little ones wonder!

So, I wish for all, this magical season, to have a bit of that wonder, the wonder of the sun playing with colours on icicles, of fresh-baked goodies, the taste of a lovingly prepared meal, the sound of music, and hopefully, a joyful “Season’s greeting” from a friend, the feeling of a warm hug!

HEIDY VERMEULEN, METCALFE AVE.

Garbage, cont’d from p. 1

object discarded after use that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted. Such garbage is destined for landfill.

‘Residents told us clearly’

Stern said, “Residents have told us loudly and clearly that the shift to bi-weekly garbage has not been working... So tonight, I will be introducing a motion to restore weekly garbage pick-up until the end of April, five months... and it leads directly into the period from May through September, when weekly collection was already scheduled in the existing contract...”

“During this ‘re-set,’ we will undertake a comprehensive communication audit, looking closely at what residents do and do not understand about recycling, composting and the province-wide changes coming in 2027.”

Stern said that restoring weekly garbage for five months until the end of April is “not a retreat from environmental responsibility, it is a practical and temporary re-set...”

“Restoring weekly garbage through the

winter gives us the time we need to step back and understand where communication broke down. It allows families, seniors, caregivers, and many others to get through the winter months, safely and comfortably.”

Proponents of status quo speak up

In the first question period, which was before the vote, questioner Richard Dufour expressed surprise and voiced his opinion that council was reverting to something actually quite regressive in terms of policies. “As [Mayor Stern] said, we know that by 2027, [bi-weekly garbage collection] will be imposed on us [by higher levels of government]. Switching back and forth is not the right thing to do.”

In the contractual matters section of the meeting, Item 12 was the “Addendum – Household waste collection contract (PUB-2023-039),” which Councillor Paul Levine proposed: “I move that the city of Westmount enter into an addendum to contract PUB-2023-039 with Derichebourg Canada Environnement Inc. in order to add waste collections and render them weekly between December 2025 and April 2026,

under the same terms and conditions provided in the original contract, that the head of the Environment division of the Public Works department be authorized to sign on behalf of the city this addendum to contract PUB-2023-039.”

Councillor Paul Levine explained in French that the additional cost to move from every-other-week to weekly collection from December 1 to April 30 of next year would be \$56,128.21, all taxes included.

Cllr. Aronson speaks, votes against

Councillor Antonio D’Amico was the seconder, but before Mayor Stern could ask if all were in favour, Councillor Matt Aron-

son asked to have the floor. “I’ve also heard from residents who are struggling with bi-weekly collection: parents with infants and seniors managing products that they cannot store between landfill pick-ups and people with medical waste that can’t keep certain materials for up to 13 days and families who need alternatives for times when their landfill waste is extraordinarily voluminous...”

“These are legitimate concerns, and these residents deserve solutions. But this rollback, and I plead with my fellow councillors to vote it down, is not the solution.”

All other councillors were in favour of the motion, while Aronson voted “nay.”

La Cache, cont’d from p. 17

tariffs hasn’t impacted the Canadian operations, said Cornell, since most of La Cache’s offerings are produced in India and there are no corresponding importation barriers imposed by Canada on that country.

The American division is another story, however, being subject to a 50 percent tariff put in place by Trump. “We’re just trying to work through it,” Cornell said.

But while some companies in Canada have responded to the US government’s move by re-locating some or all of their operations to the US, Cornell said that is not in the cards for La Cache.

“With the kind of detailed work we do – the handwork, the fine stitching, the tailoring, the handprinting – that’s not going to be able to be done in the US – that is something that India is the expert at,” she said.



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

This adorable four-year-old came as a three-month-old pup from Morocco to Canada and remained in the same family. Now, for reasons out of this family's control, Jaxon is now in need of another loving family to bond with.

Jaxon is presently in foster care for the volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoption. He is enjoying the

Playful Jaxon

country life as reported by his foster family, playing with other dogs and fitting in with games and companionship.

Jaxon is such a handsome young fellow, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is a happy-go-lucky companion, adapting swiftly to the daily routine, while playing sweetly as the day progresses.

For more information on Jaxon, please do not hesitate to search the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoption website at www.gerdys-rescue.org, open the prompt to the information page presenting more information



on Jaxon, and click on their link to the online adoption form to present your contact information and interest in adoption.

You can also write them an email at info@gerdysrescue.org, where you can discuss Jaxon's routine and family environ-

ment, while also receiving wonderful new photographs of him being best buddy to all.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Pretty and cuddly, young Margot is a perfect companion for these grey fall days. She will bring joy and sweetness to everyone in the home.

This pretty black-and-white tabby is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, and she is available for visits and adoption now. Margot is a very healthy young three-year-old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, you can scroll to Margot's information page through her identification number, 2000307050. You can then plan your visit to sweet Margot at the cattery as the shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday 3 pm to 8 pm, as well as Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. The Montreal SPCA is located at

Precious Margot



5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

The adoption coordinators are looking forward to your visit and discussing your interest in adopting precious Margot, so please do not hesitate to make a place in your home for her with you.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Westmount's fuddle-duddle?

Mayor Stern confides into hot mic at council meeting

By DAVID PRICE

At the first meeting of the newly elected city council, held November 17, Mayor Michael Stern muttered "Fucking ass..." under his breath but into his live microphone after resident Richard Dufour had finished questioning Councillor Antonio D'Amico about his role on the city's Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), which is winding down anyway at the end of year.

Dufour was asking if D'Amico would step down given his low attendance record on the committee and vote, minutes before, to restore weekly garbage collection (see p. 1 for coverage).

D'Amico explained that he had only

wanted to be intermittently on the committee to promote green accounting, but that had not proved possible.

The expletive comes at timestamp 1:30:40 of the city's video recording of the meeting. Three readers alerted the *Independent*.

According to Wikipedia, "The fuddle-duddle incident in Canadian political history occurred on February 16, 1971, when prime minister of Canada Pierre Trudeau was alleged to have spoken or at least mouthed unparliamentary language in the House of Commons, causing a minor scandal. Trudeau mentioned the words 'fuddle duddle' in an ambiguous answer to questions about what he may or may not have said in parliament."

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Hockey player for October

Holden Kelly scores winning goal in ‘dramatic’ fashion

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Holden Kelly has helped his M18A hockey team “get off to a strong start” this season in the Westmount Minor Hockey Association (WMHA), according to city sports coordinator Gabrielle Jay-Riendeau.

It’s “great to see a team so enthusiastic to be a part of the association and dedicated to the sport, since the older they get, the more obligations they have outside of hockey such as social life and school,” she said in naming Kelly as hockey player for October. This is the first player so recognized for the current season.

Kelly has been playing with the Westmount Wings teams for 12 years. This is his third year playing at the M18 level. In 2024, the WMHA selected him to win the sportsmanship award for his level for his dedication to his team and great attitude on and off the ice.

“He has helped lead his team to a strong start in the 2025 Eastern Hockey League with a 2-0 record,” she explained. “Just this month, in the Pierrefonds Can-Am tournament, he scored the winning goal in quadruple overtime to bring home the trophy for the Wings. This successful outcome marks the first win for the Wings this season and we hope it gives our other teams the momentum they need to have a great rest of the season.”

Coach Robert Lee is quoted as saying the game was one of the most exciting he had seen. Kelly had “scored in the 4th overtime period in dramatic fashion. Off the faceoff, the puck went towards their bench, both players tried to take the lane to the puck, tangled up they both fell as they got up. Holden was the only one with a stick in his hand as the other player kept trying to push him back down. Holden managed to regain his full balance and take the puck



into the zone with the other player trying to play defense with no stick. Holden cut left in the high slot and fired a shot top corner to win it.”

The Player of the Month is Westmount’s program launched in November 2019 by then coordinator Andrew Maislin “to highlight player contributions and acknowledge the opportunities and skills that minor hockey, and sports as a whole, can offer young people in developing sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which can be transferred into other areas such as academics and community service.” (See story, November 19, 2019, p. 1.) Maislin is now division director of Westmount’s Sports and Recreation department.

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Joanne Mastro.

Sponsors who helped make the milestone *continued on p. 22*



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Domenico and Gilda D'Alesio.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

event such a triumph were Susan and Richard Hart, METRO, Pharmaprix Vendôme, La Biothétique, Robco, Novotel Montreal Airport, BGL Brokerage Ltd,

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The Air Canada Foundation and Via Rail Canada made generous donations to

the raffle. The fun evening raised over \$110,000 to support the mission of the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex. (P.S. Save the date. Next time, Under the Tuscan Sun will be held on May 27, 2026 at Entrepôts Dominion.)

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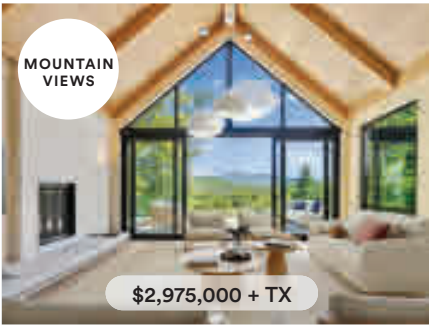
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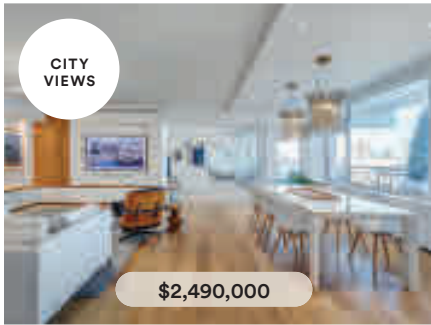
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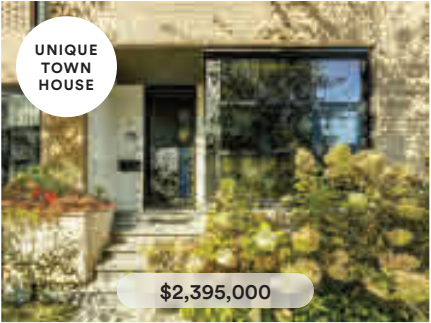
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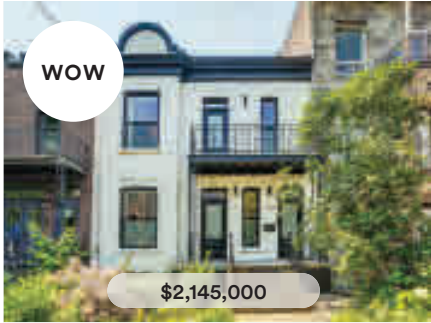
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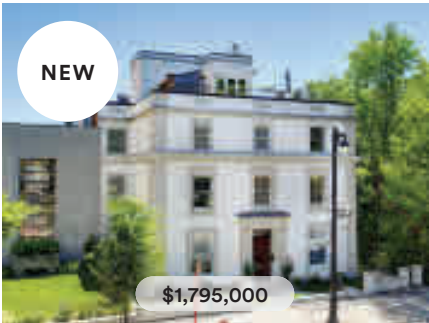
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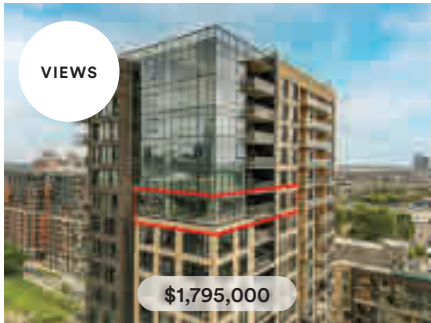
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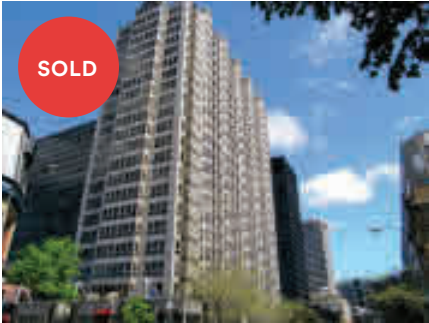
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