

## Residents' feedback reflected in consultants' sum-up, mayor's remarks Lower heights, indoor pool, greening advocated for southeast project

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Highlights from feedback following the second public consultation on proposals for re-developing Westmount's southeast sector led off last week with requests to lower the proposed maximum allowable height of buildings to better align with the Atwater Library and houses on the south side of Dorchester.

This was the first of eight highlights singled out by the city's consultants, followed by the greening of public spaces, construction of an indoor swimming pool and commissioning a traffic study to lessen the impact of re-configuring Dorchester on traffic and parking.

Among others were the proposed densification of St. Catherine west of Atwater to revitalize the area, widening of side-

walks and making a seasonal public space permanent on de Maisonneuve as a "logical next step" in creating a lively space with a "community identity."

The conclusions are based not only on the second and reportedly final public consultation activity held November 14 at Victoria Hall but also on numerous letters and comments received.

These were reproduced on some 57 internet pages containing 464 comments, now posted on the city's Engage website.

### Preserve built heritage

"This constructive feedback will be used to refine the preliminary plan and ensure that it adequately meets the community's current and future needs," states the conclusion by the city consultants. "The com- continued on p. 17

## Two hockey greats meet up



Hockey star Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins visited Westmounter Alan Klinkhoff's eponymous art gallery downtown February 14 for its Fine Art & Hockey exhibition. He is flanked by Alan's sons Craig, left, and Jonathan, both former Westmounters. Craig is the exhibit's curator and Jonathan is the director of the firm's Toronto office. In the background is Ken Danby's iconic painting *At the Crease*, which – Alan tells the *Independent* – has never been shown before in Montreal. The exhibition continues until February 21.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GALERIE ALAN KLINKHOFF.

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

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

- "Citizens weigh in on SE development – Make it 'green,' safe & low-rise, vision workshop hears," January 26, 2016, p. 6
- "Narrowing of Dorchester, building heights proposed – minus bike path," June 21, 2016, p. 1
- "'Street view' of southeast vision targeted for June presentation," March 21, 2017, p. 1
- "Update on Dorchester vision expected in June," May 16, 2017, p.1
- "Draft Dorchester vision sent back," May 30, 2017, p. 1
- "Planning vision deferred to incoming council," September 12, 2017, p. 4

2017 council – Mayor: Christina Smith

- "City to prioritize St. Catherine before Dorchester, Tupper lots," continued on p. 17

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For me, Westmount isn't just a place to live; it's a lifestyle, a community, and a long-term investment. Helping others find their perfect home here is an absolute privilege.



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# Public Security helps girl with injured foot at winter carnival

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An eight-year-old Westmount girl who injured her foot while sliding at King George (Murray) Park January 8 during the city's Winter Carnival was eventually taken to hospital to be evaluated, Public Security officials said. A patrolling officer had been flagged down at Murray and Montrose avenues at 12:05 pm and Urgences Santé called.

While awaiting their response, the girl, who was with her father as well as a doctor from the Children's Hospital, was also attended by a city worker and two PSOs. But after waiting some 45 minutes, the call to Urgences Santé was finally cancelled by the father after he and the doctor on the scene decided to transport the girl to hospital themselves.

The circumstances of the accident were not reported but "it appeared that it had happened on the sliding hill," officials said.

## Police Report

Last week, the *Independent* was unable to reach the police for comment. – DP.

## Snow contractor fined \$468 for illegal dumping

A ticket was issued February 3 for dumping snow from a parking lot on Victoria Ave. after the street had already been cleared, according to Public Security officials.

A trail of snow leading from the lot to the street had been noticed by the passing patroller at 9:40 pm.

A tractor was subsequently discovered moving the snow from the back of a commercial building and dumping it onto the clean street. A ticket for \$468 was issued and sent to the building.

## 95-year-old falls outside library

Public Security received a call January 30 for a woman who had fallen in Westmount Park outside the library, officials said.

They found the woman lying on the ground at 2:22 pm. She was reported as living nearby and having felt fine before suffering "a malaise" and falling. No other details were available.

Letters to the Editor, p. 6

Westmount  
A-dog-tions, p. 13

9 Lives, p. 13

Social Notes:  
Miriam Foundation, p. 15



InfoWestmount, p. 12

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Starting with Sherbrooke and Wood

# Montreal replacing water valve chambers in Westmount

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Work under way to re-construct a water valve chamber at the Sherbrooke and Wood intersection is a project of the city of Montreal on its primary water service line, explained Elisa Gaetano, director of Westmount's Engineering department. It is entirely managed and funded by Mon-

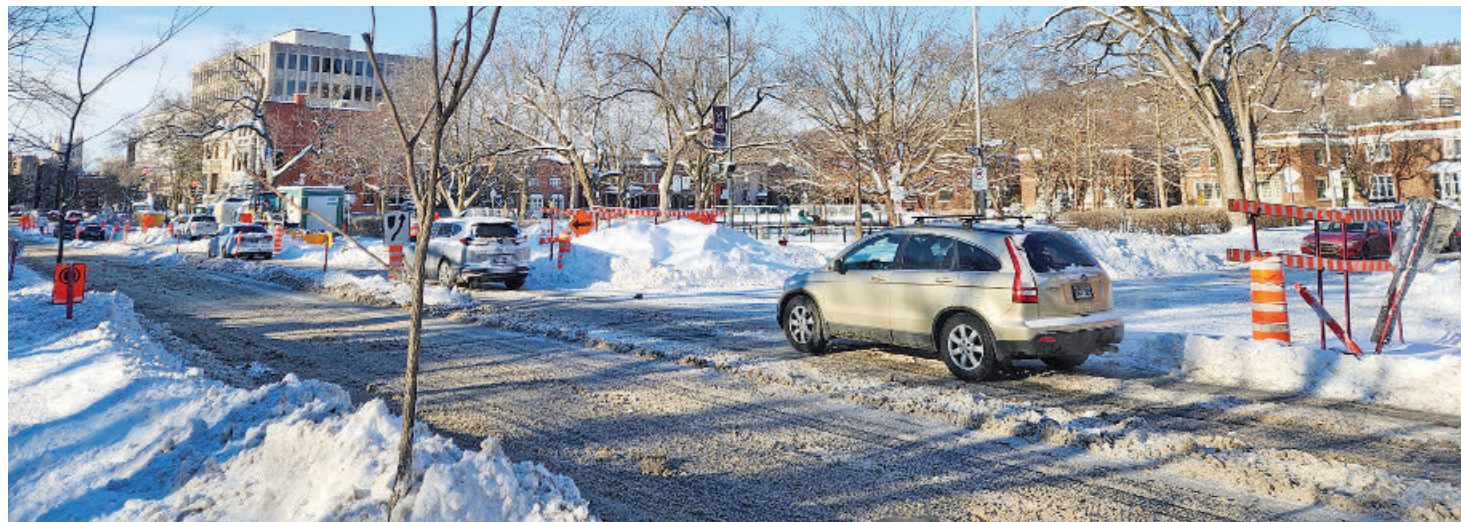
treal on a contract awarded by Montreal to Les Entreprises Cogenex.

The chamber being worked on now is one of five on this stretch of pipe, which traverses Westmount from east to west via Sherbrooke and Côte St. Antoine.

In announcing the work, the city's website explained that the rehabilitation and re-construction of valve chambers on Sher-

brooke and Wood would begin February 5 and is expected to last for approximately 13 weeks. Work is to take place Monday to Friday, from 7 am. to 6 pm.

During this work to maintain and improve local infrastructure, some changes to traffic and parking are to be affected. On Sherbrooke, for example, westbound traf- *continued on p. 8*



Looking northwest from the south side of Sherbrooke near Dawson's main entrance towards Wood Ave. and the Queen Elizabeth Gardens park on February 14.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

**VINTAGE MUSTS**

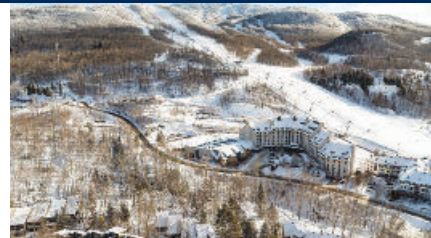
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# Snow.



Looking west from Academy Rd. towards the Westmount recreation centre on February 13, during the first of two recent snowstorms. PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL.

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## SOUTHEAST PLAN ADDRESSES MANY ISSUES

There has been a lot of speculation surrounding Westmount's southeast plan, particularly with the *proposed* 25-storey height limit for a single lot [at Atwater and St. Catherine]. There is no reason to panic for something that hasn't happened yet, especially when this area has needed re-development for the better part of a decade.

Housing is desperately needed throughout Montreal and this is a prime spot for something to alleviate the state of housing we're in. While I understand the concern for protecting the price of your own home, especially if you are banking on it for retirement, a new development will not decrease the price of your homes because in the long term it will provide new life to the neighbourhood and thus make it more desirable to live in.

Leaving the southeast in its current state is untenable and these are merely plans for the future. Nothing is set in stone yet.

When I was a student at Dawson, I can't recall a single time my friends ever ventured past Alexis Nihon or the Atwater Forum because it felt unsafe. Giving people a place to live to bring life to the area is productive and reacting in such a hysterical way to some potentially denser buildings instead of rationally advocating for services and amenities that we need helps no one.

Housing affordability is such a problem that my close friend who lives near Greene in St. Henri is paying an individual share of \$700 a month for a unit that has no air conditioning with three other roommates, excluding the ants. Housing for my generation is sorely needed unless we plan on living with our parents well into our 30s and the southeast is such a great opportunity to provide this supply.

There are plenty of things to panic about given the current state of the world but

some taller buildings, less parking and new people in the neighbourhood are far from the danger to Westmount's character that they're framed as. There are already buildings that are as tall or taller than what's proposed! And if we look at places like New York City or even Paris, there are plenty of examples of beautiful, taller buildings that are well integrated into the neighbourhood.

Cities change all the time, otherwise we would still be living on farm land. There are certain provincial regulations the city *must* follow as well, which have not been well communicated in the participatory process. I study urban planning at Concordia and I don't think the current outline is doomed for failure. It can either be: we leave it as is, or do our best to work with the city for what is best for the community by demanding certain amenities to accompany these changes, like an indoor pool, additional green space, affordable housing, ensuring proper heritage integration through architectural choices, additional schools, etc.

Opposing a plan to bring new life to the sector is only going to fatigue the city and reduce its willingness to listen and truly account for feedback. There is a reason multiple [Quebec] mayors, including Mayor Smith, aren't seeking re-election. We have to be reasonable, and listening goes in both directions.

JESSICA WINTON, ROSLYN AVE.

### CITY SHOULD BUY ST. CATHERINE LOTS

The *sud-est* re-development project has seen many debates, dog-and-pony shows, letters and questions to council. Obviously, money has been spent on due process. And the debates go on.

In my opinion, another alternative is needed to move forward.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The several lots/buildings along St. Catherine St. are owned by different individuals and corporations. So this is a collection of small lots unless these owners can come to an agreement.

There is an opportunity for the city to lead in the re-development. The city buys the properties and re-zones to create value. Ask developers to submit projects for consideration.

This method will generate a profit for the city with the increased land value. Money to upgrade infrastructure.

FREDERICK GIRVAN, VICTORIA AVE.



One block, one owner? Looking east on St. Catherine towards Atwater from near Wood Ave. on February 7.

PHOTO & CAPTION: INDEPENDENT.

### GIVEN RESIDENT FEEDBACK, CITY'S PRIORITIES, SMALLER RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS MAKE SENSE IN SOUTHEAST

For those of you following the development of Westmount's southeast Special Planning Programme, all of the comments that were submitted online have been posted and can be viewed at [engage.westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/23-0721-Annexe\\_WSE\\_PPU-v5.pdf](https://engage.westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/23-0721-Annexe_WSE_PPU-v5.pdf)

For a deeper dive, the proposal that the comments reflected can be found at [engage.westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/20240610\\_21-0721-WestmountPPU-Consultation-publique\\_20241114.pdf](https://engage.westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/20240610_21-0721-WestmountPPU-Consultation-publique_20241114.pdf)

A total of 464 comments were received, which makes for a lot of reading. In summary, the top three issues raised related to preservation of the Atwater Library (over 200 mentions), concerns about building heights on Dorchester (~95 mentions) and traffic and parking concerns (~50 mentions).

Perhaps more surprising are some of the other comments regarding the proposed location of the indoor pool and the need for additional green space.

While there appears to be general support for an indoor pool, many questioned whether the proposed location makes

sense. Issues raised include whether it would be central enough to Westmount residents if located on the eastern edge of the city and, since it would not be central and therefore not walkable for most residents, where users would be able to park.

Another issue is that the city claims that development in the area is being driven by a need to increase residential density near transportation hubs like the Atwater Metro. If that is true, why use such a critical location for non-residential units?

Rather than the proposed 10-storey building bordering Dorchester and Tupper shown as part of the pool development, more residential units could be created in that space by moving the pool elsewhere and building to a height on two storeys on

the Dorchester side and three storeys on the Tupper side.

Contrary to what one might think, many questioned the need for additional green space in the area. It was pointed out that there is a park between Dorchester and St. Catherine, just west of the RCMP building. As lovely as this park is, it is rarely used. There is a concern that new space could end up underused, or an extension of Cabot Square. There was particular criticism of the design of a public square due to all the "hardscaping."

Perhaps it would be better to create additional greenspace by having larger setbacks around any new buildings along Dorchester. This would be enjoyed by residents of those buildings as well as all pedestrians passing through the area.

JIM RICHARDS, DORCHESTER BLVD.

### CLAREMONT AVE. PLAN OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY

Attending the recent open house (see February 4, p. 12) at Victoria Hall where the "final" (I hope not!) plan was presented to the community for the Claremont Ave. re-build project was an exercise in frustration for me – and for many of my neighbours that I met. The "final" plan includes a northbound bike path and considerable beautification elements that are, in my opinion, nice-to-haves... but certainly not

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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#### Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537  
editor@westmountindependent.com

#### Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

#### Graphics

Ted Sancton

#### Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567  
advertising@westmountindependent.com

#### Classified ads

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#### Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138  
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must-haves.

It seems obvious that the current goat-path condition of Claremont needs to be fixed, and I have no doubt that underlying infrastructure needs urgent attention. However, there are many elements of the plan that are out of touch with reality.

The plan reduces on-street parking dramatically from 60+ spaces down to 22, and there is nothing in the plan for resident-only parking. This is a recipe for disaster for residents and local merchants alike.

A northbound bike path seems almost laughable: what constituency is this meant to address? A bike path that has its starting point at the corner of Sherbrooke and Claremont with no integration at this starting point with any current or future bike path...why? I would really like to see a needs analysis that prompted this requirement and who are these e-bike riders that we are catering to, who can go up this hill?

Have Westmounters been clamouring for this bike path?

Given the council's concerns over rising infrastructure costs, can we not get a proposal that addresses essential infrastructure needs? One that is not adorned by nice-to-haves such as broader-than-required sidewalks, planters and greenspaces that are never going to be appreciated because (almost) no one takes leisurely strolls up and down Claremont to appreciate the greenery. I can attest that finding parking at most times of the day is a huge challenge and it is has been this way for the 35 years we have lived on Claremont. The construction work will be challenging, but we understand it needs to be done. What really concerns me is the anticipation of an utterly disappointing finished product.

Claremont is a busy corridor with busses, cars, trucks. People use Claremont to get to their homes or to access Sherbrooke coming from NDG. Squeezing Claremont into two narrow car lanes is a disaster in waiting. Let's try to save a few bucks on this project by including the must-have elements only.

Back to the drawing board...please!

BRUCE KEMERER, CLAREMONT AVE.

### THIS SHOULDN'T BE HARD: WHAT IS WESTMOUNT'S DEFICIT?

On January 13, council approved by-laws allowing for a total of \$23,894,400 in loans to be undertaken for Westmount infrastructure projects (see January 28, p. 1).

On that very January 13, I asked mayor and council to give me the number for "the existing deficit" of the city. Mayor Smith said to me "We will send you the exact number," and again, "We'll provide the numbers." I expected a subsequent e-mail over the next weeks with this figure in it but received no such communication.

At the council meeting on February 3, 2025, I indicated during first question

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Looking east at Riverview Lane from Abbott on February 7. Riverview Lane runs parallel to St. Catherine from Lewis Ave. to the dead-end visible here.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

period that I had not received the promised information. Then the mayor, the director general and even Councillor D'Amico indicated to me that I could not have this information now and would have to wait for the audited city statements in the spring.

I think the contradictory assertions and the refusal to discuss the general deficit are both unacceptable. The city uses "management thresholds" or "*seuils de gestions*" in order to manage its operating deficit, so Westmount should be able to give citizens at least an estimate of its current operating deficit. Is it \$24 million, or considerably above that? We should know.

In the difficult financial climate of today, the public in a municipality must be informed clearly about the city's real fiscal situation. How else can the public judge whether a possible tax rise is reasonable or not? And from the administrative viewpoint, surely transparency is better than slapping tax rises on a citizenry that is left in the dark.

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

### NEW HILLSIDE AVE. COMPOST, GARBAGE PICK-UP IMPRACTICAL, DEGRADING

When I contacted the city [the week of January 20-24] to say my compost had not been picked up from our back lane, I was shocked to discover that the city department overseeing waste management had done follow-up and discovered a "violation" of the new by-law concerning waste pick up, i.e. pick-up is not to be via Riverview Lane, which has been flagged as inaccessible.

And yet for the first seven months of the new service, compost has continued to be collected from behind our homes.

The city advised the collection service that it was "in violation of the by-law." So, unbeknownst to we residents, we are now expected to drag our compost around the block (we are rowhouses) to the front of

our property for pick-up. Additionally, when I was asked where our garbage is collected, I was told the corner of Riverview Lane and Abbott is not acceptable as it is also in "violation."

So, although for the last seven months under the new system, waste collection continued to be done via our lane, the city's garbage police has tracked down infractions of this new system, and is forcing this impractical and quite frankly degrading system of waste pick-up.

As a senior citizen and taxpaying resident of this community I deserve better.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE.

### KEEP THE INDEPENDENT'S PORTAL OPEN

This is an appeal to beg the *Westmount Independent's* editor not to succumb to the post-COVID epidemic of "portal mania."

This affliction is becoming so widespread that one is convinced there must be a "portal salesman" going around to institutions, selling (hawking?) encrypted event horizons, guarded by user names and ever-changing passwords, obscuring our approaches to the black hole that buries all relevant information beyond our reaches.

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to the *Independent*.

This letter is in response to the electrifying Christmas gift from Hydro Westmount saying that they are "thrilled to announce the launch" of their "brand new 'Customer Space portal' designed exclusively for" me!

Sounds like they want to blast me off into the cosmos, past the Christmas star, via a wormhole, through which I must mentally crawl to a parallel cyber-universe.

Is this an example of conservation of energy? The more consumers ejected into space, the less power needed here in Westmount?

Elon Musk and SpaceX must be quaking in their boots at this unexpected 51st state source of competition, threatening to make Canada great again.

Awakening from this New Age reverie, I have been reassured by the good people at Hydro Westmount that I will receive my invoices via email as per usual. This must be an example of Hawking energy leaking material from the information black hole.

Portal immunity at last! Stephen Hawking be praised; he must be posthumously influencing Westmount customer service.

With tongue in cheek,

ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

**Editor's reply:** I too am skeptical of technological change for its own sake and I have no plans to un-do the work that our time machine does to keep the *Independent's* website firmly in 2002. – DP.

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REFERRED FOR A REASON



# Centre Greene's books balance, board treasurer tells AGM

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

In spite of Centre Greene's program and event costs rising 32 percent last year while regaining momentum after the COVID pandemic, the community centre has been paying all its expenses without having to fall back on cash reserves, Centre Greene's treasurer revealed on February 6 during its annual general meeting.

"We're basically balancing our books," said Gerard Fellerath, a Westmounter who has served on the Centre Greene board for decades.

With funds set aside exclusively for capital improvements at the Greene Ave. building, a complete renovation of the centre's third-floor meeting room and workspace was carried out last year, the cost being paid off as the work took place.

As a result, Centre Greene now has a

## Maccarone's bursaries offered for fifth time

Provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis Jennifer Maccarone announced the fifth edition of her student bursary program by press release February 4. A total of four bursaries and \$3,000 will be awarded to two CEGEP students and two undergraduate university students.

To be eligible for the Jennifer Maccarone Student Bursary, students must reside in the riding, be registered full time for the 2025 winter semester at a CEGEP or university in Quebec, and be a permanent resident or citizen.

Selected recipients will be evaluated based on relevance and originality of their applications, community involvement, knowledge of the riding and creativity.

"I'm thrilled to launch the latest edition of my student bursary program, part of my commitment to fostering educational opportunities. In investing in our students, we invest in the future. This initiative reflects my unwavering belief that every aspiring mind deserves a chance to shine, and together, we are shaping a brighter tomorrow," Maccarone was quoted as saying in the release.

The deadline to complete the online application form ([form.asana.com/?k=iLw-EOfCKe0O430cqRARc&d=1125438713768840](http://form.asana.com/?k=iLw-EOfCKe0O430cqRARc&d=1125438713768840)) is March 3 at midnight. - WI.



From left, five of Centre Greene's board of directors: Suzanne Owen, Gerard Fellerath, Willem Westenberg, Michele Beacom and Peter Marcovitz. Other board members not in the photo: Jonathan Cheung, Harethuza Costa, Christine Harkness, Karine Limage, Giselle Murphy, Nicola Pelly and Trevor Williams.

beautiful new area for staff to work, as well as a room that is available for rentals along with a kitchenette.

"More than just a physical improvement, this renovation is an investment in our future - one that will allow us to continue fostering connection and belonging for years to come," said Centre Greene executive director Heather Hodges, alluding to the renovation in her own report.

Fellerath said Centre Greene management will continue to earmark funds for building improvements going forward, while noting that the building (which is owned by the city of Westmount) is in "very good shape."

While Centre Greene obtains around 60

percent of its operating funds through rentals and self-generated revenue, they count on donations for the remaining 40 percent of expenses.

"So far, the formula has been working successfully and we count on community support to keep the centre vital," Fellerath said.

Some significant events that Centre Greene partnered with other organizations to hold last year included the Great Sandwich Marathon (in conjunction with Bread & Beyond, see September 24, 2024, p. 17), which resulted in 5,640 sandwiches being made for organizations supporting the homeless in Montreal.

As well, the centre partnered with

Ladies of Sandwich for the Warm Welcome to Montreal initiative. For this project, winterwear was gathered for children and families staying at the YMCA-operated temporary housing facility on Tupper St. for asylum seekers and refugees.

Board president Michele Beacom, who was presiding her first AGM since taking on the chairperson's role last year, expressed her support for Hodges' leadership.

"I've been thrilled to watch how Heather has grown into an excellent leader who cares passionately about Centre Greene," she said, adding that she "leads her team of dedicated staff with wisdom and compassion."

### Water valve, cont'd from p. 4

fic will be diverted to a one-way lane, while eastbound traffic will be maintained with two lanes between Elm and Atwater.

Wood is to be completely closed to northbound traffic from Sherbrooke to Barat. On-street parking will not be available for the entire duration of the works.

"The city of Montreal performs annual inspections on their primary network water chambers and plans for their reconstruction or rehabilitation when it is necessary," Gaetano said.

"The water chambers on the primary network are necessary for the proper oper-

ation of the network, including the manipulation of valves, access for inspections, flushing of pipes, disinfection of the water main following work, among other use cases."

### To open and close water supply

In general, valve chambers are used to open and close water supply and sewage pipelines. The diameter of the valve chamber is selected depending on the diameter of the pipelines, the number and dimensions of valves.

In this case, the chamber being worked on is on a primary water main that measures 900 mm (90 cm) in diameter and is

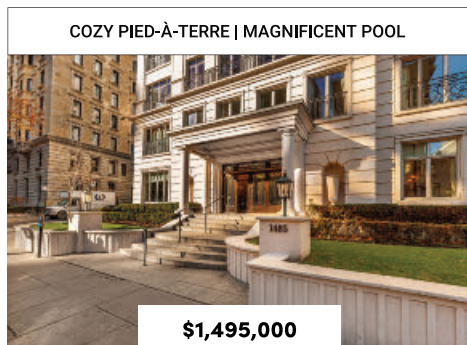
used to supply neighbouring boroughs and parts of Westmount's secondary water network, Gaetano said. The work is on one of Montreal's primary potable water supply pipes from the Vincent d'Indy pumping station.

Temporary interruptions to the potable water supply are expected. Affected residents and businesses are to be notified 48 hours in advance through specific notices.

Information on the inspection and maintenance of the water systems can be found at [montreal.ca/en/articles/why-perform-maintenance-waterworks-system-20473](http://montreal.ca/en/articles/why-perform-maintenance-waterworks-system-20473).



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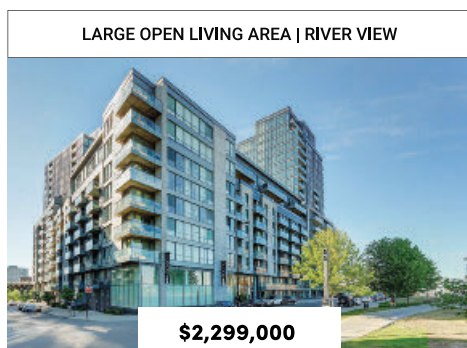
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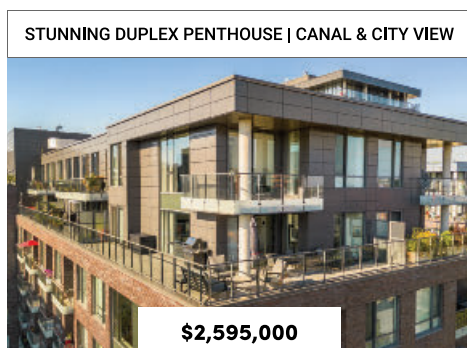
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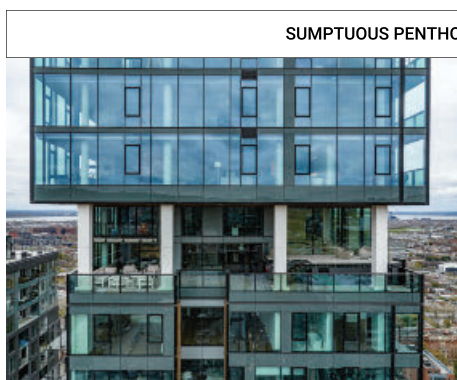
**SOLANO #1902,**  
OLD PORT



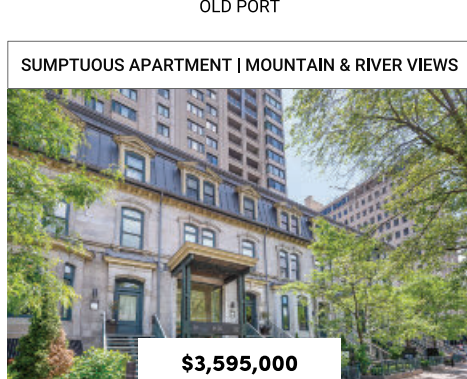
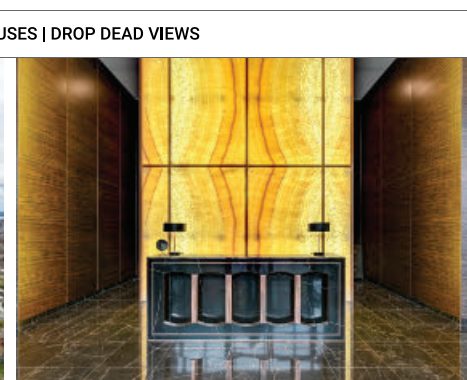
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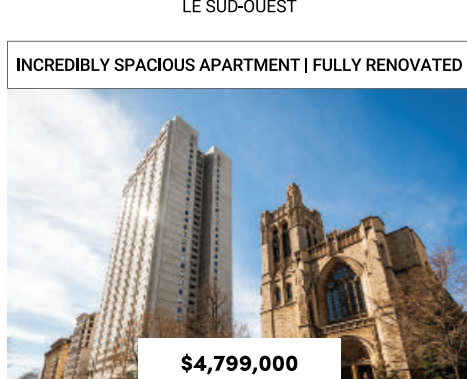
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## Apollonius' Argonautica come to life

# McGill students bring ancient Greek epic to Vic Hall stage

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For more than a century, Victoria Hall has been closely associated with drama and the performing arts, providing a stage for many an aspiring actor and actress.

And Westmounters themselves, it would seem, can never get enough live play-acting, staged in Victoria Hall's main auditorium.

As proof, more than 60 people turned out on the afternoon of February 9 to see a cast of McGill University students of Greek and Latin classics perform *The Argonautica*, a dramatization of a Greek epic poem written by Apollonius of Rhodes, a 3rd century BC librarian, scholar, rhetorician and poet.

### Not the only 'classics' play

The McGill Classics Play, which staged the production, is a non-profit venture created at McGill to offer classics students a unique cultural experience through performances based on Greek and Latin literature.

Deena Aziz, a Montreal-based screenwriter and actress, helped the students convert their ideas into an actual script. The producer was McGill University history



McGill University students of Greek and Latin classics performed a play based on *The Argonautica* by Apollonius of Rhodes in the main auditorium of Victoria Hall on Sunday February 9.

and classical studies department associate professor Lynn Kozak.

While Apollonius of Rhodes is nowhere nearly as well known as the 8th century BC Greek poet Homer, Carys Foulds and Jericho O'Keefe (who co-directed the production) said in program notes that they chose *Argonautica* because it was "in our humble

estimation, an underrated text, overlooked in favor of bolder epics such as the *Iliad* or *Odyssey*."

In the last few years, the students have staged several productions in Victoria Hall, as well as at other venues in the Montreal region. They were surprised by the solid turnout for their latest production.

"We were not expecting this, actually," said O'Keefe, noting they had set up 60 chairs beforehand and more were needed.

While there was no stage lighting (just as in ancient Greece) and some of the voices could have used amplification, all the students knew their lines and delivered them effortlessly.



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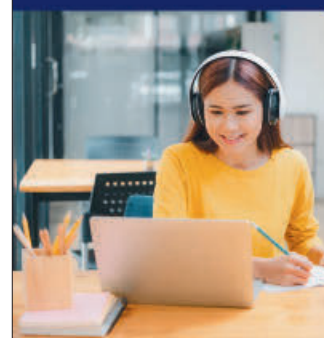
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478 AV. GROSVENOR, WESTMOUNT  
4+1 BEDS, 2+2 BATHS | **\$1,998,000**



428 AV. WOOD, WESTMOUNT  
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3777 AV. GREY, CDN/NDG  
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# infoWESTMOUNT

2025.02.18 • Vol. 6/03

VILLE DE | CITY OF  
WESTMOUNT

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 17 mars

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, March 17



## Le nouveau site Web de la Ville arrive ce printemps !

La mise en ligne du nouveau site est prévue pour le printemps 2025. Plus rapide, plus épuré, avec de nouvelles fonctionnalités, le nouveau site Web a été entièrement repensé. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)



## The City's new website is coming this spring!

The new official website is scheduled to launch in the spring of 2025. Faster, sleeker, and with new features, the new site has been fully redesigned. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## Taxes foncières : premier versement exigible le 26 février 2025

Les comptes de taxes municipales 2025 sont disponibles en ligne depuis lundi le 20 janvier et ont été envoyés par la poste le mardi 28 janvier. La date limite pour le premier versement est le mercredi 26 février 2025. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## Assemblée de consultation publique — Projet de règlement 1625

**25 février, 19 h**, hôtel de ville. Une assemblée de consultation publique aura lieu au sujet du projet de règlement 1625 visant à modifier certaines dispositions du règlement de zonage concernant la plantation et la protection des arbres et les surfaces végétales en cour latérale. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## Property taxes: first payment due on February 26, 2025

The 2025 municipal tax accounts have been available online since Monday, January 20, and were mailed on Tuesday, January 28. The deadline for the first payment is Wednesday, February 26, 2025. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## Public consultation meeting — Draft by-law 1625

**February 25, 7 p.m.**, City Hall. A public consultation meeting will be held to discuss the draft by-law 1625, which aims to amend certain provisions of the zoning by-law concerning the planting and protection of trees and vegetated areas in side yards. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## Sports et loisirs : inscription pour les activités du printemps

La période d'inscription pour le printemps 2025 a débuté le 11 février pour les résidents de Westmount et débutera le 25 février pour les non-résidents. [westmount.org/inscriptionenligne](http://westmount.org/inscriptionenligne)

## Imagine Westmount Sud-Est

Le rapport de la dernière consultation publique est maintenant disponible sur la plateforme de participation citoyenne Participez Westmount.

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

## Sports and Recreation: registration for spring activities

The registration period for 2025 spring has begun on February 11 for Westmount residents and will begin February 25 for non-residents. [westmount.org/onlineregistration](http://westmount.org/onlineregistration)

## Imagine Westmount Southeast

The report for the last public consultation is now available on the citizen engagement platform, Engage Westmount.

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

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### La Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers

**Du 15 février au 15 avril**, les artistes de Westmount peuvent soumettre leur candidature pour la saison d'exposition à la Galerie du Victoria Hall. Les artistes sélectionnés auront une exposition solo ou partagée. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Lecture théâtrale — *Silent Voices: A Play with Music*

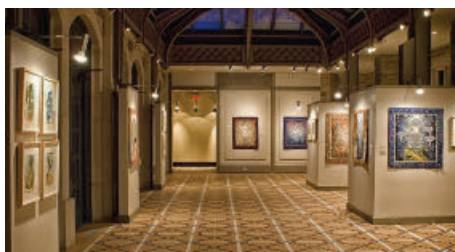
**22 février, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Sept actrices feront une lecture théâtralisée de la pièce, entrecoupée de musique, suivie d'une discussion avec la dramaturge Gabrielle Soskin. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### The Gallery at Victoria Hall: Call for proposals

**From February 15 to April 15**, artists from Westmount are invited to submit their applications for the upcoming exhibition season at the Victoria Hall Gallery. Selected artists will have a solo or shared exhibition. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Dramatized reading — *Silent Voices: A Play with Music*

**February 22, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Seven actors give a dramatized reading of the play, interwoven with music followed by a discussion with the playwright Gabrielle Soskin. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)



### Concours littéraire McEntyre 2025

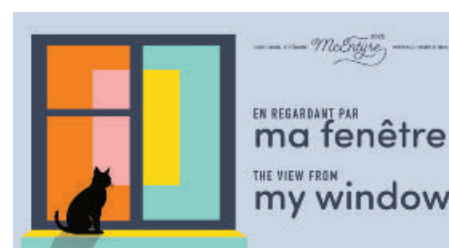
Les élèves du primaire ou du secondaire qui fréquentent une école de Westmount, qui habitent à Westmount ou qui sont abonnés à une bibliothèque à Westmount, sont invités à participer au Concours littéraire McEntyre 2025. Les créations doivent être soumises en ligne ou à la Bibliothèque avant le 30 mars 2025. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Concert : Échos nordiques

**26 février, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Le célèbre duo de Marina Thibeault et Janelle Fung ravit le public international par ses interprétations envoûtantes et sa présence engageante. Elles proposent un programme riche et diversifié pour alto et piano. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Conférence — *Apart From Cancer, I'm Perfectly Healthy and Intend to Stay That Way*

**22 mars, 14 h**, Salle Westmount. En anglais. Diana Bruno, auteure de dictionnaires, expliquera si le cancer est plus facile la deuxième fois, si elle a appris à parler couramment le « médical » tout en naviguant dans le système de santé et comment elle a retrouvé sa vie active. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)



### McEntyre Writing Competition 2025

All students in elementary or secondary grades who go to school in Westmount, live in Westmount, or are members of a library in Westmount are invited to participate in the 2025 McEntyre Literary Contest. Submissions can be made online or at the Library before March 30, 2025. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Concert: Northern Echos

**February 26, 7 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. The celebrated duo of Marina Thibeault and Janelle Fung delight international audiences with their spellbinding interpretations and engaging presence. They offer a rich and diverse program for viola and piano. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Lecture — *Apart From Cancer, I'm Perfectly Healthy and Intend to Stay That Way*

**March 22, 2 p.m.**, Westmount Room. Diana Bruno, dictionary writer, will tell you if cancer is easier the second time around, about becoming fluent in Medicaese while navigating the healthcare system, and getting her active life. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)



## Kittens Milky and Princess Poof



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

### Princess Poof.

These sweet black-and-white tuxedo kittens are purringly affectionate to all and enjoy the company of children. Having come out of their shells since their arrival in foster care for the Montreal SPCA, they are enjoying the household daily routine.

Milky and Princess Poof are both very healthy juveniles, up to date with their inoculations, sterilized and microchipped.

If you would like more information on

Lots of love is in the air with this playful bonded pair! So, to the left, we have short-haired Milky and, to the right, long-haired



them, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), scroll for their information pages from their identification numbers, 2000236410 for Milky and 2000236409 for Princess Poof. Then, do not hesitate to reach out to the adoption coordinators by clicking on the black rectangle on the right-hand side of the page, opening the link, and then providing your contact information.

Please consider adoption and present your interest in this adorable duo, an entertaining and companionable addition to your family.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

## Young Molly and her brother Moka



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Siblings together, Molly and Moka are young two-year-olds who will fill a home with affection and playfulness. They are both available for adoption now from the Montreal SPCA kennel.

I see some tan-and-white Chihuahua there and maybe some cute terrier ... They are so similar in their looks but distinct in their ways. Molly is happy-go-lucky and Moka is a bit shyer, yet they give each other courage at this time of transition in their lives.

They are affectionate and, being little, they enjoy older children.

Shelter life is not easy at the moment, and as small dogs, it is important for them to be placed soon in a calmer family environment.

Molly and Moka are very healthy, up to date with their inoculations, sterilized and microchipped. Please go to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), refer to their information pages from their identification numbers, 2000211358 for Molly and 2000211359 for Moka. Then plan your visit to the shelter as they are open every day for adoption, on Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, and also Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4. The adoption coordinators are available to discuss adoption and plan visits, please do not hesitate.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



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## Rotary report

## ‘New Vic’ project to be a research, teaching and learning hub

BY JENNIFER BALL

McGill University’s 2017-2022 strategic academic plan states that no university can lead globally in the 21st century without putting sustainability at the centre of its operations, research and teaching. Now McGill is working to walk the talk by developing the New Vic Project – which is 15 percent of the former Royal Victoria Hospital complex – into a teaching-and-learning hub dedicated to sustainability and public policy.

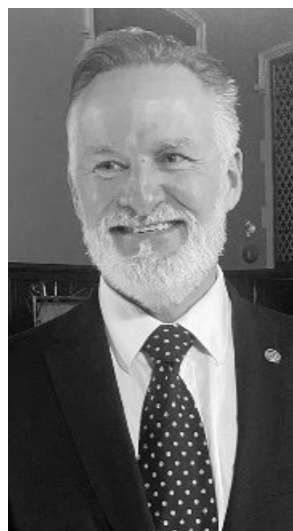
Rotarians learnt this when David Syncox presented the status of the project to the Rotary Club of Westmount on January 22 at Victoria Hall.

The project, he said, is gearing up to be “a new model for what a university can be in the 21st century...”

“A beacon and meeting place for top scholars, researchers, students from around the world. Powered by active learning and graduating generations of new leaders to move sustainability knowledge, industries and policy frameworks forward.”

McGill University’s expertise across sustainability sectors includes water resource management, climate change mitigation, environmental governance and policy, green chemistry and production, and AI and data analytics for sustainability.

Syncox, senior philanthropic advisor for the New Vic at McGill University’s advancement department, said the re-development project will define McGill’s third century by transforming part of the Pine Ave. behemoth on the slope of Mount Royal in



David Syncox, senior philanthropic advisor at McGill University, presented the New Vic project to the Rotary Club of Westmount on January 22.

the borough of Ville Marie (downtown).

#### Quebec kicks in \$620 million on \$920M budget

Syncox said the project received \$620 million from the Quebec government as an installment to commence the project and the university must now raise roughly another \$300 million.

The former Royal Victoria Hospital site is a large one and the New Vic Project, Syncox said, represents only 15 percent of it: the southeast section at the intersection of University St. and Pine Ave.

He explained that there are four major project milestones:

- 2021: Public consultation

- began and feasibility study approved,
- 2022: Start of early works, public consultation ended, business plan approved, and construction phase approved by board of governors,
- 2023: Call for tender process and construction began,
- 2028-2029: End of construction, start of commissioning (December 2028) and inauguration & move-in (summer/fall 2029).

Syncox provides strategic development support for the New Vic fundraising campaign, working with faculty, senior administration and advancement colleagues to develop major gift fundraising, strategies and timetables.

He also manages volunteer efforts to promote the New Vic and build an engagement strategy to secure gifts at all levels.

This all-in effort is to enable McGill University to add 22,800 square meters (net) of teaching and research space to its downtown campus, for which the firm Diamond Schmidt/LemayMichaud Architects created the designs.

“This space, this building, is more than just bricks and mortar. It really does represent the future vision for the university,” Syncox said.

There are seven guiding principles directing the work though all four phases of the project:

1. Deliver a project for Montreal, Quebec and Canada,
2. Embrace the challenges of sustainability through research, policy development and collaboration,
3. Build an “idea factory” that attracts, connects and inspires,



The former Royal Victoria Hospital site is large and the new Vic Project represents only 15 percent of it: the lower section at the intersection of University St. and Pine Ave. It is highlighted at right in this picture. Arrow added by *Independent*.

RENDERING COURTESY OF DAVID SYNCOX/MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

4. Balance nature, heritage, functionality and sustainable architecture,
5. Recognize and honour the indigenous history of the site,
6. Exemplify sustainable mobility and urban integration,
7. Enhance views and access to Mount Royal, and Frederick Law Olmsted’s landscape vision for Montreal.

Syncox said, “We just celebrated our 200th year and we’re looking already at the next 100 years.”

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

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## Miriam Foundation turns 50 with sold-out event



### Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Warren Greenstone.



Judy Wolfe, Franki Yanfosky, Marlene Levenson and Carol Tryansky.

The Miriam Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary with a resounding success: a sold-out event held at Maison Principale.

Foundation president **Warren Greenstone** welcomed guests under Versailles-inspired chandeliers glittering above the massive room. Strategically placed food stations offered shrimp, sushi and Mandy's salads so that hungry arrivals could munch before dinner.

What fun it was to see glamour again! Velvets. Sequins. Cocktail dresses: backless, short and sweet. Fifty shades of black ruled. The mainstream monochrome was worn with masses of Mikomoto, Swarovski sparkles and of course initialled "it" bags.

Emcees were **Lee Haberkorn** and **Catherine Verdon-Diamond**, The Beat 92.5. Committee members were: **Franki Yanofsky**, **Judy Wolfe**, **Carol Tryansky**, **Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir**, **Alanna Bordoff**, **Liliane Zylberszac**, **Kathy Brody**, **Gillian Brody Assedo** and **Linda Smith**.

Guests of honour *continued on p. 18*



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## Another look the Tupper parking lots



Looking east towards downtown at the city's Tupper parking lots (A and B) on February 1. Dorchester's two roadways are on the right/south. Alexis Nihon's residential tower is the tallest, white-and-brown building on the left. The large blueish building in the top right is the relatively new 1111 Atwater residential building at the former site of the Montreal Children's Hospital. The parking lot behind the Victorian house on Gladstone Ave. at C is not owned by the city. The parking structure at D is also not owned by the city. The city's current southeast planning involves more than its parking lots, but they are of particular focus since the municipality owns them.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



## Yet another look at the Tupper lots



Looking west from Dorchester and Atwater at the north side of Dorchester Street before its transformation into Dorchester Boulevard in the late 1960s. These houses were demolished and replaced by the still-standing 1100 Atwater Ave. building (originally a Royal Bank computing centre) and the city's two Tupper parking lots, which are situated between Dorchester, Greene, Gladstone Ave. and Tupper St.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

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## Another look at the north side of Dorchester



According to an article by Doreen Lindsay in the September 2007 newsletter of the Westmount Historical Association (*The Westmount Historian*, p. 10), this house – the Gaunt House at 4263 Dorchester St., photographed here in 1965 – was the last of all the houses to be demolished on the north side of Dorchester in 1966-67. According to Goad's map of 1913, it was located between Bruce and Columbia (where the RCMP building now is). PHOTO COURTESY OF EDITH H. MATHER/McCORD STEWART MUSEUM.

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

ments received highlighted important priorities for the community to preserve the built heritage, improve mobility and create improved mobility.”

“I’m thrilled, and relieved,” the district’s city councillor Kathleen Kez told the *Independent*. The originally “proposed heights of 7-10 storeys for the north side of Dorchester would only serve to create more of an enclave south of Dorchester. This area needs to be knit back into the rest of the city and not be blocked off by tall buildings.”

She said she was looking forward to discussions with council on “the next steps in ensuring the area is developed on a more human scale and more in line with the

south side of Dorchester.”

Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* that “We know there was some concern about higher buildings on the north side of Dorchester. We continue to listen to the recommendations put forward.”

The southeast area, which had a zoning freeze renewed in 2023, comprises a large zone between Dorchester and St. Catherine from Clarke to Atwater and one to the north between St. Catherine and Sherbrooke between Wood and Atwater.

The development of the city’s southeast has been under discussion for many years and was subject to previous recommendations that led to a report by AGIL but that were never acted on by the city councils elected in 2018 and 2022.

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

October 30, 2018, p. 1

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

*2021 council – Mayor: Christina Smith*

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

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

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

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

“City planning for southeast back on front burner, seemingly,” June 18, 2024, p. 1,

“Residents weigh in on ‘preliminary’ designs for the southeast,” November 26, 2024, p. 1.





Frank Niro, Nick Meti, John Broccolini, Yasemin Comert, Nick Niro and Rosemary Niro.



Linda Shaw and Frank Motter.



Jeff and Daphne Shamie, Louis Ludwick, David Black, Lydia Jenvey and Erica Ludwick.



Marissa Miller, Tara Soltani, Maryam Fard and Gill Brody Assedo.

**Social notes, cont'd from p. 15**

were **Norman Cohen**, founding member and past president, and **Bernie Pollock** and **David Black**, both also past presidents. Amidst the crowd were **Nick Meti**, **Charles Gaby** and **David Bitton**; **An-Lap Vo-Dignard**, **Peter** and **Franki Yanofsky**, **Howard Stotland**, **Karine Joncas**, **Rosemary** and **Frank Niro**, **Yasemin Comert** and **Nick Niro**, **Anna** and **John Broccolini**, **Marissa Miller**, **Maryam Fard**, **Tara Soltani**, **Sylvie**

**Coutu** and **Joël Paquin**, and **Erica** and **Louis Ludwick**.

Also noted were **Daphne** and **Jeff Shamie**, **Lydia Jenvey** and **David Black**, **Cheryl Glense**, **Linda** and **Terry Smith**, **Linda Shaw** and **Frank Motter**, **Madonna** and **Jean-Claude Levy**, **Gloria** and **Richard Bass**, **Alice** and **Jonathan Goldbloom**, and **Mandy** and **Rebecca Wolfe**.

Since its inception in 1973, the Miriam Foundation has raised and invested over

\$75 million and helped more than 8,000 individuals with ASD and ID (autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability), as well as their families and loved ones. The much-sought-after Miriam Foundation fund-raiser, My Big Fat Greek Wedding # 5, chaired by Linda Smith and Andrew Hops, takes place at Milos May 14. Info: [Miriamfoundation.ca](http://Miriamfoundation.ca)

Please send your spring event information to [veronica@redgravepr.com](mailto:veronica@redgravepr.com)



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