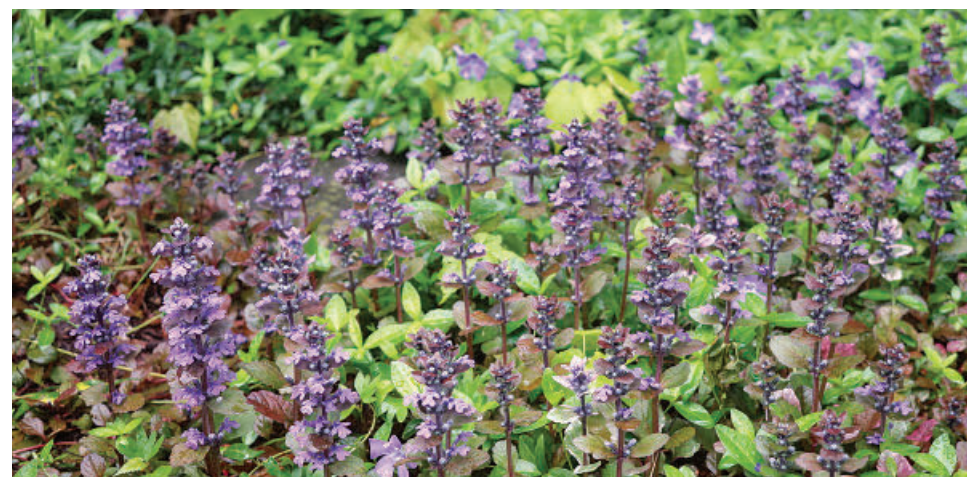


Residents, photographer heed city's no-mow message



"I was thrilled to read in the May 13 edition of the *Westmount Independent* (p. 1) that the city was seeking to cut-back its mowing this May to help our essential pollinators," said resident David Searle. "It has been even more wonderful to see Westmounters heed Cllr. Aronson's invitation to refrain from mowing their lawns. So much life is waiting to spring up if we should only keep those lawnmowers quiet. To celebrate our collective restraint and the biodiversity budding up in our city, I thought it appropriate to photograph some of the wild flowers found in our Westmount unmowed lawns. Can you find one or more of these beauties in your lawn?" Pictured here: Bugleherb.

PHOTO COURTESY OF D. SEARLE.

Ascension's Mac Eachen marks 40th year as priest



Ascension of Our Lord's pastor, Father Lawrence Mac Eachen, who celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination on May 25, is seen here with, from left, parish wardens Madeleine Varkay, Anna Romano and Louise Mac Lellan at the rear of the Sherbrooke St. church during a reception following Sunday Mass. See p. 15 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

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Second time around

Permit (re-)approved for new building at 4216 Dorchester

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the second time around, the way was cleared by city council May 5 for a permit to be issued for the construction of a five-storey residential building on Dorchester in the vacant lot just west of its corner with Greene. The address is 4216 Dorchester.

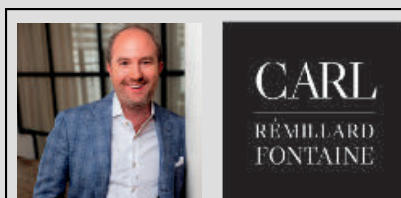
An initial permit approved in January

2023 had expired in July 2014, according to the council resolution moved by the District 8's councillor Kathleen Kez. This was owing to work not having started within an 18-month time-frame of the permit, owing to the owners not meeting the deadline for "financial reasons."

The property is for sale.

"It is unfortunate
that we had to do this," continued on p. 10

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Speeding cyclist hit on bike path by turning car

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A cyclist described as speeding on the bike path at de Maisonneuve and Wood May 15 hit a car around 3 pm, Public Security officials said.

The scene of the mishap was spotted around 3 pm by a public safety officer who came across the aftermath when noticing a man getting out of a car to help a woman lying on the ground who wanted ice for a wrist injury.

The officer remained with the woman while police and the fire department were on their way to take over the incident.

The rider of the bicycle was described

as “under the impression” of having had the right-of-way at the light. No further details were available.

Man pulled over by leashed dog

An elderly man was reported to have been pulled over by a dog on leash near the dog run at Westmount Park May 21 at 6:30 pm, Public Security officials said. The man hit his head in the fall.

Urgences Santé was called and examined the man. Officers took care of his abrasion and walked him home nearby.

Batshaw Children Seeking Homes

Sweet, loving duo need foster home to heal, thrive

Danielle (10) and Mariah (7) are two sweet and loving girls who have been through very difficult circumstances. The siblings are looking to find a committed long-term foster home where they can grow up together, and that can offer stability, understanding and a nurturing environment. These bright, caring girls have a lot of potential and with the right support, they could grow, heal and thrive in a safe and loving home.

Danielle is a creative, outgoing girl who loves arts and crafts, reading adventure

stories and playing outside. Protective of her younger sister, she often takes on a nurturing role. Danielle thrives in a structured, patient environment that encourages emotional expression and creativity.

Mariah is a gentle, imaginative child with a playful spirit. Though more reserved, she opens up once she feels safe. She enjoys pretend play, bedtime stories, singing and dancing. Mariah would benefit from a calm, reassuring environment and gentle guidance to build confidence and feel secure.

The girls share a deep and loving bond, offering each other emotional support and reassurance. It is vital they remain in the same foster care setting where their connection is valued – one that understands children’s unique needs and encourages consistency, open communication and creative expression.

If you believe you can offer Danielle and Mariah the warm, loving home they deserve, please contact Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161 x 1139.

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Police Report, p. 11

Pet page, p. 14

Social Notes: Miriam/Big

Fat Fundraiser, p. 21

InfoWestmout, p. 16



Westmount

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What's with all the discarded broom handles on Sherbrooke St.?



These brooms were being chucked out on Sherbrooke St. near Strathcona May 15, while the inset photo shows ones being discarded June 19, 2020 on Sherbrooke near Grosvenor. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Councillor's column

CONRAD PEART
DISTRICT 4

In a recent column (May 13, p. 6), former mayor Peter Trent, one of the most respected civic leaders in Westmount's history, raised concerns about the city's growing reliance on debt, expanding headcount and the visible strain on our public infrastructure. His voice carries weight, as it should. His leadership helped restore Westmount's autonomy, and he has long stood for sound fiscal stewardship.

But if we are to move forward effectively, we need to tell the full story, not just focus on the most appealing soundbites.

Context and comparison

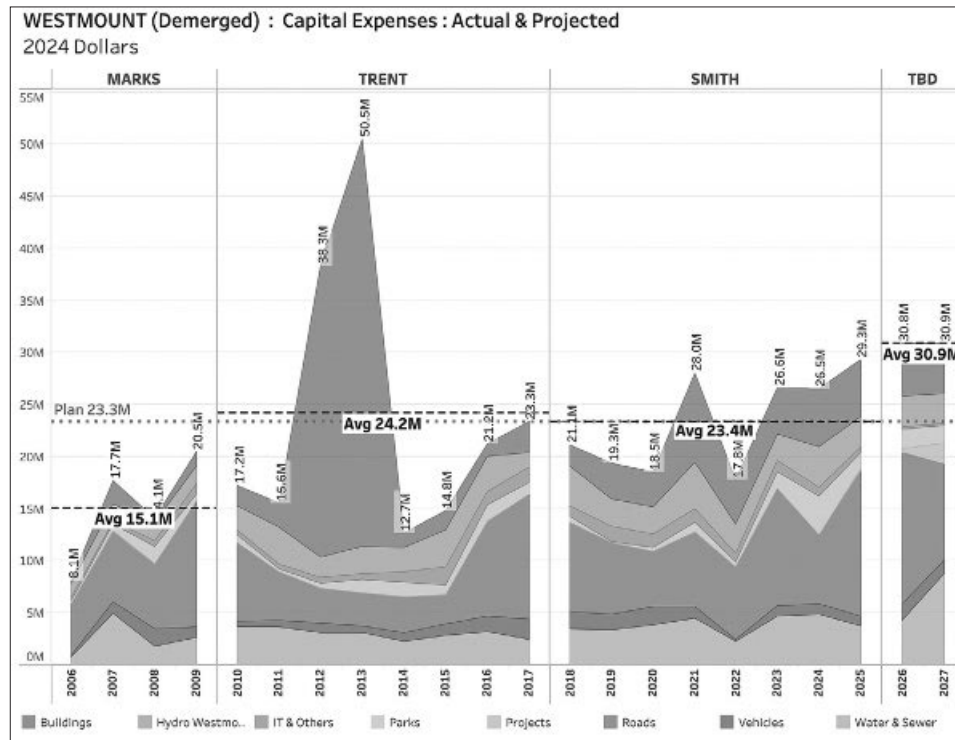
When Mr. Trent left office in 2017, he did so with the city in a strong financial position. But we were also carrying a burden not visible on the balance sheet: years of deferred investment in roads, public buildings, underground infrastructure, parks and Hydro Westmount. This is not conjecture; it is written into the city's own 2017–2037 Infrastructure Financial Plan, drafted in 2016.

That plan set a target of \$15.5 million per year in 2017 dollars to maintain Westmount's infrastructure in good repair. It did not account for improvements or additions. Adjusted for construction inflation in 2024, the target now sits closer to \$23.3 million. And while we haven't hit that indexed number each year, we have achieved it on average since 2018. This has not happened by accident. It was deliberate, responsible and long overdue.

Consider that earlier averages include the construction of the Westmount recreation centre in 2012, a \$50.5-million project funded largely through \$20 million in provincial grants and \$6.5 million in private donations (all in 2024 dollars). That was a unique moment. Remove that project, and the capital spending record was neither high nor consistent.

The data shows we are meeting the investment levels forecast under previous

Infrastructure, debt and the road ahead



Editor's note: The spending categories named from left to right in the caption are presented from top to bottom in the chart. – DP.

leadership, without the benefit of one-time windfalls. (Note: For 2025–2027 projections, an 80-percent completion rate is assumed.)

Roads and the real cost of delay

Mr. Trent described 2024's \$6.5 million in roadwork spending as "anemic." But in several of his years in office, spending was lower – even after adjusting for inflation. On average, in 2024 dollars, the current administration has directed more funding to roads than those who came before us.

Still, the problem is far from solved. Our shock absorbers and ankles bear daily witness to the strain. Residents and taxpayers rightly expect better outcomes. But we must also acknowledge that the challenge is getting harder. Freeze-thaw cycles are more frequent, rainfall is more extreme, and vehicles are more numerous, larger and heavier.

Even as we invest more, our infrastructure is under increasing pressure. For

every project that makes it into the budget, another is deferred. And every dollar not invested today quietly but steadily compounds into greater cost tomorrow.

Borrowing: A growing concern

Mr. Trent and I agree on the risk of growing debt.

In our 2025 capital works program, which totals \$39 million and is the most ambitious in recent memory, only 46 percent is funded without borrowing. That fraction is well below where we should be, and it is not sustainable.

The difficult reality is that fully funding the program on a Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) basis would have required a 23-percent property tax increase. That would mean over \$300 more per month for the average single-family homeowners, just to cover the additional \$22 million in infrastructure spending. That level of increase was simply not feasible.

Instead, council approved a more palatable 3.15-percent increase, aligned with the Consumer Price Index. For the average household, that works out to about \$43 more per month. It allows us to maintain services and make steady infrastructure progress, but it cements our reliance on borrowing.

I supported that budget. But I also advocated for a more ambitious approach – one that calls for a gradual, transparent increase in capital funding from current revenue. I call this strategy Pay-As-You-Owe, or PAYO. The idea is that while borrowing

will remain necessary in the short term, we should steadily reduce our dependence on it by improving our PAYG capacity over time. And yes, that means gradually increasing property taxes. It is not a vote-winning strategy, but it is the right one.

Facing the real challenge

We also face structural limits. Our population is shrinking, our tax base is constrained, and efforts to expand it through new development regularly face organized opposition.

Costs continue to rise, but raising revenue remains politically difficult. And yes, staffing levels have grown. That deserves a closer look – not to assign blame, but to ensure our structure is well aligned with the needs ahead. Some adjustment may come through natural attrition, and some through more active review. Still, even meaningful change on that front will not close a \$22-million funding gap. Staffing is one part of a much broader equation.

The path forward will require every available tool: controlling costs, improving efficiency, increasing revenue and eventually broadening the tax base. No single lever will be enough. Progress depends on using all of them carefully and in balance.

Anyone who believes we can solve this with one lever alone is not being realistic.

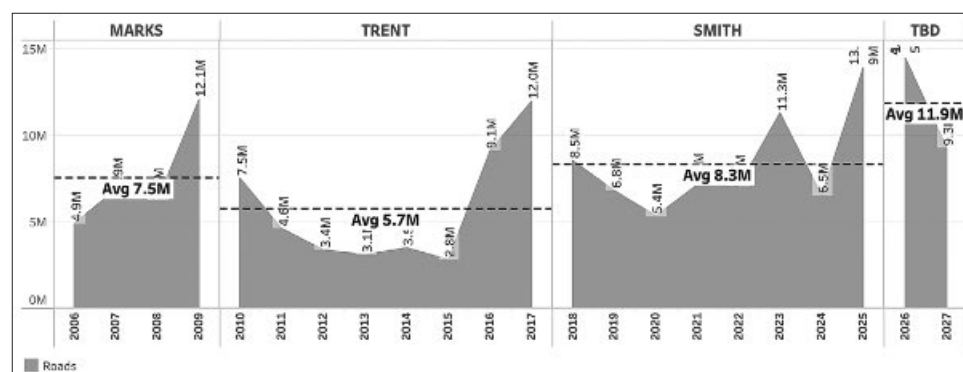
Smoother roads ahead

Mr. Trent has done the city a service by continuing this conversation. But nostalgia is not a plan, and neither is denial. The problems we face today did not appear overnight. They are the product of decades of choices, trade-offs and deferrals. The decisions we make now must reflect both urgency and purpose. We have not accomplished everything we set out to do, but we stand behind the work that has been done – and the progress it represents.

I do not claim to have all the answers. What I do have is data – and I invite you to review it for yourself. My interactive tool is now available at <https://bit.ly/3ZBE96z> (or via the QR Code below) where you can explore Westmount's capital investment, roadwork spending and historical infrastructure funding patterns in full. You don't need to take my word for it. The numbers are there for anyone to see.

That is the road ahead.

Conrad Peart is the city councillor for District 4 and the city's commissioner of infrastructure, urban planning & architecture.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY,
NOT EXCUSES

Recent debates between our current city council and critics highlight a troubling pattern: while the council rightly points out years of neglected work, residents deserve more than blame-shifting. After eight years in office, where are the results?

If “too much work” is the council’s refrain, we must ask: What exactly has it prioritized? Where are the timelines, metrics or completed projects to prove progress? Vague claims of effort mean little to families navigating pothole-riddled roads, rising costs or understaffed services.

Good leadership isn’t about comparing oneself to predecessors – it’s about delivering solutions. Instead of rehearsing excuses, the council has to work for all the residents of Westmount.

Our city’s reputation and lifestyle must be guarded more vigilantly.

JOSEPH YERMUS, OAKLAND AVE.

TIME’S UP FOR WESTMOUNT’S
CURRENT COUNCIL

Councillor Mary Gallery’s recent open letter (May 20, p. 7) is a master class in polished deflection. Sure, governing is hard. Sure, infrastructure was neglected. But let’s not pretend the current administration has done anything close to turning the tide.

Behind all the right words is a simple reality: Westmount is getting worse. Parks, roads, urban planning, basic maintenance – none of it reflects the calibre or cost of

this city.

Public input is regularly brushed aside, criticism is met with defensiveness and accountability is thin at best. City hall enforces rules when it suits them, and conveniently ignores (or forgets) them when it doesn’t. Decisions change with no explanation. Public information is kept secret. It’s not just inefficient. It’s arrogant, and increasingly condescending.

The current administration* had its chance. It’s time for leadership that listens, acts, and actually delivers. Westmount deserves better. We need that change now.

HEATH SLAWNER, CLARKE AVE.

GALLERY WELL EXPLAINS
CHALLENGES OF ‘DAMAGED’
WESTMOUNT

Although I fully understand the frustrations expressed by ex-mayors Trent and Marks (May 13, p. 6, 10) and by letter writer Joe Russo (May 20, p. 8), I think that the opinion piece written by Councillor Gallery (May 20, p. 7) is most accurate and addresses many of the problems that the current administration* has inherited. *Chapeau* to her for her insights.

But, just to be perfectly clear, Westmount, unlike what was stated by Mr. Russo, is not “broken” but is indeed quite damaged. Major roads such as The Boulevard, Edgemoor and Victoria are positively Third World, and a real embarrassment.

Monies appear to be wasted on endless consultant contracts and fees, and on repairs that should have been undertaken years ago. \$510,000 to repair the parapets

on the public library? Why was this not done three years ago when, arguably, costs would have been less?

Yes, as Ms. Gallery eloquently explains, times and situations are vastly different than they were when mayors Trent and Marks were in office, but one has to suggest that some of the administration’s priorities may have been badly misplaced. For example, while we all dithered around arguing about dog runs on the summit, the very roads leading up to those dog runs have become a disgraceful, crumbling mess.

Commenting on a raft of citizen complaints and concerns on a variety of topics, Mayor Smith was once quoted as saying “we could have communicated better.” Perhaps, council should have “acted better” as well.

No, Mr. Russo, Westmount is not broken. And you cannot pin all of the blame on the current city administration. Westmount will resurrect, but it will be a long, slow and very costly revival.

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

**Editor’s note:* In Westmount municipal-
ese, “administration” is used by insiders to mean the city’s senior unelected employees. Nevertheless, Westmount non-politicians regularly use the word in the more usual sense, meaning the current political regime, e.g. “the Smith administration.” That is the meaning here, I believe. – DP.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO IS GONE

In his guest column (May 13, p. 6), former Mayor Trent criticized the city’s new reliance on borrowing. He called instead for a nostalgic return to pay-as-you-go (PAYG) funding for all investments in infrastructure. This would be a big mistake.

For municipalities, full reliance on PAYG is gone. Cities have recognized that excessive commitment to PAYG ends up pressuring them to defer things that really need to be done. These projects were viewed as too costly to be undertaken with only annual operating funds, mostly from property tax. The result is a rundown city.

After 150 years in existence and decades of underinvestment, Westmount has a huge infrastructure deficit. There is no dispute here. This is what [information] is publicly available, admittedly not much. In January of 2024, Public Works estimated that \$100 million may be needed to maintain, renovate and upgrade just the city’s buildings in the following three years. It also indicated that 90 percent of the city’s sewer network is over 80 years old and 22 percent of the road network is over 50 years old.

No surprise here. We see it and feel it every day. Then there is the much dis-

cussed renewal of Hydro Westmount substations, for which the city has provided no estimate. What does all this amount to? Residents have no idea.

Citizens want to make informed decisions. They must first be told the facts.

Can the required capital works be financed right now through higher property taxes? No, according to Councillor Peart. The capital program would require an untenable 23-percent increase in property taxes (January 14, p. 1). Borrowing is the only option right now.

Council must be given credit for confronting reality and making optimal use of various funding sources, including the southeast development. The next step would be to work with other Quebec municipalities and the provincial government to develop a more self-sustaining approach to funding. Even the city of Montreal recently described the current financing model as “archaic.”

The next city council has a big task ahead of it.

DENIS BIRO, 5000 DE MAISONNEUVE, NDG

LISTEN TO THE SOUTHEAST
PANEL, RESPECT HERITAGE,
BUILD FOR EVERYONE

This open letter to the mayor & city council has been significantly reduced in length by the Independent to fit this space

As a concerned citizen residing in the [greater] southeast corridor of Westmount, I am glad something is being done to revitalize the sector.

I applaud the council in working towards a solution in this important area of Westmount. As others have mentioned, it is one of the important gateways into Westmount and should be designated as such. I understand the [next] public presentations of the proposed project are slated for [a special city council meeting on May 27 and a public consultation on June 18 ...]

I had the opportunity to attend the presentation from a distinguished panel of architects, urban planners and an attorney, all Westmount residents, on May 8 at Atwater Library. [...] I was truly in awe of the speakers before in the room! (See May 13, p. 20 for coverage.)

Listening to the group of panelists, they talked about the importance of respecting the historic nature of Westmount, building upon the low-rise, high-density living units already predominantly in existence and be congruous with rest of the Westmount community. [...]

Buildings can be created that are affordable, livable and accommodate many generations in one facility, with lots of trees and green spaces and walkable areas. They noted the importance of creating spaces

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

for people that link the living spaces of Dorchester with the living spaces of St. Catherine's and Sherbrooke St. on the eastern corridor to the sectors on Greene and beyond.

They mentioned that Westmount has already hit the density target of 480 units/unit area, and that we can continue meeting our needs with low-rise, high-density livable and affordable buildings. These are the types of buildings that families want to live in. They want to be able to see their children playing in a courtyard or playground with other children, having fun and being safe. The elderly also do better and live longer being a part of a community with all ages, rather than being shunted into an elderly facility. All generations interact and learn from each other.

The panel mentioned that the proposed plan for the Westmount community to be presented [on June 18] includes several high-rise buildings. The panelists discussed the importance of high-density but not high-rise housing. High-rise housing blocks off the light for the street, increases the weight load for the Metro underneath, increases our density beyond what we need and increases the need for large parking spaces. Families and those of mixed generations tend not to live in these high-rise buildings.

We currently have an affordable housing problem in Montreal and in Canada. We need to be able to accommodate all types of families and generations in our new buildings in the area. We need to revitalize this area with restaurants, terraces, storefronts, recreational facilities, places to relax in nature for all to enjoy.

We also currently have a homeless issue right in the heart of this area. The itinerant population feels very attached to this Atwater area. It is their home as well. The Canadian government has actually pledged \$12 billion in additional funding to address affordable housing. Westmount could draw on funding from the federal, provincial and municipal sources to respect the integrity of Westmount and develop a plan that is innovative and legacy building. [...]

I feel Westmount has in front of it a highly respected panel of Westmount-resident experts in architecture and urban design, who are telling us to respect the culture and the past heritage of Westmount and design something we can all be proud of for generations to come.

I feel we should listen to them.

JANET HALE, DE CASSON RD.

PUBLIC SAFETY SHOULD BE FOR ALL WESTMOUNT RESIDENTS

As a recent pedestrian on Côte St. Antoine, a mother duck was seen with her three ducklings trying to cross the street and head down Lansdowne, presumably to end up at Westmount Park and in the pond. Thankfully, two cyclists stopped as well to help alert traffic and escort the ducks down the hill. We called Public Security for assistance with crossing Sherbrooke St. – in the past I recall help for this type of scenario – but were told the ducks would be fine and this type of call is not dispatched to officers.

While I don't doubt a duck's ability in wayfinding, I do worry considerably about our traffic.

Regarding city public service, I believe that ensuring animal safety is a crucial duty. If one cannot assist directly, there is a responsibility to provide information on those who can. Having pedestrians trying to manage traffic and cars swerving to avoid ducklings may also present human safety concerns.

In reading a picture book about cities to my preschooler, one page illustrates firefighters working to rescue a cat stuck in a tree. I hope that we might extend our municipal outreach to all Westmount residents, including those with feathers.

DIANA ANDERSON, VICTORIA AVE.

Editor's note: The rescue of ducks and ducklings by Public Security (and, in some cases, army personnel) does indeed have a long history in Westmount, including rescues as recently as June 5, 2021, whence came the photographs at top left (note the pandemic-era masks), and as far back as 2011 (see June 7, 2011, p. 1). The *Independent* was unaware that Public Security had changed its policy. – DP.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS' CLIMATE ACTION MARCH

Congratulations to all the students and schools who took part in the "Call to Climate Action" march on May 9 (see coverage, p. 18). Despite the heavy rain, over 2,000 people took to the streets of Westmount!

It is impressive that so many schools collaborated for such a worthy mission: St. George's, The Priory, Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's, St. Léon de Westmount, The Study, Roslyn, Villa Maria and Trafalgar.

As an affluent community, we generally emit 3.5 times more CO₂ per capita than less fortunate Quebecers, according to a 2025 Institut de la Statistique du Québec study. This is primarily due to higher consumption and air travel: the richest 20 percent emit six times more CO₂ from plane emissions than the poorest 20 percent. As Westmounters, we therefore have a much greater responsibility to inform ourselves and change our habits.

One great way to learn about climate change and the actions that can be taken to prevent and adapt to it is to participate in a *fresque*. These are enjoyable group activities involving cards and cover various environmental issues, such as climate change and biodiversity.

The city of Westmount organized one for Earth Day this year and will be offering more in the future. You can also participate in them in several places in Montreal, and many schools and businesses are offering them too.

As Laura Officer, the St. George's teacher who started the march two years ago,

mentioned, it is important to take action to minimize climate anxiety. Clearly, our young people are showing us the way!

ÉLISABETH PATTERSON, KITCHENER AVE.

IF WE'RE TALKING RE-DEVELOPMENT, WHAT ABOUT THE VENDÔME AREA?

Just walking along de Maisonneuve yesterday across from the Vendôme Metro [in NDG just west of Westmount], it dawned on me what a missed opportunity that area has been for Montreal and the neighbourhood of Westmount. I believe the foot traffic to be larger than foot traffic on Sherbrooke because of Vendôme Metro and the densely used bike path.

What a great place for changes that would bring much needed housing and commercial development to the area. Along with the new seniors' residence and the MUHC, it is time to build up the area. What is there now looks very out of place and depressing.

A new high-rise or two, a few restaurants, shops and bars for 5-to-7s with friends to meet after work would bring a welcomed vibrancy to the area. Hope we can see a great future in that area and the same for the southeast corridor of Westmount.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

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New buildings could still be subject to SCAOPI

Indoor pool, height around Atwater Lib., top list of findings

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Topping a list of priorities from public consultation compiled by city consultants on the proposed southeast development project is a need to “adjust” the proposed heights of new buildings on the north side of Dorchester “to better integrate with heritage buildings” such as the Atwater Library.

This suggestion is followed by the construction of an indoor pool to meet “high

demands” as well as the “intensive greening” of public spaces, the widening of sidewalks and the need to hold a traffic impact study on the possible reconfiguration of Dorchester Blvd.

A list of the findings and details from the second consultation meeting and survey can be found on the “Engage.org” site of the city’s new website.

Coming up are two “important” dates concerning the southeast project announced May 5 by Mayor Christina Smith. One is May 27 (described as “notice of motion,” a term usually associated with a by-law). The other is June 18 (see story May 13, p. 19).

While conforming to the criteria of the city’s Southeast’s Special Planning Project (SPP), individual new buildings would be

subject to the city’s SCAOPI by-law, according to Tom Flies, senior director, project management and land use.

SCAOPI is a regulatory tool that enables the city council to authorize a project that is at variance with the city’s urban planning by-laws, though the proposal must conform to the objectives of the city’s planning program or demolition by-law.

‘Year 2’ pricing okayed unanimously

Council approves contractual inflation adjustment to garbage, kitchen waste agreement

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Costs under the city’s new three-year contract for garbage collection from a year ago were adjusted for its second year of operation on May 5 at new total cost of \$1.093 million per year to Derichebourg Canada Environment. This is slightly higher than the \$1.065 million in 2024, reflecting the rate of inflation.

Derichebourg also picks up compostable household waste under the same

contract.

The inflation adjustment does not change the original terms of the contract requiring curbside pick-up from the street in front of the property, which generated complaints from some residents, especially those in row houses with alleys in behind and those with long driveways.

Under the terms of the contract, the cost of collecting and transporting the household waste and food residues “must be adjusted annually.” As a result, the cost for

‘year 2’ represents an adjustment of 2.6 percent, “in accordance with the Consumer Price Index,” explained Councillor Matt Aronson in moving the resolution.

The vote on the second year was unanimous and went without comment from District 2 Councillor Elisabeth Roux, who had voted against the city’s overall waste management By-law 1617 last year, citing the city’s longtime tradition of picking up garbage from the back or side of properties (see story January 16, 2024, p. 1).

At Vic Hall, Public Security

Elevator ‘modernizing’ approved at close to \$200,000

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As part of an upgrade to municipal buildings, city council May 5 approved the “modernizing” of elevators at Victoria Hall and at 30 Stanton St. leading to Public Security’s offices. The total cost of \$189,709 to the contract for professional services was awarded to Archipel Architecture.

The elevator resolution was moved by Councillor Jeff Shamie without comment along with another one for repair and preventive maintenance to air conditioning

and ventilation systems in municipal buildings at a cost of \$125,679 as well as repairs to the library roof at \$510,360 (see story May 20, p. 6).

The elevator at Victoria Hall had had new flooring installed last year just after the Contactivity seniors’ centre moved its programming there. The elevator had been in a state of disrepair for some time.

The elevator had been installed as an initiative of Sally Aitken during the early days of her councillorship (1983-1991) along with other measures to improve

accessibility in the city during her life (1937-2011).



The Victoria Hall elevator on May 23.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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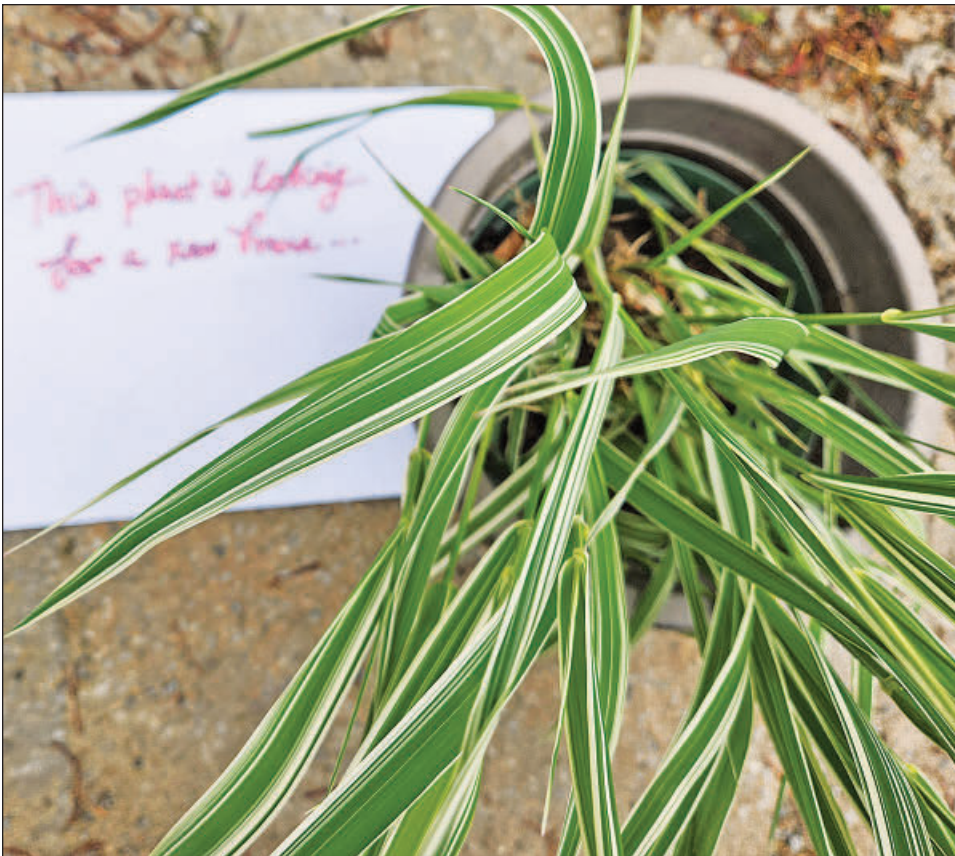
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As seen on de Maisonneuve between Kensington and Metcalfe May 22. The note says, "This plant is looking for a new home."
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Westmount High triumphs at high school level

Roslyn elementary finishes first in ‘Battle of the Books Jr.’

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A team of students from Roslyn elementary school emerged victorious, finishing in first place in the final EMSB Battle of the Books Jr. competition, which took place on May 16 at the school on Westmount Ave.

Every year, EMSB schools are invited to take part in “The Battle of the Books,” a quiz-show style competition where questions are based upon 12 pre-selected young

people’s books that teams in each school read over the course of the school year.

BoB aims to allow students to explore a variety of literary genres while simultaneously developing teamwork skills.

Launched at the Lester B. Pearson School Board in 2013, the battle has grown steadily each year to include an increasing number of schools in the Quebec Association of Independent Schools, and new this year, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

At the English Montreal School Board, it is an event that is organized by librarians and library technicians at the high schools as well as the educational services department.

Over the previous weeks before the final, voracious EMSB primary student readers actively practised answering questions for the two rounds of the book read-

4216 Dorchester, cont’d from p. 1

explained Mayor Christina Smith, but “it was required by provincial law.” The lot, she pointed out, had been vacant “for a very long time.”

This had resulted from a fire April 25, 1999 in an original three-storey apartment building and the eventual demolition of the ruins.

Meeting SCAOPI criteria

The newly approved permit met the criteria required under the city’s SCAOPI by-law concerning “Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposal for an Immovable,” the resolution stated.

These included exemptions from a three-storey height maximum, floor-area-ratio of 2, and a maximum lot coverage of 65 percent as well as an encroachment on Dorchester of an underground garage and a bay window as well as parking spaces. Agreements concerning community space had been met.



Roslyn School on May 26.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

ing competition.

Roslyn elementary ended on top. They were the youngest team with Grade 4 competitors. A good show was also put on by teams from the EMSB’s Dunrae Gardens, Willingdon and Pierre de Coubertin elementary schools.

A special congratulation was extended by the EMSB to the following Roslyn elementary students: Jacob Roberts, Talia Gertsman, Nina Goldwater-Khilkevitch, James Mansour, Anna Chaudhury, Noah Boustani and Elorm Kunordzi.

High school level too

Battle of the Books also took place this year at the high school level and a team also from Westmount managed to finish first. From an initial six participating high school teams, the top four (Laurier Mac-

donald High School, Westmount High School, Royal West Academy and Vincent Massey Collegiate) competed at EMSB headquarters in NDG on the evening of April 22.

After an exciting two regular and two lightning rounds, the team from Westmount High School won the coveted 2025 EMSB BoB championship banner.

On the evening of April 29, the team from Westmount High School then travelled to The Study school in Westmount to represent the EMSB in the Ultimate BoB Battle.

The Westmount High School team clinched the first-place position in that showdown and was declared the Ultimate BoB Champion for 2025. It was the first time in the history of the competition that an EMSB school team had won the title.



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Police Report**Sherbrooke apartment locker robbed of \$10,000 silver set**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A Sherbrooke St. apartment tenant who was away for a month suffered a major loss after their basement locker was broken into, according to a police official at Station 12.

The station's community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit described the victim's extended absence as "a long lapse." The tenant left on April 17 and didn't return until May 18.

After entering the locker, the perpetrator made off with a 72-piece sterling silver cutlery set with an estimated value of nearly \$10,000.

According to police and home security experts, apartment lockers have a particular vulnerability in that tenants tend to neglect them over long periods, only to find out they've been burglarized long after the fact.

Storing especially costly items in a basement locker can also be very risky as the level of protection often doesn't match the value.

He noted that some of the most common items kept in basement lockers are high-end bicycles. Tenants tend to use cheap locks, and the valuables are often in

plain view to people coming and going in the basement locker section.

"It could be anybody – visitors or sometimes even other residents – and then they return at night and break in," said Yigit. "It's easy for somebody to cut a \$5 lock and then leave with a bike."

Window broken, car rifled, nothing taken

A motorist who parked overnight last

week on the Westmount side of Tupper St. may think twice in the future about leaving luggage inside their vehicle without at least trying to conceal it.

Retrieving the vehicle around 10 am on the morning of May 15, the owner found that one of the windows had been shattered and there were signs the car had been searched.

Although it was evident that several

pieces of luggage had been opened, it appeared that nothing had been stolen, according to an incident report filed at Station 12.

In order to minimize vehicle break-ins, police always recommend that car owners transfer any valuables in the passenger area to the trunk, or to at least place valuables left in front underneath a cover of some kind to conceal them.

Just east of Westmount**'9T3' apartments at 3015 Sherbrooke completes final milestone: landscaping**

BY JENNIFER BALL

Just east of Westmount, the "9T3" project at 3015 Sherbrooke St., has completed its last milestone, which was the landscaping. This work was completed for both the main entrance, which is at 3015 Sherbrooke, and also the rear entrance of the building, which is 3014 Barat Rd., in both cases near the corner with Atwater Ave.

On February 28, Patrick Pecorilli – the

president of 9472- 0380 Québec Inc., which bought the building for \$14.5 million in November 2022 – said the landscaping would be done "as soon as Mother Nature allows us to do it." (See April 1, p. 10.)

It was completed the week of May 5.

► Just east of Westmount, the "9T3" project at 3015 Sherbrooke St. has completed its last milestone: the landscaping, as seen May 22.



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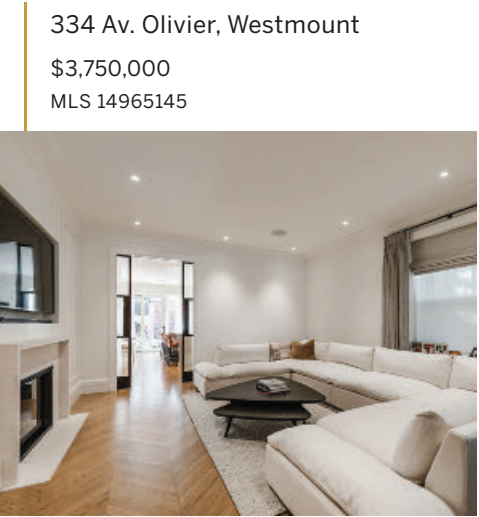
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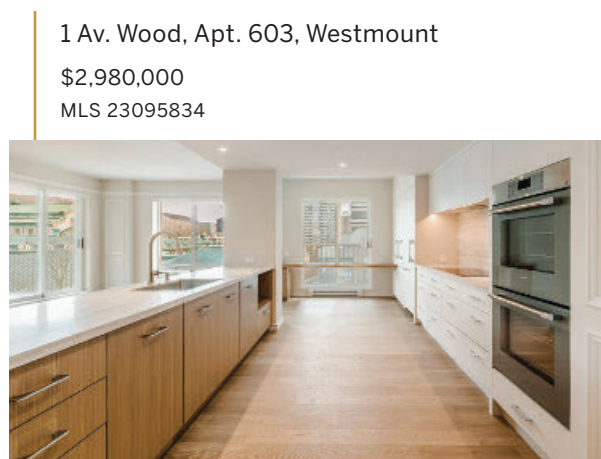
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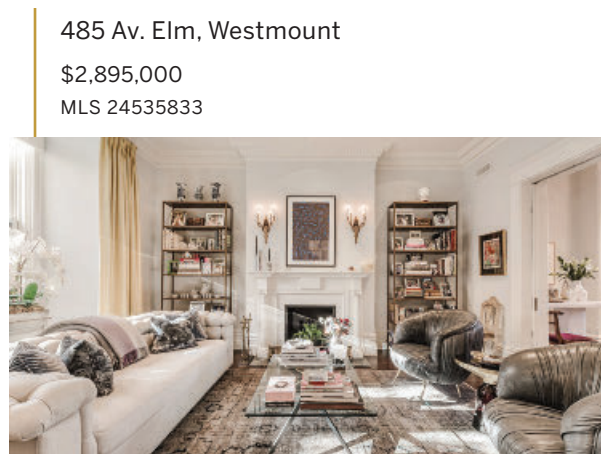
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Long John Silver, cat-model beautiful

a face so perfect that it could be on cat-food tins for major brands. He is a very healthy six-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and



microchipped. He just had a little grooming trim since he has a long-haired coat, fresher for his tummy, as you see. Please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then scroll to Long John Silver's information page by his identification number, 2000263728. You can then plan your visit with him and the adoption coordinators as they are open every day, Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm then Saturday and Sunday

from 11 am to 6 pm. The shelter is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4. Please bring your carrier for him to come home in or pick one up at their onsite boutique where they have a good variety of accessories, foods and toys. Such a stunning companion, he is ready now for adoption. Your neighbour, Lysanne

Pancho, true to himself



Westmount
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LYSANNE FOWLER

As tiny doggies get older, we watch time go by and marvel at their strong personalities and beautiful souls. The conversation often unfolds like this:
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Pancho is this type of little fellow, loving, active, playful, companionable to other dogs. He is presently in a foster home for the Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions animal rescue group. The volunteer foster family reports back that he is adorable and a perfect companion. He is housetrained, a good buddy to all, and interested in walks and play in the fenced backyard. For his age and the fact that, at his dental consultation, all teeth were removed, he is a good eater. He is healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Enjoying the company of other dogs, he could join a family with another playful pooch to share cuddles and zoomies. If you would like more information on Pancho, please refer to the rescue's website



at www.gerdysrescue.org and do not hesitate to write to them at their email address, info@gerdysrescue.org, to start a discussion about adoption and your family's interest. This little guy would join your family happily. Please think of him. Your neighbour, Lysanne

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Ascension Church marks 40th anniversary of pastor's ordination

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Parishioners at Ascension of Our Lord Church on Sherbrooke St. at Clarke held a short reception following 10:30 am mass May 25 to mark the 40th anniversary of the ordination of their pastor, Father Lawrence Mac Eachen.

Originally from Nova Scotia, Fr. Mac Eachen was ordained in 1985.

Since then, he has served as pastor at several Montreal-area Catholic churches, including Saint Patrick's Basilica downtown, Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish in Town of Mount Royal, St. Malachy's Church in Snowdon and Ascension of Our Lord since 2015.

In a tribute to Mac Eachen delivered at the end of the service by former church warden Don Taddeo, Taddeo noted that Mac Eachen is renowned for his generosity when helping others.

He "cannot say no," said Taddeo.

However, Fr. Mac Eachen is also known for his frugality when it concerns unnecessary spending – "like overheating the church, keeping all the lights on" after mass.

On the other hand, Taddeo continued, "let's be thankful for the Scottish hand that only signs for expenses considered absolutely essential." He said Fr. Mac Eachen oversees the parish finances "the way we wish Quebec and Canada's treasury boards would control how our tax dollars are spent."

Fundraising successes

Taddeo credited Mac Eachen as having been the driving force that succeeded in obtaining a \$385,000 grant from the Quebec government in 2018 to help carry out important restoration work on the church's bell tower.

This in turn led to an additional \$1.3 million being raised from parishioners to complete restoration of the interior as well as the organ.

"Fr. Mac Eachen, to say we like you is an understatement," Taddeo said. "The fact is we love you, we appreciate you and have boundless admiration for what you have brought to Ascension, and more importantly, for how you have fulfilled your priestly mission these last 40 years."

See photo on p. 1.

Introducing Customized Homecare: A New Era of Compassionate, Personalized Care in Westmount

Beginning the process of seeking homecare for a loved one is never easy. It can be emotionally overwhelming and filled with questions and uncertainty. This is especially true when you're trying to balance your own responsibilities while making sure your parent or family member is safe, supported, and comfortable.

Having faced this situation with my parents, I know firsthand what a difference it makes knowing your loved ones are not just looked after, but genuinely cared for with professionalism, kindness, and respect.

As you navigate your options, here are three essential factors you can consider when choosing home care for your loved one:

1. Personalized Care That Fits Your Family

Your loved one is unique, and the care they receive should reflect that. Look for a provider that takes the time to understand their personality, preferences, and health needs.

Whether your loved one requires light housekeeping, meal preparation, help with daily tasks, or assistance with specific medical needs, the first step is matching a qualified caregiver, whose personality aligns with your loved one, so they feel comfortable and safe. Furthermore, a flexible service, that grows and adapts as your loved one's needs evolve, ensures them the right level of care – whether a short visit, long-term help or around-the-clock support.

2. Caregivers Who Build Real Connections

The best care goes beyond a checklist of tasks. Choose a provider with caregivers who are more than just skilled professionals – they are also compassionate individuals who take the time to connect.

Whether it's sharing a cup of tea, organizing the day together, or simply being present, caregivers build real relationships that bring joy, comfort, and emotional support to those in their care.

3. Clear Communication and Reliable Support

Entrusting someone with the care of a loved one is never easy. You need a team that stays in touch, listens to your concerns, and keeps you in the loop. Look for a provider who prioritizes open communication and provides regular updates. You should feel confident that if you have questions or need support, someone will be there to answer – not just with words, but with empathy and presence.

Peace of mind for loved ones and their families

At Customized Homecare, we take these values to heart. We are a locally owned and operated company with hundreds of clients across the island, and we're proud to now have a new office in the heart of Victoria Village, right here in Westmount.

Our mission is simple but powerful: deliver quality care rooted in compassion, while building meaningful connections between caregivers and families.

That's one of the reasons I joined Customized Homecare. And it's why I'm so happy to be returning to Westmount, where I first began my career in Montreal, to offer families more options for keeping their parents at home. Whether your loved one suffers from dementia or an age-related health condition, our team of compassionate caregivers is equipped to support the full range of your needs. And often, the earlier you can bring a caregiver into the home, the better. Our caregivers are often the first to notice subtle changes in health or behaviour, providing an extra layer of security and reassurance for the whole family.

As we settle into our new Westmount location, I invite you to discover how we can provide the personalized, compassionate care your family deserves. After all, when it comes to homecare, it's not just about what you do – it's about how you make people feel.

Customized Homecare is more than a service. It's a promise. Call me today for an in-home assessment and let's talk about how we can make sure your loved ones stay where they're happiest – at home.

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Horaire d'été pour les bureaux administratifs

Du 26 mai et jusqu'au 29 août, les bureaux administratifs seront ouverts du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30, et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h.



Summer Hours for Administrative Offices

From May 26 to August 29, administrative offices will be open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

48^e Journée familiale de Westmount

31 mai, 10 h, parc Westmount. Célébrez l'arrivée de l'été à Westmount ! Amenez vos enfants et petits-enfants et profitez des activités et des jeux tout au long de la journée. westmount.org/evenements

Travaux au belvédère Summit

Depuis la semaine du **12 mai**, l'accès public au belvédère est temporairement fermé en prévision de travaux de renforcement. Ces travaux débuteront à la fin du mois de mai et se poursuivront tout au long de l'été. westmount.org/travaux

Ville de Montréal : resurfacement de la piste cyclable De Maisonneuve

Du 26 mai au 5 juin, des travaux auront lieu sur le boulevard De Maisonneuve dans le cadre d'un projet de la Ville de Montréal. westmount.org/travaux

Resurfacement d'une partie de la rue Sherbrooke

La Ville de Westmount va procéder à des travaux de voirie sur la rue Sherbrooke O. entre l'avenue Grosvenor et la limite ouest de la Ville (à l'ouest de l'avenue Claremont) cet été. westmount.org/travaux

48th Westmount Family Day

May 31, 10 a.m., Westmount Park. Celebrate the start of summer in Westmount! Bring your children and grandchildren, and enjoy activities and games throughout the day at Westmount Park. westmount.org/events

Ville de Montreal: Resurfacing on Boulevard De Maisonneuve Bike Path

From May 26 to June 5, construction work will be taking place on Boulevard de Maisonneuve as part of a project by the City of Montreal. westmount.org/works

Works at Summit Lookout

Since the week of **May 12**, public access to the lookout has been temporarily closed in preparation for reinforcement work. Work is scheduled to begin at the end of May, and will continue throughout the summer. westmount.org/works

Resurfacing of a Section of Sherbrooke Street

The City of Westmount will be carrying out roadwork on Sherbrooke Street W. between Grosvenor Avenue and the western limit of the City (west of Claremont Avenue) this summer. westmount.org/works

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Conférence — *Quand les peintres étaient orateurs*

29 mai, 19 h, Salle Westmount. Découvrez comment la peinture et la sculpture anciennes racontent une histoire à travers un langage silencieux, avec Philippe Gervais, professeur d'histoire de l'art au Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. westlib.org

Concert : Aube/Nocturne - Solarium

7 juin, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Solarium propose une musique jazz oscillant entre funk, swing et fusion. Aube/Nocturne, c'est un florilège de 18 pièces éclectiques, alternant entre des moments de haute voltige improvisés et des passages savamment composés et interprétés. westmount.org/evenements

Projection de la Fierté : Paris is Burning (1990)

10 juin, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Célébrez le Mois de la Fierté avec la projection du documentaire culte Paris is Burning. Ce film offre un regard unique sur la scène drag ball afro et latino-américaine du Harlem des années 1980. Du café et des délices festifs seront servis ! westmount.org/evenements

Bloomsday 2025

16 juin, 14 h, Salle Westmount. En anglais. Redécouvrez Ulysse de James Joyce à travers des lectures mises en scène et une présentation des personnages et des lieux du roman. Thé et café seront servis. En collaboration avec le Festival Bloomsday Montréal. westlib.org

Club de films documentaires — Wilfred Buck (2024)

18 juin, 19 h, Salle Westmount. En anglais. Ce documentaire suit la vie de Wilfred Buck, un aîné cri qui a surmonté le déracinement et la toxicomanie en se réappropriant le savoir ancestral des astres et des cérémonies. westlib.org

Pride Screening: Paris is Burning (1990)

June 10, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Celebrate Pride Month with a screening of the cult documentary Paris is Burning. The film offers a powerful glimpse into Harlem's 1980s drag ball culture within Black and Latinx communities. Coffee and festive treats will be served! westmount.org/events

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lecture — *Quand les peintres étaient orateurs* (in French)

May 29, 7 p.m., Westmount Room. Discover how ancient painting and sculpture tell stories through a silent language, with Philippe Gervais, art history professor at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. westlib.org

Concert : Aube/Nocturne - Solarium

June 7, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. In collaboration with the Conseil des arts de Montreal en tournée. Solarium's style of jazz music oscillates between funk, swing and fusion. Aube/Nocturne is an anthology of 18 eclectic pieces, alternating between moments of high-level improvisation and skillfully composed and performed passages. westmount.org/events

Bloomsday 2025

June 16, 2 p.m., Westmount Room. Rediscover Ulysses by James Joyce through staged readings and an engaging introduction to the novel's characters and settings. Tea and coffee will be served. In collaboration with the Bloomsday Festival Montreal. westlib.org

Documentary Film Club — Wilfred Buck (2024)

June 18, 7 p.m., Westmount Room. This documentary follows the life of Wilfred Buck, a Cree Elder who overcame displacement and addiction by reclaiming ancestral star knowledge and ceremony. westlib.org



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WHA lecture focuses on Fellowes team of local home builders

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As a father-son team from 1922 to 1955, John Baker Fellowes and Norton Alexander Fellowes designed and built nearly 50 homes in Westmount, ranging from traditional residences of quarried stone to mid-century modern split-levels and bungalows.

With a house-building portfolio as extensive as that, it should come as no surprise that a good number of those attending a Westmount Historical Association

lecture at the public library on April 17 were current owners of homes built by the Fellowes.

Arrival in Canada

John Baker Fellowes arrived in Canada in 1892 in his early 20s. After first apprenticing to a photographer, he established a career as a developer and contractor. In 1924, he was joined in his work by his son Norton Alexander Fellowes, who trained as an architect at McGill University.

They are credited as having erected Westmount's first all-concrete house in the late 1940s – which was considered a revolutionary innovation in Westmount at the time. They also built homes in other areas of Montreal, including Hampstead, Outremont and Town of Mount Royal.

Lucy Fellowes, former curator at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum at the Smithsonian Institution in Manhattan, who is the daughter of the younger Fellowes, shared some of her knowledge on her father's and grandfather's architectural impact in Westmount.

From the early 20th century on, the Fellowes collaborated on the design and construction of houses (some being very distinctive) on The Boulevard, as well as on Forden, Argyle, Sunnyside, Lansdowne and Willow avenues, with home construction on these streets often representing phases in their careers in local property development.

From stone to modernity

While the houses from the earlier era were notable for their generous use of stone with a traditional design, traces of early modern were emerging by the late 1930s when a single-family house was built at 42 Belvedere Rd. that combined traditional stone with a modern and more linear design.

Lucy Fellowes was raised in a modern design home built by her father in the late 1940s at 589 Lansdowne Ave. She said that



This home on Willow Ave., believed to be the first concrete house in Westmount, is an example of mid-century modern created by Norton Alexander Fellowes.

living in the house was a significant factor in her decision to pursue a career in architectural and decorative design.

During a question period, she was asked whether she had anything to say regarding the Smithsonian Institution, which was the target in March of an executive order from US president Donald Trump, who demanded the network of museums make changes complying to his vision of US society.

"Please don't," she replied when an attendee wanted to quote a recent article in *The New Yorker* that maintained Trump was taking aim at history at the Smithsonian.

She said she was lucky enough to have been at the Smithsonian "in a terrific era" when Sidney Dillon Ripley was in charge. "I was just lucky to be there at a very good

time," added Fellowes, who divides her time between homes in Westmount and Manhattan.



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Westmount area students raise voices on climate



Students from eight schools in Westmount and adjoining Montreal march along The Boulevard.

By RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount streets were briefly taken over May 9 beginning at around 9:30 am by hundreds of energetic and vocal students in a march followed by political demands that they named “Rising Voices: A Climate call to Action.”

St George’s School has led this climate initiative and united neighbouring institutions. It is now in its third year.

Bright, bubbling children emerged one after the other from St. George’s School, The Study, Roslyn, ECS, Trafalgar, Villa Maria, The Priory and St. Léon de West-

mount and united under overcast skies and light drizzle to choruses of “Heigh ho, heigh ho – pollution got to go” and “What do we want? Climate justice now.”

They proceeded along The Boulevard, flanked by police cars and teachers, down Belmont Ave. and across to King George (Murray Hill) Park for a number of speeches and demands for Westmount and beyond.

Unfortunately, the expected dignitaries – Jennifer Maccarone, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis; Anna Gainey, MP for NDG-Westmount and Christina Smith, mayor of Westmount – were not present. They had sent apologies, accord-

ing to a later announcement.

Speeches demand change

Undeterred, young delegates from the schools stood up in front of the gathering and made their points and proposals for action forcefully and confidently. Requests included:

- mandatory environmental education in schools,
- a bike path along The Boulevard so kids can bicycle safely to school (a request also made to Mayor Smith last year),
- phasing out plastics, micro plastics, single-use packaging and plastic straws

(the city of Montreal is further ahead on this than Westmount, according to one speaker),

- plant more trees, especially close to cities and beside the highways, and create green belts.

The pupils were welcomed to the park at around 10:30 am by Andrea McIntyre and Laura Officer of St. George’s elementary and the assembly terminated just before 11 am.

The enthusiasm, energy and positivity from all in attendance was palpable.



The natural amphitheatre of King George (Murray Hill) Park filled up with soggy students and teachers.



St. George's students Jacqueline (left) presented staggering facts about the costs to our climate of fast fashion while Sophie talked about their follow-up with the city on the request for a cycle path on the Boulevard, demanding more precise dates.



Keila (left) and Jude from Roslyn School talked about the use of plastics, micro-plastics, single-use packaging and plastic straws.



The Study students, from left, Zoe, Jessica and Normandie requested mandatory classes in schools on climate.



ECS students from left, Abbey, Caroline and Sydney spoke about the need for more trees and green belts closer to cities and beside highways.

Runaway MGH patient in crisis found in time by police

By JENNIFER BALL

On May 24, in the early afternoon, the *Independent* spoke to two police officers on the corner of Holton Ave. and Wood Ave. who were trying to apprehend a patient who had run away from the Montreal General Hospital. According to the police, he was running through the streets and backyards of east Westmount dressed in only his underpants.

On May 24, Jean-Pierre Brabant, who is a spokesman for the Montreal police, told the *Independent*, "It was somebody who has mental issues and we [were] looking around to find him."

On May 25, Brabant added, "The man was found by police officers not far from Alexis Nihon shopping mall and he was brought back to the hospital..."

"He was okay and no one was injured. It was just that there was a question of looking for him

as soon as possible because he was just in his underwear... He was not a threat to anyone, more to himself."

Brabant said the man was intercepted by the police at approximately 4 pm.

High wind brings down at least two large branches

Damage was reported to at least two cars hit by large branches in heavy winds late in the afternoon May 16, according to Public Security officials. One of the cases involved a large branch from a city tree at Côte St. Antoine and Victoria, which smashed the back window of a white Honda. Its owner was located and advised to report the damage to the city's Legal Affairs department.

The other incident involved a large tree on private property at 4-6 Parkman Place.

Museums shouldn't hide Paul Kane's works, says MacLaren

By MARTIN C. BARRY

"History is so full of distortions and omissions that dealing in the truth seems like a breach of etiquette," says Canadian historian Ian MacLaren, paraphrasing American writer Marilynne Robinson from one of her most recent books.

MacLaren, a Westmounter since 2018 after retiring from the University of Alberta, was at the Westmount Public Library on May 14 to give a lecture on 19th century Canadian painter and sketch artist Paul Kane.

Kane is the subject of MacLaren's four-volume work, *Paul Kane's Travels in Indigenous North America* (McGill-Queen's University Press).

Paul Kane (1810-1871) was born in Ireland, although he was raised in Toronto (known in early 19th century Upper Canada as "York"). On two voyages he took through Canada's northwest from 1845 to 1848, he produced some of the first visual records of native peoples living in western Canada.

Sketches then painting of natives

Field sketches Kane drew during his travels eventually became the basis for more than a hundred oil paintings he created in a studio after returning to York.

Although his sketches were not highly



Former University of Alberta historian Ian MacLaren delivered a lecture on 19th century Canadian painter and sketch artist Paul Kane at the Westmount Public Library on May 14.

valued in his day compared to the paintings, they came to be regarded as the standard to which native visual imagery would be measured until the advent of photography.

However, there is a longstanding con-

troversy over the historical veracity of Kane's work, as he is known to have embellished upon the relative accuracy of the sketches by introducing dramatic flourishes to the paintings.

As Kane had a limited education and never learned to write properly, questions have also been raised about the authenticity of some published works attributed to him.

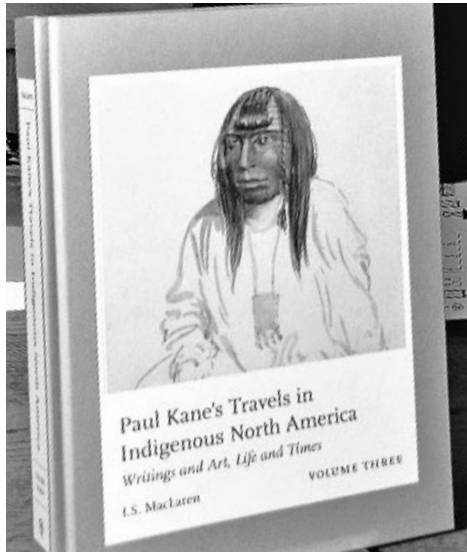
"It's impossible to imagine that he didn't get an awful lot of help," said MacLaren, noting that the only field records Kane left behind are a few crudely scribbled notebook pages.

Who wrote Kane's material?

By the 1850s, according to MacLaren, ostensibly scientific writings attributed to Kane were being presented before the Canadian Institute. "But they weren't written by Kane," he insisted, adding that Kane "was clothed in the veneer of a man of science by this point."

While the Royal Ontario Museum previously showcased Kane's works – and generations of school children often made field trips to the ROM to view them – most of his output was removed from public display after 2022.

"They're not politically correct," MacLaren said of Kane's canvases and sketches, while adding, "I don't know if you know



how toxic identity politics is at museums these days."

He suggested that Kane's works shouldn't be hidden in a vault, but rather "get them out and invite communities to come in" and engage in dialogue "and see what comes of it. I think a public museum ought to be doing that."

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LIZ art auction to benefit Montreal Children's Hospital

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Management at the LIZ retirement apartments on de Maisonneuve at Claremont just west of Westmount held a launch on May 8 for a permanent installation of residents' artwork with a vernissage of colourful paintings created by a woman who only became aware of the extent of her talent later in life.

Mel Squires, a LIZ resident who invited the *Independent* to the event, described Maxine Bloom's works as "exceptional so much so that it was suggested to her she should offer her works for sale."

However, because Bloom has always been community minded, she contacted the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, who are headquartered in the LIZ building, and the foundation arranged to hold a silent auction for her paintings, with all financial proceeds going to pediatric oncology research at the Children's.

"All the funds will go to the foun-

dation, and every month we will be exposing the works of different residents," said Olivier Tibika, general manager at the LIZ. The silent auction continues in the lobby until June 5 and purchasers will be issued

tax receipts.

Bloom decided to take up art 10 to 15 years ago when a friend who was an art teacher needed an extra student to fill her class. She volunteered to join after being told she wouldn't have to draw straight lines. "And I still cannot draw a straight line," she admitted in an interview.

She said her work "is all intuitive" and that she never received any formal training.

"But as I'm working, there are layers and layers and layers of paper and I print. I do my own mono printing and find images that I like."

Occasionally she draws and sometimes also includes script. Twenty of her works were included in the exhibition, although she acknowledged "I have lots more."

While the residence is on the NDG side of Claremont, many of LIZ's residents are former Westmounters. A former Westmounter herself, Bloom grew up in Snowdon and has also lived in Côte St. Luc and Dollard des Ormeaux on the West Island.



LIZ resident Maxine Bloom is seen here on May 8 in the foyer of the residence, where a vernissage of her works, with a silent auction for the Montreal Children's Hospital, launched a permanent exhibition or artworks by other LIZ residents.

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My Big Fat Greek Fundraiser #5 continues the perfection



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

The day could not have been more perfect. As the spring-into-instant-summer dusk fell, My Big Fat Greek Fundraiser #5 took place on a fabulously warm eve. Guests actually dined outdoors!

Sold-out months in advance, the much-anticipated Milos event was co-hosted by **Linda Smith** and **Andrew Hops**.

Dress code? Sequins. One-shoulder dresses. Rhinestone cowboy boots. Short and chic. Barbie pinks. Trendy trouser suits (tulip red, white and – of course – black). Oh, and iconic initialled bags.

Speaking of bags, the Milos guest gift of My Sister’s Extra Olive Oil was wrapped in back-to-basics burlap.

Arriving Porsches, Jaguars and Mercedes were quickly valet parked and the red carpet was walked by stylish supporters of the Miriam Foundation.

Seen arriving were **Marie-Josée Coutu** and **Michel Nadeau** and Miriam Founda-



Marco Mr. Tam Tam surrounded by one of the event’s dancers, **Andrew Hops**, **Linda Smith** and **Corinne Asseraf**.

tion board members **Sylvie Coutu**, with **Joël Paquin**, and **Nick Meti**.

Miriam Foundation CEO **Warren**

Greenstone welcomed all as they donned fun disco bracelets.

Art for the silent auction was donated by **Corinne Asseraf**, Galerie 203.

Noted enjoying the evening were **Lise Wat-**

continued on p. 22



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

ier and Ronald Dobrin, Sonia Benezra, Daria Pyrzanowska and Daniel Assouline, brothers Derek and Richard Stern, doctors Teanoosh Zadeh and Terry Smith, Rosemary and Frank Niro, Betty and Joe Nezri, Lauren and Mitch Adler, Therese and Michael Brownstein, Helen and Stanley Cons, Gloria and Marc Kakon, Rozlyn Druckman and Peter Beral, Liza Kaufman and her husband Paul Ostroff and daughter Alfee Kaufman Garbarino, Tania and Robert Itzcovitz, Tania and Philip Kakon, Lola and Albert Kakon, Angie Tyler, Lysa Lash Hornstein, Sandra Levy, Nilly and Albert Levy, Sam and Terry Mintzberg, Brouria Schreter, Jordan Schachter, Janet and Jeff Solomon, Kirsty and Derek Stern, Richard Stern, Lori Pesner Victor, and Roz Wiener and Sam Hops.

Present from the Miriam Foundation were Geneviève Prévost, director development; Sarah Pinchevsky, project coordinator, and Noah Josephson, events and fundraising.

During the cocktail reception entertainment was by Shaharah and fabulous musicians. The dynamic team included percussionist-drummer Marco Mr. Tam Tam and DJ Yo-C, who ensured the dance floor was packed.

As always, Milos did not disappoint. Living up to its international renown, the *estiatorio* served mouth-watering seafood and its famous lamb.

Massive balloons donated by Haute Bal-lons added to the vibrant vibe of the night as stilettos pranced alongside sneakers. A record amount was raised to support the Miriam Foundation.

Celebrating over 50 years, it is the largest organization in Quebec dedicated to funding services to support people of all ages with autism and/or intellectual disabilities, as well as their families and loved ones.

PS. Don't miss Miriam Golf Tournament, Golf St. Raphael. August 11. Miriamfoundation.ca.



Linda Smith, Andrew Hops and Terry Smith.



Warren Greenstone flanked by Marie-Josée Coutu and Sylvie Coutu.



Lauren and Mitch Adler.



Liza Kaufman and Alfee Kaufman Garbarino.



Rosemary and Frank Niro.



Daniel Assouline and Daria Pyrzanowska.



Brouria Schreter, Betty Nezri, Therese Brownstein and Joe Nezri.



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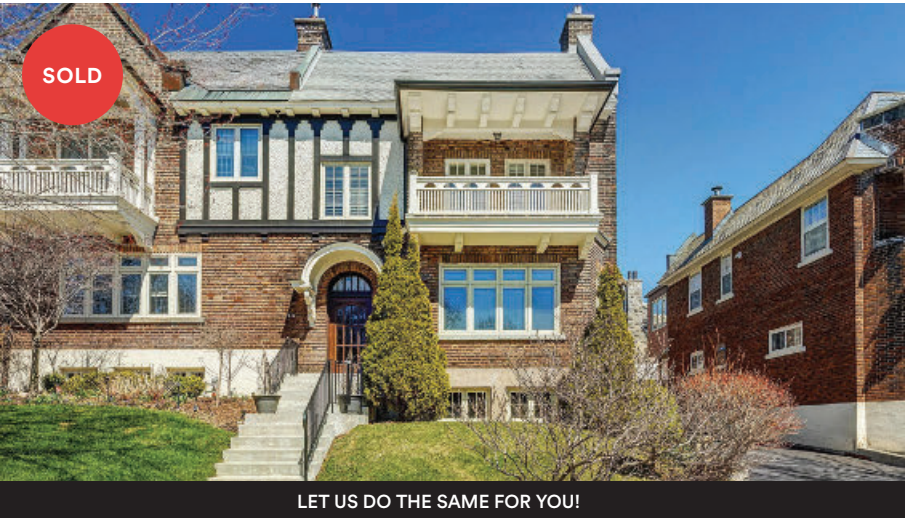
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