

*Final vote slated for September 8*

## Pros & cons voiced at overflow meeting on southeast draft by-laws

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A special council meeting May 27 attracted an overflow audience at which notice of motion was presented regarding draft by-laws specifically described as “a procedural step” in the city’s proposed Special Planning Program (SPP) for southeast development. This long-discussed project has had several iterations dating back to 2017.

The area in question is southeast of Greene village and centres on the two Tupper parking lots owned by the city, as well as private lots – empty and built up – on St. Catherine between Atwater Ave. and

Wood Ave.

“This is not the final adoption and it does not move any project forward at this stage,” Mayor Christina Smith clarified in opening the session. “The most important aspect of the SPP is that it enables a structured and transparent process for planning and consultation.”

Some of the many questioners wanted to know, however, how the city would pay off the project’s infrastructure needs such as a “huge” investment in the Hydro Westmount network to service new buildings. Also, what demographic studies had been carried out? .....

Many of the varying *continued on p. 12*

*Unity Boys’ Club members unite*



Former members of the Unity Boys’ Club are seen here gathered for a reunion on May 18 on the front steps of Centre Greene, whose building used to house the club. Many members lived on or near Selby St., which has since been demolished. It was located between the CP railway tracks and St. Antoine St. See p. 20 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

*Merchants’ sidewalk festival June 7*

## Greene event to feature antique car show, evening music

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The annual spring festival of the Quartier Greene merchants takes place this Saturday with a rain date on the Sunday if required. As a result, the entire commercial stretch (Sherbrooke to St. Catherine) is to be closed to traffic from 9 am to 5 pm. However, the block north of de Maisonneuve, where several restaurants

are located, will remain closed until 9:30 pm.

A feature of the Greene attractions is an antique car show from 10 am to 4:30 pm featuring models 25 years and older.

Along with this are sales and promotions from artists John Bailey and Catherine Benny (10 am to 5 pm) as well as children’s book authors ..... Judith Henderson and *continued on p. 16*



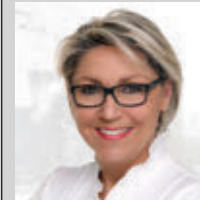
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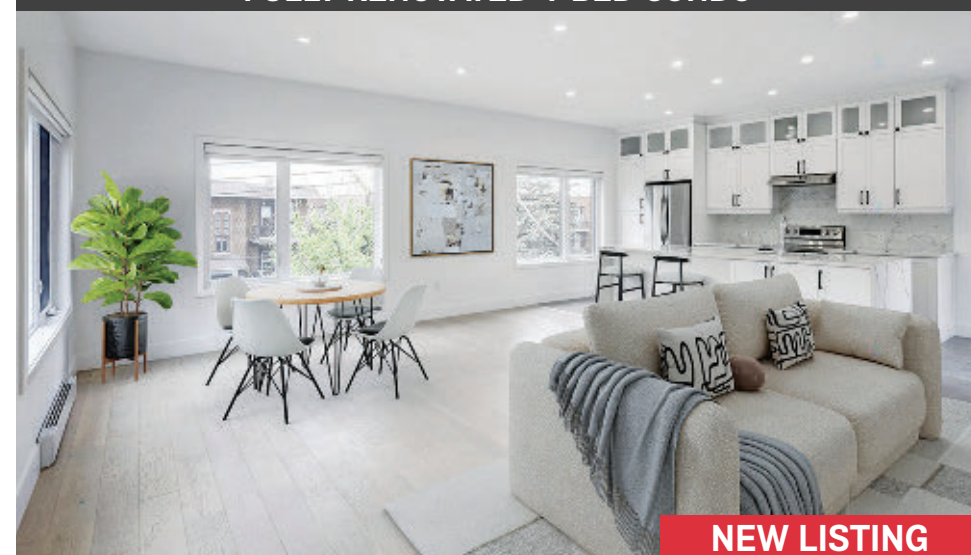


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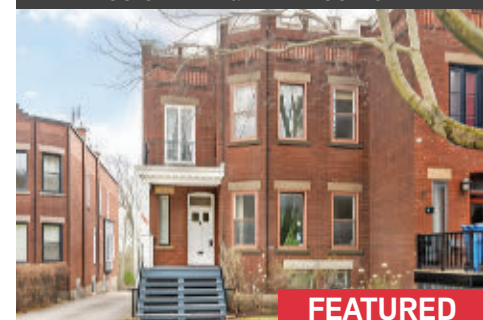
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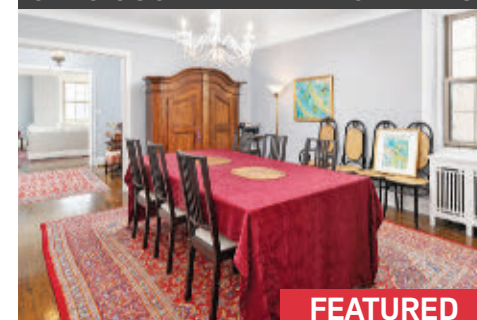
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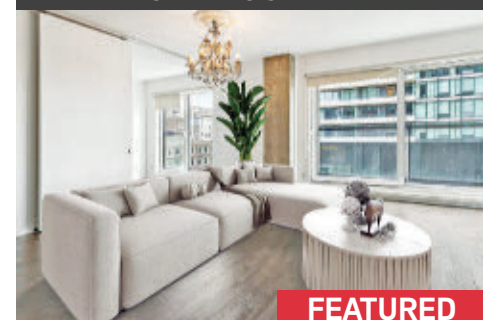
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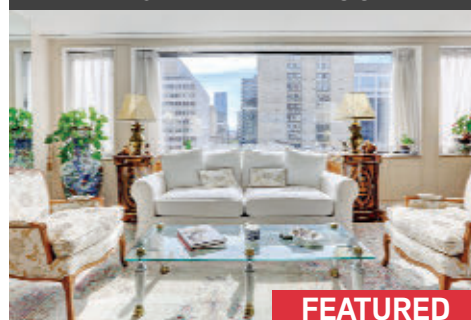
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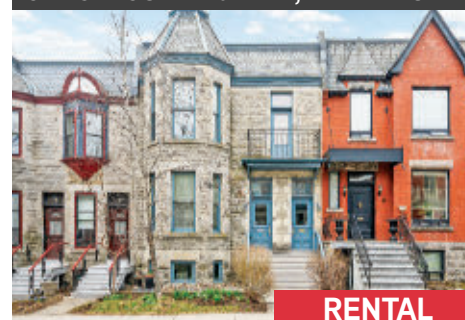
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# Delivery truck knocks over lamp pole

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A delivery truck on Greene knocked over a lamp post while passing the north-west corner onto de Maisonneuve May 26 at 9:59 am, Public Security officials said. It was reported to be a difficult corner for a large truck to manoeuvre given bollards installed around a temporary construction site. Public Works was called to remove a bollard.

## Water found coming through pavement on Tupper

A Public Security patroller noticed water coming through the street May 25 outside 4040 Tupper St., department officials said. Public Works was called to assess the situation but decided to put off repairs until the next day since the water was not found to be impeding traffic. The area is at the Tupper parking lots.

**Police Report, p. 8**

**Letters to the Editor, p. 9**

**Dodge on February real estate transfers, p. 16**

**A-dog-tions, p. 22**

**9 Lives, p. 24**

**Social Notes:  
Humane Society, p. 25**

## Car hits side of Glen tunnel

A Public Security patroller noticed flashing lights from the Glen Rd. tunnel under the railways tracks May 22 at 9:44 pm and found firefighters on the scene, officials said. A car was reported to have jumped over the sidewalk and hit the side of the tunnel. Traffic was blocked and the driver was transported to hospital by Urgences Santé though reasons were not reported.

## Clarification SCAOPI, southeast are different things

Last week (p. 8), we wrote “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.”

While this sentence is correct, it does not perfectly capture Tom Flies’ point, nor what the city is trying to do in the southeast, namely create a raft of new zoning regulations. If the new regulations are passed, all proposed buildings in the southeast will have to comply with these proposed rules, many of which are looser than the existing ones.

On the other hand, SCAOPI (specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposal for an immovable) is a separate by-law and process, which already exists and which allows any land owner anywhere in the city to apply for an exception to existing zoning/building rules. SCAOPI will still be open to southeast landowners if the new southeast rules are passed, but it has no close connection with those proposed rules. – DP.

# Cyclists, pedestrians urged to watch out at construction sites

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As worksites gear up ahead of the annual summer break in the construction industry starting July 20, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists are being urged by Public Security officials to be especially vigilant around construction sites where large equipment, material and activity may hinder or reduce passage in the rush up to the holiday.

“We’re closely monitoring bike paths and parking hours,” director Greg McBain said last week.

The mandatory summer break in the Quebec construction industry takes place this year between July 20 and August 2.

## Family Day cancelled

The city’s Family Day event in Westmount, scheduled for May 31, was cancelled due to rain.





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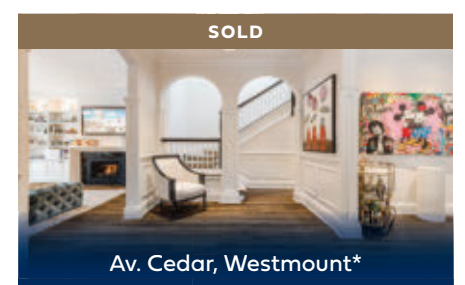
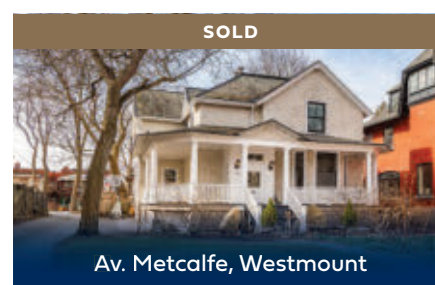
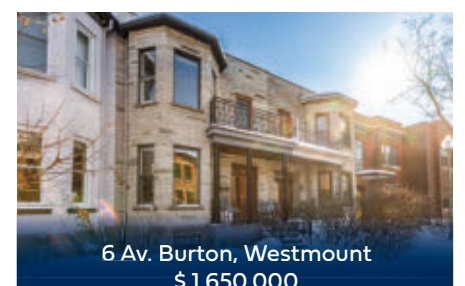
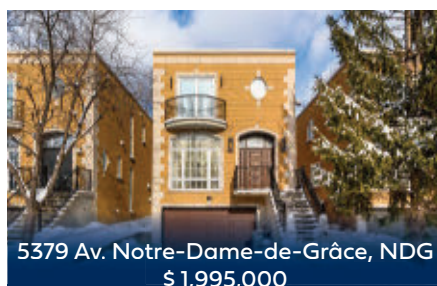
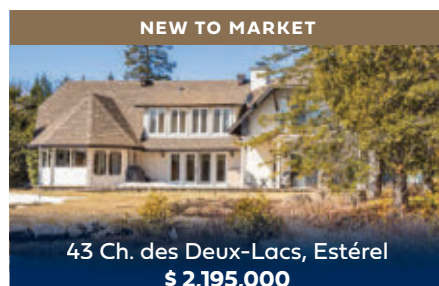
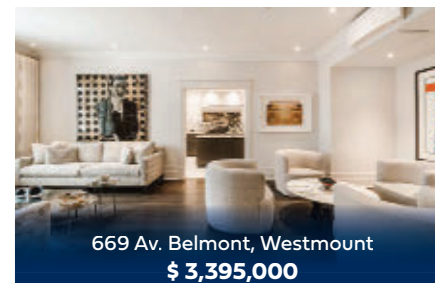
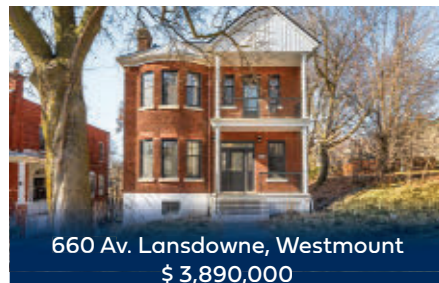
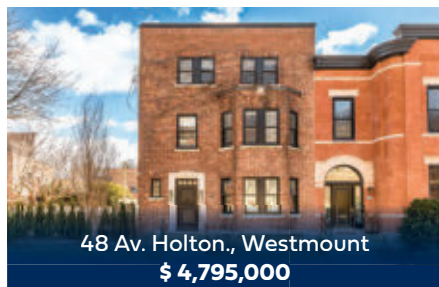
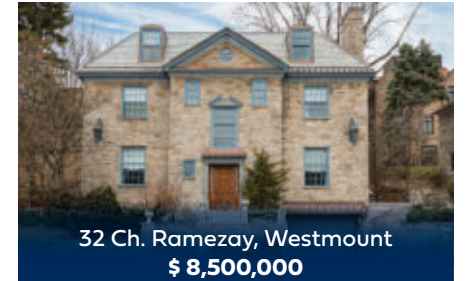
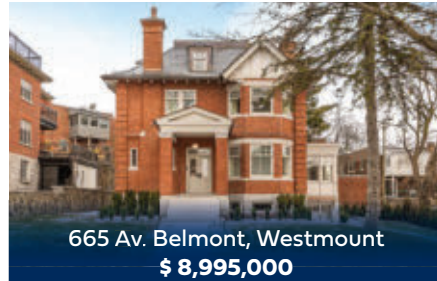






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## Guest column

# More city bureaucracy has not meant more infrastructure investment

By PETER TRENT

Dear reader: in writing these columns, I am accused of weakening the quality of public dialogue. You have been warned. *Caveat lector.*

The 13th of May (p. 6), I reported that Westmount's 2014-2024 financial statements reveal that the city has allowed the number of their civil servants to increase by 24 percent over the last seven years – when compared to a previous steady-state condition. (The financial statements convert temporary/part-time positions into full-time equivalents.)

Meanwhile, there was no increase in population or improvement in services. That's not all. The number of managers has increased by 35 percent. And the cost of this overstaffing will be very roughly \$7 million a year. Every year.

Was this increase in staffing justified by an equivalent increase in infrastructure investment? No.

The financial statements showed that there has been less, not more, such investment in constant dollars. Furthermore, the financial statements indicated we are heading for a net debt position. And, in conclusion, I suggested that, rather than only borrowing to avoid above-inflationary tax increases, we should cut costs first, starting with the bureaucracy.

### Gallery pens open letter

The week after this column on financial/administrative matters appeared, I found myself the recipient of an "open letter." It was not from the mayor or from the commissioner of finance, but from the commissioner of recreation and parks, Mary Gallery. It shed no real light on why Westmount had to hire all these new bureaucrats.

But I did get scolded for my pains. I wrote my column, it appears, "to advance a personal narrative [that] not only disrespects the efforts of our dedicated staff but also weakens the quality of public dialogue..."

Hmmm. I have, except for a couple of letters to the editor, held my tongue over the last seven years. I decided to break this relative silence in a column on January 21 (p. 4), it being the start of Westmount's election year.

My May 13 column was precipitated by the release of the city's 2024 financial statements, something for which I suspect few Westmounters have the stomach to peruse. I thought the electorate should know just how bloated and costly our bureaucracy has become. But, according to the "open letter," even in election years, former mayors should be seen and not heard from.

### Pearl welcomes input, does not explain bureaucracy increase

The next week, in another councillor's piece, the shoot-the-messenger flavour of the "open letter" was absent. The commissioner of (*inter alia*) infrastructure, Conrad Pearl assured the reader that he welcomed input from this former mayor and proceeded to treat everyone with a fact-filled column.

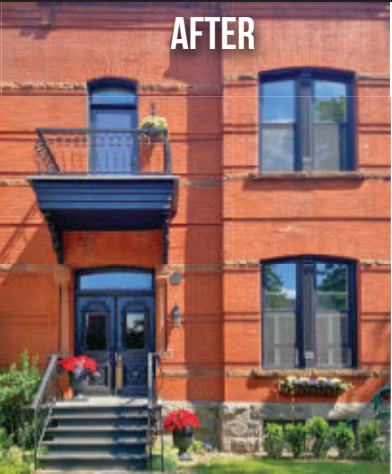
Unfortunately, except for the line "And, yes, staffing levels have grown – that deserves a closer look..." he did not answer my question as to why we have hired so many new employees, which was at the heart of my May column.

Councillor Pearl's graph on roadwork did, however, confirm the fact that, even though the "Trent" council publicly admitted back in 2015 that we had a serious infrastructure deficit in our road network,

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we were already doing something about it. The director general at the time, without increasing overall headcount, re-organized Public Works to handle “this massive increase in workload” by hiring seven engineers and technicians to oversee, chiefly, road infrastructure contracts.

**2017 was a peak in investment**

Councillor Peart’s own figures show that, in today’s dollars, we managed to invest \$12 million on roads in 2017, an achievement not equalled since. In fact, 2024 was almost the worst year of the post-2017 years, with only \$6.5 million spent on roads – in spite of (or because of?) Westmount’s now-bloated bureaucracy.

The average of roadwork *actually done* and not just hoped-for was roughly \$7.5 million a year.

Given this feeble performance over the last seven years, it is the last two councils who are answerable for our increasingly-embarrassing road network.

But infrastructure encompasses more than just roads. Councillor Peart mentions an infrastructure “funding gap” of \$22 million.

A return to normal staffing levels could cut that gap by one-third. I have no difficulty with borrowing some of the remainder if earmarked to improve the deplorable state of our roads.

One day, we will have caught up and the debt paid off. And I was heartened to read that Councillor Peart feels we should steadily reduce our dependence on borrowing by improving our pay-as-you-go capacity over time.

I do, however, have an insurmountable problem with the fact, we are *also* going into debt, indirectly, to finance this unneeded growth in the city’s bureaucracy. The \$7-million yearly payroll for this extra staff would otherwise have been used (as in the past) to pay for infrastructure investment.

If nothing is done by the incoming council in November, taxpayers will be saddled with that unneeded bureaucratic cost well into the future.

*Peter F. Trent is a former mayor of Westmount. He was in office from 1991 to 2001 and from 2009 to 2017.*

**We welcome your letters**

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

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Police Report  
Station 12 police re-double  
their anti-shoplifting efforts

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. are stepping up their efforts against shoplifting in light of a surge of brazen thefts in recent months at higher-end Westmount fashion boutiques, which are increasingly being targeted.

The move comes, according to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, after management at the Lululemon boutique on Sherbrooke St. reached out to Station 12 to complain they'd been targeted once too often.

"They get a lot of thefts," said Yigit. "Especially at the high-end stores, people just walk in, grab clothes and walk out."

He said the call galvanized the station's staff into establishing a comprehensive system for merchants to report all shoplifting and theft incidents, which was not necessarily the case before.

"What happens with a lot of store owners is that they don't report these things to the police," he said, noting that Station 12 hadn't previously been tracking the phenomenon statistically.

"We are encouraging store owners to call 9-1-1 and report it," he said.

Among other things, comprehensive incident reporting will open the way to more elaborate investigations, to uncover whether the shoplifters are lone perpetrators, or people operating in gangs with connections to organized crime.

Law enforcement officials report that shoplifting (organized retail theft) has become more sophisticated, with groups of individuals working collaboratively to steal large quantities of merchandise to be re-sold through online auction sites and e-commerce marketplaces.

Would-be thief tries car doors

Some security-conscious Westmounters sent a video web link to Station 12 recently after recording a suspect on security cameras as he was making his way through a back alley checking car doors while apparently trying to get in.

"He wasn't able to get into any of the cars, but he was seen going to at least four cars to check the passenger door, driver door, continued on p. 26

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## REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE, EFFECT OF WORDS

I'd like to express my support for city council and Councillor Gallery (May 20, p. 7) for not sitting idly by while people on the sidelines constantly try to disrupt things and bring them down with their own obvious motivations. I'd like to believe that literacy and critical thinking have only improved post pandemic, but toxic behaviour has only become worse.

It's very sobering when you see that your words have an impact on the people in the real world and what you say has effects beyond being printed on paper. When attending a Montreal agglomeration council meeting and seeing Valérie Plante in person, it almost felt surreal that someone who has received so much harassment was standing right before me, and the same goes for our mayor and council here in Westmount.

The motto that I was always taught growing up was to treat others how you want to be treated and while that can include criticism, don't pretend as if you are infallible.

It's easy to criticize from the sidelines, but that doesn't mean people should just take it. An open dialogue needs to come from both sides and if it continues to devolve, I worry about what comes next as standing up to what is effectively bullying

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

should never be questioned regardless of the context. We all want things to improve, but pointing fingers takes up valuable time that could be better spent listening to one another. Have some compassion.

JESSICA WINTON, ROSLYN AVE.

### WHEN YOU COMPLAIN, ARRIVE WITH A SOLUTION

I have followed the exchange of letters, the public tirades and the shenanigans surrounding the issues relating to the south-east development, the infrastructure, the city administration [senior unelected employees], *et cetera*.

I was elected councillor when Peter Trent became mayor and served three terms as councillor for District 3 [1991-2001], two of which included Karin Marks [as a fellow councillor, before she was mayor].

Since then, I have continued being involved with the city and in touch with both the councillors and the administration. I will always have a great deal of respect for the individuals who have served, and are serving, Westmount as elected officials, as management or as blue-collar workers. They are people who come to work daily with dedication, integrity and loyalty.

The personal attacks, the criticisms, the allegations, the invectives with their factional echo chambers, the Iago whispers and the NIMBY agendas thinly veiled by the internet are nothing but divisive and counterproductive.

They do not belong in Westmount.

The city depends on its residents as much as they depend on it and there was a time when the Westmount citizens' responsibility did not stop at paying city taxes, and when Westmount employees' work did not stop at 5 pm. There was a time when people volunteered instead of clamouring for more services, when grievances were brought to city hall in person and when [former director general] Bruce

St. Louis would greet those who did with a "Let's see what we can do..."

Today, Westmount is faced with an increasing encroachment by Montreal, choking its finances; construction and services costs have skyrocketed; the population demographics are heavily weighted by an aging population requiring a different and higher level of services; labour conflicts have brought to Westmount unprecedented toxicity, crippling productivity; and COVID-19 did its share of upheaval.

I give Mayor Christina Smith, her council, management and all employees full marks for having kept the ship afloat and steered it in a course that has served the people of Westmount well, but, for Mayor Smith, in particular, at personal costs that are unacceptable under any circumstance.

I believe with certainty that our councils would not and could not have done any better.

Let us stop any criticism of current city decisions based on our obsolete standards. If you have a complaint, bring it out in the open with a solution in mind. If you want something done, see how you can help: volunteer, participate, share with your neighbours, and above all respect the people who selflessly work for the city. They too want the best for you.

NICOLAS MATOSSIAN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

### CITY SHOULD PRIORITIZE SAFETY OVER BEAUTY

Decisions, decisions...

I'm on a tight budget, so I have to think carefully about how I spend my limited funds. Should I see a dentist about a painful tooth that's in imminent danger of becoming infected? Or should I spring for plastic surgery to get rid of those annoying wrinkles around my eyes?

A tough choice? Not really, not for anyone with a modicum of common sense and an ability to set priorities – which Westmount council apparently lacks.

For proof, look no further than the comment piece by Councillor Mary Gallery in the May 20 issue of the *Independent* (p. 7). She points with pride to council's decision to spend many millions of dollars on refurbishing the greenhouse, which had fallen into disrepair, due to "deferred maintenance and underinvestment by past administrations." In an effort by council to right this wrong, Ms. Gallery states that the renovation, though costly, "was understandably prioritized because of community expectations, which in turn shifted funds away from other urgent needs."

Let's be clear about the greenhouse. Had it been badly neglected? Certainly. Does it bring enjoyment to those who use it? No question. Sadly, though, we have also arrived at a point where many stretches of sidewalk are not just unsightly, but a major threat if one's vigilance slips even for a moment.

In this environment, where the basic necessities of health and safety are weighed against the refined pleasures of hothouse flowers, how is it that the greenhouse came out on top? To Councillor Gallery, this set of priorities seems perfectly understandable. However, to so many of us, it's a perfect illustration of the reasons behind the slow deterioration of Westmount and why living here has become such an unexpected and disheartening struggle.

HENRY MIETKIEWICZ, YORK ST.

### COUNCIL SHOULD SOLVE PROBLEMS, NOT LIST OBSTACLES

I respectfully disagree with the purpose and the content Westmount city councillor Mary Gallery's open letter to Peter Trent from May 20 (p. 7).

First, in parts of the letter the councillor assumes the role of representing the council in general when she refers to "Our council...", and it can be assumed that everyone thinks the same as her. The question that arises is how someone who, in almost two terms, has not presented any initiatives of impact for the community or for her district, can assign herself ..... that role.

*continued on p. 10*

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Second, she speaks of leadership in this current era. The leadership serves to solve problems and serve the needs of the citizens of Westmount, not to compile a long list of obstacles and not to advance positively.

Third, if there are criticisms of the council members' management and they are not liked, effective leadership finds the space to understand the origins of these criticisms and correct the mistakes.

Finally, effective leadership requires a little more humility and self-criticism, and less showing off.

As a leading figure who managed to change the course of history in the face of oppression once wrote: "YOU WILL BE WHAT YOU MUST DO. IF NOT, YOU ARE NOTHING."

With all due respect,  
EDUARDO LOPEZ, SHERBROOKE ST.

**UNDER MAYORS TRENT & MARKS, WE WERE PROUD TO BE WESTMOUNTERS**

City councillor Mary Gallery (May 20, p. 7) may very well take umbrage at Peter Trent's criticisms of the present council, but his track record speaks for itself.

When he and then Karin Marks led council, the city of Westmount was well run, connected to its citizens and created a community that was the envy of the country. We were proud to be citizens of Westmount. Westmount was a community where residents felt we were all a part of the decision-making, that council was our voice.

Now, it feels as if we are guests at our own table, with no input. We residents have been alienated, ignored and, frankly, taken advantage of. Many of us now refer to the last eight years under Mayor Smith as the "lost years." Westmount has been

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

guttured by ineffective bureaucrats who don't even live here, dictating the direction the city takes.

Gallery accuses former councils of neglect but what has improved in the last eight years? We have poorer service, top-heavy administration and a community alienated from its leaders. There is diminished respect for today's council and administration [senior unelected employees], who seem to have forgotten who pays their salaries and who their clients are.

Gallery also mentions neglect in the southeast sector. Really??? And monstrous high-rises are the solution? It is an obvious cash grab to cover ballooning salaries and poorly managed infrastructure.

Sorry, my vote would go to Trent in a heartbeat. Present council has done nothing to inspire confidence or competence in the very people they are supposed to serve!!!

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE.

**DON'T RUSH SOUTHEAST, DON'T FORGET WHAT MAKES WESTMOUNT INTO WESTMOUNT**

The only thing worse than doing nothing to revitalize the moribund stretch of St. Catherine St. in southeast Westmount would be rushing ahead with a development plan that fails to address legitimate community concerns and leaves crucial questions unanswered. Yet this is exactly what a recent open letter [advertisement] in the *Westmount Independent* (May 13, p. 7) from a group of influential Westmount residents, business owners and property developers is urging our city council and Mayor Smith to do.

These signatories are calling on our

elected officials to disregard the many Westmount citizens who – while supportive of long-overdue renewal – have raised valid objections to the current PPU (Programme Particulier d'Urbanisme) proposal. They would prefer the city ignore the warnings from respected professionals – including architects, urban planners and affordable housing experts – who have expressed serious concerns about the long-term consequences of this plan.

What these proponents envision is a transformation of the southeast sector as illustrated in the November 2024 PPU report – particularly the stretch of St. Catherine St. west of Atwater – into a mirror image of downtown Montreal, lined with high-rise towers.

Their rationale? That this vision is "aligned with the surrounding urban fabric," as if Westmount were simply an extension of downtown. But it's not downtown. It's Westmount. And that distinction matters.

*What makes Westmount unique must not be ignored*

1. A human-scale community: People choose to live in Westmount precisely because it is not downtown. They value its human scale, heritage architecture, green spaces, small local shops and the careful balance between low- and mid-rise housing, punctuated by a few select towers. The notion that only high-rise development will "enhance" this sector not only disregards why residents choose to live here – but also fails to address the deeper, more complex issues facing the southeast sector.
2. Density without towers is possible: This is not a blanket rejection of height. Tall buildings may have their place, but they are not a cure-all. As emphasized during a recent panel discussion at the Atwater Library, sustainable density can be achieved without erasing the area's character. McGill urban expert Nik Luka put it succinctly: "It's not how dense you make it. It's how you make it dense."

*A flawed process, a rushed vision*

Perhaps most troubling is the absence of fundamental data and analysis to justify the PPU's major policy shifts. No economic, demographic or cost-benefit studies have been presented to support the dramatic increase in building heights. In fact, council has confirmed that no density targets were ever given to Lemay – the firm that authored the PPU – and no demographic analysis was conducted to guide this re-design. And equally surprising – the admission at the most recent council meeting that affordable housing was "not in the vision." For a council that claims to prioritize thoughtful, forward-looking gov-

ernance, these omissions are glaring.

Mayor Smith and city council are right to pursue revitalization – but good intentions alone are not enough. Fast-tracking sweeping zoning changes to permit high-rise construction may offer the illusion of progress, but it risks doing lasting harm. It reduces a complex set of community needs to a simplistic solution – and squanders a rare opportunity for meaningful, sustainable, long-term renewal that serves the community.

*A call to action*

We urge all Westmount residents to speak up:

- Participate in the public consultation on the revised PPU on June 18,
- Join the regular council meetings in the months ahead.

Let's insist on a vision for southeast Westmount that reflects the city's distinctiveness, scale and character – not one that transforms it into a vertical annex of downtown Montreal.

And above all, let's make it clear that rushing this PPU plan through before the November 2 municipal election is short-sighted.

Westmount deserves better. So does its southeast sector.

BRUCE BOLTON (BOARD PRESIDENT),  
CAROL CHRISTIE-OLSEN (BOARD MEMBER),  
GEOFF DOWD (BOARD VP), HELEN MALKIN (BOARD MEMBER), LYNN VERGE (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) – ATWATER LIBRARY AND COMPUTER CENTRE

**ST. GEORGE'S PLACE RESIDENTS SEEK RESIDENTS-ONLY PARKING**

To whom it may concern,

We, the residents of St. George's Place, respectfully petition the council and the city of Westmount to implement a "Westmount residents only" parking permit system for our street.

Currently, there is no designated parking regulation in place. As a result, we frequently experience issues with non-residents parking for extended periods of time, which significantly reduces the availability of spaces for those of us who live here. We believe that parking on our street should be prioritized for residents, and a permit system would help address this ongoing concern.

The narrow layout and limited space make it especially important to ensure that residents have reliable access to parking near their homes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
The residents of St. George's Place  
\*

To sign, please email me at adam-benjamin@hotmail.com.

ADAM BENJAMIN, ST. GEORGE'S PLACE

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## Lawnmower falls off truck on Sherbrooke



A lawnmower appeared to have fallen off a landscaper's truck going east on Sherbrooke St. near Greene when the *Independent* saw an eastbound car collide with it at about 9:40 am on May 29. The man at top left moved it from the northern edge of the asphalt (where it had rolled) to the lawn of 4141 Sherbrooke (inset). It was still there 30 minutes or so later, implying perhaps that the landscaper was unaware it had fallen off the truck. Interestingly, the driver of the car that hit the mower did not stop either.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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# A space for ideas to flourish Library's 'Studio,' a good fit to supplement home-schooling?

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Tuesday afternoons at the Westmount Public Library have become a special date for a local family ever since the new maker-space area called The Studio opened last fall on the ground floor.

This is usually the time that a home-schooling mother on Prospect St. takes her two children there to explore their creativity using specialized equipment they don't have in the home's dedicated classroom area.

"It's a very special place for ideas to flourish and to explore hobbies such as knitting, designing, 3D modelling or Lego," said Marilena Bono, the mother, who is a lawyer by profession but juggles her professional work with her teaching role.

Typically, the homeschooling takes place in mornings followed by activities in the afternoon, except for Wednesdays when they go riding for the day.

### Checking in

When the family first embarked on the new lifestyle a year and a half ago, a provincial government person checked in on them.

Now, "so far, we are very much on our own," Bono told the *Independent*. Daughter Harper Rose Gut, 11, is following Quebec's Grade 5 curriculum, while son Hunter Richard Gut, 9, is in Grade 3.

Bono, who herself attended École Buissonnière in Outremont, then Sacred Heart, Marianopolis and the University of Montreal, said that the concept of homeschooling "isn't for everyone but we come from very supportive families."

Since last October when The Studio opened at the library, several part-time



Working at the library's Studio May 20 are, from left, Hunter Richard Gut, mother Marilena Bobo, specialized facilitator Claire Pienaar, and Harper Rose Gut.

facilitators have been hired, according to specialized facilitator Claire Pienaar. This is "so that someone is always here to help with the equipment such as the cutting and sewing machines. High traffic times require more staff."

### Programming for different levels

The Studio provides programming for various ages, which can be accessed at the top banner of the children's library's website. The summer program is to be posted online in June, while registration for its events as well as a schedule showing drop-in hours are also available on the website.

"Library members are also welcome to

come by The Studio to ask us questions and learn more about what we do," Pienaar said.

"Drop-in times are for all ages, while workshops are tailored for different age groups including children, teens, and adults."

Parents planning to homeschool in Quebec must submit a letter of intent to the ministry of Education, notifying them of their decision to educate their child at home, according to the ministry's website. "This letter serves as the first step in the homeschooling process and outlines the commitment to providing a suitable education for your child."

### Southeast by-laws, cont'd from p. 1

questions were answered by "thanks for your commentary" and repeated references as to how the draft by-laws and complicated zoning tables represented a re-development framework.

Timing, Mayor Smith said, would provide three weeks for residents to provide feedback for assessment before a "public assembly" June 18.

This is when the project and draft by-laws would be formally presented and residents invited to share more comments and opinions.

A "final vote on the project with or without modifications" would be scheduled for September 8.

In a vote on the draft by-laws as presented at the meeting, however, councillors

Elisabeth Roux of District 2 and Kathleen Kez of District 8, which contains most of the area in question, voted against the drafts.

"There are aspects of the plan that I am not ready to approve and am hoping some modifications can be made with council's approval," according to Kez.

Roux explained that she believed a re-development plan was needed, but was ill at ease at this point voting on what was being proposed before residents had actually seen what modifications might be made.

On the other hand, District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie called the project "a transformative plan – a legacy for our children."

From the audience, former longtime councillor Cynthia Lulham, who had "up-zoned" St. Catherine St. west of Atwater as

commissioner of urban planning, urged the city to move the project forward.

She is currently the general manager of the city's two merchant groups, one of which (Quartier Greene) has members whose businesses are in the area in question.

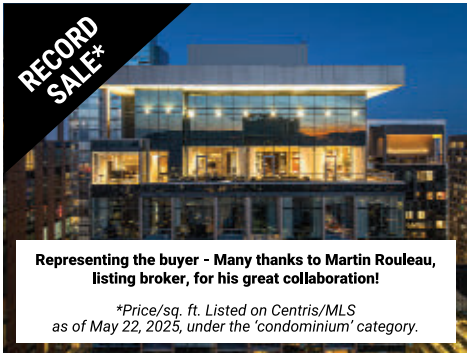
A developer asked on behalf of colleagues for a city meeting with them to further comment on the issue.

Prominent architect Julia Gersovitz, a former chair of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), questioned a projected three-week period for review and citizen feedback on June 18, saying the project was "much more than just a framework." She asked: "Why is it being rushed through?"

The city consultants' report posted last week can be found on the city's engage.westmount.org website.



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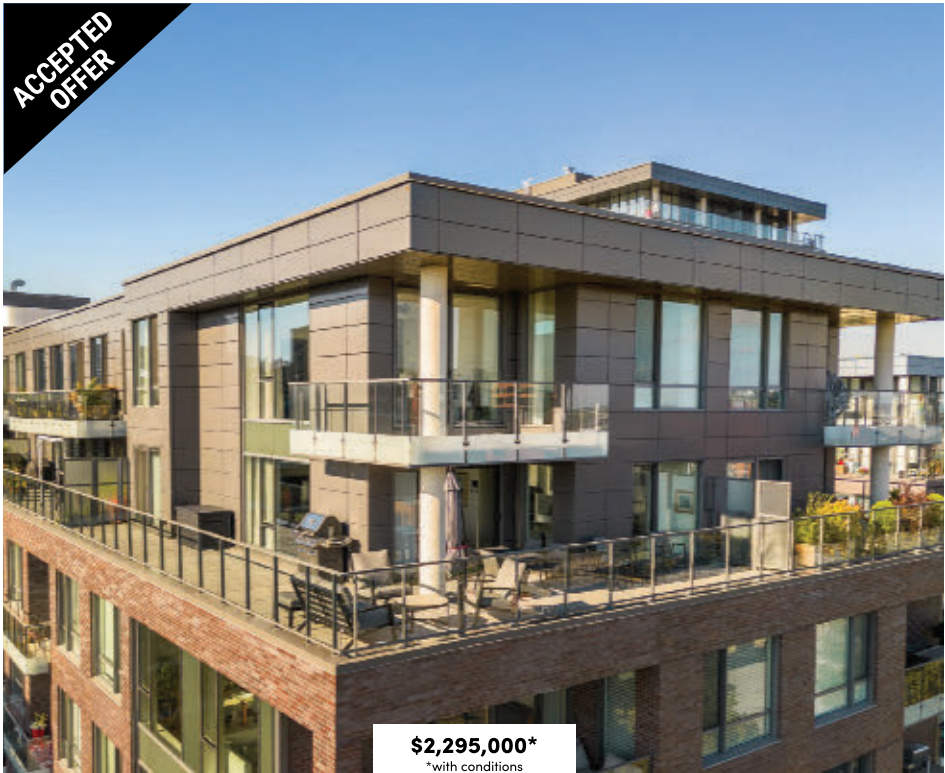
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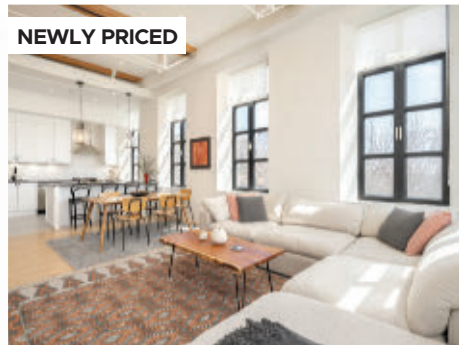
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

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

# February transfers: A depressing month

Westmount’s real estate transfers signed in February this year could only be described as depressing, with only one of six sale prices above valuation – and that by only one percent – and only one over \$3 million.

The six sales doubled the volume for February last year but with another 10 closings in January 2025, the total is still slightly below average for the past 10 years. With the highest price of \$3,800,000 at 542

Lansdowne Ave. the next-highest was more than \$1 million lower, as 534 Côte St. Antoine Rd., which sold for \$2,735,000.

On the low side, one sale – 4382 de Maisonneuve Blvd., from an estate – changed hands for \$1,280,000, but that was the only sale below \$1,500,000.

Perhaps more important than the price range was the fact that 596 Belmont Ave. sold for \$1,950,000 while evaluated by the city at \$1,931,600, just one percent above

valuation, the only one of six to clear the valuation mark.

Two of the remaining five sold for double-digit mark-downs, with 3 Grove Park selling for \$1,700,000 while evaluated at \$2,061,400, a full 17.5 percent under water.

Overall, the six sales produced an average 7.18 percent mark-down, the first mark-down since April ..... last year when the aver- *continued on p. 17*



4382 de Maisonneuve, lowest price, \$1,280,000



596 Belmont, only mark-up in February, 1.0 percent



3 Grove Park, biggest mark-down, -17.5 percent



542 Lansdowne, Highest price, \$3,800,000

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**Greene merchants, cont'd from p. 1**

Anne Renaud (11 am to 2 pm) with children’s face painting with “Diva” (11 am to 3 pm).

This year, “we’re taking the music out to the street instead of having it in the [Cinq Saisons] square,” explains festival organizer Cynthia Lulham, the general manager of the merchants’ associations.

The music kicks off at two spots listed as location “A” between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve and “B” between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine. Various times and performers are to be posted on the merchants’ website at [www.quartiergreene.ca](http://www.quartiergreene.ca), Lulham said.

**Evening music**

The evening music is programmed to take place from 5 to 8 pm with smooth instrumental jazz from Hodgson Dacoulis at location A. The Caleb Taylor acoustic solo is scheduled at the same time on stage B.

These are to be followed from 8 to 9:15 pm on the stage B by the Just Costa four-piece party band.

The Victoria village festival is being planned to take place the following weekend June 14 and 15.







# Officers advise, recruit, serve coffee during police week

By JENNIFER BALL

For annual police week, Station 12 police officers were out recruiting and serving coffee with sides of anti-bullying and road safety advice – plus handing out prevention-of-the-mistreatment-of-seniors pamphlets, as well as providing prevention tips to avoid being a victim of fraud.

### Many venues

On May 12, they presented an anti-fraud workshop at the CHSLD St. Marguerite seniors residence at 50 Hillside Ave.

On May 13, they outlined the role of the police in the community and policing as a career at Summit School’s downtown TECC campus at 1819 René Lévesque Blvd. (corner Guy St.). This site serves the special-education school’s CEGEP and university age students.

On May 14, police served coffee and met with the community at the McDonald’s on Sherbrooke and Claremont Ave.

On May 15, they instructed seniors from Contactivity Center in a meeting room at the Westmount recreation centre on how to avoid being the victim of fraud. (See separate story on p. 23.)

The *Independent* caught up with Station



On May 14, police officers served coffee and met with the community at the McDonald’s on Sherbrooke and Claremont Ave. From left, McDonald’s staff Valencia Leader (assistant manager), Theresa Ruest (staff) and Michelle Cayaba (general manager); and Mike Yigit (community relations officer), Pierre Gelinas (sergeant-detective), Mathieu Bouchard (police officer), Patricia Drouin (community relations officer) and Emmanuel Provencher (police officer).

12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit at the McDonald’s after he was overheard giving a community member advice on the academic path to policing.

Cst. Yigit said, “Normally we go to dif-

ferent coffee shops. McDonald’s is the most welcoming to us so that is why we choose McDonald’s and there is a lot more clientele that we can reach out to...

“We have a lot of pamphlets that we

‘serve’ to people.”

Sure enough, beside the coffee urn there was a wide range of literature, including on anti-bullying, road safety and the prevention of the mistreatment of seniors.

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To all persons interested in the following draft by-laws:

- Draft by-law amending the Planning Programme No. 1638;
- Draft by-law amending the Subdivisions By-law No. 1639;
- Draft by-law amending the Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes By-law No. 1640;
- Draft by-law amending the Zoning By-law No. 1641;
- Draft by-law on Incentive Zoning No. 1642.

**NOTICE is hereby given:**

**THAT** the Municipal Council, at its special sitting held on May 27, 2025, adopted the following concordance draft by-laws:

- Draft by-law amending the Planning Programme No. 1638;
- Draft by-law amending the Subdivision By-law No. 1639;
- Draft by-law amending the Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes By-law No. 1640;
- Draft by-law amending the Zoning By-law No. 1641;
- Draft by-law on Incentive Zoning No. 1642.

**THAT** a public consultation meeting will be held on June 18, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m., at Victoria Hall Community Centre, located at 4626 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount.

During this public consultation meeting, the Mayor or a member of Council designated by her will explain the draft by-laws and the consequences of their adoption, and will hear any persons who wish to express their views on this matter.

**THAT** the purpose of the draft by-laws is to adopt certain modifications to the Zoning By-law (No. 1641), the Subdivision By-law (No. 1639), and the Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programme By-law (No. 1640), in order to bring the standards, rules, criteria, and objectives contained therein into conformity with the revised Planning Programme.

**THAT** the purpose of the draft Incentive Zoning By-law No. 1642 is to adopt rules and standards to ensure conformity with the revised Planning Programme.

**THAT** these draft by-laws do not contain provisions that are subject to approval by way of referendum.

**THAT** these concordance draft by-laws are available on the City's website at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). If you do not have access to the internet, we invite you to visit the reception desk at Westmount City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount.

**DONE** at Westmount, this 29th day of May, 2025.

**Me Paule Geoffroy Béliveau**  
City Clerk

**[www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org)**

## We welcome your letters

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

Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

Email us at: [editor@westmountindependent.com](mailto:editor@westmountindependent.com)



## PRIMARY PROGRESSIVE APHASIA (PPA) RESEARCH STUDY

### Phase II clinical trial of transcranial direct current stimulation in the treatment of primary progressive aphasia.

Primary progressive aphasia (PPA) is a rare neurological syndrome that gradually impairs a person's language.

Symptoms include:

- Difficulty finding words, understanding words or following conversations
- Using words incorrectly or mispronouncing them
- Abnormal word order in speech or writing

We are exploring the use of a brain stimulation technique called transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) that could slow or stop PPA symptoms. Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) is a non-invasive process and is NOT electroshock.

We are looking to recruit older adults diagnosed with (PPA) to participate in a pioneering brain stimulation research project.

**Eligible participants** should be:

- Diagnosed with PPA.
- Be over 50 years old
- Able to communicate in English.

The study involves daily, short visits to the lab, over a 3 week period. You'll be asked to sit in a chair and name objects while the stimulation is taking place. This is a very safe procedure and the biggest drawback is the time commitment.

We are also looking to recruit older adults with no neurological illness to be in our control group. This group will not have tDCS stimulation.

Study participants would be compensated for any out-of-pocket expenses (Taxi, Parking, etc...)

### LEADING THIS RESEARCH PROGRAM:

Dr. Howard Chertkow, MD, FRCP, FCAHS, Adjunct Professor, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill University; Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto.

### PLEASE CONTACT:

Chris Hosein, M.Ed,  
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# Former Unity Boys’ Club members draw on Selby St. memories

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although Westmount’s Selby St. disappeared permanently from maps after the provincial government expropriated its last residential buildings when the Ville Marie Expressway was reconstructed (see March 24, 2015, p. 1, September 15, 2015, p. 10), it still exists in the memories of those who grew up on Selby as well as other nearby streets of lower Westmount.

More than 20 ex-Westmounters who were members of the Unity Boys’ Club during the 1950s and 1960s gathered at Centre Greene for a reunion on May 18. (This successor community centre turned 35 last month, see May 20, p. 1.)

“Many of us haven’t seen one another in 50-plus years,” Heather Baylis, a former Selby resident and Unity Boys’ Club regular, said in an interview with the *Independent* during the reunion. She said that in those days, most members either lived on Selby, St. Antoine St. or Greene Ave.

While Selby had been a street of walk-up buildings – similar to what is seen today on St. Antoine St. – the neighbourhood suffered an initial blow to its identity in the mid-1960s when the Quebec Transport ministry demolished a large section of Selby to make way for the Ville Marie Expressway, leaving behind only a portion of Selby west of Greene.

The last remnants of Selby, where a few buildings remained up to the 2010s, were wiped out permanently when the MTQ decided it needed still more space to re-develop the elevated highway, which is known today as Quebec Route 136.

### *Founded by Rotary*

The Unity Boys’ Club was founded by the Westmount Rotary Club during the 1940s as a venue for youths from the lower Westmount area, as well as from nearby neighbourhoods such as St. Henri and Little Burgundy.

Baylis, who now lives in Montreal West, recalled some of the activities Unity Boys’ Club members used to enjoy in the front room, including table tennis, checkers, chess and board games.

“All summer, there were all sorts of things to do,” she said, recalling excursions to the long-gone Belmont Park amusement park in the Montreal district of Cartierville. As well, there were guided tours of industrial facilities, including a Laura Secord candy factory.

Another Unity Boys’ Club veteran, Dave Basant, also lived on Selby, although he now lives in Toronto. In his grade-school years, he attended Queen’s School (located



Former Unity Boys’ Club members Charles Joyner and Heather Baylis look over memorabilia displayed during a reunion on May 18 that brought together more than 20 former club members.

where 4800 de Maisonneuve now stands), after which he went to Westmount High School on St. Catherine St.

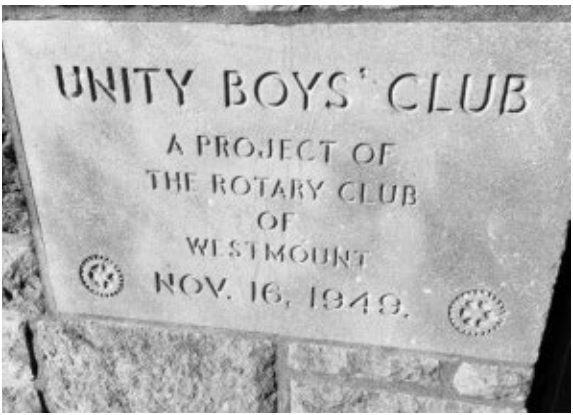
Yet another club regular, Brian Vaux, also a former Selby resident, attended St. Leo’s Academy on Clarke Ave. (École primaire St. Léon de Westmount today).

He said the athletic training that he and others received through the Unity Boys’ Club’s sports programs served them well at St. Leo’s, where they tended to outperform other students. “I learned gymnastics from Unity Boys’ Club,” he said.

*See also photo on p. 1.*

## A note on club’s name

Despite catering to boys and girls over its lifetime, the Unity Boys’ Club was clearly so called in 1949 when the cornerstone of its building (now Centre Greene) was laid in 1949, as seen June 2. Towards the end of its life, in maps of the city distributed for many years in the Lovell’s telephone directory, it was called the “Unity Boys and Girls Club.” *The Independent* does not know when the change occurred or if it was official. – DP.





# Outlooks on aging explored during Shabbaton at Temple

BY JENNIFER BALL

The themes of re-imagining aging, spirituality, finding meaning and building community in different ages and stages of life served as the scaffolding on which Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom built a two-day Shabbaton (program of education, and usually celebration, that is held on a Shabbat or sabbath) with Rabbi Laura Geller, rabbi emerita of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills.

It took place on May 9 and May 10. The Temple is located on Sherbrooke at Wood Ave.

Rabbi Geller led with a sermon on May 9 to urge the congregation of the Temple to “make each day count.”

Lisa Grushcow, senior rabbi at Temple, said, “We are so privileged to have Rabbi Laura Geller with us this Shabbat. She is somebody who has really been a ground-breaker and who has really had an extraordinary rabbinic, primarily as rabbi of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills.”

Geller was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1975 and the first one to lead a major metropolitan synagogue. “So, she has really broken all those stained-glass ceilings to make room for the rest of us,” Rabbi Grushcow said.

## Gaining wisdom

The *Independent* attended a session on May 10 titled “Getting good at gaining wisdom,” where congregants discussed some traditional texts about what it means to be wise and how some spiritual practices help one to develop a heart of wisdom.

During the session, Geller referenced Dr. George Valliant, the former director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development and the author of *Aging Well*, which identified some of the factors that contribute to successful aging, which he defined as liv-

ing “from retirement to past 80 with joy.”

“While it is true that the most basic factors are material: adequate housing, good healthcare and income security, life over 60 is enhanced by other behaviours that lie within the psychosocial and spiritual domains... in fact those who have aged most successfully are those who worry less about cholesterol and waistlines, and more about gratitude and forgiveness.”

Rabbi Geller pivoted from that opening salvo to tackle the “Torah of our life,” starting with gratitude and forgiveness. She led participants through a spiritual practice that she calls a blessing practice.

In 2019, Rabbi Geller published a book with Richard Siegel titled *Getting Good at Getting Older*, which inspects ways to find joy in the journey of aging.

## Topic isn't easy

Rabbi Geller writes, “Many of the subjects in *Getting Good at Getting Older* make us uncomfortable...”

“Thinking about aging isn’t easy. Talking about it really isn’t easy. And yet, discussion of these subjects with a trusted circle of peers can open up new perspectives and build connection to a community of people at a similar stage of life.”

The book is organized into six sections, each devoted to getting good at:

- Gaining wisdom: learning, personal growth, and self-discovery,
- Getting along: dealing with aging parents, adult children, grandchildren, deepening intimacy and friendship,
- Getting better: taking care of your emotional self, facing the reality of our aging bodies, visiting someone who’s sick,
- Getting ready: organizing and planning for the inevitable,
- Giving back: volunteering, mentoring, and getting involved,
- Giving away: leaving a legacy, not a landfill.



Rabbi Laura Geller of Temple Emanuel Beverly Hills at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on May 10 for a Shabbaton.

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Attendees follow suit

# Fretz champions Summit Woods preservation, volunteering



BY RALPH THOMPSON

Champion of Summit Woods preservation John Fretz convened a meeting of the like-minded at the Visual Arts Centre on Victoria Ave. May 26.

Fretz used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight issues such as invasive species, lack of respect for the defined trails, lack of commitment and planning from council, and natural erosion for the 23 hectares making up the urban forest. Formerly known as Summit Park, it was re-branded “Summit Woods” 15 years ago to better reflect its unique urban forest ecosystem (see November 2-3, 2010, p. 1). This exceptional thicket was rescued from developers by the tobacco magnate William MacDonald and bequeathed to McGill’s botany department around 1895. In 1944, it was sold to the city of Westmount.

Fretz’s presentation, laced with invasive humour and overgrown enthusiasm, covered details of the fragile biome, once graced by 50 Laurentian pheasants protected by a ranger, hundreds of delicate flowering *genera*; flowers, insects and animal life; ponds and gullies.

Today, sadly all are either gone or under threat from invasive species, human and domestic animal invasion, and the woods’ surroundings.

### Role in eco-system

The summit is a key landmark for migrating birds such as the warblers. Bird Protection Quebec no longer convenes its Warbler Walks in Summit Woods. Although a reason was not given, a decline in migrating bird sightings is evident.

Photographs were shown of formerly clearly marked and gravelled trails that were established in 1980 by Sandra Donaldson, who was given a generous budget

and council support to resurrect the woods. Little of that remains today. Wood chip covered trails, lined by stones, tree stumps and logs would help in undergrowth recovery, contended Fretz.

Other cities have taken much more assertive action, he continued. Montreal requires that dogs be on leash in all public places at all times, including Mount Royal. The only exception is in fenced areas designated as dog parks. The goal of Montreal is to allow the brittle undergrowth and delicate insect life to survive and provide a safe setting for young children and their parents. Several mothers have stated they can no longer go to Summit Woods because of the danger from dogs, said Fretz. Montreal also erects discreet and descriptive pictorial signs to educate visitors of the dangers to the ecosystem.

Fretz also pointed out the need for volunteers who are supported by council. “The city cannot do everything,” said Fretz. Les amis de la montagne, a conservation group targetting Mount Royal, does an exceptional job and is strongly supported by the Montreal council, he said, but the city of Westmount no longer coordinates an official Summit Woods consultation and volunteer group.

The final words of Fretz’s presentation were for the need of volunteers in order for Summit Woods to survive.

### Discussion

The lecture was followed by many questions and discussions amongst the approximately 20 participants, including:

- Why is there no published plan or targets for the woods or Westmount’s green spaces?
- Why does the city not follow all other cities and require dogs to be on leash at all times?

- There should be enforceable legal protection for the woods.
  - The woods as a protected nature reserve should have a dedicated councillor, separate from any city department.
- Vigorous discussions continued past 8



John Fretz tries to answers questions from the audience, many of which he said had already been asked of council without an acceptable response.

pm. Fretz thanked The Visual Arts Centre for kindly allowing the meeting, and a voluntary donation to the centre was requested.

## Arlo Puppy, fun summer ahead



### Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Adorable and affectionate, at eight months of age Arlo is at the Montreal SPCA kennel. Thanks to you, we hope it will not be for much longer.

This pup is very handsome and attentive, yet a bit overwhelmed and in need of a home environment. Being shy in a big kennel filled with other dogs is quite normal for a juvenile, so he will likely thrive once he is in a daily family routine.

Arlo is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations for his age, neutered and microchipped.

At the Montreal SPCA website, which is at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), you can find more information on Arlo’s presentation page through his information number, 2000221376.

This stunning young fellow is available for visits daily as the Montreal SPCA is open every day, Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

Please consider adopting Arlo and drop-



ping by to visit the coordinators to discuss your interest and present yourself. It is a wonderful time to start the conversation about making Arlo a member of your family.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



## Police give seniors wide array of advice

By JENNIFER BALL

Station 12 community relations officer Antonino Petrotta, who has 28 years of experience, delivered a talk about fraud awareness to Contactivity members on May 15 at the Westmount recreation centre.

Petrotta said “We are having certain difficulties in the Westmount area.” He alerted Contactivity members to one recent scam where a fraudster is impersonating a police officer from Station 22.

The perpetrator “is calling people and telling them that they have been a victim of fraud – and this is not limited to Station 22. He is trying to get your personal information.”

The research he shared indicated, “Vulnerable people are the most effected because: there is an accumulation of wealth; a decline in cognitive or functionable abilities; physical, psychological or social dependence on another person; and social isolation.”

Petrotta distributed literature that provides an overview of four different types of crimes and scams:

- Jewellery theft,
- Contractor fraud,
- “Grandson” fraud,
- Credit/debit card theft.

### Specific advice

In jewellery theft, the thief – usually acting alone – uses false pretences to get close to you by asking for directions. They may offer you a piece of jewellery at no cost, and get you to try it on, all while stealing your valuable jewellery without your knowledge.

**Prevention:** Refuse a gift from a stranger and travel in a group.

In contractor fraud, the defrauder usually acts alone and comes to your house to offer construction services and asks for a deposit.

**Prevention:** Check reliability with the Regie du batiment du Quebec and talk to



Station 12 community relations officer Antonino Petrotta delivered a fraud awareness presentation to members of Contactivity at the Westmount recreation centre on May 15.

someone you trust before providing money.

In “grandson” fraud, the defrauder calls you pretending that your grandchild is in grave danger and asks for a large sum of money to help them.

**Prevention:** Ask a personal question only your grandson could answer. Police have also advised in the past to check the story out with other family members.

In credit/debit card theft, thieves work in groups of two or three. One films your PIN while another distracts you.

**Prevention:** Always hide your PIN with your hand and be wary of anyone coming too close to you or trying to distract you during a transaction.

Petrotta provided these resources:

- 9-1-1,
- 1-888-489-2287: Elder abuse line,
- Canadian anti-fraud centre: 1-888-495-8501.

## Cabot Square entrance to Atwater Metro re-opens

By JENNIFER BALL

The Cabot Square entrance to the Atwater Metro station was to re-open on May 1 after closing to commuters on November 1, 2024, but the date was pushed back a month to allow work on the roof to be carried out.

The Metro entrance is found in Cabot Square at the corner of Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St., and is east of West-

mount’s border with downtown.

On April 30, Laurence Houde-Roy, corporate advisor in public affairs at the Montreal Transport Company (STM), told the *Independent*, “The Cabot Square entrance at the Atwater Metro station will remain closed for a few more weeks while roofing work is scheduled to take place...”

“This is not due to customer safety concerns. The exact re- ..... opening date is yet to be *continued on p. 24*

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# Stewie, best buddy



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He is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, ready to bond with a new family. He is a very healthy young cat, two years old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

You can find out more about Stewie by going to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), scrolling to his information page by his identification number, 200026942, and making plans to drop by the cattery.

The shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm and 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.

Please do not hesitate to drop by to visit Stewie and discuss adoption with the coordinators. They will be pleased to answer all your questions and consider your family's interest. Stewie is very handsome and

most affectionate, a good friend waiting for a ride home with everyone, making memories together.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

## Cabot Square, cont'd from p. 23

determined, depending on the progress of the work.”

On May 26, the *Independent* invited Houde-Roy to provide an update on how the roof work was progressing and if a re-opening date had been determined, to which she replied, “The re-opening of the building is currently scheduled for May 31.”

The statements were provided in French and were translated by DeepL translator.

The entrance was open when the *Independent* checked on June 2.

In November 2024, Houde-Roy said that the closure was instituted in order to “... reduce the occurrence of mischief and unwanted or dangerous behaviour, such as intimidation and drug use.”

When the *Independent* reported on a previous closure (April 30, 2024, p. 13) – the entrance had been closed from April 19 until April 30, 2024, again for safety reasons. It re-opened on May 1, 2024.

A full-length photograph of a woman standing against a white background. She is wearing a dark blue top, a light-colored skirt, and pink high-heeled shoes. She is holding a large bouquet of pink, purple, and blue hydrangeas.



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## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Humane Society becomes Humane World of Animals



Nathaniel Erskine-Smith.



Rebecca Aldworth.

Humane Society International Canada premiered its name change to Humane World of Animals (HWA) during a special *soirée* at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA).

The new title reflects the organization's global impact and commitment to all animals. To officially launch the re-brand, a worldwide TV advertisement envisioning a future without animal cruelty was set to a never-before-heard rendition of Peter Gabriel's iconic 1977 hit "Solsbury Hill." Recorded by pop superstar Sia, it can be viewed on YouTube.

Today, the organization has projects in more than 50 countries tackling animal cruelty including the fur trade, dog-and-cat meat trades, factory farming, commercial whaling, trophy hunting and the illegal wildlife trade, animal testing and puppy farming.

At the cocktail-dinatoire, speeches were given by HWA Canada's director, **Rebecca Aldworth**, and **Ewa Demianowicz**, senior campaign manager.

Highlighting key achievements and stories of field work, they included the largest puppy mill and zoo rescues in Canadian history; major legislative victories and impact on the seal slaughter.

RDS/TSN sports analyst and lifelong

animal advocate **Ray Lalonde** spoke about his commitment to animal welfare. Toronto-area MP **Nathaniel Erskine-Smith** addressed the importance of animal welfare in legislation and his contributions to the cause.

Radio host **Olivier Poitras** recounted heart-warming anecdotes about his rescue dog. Booths showcased the Centre for Care and Rehabilitation in Vaudreuil-Dorion, and the centre's behavioural specialists offered

.....  
continued on p. 26



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Chefs François Murphy and Amy Symington, wife of Nathaniel Erskine-Smith.

◀ Jean-Philip Cyr.



Social notes, cont'd from p. 25

pet care advice.

The silent auction was a great success with items such as a trip for two anywhere WestJet flies, a signed Suzuki Canadiens jersey, a stay in Prince Edward County with a winery tour, and a stay in Ottawa at the Château Laurier.

The event was catered by the vegan restaurant Archway with chefs Amy Symington, François Murphy and the Buddhist chef Jean-Philip Cyr in attendance. Gold sponsor was Decarie Motors.

Police report, cont'd from p. 8

before moving onto the next vehicle,” Yigit said.

Although the video didn’t show the suspect actually getting in, he said it should serve as a reminder to car owners to always lock up, even if the vehicle is parked in a private driveway.

Unlocked front door leads to robbery

A recent household burglary in Westmount was easily preventable: the home’s owners could simply have kept their front door locked at night.

“The door was unlocked and someone just walked in and stole cash,” said Cst. Yigit, describing the incident during the early morning hours on Strathcona Ave. on May 24.

As a result, Station 12 officers have been assigned to canvas nearby homes to see if any are equipped with video security cameras that could yield images of the suspect.

On a small amount of video footage furnished by the owners, the suspect is seen walking into the home through an unlocked front entrance. When he left, he closed the door behind him.

The owners were asleep upstairs the whole time, according to Yigit. After waking up in the morning, they saw signs that the first floor had been rummaged and searched. Images from their security cameras confirmed they’d been robbed.

Robbery foiled on summit

Some homeowners on Summit Crescent were luckier four days later when they had a break-in attempt.

According to the incident report filed at Station 12, a burglar alarm that went off during the night on May 28 prompted the alarm monitoring service provider to contact the police about a possible intrusion in progress.

“When the officers arrived on the scene, they walked around and noticed that the back door was open,” Yigit said, although an inner door was still shut.

Mini Social Calendar

One item did not fit when we listed most of the spring’s social events (April 8, p. 7).

June, Monday, June 9

**ICRF 50th Anniversary Gala.** Co-chairs Vivian Billick, Dana Frank, Meagan Reinish and Jeff Solomon. Featuring Grammy-nominated multiplatinum artist Gavin DeGraw. Place des Arts, 175 St. Catherine West. (Parking free for sponsors.) Tickets start at \$100. VIP \$360 includes cocktail reception. Sponsorships start at \$1,800. Information: icrfmontreal.org.



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**Westmount**  
30 SUNNYSIDE AV.

4 3 + 1 2 2



**Westmount**  
3999 MONTROSE AV.

4 3 + 1 2 2



**Westmount**  
347 METCALFE AV.



**Westmount**  
25 BELLEVUE AV.



**Westmount**  
2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 16C



**Westmount**  
629 MURRAY HILL AV.



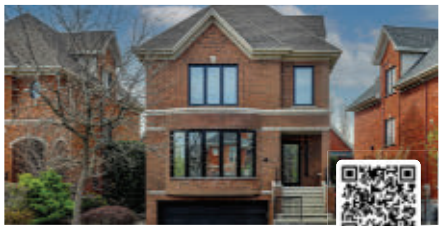
GRUPE SUTTON CENTRE-OUEST, INC.  
245 AV. VICTORIA, BUREAU 20, WESTMOUNT, QC H3Z 2M6



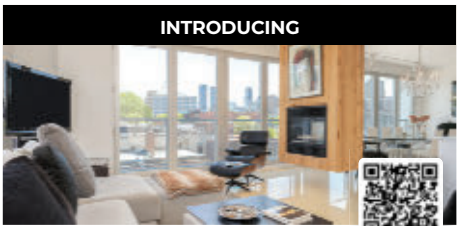


CARL KNOWS  
HOW TO MAKE YOUR PROPERTY  
STAND OUT IN TODAY'S MARKET

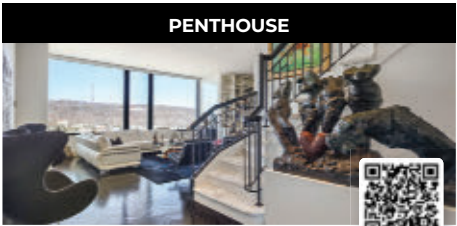
CARL  
RÉMILLARD  
FONTAINE  
REAL ESTATE BROKER



\$2,450,000  
400 DE LA PRUNELLE  
ÎLE-DES-SŒURS



\$2,095,000  
75 DES PINS, APT. 407,  
LE PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL



\$1,995,000  
1455 SHERBROOKE O., APT. PH7,  
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE



\$1,695,000  
45 CHESTERFIELD,  
WESTMOUNT



\$1,699,000  
493 DE LA VIGNE,  
ÎLE-DES-SŒURS



\$1,599,000 OU \$7,300/MOIS  
252 DE LA ROTONDE,  
ÎLE-DES-SŒURS



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



\$1,368,000  
200 DES SOMMETS, APP. 601,  
ÎLE-DES-SŒURS



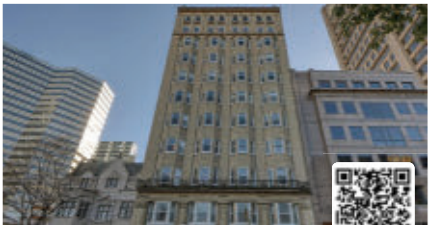
\$945,000  
2243 QUESNEL,  
LE SUD OUEST



\$795,000  
1321 SHERBROOKE O., APT. D70,  
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE



\$699,000  
1192-1198 DALCOURT,  
VILLE-MARIE



\$679,000  
900 SHERBROOKE O., APT. 72,  
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE



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