Holiday Gift Guide 2026

See page 18

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 20 No. 11c | *We are Westmount.* | November 17, 2026

Public not expected to ever see May 22 tape

Mayor Stern settles ethics case, admits breach, apologizes

By David Price

Mayor Michael Stern has settled his ethics case with the prosecutors of the Quebec Municipal Commission (CMQ). As part of the agreement, he has admitted to one instance of behaving in a disrespectful manner towards city employees and will apologize at the next public city council meeting, Tuesday, December 1. The charge is regulatory in nature. He will also pay a fine of $2,990 to the city.

The *Independent* learned of the settlement by attending a virtual case-management meeting November 13 held via the Microsoft Teams software.

A major concern during that meeting was the withdrawal of the contested recording of May 22, made when Stern and city councillors Paul Levine and Jeff Shamie were videotaped by accident and without their knowledge after a meeting with city employees on Microsoft Teams.

As a result of the withdrawal, the public is not *continued on p. 6*

For Mayor Michael Stern's statement, see p. 6

Cape Ann-Westmount hockey friendship continues



City councillors Gurveen Chadha and Shawn Moss drop a ceremonial puck November 6 at the 32nd Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament, held November 6 to 8 at the Westmount recreation centre. At right is Dave Lapointe, the city's director of culture, sports, recreation and social development. See p. 7 for story.

Photo courtesy of Westmount Sports and Recreation.



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Elected officials disregard PAC's recommendations in three cases

By Laureen Sweeney

City council November 3 reversed the recommendations of city Urban Planning officials and approved exterior work at three Westmount properties where work had initially been refused permits by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

These involved properties at 619 Lansdowne, 337 Kensington and 339 Kensington after the adoption of a lengthy approval resolution, which stated that the council was not "bound to endorse the PAC's recommendations" but considered that the plans submitted complied with applicable by-laws.

As well, a permit for 3 Forden Ave. was approved through a different council process based on seeking a minor exemption after the work had already been undertaken.

The recommendations *continued on p. 3*

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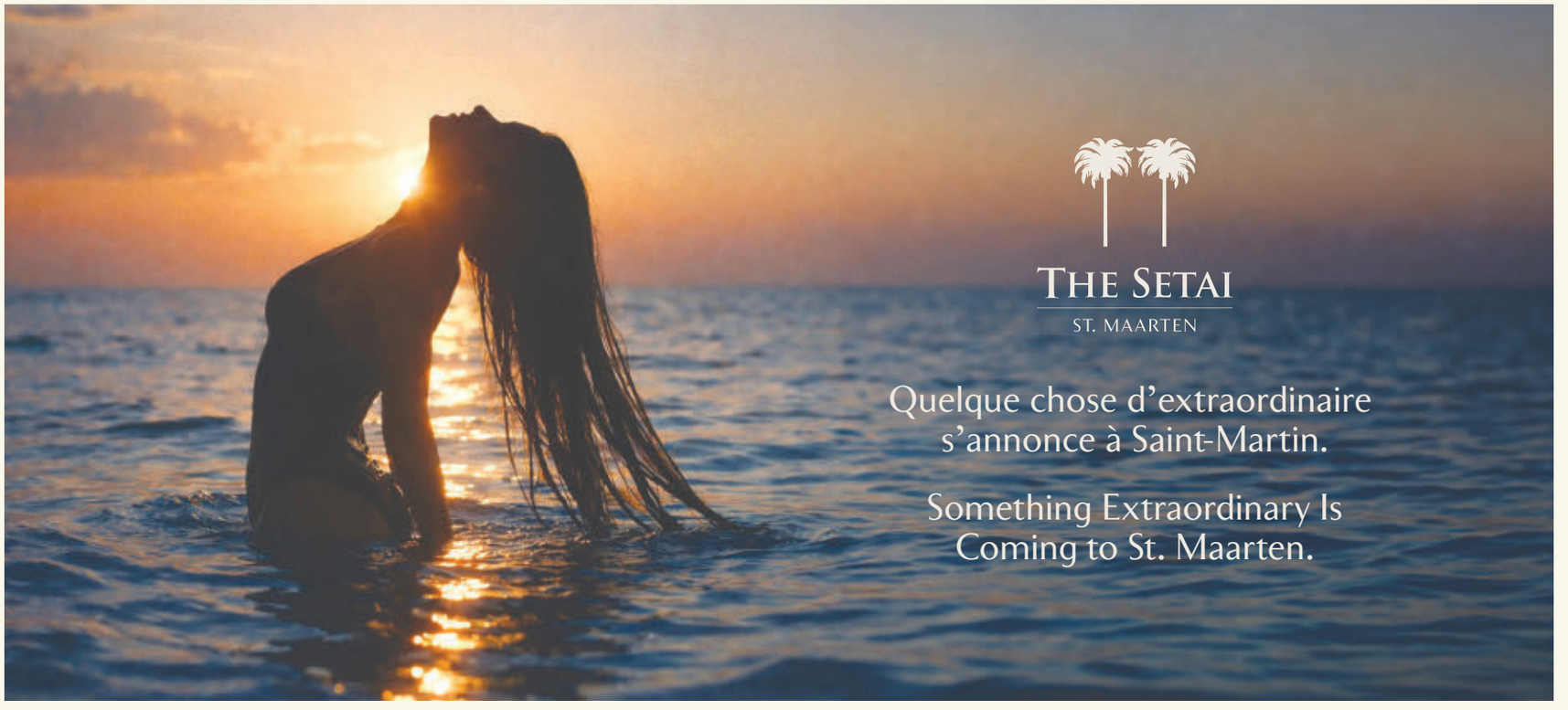


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Fines issued for lack of landscaping licences

Public Security to check out private contractors for snow-removal permits

By Laureen Sweeney

Now that snow will be on the way any day now and with the late clean-up of leaves under way, Public Security is reminding landscaping contractors – many who also clear snow from private properties and driveways – to confirm they have valid permits.

The offence of not having one brings a ticket of $472, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

The warning comes on the heels of four tickets issued November 6 to 12, when patrollers noticed landscapers using leaf blowers on Elm, Grosvenor, Grove Park and Dorchester and discovered they did not have the required permits.

Fines issued totalled some $1,888.

PAC disregarded, *cont'd from p. 1*

emanated from the PAC meetings of September 29, October 1 and October 6.

At 619 Lansdowne, the council endorsed a request to replace three windows on the front façade, five on the side and two at the rear for which it "considers that the plans submitted comply with By-law 1305."

At 337 Kensington, the request had been to replace a garage door at the front of the property for which the council considered that the plans also complied with By-law 1305.

For the property next door at 339 Kensington, "replacement of a garage door on the front façade" was also found compliant with the same by-law.

On the other hand, a "minor exemption" was required – and granted – for 3 Forden Ave., at a special meeting based on By-law 1576. This was to allow "the rearward expansion of the existing garage."

In this case, it was explained that the applicant "will plant two trees in the rear yard to compensate for the loss of vegetation in the side yard and the garage extension would be designed to integrate architecturally with the rear of buildings."

Such an exemption, it adds, was based on many factors including that work already carried out had been performed in good faith and that enforcing strict regulatory provisions would "cause serious harm to the applicant." Among other factors, such an exemption "must not hinder neighbouring property owners in the enjoyment of their right of ownership or exacerbate public health, safety, or environmental risks."

Man falls, accompanied home by officer

An 86-year-old Westmount resident lost his balance and fell at the side of the road at Somerville and Claremont, November 11 at 2:39 pm, Public Security officials said.

The incident was noticed by a patroller, who was told by the man he had recently undergone surgery and lost strength in the legs. He was given a blanket and made comfortable while awaiting Urgences Santé, whose responders "insisted" on lifting him up.

Officers "walked him home," which was nearby.

PSOs summon help for 'suspicious' woman

A call to Public Security was received November 6 at 9:31 pm about a woman "acting suspiciously" in a laneway near Holton and de Casson.

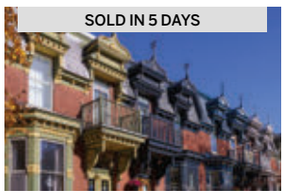
She was located by patrollers at Elm and Sherbrooke and engaged in conversation while awaiting police, officials said.

Described as "incoherent and confused," she was reported to be walking around "aimlessly," and causing damage to private property. She was left in the hands of police "for further help."

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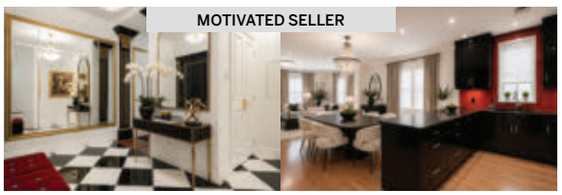


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Dodge on October real estate, *p. 10*

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Art: Perehudoff at Han Modern, *p. 28*

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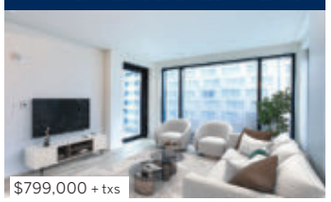
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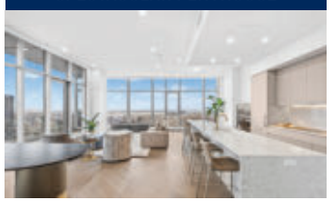
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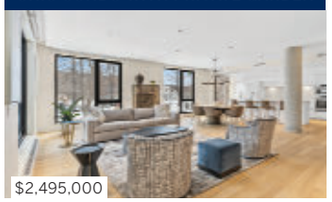
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2026.11.17 • Vol. 7/20

VILLE DE | CITY OF WESTMOUNT

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL **Mardi 1er Décembre**



Test du système d'alerte d'urgence

Le mercredi 25 novembre, la Ville de Westmount effectuera un test de son système d'alerte d'urgence afin de vérifier son bon fonctionnement en situation critique. **westmount/actualites**

Assemblée de consultation publique — 2 décembre

Dans le cadre de la refonte de son Plan d'urbanisme et de la mise à jour de ses règlements d'urbanisme, la Ville de Westmount tiendra une assemblée de consultation publique le mercredi 2 décembre, de 19 h à 21 h, au Victoria Hall. **westmount.org/actualites**

Sports et loisirs : hiver 2027

Préparez-vous à bouger cet hiver ! La période d'inscription aux activités sportives et de loisirs de l'hiver 2027 débutera le 17 novembre pour les résidents de Westmount. **westmount.org/activites**

Belvédère Summit

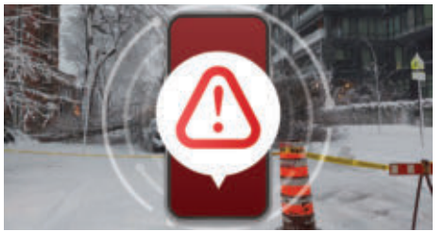
Au belvédère Summit, l'ancien stationnement asphalté deviendra un espace public végétalisé. Ce projet redonnera au belvédère un cadre à la hauteur de sa valeur patrimoniale, tout en améliorant la gestion des eaux pluviales et en encourageant les transports actifs. **westmount.org/actualites**

Guignolée des fêtes de la Sécurité publique

La Sécurité publique de Westmount organise une guignolée au bénéfice des familles dans le besoin à Westmount. Déposez vos dons dans les boîtes désignées à cet effet dans les édifices municipaux. Merci de votre générosité !

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING **Tuesday, December 1**



Test of the Emergency Alert System

On Wednesday, November 25, the City of Westmount will conduct a test of its emergency alert system to ensure it is working properly in the event of an emergency. **westmount/news**

Public Consultation Meeting—December 2

As part of its comprehensive Overhaul of the Urban Plan and update of its urban planning regulations, the City of Westmount will hold a public consultation meeting on Wednesday, December 2, from 7 pm to 9 pm, at Victoria Hall. **westmount.org/news**

Sports and Recreation: winter 2027

Get ready to stay active this winter! Registration for winter 2027 sports and recreation activities opens on November 17 for Westmount residents. **westmount.org/activities**

Summit Lookout

At Summit Lookout, the former asphalt parking lot will become a green public space. This project will give the Lookout a setting worthy of its heritage value, while improving stormwater management and encouraging active transportation. **westmount.org/news**

Public Safety Holiday Food Drive

The Holiday Food Drive organised by Westmount's Public Safety Department has supported families in need in our community. Drop off your donations in the designated boxes located in municipal buildings. Thank you for your generosity!

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition : Anna Gedalof

Du 13 novembre au 11 décembre, la Galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les oeuvres de l'artiste locale Anna Gedalof dans l'exposition *La joie suspendue : peindre rien et tout*. **westmount.org/evenements**

Ciné-club : *The Christophers*

24 novembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Joignez-vous à notre ciné-club pour une projection sur grand écran ! Avec Ian McKellen et Michaela Coel, ce film réalisé par Steven Soderbergh raconte l'histoire d'un peintre autrefois célèbre et d'une jeune artiste engagée pour accéder à ses œuvres inachevées. **westmount.org/evenements**

Illumination du sapin de Noël

30 novembre, 17 h, devant l'hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux membres du conseil municipal pour célébrer le début de la période des fêtes. Venez profiter de l'illumination de l'arbre de Noël, accompagnée de musique, de boissons chaudes et d'une ambiance festive ! **westmount.org/evenements**



Conférence — Mythes et réalités du marketing alimentaire

2 décembre, 19 h, Salle Westmount. Joignez-vous à Nina Kliloueva, nutritionniste agréée, pour démystifier le marketing alimentaire, explorer les tendances et régimes populaires et apprendre à développer un regard critique pour faire des choix alimentaires éclairés. **westlib.org**

Concert : Le Noël de Buzz Cuivres

17 décembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Venez célébrer la magie des Fêtes en famille avec Buzz Cuivres ! Profitez d'un concert festif mêlant grands classiques de Noël et airs populaires. **westmount.org/evenements**

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition: Anna Gedalof

From November 13 to December 11, the Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the artworks of local artist Anna Gedalof in the exhibition titled *Suspended Joy: Painting Everything and Nothing*. **westmount.org/events**

Film Club: The Christophers

November 24, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Join us for a big-screen movie experience and share our passion for cinema! Starring Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel, this film directed by Steven Soderbergh follows a once-famous artist and a young painter hired to gain access to his unfinished works. **westmount.org/events**

Christmas Tree Lighting

November 30, 5 p.m., in front of City Hall. Join the members of City Council in celebrating the start of the holiday season! Enjoy the Christmas tree lighting, festive music, and warm drinks! **westmount.org/events**

Lecture—*Mythes et réalités du marketing alimentaire*

December 2, 7 p.m., Westmount Room. In French. Join registered dietician Nina Kliloueva to explore food marketing myths, popular diets and trends, and learn how to make informed food choices by developing a critical eye. **westlib.org**

Concert: A Buzz Brass Christmas

December 17, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with Buzz Brass! Enjoy a festive concert featuring beloved Christmas classics and holiday favourites. **westmount.org/events**



The dangers of detours





After leaving the Grosvenor Ave. Esso the morning of November 10 and turning left, the red westbound car in the photo at left entered the temporary eastbound lane in place due to Sherbrooke St. construction and stopped for a red light. As it turns out, the westbound car was able to proceed safely despite being in the temporary eastbound lane, but seconds later the white van at right correctly used the same space to go east. "All the drivers could see clearly and had time to react in this case, but in different conditions, like night or rain or a green light, things could have unfolded very differently," commented editor David Price. Arrows added by *Independent*.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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City to test citizen portal's emergency capabilities

By Jennifer Ball

To enhance its ability to rapidly alert citizens exposed to potential emergencies – like an active shooter or an ice storm – the city urged citizens to register on its citizen portal in October. Subsequent to those efforts, the city will now test the portal's communications capabilities via an emergency alert test.

The test will take place in the afternoon on Wednesday, November 25, according to District 7 city councillor Matt Aronson, who spoke about it during the November 3 council meeting, when he said the test is to "confirm the system works the way it should and that alerts reach [citizens and merchants] in a timely manner...

"Every account that is updated or established means [there is] one more household we can reach quickly when it matters most. As you can imagine, every minute counts in an emergency."

The weblink is citoyen.westmount.org/en.

Aronson stated, "Everyone registered in the citizen portal – even those who have not authenticated their accounts – are going to receive this emergency alert test by email, by text message and by automated phone call. If you haven't signed up yet, or you haven't updated your account yet, please do so before November 25."

Mayor settles, *cont'd from p. 1*

expected to ever see the tape.

Stern recently lost two motions regarding the recording, namely to have it excluded as evidence for the judge (see November 3, p. 9) and to have it kept from public presentation ("sealed") during his hearing. (Regarding the second motion, Stern did manage to have the judge seal small portions relating to legal advice.)

On November 6, Stern's lawyers had managed to delay his substantive hearing in order to take the debate about the tape to Superior Court via judicial review (see November 10, p. 19). That possible remedy would now appear to be moot.

As part of the settlement, two of the original allegations were dropped by prosecutors while the five regarding May 22 were consolidated into one.

When asked for comment, Stern supplied the statement at right.

Statement from Mayor Michael Stern

The Independent *received this statement, in both languages, on November 13 after the virtual meeting described in our news story on p. 1.*

I regret that a private and frank conversation between two Westmount city councillors and me was recorded when we believed the recording had stopped, and was subsequently shared.

On May 22, 2026, during a private conversation with two councillors, I made disparaging remarks about certain city employees. I regret those remarks and apologize to the employees concerned. The private nature of the conversation does not justify my remarks.

I undertake not to repeat this behaviour. I also apologize to my colleagues and the residents of Westmount. I take responsibility for my words.

The conversation followed months of frustration with the pace of change and obstacles I had encountered in advancing the work residents elected me to do. My concerns were about how we work and how we can do better.

I was elected mayor with a clear mandate to bring change and improve services and infrastructure in Westmount. I remain fully focused on keeping that promise, working every day with council and the administration. That means asking difficult questions, challenging the status quo and identifying opportunities for improvement. It also means doing so with respect.

Westmount is fortunate to have dedicated and capable public servants who work hard for our residents. I value their contribution and remain committed to working constructively with them and council to make our city better.

I remain concerned about the recording and circulation of a conversation we understood to be private. Those concerns should be addressed through the appropriate channels. They do not diminish my responsibility for what I said.

I have acknowledged a single re-formulated breach of the city's code of ethics and conduct. Following the decision of the Commission municipale du Québec, I will personally pay a financial penalty to the city of Westmount.

Resolving these proceedings avoids further hearings and additional professional fees for the city. I want to put this matter behind us responsibly, in the city's interest, and devote my energy to serving the people of Westmount.

Michael Stern,
mayor of Westmount

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Cape Ann contingent visits Westmount, wins

Annual Sal Grasso 'friendship' hockey event adds new features

By Laureen Sweeney

The annual hockey tournament between Westmount and Cape Ann, Massachusetts took place this year November 6 to 8 at the Westmount recreation centre. The event brought together more than 300 athletes in what was described as "a memorable weekend of competition and camaraderie."

The 32nd Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament was opened in a ceremony during which city councillors Gurveen Chadha and Shawn Moss welcomed participants and "underscored the city's ongoing support for youth sports and community engagement," according to Andrew Maislin, division head of the city's operations and sports facilities.

See p. 1 for a photo of the ceremonial puck drop.

Among the event's new features, he said, were opening performances of the national anthems by members of the Contactivity seniors' centre, and the first half of the tournament including "mixed" teams made up of players from both Westmount and Cape Ann.

"This emphasized the true purpose of the Friendship Tournament: bringing young athletes together, fostering new friendships and creating unforgettable experiences both on and off the ice."



Individual tournament recognition went to, from left, Crofton Parsons and Lyla Juden of Cape Ann, and Noah Fox of Westmount. Photo courtesy of Westmount Sports and Recreation.

Family-friendly activities

Another addition, Maislin said, was "a strong collaboration between the city's Sports and Recreation department and the newly established Westmount Wings Parent Social Committee."

This innovation "enhanced the tournament experience by organizing family-friendly activities, coordinating food and hospitality services, and creating a vibrant atmosphere throughout the weekend."

On the hockey front, "the event featured exciting action across all divisions, culminating in an overall tournament victory for Cape Ann after a strong performance."

Celebrating sportsmanship

Athletes were recognized for their effort, sportsmanship and performance through the presentation of player-of-the game trophies, providing memorable keepsakes for deserving participants.

Among three players across the two hockey associations celebrated for their sportsmanship, passion and love of the game was Noah Fox, the Westmount recipient of the Dan Juden Sr. Award, named in honour of a former Cape Ann coach and volunteer.

After "the final puck dropped and players exchanged handshakes, smiles and memories, the 32nd edition of the tournament proved that the friendship at the heart of this event remains as strong as ever," Maislin said.

And, "while competition remained fierce on the ice, the true victory was the continued strengthening of the long-standing friendship between the two hockey communities."

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City works to reduce use of external law firms

Lawyer Cooper appointed by council as legal affairs advisor

By Laureen Sweeney

Patrick Cooper was appointed by city council August 4 as a legal affairs advisor.

He is replacing the previous legal affairs advisor Laurence Simard, who was with the city for only five weeks before resigning mid-April, according to interim assistant city clerk Dave Lapointe, who is in the role in the absence of city clerk Paule Geoffroy-Béliveau (see May 12, p. 1).

Before joining Westmount, Cooper practised as a lawyer at Jeansonne Avocats from July 2025 to April 2026 and at LJT Avocats before starting his career at Logik.

"Hiring an in-house legal advisor provides immediate, practical legal support across municipal operations," Lapointe explained. "An advisor can review contracts, by-laws, procurement, HR matters, council decisions and claims as well as regulatory issues, while identifying legal risks before they become problems."

The position also reduces reliance on outside counsel, he added, and improves response times and consistency. It also "preserves institutional knowledge and reduces legal costs by reserving external lawyers for specialized or complex matters."



Patrick Cooper photographed October 27 at a meeting of the city's Demolition Committee.

Correction: *Nostra culpa*

City councillor Jonathan Chomski was not at the city's Remembrance Day November 8, despite our reporting last week (p. 17). The *Independent*'s reporter thought that he had seen him, but it was not so. I apologize for the error. – DP.

City gets set to borrow $23M for 2027

Council approves more new projects for 2026

By Laureen Sweeney

While the city's major construction year is slated to wind down for 2026 at the end of this month, council not only continued to award contracts at its November 3 meeting for ongoing work but also served notice of its intent to borrow some $23 million for projected work in 2027.

Among those for this year was a contract for the rehabilitation of retaining walls near 19-21 Stanton. This is the dead-end of the street just north of the Protective Services building at a total cost of $87,381 awarded to Ponton Guillot.

Another 2026 contract went to Ponton Guillot for "infrastructure renewal" of de Maisonneuve between Claremont and Lansdowne at a total cost of $374,670.

Also for this year, a contract for rehabilitating water pipes was awarded to Insituform Technologies Ltd. for the rehabilitation of water pipes at a total cost of $667,667 without details presented.

Among the ongoing completion of other high-profile work is completion of the project on the south side of Sherbrooke with its underground pipes and re-paving work (Grosvenor to Arlington and Strathcona) as well as the underground and front staircase entrance and doorway to Victoria Hall.

More coming

Moving forward, city council presented notice of motion to borrow $7.5 million for the refurbishment of municipal buildings as well as a by-law to "authorize an expenditure and loan of $15 million for various roadwork, watermain and sewer projects including Hydro Westmount."



Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke remained closed November 12 for the major re-construction of Sherbrooke, causing ongoing narrowing of traffic lanes.
Below, work continued November 13 on the reconstruction of Victoria Hall front entrance.



WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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Lysanne Fowler

Una, snoozing in the sun

After a great playtime and a fresh-air walk, Una is cozied up in the sunshine to enjoy a little rest. She is a gorgeous hound-type with adorable colouring and ticking, soft ears and great long legs.

She is presently in a foster family for the Montreal SPCA, a safe and comfortable environment. They are delighted to report that she is a loving and gentle friend to all, easygoing and playful. She enjoys her people and her sister cat, falling into the routine of the house with ease.

Una is a very healthy three-year-old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like to find out more about her, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com and then refer to her information page from her identification number, 2000451914.

Since she is presently in the temporary foster family, arrangements need to be discussed through the adoption counsellors as she is at the foster home and not at the shelter. On her information page, the "Fill out the form" black rectangle can be clicked open and you can provide your contact information for the counselling staff to get back to you to discuss your interest and adoption.

Please do not hesitate, reach out for sweet Una, a companion and home buddy who would enjoy your time together.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler

King of hearts

This hunky pearl-grey British shorthair, King, is aptly named. King of hearts, king of family, he is a dear affectionate young fellow.

King is presently in need of a new family as he is at the Montreal SPCA cattery waiting patiently for loving arms to take him home to a new family life.

He is a very healthy two-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com, scroll to his information page from his identification number, 2000504769, and plan your visit with him and the adoption coordinators, who look forward to meeting you at the shelter.



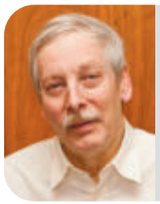
The SPCA is open for adoption every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

Please bring your carrier if you have one. If you would like a new one or a different model, you can visit their onsite accessories boutique where there is a great variety of styles of carriers, cat foods, accessories and toys galore for games and cuddling.

Best to make plans soon, King is a wonderful companion, and he would be so pleased to join you in happy and companionable times together.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

October sales: September's spike gets flattened – Market slows



Real Estate

Andy Dodge

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in October 2026. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graphs at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Last month's spike in our monthly graph showed the average Westmount house value shooting past the $3-million mark with all seven sales agreements over $2 million and three of those over $3 million.

Well, later last month, agents posted another six sales that they say were settled in September, pulling down the adjusted average price to $2,914,000, and the agents could only announce six more sales in October with an adjusted price even lower, at $2,876,000.

Still, the average has remained above $2,800,000 since March, and a variety of events are going to influence the overall Canadian economy, and how these are dealt with might encourage or discourage those who have the means to afford a Westmount home.

In October, the six sale prices ranged from $1,475,000 to $4,375,000, with four of the six selling for less than valuation, forming an average 5.4 percent mark-down, only the second time this year that the average has been below valuation.

In July, 14 sales showed a mark-down at -3.3 percent, so this October represents the lowest average ratio so far this year.

If tardy agents fail to produce more sales for October, it would be the slowest month since last December, and the rest of the market was even slower: two Westmount condominium sales averaging $841,250, 2.2 percent below municipal valuation, only three sales in adjacent-Westmount areas, including one each in Côte des Neiges, NDG, and one on Parkside Place just off Côte des Neiges Rd. Two flats in duplexes on Northcliffe Ave. also sold, both in late September.

The number of houses still listed in Westmount is down from 135 to 130 as we head into the holiday season, with no particular change in price categories: only 20 of the 130 listings have asking prices between $1 and $2 million, 40 more under $3 million and 27 more under 4 million.

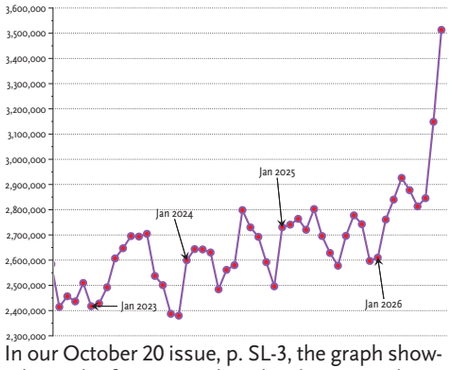
The highest Westmount asking price is $21,800,000, as it has been since September 2025, and the lowest is $1,099,500, down $59,500 in the last month.

So far this year agents have arranged the rental of 22 houses, only two of which were for more than $10,000 per month. Of 22 houses still available for rent, the range is from $4,500 to $13,800 per month.

Time will tell where the market goes from here, heavily influenced by the recent Quebec and United States elections, interest rates, tariffs, war and peace in the Middle East and the ever-growing influence of Mark Carney on the Canadian economy.

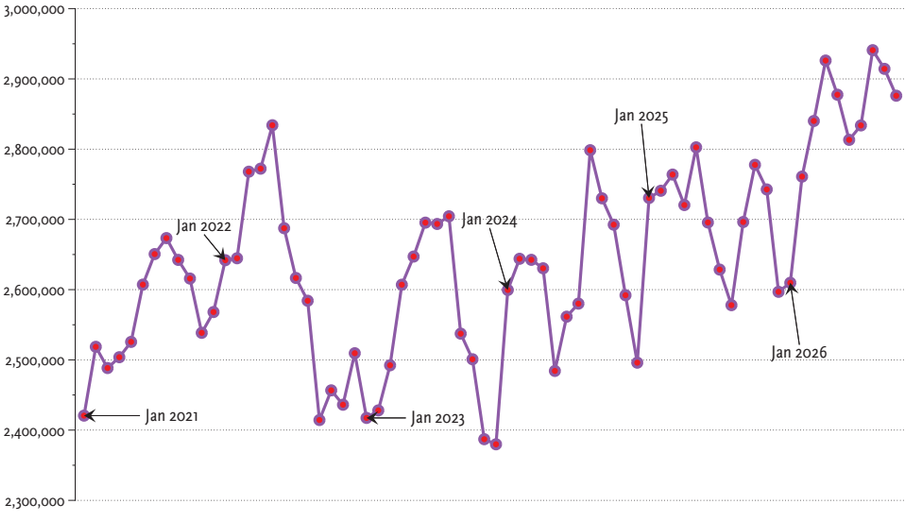
We can expect the slow season to last through about February, after which many of those questions can expect to be answered.

Last month's graph

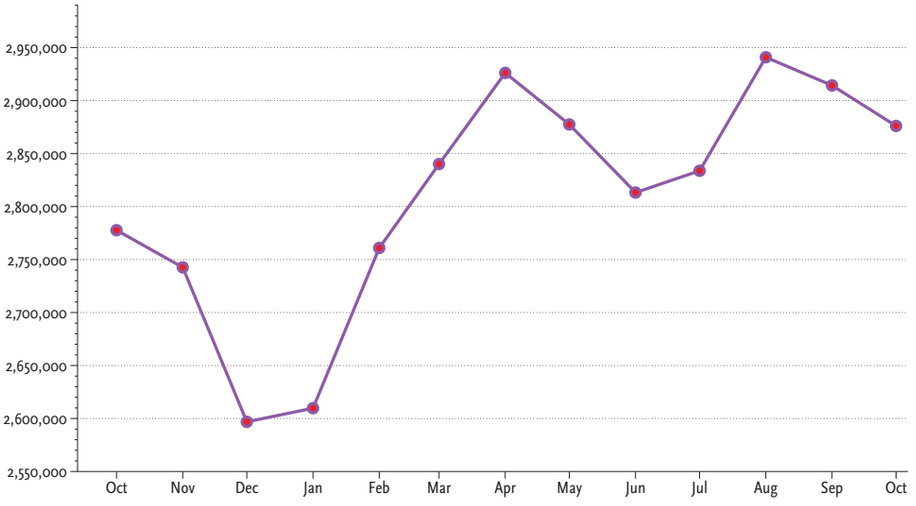


In our October 20 issue, p. SL-3, the graph showed a spike for September that has since been flattened by more data.

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2021 to October 2026, based on accepted offer dates



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Thomson family memoir contains bittersweet memories of Quebec

By Martin C. Barry

Perhaps it's only an ironic coincidence that the title of former Westmounter Peter A. Thomson's family memoir, *Forget Not*, is somewhat similar to the province of Quebec's motto, *Je me souviens*.

However, there's no doubt that the province's drastic turn towards nationalism beginning in the early 1960s left permanent scars on Thomson and the rest of his family.

If you ask the average Quebecer today what name comes to mind when you say "Power Corporation of Canada," the answer that you are most likely to hear back is "Desmarais."

However, before 1968 when the Desmarais family acquired a controlling interest in Power Corporation, the names closely associated with Power Corporation and its then-portfolio of diversified energy utilities holdings were Nesbitt and Thomson.

Westmount roots

The Thomson and Nesbitt families have deep roots in Westmount, stemming back to the early years of the 20th century. Peter A.'s grandfather, Peter A. T. Thomson, who began around the turn of the century as a salesman for Heinz foods, founded Power Corporation in 1925 with Arthur J. Nesbitt.

This was after the two had co-founded the Nesbitt Thomson stock brokerage firm in 1912.

During the first half of the 20th century, both were important drivers of the Canadian economy.

However, the Thomsons started to leave Quebec in 1976 after the victory of the Parti Québécois.

"It is impossible to write a history of the Thomson family without considering the rise of French-Canadian nationalism," Peter A. writes in the introduction to his book, published by McGill-Queen's University Press.

It was given an enthusiastic reception during a well-attended gathering held at the Westmount Public Library on October 28.

Effect of separatism

Quebec separatism, Thomson writes in the book co-written with Concordia University historian Colleen Gray, forced him as well as his father, Peter Nesbitt Thomson, "to re-evaluate our lives and our relationship to our city, our province and our country."

While Peter A. left Quebec in 1982, six years after the Parti Québécois came to power, his father, according to the son, could trace his mixed feelings about the province back to the rise of Quebec nationalism in 1960.

That's when Jean Lesage led the Quebec Liberal Party to form a majority provincial government, opening the door to the Quiet Revolution while emboldening the separatist movement.

Although Peter A. notes that Peter Nesbitt Thomson had been a strong supporter of the Quebec Liberals, acting at one point as a financial advisor for the party, his book suggests his father felt he'd been "betrayed" by the Liberals when they lined up behind René Lévesque, who was initially a provincial Liberal.



Forget Not co-author Colleen Gray is seen here with Peter A. Thomson at the Westmount Public Library on October 28.

Lévesque became a provincial cabinet minister for the Liberals in the early 1960s, but he would go on to co-found the separatist Parti Québécois. While with the Liberals, Lévesque was the driving force behind efforts to expropriate the province's private electricity companies to create the province-owned Hydro-Québec.



Seen here on October 28 at Westmount Public Library are, from left, Victoria Thomson, Peter A. Thomson's daughter, who resides in New York; Westmounter Lynn Douglas and Peter A. Thomson, co-author of the Thomson family memoir *Forget Not*.

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Rotary report

Westmount-based Montreal Fluency Centre elucidates ADHD

By Jennifer Ball

The neuro-developmental disorder ADHD afflicts an estimated 1.8 million people in Canada.

It affects attention and self-control. Various aspects of the condition were illuminated at a recent Rotary Club of Westmount meeting by two specialists who treat those with it.

The abovementioned statistic came from the Centre for ADHD awareness Canada, which indicates among children and youth ages one to 17, the prevalence of diagnosed ADHD was 8.4 percent in 2023.



From left, Jillian Budd and Dr. Marlene Desjardins in Victoria Hall on November 4.

Local group on the case

The Rotary Club of Westmont holds its luncheons at Victoria Hall and on November 4 it welcomed Dr. Marlene Desjardins and Jillian Budd from the Montreal Fluency Centre.

The centre is a Westmount-based nonprofit organization that has been working since 1987 to assess and treat children and youth with speech, language, communication, learning and literacy difficulties.

Located at 4626 St. Catherine opposite the Royal Montreal Regiment's armory, the centre's services include:

- Speech-language assessments and therapy,
- Stuttering and fluency treatment,
- Learning and literacy support,
- Psycho-educational assessments,
- Reading, writing and language programs,
- Small-group and one-on-one interventions.

During her talk, Dr. Desjardins focused on attention deficit, describing some students with ADHD as presenting – despite their good capacity for learning – with academic learning difficulties.

"They're missing [things], especially in math.

"They're not paying attention to the [symbols], so they're adding instead of subtracting, or they might have difficulty focusing on boring or repetitive tasks. This is something we have to do in life, unfortunately. I'm sure all of you have that experience in your careers or other aspects of your life where you just have to buckle down and do it. [While] most of us can regulate ourselves, kids with ADHD struggle [to do so]...

"They may avoid things and they may dislike things because of the mental effort required. [There are] a number of different areas in which we might see examples of a child's inattention creeping into their day."

Hyperactivity

Budd focussed on hyperactivity and said, "[The kids] with hyperactive impulsive tendencies are our movers and shakers.

"Everybody's sitting quietly and then you have the one kid [who is] bouncing up and down – or unable to stand in line when everybody's lined up, and one kid is just twirling or walking around.

"These are the kids who tend to get picked up earlier [as being hyperactive] because their difficulties or their behaviours are noticeable."

In later life, Budd said, "[It goes from] hyperactivity to more of a state of restlessness."

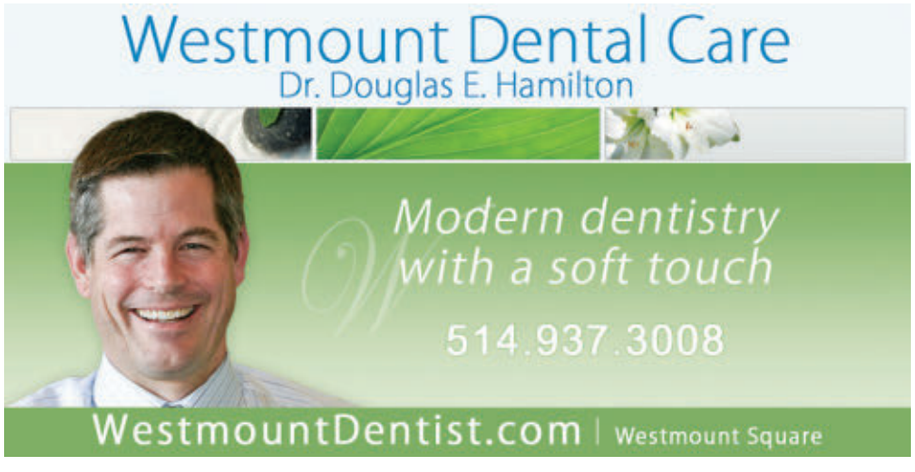
The *Independent* asked the educators during the Q&A about any positive aspects to the disorder.

Budd replied, "They tend to be really creative problem solvers, and they look at things differently compared to a lot of different people...

"People with ADHD can multi-task and get a lot done, because they need to be moving and doing things all the time so they're the productive people who often become entrepreneurs."

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







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Police Report

Public Security's ID leads to police arrest in Temple window shooting

By Martin C. Barry

After months of reports consisting largely of unresolved car thefts and household break-ins, Montreal police at Station 12 on Stanton St. had some "good news" for a change last week.

A 32-year-old suspect who was being sought by the police in conjunction with a shooting incident at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on October 30 was apprehended, according to a Station 12 spokesperson.

On the morning of October 30, according to an incident report filed by officers at the Stanton St. station, Montreal's 9-1-1 emergency phone service received a call regarding impact marks found on windows located at the rear of the synagogue.

According to a report in the *Canadian Jewish News*, security footage viewed by Temple rabbi Lisa Grushcow revealed that someone shot nine pellets through the windows of two separate rooms around 10:30 pm on October 29.

It was the third time Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom was targeted over the past two years. In February 2025, a swastika was spray-painted on the side of the building. Then in June 2026, a man was arrested in connection with an attempted arson attack at the synagogue.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Emmanuel Provencher, around 3:35 am on November 10, a Westmount Public Security officer spotted someone near the corner of Dorchester Blvd. and Greene Ave. matching the profile of the suspect seen in the security camera footage.

"The PSOs were patrolling at night and one of the officers recognized the guy who seemed to fit the description in the video that was seen by the surveillance cameras that were on the scene," said Provencher.

"One of the officers recognized by the description of the person, the way he was moving, the way he was dressed. So, he decided to investigate the situation and stopped the guy."

However, since PSOs have fairly restricted powers to detain suspects, the PSO called 9-1-1 and a police car came to the scene.

According to Provencher, a subsequent investigation "revealed he was the suspect we were looking for."

As of late last week, charges against the suspect were pending. A search was conducted at his residence for evidence, Provencher added, although he declined to reveal where the suspect lives, citing police confidentiality rules.

"Where he's from? We know, but I cannot tell you," he said.

Police officers at Station 12 filed a report for a possibly related incident a few days earlier on November 6. Around 8:45 am, 9-1-1 received a call regarding a break-in and vandalism inside a building undergoing renovation on Dorchester Blvd. at the corner of Weredale Park.

"The police officers arrived on the scene, [but] the suspect had already left," said Provencher, noting that the intrusion had probably taken place overnight. However, he continued, the officers noticed that the vandalism included impacts on the windows similar to those found at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

"I'm not saying it's the same person, but there is a possibility that we are dealing with the same person," he said.

He described some of the vandalism committed inside the building, including damage to electrical wiring and to construction materials being used for a renovation, although "nothing was really missing, nothing was stolen," said Provencher.

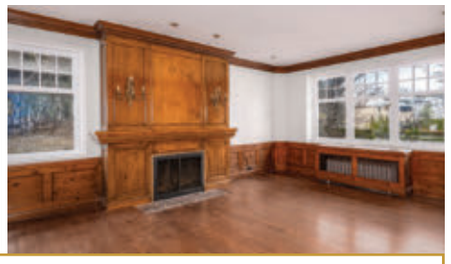
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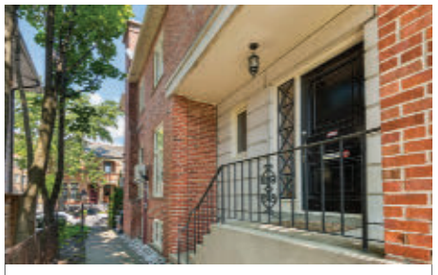


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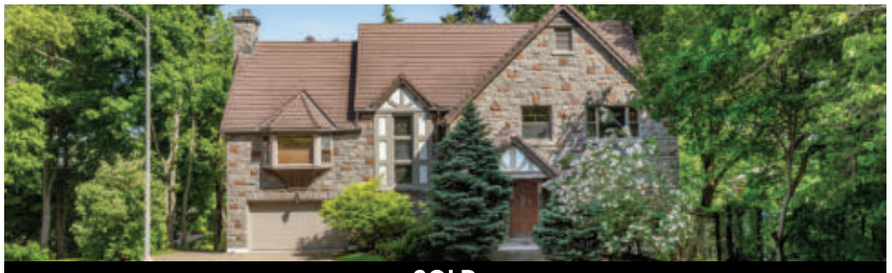
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A brief history of Christmas trees



Towering evergreen trees adorned in lights and other trinkets are a focal point of the holiday season. Christmas trees are placed in prominent locations in homes, typically in front of a large picture window or in the corners of large entryways. These awe-inspiring trees beckon people to inspect all of the ornaments and often are the first thing people envision when thinking of holiday décor. The tradition of the Christmas tree is believed to have begun in Germany in the sixteenth century. However, the National Christmas Tree Association says there may be earlier references to Christmas trees in other parts of the world as well. The first written record of a decorated Christmas tree comes from Riga, Latvia, in 1510. Men of a local merchants' guild decorated the tree with roses and then set fire to it. The rose was considered a symbol of the Virgin Mary. In the sixteenth century in Alsace, France, trees were sold in the marketplace and brought home and set up undecorated. Laws limited the size to "eight shoe lengths" or slightly more than four feet. Early German Christmas trees were adorned with apples, a holdover from earlier traditions when evergreen boughs hung with apples were used as props in miracle plays. These plays took place in churches on December 24, which was Adam & Eve's Day in the early Christian calendar. Evergreens have long been symbolic of life during the cold months of winter, calling to mind the promise of spring to come.

Various cultures, including early Christians, featured trees during winter solstice celebrations. Some historians believe Martin Luther, a Protestant reformer who might have been inspired by stars in the night, was responsible for adding lighted candles to the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree was introduced to the United States by German settlers in the 1800s. Soon after those settlers' arrival, trees began to be sold commercially. President Franklin Pierce is credited with having the first Christmas tree at the White House. Today, Christmas trees are wildly popular, with the American Christmas Tree Association reporting that 94 percent of U.S. consumers plan to display one.

– *MCG*

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Gas fireplace safety tips

Few images capture the spirit of a season as well as a family gathered around a fireplace embodies winter. Winter is indeed a time when families spend more time together indoors, and there's no better gathering spot than around a warm fireplace.

Heartwarming scenes around a fireplace are even more enjoyable when safety has been prioritized. While natural fireplaces with roaring flames are notable safety risks, it's important that individuals with gas fireplaces embrace fire safety as well. The following are some gas fireplace safety strategies everyone can embrace.

- Avoid the DIY installation route. Even the most skilled do-it-yourselfers are urged to let the professionals install a new gas fireplace. Gas lines are nothing to mess around with, and professional installation teams have ample experience setting up new gas fireplaces in a home.
- Be sure to install a carbon monoxide/gas detector on the same floor as the fireplace, as well as the appropriate number sensibly placed elsewhere in the house. During the gas fireplace installation, ask that a carbon monoxide detector with battery back-up is installed on the same floor. The detector alarm will alert individuals if something is amiss, like a gas leak. Periodically inspect the detector to ensure it's working properly.
- Periodically inspect your safety screen. Glass panels are standard features on many gas fireplaces. Such panels separate the fire within the fireplace from the people and items outside of it. Glass panels can become extremely hot, which is why most gas fireplaces come with safety screens as well. These mesh safety screens can keep curious kids and pets from touching hot glass panels, and also protect adults. Inspect the safety screens periodically to ensure they're still intact and up to the job, replacing them if necessary.
- Keep objects a safe distance away from the fireplace. Experts advise keeping objects a minimum of three feet away from the fireplace at all times. Fabrics and other materials that contact the glass pose a fire hazard, so keep the area in front of the fireplace clear.
- Make the fireplace off limits to children and pets. Though the aforementioned safety screens are a vital safety feature that can keep kids and pets safe, it's still best that kids and pets are kept away from the fireplace at all times. Turn off the fireplace if kids are playing in the room, and use safety gates to keep kids and pets away when the fireplace is in use.
- Book annual fireplace inspections. Annual inspections of the fireplace can ensure everything is working properly. Professional inspections may detect potentially harmful gas leaks, and annual check-ups also can help individuals extend the life of their fireplaces.
- Recognize outdoor gas fireplaces have their own safety protocols. Outdoor fireplaces have become wildly popular in recent years. Homeowners with outdoor gas fireplaces must recognize these awe-inspiring features require their own unique safety measures, including turning off the gas supply at the end of the season and protecting the fireplace from the elements when necessary.

Gas fireplace safety strategies can protect residents and also increase the life expectancy of these sought-after features. – *MCG*

Did you know?

Christmas lights help set the scene for the holidays and enhance the atmosphere of gatherings and celebrations. While it may seem like Christmas lights have always been part of holiday festivities, they're actually a relatively modern addition. Electric Christmas lights were the invention of Edward Hibberd Johnson in 1882. Johnson was an associate of Thomas Edison, and the Smithsonian notes Johnson hand-wired 80 red, white and blue electric light bulbs and placed them on a spinning Christmas tree in his New York City home. Johnson's lights were likely inspired by the first strand of electric lights that Edison hung outside of his New Jersey laboratory two years prior. These Christmas lights gave rise to more displays in subsequent years. President Grover Cleveland put up the first electrically lit Christmas tree in the White House in 1895. While electric lights may have been pretty, they were very expensive for the average person. In the 1920s, companies like General Electric started crafting safe, affordable and ready-to-use light strings for consumers, paving the way for more widespread adoption during the holidays. – *MCG*

Screen-free ways to keep kids engaged over holiday break



The holiday season is a time to reunite with family and friends. Late December also is a time for students to relax and recharge over the holiday break, which typically begins a day or so before Christmas and extends until the first weekday after New Year's Day.

Parents know that kids tend to reach for their devices when they have lots of time on their hands, and the holiday break from school is no exception. Children who receive new devices as holiday presents may be even more tempted to spend hours on end looking at screens. That temptation is understandable, but succumbing to it can be detrimental. A 2023 study published in the journal *Cureus* noted that excessive screen time can adversely affect academic performance and even reduce the frequency and quality of interactions between children and their caregivers. The study also found that excessive screen time can increase the likelihood of obesity, sleep disorders, depression, and anxiety.

Fewer hours of daylight, colder temperatures and the general lack of structure over holiday breaks can increase the chances kids reach for screens during the late-December break from school. But parents looking to fill kids' time with healthier pursuits can look to these screen-free ways to engage youngsters over the holiday break.

- Spend time in the great outdoors. It might be cold outside, but that does not mean families need to spend their entire holiday break indoors. In fact, parents can anticipate outdoor activities over the break and incorporate such recreation into their holiday shopping. When buying holiday gifts for kids, upgrade their outdoor gear. A new moisture-wicking base layer can be paired with hand warmers and glove liners to provide extra insulation for outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and ice skating. A chance to use their new gear may add to the excitement of spending time outdoors over the break.
- Incorporate board games into your daily holiday break routine. Board games have been popular pastimes for decades, and for good reason. The Australia-based Child Development Clinic notes that board and tabletop games offer a host of developmental benefits to children. Board games engage social skills such as cooperation and turn-taking, which are critical to kids' development. A 2016 study published in *The Journal of Mathematical Behaviour* also found that number board games help young children develop their early mathematical skills. Board games also can be incorporated into holiday gift-giving, and the chance to play a new game or games may excite curious kids looking for something to do during their break from school.
- Create New Year's-themed crafts. The excitement of the holiday season does not have to end once the presents are opened on December 25. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are fun days to look forward to once Christmas has come and gone. Some New Year's-themed craft projects can spark kids' creativity and even help them engage, maintain and strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills they're developing at school.

Screens fight for kids' attention over the holiday season break from school. But parents can incorporate various screen-free activities into their holiday break routines. – *MCG*



Small touches make a big impact in apartments

Decorations are among the most notable signs that the holiday season has arrived. Stores are decked out in garlands and lights, and a quick drive around one's neighborhood will reveal a bevy of festively decorated homes. Some people display a lawn full of inflatables while others prefer a more subtle look of classic white lights wrapped around trees.

Apartment dwellers may wonder how they can make their abodes more festive for the holidays as well. Although not as visible to passers-by as single-family homes, apartments can still be decorated. Apartment dwellers can employ a few tips to maximize space and decorating potential.

- **Work within your existing square footage**. A large Christmas tree can take up a lot of real estate in an apartment. As an alternative, people can set up a slim, miniature or a wall-mounted tree.
- **Use damage-free mounting**. Landlords may have strict rules about what can or cannot be hung on walls. Nail-free adhesive hooks are an option to hang wreaths and lights to minimize damage.



- **String lights everywhere**. Lights can be strung around windows, mirrors or bookshelves to create a cozy glow.
- **Invest in pillow covers**. Instead of buying new pillows for the holidays, existing throw pillows can be tucked into holiday-hued covers.
- **Go with miniature details**. Decorating a small apartment is an opportunity to display small collections. An array of miniature trees or delicate glass ornaments on shelves is festive without overwhelming residents and guests, according to West Elm.
- **Utilize the balcony**. Apartment dwellers who have a patio or balcony can use it to enhance the holiday spirit. Dangling outdoor lanterns or string lights on the railing will add a touch of sparkle.
- **Pick cohesive colours**. A colour palette of two or three tones will help smaller rooms look organized instead of cluttered, according to Food52.
- **Bring in nature**. Even though an apartment may be in an urban area, that doesn't mean one can't enjoy a little nature. Display pine branches and real pine cones in vases to create an easy centrepiece.
- **Display a seasonal doormat**. A festive doormat is a simple way to spread cheer and welcome guests. It's also an inexpensive and impactful decorative item that can be used year after year.
- **Dress up windows**. Windows can be adorned with curtains that add a touch of glam or holiday colours. A simple string of lights across the curtain rod adds whimsy and illumination.

Apartments can be adorned in holiday finery with simple touches that won't overwhelm compact spaces. – *MCG*

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This decadent dessert is fit for a holiday feast



Feasts are a big part of the holiday season. In Canada, the holiday season kicks off with Thanksgiving, which is celebrated in October. Thanksgiving is synonymous with food, which also plays a prominent role in faith-based December holidays like Hanukah and Christmas.

Main dishes may garner the bulk of the attention at holiday dinners, but desserts might be the most anticipated component of the feast. When sitting down for a holiday meal with the family this season, hosts can meet guests' expectations and then some with this recipe for "Chocolate Mousse Cake With Raspberries" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Chocolate Mousse Cake with Raspberries

Makes 1 cake

- 4 8-inch chocolate cake layers, cooled and leveled (2 boxes cake mix)
- 1 cup good quality dark chocolate chips
- ½ cup warm water
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, plus additional for dusting
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 4 cups fresh raspberries
- 1 16-ounce tub chocolate buttercream frosting

1. Bake two box chocolate cake mixes per instructions on the box, yielding 4 total cake layers at 8" round.
2. Melt the chocolate chips in a double boiler or in the microwave in 20- to 30-second increments.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together the warm water and cocoa powder. Pour the mixture into the bowl with the melted chocolate and continue to whisk until smooth. Set aside.
4. In a separate large mixing bowl, or the bowl of a stand mixer, combine the heavy cream, powdered sugar, vanilla extract and salt. Using the whisk attachment, beat the mixture on medium-high speed until thickened and able to hold its shape, about 3 minutes.
5. Gently fold the chocolate mixture into the whipped cream using a rubber spatula, until just combined. Do not over-mix or the mousse will become deflated. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 2 hours.
6. Place the first cake layer on a cake board and spread ⅓ of the chocolate mousse on the cake. Gently press 1 cup of the raspberries into the mousse and continue to assemble by repeating the steps; ending with a layer of cake. Freeze the cake for about 10 minutes.
7. Remove the cake from the freezer and frost the entire cake with the buttercream frosting. Top with the remaining cup of raspberries and lightly dust with cocoa powder.

– *MCG*



Rotary report

Rotary Club of Westmount marks Remembrance Day



Piper Steve Laird played "The Lament" and "Amazing Grace."



Ron Zemancik, curator of the Royal Montreal Regiment, gave a history of the unit.



Former Rotarian John Donovan sang "O Canada."



Trumpeter Mike Cartile played the "Last Post" and the "Rouse (Reveille)" and led the Rotary Club of Westmount in two minutes of silence.

By Jennifer Ball

On November 11, just after the eleventh hour, the Rotary Club of Westmount honoured those who served in an event featuring personnel from the Westmount-based Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) and many others.

Rotarian Rod de Courcy-Ireland organized the event at Victoria Hall, which featured:

- former Rotarian John Donovan, who sang "O Canada,"
- Rod's son, Andrew de Courcy-Ireland, who read "In Flanders Fields,"
- Trumpeter Mike Cartile who performed the "Last Post" and the "Rouse (Reveille),"
- two minutes of silence for those who sacrificed for Canada, with special mention of the recent tragedy at CFB Wainwright in Alberta, where Sergeant Morgan Wong, Private Shaun Farrell, Private Aidan Goulding and Private Hayden Lykkemark of the Canadian Armed Forces lost their lives in a fire during training exercise on October 17,
- piper Steve Laird, who played "The Lament," sang part of "Amazing Grace" and then played all of it.

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Independent's holiday schedule

Issues: November 24, December 1 & December 8

No issues: December 15, December 22, December 29 & January 5

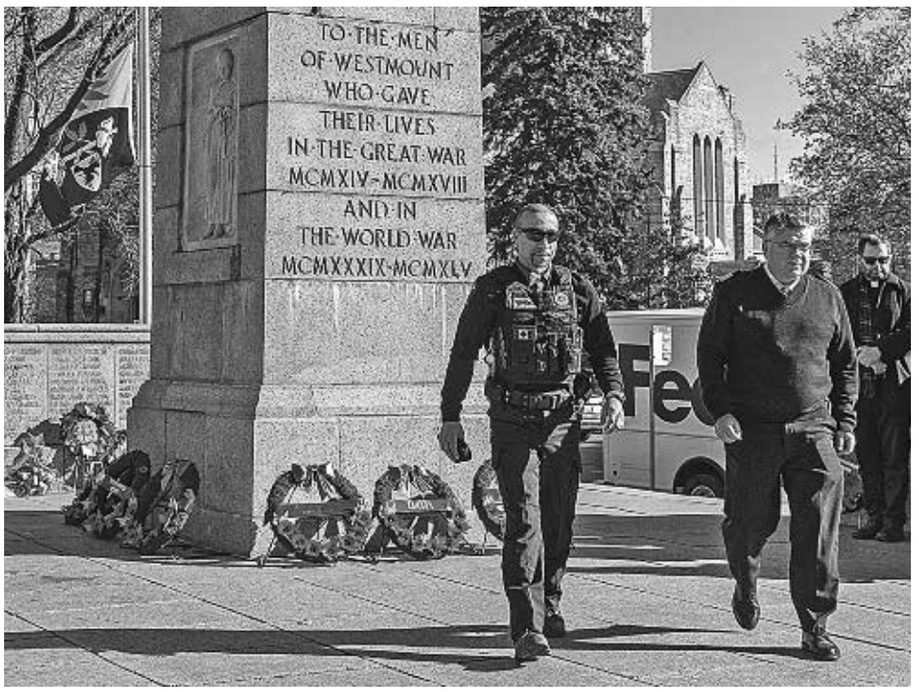
First issue of 2027: January 12

60 locals gather unofficially

Remembrance Day marked by residents on November 11



Remembrance prayers were read in English and in French by Rabbi Grushcow, left foreground, and the Reverend Point, right foreground. In the background, from left, are Reverend Wheeler, co-organizer Catherine Duff-Caron and co-organizer Wilfred de Freitas.



Greg McBain, Westmount's director of Public Safety, at right and a Public Safety officer after placing their poppies on the wreaths.

By Ralph Thompson

Just before 11 am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, known today as Remembrance Day or Poppy Day, a group of people gathered at the cenotaph in Vimy Park to remember and honour those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The service, now an annual event, was organized as usual by Wilfred de Freitas and Catherine Duff-Caron.

It also included Rabbi Lisa Grushcow from Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and the Reverend Patrick Wheeler and Reverend Morgan-Pierre Point from St. Matthias.

Others in the crowd were Greg McBain, Westmount's director of Public Safety, representatives from *HMCS Donnacona,* located at 3525 St. Jacques St. in St. Henri, and around 60 people from the general public.

In contrast to last year, when there was a substantial snowfall during the service, this year was a beautiful sunny day.

de Freitas opened the service just before 11 am with the reading, an extract from a poem by his old school friend Mark Britten, "Last Man Standing (Harry Patch)."

This was followed by two minutes of silence.

The Rev. Wheeler then read words from Laurence Binyon's "Ode of Remembrance," followed by Remembrance prayers in English and in French by Rabbi Grushcow and the Reverend Point. de Freitas then read John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields."

As the short service came to a close, the representatives of *HMCS Donnacona* stepped forward, paid their respects to the fallen and attached their poppies to the wreaths. Others followed.

The city had held its official event three days before (see November 10, p. 1).

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Rough retail reminiscences (February 2009)





These two stores on Victoria Ave. below Somerville were empty.



Bead Emporium on Victoria Ave. had been closed since September 2009.







Three stores were for rent on the south side of Sherbrooke St. between Prince Albert and Claremont.





Two more stores were for rent on the south side of Sherbrooke St. between Prince Albert and Claremont. As previously reported, Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger (which became Fine Art of the Americas) had relocated to 3944 St. Denis.



This site was for rent on the north side of Sherbrooke between Claremont and Prince Albert.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT

What a difference 17 years makes! (November 2026)



These shops on Victoria below Somerville have generally been rented out in recent years, although the unit that once housed the "Cabinet d'avocats" recently became available. It is hard to line new photos up with the 2009 ones because some of the units have been merged.



The former Bead Emporium site at 368 Victoria has also normally been rented out in recent years, mainly to Foot Solutions, which is now just up the street at 386 Victoria. As previously reported (October 20, p. SL-22, January 27, p. 14), Crux Comptoir was closed by October after opening late last year or early this one.



The former Madame Pompadour site at 4910 Sherbrooke St. now houses Le Fournil, which was in business on Victoria Ave. in 2009.



Vilebrequin and Audio Centre Ouest now occupy 4912 and 4914 Sherbrooke. Environnement Électronique is now on the north side at 4879 Sherbrooke.



The Amalia Portuguese restaurant is now open at 4922 Sherbrooke St.



The Winvestor real estate agency, O'Way Coiffure Spa and Cotard chocolatier are now at 4926 Sherbrooke.



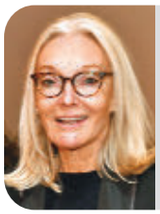
Natalie Beauté and La Cucina di Tony are now at 4928A and 4928B Sherbrooke.



Must and Continental Antiques are now at 4909 Sherbrooke St.

All photos taken November 12, 2026 by the Independent.

A dream come true – by mixing Japanese, Italian and French cuisine



Retail Review

Veronica Redgrave

Along with the glamour of social evenings, it is great fun to discover local dreams.

I met with Jiseok Yoon, owner of Moku. "It has always been my dream to have my own restaurant with my own menu."

And his dream has come true. His concept of "a Japanese bistrot – authentic Japanese with a touch of Italian and French" – is already a foodie destination. He is Korean, but his creativity is global. "We do serve sushi and sashimi, but my adaptations seem to be ordered the most."



Moku offers ramen with sushi, for example. His cream linguini with Japanese broth is a wonderful mouthful. The miso butter spaghetti is the "most popular" with its mix of cod, white miso and dashi, an umami-rich soup stock. The *komo muneniku* (duck breast) is highlighted with miso mustard with accents of green onion and parsley.

Always a dessert fan, I loved the signature matcha Basque cheesecake, especially its home-made strawberry jam.

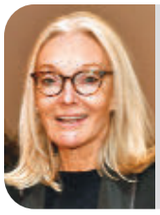
The cool space has its own vibe. Not only was the quiet jazz an inviting relaxation after avoiding construction cones, but the soft lighting and textured walls are the perfect backdrop to this special cuisine.

Even their cocktails are creative, often using *yuzo*, a Japanese lemon.

Diners also enjoy sampling Moku's Japanese whiskeys.

Moku, 4090 St. Catherine St.
(at Wood Ave./near Gladstone)
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Han kicks off Perehudoff exhibition



Art

Veronica Redgrave

Han Modern and Contemporary's vernissage eve featured abstract artist William Perehudoff (1918-2013). The Canadian Colour Field painter led the Emma Lake group, influencing the art scene in Saskatchewan for 60 years. That art movement synchronized with the Painterly Eleven in Ontario led by Jack Bush.

Perehudoff's geometric shapes glow with colour. In some works, a "halo" of another hue adds a lovely luminosity.

At the opening reception, gallery director Chloe Ng introduced the artist's daughter, Carol Perehudoff, who gave a presentation on her father's work.

An Ode to Woven Fields II. William Perehudoff Collected Works 1972-2003 until November 28

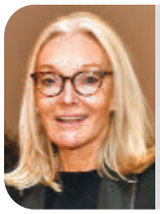
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Rebecca Perehudoff, Carol Perehudoff, Mark Simpson, Matthieu Gauvin, Chloe Ng and Spencer Magnan.

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Montreal Hunt club marks 200 years with equine-appropriate glamour



Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

The Montreal Hunt is the oldest hunt club in North America, founded in 1826 by British military officers. The recent Montreal Hunt ball celebrated its 200th anniversary.

Glamour is back. Formal gowns were gorgeous. There were columns of couture; billowing skirts and strapless and backless creations. Gentlemen wore black tie and hunting "pinks" (scarlet), frocks (tails), or short jackets. No need to cosplay Cotswold country: many of the ladies and gentlemen present rode with the hunt the day before.

Former master of foxhounds of the Montreal Hunt **Maurizio Favretto** welcomed guests with his wife **Claudia Favretto**, along with ball committee members **Murielle Laplante** and **Michel Hébert**. They were joined by **Richard Touchette** and **Roger Deslauriers**, current masters of the Montreal Hunt.

The historic *fête* at- *continued on p.30*



Hunt ball committee members Maurizio and Claudia Favretto, Murielle Laplante and Michel Hébert.



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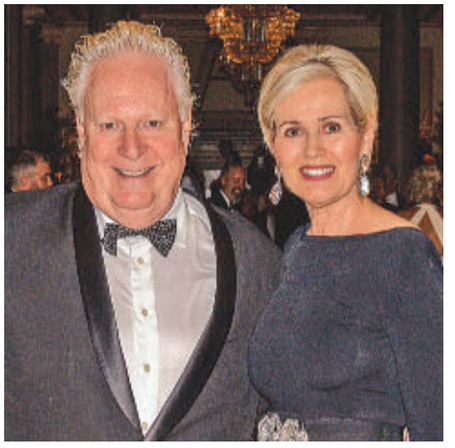
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Richard Touchette and Roger Deslauriers.



Jean Charest and Michèle Dionne.



Hélène de Kovachich and Pierre-Marc Johnson.

Social notes, *cont'd from p. 29*

tracted members of other hunt clubs including masters **Jennifer Yunger-Brown** and **Adam Brown** (Palm Beach Hounds); **Jennifer Stuart** and **Kirsi O'Connor** (Eglinton & Caledon Hounds), and **Christine Allard** (Lake of Two Mountains Hunt). (I rode with the Lake of Two Mountains Hunt, but I digress.)

Adding to the pageantry of the night, huntsman **Mark McManus** blew his silver English hunting horn to announce dinner.

Club whippers-in **Édouard Oger**, **Pénélope Rivest**, **Catherine Bouchard McManus** and **Antonin Rivest** were among the elegant guests. They assist the huntsmen by managing the pack of fox hounds.

Noted arriving were former Quebec premiers **Jean Charest**, with **Michèle Dionne**, and **Pierre Marc Johnson**, with **Hélène de Kovachich.**

Other guests included **Sibylla Hesse** and **François Godbout**, and judge **Richard Nadeau** and **Julie Bourbeau.** Most ladies wore Madame Chanel's favourite shade: black.

A nod to "hunting pinks" was displayed by **Lilliana Simpson**. Her fuchsia jewel-encrusted shawl-collar was a stand-out.

There was also a nod to the hunt's martial roots. The Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal) are a reserve reconnaissance regiment located at the Côte des Neiges armoury, located just northeast of Westmount. The links between the Hussars and the Montreal Hunt go back to the beginnings of the club. Initially, membership included many members of the British army and of Montreal-based volunteer cavalry units, forerunners of the Hussars.

Modern-day Hussars present at the ball were honorary colonel **Marie-Claude Jarry** and her husband **Paul-André Martel** and honorary lieutenant-colonel **Marc LeBlanc** and **John Cochrane**, president the Montreal Cavalry Institute.

Among equestrians present was **Colleen Loach**, a three-day eventer who has competed for Canada at the Rio and Tokyo Olympics.

The evening included a presentation tracing the legacy of the hunt over the centuries. The beautifully designed program book included a citation praising former club master **Roland Désourdy** (1917-2011), the entrepreneurial visionary who founded Bromont, where the Montreal Olympic Games were held in 1976. His legendary enthusiasm for the equestrian world helped bring renown to the Montreal Hunt Club.

MC for the ball was **Joe Cacchione**.

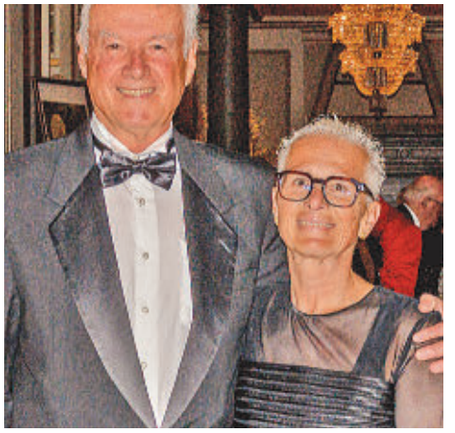
Guests danced off the gourmet dinner thanks to the Chacra Crooner ensemble and The Shine Group.



Jennifer and Adam Brown of the Palm Beach Hounds.



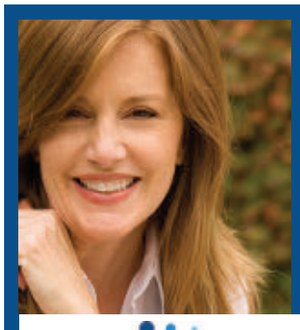
Mark McManus.



Richard Nadeau and Julie Bourbeau.



Marie-Claude Jarry and Paul-André Martel.



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JILL PRÉVOST

EVERY HOME HAS A STORY...

For over twenty-two years, you've welcomed me inside,
And trusted me to guide you through life's ever-changing tide.
From first-time keys to cherished homes, new beginnings and goodbyes,
I've learned that every home holds stories that money can't buy.

A home is more than brick and stone, more than rooms and stairs,
It's Sunday suppers, laughter, love, and all the life it shares.
Though keys may change and new adventures wait beyond the door,
The memories made within those walls are yours forevermore.

To every client, friend and neighbour who has placed their trust in me,
And those who've shared my name with others, thank you endlessly.
Your confidence and kind referrals have meant more than words can say,
You've made this journey special, and I thank you every day.

As another year comes to a close, I look forward to what's new,
Whether buying, selling or planning what's next, I'll be here for you.
May the year ahead bring happiness, good health and cheer,
And thank you for being part of my journey this year!

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