

Sign-up for spring Sports & Rec activities starts soon

Registration opens February 10 for residents, one week later to all

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A harbinger of spring is on the doorstep.

On the heels of the city's winter carnival, Westmount Sports and Recreation's registration opens February 10 for activities running from April to June. This is a one-week headstart to give residents a first chance before remaining spaces open to all.

"As the seasons change, Westmount comes alive with opportunities to connect, stay alive and embrace community spirit," states Culture, Sports, Recreation and Social Development director Dave Lapointe in the 2026 spring booklet. "There's not a shortage of ways to make the most of your time in our vibrant city."

Many of the favourite programs such as

tennis lessons provide numerous time-slots, for example.

2026 card required

The online registration for youth, adults and seniors requires a 2026 registration card from the Westmount recreation centre office. Last year's expired the end of December.

Listings for youth programs start with babies from 6 to 18 months. Some of the other courses include instruction in baby-sitting, classical ballet for ages 3 to 12, cycling and "street smarts," staying safe, flag football, spring recreational hockey, and soccer for boys and for girls.

Activities geared to adults

Among three pages of activities geared to adults *continued on p. 16*

It's never cold at the rink



Westmounters Carly (left) and Mat (right) were skating around the beautifully decorated Westmount Park skating rink January 30 with Ontario visitors Tim and Shelby. The temperature was -16°C but with the wind chill factor it felt like -28°C.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Support goes back to 2019

City again chooses Resilience Montreal for its provincial 'FQIS' money

BY JENNIFER BALL

At the January 13 regular city council meeting, a motion passed for a \$46,779 distribution to the homeless day shelter Resilience Montreal. It was proposed by District 4 councillor Gurveen Chadha.

Resilience Montreal currently rents 4000 St. Catherine, the former site of the Miso restaurant and, before that, a McDon-

ald's franchise. The future site of the shelter is at 780 Atwater Ave. in St. Henri about halfway between Westmount and the Atwater Market. That building is currently still under renovation.

On January 23, Mugisha Rutishisha, director of communications at the city, explained that the money came from the Fonds québécois d'initiatives sociales (FQIS), *continued on p. 16*

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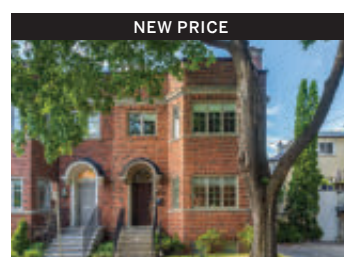
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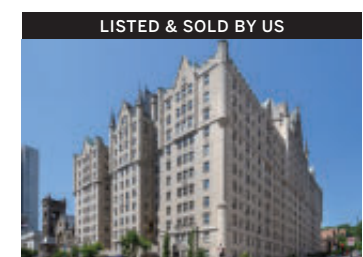
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Ass't director Colquhoun: Seniors can join 'Bonjour Westmount' registration/phone program

Public Security preparing care packages to help those on the street

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Now that Public Security's holiday campaign for food and other household essentials has officially concluded, people are continuing to donate items to help people living on the street to weather the cold.

"We have been receiving many items to help people on the street," said assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun.

Among some of her suggestions are warm socks, hygiene products for men and women, \$10 Tim Horton vouchers, chocolate bars and Lipsyl – "things our public safety officers can give out."

Program for seniors living alone

At the same time, she is issuing a reminder for older residents about the value of the "Bonjour Westmount" help line. This is aimed at



those living alone, for which they can register for daily phone check-up calls (see story July 6, 2021, p. 9).

A recent incident underlining the value of this program, Colquhoun said, is a report about an 80-year-old woman living alone who fell in the bathroom of her locked home the night of January 24 before the recent major snowstorm.

Unable to move to summon help, the woman, who had registered for the program's daily call service in conjunction with the Contactivity Centre, was discovered when public safety officers managed to provide access to the home using a key secured at the station. Urgences Santé was able to take her to the hospital.

◀ A sample care package from Public Security.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

Police Report

It's cold! Crime down, safety checks on homeless up

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While the intense cold enveloping the greater Montreal region in recent weeks has left many Westmounters struggling to stay warm, it has produced at least one positive result: a reduction in local crime.

According to Cst. Mike Yigit, the community relations officer at the Montreal

Police's Station 12 on Stanton St., the cold has slowed activities down in general, including those of criminals.

"There aren't that many people outside," he said. "There are less people going out and walking around. I would say less action overall."

That said, officers from Station 12 have found themselves being called upon more often during the current cold snap to do safety checks on homeless individuals who are dwelling on the city of Westmount's eastern fringes near Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St.

"We have been asked to go there and check up on people to see if they are in need of any of the resources available to them," said Yigit.

Land Rover stolen

In the meantime, the only recent criminal incident on file at Station 12 was the theft of a vehicle.

Around mid-day on January 28, a Land

Rover SUV was reported stolen from a parking spot on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Roslyn Ave.

There were no signs of forced entry, according to a report filed by the investigating officer.

Belvedere investigation continues

Regarding the controversial theft of art works from a Belvedere Circle home in late December, the police had no additional information last week and it remained under investigation, according to Cst. Yigit.



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Letters, p. 6

Dodge on August real estate transfers, p. 14

9 Lives, p. 19

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 19

City views: Warren Allmand
Waiting Room, p. 20

Social Notes:

Au Contraire for UP House, p. 21

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS FOR THE
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Compliments and thanks to Hydro Westmount for keeping our lights on during last week’s brutally cold spell. While others were suffering, the crews at our power stations obviously were working overtime to keep us citizens safe and warm.

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THANKS FOR HELP STOPPING
MIDNIGHT GARBAGE TRUCK

A huge shout-out to District 8 city councillor Kathleen Kez and Westmount Public Security.

For the past year, a rogue garbage truck has roared into the lane area behind 5 Saisons. At 2 am, the strident reverse beeping noise wakes up residents in the area. Did I say 2 am?!

The many times people have called Public Security, it has been too late. By the time they get there – even quickly – the truck had sped away, rushing the wrong way down Olivier.

However, thanks to calls made to Kathleen Kez, on Thursday morning [January 29] at 2:30 am, the Public Security team was on site. The truck left – hopefully to now only be noted in the daytime.

Thank you, team Westmount!
VERONICA REDGRAVE, OLIVIER AVE.

Editor’s note: Redgrave is a columnist for the *Independent*. – DP.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT
OF DRAMATIS PERSONAE –
DEDICATED SPACE WOULD
LET US DO MORE

Thank you, citizens of Westmount, for coming out in droves last weekend to see a sparkling performance of *You Can’t Take It With You*, a comedy written in the 1930s by Moss Hart and George Kaufman.

All four performances were sold out, showing there is definitely an audience hungry for good theatre in Westmount. Dramatis Personae has been Westmount’s community theatre, feeding this hunger, since 1985. It is currently directed by Marissa Blair and coordinated by Sid Wilson, and offers two productions each year.

We are grateful to the city for giving us rehearsal and performance space in Victoria Hall, but of course there is so much demand for the use of the concert hall that we are limited in the number of performances we can offer.

Wouldn’t it be amazing if Westmount had a small dedicated theatre space that could also be a concert hall? Here’s a challenge to our new council – and indeed a challenge to all lovers of the arts in Westmount.

Let’s get creative!
ANN ELBOURNE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

It’s warmer in the sun



Early morning in King George (Murray Hill) Park February 1, it was a beautiful sunny -15°C day (feeling like -22°C), with barely a soul in sight except for Evita and Fiona. They were enjoying the spectacular view south towards Nuns’ Island, the St. Lawrence River and beyond. “It’s quite warm here,” said Evita, who runs a community centre in NDG. Along with her friend Fiona, an art therapist, they try to walk from NDG to the park every weekend.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Greenland



Someone was showing support for Greenland on January 31 on Greene Ave. below de Maisonneuve. Current US president Donald Trump has recently shown an interest in acquiring the island, which is a district of Denmark with both some self-rule and representatives in the Danish legislature.

PHOTO: TED SANCTON.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Motorists' behaviour improving?



At left, at the corner of St. Catherine St. and Park Place, drivers often stop such that they block the entire pedestrian crossing. "Should this be considered a slight improvement???" asked local resident Sam Beitel upon submitting this January 22 photo of a stopped car. At right, the Westmount parking inspector in the white car honked and wagged a finger at the dark van January 27, persuading the driver from proceeding east against de Maisonneuve's one-way at Prince Albert. It is seen here going west after changing direction.

PHOTO COURTESY OF S. BEITEL, LEFT, AND INDEPENDENT.

Public Works employee passes away

A Public Works employee died recently, "outside of work," according to a news release on the city's website dated January 29.

The news affected the city's snow-removal teams and snow loading operations were suspended that day. According to the headline of the same release, work resumed January 30.

The city extended "its condolences to the family and loved ones." – WI.

Man dies in bathroom near Stayner Park

A man was found dead in the public bathroom near Stayner Park January 31.

A witness saw police cars, an ambulance and a hearse on site there that day. Montreal police spokesman Jean-Pierre Brabant confirmed to the *Independent* by telephone February 2 that a man, aged 35, had been found dead there. He also said that "no criminal element" to the event had been uncovered and that an autopsy would be done to confirm the cause of death. – WI.

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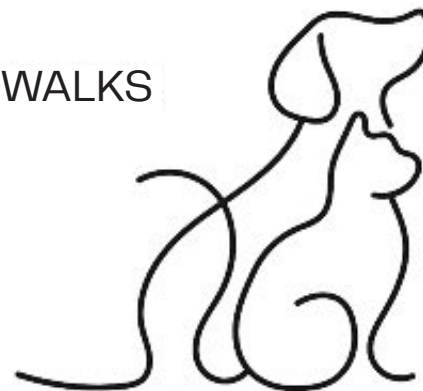
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Hockey player for December

Tabitha Woo: ‘Steady, reliable’ goalie for Wings on new partnership team

By Laureen Sweeney

This hockey season marks “an exciting new chapter with the introduction of a girls’ hockey partnership between Westmount, Montreal West, and Côte St. Luc,” said Westmount’s Alyssa Sherrard, sports coordinator.

This partnership is at the levels of M12 and M15 created to offer more opportunities for girls playing hockey in Westmount by providing them with more ice time, Sherrard explained. “With this partnership, we have gone from two to five teams,” she explained. “They compete all over the island but Westmount is their home base where they practise and play home games.”

Tabitha Woo, a Westmount resident, had come from hockey in Montreal West and “has quickly become a steady, reliable, and valued presence in net for the girls M12AF Wings, making an immediate impact both on and off the ice,” Sherrard said.

“As a result, we are proud to recognize Tabitha Woo from the M12AF Wings team as our December ‘player of the month.’”

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.



Started with Montreal West

Woo “began her hockey journey at just four years old with the Montreal West Knights. Her passion for the game continued to grow through girls-specific clinics in 2022, where she found her calling in net. By the following season, Sherrard says, she fully embraced the goaltending position with her M11 team, quickly developing a love for the crease.”

Now, as the full-time goaltender for the Westluc Wings M12AF, Tabitha is described as having played “a key role in several team victories this season. She has delivered big saves in crucial moments, earned multiple shut-outs, and consistently given her team the confidence to compete.”

As well, “her positive attitude, strong work ethic, and ability to rise to the occasion make her an exceptional teammate and competitor.”

Proud of local growth

“I’m proud to see how far girls’ hockey has come locally,” said Andrew Maislin, Westmount’s division head of operations and sports facilities, who initially created the

continued on p. 19



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The owl of Minerva flies at dusk



This eastern screech owl, *megascops asio*, spent the entire day of January 28 perched and sleeping in the climbing hydrangea that grows along a garage wall on Melbourne Ave. As dusk arrived, it became active: preening, and cleaning its feet, underneath its wings and parts of its back. "Then, it flew off – without a sound," as photographer Lisa Osterland put it poetically.

PHOTO COURTESY OF L. OSTERLAND



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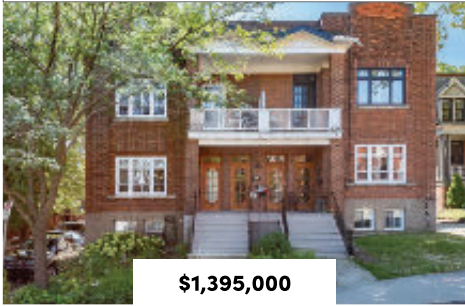
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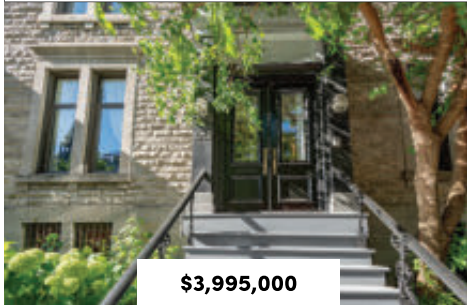
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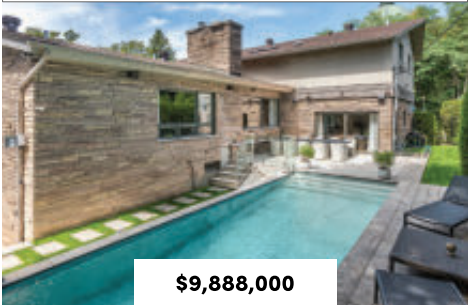
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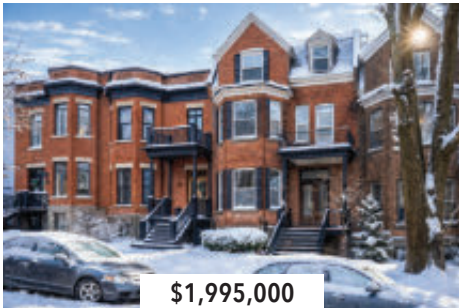
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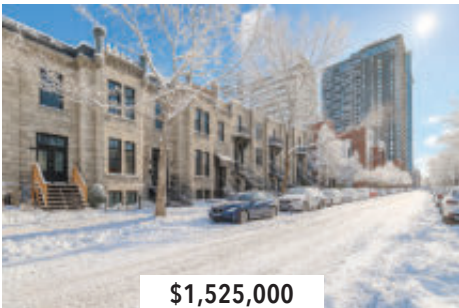
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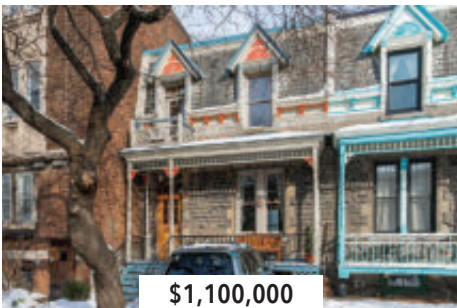
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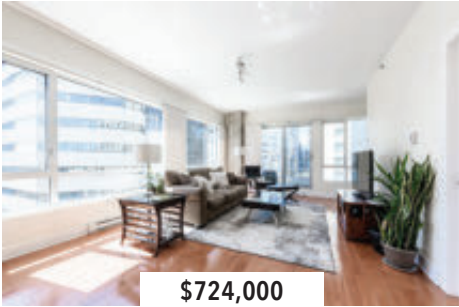
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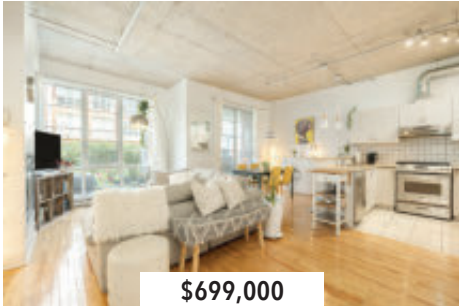
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CITY OF WESTMOUNT

BEHIND THE NUMBERS: 2025 VS. 2024 REAL ESTATE TRENDS

Westmount’s real estate market in 2025 demonstrated resilience and balance amid shifting conditions. Detached homes recorded 45 sales (+13%), while semi-detached and row houses remained a standout segment with 118 transactions (+22%), supported by increased inventory. Condominium sales reached 80 transactions (+14%) despite fewer new listings, highlighting steady buyer demand in a tighter supply environment. While selling timelines lengthened slightly for detached homes, long-term pricing trends across all property types remain positive.

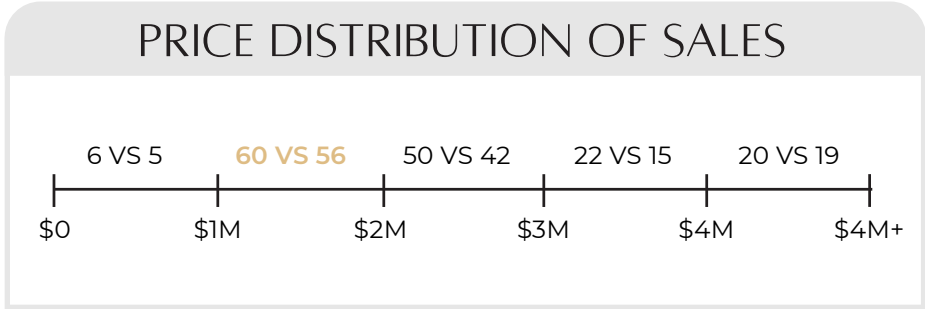
For sellers, strategic pricing and preparation are key to maximizing value in a more discerning market. Buyers continue to benefit from greater choice and negotiating opportunities, particularly in select segments.

With thoughtful guidance and local expertise, Westmount continues to offer strong long-term appeal for homeowners and investors alike. **Let our expertise in the luxury real estate market help you navigate this dynamic market with confidence. Contact us today to discuss how these trends impact your goals!**

NEW LISTINGS		
DETACHED	SEMI / ROW HOUSES	CONDOS
97 + 11%	204 + 25%	157 - 5%

NUMBER OF SALES		
DETACHED	SEMI / ROW HOUSES	CONDOS
45 + 13%	118 + 22%	80 + 14%

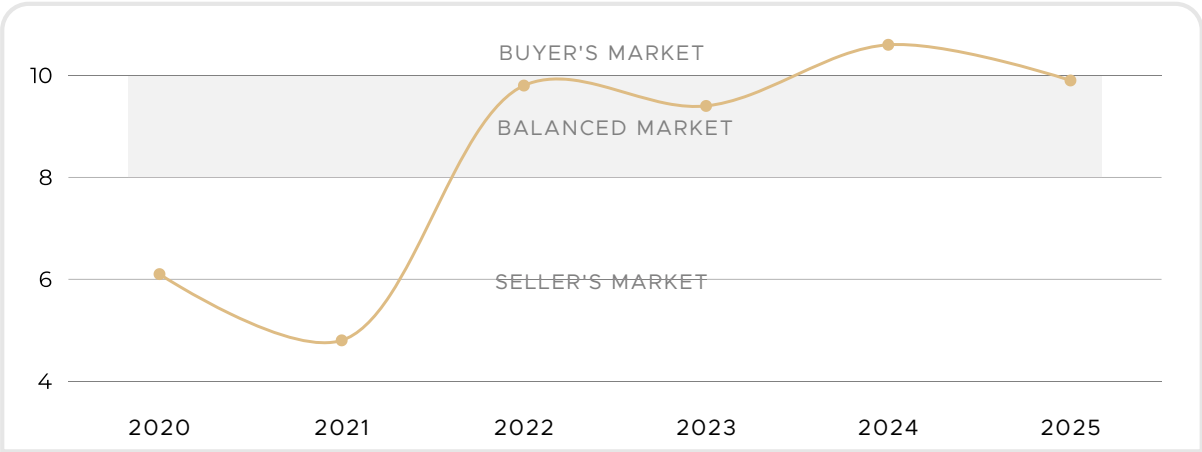
MEDIAN # OF DAYS ON THE MARKET		
DETACHED	SEMI / ROW HOUSES	CONDOS
103 + 32%	50 - 21%	16 - 29%



MONTHS OF INVENTORY


— SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

MONTHS OF INVENTORY-BASED PER MONTH & CALCULATED WITH THE YEARLY MEDIAN



* MONTHS OF INVENTORY SHOWS HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO SELL ALL THE HOMES CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET.

LOW INVENTORY FAVORS SELLERS, HIGH INVENTORY FAVORS BUYERS, AND THE MIDDLE RANGE MEANS A BALANCED MARKET.



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2025. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

Two more \$5-million-plus sales found their way to the August real estate sales in Westmount last year, as 18 homes changed hands, down from 22 sales in July and 23 and 25 in May and June, respectively, but much stronger than any of the first four months of 2025 or the average 11.25 sales per month between 2022 and 2024.

Top price last August was \$6,200,000 for 25 Bellevue Ave., perched on a hill reaching up from the zig-zag street, which had been heavily advertised for almost a year, asking \$6,850,000 to \$6,950,000 but with a municipal valuation of only \$3,453,400. Its 79.5-percent mark-up was the highest of the month.

The lowest price in August involved the tiny house at 100 Abbott Ave. directly oppo-

August transfers: Prices up, volume strong



100 Abbott.

site the CPR right-of-way, which sold for \$876,500, only the fourth Westmount house to sell last year – as of August – for less than \$1 million. The sale of 606 Lansdowne from an estate for \$2,175,000 rep-

resented the biggest mark-down of the month at -14.7 percent.

Overall, the average price of the 18 single-family sales was \$2,529,822 – just slightly less than the average price for the

year – but, with an average mark-up for the month of 12.1 percent, the “typical” Westmount house with a 2023 valuation of \$2,545,642 would theoretically be worth \$2,854,416.

This is considerably lower than the average price of \$3,033,818 in July or the adjusted average price of \$3,371,960, but that includes the \$15-million sale on Surrey Gardens, more than four times its valuation, which skewed the statistic for that month considerably.

Counting in the price on Surrey Gardens as well as the \$12,500,000 sale at 8 Forden Ave., in June, the average Westmount house value is definitely hovering around \$3 million. Prices have been moving up steadily at least since March and have now surpassed the late-pandemic levels of mid-summer 2022, but we want to wait a bit longer before ensuring that the high prices are going to hold.

Condominium prices, too, allow for some eyebrows to be raised, particularly among penthouse apartments at 1 Wood Ave., where a huge apartment on the 19th floor brought its owner \$4,300,000, while



606 Lansdowne.



25 Bellevue. All photos January 29.

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a similarly-sized penthouse on the 20th floor sold from an estate for \$3,300,000.

Added to these were a second-floor apartment at 11 Hillside Ave. and a first-floor unit at 10 York St., for almost identical prices under \$600,000. For two months of the third quarter last year, the average mark-up was 10.3 percent above valuation, comparable to the August average for single-family dwellings.

The only other sale registered in August involved three lots in the basement of 1 Wood Ave., accessed by 4055 St. Catherine St., which sold for \$300,000. This is the third store unit in that under-building shopping area to sell in the past two years.

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in August

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
100 Abbott	Raisa Zaheeruddin	\$876,500	\$903,500	-3.0%
127 Abbott	Trevor Gillingwater & Ainsley Savage	\$1,325,000	\$1,451,400	-8.7%
1 Bellevue	Luisa Biasutti	\$2,700,800	\$2,468,700	9.4%
25 Bellevue	Brenda Katz	\$6,200,000	\$3,453,400	79.5%
418 Clarke	Ido, Tomasso & Matteo Wallach	\$2,025,000	\$2,043,400	-0.9%
400 Côte St. Antoine	Yaqui Guo	\$1,800,000	\$1,679,900	7.1%
71 Holton	9395-4154 Québec Inc.	\$3,692,500	\$2,620,000	40.9%
461 Lansdowne	Isabella Nicolini	\$1,750,000	\$1,845,200	-5.2%
606 Lansdowne	estate Max Kaufman	\$2,175,000	\$2,551,100	-14.7%
629 Murray Hill	Serge Gouin & Hema Patel	\$2,600,000	\$2,236,600	16.2%
23 Prospect	Claude Veilleux	\$1,002,000	\$1,124,400	-10.9%
62 Rosemount	David Smilow & Tracy Hecht-Smilow	\$5,000,000	\$4,416,500	13.2%
478 Roslyn	Michaela Helena Lincoln & Stephen Meltzer	\$3,175,000	\$3,462,400	-8.3%
475 Strathcona	Gregory Vit & Clare Tente Cottingham	\$2,930,000	\$2,665,300	9.9%
66 Sunnyside	Estate Pamela Stewart	\$2,750,000	\$2,599,200	5.8%
4746 The Boulevard	Sylvie Girard & Jean-Pierre Farmer	\$2,035,000	\$1,869,800	8.8%
707 Victoria	Huiyuan Wang & Jianyang Wang	\$1,850,000	\$1,807,400	2.4%
414 Wood	Christopher Marsh & Connie Cheung Marsh	\$1,650,000	\$1,412,700	16.8%
CONDOMINIUMS				
11 Hillside #201	Peter Lil Kam Wa & Nathalie Wan Kee Cheung	\$588,000	\$474,200	24.0%
1 Wood #1901	Adam Goldberg & Dinorah Gomez Rosales	\$4,300,000	\$3,550,000	21.1%
1 Wood #2001	Estate Sylvia Strulovitch	\$3,300,000	\$3,116,500	5.9%
10 York #104	Junli Cui	\$589,000	\$662,900	-11.1%
OTHER				
4055 St. Catherine #123	4318803 Canada Inc.	\$300,000	\$145,400	106.3%



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Westmount High/Dawson student Gerhard wins local Rotary’s 2025 ‘Service above Self’ award

By JENNIFER BALL

Former Westmount High School student Joy Gerhard won the Rotary Club of Westmount’s Service before Self award for 2025.

The award was given to her at the school’s graduation ceremony for the class of 2025, which took place on October 19 of last year. Westmount High is found at 4350 St. Catherine St. near Clarke.

Winning the award came as a surprise to her, Gerhard told the *Independent*. “I’ve been getting recognition [for my] leadership [work] that I did in high school but it’s always kind of shocking to me because I [have] imposter syndrome...

‘Happy moment’

“I cannot believe that – the anxious person that I was – was able to get out of my shell and do so many things. I am so grateful that I got the recognition and it was overall a really happy moment for me. I think it was one of my proudest moments.”

Gerhard’s leadership experiences started in her second year of high school at Westmount High when she joined the stu-



Joy Gerhard won the Rotary Club of Westmount’s 2025 Service above Self award. She is now a Dawson College student and was photographed at the entrance to the CEGEP on December 2.

dent council.

“I was not really sure what I was getting myself into, but I ended up loving the student council.

“I loved organizing different events at school and working with my team and brainstorming.”

At Westmount High, “CCQ” refers to the Chambre de commerce du Québec and it is linked to vocational and career-preparation streams. The head of the department is Dr. Sabrina Jafralie, who provided a statement on November 27 – via Karen Allen, who is a guidance counsellor at WHS – as to why Gerhard received the award.

‘Future leader’

Gerhard, she said, was a student who had shown “Immense growth, leadership, and potential throughout her time at Westmount High School...”

“I have had the privilege of witnessing her development both personally and academically, and I firmly believe she embodies the qualities of a future leader who is destined to make a profound impact in her chosen field of social work.”

Gerhard is now studying in the social services program at Dawson College and said she chose the field because “I’ve always wanted to build connections with people.”



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Resilience, cont'd from p. 1

which was was set up and is managed by the province’s Ministère de l’Emploi et de la Solidarité Sociale (MESS) as part of the Act to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion.

How Westmount acquired control of some provincial funds

“In 2018, the MESS and the ville de Montréal signed a five-year, \$44.75M funding agreement under the FQIS to subsidize local initiatives within the territory of agglomeration [of the island of Montreal].

“In July 2019, the method for determining the distribution of funding (based on several social and economic indices) changed, and a funding envelope of \$39,982 was attributed to Westmount for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

“The funding was renewed in 2023 in the amount of \$39,982...”

“In 2024, a new five-year, \$55M funding agreement was signed and a funding envelope of \$46,779 was attributed to Westmount for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028.

“Until 2025, this annual envelope was managed by the ville de Montréal, but funding decisions were made by Westmount. As of 2025, the funding management is now handled by Westmount.”

Westmount a longtime supporter of Resilience

Rutishisha explained that in 2019 Westmount council and administration decided that Resilience Montreal was addressing the greatest local need related to poverty and social exclusion in the city and that it should receive its funding envelope.

“It was decided that they would continue to receive the funds as their services were aligned with the requirements and criteria established by MESS.”

Rutishisha said that Resilience can use the funds in the best manner it sees fit to fulfill its mandate; however, it must submit a report that is reviewed by the city of Westmount and the MESS.

He said, “The city of Westmount and the ville de Montréal have a fund management agreement, and the city of Westmount and Résilience Montréal have a

Registration, cont'd from p. 1

are pickleball, tennis, recreational hockey, belly dancing, ballroom dancing, tai chi, total body workout, singing, boot camp and skating instruction. Listed as a new program for adults this year is co-ed recreational softball for those aged 18 and over taking place from May 1 to June 19.

Activities geared to seniors

Programs specifically for seniors include low-intensity and gentle movement. Some are offered over video link.

Indoor swimming

Special indoor swimming at the Westmount YMCA is also offered by the city at specific times also listed in the recreational program.

It is also explained that “persons with disabilities” who register for an activity “may have a companion attend with them at no cost, for which details may be obtained from the office at the Westmount recreation centre.”

Not lacing up



A small child's helmet and a large pair of boots were left strewn around the skating rink in Westmount Park January 19. Both looked in new condition. "There wasn't a soul in sight." The photographer placed them on a bench at the side of the skating area – an intentional or subconscious echo of Ken Danby's "Lacing Up" painting?

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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In Priests’ Farm area

Four-month laneway recycling collection trial starts February 4

By JENNIFER BALL

Laneway recycling collection in the de Casson-Barat-Holton sector, an area also known as “Priests’ Farm” after its one-time owners, the Sulpicians, is starting on February 4 for a four-month trial to evaluate the feasibility of permanent recycling collection in these two laneways.

District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie and District 6 councillor Paul Levine spearheaded the pilot project and answered the *Independent’s* questions on January 29 through a joint statement.

They were asked why recycling was previously relegated to the front of the house when garbage is already picked up in the back lanes in this area.

“Historically, recycling was collected from the front because previous contractors used trucks that were too large for our narrow alleys. While garbage trucks are compact enough to navigate these spaces,

recycling trucks are slightly bigger and therefore require more clearance...

“[But] our current [recycling] provider has smaller equipment that can technically access the lanes, though maneuvering remains a challenge. This pilot project allows us to test if these trucks can safely operate in the back – even if it requires slight encroachment on driveway entrances – to provide a more convenient service for residents.”

City deliberately trying at most challenging time

About 30 centimeters of snow have fallen in Westmount so far in the 2025-2026 winter season and February 2026 was chosen for the pilot commencement as potential snow accumulation in the lane needs to be analyzed to ensure that alley collection is sustainable year-round.

“We felt it was essential to test it during the most challenging season...

“By launching this pilot in winter, we can evaluate how snow accumulation and icy conditions affect truck maneuverability. If the service proves successful now, we can be confident in its long-term viability regardless of the weather.”

According to the councillors, many residents have asked if the city could conduct collections directly in the alleys. They said, “Unfortunately, this is typically not feasible as most of the city’s alleys are too narrow for recycling trucks to navigate...

“However, in the de Casson-Barat and de Casson-Holton sector, the width of the alleys may, *under certain conditions*, allow for truck access. The council wanted to determine if recycling collection in these specific alleys is sustainable in the long term – specially during the winter months – or if there are too many unforeseen obstacles that would prevent it from being successful.”

The city is tracking how often trucks

successfully navigate the lanes without missing collections, while documenting the frequency of obstacles – such as snow accumulation, parked cars or other objects – that may impede maneuvering.

Criteria

The councillors were asked what the next steps would be if the pilot meets their criteria for safety and reliability. “Our goal is to transition to permanent alley collection for this sector...

“We have informed residents that while alley access is the goal, it remains conditional on clear passage. If the laneway is blocked by obstacles or snow, neither the city nor the contractor can be held responsible for missed pick-ups, and materials will be collected the following week...

“However, regular curbside collection (at the front of the house) remains a guaranteed fallback to ensure no resident is left without service.”

Councillor Moss holds ‘meet and greet’

Snow clearing, roller garbage bins, city website raised from District 5

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

At a “meet and greet” coffee meeting for District 5 held January 28 by its council representative, Shawn Moss, at Victoria Hall, some dozen attendees reached out on a number of issues. This took place as snow operations continued after the significant snowfall that started overnight January 26.

Among concerns raised to Councillor Moss were snow clearing, garbage removal, and communication with the city concerning its new phone system as well as finding information on the revised website.

Concern: snow!

A major concern of snow removal came from Gina D’Angelo, manager of the Manoir Westmount seniors’ residence on Sherbrooke St. just east of Lansdowne. She explained how fully two days later the one-way east stretch had not been cleared. This resulted in a delivery truck becoming stuck January 28, leaving little space for other deliveries and requiring a tow truck to remove it. An Urgences Santé ambulance barely managed to squeeze by.

She later explained how the city’s large blue bins that had been issued were “impossible” to move in the snow.

As Cllr. Moss took notes, a resident spoke about the difficulty she had trying to navigate through the snow from a bus stop, requiring her to take “tiny steps like



Councillor Shawn Moss takes notes as residents speak at his “Meet and Greet” event at Victoria Hall January 28. Seated beside him is Gina D’Angelo, manager of Manoir Westmount, among other attendees.

this,” she explained holding her hands scarcely a foot apart.

Moss later told the *Independent* he was glad D’Angelo had attended. She “did indeed bring up the issue of snow clearing and salting around the Manoir.”

While “it is always a pleasure connecting with residents,” he said, “but an unexpected benefit of meeting in such a group setting was that the residents also met each other and were able to discuss the common issues that they share. Where several

people share the same concerns, the city will be better placed to know how to prioritize resources as well.”

More response

One long-time resident said she was pleased to receive “a lot more response” to questions after she had trouble finding the information on the website.

A resident of York St. pointed out extreme annoyance and disruption that had been going on from one project to another

over 25 years including varied work at the MUHC hospital site. “St. Catherine St. is a mess.”

Moss was also told that when callers are referred to Public Security, they are then often referred to Public Works. “You have no idea what we’ve been through.”

“I’m trying to get more communication,” Moss stated.

Some of those in attendance told the *Independent* they were pleased he had organized such an informal event.

Caramilk – more than a chocolate bar



9 Lives

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The Montreal SPCA is open every day, 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.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Ziggy is presently in a foster family for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoption, enjoying the home routine with playful affection. As a very healthy 13-year-old senior, he is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and has had recent dental care.

If you would like more information on

Playful Ziggy walks & cuddles



Ziggy, please do not hesitate to search the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoption website at www.gerdysrescue.org and Facebook site for Ziggy's information page, and more wonderful photographs after his grooming session this week.

The Gerdy's volunteers are also there to discuss your interest in adoption, remaining available at their email info@gerdysrescue.org. Ziggy is an elegant doodle, a family friend who is keen on activities and cuddling. A best buddy waiting to come home, please reach out and consider sharing your family life with him.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Hockey player, cont'd from p. 8

player of the month program, adding that "I'm even more excited about where this more unified, expanded model can take it next."

He said it's "especially meaningful to see this recognition happening within the context of the expanded approach to girls' hockey that brings together Mo West and CSL. For many years, the challenge in growing the girls' game has not been inter-

est or talent, but structure – making sure players have consistent pathways, strong competition, and the right developmental environment at every stage."

This collaboration, Maislin adds, "helps address exactly that. By broadening the base and aligning programs, we're able to create deeper player pools, better-balanced teams, and more appropriate levels of play. It also allows coaching resources, ice time, and organizational experience to be used more effectively, which directly benefits

the athletes. Just as important, it sends a clear message to young players and their families that girls' hockey here is not an add-on – it's a priority with a future."

Players like Tabitha, he explained, "are a great example of what becomes possible when the environment supports both skill development and a love of the game. Recognition at the monthly level not only celebrates individual effort, but also reflects the strength of the community and structure around these athletes."

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Queen Elizabeth Health Complex unveils Warren Allmand Waiting Room



City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Queen Elizabeth Health Complex (QEHC) recently unveiled the Warren Allmand Waiting Room to honour the legacy of the late Warren Allmand, former MP for NDG (1965-1997), federal cabinet minister and Montreal city councillor (2005-2009). In the first two roles, he played a prominent role in abolishing the death penalty in Canada.

He was a dedicated QEHC board member from 1997 until his passing in 2016. Joanne Mastro, board chair QEHC, and Marie-Laure Guillard, board member QEHC Foundation, welcomed guests, expressing gratitude to the donors whose generosity made the room possible.

They also acknowledged that the project was initiated by former board chair Miriam Green, who, along with a dedicated group of supporters, championed the idea of creating a meaningful tribute to Allmand.

The re-designed waiting room – featuring warm, calming colours, comfortable new seating and a playful hide-and-seek mural – will significantly enhance the patient experience at the QE Urgent Care “super clinic.”

The space was fully funded by donors reflecting QEHC’s unique position as a community-based health centre that receives no government support. Rose Allmand and her son Patrick officially cut the ribbon.

Among the many guests were David Birnbaum, former provincial legislator; Victor D'Alesio, QEHC Foundation board member; and Dr. Mark Roper, head of the super clinic.

▼ Rose Allmand and Patrick Allmand.



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 13th annual Au Contraire Film Festival gala was an inspiring evening of film,

Au Contraire film fest supports UP House

conversation and community in support of UP House Montreal. Themed “Everything in Between,” it was held at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Curated by **Cybil Geracimo**, the event invited the audience to reflect on the human experience – from struggle to resili-

ence, light to shadow, and all the shades that lie between.

After the buffet dînatoire, guests watched film screenings.

The eve opened with *Punter* directed by **Jason Maselle** and produced by **Spike Lee**; a powerful portrayal of human endurance

and compassion. Before the second feature, the audience enjoyed a comedy set by **Baron Vaughn**, whose quick wit and thoughtful humour about anxiety and modern life had the room laughing and reflecting in equal
continued on p. 22



Ricky and Carol Dimentberg, Barbara and Philip Silverberg.



Cybil Geracimo (ACFF Curator), Devon Reid (Paradis Urbain leadership), Jason Maselle (director, *Punter*), Baron Vaughn (comedian) and Wendy Lobel (director, *Anxiety Club*).

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Devon Reid and Ingrid de Rauglaudre.

Social notes..., cont'd from p. 21

His performance served as the perfect bridge to the Canadian premiere of *Anxiety Club*, a heartfelt, funny, and deeply relatable documentary that looks at anxiety through the lens of some of today's most insightful comedians.

Following the films, an engaging panel discussion brought together **Dr. Karl Looper**, chief psychiatrist at the Jewish General Hospital; directors **Jason Maselle** and **Wendy Lobel**, and Baron Vaughn. They explored the intersection of creativity and mental health, emphasizing how art and humour can help de-stigmatize mental illness and remind us of our shared humanity.

Speakers throughout the evening included **Lisa Bellevue**, executive director of UP House; **Grant Gellis**, UP House member and board member; UP House team members **Jennifer Fraea**, **Robert Lavigne** and **James Reid**.

They offered reflections on connection and purpose and the impact of UP House. Board leaders **Philip Silverberg** (vp) and **William Buchholz** (treasurer) of Paradis Urbain spoke to the community effort behind UP House's mission.

Noted in the crowd were UP House founders **Barbara** and **Phil Silverberg**, and the organization's new director of events and strategic partnerships, **Ingrid de Rauglaudre**, **Devon Reid**, **Carol** and **Ricky Dimentberg**, **Paula Pedicelli** and **Susan Pedicelli**, **Maria Pietracupa** and **Roberto Pietracupa** with his wife **Karin Bjornson**, **Addie Petronko**, former city of Westmount director general **Bruce St. Louis**, **Nancy** and **Allan Samberg**, **Naomi Sharp** and **Isaac Ruben**, **Jeanine** and **Marc Mintzberg**, **Bunnie Berke** and **Larry Lusko**, **Brian** and **Mirla Lambert**, provincial legislator **Elisabeth Prass**, **Remi Swidler**, and **Bernice** and **Larry Kaplan**.

Sponsors and partners were, diamond level: the Rossy Foundation, Eric & Sherri Kimmel Family Foundation and Otsuka/Lundbeck; and platinum level: Moore Portfolio Management, Bell, Harrison Family Foundation, Paul Sauvé, Groupe Kent, and Marlene Levenson & Mendy Ellen.

The night concluded with a delicious dessert reception featuring homemade cookies baked by UP House members in collaboration with **Leslie Hoppenheim**, whose family recipes added a personal touch to the celebration.

The festival gala raised \$125,000 in support of UP House Montreal. Guests left reminded that in an unpredictable world, it's "everything in between" that truly brings us together.

(PS: Another fabulous fashion eve planned this April 30! paradisurbain.org/upbeat-2026).



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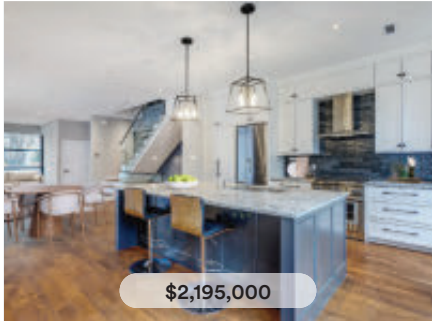


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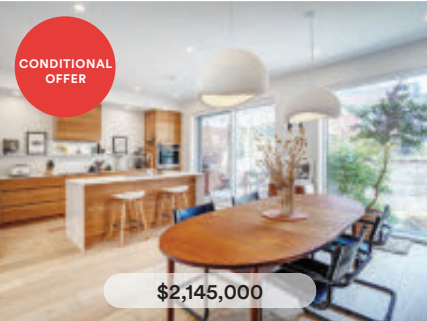


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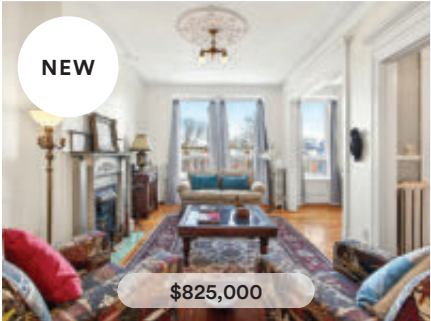


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