

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 20 No. 2c

We are Westmount.

February 17, 2026

YMCAs across province cutting back on programs

Group of Y users advocates to city – Mayor met with Y February 2

By JENNIFER BALL

A group of members of the Westmount Y who call themselves “the early birds” sent a letter to Mayor Michael Stern and Councillor Gurveen Chadha on January 16 expressing concerns about cut-backs to programming.

The Westmount Y is located at 4585 Sherbrooke and the building is owned and operated by the YMCAs of Québec. The “Westmount Y” is not an independent entity but a part of the YMCAs of Québec.

The letter to Stern reads: “We are writing to you because we are losing some vital community services at the Westmount Y and possibly the Y itself, and we are hoping that you can help...”

The letter also said, “It has come to our attention that staff, programs and services

have been cut due to budget constraints. Unfortunately, these actions affect many Westmount residents – children, adults and seniors – who have benefitted directly from these programs ...”

The *Independent* met with Ann McCall, a spokesperson for the group, on January 21 and asked why her group had reached out to the mayor when the Westmount Y is not governed by the city. She explained that it was “so that the mayor could have some input. We have the Westmount [Public] Library and it’s huge in Westmount, and it’s really important for the mind and the Y is [similarly important] for the body.”

The Westmount Public Library is a department of the city managed exclusively by it.

On January 30, Mayor Stern provided a *continued on p. 3*

Winter Carnival meant horses!



At the city’s Winter Carnival February 7, beautiful draft horses Nelly, left, and Max towed a sleigh around the King George (Murray) Park football field, their hot breath condensing in the cold air.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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City’s goal: Ensuring ‘protests, marches’ occur safely, lawfully

Cllr. Levine, Westmount’s public order commissioner, explains new position

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The new council commissionership position of “public order” created for District 6 councillor Paul Levine includes responsibilities not explained when the new commissioners were announced.

This was provided last week to the *Independent* by Levine, who had been mistakenly referred to last edition (p. 7) as commissioner of “law and order.”

The newly created commissionership, he explained, “is generally responsible for overseeing matters that relate to the peaceful, safe and orderly use of public spaces” – which does overlap somewhat with the city’s Public Safety department.

On the other hand, the commissionership of public safety – a position held for more than eight years by Councillor Kathleen Kez, including at present – remains un- *continued on p. 4*



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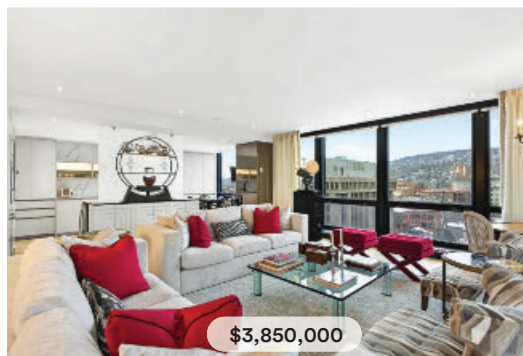
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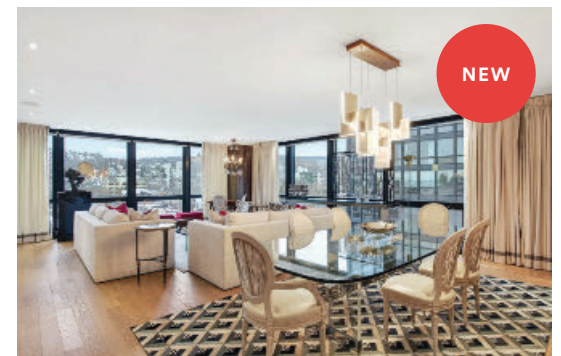
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Gifts to fight the cold



Public Security assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun receiving a gift of gloves and boots from Judith Philpott of Claremont to add to the unit's "unhoused kits" for homeless people during cold periods.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.



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During the recent cold emergency we have tried to answer calls and help everyone we could. To the people we helped to restart their boiler or clear ice from their air intake and exhaust pipes our agreement was that after the cold snap ends or after the heating season ends you will have the equipment verified to optimize its performance. This is your reminder.

YMCA, cont'd from p. 1

statement to the *Independent* that read, "The Westmount YMCA is an important part of our city, and our community values the diverse programs it offers our residents. I am meeting with the YMCA director general on Monday, February 2. This meeting will ensure that council and I have the necessary insights to make an informed decision moving forward."

On February 11, Mugisha Rutishisha confirmed that Mayor Stern met with Pascale Audette, the director general of the YMCAs of Québec, on February 2. No details of the meeting were released but the *Independent* hopes to follow up on whether gleaned insights turn into future action on the part of the mayor and council.

City, provincial context

The city and the Y already collaborate. The YMCA's TeenZone is a partnership between the city and the Westmount Y, and programming takes place inside the Westmount recreation centre.

Flavie Côté, senior director, communications and outreach at the YMCA of Québec, provided a statement on January 30 that pertains to the overall situation of the YMCAs of Québec, not only the Westmount location.

"[We] have been experiencing a period of significant financial and organizational pressure, generating major revenue shortfall in 2025 due to particularly tough operating conditions. Consequently, we've undertaken a complete review of our programs, processes and methods. The sudden revenue loss over the past year accelerated our timeline and required immediate action..."

"For several years, the YMCAs of Québec have expanded their offerings to better meet the needs of communities. However, this diversification, combined with an unexpected decline in our revenues, requires us to take significant measures to ensure our sustainability. Like many other organizations, we have announced the clo-

sure of:

- 11 of our 40 community programs,
- all our day camps (except Camp Kana-wana),
- as well as adjustments to our physical and aquatic activities"

Despite these difficult decisions, Côté said "76 percent of their current clientele will retain access to services."

Charitable vocation

He confirmed that the Y of Westmount has a charitable vocation in that its offerings are developed to meet the needs of communities.

Westmount Y programming cancellations include Westmount Y summer day camp for young children and the seniors exercise programming called "Wheelchair Weights."

Local operational hours pre-COVID were longer although Côté did not specify how many hours per week the Westmount Y has reduced its hours of operations, choosing to say instead, "The schedule evolves as demand increases."

Octogenarian breaks ankle in fall on Greene

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security was called February 9 to assist a woman who had fallen on the sidewalk of Greene Ave. just south of Sherbrooke and was found to have been assisted inside the lobby of an apartment building to keep warm while awaiting Urgences Santé.

She also had a caregiver with her along with people from a nearby restaurant.

It was reported that the woman's ankle had been turned at an angle suggesting it had been broken.

Officers cleaned and covered the open wound, and contacted Urgences Santé to update them and ensure an ambulance was already on the way.

The woman, who turns 85 in a couple of weeks, was subsequently transported to the Montreal General Hospital.



Looking northeast at the YMCA building on Sherbrooke St. at Arlington on February 13.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Knowlton, Lac Brome

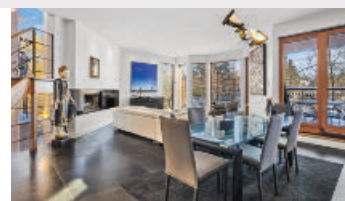
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KUDOS TO NEW ADMINISTRATION, CLLR. MOSS

What a difference a new administration makes.

Snow plows are passing more frequently to clear sidewalks in my area; subsequent snow removal seems more timely and efficient, without a caravan of trucks snaking its way through the street. Thank you, Public Works.

Kudos as well to D5's freshman councillor Shawn Moss, for organizing on a shoestring of publicity a forum for residents he aims to hold regularly. What a concept: a councillor who takes the initiative to hear what constituents have to say, instead of waiting for complaints. Each participant was welcomed at the table; that the session ran past the two hours scheduled indicates the pent-up need to air what is on our minds.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

TAX BILL LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED

Today's mail consisted of the *Westmount Independent*, a delight to read, and

- Letters, p. 4
- Police Report, p. 5
- Social Notes: Cedars ball, p. 11
- 9 Lives, p. 14
- Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 14

a brown envelope, always questionable, containing five pages concerning Westmount property taxes.

This tax bill is the most difficult tax bill that I have ever received and being a senior citizen, believe me, I have received many!

Also included was a form to contest this current tax bill, for a fee of \$340, non-refundable, I believe. (By including this last form, I expect Westmount is expecting a lot of property owners to contest their 2026 tax bill.)

I believe that I have finally understood these five pages of tax information sent to me, but surely Mayor Michael Stern and his Finance [department] could have made this bad news clearer for the average Westmount senior.

P.S. By allowing us to pay our Westmount property tax in three installments in no way softens the bill. It just means that we citizens must remember to pay three times in the coming year!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

Correction: Owl mascot is Findlay

Contrary to what we wrote last week (p. 11), the Westmount Public Library's owl mascot is named Sir Findlay Featherton. The very large bird is named after architect Robert Findlay, the library building's architect. – DP.

Public order, cont'd from p. 1

changed. It involves ongoing oversight of by-law enforcement, the work of the Public Safety department, liaison with agglomeration of Montreal police (the SPVM) and security at city events.

New commissioner explains

Levine said the new public-order commissionership involves four areas. These are: oversight of public events and demonstrations, public space management, emergency preparedness (non-operational oversight) and a liaison role with Public Security.

"While at first glance, the mandates of public safety/security and public order can appear to overlap," Levine said, "the commissioner of public safety [i.e. Kez] is linked to the city's safety-related services and functions, including public security, by-law enforcement, parking control, and related prevention and outreach activities. In this role, the commissioner provides political leadership and acts as a liaison with council and the administration [i.e. senior city employees] on matters relating to these services, which remain under administrative [i.e. city-employee] responsibility. "The commissioner of public order, by

contrast, is focused on policy and coordination relating to the use of public space and public activities. This role examines how gatherings, events and other activities interact with residents, businesses and municipal operations, and how the city coordinates its response within applicable legal frameworks and the rights that govern the use of public space.

"It does not involve operational or enforcement authority."

More details

More specific commissionership of public order duties include:

- Oversight of public events & demonstrations
 - Ensuring that "protests, marches, and large gatherings" occur safely and lawfully.
 - Coordinating politically with Westmount's department of Public Safety and agglomeration of Montreal police on event-related issues.
- Public space management
 - Policies related to noise, nuisance activities, street closures and orderliness in parks, streets and civic areas, which also continue to fall under the mandate of the commissioner of public safety.
- Emergency preparedness (non-operational)
 - Participating in planning for weather events, infrastructure failures and other disruptions affecting public order.
- Liaison role
 - Acting as a political link between citizens, Public Safety, police and emergency officials and the city administration.
- Policy and by-law development
 - Drafting or refining by-laws relating to public gatherings, disturbances, crowd management and use of use of municipal spaces.

What's in a name?

There has long been a wrinkle in how Westmount's own law-enforcement department is referred to. Before its merger with the city of Montreal in 2002 (which was undone in 2006), the city's "Public Safety department" comprised the Public Security Unit and the fire brigade. After de-merger, the fire brigade stayed merged with Montreal's and the city's entity has technically been the Public Safety department, but the terms "Public Security" and "Public Security Unit" are often used too, including by city officials and employees, and on the city's own website.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter: Laureen Sweeney

Graphics: Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Accounting: 514.223.6138

office@westmountindependent.com

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LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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Climbing snow at Winter Carnival



At the city's Winter Carnival February 7, three-year-old Lila, left, and five-year-old Vera were having lots of fun just climbing a large snow pile. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Police Report

Police suggest more robust public use locks after additional locker-room thefts

By MARTIN C. BARRY

In a follow-up to a recent string of locker-room thefts at a Westmount exercise gym, a police spokesperson at Station 12 is recommending gym users stay away from combination locks when stowing valuables and to use a key lock instead.

In late November last year, police from the station responded to complaints after the padlocks on three lockers at a Sherbrooke St. sports and recreation facility were sheared off and the locker contents stolen.

Among the personal items taken were wallets with banking cards and personal IDs, as well as cash and jewellery. The pre-

ventive advice of the police at the time was to not store key valuables in gym lockers and to leave them at home instead.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, there were three more locker break-ins last week. But what the investigators noticed this time was that they all involved the same type of combination lock.

Noting that videos on lockpicking techniques posted on internet sites like YouTube have made it easier than ever to break into lockers, he suggested that extra precautions have become necessary when stowing belongings at the gym.

He said the investigators found that all the recent incidents involved Master brand

combination locks. While maintaining that a key lock would probably be more secure, he suggested some other steps to be taken.

"Obviously, the first thing is don't bring expensive valuables when you go to the gym," said Yigit. But if storing belongings is absolutely necessary, he recommends using a locker in an area where there's a lot of foot traffic, rather than in a locker room where there is far less supervision.

BMW stolen

Station 12 received one report of a car theft last week.

During the late evening of February 8, the owner of BMW X3 compact luxury crossover SUV who had parked in the Westmount recreation centre parking lot while playing in a hockey match returned after the game to see that the vehicle was missing.

However, in a demonstration of the value and effectiveness of on-board vehicle tracking systems, he was able to locate and recover the car in neighbouring St. Henri within around 20 minutes.

All ages attend Winter Carnival



At the city's Winter Carnival February 7, Carlos Oliverra and his partner Ivah with their two-year-old daughter Ilai were enjoying all the outdoor activity.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Westmounters mark World Cancer Day at Victoria Hall

By Martin C. Barry

For World Cancer Day on February 4, the Cedars Cancer Foundation and Cedars CanSupport hosted “United by Unique,” a hybrid public lecture at Victoria Hall, focused on patient-centered care and personal stories.

The event featured, among other things, a McGill University Health Centre oncologist and highlighted 10 years of the Bell Fund.

This year marked a decade since the inception of the Bell Fund, a program founded by Westmounter Judy Martin. In 2012, after being diagnosed with stage-3 breast cancer, she fought back.

During chemotherapy treatments, she realized that no one did anything to help cancer patients celebrate the end of their treatments. To Martin, that didn’t feel quite right.

Following an example set at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto where there was a longstanding bell-ringing tradition, she brought the idea to Montreal.

On another note, the Bell Fund provides comfort kits to newly diagnosed patients. Over the last 10 years, it has supported more than 12,000 patients at the Cedars



From left, speakers during the World Cancer Day event on February 4 in Victoria Hall included MUHC surgical oncologist Dr. Sinziana Dumitra, recovered cancer patient Alex Villalta, Bell Fund founder Judy Martin, Cedars CanSupport co-director Anna Burgos, MUHC’s director of supportive and palliative care Dr. Justin Sanders, Cedars CanSupport co-director Virginia Lee and Cedars Cancer Foundation CEO Jeff Shamie.

Cancer Centre.

“This really is a chance for folks to get together and for us to come to Victoria Hall, the Westmount connection,” said Westmount city councillor Jeff Shamie for District 3, who is CEO of the Cedars Cancer Foundation.

“Since this is our tenth anniversary, this is an opportunity for me tonight to express my gratitude to everybody involved,” Martin said in an interview with the *Indepen-*

dent prior to speaking.

“You know, the patients deserve to not feel alone,” she added. “People ask me what is the biggest benefit to the patients. And I think it’s that they feel cared for and many of them say to us, ‘I don’t feel alone. I feel that somebody’s on my side.’”

Another of the evening’s speakers, Dr. Justin Sanders, the MUHC’s director of supportive and palliative care, agreed that an outcome perhaps worse than not being

cured of cancer is to feel forgotten within the system.

“There are people who come to the end of their lives with cancer who say, ‘I feel like a number through much of my experience – I felt like I wasn’t really understood for what was important for me,’” he said.

However, others don’t always react the same way, he added, and feel their treatment provided an opportunity to relate to other people as they never had before.

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Repeat of 2025 motion

Council grants \$40,000 to city’s two merchant groups

By Jennifer Ball

City council February 3 awarded grants of \$40,000 each to the city’s merchant as-

sociations. These are the Quartier Greene association in the east-end and the Victoria Village Merchants’ Association in the west-end.

The proposal was moved by city councillor Paul Levine, whose commissioner-ship includes liaison with merchants’ associations. The two merchant groups submitted a higher request, for \$45,000 each for 2026.

In 2025, they each received \$40,000 at the January 2025 council meeting (see January 21, 2025, p. 12, December 9, 2025, p. 19).

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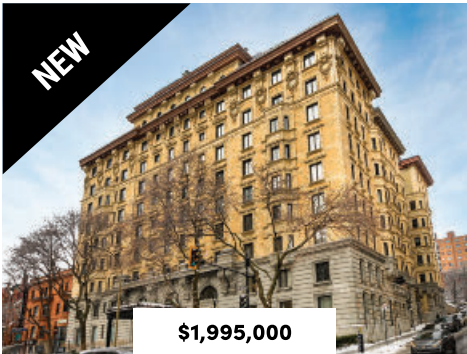


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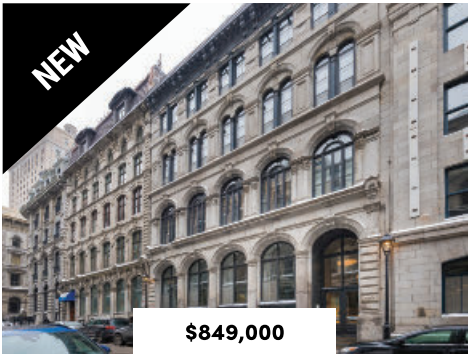


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Mt. Pleasant-Holton update: It's hard out there for a fence
Green fence broken down within days, then encased by city in metal fence

By JENNIFER BALL

The entrance to the staircase connecting Holton Ave. and Mount Pleasant Ave. was closed for precautionary reasons in April 2025 with a Jersey wall, and a green snow fencing was added on February 5, presumably to impede anyone from using the closed stairs.

The fencing could not have served its purpose for long because within days of installation it was broken and tamped down at both streets' access points.

As a result, on February 16 a third barrier was installed, namely metal fencing that bears the following message from the city: "Stairs Closed. Due to deterioration of supports. For your safety do not use. Repair works scheduled to begin soon."

As the *Independent* reported on February 10 (p. 5), pedestrians have been using the stairs despite the concrete barrier and the lack of snow shovelling. The *Independent* observed on February 10 that the stairs have also accumulated ice, making it a slippery chute.

On February 5, Mugisha Rutishisha, director of communications for the city, told the *Independent* that "The city aims to begin work in the spring. The Public Works department is currently finalizing the procurement requirements. Until a contract is awarded, we cannot provide a specific timeline or start date."



The staircase connecting Holton Ave., left, and Mount Pleasant Ave., right, on February 10 and February 16 (insets).

Mayes joins city's PAC

By JENNIFER BALL

During the February 3 council meeting, the motion carried that Sophie Mayes be appointed as a member of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), effective February 6, for a one-year term.

Clement Demers, David Hanna, Ryan Karasick and Karen Ann McCauley were

re-appointed as members of the PAC, for two-year terms, pursuant to By-law 1575.

Karasik was appointed as chair of the PAC effective February 6 and McCauley appointed vice chair.

The *Independent* reached out to city communications director Mugisha Rutishisha on February 9 to arrange an interview with Mayes, who is an architect (OAQ) and urban planner with over 25 years of experience in project management and development, but there was no response from her in time for the *Independent's* print deadline.

Remuneration

In reply to a question by the *Independent*, on February 12 Rutishisha explained how PAC members are remunerated.

He said, "According to articles 18 and 19 of By-law 1575, PAC members are entitled to an attendance fee of \$500 for each session they attend. Furthermore, members may be reimbursed for expenses related to their official mandate, provided such actions received prior authorization from the council."

Tobogganing at Winter Carnival



At the city's Winter Carnival February 7, Zoe was having a ball tobogganing with her father Michael.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Council splits as it does not follow two PAC recommendations

City allows windows at 708 Grosvenor, patio door at 621 Côte Rd. – refuses front fence at 401 Côte Rd.



401 Côte St. Antoine, right, and 403 Côte St. Antoine on February 15.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council February 3 overturned a recommendation of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and agreed to allow a permit to be issued for the installation of four double-hung windows on the street-facing façades of the upper floor of the house at 708 Grosvenor.

While the request had received an unfavourable recommendation from the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the council resolution stated that "the council is not required to endorse the PAC" recommendations and considers the permit request to be "in compliance with the By-law 1305. This by-law governs the city's Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes (SPAIP) by-law."

The motion was approved by all members of the council with the exception of Councillor Shawn Moss, who explained that his vote against the motion was in keeping with the vote he had made at a meeting of the PAC, on which he sits as commissioner of urban planning and sustainable development.

In a subsequent decision, the council voted for the revision of a proposed two-panel patio door instead of "the authorized three-panel door" at 621 Côte St. Antoine Rd. As in the previous case, Councillor Moss voted against the motion.

Regarding a request described as to relocate and install a secondary "front door fence" at 401 Côte St. Antoine, the council voted unanimously for refusal.

Batshaw Children Seeking Homes

Nora, Raphael and Cassandra need a nurturing home

A loving, long-term foster home is being sought for a biracial sibling group of three children: Nora (7 years old), Raphael (12), and Cassandra (11). The children are in need of a nurturing home where they can grow, heal and thrive together as a family unit.

Nora is a playful, easygoing child who loves to spend time connecting with people close to her.

She is expressive and likes to interact with her family. She has some difficulty dealing with frustration and is looking for a supportive approach to help her learn to manage with greater ease.

Raphael is a sensitive child with an introverted nature who likes to be helpful. He demonstrates some challenges with communication and day-to-day organization.

He would benefit from a gentle approach towards learning how to improve self-efficacy in daily activities.

Cassandra is a reserved, kind and curious child who takes time to warm up to others.

She is attuned to people's emotions and

tends to focus on the needs of others in a way that can make her feel anxious. She would benefit from a consistent and predictable living environment.

All three children are meeting their developmental milestones. They would benefit from a stable, caring environment where their unique needs are supported. They would also thrive in the presence of foster parents who are inclined to help them develop healthy adaptation skills and support the continued development of their self-esteem.

The ideal foster family for Nora, Raphael and Cassandra would be a two-parent family from the black community, with a willingness to make a long-term commitment to the sibling group as a whole. The family should also be open to facilitating structured visits with their parents, with whom they maintain a positive relationship.

For more information about Nora, Raphael and Cassandra please contact Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, ext. 1139.



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Thursday, February 26, 2026

Montreal as Muse: Photographs by Clara Gutsche and David Miller
Speakers: Clara Gutsche, artist and David Miller, photographer

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Speaker: Jens Richard Giersdorf, Ph.D., Professor & Chair Dept. of Contemporary Dance, Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University

Thursday, April 23, 2026

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Harounoff: ‘UN has been appallingly, deafeningly silent on the matter of Iran’

Journalist Mojahedi interviews Israel’s international spokesperson to the United Nations

By JENNIFER BALL

Journalist Jonathan Harounoff, who has been Israel’s spokesperson to the United Nations since 2024, told the Shaar Hashomayim’s congregation that the organization he works at – whose mandate is to prevent conflict and support peacekeeping – has been appallingly, deafeningly silent on the matter of Iran.

Harounoff wrote the 2025 book *Unveiled*, which takes the reader inside Iran’s “Woman, Life, Freedom” protest movement that gelled after the slaying of Mahsa Jina Amini for wearing a loose hijab in September 2022. Reaction to her death prompted the most serious challenge the Islamic Republic in Iran had faced up to that time.

Harounoff’s journalism in *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Times of Israel*, and *The Jewish Chronicle* often focuses on anti-Semitism, Jewish communities, contemporary political dynamics, extremism and geopolitics.

He was at the Shaar synagogue on February 5 to be interviewed by Iranian journalist and podcast host Negar Mojahedi about



Iranian journalist and podcast host Negar Mojahedi and British writer and journalist Jonathan Harounoff at the Shaar on February 5.

two things: *Unveiled* and the violent 2025-2026 clashes between the Iranian regime and the Iranian people that some accounts put as causing some 36,500 deaths.

The Shaar is located at 450 Kensington Ave. and thankfully it boasts an excellent generator because it had to be activated when the building lost power minutes into the discussion, and Harounoff and Mojahedi got on with it by reviewing talking points using flashlights and bellowing.

Traumatic time in Iran

Reflecting on current events in Iran, Mojahedi said, “This is a very traumatic

time. It’s a very emotional time, and I know that for a lot of my Jewish friends, seeing the images of this massacre in Iran have been very triggering because it reminds them, of course, of October 7...”

“It’s very much like October 7, except for the fact that, unfortunately, in Iran, we don’t have an IDF. We don’t have anyone coming to our rescue and it is our so-called government who is doing this to us.”

Between January 8 and 11, the deadliest massacre in modern Iranian history took place and Harounoff expressed that the UN – whose mandate is to prevent conflict and support peacekeeping – has been “MIA.”

As an insider, he knows how the wheels of operations grind and said, “The United Nations [usually] works at [such a rapid speed that] you would never have thought possible in a massive bureaucracy ...The speed in which they are able to issue statements of condemnation, convene urgent Security Council sessions is really quite remarkable but, after two and a half weeks, there was radio silence concerning what was happening inside of Iran...”

“[The United Nations] has been appallingly, deafeningly silent on the matter of Iran.”

Harounoff said they are incredibly vocal when it comes to Israel, however. “When there are issues in Israel, in Gaza, they, of course, deserve attention but having spent almost two years at the United Nations – where there are 193 member states – it does sometimes feel like there’s just one member state: Israel.”

Harounoff said that this was a huge disservice to the people of Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, Nigeria and elsewhere who are also suffering but, “They are not even an afterthought.”

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Cedars ball marks 60 years of foundation’s battle with cancer



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Cedars Cancer Foundation celebrated its 60th year with a magnificent gala. Under the leadership of **Dr. Armen Aprikian**, medical director of the MUHC Cancer Care Mission, and Westmount city councillor **Jeff Shamie**, CEO Cedars Cancer Foundation, the outstanding evening also fêted the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Cedars Cancer Centre and the 25th anniversary of Sarah’s Fund for Cedars, which raises funds for pediatric hematology-oncology at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Honorary co-chairs of the gala were **Melanie Cosgrove** and **Andrew Lutfy**, **Simé** and **George Armoyan**, and **Audrey Huot** and **Nadim Rizk**. “We can’t thank them enough for their belief in Cedars, for their generous support, and for bringing out so many people to the gala,” said **Michael Flinker**, Cedars board chair, attending with his wife **Marcia Gillman**. The evening co-chairs were **Paola Apri-**



The Gala 2025 leadership team: Andrew Lutfy, Melanie Cosgrove, Audrey Huot, Nadim Rizk, Daphne Tsadilas Shamie, Jeff Shamie, Paola Aprikian, Dr. Armen Aprikian, George Armoyan and Simé Armoyan.

kian and **Daphne Tsadilas Shamie**. Held at Windsor Station, the event was themed “A journey through time,” taking guests on a symbolic train ride through the past six decades to highlight key milestones of the foundation’s history. “It all started in 1966, with **Joseph Chamandy**, who wanted to wage war on cancer after losing his son Harley to the disease,” explained Jeff Shamie. With the help of Harley’s surgeon, **Dr. Edward Tabah**, and Harley’s wife **Shirley Cook Chamandy**, Joseph started raising funds to purchase specialized cancer equipment for the Royal *continued on p. 12*

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Social notes..., cont'd from p. 11

Victoria Hospital.

The foundation has since grown into a registered charity that raises millions of dollars every year to support cancer care, research and education at the MUHC. The gala also honoured the MUHC healthcare practitioners and scientists who work in oncology.

Among the elegant guests were many MUHC oncologists, nurses and researchers, as well as several members of the MUHC leadership team including doctors **Lucie Opatrny**, president and executive director, and **Rhian Touyz**, executive director and chief scientific officer RI-MUHC; **Peter Kruyt**, board chair; **Alain Biron**, director of nursing; and **Christine Bouchard**, associate director of the MUHC Cancer Care Mission.

Noted guests included Westmount mayor **Michael Stern** and his wife **Susan Stern**; Westmount city councillor **Curveen Chadha** and her mother **Roshi Chadha**; the honourable **Tony Loffreda** and his wife **Angelina Loffreda**; provincial legislators **Jennifer Maccarone** (Westmount–St. Louis) and **Michelle Setlakwe** (Mont Royal–Outremont), **Désirée McGraw**, (NDG), **Gwen Nacos** and her son **Christopher Nacos**, and **Ariel Dayan Medalsy** and **Dan Medalsy**.

The Montreal Rhapsody Orchestra played to a crowded dance floor. Montreal-born Juno Award-winning dance artist **Rêve** raised the mood even higher. The über-glam and über-fun night raised almost \$5 million. Proceeds will benefit the Cancer Care Mission of the MUHC.

The foundation is also raising funds for the Together Against Cancer Campaign, a unique collaboration between the Cedars Cancer Foundation and the Montreal General Hospital Foundation.

The goal of \$100 million will support groundbreaking research, treatment and care programs that will improve the experience, quality of life and outcomes of MUHC cancer patients. Launched in February 2024, the campaign has reached 80 percent of its goal so far.



Michael Stern and Susan Stern.



Michael Flinker, Dr. Marcia Gillman, Lisa Chamandy and Andrew Lutfy.



Standing: Jeff Shamie, Saro Aprikian, Paola Aprikian, Peter Kruyt, Dr. Lucie Opatrny, Dr. Armen Aprikian, Taline Koolian, Alex Aprikian; seated: Michael Stern, Susan Stern, Daphne Tsadilas Shamie and Claire Kruyt.



Standing: Alice Goldbloom, Patrick Guest, Jonathan Goldbloom, Sarah Nemec, Sarah Lamarche, Curveen Chadha, Dr. Sarah Prichard; seated: Gwen Nacos, Dr. Allan Sniderman, Roshi Chadha and Christopher Nacos.

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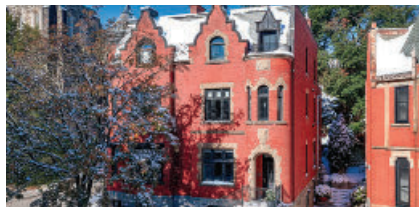
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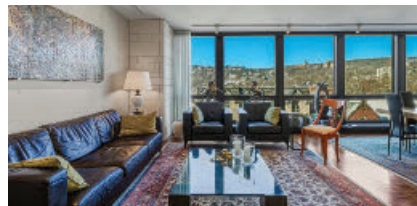
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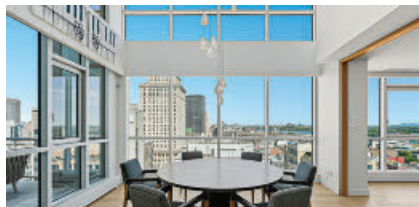


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Gypsy of our hearts



9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Beautiful Gypsy is a delightful long-haired bronze-and-black tabby with a precious little white chin. Her huge green

eyes contrast dramatically with her beautiful coat, a truly magnificent girlie. She is presently in a foster home for the Montreal SPCA and the family reports warmly that she is affectionate, sociable, active, playful and a good eater. She gets along well with everyone and enjoys the company of other cats. Gypsy is a very healthy 11 years young, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.



For more information on her, please do not hesitate to go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to her information page from her identification number, 2000230720, and click on the black rectangular "Fill out the form" box. By adding your contact details and interest in Gypsy in the online document, the cattery adoption coordinators can easily get back to you. This then presents the opportunity for a conversation when they tell you more about her and you can discuss bringing her home to settle in with you, as companions for the best family life. Your neighbour, Lysanne

Take a trip to/with Tokyo



Westmount A-dog-tions
LYSANNE FOWLER

Wonderful Tokyo is a precious tri-colour black, grey and white shih tzu who is presently in a foster home for the Gerdy's

food-motivated, which makes him easy to train. He is very good at playing fetch and is excellent on leash for his regular walks. He is five-and-a-half years old, weighing in at a tiny nine pounds. Tokyo is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Please do not hesitate to refer to the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdyrescue.org/ to take a peek at all the fine photographs of this beautiful little fellow



Rescue & Adoptions volunteer animal rescue group. He is doing very well, adapting to the family slowly and finding comfort in the routine. This steady love and patience have brought calm and confidence to his life, helping him adapt to the change in his circumstances. Enjoying the adult household as the only dog in the family, he is highly

and find out more about him. By contacting the volunteers at their email info@gerdysrescue.org, you can easily present your interest in handsome Tokyo and begin a conversation about adoption. Your neighbour, Lysanne

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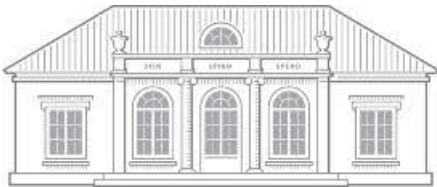
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