

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 20 No. 3c

We are Westmount.

March 17, 2026

## Library re-opening forecast for early April City effects 'treatment' against bedbugs at WPL – Second 'intervention' planned for early April

The city closed the Westmount Public Library on March 8 due to the discovery of bedbugs.

On March 11, it announced on its website: "A thorough evaluation by a specialized firm has led the city to adopt a comprehensive treatment protocol to ensure definitive eradication and to protect the integrity of this high-traffic facility. The intervention will take place in two phases:

"An initial treatment of the entire building began on March 11.

"A second intervention is scheduled to take place in three weeks [i.e. circa April 1].

"This 21-day period is necessary to ensure that the natural reproduction cycle of bedbugs is interrupted. The library will officially re-open to the public once experts have validated the compliance of the premises, which should take place in early April.

"The methods used by the extermination company were selected for their effectiveness while remaining safe for book collections, archives, and electronic equipment. Before the official re-opening, a deep cleaning of all public and staff areas will be performed."

On March 13, West- *continued on p.5*

## The ducks are back!



This is the first photo this year that anyone has sent us of the Westmount Park lagoon's ducks, as seen March 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL.

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## For Greene and Vic village

# Joyce Shanks named to head both merchant associations

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's two merchant associations – for Greene Ave. and Victoria village – have announced a new general manager for the two. She is Joyce Shanks, described as "experienced in public relations and event planning."

This follows the resignation February 9 of Cynthia Lulham, who served as the mer-

chants' general manager. She had worked to revitalize the commercial districts and obtain not-for-profit status for the association (see story March 3, p. 1).

Named in a press release to assume the role, Shanks was quoted as saying she was "excited to take on the new challenge supporting the merchants in growing their visibility and success."

Councillor Paul Le- *continued on p. 8*

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# Public Security on scene for six hours after bricks fall onto cars in Victoria Ave. lane



BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

Public Security was dispatched March 10 at 1:35 pm for the wall of a Victoria Ave. house when it partially collapsed into the lane behind the Royal Bank, SAQ and Donato restaurant, department officials said.

A man was reported to be slightly injured in one of the cars that were in the alley.

Police, fire, Public Works and Énergie also responded while pedestrians and traf-

fic were temporarily blocked. Public Security remained on the scene for some six hours until everything was cleaned up and Victoria was re-opened.

During the process, tow trucks removed the two cars from the north side of the lane before officers left at 7:30 pm.

*For a photo of the wall and alley once they had been fenced off, see p. SL-21 in this issue's Spotlight section.*

*'We were somewhat spared'*

## City's emergency plan readied for last week's ice storm

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The ice storm that hit the greater Montreal area March 11 arrived hours later than predicted and without inflicting as much negative impact on Westmount as initially forecast, Public Security said.

"Multiple tree branches came down, but we were somewhat spared," explained assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun.

"Additional personnel remained on standby but were not needed. I'm glad it wasn't as bad as it could have been."

She also said that "people had been lined up at the gas station for gas for generators."

Branches were reported to have fallen on two cars in the areas of Ingleside, and Dorchester and Bruce.

### Underground network

She also pointed out that Hydro Westmount had focused a lot of attention on burying distribution lines and had built on its experience following the ice storm of 1998. That was when the city had had been without electricity for several days.

That was also owing to the city brokering a deal with Hydro Quebec that enabled the city to distribute its share of power where it deemed it to be most needed (i.e. residents vs. office towers).

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## EDITORIAL

# Strange signs? Let there be answers! Even if they are also strange

Two years ago, resident Michelle Warner noticed a less-than-perfectly-visible pedestrian light at the northwest corner of de Maisonneuve and Claremont. She informed the city about it.

The city replied on May 3, 2024 that a sign on that corner like the ones published last week at St. Catherine and Victoria (p. 10) meant that pedestrians should not cross there.

A city spokesperson wrote: “you can see a sign with a crossed-out pedestrian indi-



Claremont and St. Catherine in spring 2024. The no-pedestrians sign was gone when the *Independent* went by March 13, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M. WARNER.

cating that it's forbidden to cross at this point, which is also why there's no paint on the ground indicating a crosswalk at this point. Pedestrians must follow the signs to cross to the other side of the street.

“This no-pedestrian-crossing sign [at de Maisonneuve and Claremont] is there to regulate and facilitate the sharing of the road between pedestrians and cyclists. It was installed as a safety feature following some incidents involving cyclists and pedestrians.

“Since its installation, no further incidents have been reported.”

\*

In fairness, our proofer Kate also provided me with this answer before publication.

I am very amused and very surprised. I would never have guessed that these small signs, with no text, on the other side of major streets, meant that pedestrians should not cross. With the exception of intersections fenced off due to construction work, I have always assumed that all intersections can be crossed, especially when there are sidewalks at both corners.

Regardless of this rule (has anyone ever received a ticket?), many, many people do cross at these points.

Canute has spoken.

*David Price is the editor of the Independent.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SQUIRRELS DESERVE EMPATHY

This is regarding the letter published on March 10, p. 8. I agree 100 percent with M. MacMillan of de Maisonneuve Blvd.

The dog's owner, instead of trying to release the squirrel from the dog's jaws, wasted time on taking this sad photo (March 3, p. 3). The dog should have been restrained and the fact that the poor squirrel was an easy catch suggests that it must have been weakened by hunger and cold, and now it is probably injured, if not dead.

I think that many have only selective empathy. To them, squirrels don't deserve any and that is shameful.

ANNA COATES, CLAREMONT AVE.

## ST. CATHERINE/VICTORIA NEEDS A PEDESTRIAN BUTTON, NOT MEANINGLESS SIGNS

The two “do not pass” signs photographed on March 6 (“Weird signage – Victoria and St. Catherine,” March 10, p. 10) are a striking example of bureaucratic nonsense. For 25 years, residents have repeatedly asked successive councillors and mayors for a pedestrian crossing signal-push button at this busy intersection – a simple, reasonable and necessary measure to improve safety.

Instead of responding to this longstanding request, the city installed confusing and meaningless signs, as if safety could be achieved simply by telling pedestrians not to cross. Human behaviour is obvious: residents will continue to use this crossing because it is the natural and necessary route. These signs do nothing to improve safety. They only reveal a troubling lack of foresight, logic and respect for residents – an insult disguised as action.

This is not a question of budget. Installing a pedestrian signal is routine infrastructure for any municipality, and the city clearly has the resources when it chooses

to act. The real issue is priority and common sense.

[What] must we wait for [for] the new mayor to finally act? Another accident? Another injury? Or must the request come from someone deemed “more convincing” before it is taken seriously? After 25 years of clear, persistent and rational requests, residents are still confronted with cheap, ineffective and insulting signage.

Public safety requires a pedestrian crossing signal-push button, real protective measures, and a city administration capable of common sense – not meaningless signs.

We are deeply grateful to the editor for bringing this absurdity to public attention – the confusing signs that shame those who are simply trying to cross their streets.

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## ATWATER LIBRARY WELCOMES WESTMOUNT RESIDENTS DURING WPL CLOSURE

While the Westmount Public Library is closed, the Atwater Library is offering free borrowing privileges to Westmount residents.

The Atwater collection comprises English-language materials for adults – books and DVDs – and our catalogue is online.

Our building is open six days a week – every day except Sunday – and our hours are on the masthead of our website: [www.atwaterlibrary.ca](http://www.atwaterlibrary.ca).

Our staff and volunteers are making a special effort to serve more Westmounters over the next three weeks when the municipal library is closed. We're waiving our usual fee for borrowing memberships (maximum \$35 a year) to assist our fellow citizens.

LYNN VERGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR –  
ATWATER LIBRARY AND  
COMPUTER CENTRE

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

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PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am  
(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

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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Distribution: Tuesday to Friday (longer when interrupted by postal holidays or strikes)

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9

CONSULT THIS ISSUE'S

## Spotlight

ON REAL ESTATE FOR UPDATES ON MANY LOCAL PROJECTS

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Le Loyal in CDN-NDG, p. SL-12

St. Stephen's, p. SL-20

Resilience day shelter in St. Henri, p. SL-26

## Parade to include Westmount's 1810 cannon

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmounters hoping to watch – or even join – the St. Patrick's Day parade Sunday, March 22, including the "participation" of the city's 1810 cannon, can do so as it starts on Fort St., south of St. Catherine, starting officially at noon.

The parade is to head east for what is expected to be about 90 minutes in total.

The Westmount float with the historic cannon and soldiers in uniforms of the 1860s will assemble on de Maisonneuve near Fort at 11 am.

"If you want to walk two kilometers from Fort St. to Place des Arts, come on along," invited Patrick Martin, who is organizing the local contingent.

Among those expected to join Martin is District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie, who participated in the parade last year (see March 25, 2025, p. 1) and District 4 councillor Gurveen Chadha. A former city councillor, Martin has been instrumental in the restoration of the cannon and their use by the Westmount Battery re-enactment group.

The parade includes dancers, bands, bagpipers and many kinds of floats.

## Batshaw Children Needing Homes Cheerful Marc & James need long-term guidance, role models

A loving, long-term foster home is being sought for a sibling group of two children.

13-year-old Marc and 12-year-old James are in need of a nurturing home where they can flourish and thrive together as a family unit.

Marc has a cheerful personality with a quiet and reserved disposition. He enjoys spending time with his sibling and artistic activities.

James is a playful child who enjoys basketball and football. He is cheerful and enjoys a good laugh.

Both children would benefit from a stable and structured environment. They require strong caregivers who can provide clear guidance and maintain firm boundaries. They would also thrive in the presence of foster parents who are able to act as role models.

The ideal foster family for Marc and James would be a family with a willingness to make a long-term commitment to the sibling group as a whole.

*For more information about Marc and James, please contact Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, ext. 1139.*

### Bedbugs, cont'd from p. 1

mount's director of communications, Mugisha Rutishisha, replied to the *Independent's* questions about the nature of these treatments by emailing: "The pest control operator commissioned by the city uses a high-precision method that combines state-of-the-art thermal imaging with the application of a powerful dual-action liquid insecticide.

"This specialized approach began with

the use of thermal technology to locate nests hidden within the building's structure, followed by a treatment designed to provide both immediate elimination and a long-term protective barrier lasting up to 90 days."

Patrons are being asked to keep their borrowed materials at home for the time being. Online materials remain available for use. – DP.

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### Building tagged

The front door of a building on Sherbrooke was tagged sometime before March 11.

The three-foot high letters in white spelled out a short sentence that might relate to US domestic politics. If so, the words' connection to the residential condo building is not obvious.

Two readers informed the *Independent* and one provided photos.

In general, the *Independent* does not publish photographs of graffiti. – WI.



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LYSANNE FOWLER

Hmm, definitely corgi body type with those wonderful chunky legs. Yes, a bit of typical Bernese black-and-brown colouring, then ... oh ... a memorable ice-blue eye of the husky.

Po is an artistic original.

Wonderfully cute and funny, a very sweet two-year-old, he is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel. In need of a family and a home, Po is loving and playful.

He is very healthy, up to date with his



*9 Lives*

LYSANNE FOWLER

Pretty Savannah is ready for a game of toss and chase, a little huntress of balls and catnip toys. She is at the Montreal SPCA cattery, making friends while she waits for visits and adoption. A stunning domestic longhair, she is a very healthy 12-years-

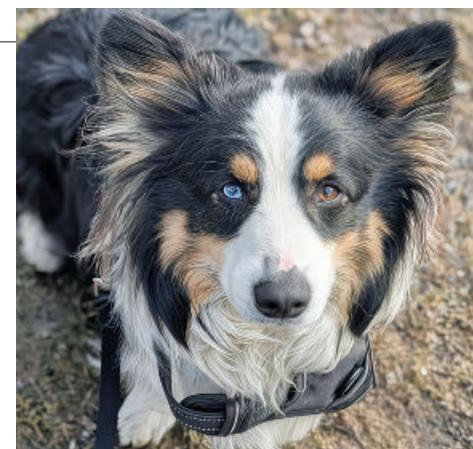
## Wonderful Po

inoculations, neutered and microchipped. A sweetheart, he loves everyone and enjoys doing the daily routine and setting out on walks.

To find out more about Po, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then scroll to his information page from his identification number, 2000218515.

You can plan your trip to visit him and discuss adoption with the coordinators soon as the shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.

The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P1X4.



Please do not hesitate to drop in to discuss your interest and spend time with Po on site. He would be a happy-go-lucky addition to your family and a buddy to all. Please do not hesitate.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

## Savannah of our hearts

young princess.

She needs love from a family that has experience with diabetic daily routine, so please consider her as she is presented as an adoption from the humanitarian reduced-fee program. She is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped, and ready for her new home.

Please do search the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), ..... then search for Savan- *continued on p. 7*



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# Police Report: Laptop stolen during daytime burglary

By MARTIN C. BARRY

While the illicit activities of household burglars are often associated with night and the cover of dark, most burglaries actually take place in the daytime, according to local police.

9 lives, cont'd from p. 6

nah's information page from her identification number, 2000375281. Moving forward, check your agenda to plan your visit to the shelter, which is open 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.

If you already have a carrier, please bring it with you. If you need one, you can choose a model from the selection at the in-house boutique, where you can also pick up a selection of food, accessories and toys galore. Beautiful Savannah is available at the cattery, where you will be most welcome. You can then meet with the adoption coordinators throughout your visit in order to discuss your interest in bringing this lovely sweetheart home with you.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

In a recent example in Westmount, a woman living in a house near the corner of Clandeboye Ave. and Dorchester Blvd. went out for 45 minutes to do some errands on the morning of March 9.

Upon returning, she noticed that an entrance door frame at her home had been damaged and the door itself was ajar.

"It was probably forced with a shoulder," said Montreal police Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit. After inspecting the interior and seeing the place had been rummaged, she concluded that a laptop computer was missing.

"I would say most burglaries do happen during the day," said Yigit, noting that burglars take advantage of the fact that working people are more likely to be away at that time.

"Oftentimes, the suspects show up, ring the doorbell, and if there's no one there, they'll try to get in," he said.

Although last August local police managed to arrest a repeat burglary suspect who was known to be operating mostly late at night, Yigit called it an isolated occurrence.

### Door at retailer broken to gain entry

There was one other burglary in Westmount last week – also on March 9 – although at a retail business address.

Sometime between 12:30 and 1 am, according to a partial report in the Station 12 incident summary, a suspect forced the door of the Victoria Ave. establishment.

However, no further information was available, according to Cst. Yigit, as the investigators hadn't finished their report.

"All we know for the moment is that a door was broken," he said. "There are also [security camera] images, but they [the investigators] are waiting for them to come."

### Shoplifting continues

Finally, there appears to be no end in view for repeated shoplifting incidents that have been afflicting Vic village fashion merchants – Lululemon on Sherbrooke St. especially.

"It was like a grab-and-go," said Cst. Yigit, paraphrasing some of the details from the complaint report about the March 9 noon-hour incident phoned in to Station 12 by Lululemon staff.

Fifteen pairs of specialty pants hanging on a rack and worth around \$2,000 were seized by suspects who simply walked out with them, according to the report.

In an earlier theft at Lululemon in mid-February, a small group of teenagers were detained by the police and later released in custody of their parents after merchandise was stolen from the outlet.

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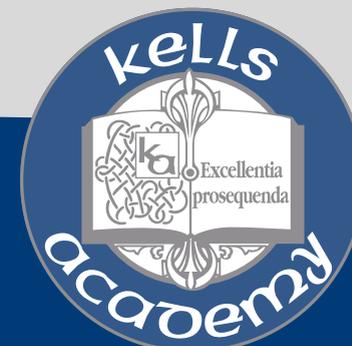


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### Merchants, cont'd from p. 1

vine, whose commissionership involves public order and liaison with merchants' associations, said that as the liaison to the two merchant associations he was "looking forward" to working closely with Shanks in her new position. "I am sure that she will bring her enthusiasm and energy to the position and achieve great new heights for the association."

### Shanks outlines her experience

Shanks describes herself as "a community leader with a passion for bringing people together around shared vision and objectives with the energy and skill to make things happen."

She describes herself as "a community builder with a passion for bringing people, businesses and ideas together with passion and purpose."

She adds that having a professional background in the international meetings and events industry means that she "approaches work with a strong commitment to creating initiatives that are inclusive, sustainable and rooted in community."

She said she was "eager and looking forward to meeting, hearing from and supporting the merchants...in their economic growth and vibrancy here in Westmount and in Greater Montreal."

She lists herself as having worked latterly with the Limotour service and told the *Independent* she lives "close by" in Côte St. Luc.

### 'Impressive' résumé

In a press release from Rob Callard, president of the Greene Ave. association, and John Campbell, of Vic village, Shanks was described as "bringing an impressive résumé of experience in the travel and tourism industry along with extensive expertise in event planning and community engagement."

To welcome Shanks and provide merchants with an opportunity to connect with her directly, it states that "a meet-and-greet



Joyce Shanks photographed on the corner of Greene Ave and de Maisonneuve on March 10.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

event will take place in the coming days. All merchants are encouraged to attend and learn more about her plans for the year."

Typically, Westmount's two commercial districts hold sidewalk sales with various types of entertainment on the street and at

their focus points. These are the square outside Greene's Les Cinq Saisons and the west end's Prince Albert square. These events usually take place in the spring or early summer and again at the start of the fall shopping season.

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# Lorenzetti Foundation gala raises \$800k for mental health



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The seventh annual Barry F. Lorenzetti Foundation gala sold out in advance. Greeting guests at Maison Principale were **Barry Lorenzetti** and his wife **Carine Watier-Lorenzetti**.

The New York speakeasy-themed evening in support of mental health brought out an elegant crowd. Honorary president was **Michael Denham**, vice-chair National Bank.

Noted in the crowd were the Ritz-Carlton's CEO **Andrew Torriani** with his wife **Arlene** and daughters **Stephanie** and **Gwen**, and marketing director **Katia Piccolino**, with **Philippe Lichaa**; **Renée Kessler** and **Norman Steinberg**; **Joseph Broccolini**, executive vp Broccolini Construction; and the Barry F. Lorenzetti Foundation's president **Maggie Lorenzetti Dorfman** and ambassador **Chris Nilan**, there with his wife **Jamie Holtz-Nilan**.

Also noted were *continued on p. 10*



Seated: Glenna and Bobby Ross, Justin Smith-Lorenzetti, Barry Lorenzetti, Carine Watier-Lorenzetti, Pauline and James Bickerton; standing: Sean Smith, Ziggy Eichenbaum, Jamie Holtz-Nilan and Chris Nilan.

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**Social notes...**, cont'd from p. 9

Ingrid Chadwick, Concordia's John Molson School of Business; Elyse Léger, Fiera Capital, and Lisa Giannone, BFL Canada Risk and Insurance Services; Hockey Hall of Famer Caroline Ouellette; Joey Alfieri, Montreal Alouettes football; and Mario Cecchini, Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League.

Adam Mariani's Traiteur Brera crafted a gastronomic dinner and bar service by mixologist Brahm Mauer. The evening's musical entertainment included country singing sensation Brittany Kennell, there with husband Scott Burstall; sisters Arlene and Gwen Torriani; Justin Smith-Lorenzetti and Jenna Smith-Lorenzetti with her fiancé Sam Cascante; Helga Dath & the Stingkatz, and Barry Lorenzetti himself, who wowed the audience with his tribute to Tom Petty.

MC Kim Fraser, vp marketing/community relations the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, announced that the gala raised \$800,000 in support of mental health.



Seated: Nancy Laroche, Tony and Carine Aksa, Carl Lovas; standing: Benoît Laroche, Renée Kessler, Michael Denham and Kathy Lovas.

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