

Current, former council members gather for former mayor Smith's portrait unveiling



The official city hall portrait of former mayor Christina Smith was unveiled March 31. See story on p. 20.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Camps, tennis, swimming

Sign-up for summer sports, programs starts April 14

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While some snow may remain on the ground, the city's summer registration for sports and recreation activities opens April 14 for local residents. This provides them with a headstart before the programs fill up. Included are the summer camp sessions, which are usually in high demand. Sign-up times for racquet sports as well

as swimming at the city's outdoor pool take place the next week on April 21.

"With spring giving us a sneak peek of warmer days, it's time to dive into the full summer vibe and all the fun it brings," says Dave Lapointe, director of culture, sports, recreation and social development.

"From swimming and tennis to pickleball, yoga and summer camp," it all can be *continued on p. 12*



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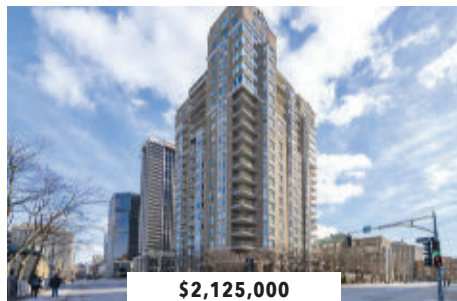
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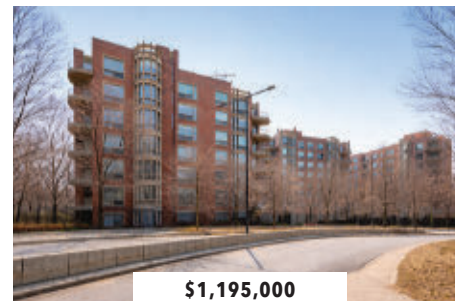
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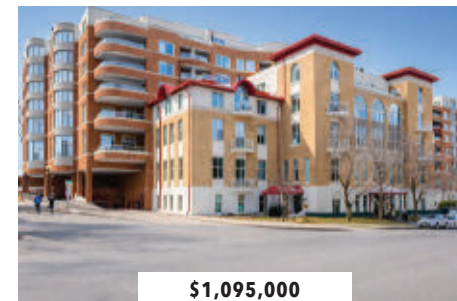
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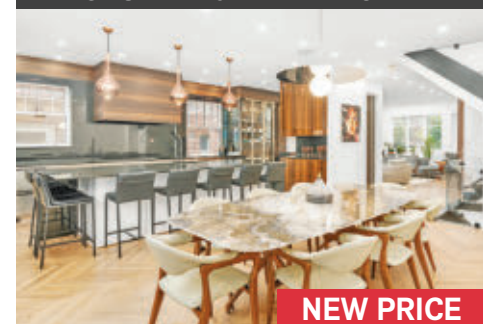
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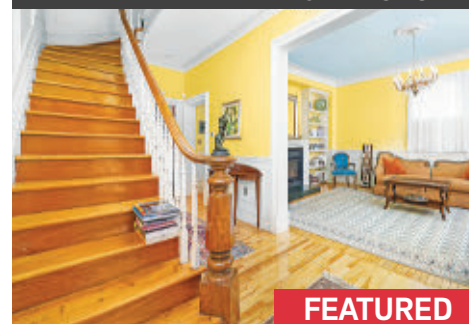
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To be leashed at all times April 16 to June 5

Spring dog laws go into effect in Summit Woods soon

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With new spring undergrowth emerging in Summit Woods, Public Security officials issued a reminder last week to people walking through the bird and fauna sanctuary area to remain on the trails.

They are also required to keep their dogs on leash at all times April 16 to June 5. The area is regularly closed from midnight to 5 am.

“The city is taking steps to preserve the forest area,” said assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun.

In this regard, it is also important for dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash not exceeding six feet and, in the case of dogs weighing over 20 kilograms, fastened to a harness as per provincial law.

It is also forbidden to walk more than three dogs at one time and all dogs must wear a valid Westmount licence.

From November 1 to April 15, dogs may be walked in Summit Woods from 5 am to midnight and can be off leash.

Letters, p. 6

Dodge on October real estate transfers, p. 14

Police Report, p. 17

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 19

9 Lives, p. 19



Social Notes:

Miriam Foundation, p. 21

InfoWestmount, p. 16



Public Security's information kiosk at Summit Woods as staffed by PSO Julie Noiret, left, and PSO Christopher Fajardo, shown March 31 at the Summit Rd. entrance to the woods. Coming dates for the kiosk are to be determined. “Staying on the trails and respecting the signage help prevent trail damage to the surrounding vegetation while the ground remains saturated from melting snow and spring rain, making it more prone to erosion,” according to Public Security.

► The soon-to-be in force rules.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.



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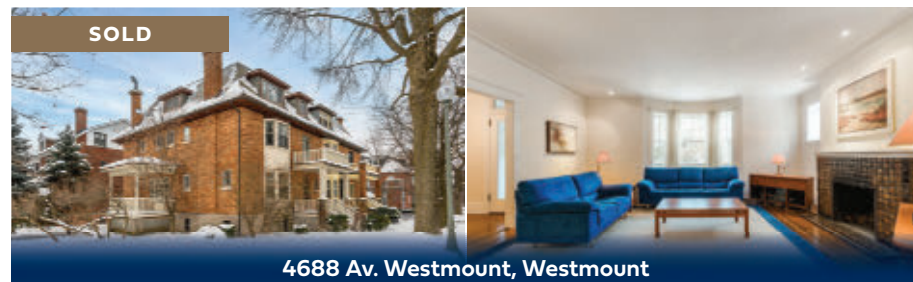
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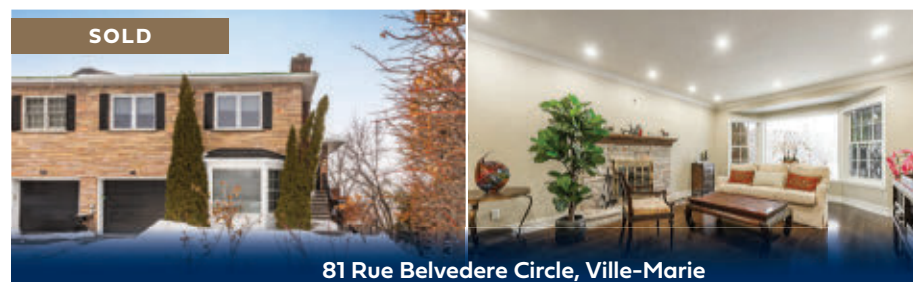
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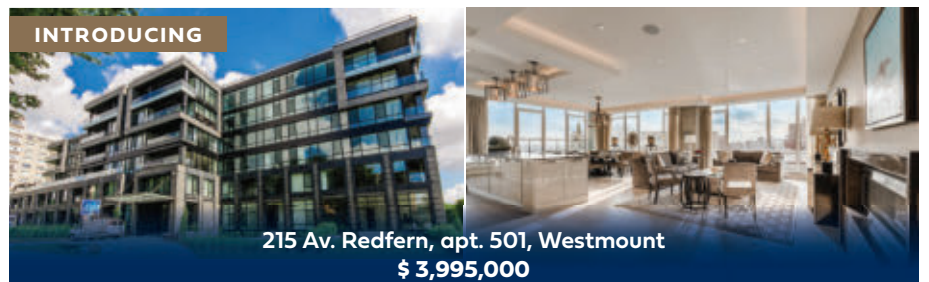


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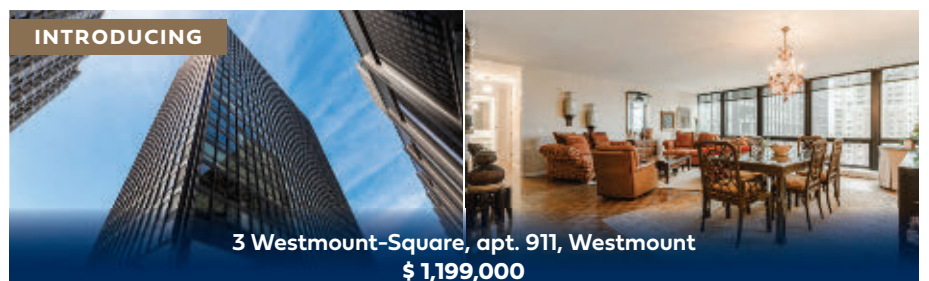
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN CANADA, WE DON'T
TICKET HOCKEY BAGS

Congratulations [on your March 24 issue].

I love the “WUT” – weird-urban-trash – picture on p. 15, but much more fun is p. 19’s “In Canada, we park hockey bags”! And no parking ticket issued! Love it!

This is what sets the *Independent* apart from, and superior to, other newspapers! Well done! Keep up the whimsy!

From a whimsical senior,

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

NOT JUST DRIVERS TO BLAME
FOR BIKE ACCIDENTS

RE: March 31 (p. 4) letter to the editor, “Drivers: Look before you open your door.”

Yes, of course, this is all the driver’s fault. How many of our bike paths are situated right next to car doors? I have not counted, as I gave up years ago.

And not only that, but I find that some are almost death traps for bicyclists!

Here, they rarely seem to know what a safe bicycle path is.

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

Contract awarded for
street marking based on priorities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council at its March 17 meeting awarded a three-year contract for a total of \$958,679, taxes included, to Lignes-FIT Inc. road marking services. According to the resolution moved by Councillor Paul Levine and adopted unanimously, this work is for the years 2026 to 2028.

While no details were mentioned at the council meeting, city communications director Mugisha Rutishisha told the *Independent* that the contract includes specific timelines “based on operational priorities.” Planning begins in mid-April, with priority markings like crosswalks and stop lines targeted for completion by the end of May. Additional markings, including sym-

bols and parking-related elements, are then completed progressively through June and July, with a general objective of finishing all work by July 31.

Factors influencing the timing of the work and how quickly it progresses are reported to include weather conditions such as rain, temperature and late snow, the presence of debris or winter abrasives on the roadway, and coordination with other work.

“For these reasons, the timelines included in the contract should be understood as targets rather than fixed dates, and some variability is expected each season.”

Should delays arise, he said, “the contract requires the contractor to submit a revised work plan to ensure that updated timelines are documented.”

DG Corno appointed in late 2025

New Villa Maria board appointed
by Sisters of the congrégation
de Notre-Dame to help resolve
impasse regarding NDG campus

Villa Maria College is located at 4245 Decarie Blvd. in NDG, as seen March 26.

BY JENNIFER BALL

The Sisters of the congrégation de Notre-Dame recently appointed a new board for Villa Maria College in the hopes of resolving the long-running dispute between the Congrégation and the high school, where 1,600 students are educated. The nuns are not renewing the school’s lease after 2030 and they plan to sell the estate – buildings and land that they own – in 2031.

Villa Maria College is located at 4245 Decarie Blvd. in NDG, just northwest of Westmount. A former part of the Congrégation’s land – the current campus of Marianopolis College CEGEP – is in Westmount on Westmount Ave. at Claremont.

The *Independent* received a press release from public relations company Massy Forget Langlois on March 19 about developments on the board and on March 23 Mylène Forget, company president, answered the *Independent*’s questions.

When asked to explain the newly constituted board’s mission, Forget replied, “The board’s mandate is to analyze all available options in a respectful and transparent

manner and to identify a sustainable, long-term solution as efficiently as possible...

**Six-month ‘structured review process’
under way**

“At this stage, the board is undertaking a thorough and structured review process. We will not comment on the board’s work until its analysis has been completed, a process expected to take approximately six months. The board will share its findings at the conclusion of this review period, and parents will be informed accordingly.”

The Congrégation has filled three vacancies on the board that had existed for several months, proceeded with the replacement of four directors whose terms were due to expire in four months’ time, and appointed two new directors.

Sœur Francine Landreville from the Congrégation is currently the only nun serving on the board.

Biographies of the directors for 2026–2028 were provided by Forget in French and translated using DeepL translator.

- The chair of the board is Suzanne Gouin, who is a certified corporate director,

continued on p. 7

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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April Fools' logo

City's website 'unveils' new city emblem

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Does Westmount need a new emblem? One with a more contemporary, simplified design displaying a wavy bright green outline of a mountain and a yellow sun setting in the west?

That is what the *Independent* unexpectedly discovered when logging into the city's official website April 1. Next to what appeared to be a photo of a white flag fluttering atop a city flag pole was the following announcement:

"The city of Westmount unveiled a new logo designed to reflect a modern, open and connected community while respecting its heritage. The visual identity focuses on representing a city that is moving forward with thoughtful improvement, characterized by a curved design."

Mayor Michael Stern is also quoted as stating that the new visual identity "signifies a move toward the future, highlighting a Westmount vision that incorporates



thoughtful improvements one curve at a time."

A subsequent response to questions

from the *Independent* from city communications director Mugisha Rutishisha about the "new" logo was: "It's just a humorous

post published by the city for April Fools' Day. The city's real logo will be back tomorrow."



Villa Maria cont'd from p. 6

- Rémy Trudel holds a PhD in public administration from the University of Ottawa,
- Charles Denis is a solicitor and holds an MBA from HEC Montreal,
- Éric Faucher holds a bachelor of science in physical education and sport and has completed postgraduate studies in school administration,
- Éveline-Louise Gagné holds a master's degree in industrial relations from Queen's University and a bachelor's degree in actuarial science from Laval University,

- Suzie Prince holds a bachelor and master's in business administration and a postgraduate diploma in professional accounting from HEC Montréal,
- Sœur Francine Landreville, from the Congrégation, taught for two years at Villa Maria College before being appointed director of studies there,
- Gilles Charland has over 34 years' experience in the field of labour relations and human resources management,
- Julie Favreau holds a bachelor of arts in political science from McGill University, a bachelor of law from the University of Sherbrooke, and a postgraduate certificate in strategic management from Har-

vard University. Forget said, "In addition to these nine board members, and for the first time, one seat will be reserved for a parent in addition to an alumna who serves on the board, to ensure direct representation of the college's community." In late 2025, the college appointed a new director general, Christian Corno, with the explicit mission of re-building dialogue with the Congrégation. The *Independent* reached out to Corno with a request for an interview on March 23 and March 25, via Murillo Rego, head of communications and marketing, but there was no response by deadline.

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Co-creator Susan Scott designed logo for Westmount Public Library

New calendar showcases nature's life cycles in southern Quebec

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After a long winter filled with sometimes unsettling news developments, there are probably at least a few Westmounters who might enjoy something more positive as nature awakens to warmer temperatures.

In the natural world, spring sets off a symphony of events as increased daylight and the cumulative amount of absorbed heat cause species to emerge and develop. Yet, in spite of some yearly variations, there is an annual progression of natural events, and the study of when these happen is known as "phenology."

Westmount's Hogg Hardware is among the first retail outlets in Montreal to feature a new and unique publication, the *Calendrier du vivant*, which illustrates the yearly cycle of natural events in southern Quebec. A copy of the 15" x 26" calendar has been donated to the Centre Greene community centre.

Scott designed Westmount Public Library logo

The *Calendrier du vivant* project's artist, Susan Scott, was a long-term resident of Westmount as well as a graphic design teacher at Dawson College. Among other things, she created the logo for the Westmount Library.

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar are being used to protect natural habitats in southern Quebec through the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust.

In an interview with the *Independent*, Scott said that working on the illustrations for the calendar over a two-year period deepened her understanding of nature.

"I hope that others will learn as much as I did by consulting the wealth of information included each month," she said. "It has the advantage of being a perpetual calendar so it may be used for many years."



Former Westmounter Susan Scott, left, is seen here on March 26 with Alison Tett, another contributor to the calendar, on the grounds outside the Westmount Flower Conservatory.

"This is quite a unique publication," added Alison Tett, who also contributed to the calendar. "It's the only one that we know of that creates this kind of portrait."

The calendar's monthly timelines showcase key moments in the lifecycles of birds, mammals, insects, amphibians, reptiles,

THE WESTMOUNT EXPERIENCE PAGE 5

The apple from her eye

Graphic artist Susan Scott creates new logo for Westmount Library

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Library will start using a new logo Monday.

It's a stylized apple branch superimposed on an open book, designed by graphic artist and Westmount resident Susan Scott. The symbol replaces the original one, a line drawing of a library building.

The new design, in white and Westmount-purple, will be reproduced on letterhead, business cards, bags and possibly even T-shirts.

It is intended to update the library's image as the 95-year-old institution moves toward the 21st century with a \$7.5-million building project and a fund-raising campaign.

"I tried to incorporate the old and the new," Ms. Scott said.

She chose an apple branch to represent the library's location in a park setting and the garden courtyard in the new library design.

The flow of the branch is styled after the decorative designs of 19th-century British Romantic artist and poet William Morris, a Victorian and contemporary of Robert Findlay, original architect of the library. The floral patterns used by Morris in wallpapers have become timeless designs.

Ms. Scott also was inspired by a historical report written by architect Peter Rose on the Westmount Library. "His words, 'an opportunity to reflect on its lost character, strike a chord as I embarked on the design,' she said.

"I wanted it to have a flavour of the Victorian but be contemporary and reflect the future of the library. Hopefully, an apple tree will be planted in the courtyard."

Ms. Scott said she has enjoyed working on the new symbol for the last three months after being approached by the city. "It's right up my street." Now she's working on various applications.

The typeface with the symbol is Bembo, a 20th-century copy of a Venetian type first used in 1495. The design is being registered through the city clerk's office.

Ms. Scott, who teaches in the graphic design department of Dawson College and has her own design business, first drew the design by hand before scanning it into her computer to develop a variety of combinations. She also designed the city's 1991 book *Westmount: a heritage to preserve*.

Designer Susan Scott displays her new logo.

An article in *The Westmount Experience* weekly newspaper in 1994 about Susan Scott's new logo for the library. Note the story's author: Laureen Sweeney, who now writes for the *Independent*.

fish, plants and fungi.

Species notes also summarize numerous fascinating facts. And Scott's 12 illus-

trations convey the beauty, diversity and fragile complexity of the ecosystems of southern Quebec.

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Westmount Square is the site of an \$18-million infrastructure renewal program that includes a new water membrane under the exterior plaza. A source told the *Independent* that work will resume on the roof of the building the week of March 30. See October 21, p. SL-22, November 11, p. 10 and December 2, 2025, p. 10 for past coverage. This photo was taken March 24.

PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL



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More memories of St. Patrick's Day Parade



From left, Councillor Jeff Shamie, CWO (ret) Gilles Aubé, Councillor Gurveen Chadha and LSgt Nai Hammound, as seen March 22 at the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown at the city of Westmount/Westmount Battery's float. The battery is a re-enactment group that brings the city's two 1810 cannon to events. The cannon can fire, but didn't in this case.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN.



2nd Westmount and Westmount Park Cubs and Scouts enthusiastically participated in the 2026 United Irish Societies' St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22 in the midst of a spring snowstorm.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ELLIOTT.

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As seen on Lansdowne Ave. below Côte St. Antoine on March 25.

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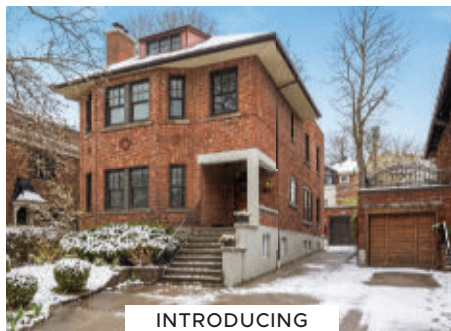
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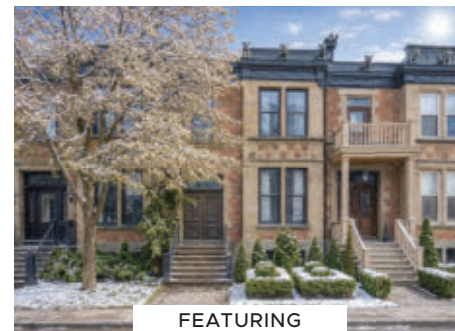
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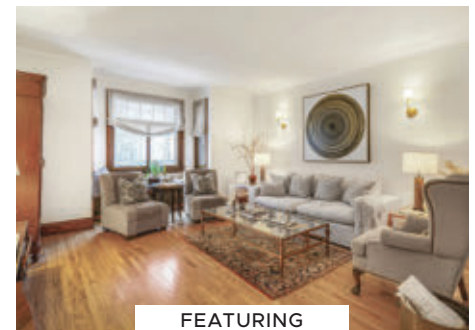
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\$799,000

Alexis Nihon escalator closed for maintenance since February

BY JENNIFER BALL

The ascending escalator from the street level to the mezzanine level of Alexis Nihon shopping mall has been inaccessible for over a month and it has a Schindler escalator sign in front of it that reads “preventative maintenance.”

This is not the first time an ascending escalator at Alexis Nihon has been unavailable to shoppers.

In 2025 a Schindler escalator ascending from the Metro level to the street level was

inaccessible for months (see November 4, 2025, p. 23 and December 2, 2025 p. 10).

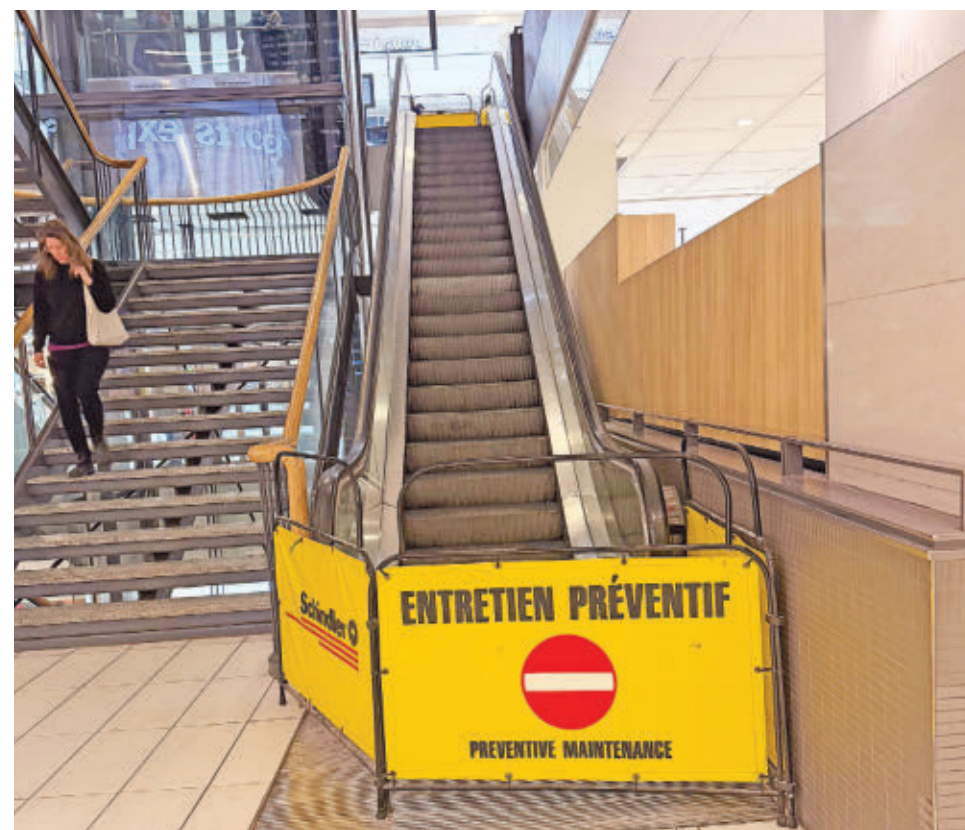
The shopping mall is situated between Atwater Ave., St. Catherine, de Maisonneuve and Wood Ave., mostly in Westmount with the balance of the mall being downtown in Montreal’s Ville Marie borough.

The company that owns Alexis Nihon is Cominar REIT. It owns and manages office, commercial and residential buildings.

Objective: Safety

On March 24, Sandrine Lacroix, assistant property manager at Alexis Nihon, stated, “The escalators were stopped in February as maintenance is required on a few of the escalator’s steps to ensure the safety of our customers. In the meantime, temporary signage is installed, and clients are invited to use the mall’s other escalators or the elevator.”

► As seen March 19.



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Summer programs cont'd from p. 1

found in the city’s activities guide, he adds. This can be found online as well as at the office of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

Listed online and at WRC

The start of swimming and other pool activities starts June 22. These include the courses in Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross that include pool and classroom sessions.

Numerous times are also listed for tennis and pickleball programs from June to September as well as opportunities for part-time employment in areas such as refereeing.

Also provided are times throughout the

year when Westmount residents can use the indoor pool at the YMCA on Sherbrooke at Arlington. These include weekend family swim times on weekends Saturdays 2 to 3:30 pm and Sunday 8:30 to 10 am.

Youth programs

In general, activities listed for youth include breakdance, hockey camp, hockey tune-up, figure skating camp and a counsellor-in-training (CIT) program.

One of the highlights of this early sign-up is for the city’s eight weekly summer camp sessions for children aged 6 to 14. These start June 22. Camp spaces are filled on a first-come basis. Sessions take place 9 am to 4 pm with various conditions and other information listed.

Among some of the other regular summer activities for youth are breakdance, a one-week hockey camp (August 17-21) and a hockey tune-up for M13 and M15 players “to shake off the summer rust and tune up before tryouts,” according to the program description. There are also three sessions of summer skating instruction programs in July and August as well as a figure-skating camp August 17 to 21.

Adult programs

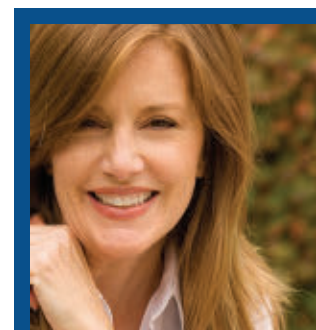
A long list of many adult activities includes dance programs from belly-dancing and classical ballet to line dancing and theatre dance. Other programs include low-intensity fitness, gentle movement and gentle yoga that are also available on Zoom for the convenience of seniors.

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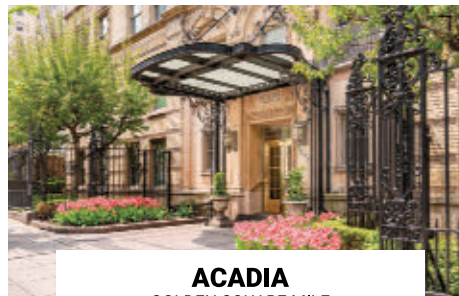


LE CHÂTEAU

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#E30-31	\$3,995,000

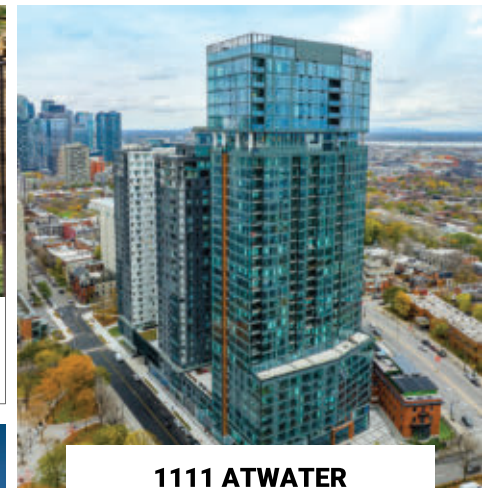


ACADIA

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Units:

#55	\$1,245,000
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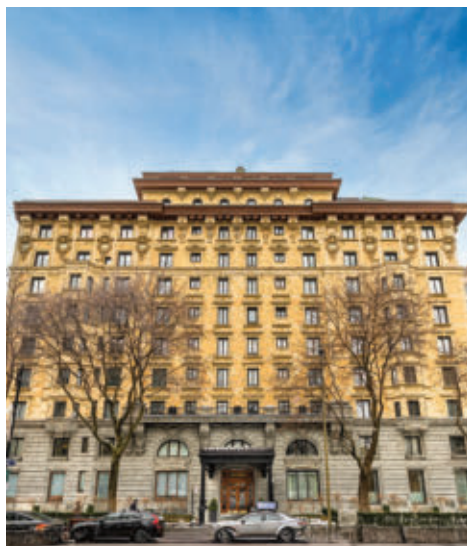


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Units:

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#3502	\$4,026,055+tx
#3603	\$2,633,500+tx
#3503	\$2,302,955+tx
#3201	\$2,388,744+tx
#3203	\$1,568,674+tx

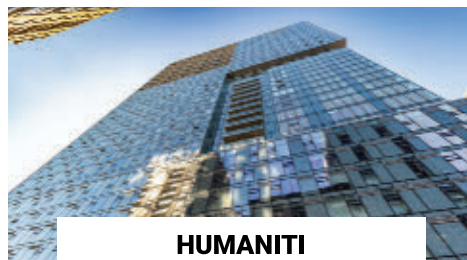


LINTON

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Units:

#59	\$1,995,000
#17	\$799,000
#15B	\$349,000

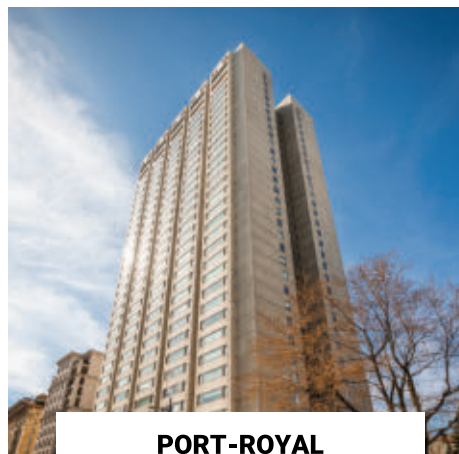


HUMANITI

INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Units:

#PH-3804	\$4,495,000
#2901	\$2,199,000



PORT-ROYAL

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Units:

#3004	\$4,495,000
#2801	\$2,695,000
#PH-3	\$2,199,000
#1002	\$1,495,000
#1606	\$1,225,000
#605	\$999,000
#501	\$999,000
#2101	\$520,000



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October sales: Wild



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

than the count for last May, which until then had been the most in a single month.

Olivier Ave., it seems, has become the hottest street in the city, as three sales on that street brought the three highest mark-ups over valuation among the October sales.

The property roll has classified 384 Olivier Ave. as a duplex with the numbers 384-86, but nowhere in October's deed is there any mention of a "386 Olivier," and the \$6,500,000 price tag reflects prices more in line with (totally renovated) single-family dwellings. That figure is almost 2½ times the municipal valuation, the highest mark-up of the month but only slightly higher than the 137-percent mark-up for 358 Olivier, whose \$4,500,000 price, along with 384, is far above anything else sold on the street.

334 Olivier's October \$3,475,000 sale was (at that point) the fourth-highest sale



8 Surrey Gardens.

price ever on the street, requiring 349 Olivier's December 2024 sale at \$3,800,000 to

be remembered and added to the mix.

continued on p. 18

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in October 2025, gleaned from city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

If one word could describe last October's real estate market, it would be "wild." Not only were there 28 closings of house sales in Westmount, the most in a month since June of 2021 and the most for the month of October since 1985, four of those sales topped the \$6-million mark, and another five sold between four and six million. Altogether, 20 sales were registered for more than \$2 million, three more



384 Olivier.



358 Olivier.

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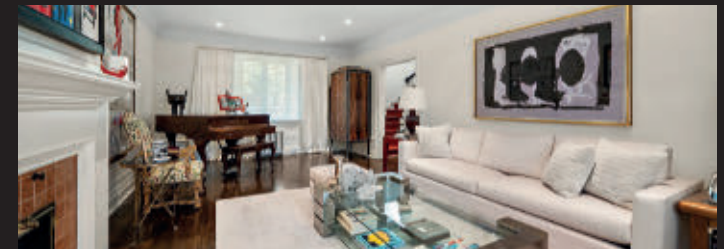
RE/MAX Action Courtiers/Brokers

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in September

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
3269 Cedar	Sanghui Yu	\$3,050,000	\$3,540,500	-13.9%
3270 Cedar	Karl Schwatz & Nicole Jecen	\$6,800,000	\$6,727,700	1.1%
82 Chesterfield	Katherine Perry & Jennifer Hill	\$2,280,000	\$2,035,000	12.0%
208 Côte St. Antoine	Tobie Davis	\$1,500,000	\$1,928,200	-22.2%
372 Elm	Jean Marquette	\$2,037,000	\$2,010,000	1.3%
495 Elm	Joyce Shiller-Rosenhek	\$1,720,000	\$1,889,600	-9.0%
360 Grosvenor	Eleanore Vance	\$1,175,000	\$1,541,500	-23.8%
573 Grosvenor	Serge Pierre Hugues Douillard-Absil & Valérie Marie-Joseph Irtanucci	\$2,240,000	\$2,564,700	-12.7%
711 Grosvenor	Rebecca Zucco & Jean-Marc Zucco	\$2,450,000	\$2,230,000	9.9%
1 Grove Park	Dr. Ali Omar Abualsaud & Dr. Najua Buhlaiga	\$2,620,000	\$2,560,500	2.3%
374 Metcalfe	J. Anthony Boeckh	\$4,000,000	\$3,484,800	14.8%
618 Murray Hill	9455-2494 Québec Inc.	\$4,597,500	\$3,392,700	35.5%
45 Oakland	Evelin Management Services Inc.	\$2,960,000	\$2,448,600	20.9%
258 Olivier	Alana MacEwen	\$2,155,000	\$1,659,300	29.9%
334 Olivier	Sandra McGill	\$3,475,000	\$1,962,200	77.1%
358 Olivier	9347-7289 Québec Inc.	\$4,500,000	\$1,899,000	137.0%
252 Prince Albert	Elan Uri Cusiack-Barr	\$1,600,000	\$1,370,000	16.8%
441 Prince Albert	Johanna Marie Hay Mackay	\$1,490,000	\$1,737,700	-14.3%
515 Roslyn	Zhimei Yu	\$3,999,000	\$4,374,400	-8.6%
4872 St. Catherine	Adam Bercovitch & Elyssa Drouin	\$1,160,000	\$1,131,500	2.5%
68 Summit Circle	Jay Bassila & Sylvia Krauss	\$6,170,000	\$5,664,100	8.9%
30 Sunnyside	Anne-Marie Boucher	\$5,100,000	\$6,168,700	-17.3%
8 Surrey Gardens	Lorena Marra	\$6,969,500	\$4,834,000	44.2%

continued on p.18

NEW to market!



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VILLE DE | CITY OF
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NOUVELLES

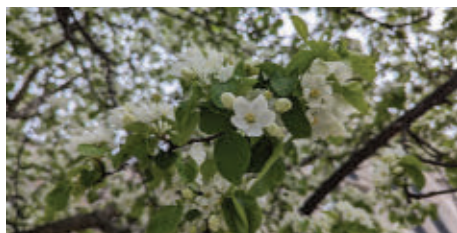
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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Tuesday, April 14



Activités du Jour de la Terre

Pour souligner le Jour de la Terre en 2026, la Ville organise plusieurs activités citoyennes. Ces activités gratuites sont offertes aux résidents sur inscription seulement. Les places sont limitées ! westmount.org/jourdelaterre

Punaises de lit à la Bibliothèque

La Bibliothèque rouvrira officiellement au public dès que les experts auront validé la conformité des lieux. La Ville remercie les citoyens pour leur patience pendant les mesures visant à assurer un environnement sain et accueillant. westlib.org

Travaux d'infrastructures 2026

De mai à novembre, la Ville de Westmount effectuera des travaux pouvant affecter certaines propriétés. Veuillez informer la Ville de toute installation souterraine (entrée ou trottoir chauffant, irrigation, etc.). westmount.org/travaux2026



Earth Day Activities

To celebrate Earth Day in 2026, the City is organizing several citizen-oriented activities. These free activities are available to residents by registration only. Spaces are limited! westmount.org/earthday

Sports et loisirs : inscription pour les activités de l'été

Les inscriptions aux activités de loisir et au camp d'été débutent le 14 avril pour les résidents, et celles aux activités aquatiques et sports de raquette le 21 avril. westmount.org/activites

Le printemps à Westmount

Le printemps est arrivé ! Profitez-en pour consulter les rappels sur les collectes, l'entretien des rues, les souffleuses à feuilles, les chiens au bois Summit, les activités, et plus encore. westmount.org/printemps

Bed Bugs at the Library

The Library will officially reopen to the public once experts have confirmed that the premises meet standards. The City thanks residents for their patience while measures are taken to ensure a safe and welcoming environment. westlib.org

Infrastructure Work 2026

From May to November, the City of Westmount will carry out work that may affect certain properties; please report any underground installations (heated driveways or sidewalks, irrigation systems, etc.). westmount.org/2026works

Sports and Recreation: registration for summer activities

Registration for recreation programmes and summer camp begins April 14 for residents, and April 21 for aquatic and racquet sports. westmount.org/activites

Spring in Westmount

Spring has officially arrived! Take this opportunity to look at the reminders for collections, street maintenance, leaf blowers, dogs at Summit Woods, sports activities, and more. westmount.org/spring

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Vernissage - Exposition :

Entredeux de Michèle Atkinson

16 avril, 18 h, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Vous êtes invités au vernissage de l'exposition *Entredeux* par l'artiste de Westmount Michèle Atkinson.

westmount.org/evenements



Échange de vêtements

18 avril, 13 h, Victoria Hall. Apportez jusqu'à 10 articles pré-aimés, propres et en bon état, et échangez-les pour célébrer le Jour de la Terre ! Déposez vos articles les 16 et 17 avril entre 8 h 30 et 21 h, ou le 18 avril avant 11 h. Revenez ensuite découvrir les trouvailles et repartez avec quelques trésors. westmount.org/evenements

Ciné-club : La petite et le vieux (2024)

28 avril, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Venez partager notre passion pour le cinéma ! À Limoilou dans les années 1980, Jo, une fillette à l'imagination fertile vit dans un quartier populaire peuplé de gens souvent colorés dont le plus attachant est son nouveau voisin, Monsieur Roger, un vieil homme bourru qui cache un cœur tendre. westmount.org/evenements

Soirée Karaoké

23 avril, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Laissez briller la rock star ou la diva en vous ! Participez à la soirée karaoké communautaire, animée par Brittany Williams. Tous les niveaux sont les bienvenus. Places limitées. Billets : 5 \$ (une boisson incluse). Bar payant. westmount.org/evenements

Club de films documentaires

29 avril, 19 h, Salle Westmount. Projection de courts documentaires anti-guerre, dont *Neighbours* (1956) et *Knights of Orlando* (2007), suivie d'une discussion avec la bibliothécaire Katherine Kasirer. westlib.org

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Vernissage - Exhibition: *In Between* by Michèle Atkinson

April 16, 6 p.m., Gallery at Victoria Hall. You are invited to the vernissage for the exhibition titled *In Between* by Westmount artist Michèle Atkinson.

westmount.org/events

Clothing Swap

April 18, 1 p.m., Victoria Hall. Bring up to 10 pre-loved items, clean and in good condition, and swap them to celebrate Earth Day! Drop off your items on April 16 and 17 between 8:30 a.m. and 9 p.m., or on April 18 before 11 a.m. Then come back to browse and pick out a few treasures.

westmount.org/events

Karaoke Night

April 23, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Let your inner rock star or diva shine! Join us for a community karaoke night, hosted by Brittany Williams. All levels are welcome. Limited spots. Tickets: \$5 (one drink included). Cash bar.

westmount.org/events

Film Club: *La petite et le vieux* (2024)

April 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Come share our passion for cinema! In French with subtitles. In Limoilou in the 1980s, Jo, a young girl with a vivid imagination, lives in a working-class neighbourhood full of colourful characters, the most endearing of whom is her new neighbour, Monsieur Roger, a gruff old man with a soft heart. westmount.org/events

Documentary Film Club

April 29, 7 p.m., Westmount Room. Screening of short anti-war documentaries, including *Neighbours* (1956) and *Knights of Orlando* (2007), followed by a discussion with librarian Katherine Kasirer. westlib.org



Police Report

Station 12 police report two more local car thefts despite national decline

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. are reporting the theft last week of two higher-end vehicles – brands that coincidentally also appear on a list of the most-stolen cars in Quebec.

During the night of March 28-29, a Toyota Highlander mid-size crossover SUV was stolen from a parking spot on Murray Hill Ave. According to a complaint filed at Station 12, the owner was a tourist

from the US.

“He stopped off for a visit with some friends, parked, and overnight it disappeared,” said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

According to the investigating officer’s notes, there were no signs of forced entry, such as broken glass or debris on the ground where the vehicle had been parked.

Lexus stolen

A few days later, a Lexus IS 350 compact

(made by a luxury-vehicle subsidiary of Toyota) was stolen sometime between 9 pm on March 31 and 9 am on April 1. As in the previous case, there were no signs of forced entry.

According to an Équité Association 2024-2025 report, the Lexus RX series of vehicles was “highly targeted” for theft during that period and was third on the list, while the Highlander comes fourth and was “frequently targeted.”

The Équité Association, which repre-

sents Canadian auto insurers to combat fraud and car thefts, says thieves commonly use wireless relays to bypass security on keyless models.

SUVs represent the vast majority of top stolen vehicles due to high demand for resale overseas, they add. And despite high numbers, the association says overall auto theft in Quebec is part of a national trend that saw a 19-percent decline in some sectors, although car theft “remains a significant issue.”

Bedbug extermination at library continues apace, re-opening to be announced soon



The library’s doors on April 3.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.


The city of Westmount sent out a press release April 2 saying that the second phase of the bedbug eradication at the Westmount Public Library was on schedule.

These measures meant a second “intervention” took place 21 days after the first treatment on March 11 and “adhering to this strict interval is a scientific requirement to interrupt the natural reproduction cycle of the pests and ensure a healthy and safe environment for everyone.”


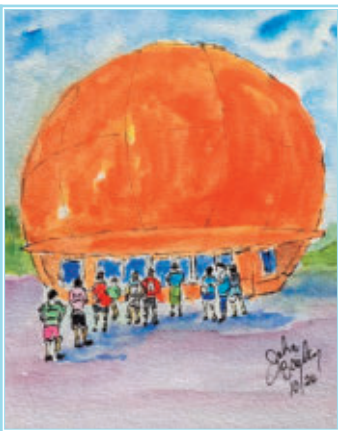
The release predicted a “thorough clean of the entire building, including all public areas and workspaces” over the long April 4-5 weekend.

It also predicted that “early in the week of April 6, the building will be re-assessed to ensure that the facilities are ready to welcome the public back.”

The city’s missive concluded in bold type: “The official re-opening date will be confirmed shortly.” – WI



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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in October... continued from p. 15

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
562 Victoria	Lee Anne Torrens & David Abramson	\$1,893,150	\$1,775,200	6.6%
621 Victoria	Wei Feng Zhao & Wei Jing Xu	\$2,250,000	\$2,104,800	6.9%
488 Wood	Jeremy Kornbluth & Jessica Reinglas	\$4,430,000	\$2,775,000	59.6%
49 York	Laframboise Real estate Inc.	\$805,000	\$1,224,000	-34.2%
DUPLEXES				
384 Olivier	Warren Fremeth & Nina Vaccaro	\$6,500,000	\$2,613,800	148.7%
CONDOMINIUMS				
1 Burton	Sarah Freemantle & Beau Kavanagh	\$812,000	\$541,600	49.9%
1 Wood #1101	Estate Sara Schmidt	\$2,300,000	\$2,354,600	-2.3%
10 York #101	Susan Hope-Johnston	\$600,000	\$443,100	35.4%
OTHER				
459 Côte St. Antoine (August sale)	Hendrik Westra	\$1,610,000	\$1,971,600	-18.3%
325-27 Melville	Emile Subirana	\$3,200,000	\$2,391,000	33.8%
"1 Claremont"	Manuel Gervais & Coralie-Catherine Gervais	\$65,000	\$59,200	9.8%

Dodge, cont'd from p. 14

Another sale in October of last year at 258 Olivier went for \$2,155,000, almost 30 percent above its valuation.

Even the price for 384 Olivier Ave. was not enough to top the \$6,969,500 price paid for 8 Surrey Gardens, nor the \$6,800,000 for 3270 Cedar Ave.

On the low side, a small house at 41 York St., near the corner of Prince Albert Ave., sold for \$805,000, some 34 percent below its municipal valuation of \$1,224,000, making it the lowest price and the biggest mark-down of the month.

Overall, the 28 one- and two-family sales in October brought an average price of \$3,211,648, making this the second month in 2025 that the average price was over \$3 million, while in 2024 the average was over \$3 million in six of 12 months.

Comparing to the 2023 valuations, which were still in force until January of this year, the average mark-up over valuation was 15.8 percent, higher than either of the past two months and slightly higher

than the 13.2-percent average for the year.

Condos less buoyant

Enthusiasm about Westmount real estate did not find its way to the local condominium market, which recorded only three sales with an average 11.2-percent mark-up, including one high-rise apartment at 1 Wood Ave., a smaller apartment at 10 York St., and a converted duplex flat at 21 Burton Ave.

Condominiums are categorized on a quarterly basis, so the October sales make up only a portion of what will be the fourth-quarter statistics.

Among "other" sales were a late-reported sale of 459 Côte St. Antoine Rd. (sold in August), of a large fourplex at 325-27 Melville Ave., and of a garage described by the city as "1 Claremont Ave.," one of a row of five garages behind the properties on Parkman Place, and behind the buyer's house on Côte St. Antoine.



49 York St.



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Panther and Pallas brother kittens



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



further details.

Cause4Paws is also holding a very special raffle with great prizes, which you will find out more about from its website.

If you would like to contact the volunteers for more information about bringing these adorable little brothers into your family's life, please do not hesitate to reach out to their email address montrealcause4paws@gmail.com to enquire about adoption.

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Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Such a delightful fellow, Djappa is waiting for a family of his very own at the Montreal SPCA kennel. He is a cuddly teddy bear-type, with such a warm gaze and a cute puppy expression.

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

To find out more about him, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, and scroll to Djappa's information page from his identification number, A0051005015. You can then plan your visit with him at the shelter, as it is open every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to



Cuddly Djappa

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.

Djappa is a wonderful companion, happy in the home routine and keen on exploring on walks. Please discuss your interest with the adoption coordinators when you arrive and spend quality time visiting with Djappa to share the first moments of joy on meeting, beginning a relationship of trust and happiness.

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Painting of former mayor Smith unveiled at special event



Mayor Michael Stern addresses the gathering at the council chamber. The portrait's artist, Alex Kasyan, is seated in the front row, second from left.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A painting of former mayor Christina Smith was unveiled March 31 at a special invitational event at city hall.

Tom Flies, the city's acting director general, led off the hour-long afternoon event by thanking her for her service on behalf of city employees.

He was followed by the portrait's painter, Alex Kasyan, who thanked her for trusting him with the task. He described how he had spent a four-hour walk with her in Westmount Park taking photographs from which to work and "just waiting" for a special expression on her face as a guide. It came when she saw a group of kids playing outside the library.

Known generally through her tenure as "Christina," her total of 12 years' service on city council as a councillor and two terms as mayor "were defined by an unwavering commitment to the well-being of the city," said current mayor Michael Stern.

Among her accomplishments, he said, were the completed restoration of the floral conservatory and "the rehabilitation of city hall," which he described as "acts of stewardship ensuring our heritage remains intact for the next generation." Through the currently ongoing Southeast Special Planning Project, he added, "she set a course for intelligent urban densification."

Mayor Stern suggested that "perhaps her most profound contribution was her steady hand during the global [COVID] pandemic" as well as her role as a "formidable advocate" for Westmount at the Montreal agglomeration and within the Association of Suburban Municipalities.

The portrait, he said "is a tribute to a

mayor who led with both her head and her heart."

After the removal of the drapery that had covered the painting, "Christina" thanked everyone for attending, adding how "dear to my heart" was the painting's depiction of her at the library.

"I was grateful for the privilege of serving as mayor and a council member," Smith told the *Independent* afterwards. "This is an incredible community, and I appreciate all those who help make it a wonderful place to live. Working with citizens to move things forward is one of the greatest parts of this job."

"I was uncomfortable with the idea of a portrait, as that is not in my nature, but I was so pleased to work with Alex, a gifted artist who had painted beautiful portraits... I am grateful to the team at the library and Community Events who helped me find Alex Kasyan.

"It is the end of a chapter for me in my public service with the city, and I will always be grateful for that time."

According to the mayor's executive secretary Annique Dufour, Mayor Smith "wanted a small event without much fanfare. Aside from her immediate family members, she requested that council members who no longer serve currently on council be invited. These included Conrad Peart, Mary Gallery, Anitra Bostock and Elisabeth Roux as well as former councillor Victor Drury, all of whom attended.

"An email went out to the directors of the departments to advise them of the unveiling if they wanted to attend. We said in the email that if there were any colleagues that would like to attend that they would be welcome."

The Study honours its alumnae, staff



City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Study celebrated International Women's Day at the school's assembly where former students were honoured in recognition of their accomplishments.

Awards included the Judy Elder Alumna Award (Dr. Amira El-Messidi, class of '95),

the Young Alumna Distinction Award (co-recipients Dr. Cynthia Qian, '01 and Sofia Essayan-Perez '11), the Lifetime Love of Learning Award, presented to the eldest alumna, Miriam Tees ('40), 103 years young.

Former Study staff member Pattie Edwards was recognized for her 35 years of dedication by making her an honorary member of SOGA, the Study Old Girls' Association.

Present at the event were The Study's Kim McInnes, head of school; Kim Turcot DiFruscia, deputy head of school, and Amanda Liste, elementary school director.



From left, top row: head of school Kim McInnes, Amanda Liste, deputy head of school Kim Turcot DiFruscia and Miriam Tees; front row: Valentina Crisan-Ngandui and Iris Moldoveanu.

Miriam Foundation's art auction raises \$200k for autism



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Held at Maison Alcan, the 12th edition of the Miriam Foundation's Art Auction for Autism was beautifully orchestrated by co-chairs **Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir**, **Carol Tryansky**, **Judy Wolfe** and **Franki Yanofsky**. Committee members were **Alanna Bordoff**, **Gill Brody**, **Kathy Brody**, **Deborah Malin** and **Liliane Zylberszac**.

The popular annual event was catered by Ristorante Beatrice. **Lee Haberkorn**, The Beat 92.5, was the energetic (and successful!) auctioneer.

The art-filled night featured works by clients from Miriam's creative and therapeutic arts program as well as professional artists **André Monet**, **Gilles Labranche**, **Richard Roblin**, **Paul-Émile Rioux**, **Lynda Schneider Granatstein**, **Mimi Kitner**, **Scott MacLeod**, **Michael Litvack**, **Victoria Wonnacott**, **Marie Danielle Leblanc**, **Catherine Benny**, **Maxwell Bitton**, **Douglas Scott** and **Tristan Tondino**.

Westmounters noted *continued on p. 22*



Franki Yanofsky, Carol Tryansky, Warren Greenstone and Judy Wolfe.



Lisa Stotland and Howard Stotland.



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Mandy and Rebecca Wolfe.



Lee Haberkorn, auctioneer.



James Caldereri and Amanda Debruyne.



Charles Bitton and Marisa Neves.

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

in the packed room included Marisa Neves and Charles Bitton, Carol and Neil Tryansky, Judy Wolfe with her children Rebecca, Mandy, and Josh Wolfe and daughter-in-law Vanessa Grimaldi, as well as Sheila Notkin, Rozlyn Druckman, Anne Wacjer and Larry Vatch, Madonna and Jean-Claude Levy, Anna and Louis Burgos, Janice Heft and Lloyd Sheiner, Erika and Louis Ludwick, Olga Huk and Bill Papanastasiou, Linda and Terry Smith, Aubrey Rosenhek, Helaine Kliger, David Grosvenor, Brenda Stermer and Joe Boucher, Dana Even and Gary Mall, Alissa and Barry Katsof, and Vania and Mark Lazar.

Also seen were the Miriam Foundation's CEO, Warren Greenstone, and Sarah Pinchevsky, coordinator.

Close to \$200,000 was raised in support of the Miriam Foundation's mission to support individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities, at all stages of life. The funds raised will help provide access to comprehensive, personalized recreational and therapeutic services for all ages.

Spring Social Calendar

APRIL

**Friday, April 10
to Sunday, April 12**

Plural Art Fair. 500 Canadian artists. Art talks and conferences. Grand Quay, Old Port. 200 de la Commune St. W. Tickets and information plural.art

Wednesday, April 21

La SAMS evening. Guest of honour soprano Sharon Azrieli. Musicians: Duo Fortin-Poirier, piano four hands; Steve Normandin, accordion with his ensemble; Nadia Labrie and John Roney, flute and piano. Launch of the book *Healing with Music: News from Neuroscience* by Dr. Isabelle Peretz. Cocktail, concert and closing reception with the artists. 6:15 p.m. Le Rialto Theatre, 5723 Park Ave. Valet parking. Tickets \$300. samsante.org/en/soiree-benefice2026

Thursday, April 30

Beauty in Being. Fashion fundraiser benefiting UP House Montreal. Reception and fashion show. 6 pm. Maison Alcan, 2200 Stanley St. Tickets \$175. para disurbain.org/en/upbeat/

MAY

Thursday, May 7

My Big Fat Greek Fundraiser # 6. Chair Linda Smith. Committee: Susan Alper, Sylvie Amar, Corinne Asseraf, Simone Elfassy, Lydia Mamane and Jennifer Silver. Annual fundraiser for the Miriam Foundation. Art auction. Entertainment Michelle Sweeney and DJ Yo-C. 6:30 pm. Estiatorio Milos, 5557 Park Ave. Valet parking. Tickets \$375. Miriamfoundation.ca. 514.345.1300

Friday, May 8

25th anniversary Bal des Tannants presented by the Mireille and Lino Saputo Foundation. Supporting the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.

Black tie. Starlink Aviation Hangar, 9025 Ryan Ave., Dorval. Tickets \$2,000. After-party \$300. ball@mchf.com fondationduchildren.com

Wednesday, May 27

Under the Tuscan Sun benefit for the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex Foundation (QEHCF). The 30th annual celebration honours philanthropist Marvin Corber.

Committee: John MacDonald (QEHCF chair), François Campeau, Tony Fagnoli, Alexandre Gagnon, Nicole Larocque, Rebecca Murray, Irene Tschernomor, and the QEHCF team Alexandra Goldbloom, Éleine Lalonde and Marine Baillie.

Sit-down Italian dinner prepared by The Fairmont Queen Elizabeth. 6 pm. Les Entrepôts Dominion, 3970 St. Ambroise St.

Tickets \$300. Qehcfoundation.org/events. 514.485.5018.

JUNE

Monday, June 1

ICRF Montreal 49th Annual Gala. "I'm a Soul Man" tribute to the Blues Brothers. Honorary co-chairs Vivian Billick and Jeff Solomon. Event chair Alexandra Feifer-Wexelman.

Cocktail dîatoire. Tickets \$360. Sponsorships \$1,000. Information: Icrfmontreal.org

Thursday, June 4

The Future Came, and It Forgot We Are Neighbours at the CCA (Canadian Centre for Architecture). Inspired by the CCA's exhibition on Álvaro Siza's approach to city-making. Cocktail reception, private gallery tour and dinner. 5 pm. After-party (8:30 pm) organized in collaboration with Collectif. CCA, 1920 Baile St. Valet parking. Tickets \$2,000. After-party \$250. (35 years and under \$150) Contribution.cca.qc.ca.

Sunday, June 7

22nd Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner honouring Montreal Canadiens veteran Brendan Gallagher, legendary broadcaster Pierre Houde and Westmounter Farrel Miller, community leader. Co-chairs are Mike Wagen, senior vp Delmar International, and Bram Naimer, CEO Union Lighting. Emcee Olivia Benaroché, animator at Habs home games since 2019. Cummings Centre. 5 pm. Gelber Conference Centre, 5151 Côte St. Catherine. Tickets \$360. Cjcsfoundation.org

Wednesday June 10

From Generation to Generation Temple Gala honouring Betty Palik and Michael Prupas and family. Featuring *The Gazette's* Josh Freed. Gala committee Leslie Alcorn, Felicity Blatt, Penny Echenberg, Erit Gilman, Nancy Cummings Gold, Denise Grossman, Marcy Kastner, Jewel Lowenstein, Sandy Martz, Betsy Pomerantz, Risa Sherzer, Nancy Strohl and Glenna Uline.

Cocktails 5 pm, followed by dinner, entertainment, after-party and dessert. Tickets Marcy 514.937.3575 local 214. Reserve by May 15. Temple Emanu-el-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. West. Valet parking.

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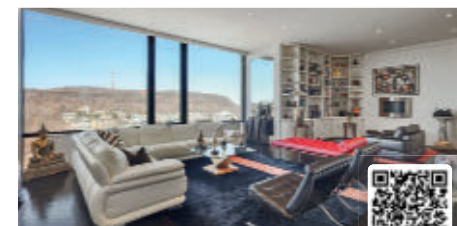
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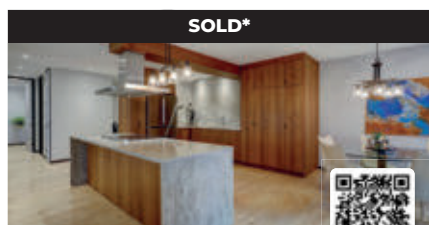
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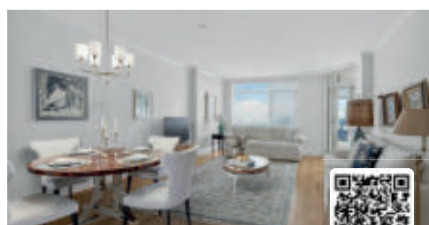
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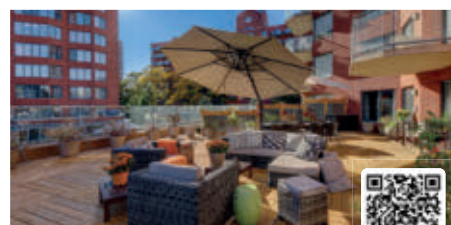
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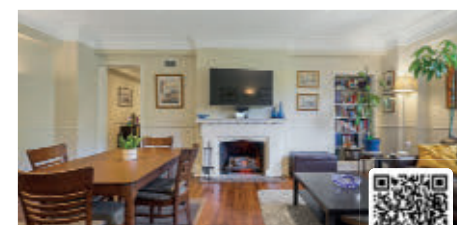
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