

April 21 first chance to sign up for more summer sports

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

On the heels of the city's registration for spring and some summer activities last week comes a head start for more activities on Tuesday, April 21. This is when Westmount residents can start signing up for the city's swimming lessons and the summer-focused sessions in tennis and pickleball running from the end of June through August.

These additional options follow the ongoing registration for camp sessions and other summer activities, as previously

reported (see story April 7, p. 1).

In the category of junior tennis (ages 6 to 15), lessons include those at various times on Saturdays as well as through July, August and September. The summer tennis instruction sessions for adults are also listed at varied times from the end of June through September. Adult pickleball instruction also takes place at various times.

Swimming instruction will be provided in four sessions from June 22 to August 14, based on various abilities. These times also take into account periods for aqua fitness and masters' swimmers.

Also offered is instruction and lifesaving sessions leading to Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross certifications.

Full details are listed in the city's summer line-up in the 2026 brochure on the website and at the Sports and Recreation office.

**Remembering
photographer
Gabor Szilasi, p.16**

Library re-opens, post-bedbugs



Westmount Public Library co-director Anne-Marie Lacombe was on site to welcome back patrons April 9 after the building had been declared clear of bedbugs after a month of being closed. See story on p. 12.

PHOTO: LAUREEN SWEENEY.

Work to be done on Victoria Hall staircase for \$465,000

\$95,000 approved to assess condition of 10 other city buildings

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council at its meeting March 17 approved a contract to look into conditions of 10 municipal buildings at a cost of some \$95,000.

A separate contract at close to \$500,000 included work on the staircase at Victoria Hall, which was begun April 10.

While no details were provided at the

meeting in either of the unanimously approved resolutions, Councillor Jonathan Chomski, who moved the resolution to assess the 10 buildings, later told the *Independent* he had been "able to find out" that they included 10 buildings as Phase 2 of a project begun in 2025.

These 10, he said, are used for the Protective Services building on Stanton St., as well as *continued on p. 7*

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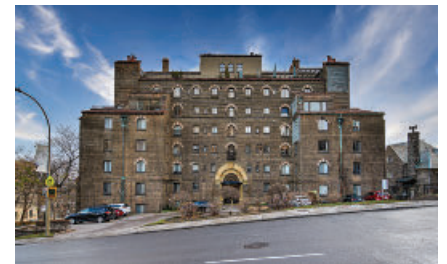
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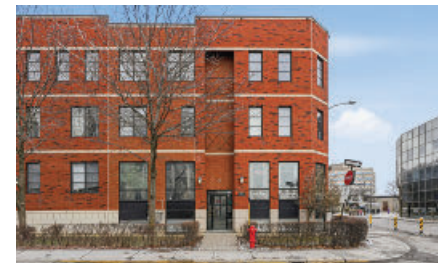
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Public Security issues warnings

Spring brings back reminders of school safety

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Now that spring appears to have sprung, Public Security last week issued a reminder to drivers to take special precautions around school zones.

This message comes from assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun, who last week noticed driving violations around the St. George's school zone at The Boulevard and Aberdeen.

Issue returns

These had been addressed before the winter but now that driving is easier, they seem to have returned, she said.

"Both Public Security and police will be paying special attention to school zones," she explained.

Drivers are reminded to reduce speed and come to a full stop at all stop signs. "They should also stay well away from school entrances when dropping off or picking up students, respect designated zones, not make U-turns and not park on crosswalks."

**Art: Eva Prager/
Vincent Prager, p. 4**

Letters, p. 8

Police Report, p. 8

Pet page, p. 14

**Art: John Little
photographs, p. 15**

Evicted man helped on his way

A Public Security patroller April 1 spotted a man lying face down at 6:30 pm on the ground near the YMCA refugee centre (the former Reddy Memorial Hospital) on Tupper St. He was described as non-responsive but breathing.

While awaiting Urgences Santé and police, patrollers spoke to the centre, whose staff were reported to have explained that the man had been evicted earlier in the day, though the reasons were not reported.

Before the arrival of police or Urgences Santé, the man awakened and departed, leaving his possessions behind.

He was later located by Public Security, who said he was "cooperative" and that the YMCA "wanted him off their property." Again, no reasons were given.

YMCA residences in Montreal, including this one near Atwater, are described as offering temporary, safe housing for refugees and asylum seekers, usually requiring a referral from PRAIDA (Regional Program for the Settlement and Integration of Asylum Seekers). This is a provincial program.

Key rules at the residences are reported to involve respecting the shared living environment, co-operating with case management and adhering to strict eligibility criteria such as having lived in Quebec for 10 days and needing emergency housing.

Man taken to hospital by Urgences Santé

A man was taken to hospital April 1 at 6:40 pm from near 1500 Atwater when patrollers saw him lying on the ground near the bike path. He was described as "non-responsive" and was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé. No further details were provided.

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Prager *files* to present 'life and times' of Prager *mère*



Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Among Westmount's gorgeous magnolia trees, one of the loveliest was that nourished by Eva Prager (1912-2010). The renowned artist will be featured at a special evening presented by the Westmount Historical Association. Maritime lawyer Vincent Prager and only son of Eva and Richard Prager will explore his mother's remarkable life.

Born in Berlin, Eva was a Westmounter for over 40 years. Her legacy lives on in the Oppenheimer-Prager Museum at Dayspring in New Brunswick, which showcases not only the work of Eva Prager but also of her father Joseph Oppenheimer, an internationally renowned artist.

Dayspring itself is also famous: it is the former home of Lady Beaverbrook. Learn more at: Museumatdayspring.org.

The Life and Times of My Mother Eva Prager, O.C. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. 7 to 9 pm. Thursday, April 23. Admission



free for Library members. \$5. For others at the door. Seating limited. Information. Westmounthistorical.org.

Vincent Prager as a child with his mother, Eva Prager, painted by his grandfather, Joseph Oppenheimer.

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Does having a number mean a tree belongs to the city? No, says spokesman

Claremont resident Chen claims city should take responsibility for tree

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After failing to win a legal case against the city of Westmount for damages allegedly caused by the roots of a tree, a Claremont Ave. resident still wants the city to at least take responsibility for adequately maintaining it.

That could take a bit of doing, since the city's position is that the tree is on private property – even though it bears a municipal registration number.

“Despite my written warnings to the city's administration in June and July 2025, no action has been taken to secure or inspect this tree,” Yi Chen wrote in an e-mail to the *Independent*.

He said a large broken branch “remained dangerously suspended from the same tree, posing an immediate risk to pedestrians and traffic below.”

He had previously sued the city unsuccessfully for more than \$13,000 in damages, claiming roots from the tree had damaged a sewage pipeline, causing underground water leakage.

He maintained that the tree had a documented history of failure (a large branch fell in 2017, he said) and was included in



Yi Chen of Claremont Ave. is seen here on March 27 with the tree outside his home he claims should be the city of Westmount's responsibility.

the city's municipal maintenance program in the past.

He said he also possessed written correspondence from the city, identifying it as tree number 3718. However, he added, in a recent sworn statement from July 2025, a city forestry engineer suggested it might be on private property.

“This conflicting information has cre-

ated a dangerous vacuum of responsibility while the physical hazard continues unabated,” wrote Yi Chen.

Request for barriers

He said he was respectfully requesting the city's immediate intervention to secure the area with barriers or temporary measures to protect the public; remove the

hanging branch and conduct a full safety inspection of the tree; clarify in writing whether the city accepts responsibility for the tree's maintenance, given its historical inclusion in municipal care; and provide a clear timeline for the inspection and maintenance of all trees along Claremont Ave., as previously committed.

In an e-mailed response to questions from the *Independent*, Mugisha Rutishisha, director of communications with the city of Westmount, said that after verification with the city's arboriculture team, it was confirmed that tree number 3718 is listed as being on private property, “but is not considered imminently dangerous.”

He said there had briefly been some confusion over the fact that a neighbouring tree, located on the public/private property line, was recently removed by the city due to its poor condition following safety concerns.

However, regarding tree 3718, Rutishisha maintained that the court had ruled in favour of the city, confirming that the tree is situated on private property.

In that ruling by Quebec Court Judge Eliana Marengo, dated September 11 last year, she said that Yi Chen bore the burden of proof for his claims and “did not establish that the tree belongs to the respondent.”

Rutishisha said that the presence of an inventory number is due to the tree's proximity to the public right-of-way.

“This allows the city to track the territorial canopy but does not indicate municipal ownership or maintenance responsibility,” Rutishisha stated.

For previous coverage of tree issues in Westmount, see:

- “Who's responsible for 172 ‘orphan’ sidewalk trees?” October 7-8, 2008, p. 1
- “Tree-cutting to require permits for all, even backyards” February 2, 2016, p. 1

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Vic Hall event for a 4th year

Earth Day Clothing Swap features onsite repair kiosk

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's annual Earth Day Clothing Swap returns for a fourth year April 18 from 1 pm to 4 pm at Victoria Hall. The event aims to help residents recycle "pre-loved" but now unwanted apparel in clean and good shape. Last year's event attracted some 500 shoppers when the concert hall

was filled with racks of clothing.

To participate, up to 10 items of clothing in clean and good condition can be dropped off in advance at Victoria Hall on April 16 and 17 between 8:30 am and 9 pm or on April 18, the day of the sale, until 11 am.

The day of the event, an onsite repair kiosk will also be set up featuring Catalina



2025

Last year's volunteers in Victoria Hall April 12, just before and ready for the swap.



2025

Last year's swap.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Elliott, a leather craftswoman, fashion designer and costumer, expected to provide practical advice on the durability of clothing and possible repairs, according to the city's website announcing the event.

Objective: Reduce waste

No money is to be exchanged. The objective is to give used clothing a new home while reducing waste.

Last year, few items remained and those that did were donated to shelters (see story April 22, 2025, p. 4)

Attendees who have registered and

donated items will be admitted to the swap event at 1 pm for "priority" browsing while general attendees can browse as of 2 pm but cannot select without having contributed items for trading.

Further information can be obtained at 514.989.5226 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Assessing buildings cont'd from p. 1

the municipal greenhouses, Hydro Westmount's building and the Public Works complex including its garages and mess hall.

Others are the Lawn Bowling and Croquet clubhouse, as well as chalets at Westmount Park, King George (Murray) Park, Stayner Park and the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG).

Vic Hall staircase

It was at the same council session, that a total of \$465,294 was also approved for replacement of the foundations of the main staircase of Victoria Hall. This was moved by Councillor Shawn Moss, whose commissionership includes sports and recreation, urban planning and sustainable development.

According to District 5's Moss, the work at Victoria Hall is "essentially repairing the structure underneath," which is unseen but is allowing water infiltration. It also involves "repairing the vestibule floor finishes, refinishing the vestibule doors and

bringing the handrail up to code." It also includes landscaping adjacent to the stairs.

In presenting the city's budgets for 2026, Mayor Michael Stern had stated that city buildings were a priority. "In 2026, more than \$5.8 million is allocated to building projects, including renovations to the Westmount Park comfort station, masonry work at the library, and work to bring the elevators at Victoria Hall up to code."

Overheard

Sherbrooke St. near Lansdowne Ave., April 3 at 1:30 pm, woman to woman: "I'm having some sort of outer feeling. I can predict something bad happening, like an omen."

Sherbrooke St. near Roslyn Ave., April 10 at 9 am, woman to woman: "Tiny. And he would get smushed."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GO WESTMOUNT!!



An example of the city's fair treatment of its citizens. Taken on Academy Rd.

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

A FENCE, A TENT, AND A MAYOR WHO WON'T ACT

The mayor continues to refuse an in-person meeting [with St. Catherine near Victoria residents], despite urgent community issues. He has three and a half years left in his term to meet with the 16 concerned households, yet residents are treated as outsiders for raising legitimate

concerns. We thank the mayor nonetheless.

This week, the unthinkable happened again. Security cameras captured a man disappearing through an opening in the old train station fence – last week, over the weekend, and today [April 9]. Public Works refused to act, deflecting responsibility to “CN,” even though the fence was never installed by the railway.*

This afternoon, at 5:20 pm, a man entered the unused train station through the same opening. Public Security discovered a homeless man had set up a tent inside, cutting through plywood at the back. He admitted to being there for two weeks.

Two years ago, a major graffiti incident left residents feeling vulnerable. We requested inexpensive, wireless security cameras, remotely monitored by Public Security. Instead, the city produced a two-year “study,” which yielded nothing.

Will the new mayor respond with another multi-year study while residents remain at risk? Last summer, one of the 16 houses was broken into – a terrifying experience.

Meanwhile, the district councillor suggested converting the building into a café, citing the “broken windows theory.” In reality, this lane desperately needs basic security: a fake arched window with an unbreakable mirror in the exterior and iron fences at all openings in the interior, and security cameras.

Our narrow lane leaves no room for experiments or “dreams.” Residents deserve immediate, practical action, not end-

less studies, to ensure safety in our community.

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

***Editor's note and thought:** (1) Despite the city's reported statement, the rail line in Westmount is a CP rail line. (2) I agree with many of Diana Hernandez's suggestions for security, but why mirrored windows? Wouldn't normal ones be better? They would allow anyone (residents, municipal authorities, police) to quickly see if anything was amiss inside the building. – DP.

THANKS FOR THE OVERNIGHT PARKING SYSTEM

Reading a recent letter to the editor about heritage restrictions when installing new windows (March 24, p. 6), one may feel a little cynical about the intersection of public policy with plain old common sense.

Happily, there are some bright spots.

As a frequent visitor to your lovely town, I must commend your overnight parking reservation system. Coming to see family for Easter and Passover, the very sensible reservation system (which does not require visitors to request a temporary overnight parking permit), most welcomingly removes a burden from the weary traveller.

DREW DESAI, OTTAWA

Police Report

Car thefts rose significantly in Westmount last week

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Car thieves were particularly active in Westmount last week, making off with three vehicles within a 48-hour period.

“It looks like there's been a rise from what we normally see in a week,” said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

According to incident reports filed at the station on Stanton St., a Lexus RX luxury crossover SUV was stolen overnight on April 3 from a parking spot near the corner of Rosemount Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

However, no signs of forced entry, such as broken window glass, were left behind.

But the owner of the car was lucky, as it was equipped with a GPS tracking unit and it was recovered a short time later in the East End of Montreal.

According to Yigit, GPS-based tracking systems have made an important contribution to the recovery of stolen vehicles in recent years.

He noted that many auto insurers now require policy holders to be equipped with

Blowing transformer shakes residents

A power outage April 5 in the general area of Grosvenor (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine) was reported when a tree branch fell onto power lines and blew a transformer fuse at 2 am, according to Hydro Westmount officials.

The power line reportedly broke, causing a power outage in that area. Public Security was called and transferred the issue to Hydro Westmount, whose repair crews “quickly repaired the line and replaced the fuse, and power was restored by mid-morning,” said city communications director Mughisha Rutishisha.

An *Independent* reader who lives near the source of the problem said that “a loud explosion and flash awakened residents on Grosvenor from [civic number] 482 upwards towards Côte St. Antoine.”

He said that “the fire department arrived shortly after the one or many 911 calls and the Westmount [Public] Security dispatcher undertook to alert Hydro Westmount. Sunday morning, the power was restored but it was a scary sight to witness the flash and bomb-like sound at that time.” – LS.

GPS as a condition for being insured.

Honda CR-V stolen

On April 4, a Honda CR-V compact crossover SUV was stolen, also overnight, from a spot on Sherbrooke St. between Wood and Atwater avenues. In this case, however, the owner reported finding broken glass on the ground.

Toyota Highlander stolen

Finally, on the same day, a Toyota Highlander was stolen from a spot near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Redfern Ave.

Again, there were no traces of forced entry, said Cst. Yigit, reading from the incident report.

While Lexus does not appear on a 2024 insurance industry list of Quebec's most stolen vehicles, the Honda CR-V ranked second, while the Toyota Highlander was fifth.

However, the Lexus RX series of luxury vehicles ranked tenth on the top 10 list of most stolen cars across Canada during the same period.

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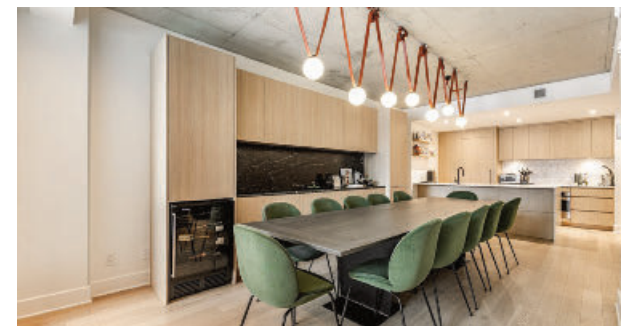


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Another inspection to come April 16

Nothing changes for public as Westmount Public Library welcomes back its users

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Public Library is open again!

Fully one month after the discovery of bedbugs closed the city's best-used facility, the doors were re-opened at 1 pm April 9 with little advance notice.

The re-opening followed what was reported to be a final inspection after a specialized team of pest control experts and city inspectors "confirmed" the facilities were "fully prepared to safely welcome the public once again." Nevertheless, this is to be followed this Thursday, April 16, by a "comprehensive preventive inspection" using specialized detection dogs.

Upgrades

Described among the measures leading to the re-opening were eliminating "any presence of the pests," upgrading of the ventilation systems, including the replacement of filters, and a thorough cleaning of the entire building by specialized teams.

Certain pieces of furniture also were removed and replaced.



Back to normal at the reference desk.

Moving forward, returned documents and books are being inspected before being put back into circulation while items showing "suspicious" signs will be immediately removed, isolated and treated.

The city offered a "special thanks" to residents "for their patience and support," as well as to the Atwater Library and Computer Centre for its "exceptional cooperation." The Atwater had been accepting residents' Westmount Library membership cards to access its own facilities.

Anne-Marie Lacombe, Westmount's co-library director, issued a statement on the re-opening day saying "we are so happy to see library patrons of all ages back inside the Westmount Public Library."



Co-library director Anne-Marie Lacombe on re-opening day, April 9.

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Correction

**Dog leash in effect
in Summit Woods
April 16-June 15**

The requirement for leashing dogs at all times in Summit Woods goes into effect this Thursday, April 16 until June 15 as shown in the enlarged city signage as reproduced in the *Independent* rather than on June 5 in the story April 7 (p. 3).

Three new restaurants added to ‘bonap’ in Alexis Nihon

BY JENNIFER BALL

The restaurant chains Emilia, Manchu Wok and Roll V have opened in Alexis Nihon shopping centre’s food court, also called bonap, although only Emilia and Manchu Wok were serving customers as of April 2.

According to a source at Emilia, they and Manchu Wok opened on March 30.

The shopping mall is located at 1500 Atwater Ave. It is mostly in Westmount between Atwater Ave., Wood Ave., St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve.

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

Mariline Galarneau, senior manager, leasing and retail at Cominar, stated on February 11, that they are in active discussions for a new concept or tenant for the former Roaster’s unit, which was a sports bar and restaurant on the street level



On the mezzanine level of Alexis Nihon shopping centre, the restaurant Manchu Wok, which serves signature chicken dishes, wok entrées and noodle and rice dishes opened on March 30.

of the mall.

A visit by the *Independent* on April 2



The restaurant Roll V, which serves pho (Vietnamese noodle soup) and vermicelli bowls is still in the process of opening on April 2.



The restaurant Emilia, which serves Portuguese chicken, sandwiches and salads opened on March 30. All photos taken on April 2.

showed that Roll V was still in the process of setting up to open its business to serve customers a selection of pho.

- Emilia serves Portuguese chicken, sandwiches and salads,
- Manchu Wok serves signature chicken dishes, wok entrées and noodle and rice dishes,

- Roll V will serve pho (Vietnamese noodle soup) and vermicelli bowls.

The *Independent* reported on the launch of bonap in its December 2, 2025 issue (p. 10) and in its February 24 issue (p.7), it reported that the REIT was seeking new tenants for the former Roasters space in the mall.

Did an airline lose someone’s bag this badly?



As seen on York St. near St. Catherine April 1. The bag remained on site until late in the day on April 10.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Regal Lakshmi



Your neighbour,
Lysanne

A loving calico, sweet Lakshmi is aptly named after a beautiful goddess. As a rescue, she was taken in by Cause4Paws, with the volunteers working with Gerdy's Rescue to ensure Lakshmi was well cared for in transition to a foster family. Now she is with one until adoption in a new home.

Lakshmi is a healthy and active six-year-old, up to date with her inoculations and spayed. She has a delicate tummy and her diet is adapted to that. She is very affectionate with everyone in the home and would enjoy being cherished by a senior person or a couple.

Please do not hesitate to contact Cause 4Paws by emailing Tracy, its adoption coordinator, at Montrealcause4paws@gmail.com. Let me suggest that you also check out their Facebook page where you can also learn more about participating in their fundraising raffle: www.facebook.com/cause4pawsMontreal/. To discuss your interest in Lakshmi, you can easily reach out to Ursula, founder/director of Cause4 Paws, at her email catwhisperer@sympatico.ca or telephone at 514.684.4810.

Young Cosmo, smiling puppy of our hearts



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LYSANNE FOWLER

Such a happy and silly young fellow, Cosmo is a wonderful puppy who is in need of a family as soon as possible.

He is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, at an age when family and household are so important for building confidence and ensuring training success.

Cosmo is a very healthy puppy, up to date with his inoculation program for his age, neutered and microchipped.

You can find out more about him by referring to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and scrolling to his information page from his identification number, 2000410168. You can then plan a visit to the shelter as it 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.

Adoption coordinators are looking for



ward to meeting with you to discuss your interest in adoption, and presenting Cosmo to you and your family for consideration. He is such a loving puppy, a joy for a family to welcome with open arms.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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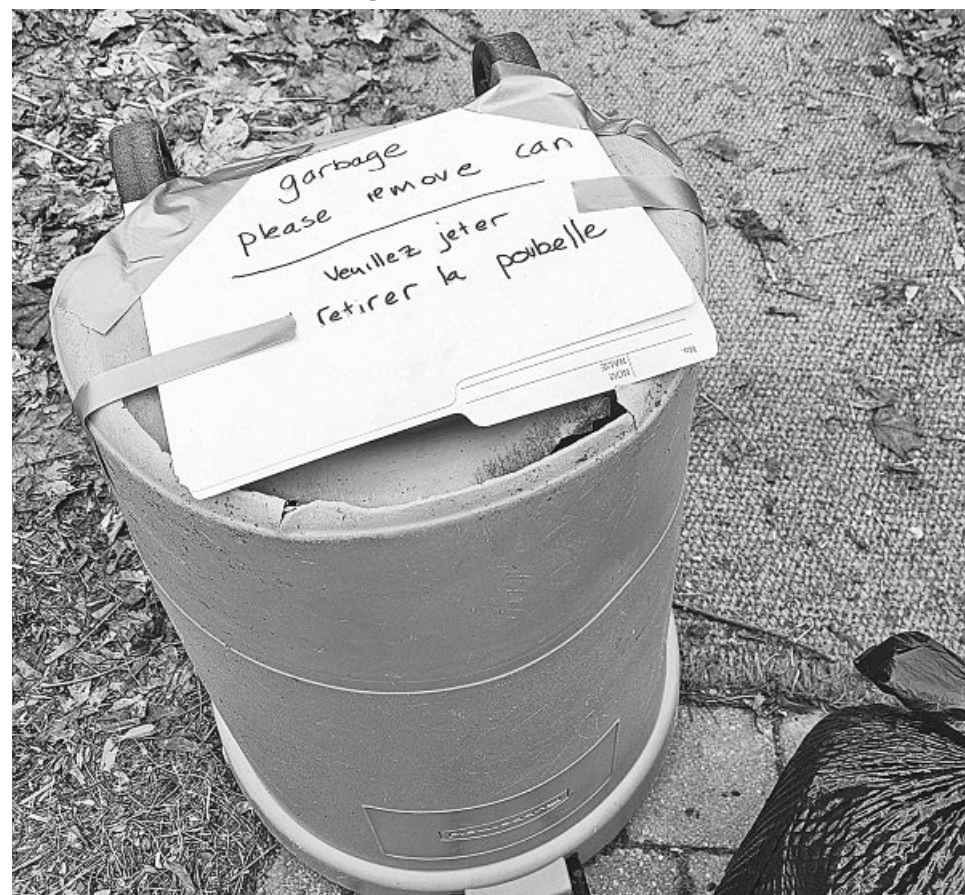
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Garbage can be complex



As seen on Lansdowne between Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. April 10. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Craig Klinkhoff preserves late John Little’s photographs online – 30,000 visits in first months

Klinkhoff.art.

Although Little’s real love was hockey – he once said: “Everyone told me I had a ‘God-given’ gift, but I wanted that gift to be playing in the NHL, not drawing” – the artist is renowned for his paintings.

Many of his works were inspired by his photos that were taken for that very pur-

pose. The photographs, however, were “his closely guarded secret,” explained Craig Klinkhoff, who worked with him for years. “He told no one.”

When Little passed away in 2024, Klinkhoff was surprised to discover this Aladdin’s cave of “extraordinary pictures hidden in his studio. Many relate directly to his paintings. Over 11,000 images were shot as he wandered the streets, not only in Westmount but throughout the city.”

More than 50 years later, the photos are archival. They document long-gone places and spaces – the only record of what once was. In a way, each scene was doubly documented: at that time, each slide was stamped with the date it was taken.

Little’s vast collection of photos “should go to a museum. My goal with this online database was to make them available to all for free.” Craig points out that some photos have grid marks on them, reflecting the artist’s work to translate the image to canvas.

Curious about the city from so many decades ago, thousands of interested viewers have “found the house they grew up in” *continued on p. 17*



Craig Klinkhoff.

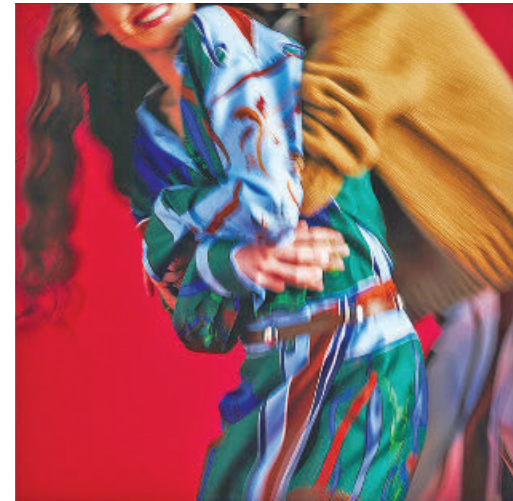


Thornhill, a painting by John Little of Thornhill Ave. between Church Hill and Argyle.



The photo that was used to create Thornhill.

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Remembering Gabor Szilasi (1928-2026)

Longtime Westmount resident and noted photographer Gabor Szilasi died April 10 at the age of 98.

Born in Hungary and starting his photography career with a Soviet replica of the Leica II, Szilasi fled after chronicling the 1956 uprising against the communist regime in photographs.

He received many honours in his lifetime, some of which were covered by this newspaper (see box). He was known for a variety of styles and subjects, including urban environments, daily life, people and electric signs. He shot in both colour and black and white.

He was also a professor at Collège du Vieux Montréal and Concordia University, where a large mural at de Maisonneuve and Mackay commemorates his work (see October 15, 2024, p. 17 and October 22, 2024, p. SL-2).

Photography runs in the family. His wife, Doreen Lindsay, and his daughter, Andrea Szilasi – both of whom survive him – are also photographers. Lindsay is also well known as the former longtime president of the Westmount Historical Association.

“Gabor’s fame extended well beyond Westmount,” said *Independent* editor David



Then Montreal mayor Valérie Plante, left, showing a twinge of emotion as Szilasi was praised for his life achievements at the September 17, 2024 “unveiling” of a mural commemorating his work.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Price, “but he always had time for us.

“I particularly liked the visual joke of him at an exhibition opening holding up one of his photos over his face (see October 14-15, 2008, p. 8) in lieu of the usual ‘bowl-ing pin’ photo common at vernissages and social events.

“I also greatly appreciated him writing us with a very kind, and unsolicited, letter of support (November 5, 2024, p. 10).

“My condolences to his family and friends.”

Some of the Independent's coverage of Szilasi

“Photographer Gabor Szilasi and painter France Jodoin,” October 14-15, 2008, p. 8

“Szilasi receives arts GG award,” March 16-17, 2010, p. 4

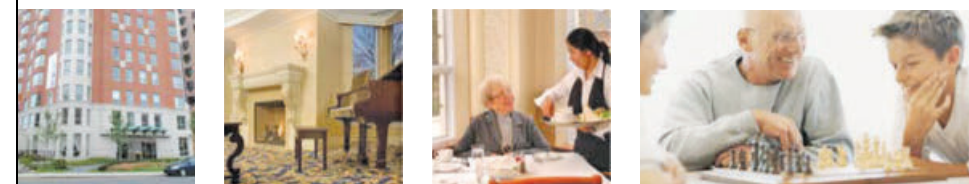
“Szilasi’s work features on new postal stamp,” April 16, 2013, p. 8

“Life after the Governor General’s Award,” September 17, 2013, p. 34

“Photographer Szilasi honoured with downtown mural,” October 15, 2024, p. 17

“Two more views of Gabor Szilasi,” October 22, 2024, p. SL-2

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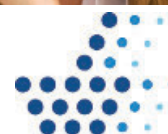
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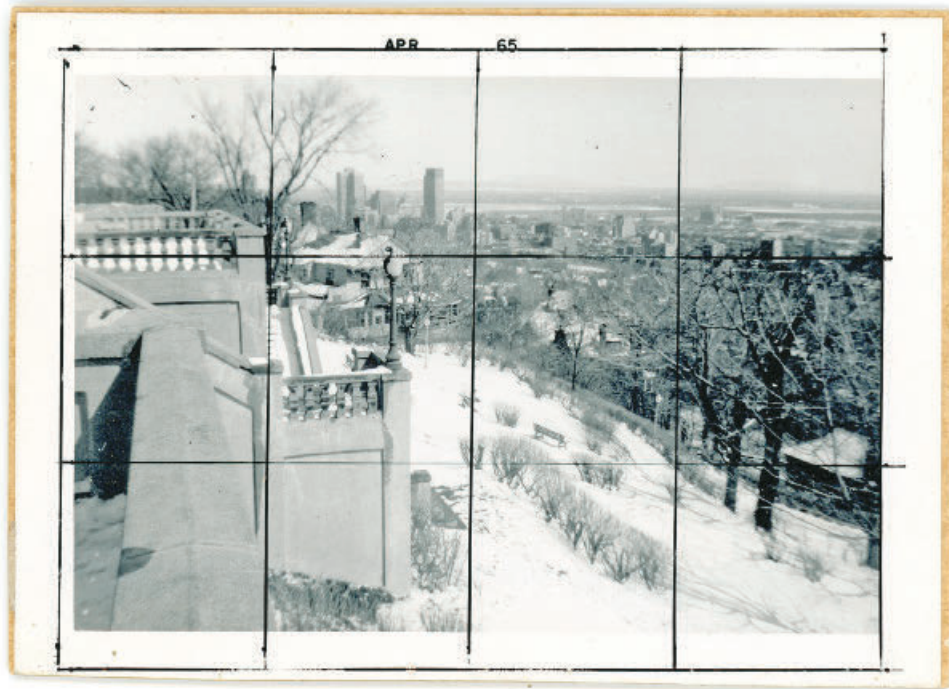
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The Westmount lookout, with grid lines for John Little to plan his painting.



Murray Hill. John Little made a collage of his images.

CRAIG KLINKHOFF.

Art, cont'd from p. 15

or the park where they “once played.”

“More than 30,000 people have gone to the archive site in the last months,” adds Klinkhoff. His volunteer initiative seems to have struck a chord both nostalgic and

curious. Vintage memories for some; others, such as architects, are interested in the urban fabric of the past.

The snapshots are time capsules capturing a specific time and place.

Corner stores are now condo towers; grassy areas are now paved parking. The

community is actively engaged in identifying landmarks, adding a unique dimension to the project.

Raised in Westmount, Craig Klinkhoff is an independent art advisor who specializes in appraisals and collection management.

He currently serves as steward of the studio archives of John Little (1928–2024), overseeing the preservation of the artist’s legacy.

klinkhoff.art/john-little/archive/photographs?tag=westmount-quebec



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Public Works adds new alley-clearing salt truck to suite of vehicles



The new salt truck inside the garage of the Public Works department on April 2.

BY JENNIFER BALL

The city of Westmount has another tool in its belt to deal with snow and salt. It was not in use for the whole winter, but would appear to be ready for next year's.

At the November 17, 2025 city council meeting, the motion passed to approve Public Works' purchase of a new vehicle for salt-

ing and clearing alleys in Westmount. The expenditure totalled \$90,000, all taxes included, and the funds required for the expenditure were drawn from the available funds and budget item 23-314-00-032.

Danny Girous of the city's Public Works department presented the vehicle on April 2, after repeated requests by the *Independent* to see it were made to city communi-



The detached plough that is used by the salt truck when it is operating in alleyways.



The back of the salt truck.

cations director Mugisha Rutishisha. Initially (November to mid-February), the truck had not arrived or been assembled. After that, there was an issue of unknown nature until the early spring photo-op could be arranged.

The salt truck was parked in the garage

of the Public Works yard, which is located at 1 Bethune St.

The vehicle typically operates with a snowplough to clear alleys prior to salting them, but on the day the *Independent* photographed the vehicle the snowplough had been detached from the truck.

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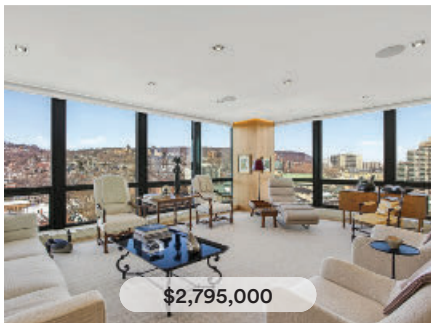
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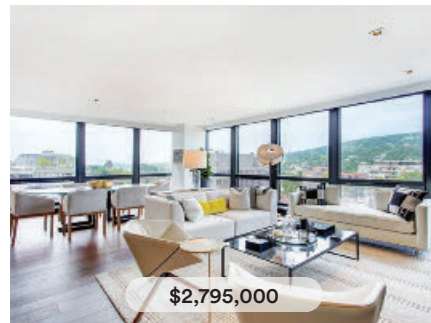
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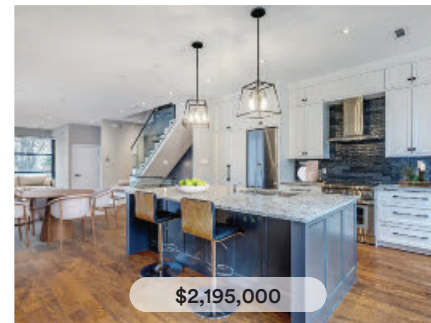
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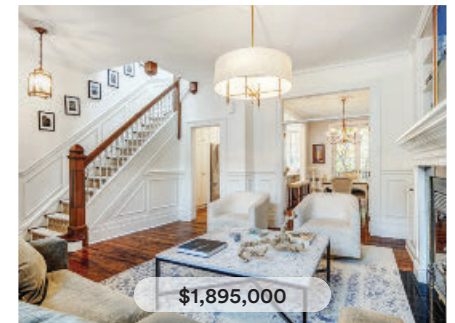
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