

Evidence of fresh fire seen at former site of dépanneur

## City requires empty St. Catherine lot to put up new fence – Neighbouring building gets new one too

By JENNIFER BALL

In Robert Frost's 1914 poem "Mending Wall," he writes, "Good fences make good neighbors," and two fences – possibly with that goal in mind – have been installed in Westmount's southeast. One is a replacement and one is brand new.

The newest fence is at the back of 4024-4032 St. Catherine, a former Packard/Subaru car dealership. The barrier runs parallel to Tupper, St. Catherine and the east-west alley that starts at Atwater.

On September 20 of last year, there was a fire behind this unused building that blackened part of its back wall (see September 30, 2025, p. 1, October 7, 2025 p. 1 and October 22, 2025 p. 1).

Mugisha Rutishisha, the director of communications at the city of Westmount, was asked on April 7 about the fence. On April 13, he said, "The installation [of the fence] was carried out by a contractor hired by the property owner and the work took place during the week of April 7."

According to the agglomeration of Montreal's *role foncier* site, on April 9 the Tehrani Family Trust of Côte St. Luc was the owner of this property, as it has been for years.

On April 13, a letter was posted to the mailing address of the trust asking for comment on the fence and to know of any future plans the trust has for the property in the context of all recent ..... the zoning changes, in- *continued on p. 10*

## City honours its young athletes



Mayor Michael Stern, left, was on hand at the city's bi-annual sports banquet to give out prizes to young people participating in its winter sports programs. These recipients were being recognized as the most improved skaters in their categories. See p. 17, 18-19 and p. 22. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## Pilot project for homeless initiated at YMCA residence/former Reddy

By JENNIFER BALL

A new program is being offered at the YMCA's residence on Tupper St. It started in January.

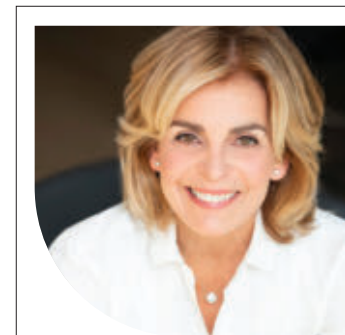
The model is a structured, time-limited form of housing designed to help individuals move from homelessness to stable, permanent housing. The core idea is that housing alone isn't enough – people often

need support, stability and a bridge period to re-build their lives.

On April 10, Flavie Côté, senior director, communications and outreach at Les YMCA du Québec, described the pilot project as a "unique, short-term opportunity to support people experiencing homelessness during winter as well as testing an innovative transitional- ..... housing model." *continued on p. 7*

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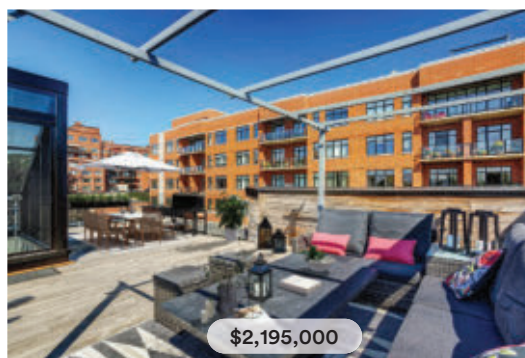
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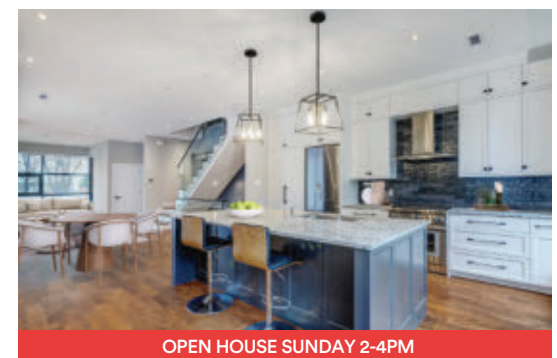


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# \$2M contract for road/water mains offset by grant

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council April 14 gave unanimous approval to a resolution authorizing an amount of \$2,196,633, taxes included, for the “rehabilitation of Grosvenor Ave. – roadway and drinking water main” work between The Boulevard and the north city limits.

Not mentioned in the resolution, however, but explained at the meeting by Mayor Michael Stern after the unanimous vote, was that “half the cost of the water main portion” is subject to a Quebec government grant.

Councillor Jonathan Chomski, who moved the resolution, said he hoped this was a positive sign that more work will get done “for the tax-paying dollar.”

This stretch of Grosvenor is frequently used by local residents and through-traffic exiting the city as well as STM buses, he explained. In addition to giving access to Queen Mary Rd., this portion of Grosvenor allows drivers get to the two-way portion of Victoria north of Sunnyside that leads to the same general area.

“The road surface has deteriorated significantly, the water main is due for reha-

bilitation, water services may be lead and need to be replaced, and Hydro Westmount requires some conduits be installed which will allow them to loop their distribution network in the future.”

As a result, Chomski said, the proposed project will include rehabilitation of the water main, replacement of public water service pipes, removal of existing asphalt, repairs to the existing concrete base, repaving of the street, complete reconstruction of sidewalks, reconstruction of Hydro lighting conduits, installation of new Hydro distribution conduit banks, and replacement of existing street lighting with Washington-style street lighting.

Not mentioned in the council resolution was the cost of the project before taxes of \$1,910,530.60, he said.

### Breakdown of costs

A breakdown of the costs includes approximately \$590,000 plus taxes for water works, “which be eligible for a government TECQ program, and the expected amount to be covered by the loan By-law 1644 is therefore \$1,320,530.60 plus applicable taxes.”

The TECQ is a joint federal-provincial

funding program that provides financial assistance to Quebec municipalities for constructing, rehabilitating, and upgrading local infrastructure, such as water systems, roads, and environmental projects.

The contract was awarded to Cojalac, chosen from among four bidders.

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Pet page, p. 20

Social Notes:  
Morantz, Schauer support  
Burundi hospital, p. 21



InfoWestmount, p. 14



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# Public Security reunites lost 9-year-old from Ottawa with mum

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 9-year-old girl from Ottawa was found when public safety officers answered a call for a child crying at Elm and de Maison-neuve April 12 at 3:55 pm. She had reportedly gone to a store while her mother was shopping nearby but had lost her cell phone.

A passer-by who found the girl alerted officers, who met with the child and was able to obtain information on her parents.

The mother was reported to have been looking for her daughter “in a panic” after they had separated while shopping at Alexis Nihon Plaza.

## Octogenarian has long wait in PSU vehicle

Public Security was dispatched April 10 at 3:10 pm to help an 80-year-old woman believed to have suffered a stroke while walking along de Maisonneuve, officials said.

She was found on the sidewalk unable to stand.

She was sheltered in a patrol vehicle while awaiting the arrival of Urgences Santé at 4:25 pm, whose responders took her to hospital.

## The last snowman of the winter?



“In gentle defiance of the season’s unexpected spring snowstorms” resident Emma Casarotto and a friend took to Selby Park March 14 “to lovingly shape and welcome a new temporary Westmount resident.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF E. CASAROTTO

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## Player of the month for March

# Henry Petrucelli chosen for versatility, 'remarkable growth'

By LAUREN SWEENEY

In his inaugural season with the Westmount Wings on its M9-D team, Henry Petrucelli, at 8 years of age, "has already shown a very positive, remarkable growth and versatility in his game," according to city sports coordinator Kai Duenez.

This, he says, is by playing as a goalie, as well as outside the nets. "As a result, the Westmount Minor Hockey Association looks forward to seeing how much more Petrucelli can improve over his hopefully long hockey career with the Westmount Wings."

Duenez also quotes city councillor Shawn Moss, the team's coach, as saying the young player "is a skilled offensive player but finds ways to get teammates involved and hustles to get back on defence. He has been solid and committed all season long."

Moss subsequently told the *Independent* that the city's player-recognition program is "a great way to encourage young athletes as well as getting the community talking about sports."

Petrucelli is among the youngest to be recognized in the city's program, launched in November 2019 (see story November 19, 2019, p. 1).



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

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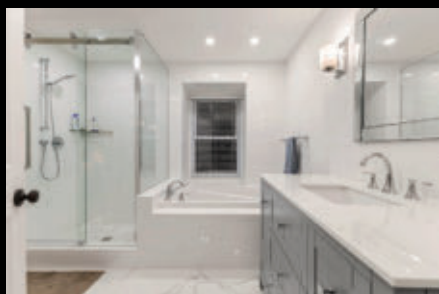
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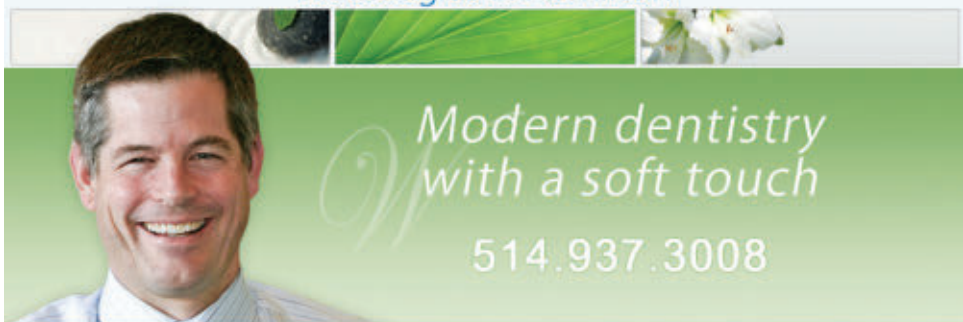
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## Mayor, Cllr. D'Amico ready to relax gasoline leaf-blower ban?

# Residents ask council about train station safety, soccer field, rats, SE project

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Michael Stern opened the city council meeting April 14 by addressing his first five months in the position. He acknowledged that change “is not always easy” but that “the people of Westmount voted for change.” And his priority has been to “listen, hear new ideas and opportunities” and “build trust in a spirit of cooperation.”

Saying that Westmount is a city “that values service,” he also thanked the staff for their “professionalism and dedication.”

In the first question period that followed before the start of the business agenda that included more than 30 items, a dozen speakers stepped up to the mic to ask about a number of issues.

### Answers sought

Among some of the questions, John Fretz of Lansdowne Ave. asked the city to hold a consultation meeting on the condition of Summit Woods, an urban forest, to which the mayor suggested one might be scheduled to precede a council meeting.

Diana Anderson of St. Catherine St. raised what she described as a lack of security and fire safety posed by the city's

long-vacant train station. This is the heritage-rated building at the foot of Victoria which, she claimed, had been turned into a furnished area by homeless people. There were also needed repairs to the CP railway fence, she said. The spaces along this fence have long been created and used by people to move between Westmount and St. Henri.

“The challenge for us is that we're on a railway,” replied Mayor Stern stating the need for long-term solutions. “In the interim, we have to come up with a plan.”

Liz McCallum, another resident of St.



Mayor Michael Stern, left, presents comments on his first five months as mayor. Right, Liz McCallum, left, speaks with recent mayoral candidate Lynne Casgrain at the council meeting April 14.

Catherine, said she has encountered people in her backyard in two incidents.

A resident of an apartment building on Park Place stated not only were there rats in the garbage room, but that a wobbly outside fence needed repair, which Councillor Matt Aronson, a neighbour, attested to. The questioner said previous requests to the city for help had not been answered. “What can the city do to help us?”

A woman and her son explained the need for the city to have a turf soccer field for which the mayor said the suggestion had been “referred to the administration.”



At one point, this had been a subject to be discussed in partnership with Marianopolis College where land might be available, but this was not discussed further. A special meeting had also been held (see story November 12, 2019, p. 1). At present, the city plays soccer on its natural grass fields, which are subject to inclement weather and other field conditions.

When two gardening contractors in the question line-up asked the city to lift the ban on gasoline-fired leaf blowers, Councillor Antonio D'Amico said he agreed with the contractors. This would concern the spring clean-up of leaves, in particular, when piles of leaves are covered in slow-melting snow. Stern also said he personally agreed with the contractors and “we're supposed to discuss that later tonight” referring to the closed-door meeting after the formal session.

At a second question period after the meeting, Denis Biro asked whether the council would be able to “override” a technical zoning issue related to the southeast project development project and whether it might also apply to other areas of the city.

Councillor Jonathan Chomski answered “yes.”

## Police Report

# Tracking systems win again against vehicle thieves

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

In yet another instance of vehicle tracking technology deterring car thieves, a vehicle stolen in Westmount last week was recovered within a few hours, although another stolen a few days earlier was reported as still missing.

On April 10 sometime between 4 in the afternoon and 11 pm, a classic Jeep Wrangler mid-size compact off-road vehicle was reported as stolen from a parking spot on Dorchester Blvd. a short distance from Tupper St.

There were no signs of forced entry such as shattered glass on the ground where it had been parked, suggesting it was either unlocked or the perpetrators found a way in through the electronic security system.

“There were no broken windows, nothing,” said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit. “She [the own-

er] parked the vehicle and when she got back, it was gone.”

### Land Rover stolen, recovered

The owner of a Land Rover stolen overnight on April 12 on The Boulevard in upper Westmount was luckier. The high-end SUV was equipped with a Bluetooth-enabled tracking system.

For vehicles, dedicated GPS-based vehicle tracking systems are reportedly superior to other technologies because they communicate directly with satellites and cellular networks.

On the other hand, an Apple AirTag is said to be best for locating nearby items (keys, wallets) using Bluetooth and the iPhone system's “Find My” network service. However, they are also said to be more limited in use as they use wireless Bluetooth, which becomes less reliable in isolated settings, including rural areas, where there are likely to be fewer active iPhones.

But in this particular case, the owner – who was using an AirTag – immediately reported to police that his Land Rover was stolen, and they were able to find the car a short time later on Montreal's West Island.

An AI query on the best uses for each

of the technologies offered the following advice.

- AirTags: Good for keys, bags, luggage and everyday personal items within urban areas,
- GPS Trackers: Cars, bikes, pets, high-value assets and children.

AI's conclusion: For tracking everyday personal items, an AirTag is often best due to price and convenience. However, for security, theft protection and real-time tracking, a GPS tracker is necessary.

### Jumpers stolen from unlocked car

A tradesman who parked briefly on Sherbrooke St. on the morning of April 13 for a short stop to deal with a client found out you can never leave a vehicle unlocked under any circumstances.

While he was inside, somebody entered his van and made off with a set of jumper cables, used to boost a weak vehicle battery.

“The vehicle had been left unlocked,” said Cst. Yigit. The driver's loss was estimated to be \$50.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**MAYOR STERN:  
PLEASE INVEST WHERE  
YOUR PREDECESSORS DIDN'T**

From 2009 through 2025, Westmount was governed by mayors Peter Trent and Christina Smith. Despite their many cultural and fiscal achievements, their real and lasting legacy is the absolutely deplorable and disgraceful conditions of the roads in Westmount.

By not investing enough in timely maintenance and repairs to our road network, they have presided over the absolute crumbling destruction of our roadways, leaving Westmounters to navigate bumps and potholes more worthy of a Third World country than of one of the most affluent cities in all of Canada.

They have left the current administration with the almost impossible task of trying to rectify problems that didn't start yesterday, but during the previous administrations.

As I head to the tire shop following a blow-out on The Boulevard, we all hope that Mayor Stern and his team will start to address this problem in a more responsible and timely way than did his predecessors.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

**SPEAK UP NOW REGARDING  
FUTURE OF URBAN-PLANNING  
CONSULTATION**

Council is changing by stealth the way it runs Westmount, leaving residents in the dark.

On March 17, council approved a frame-

work resolution giving it exceptional powers in urban planning. It was designed to speed up development, particularly housing. Council will now be able to override existing zoning throughout the entire city, subject to guidelines as yet unclear. If it sees fit, it can even scrap the Special Planning Program for the southeast, approved September 18 after much debate. At the April 14 council meeting, I asked about this. I was told not to be concerned since it is unlikely that developers would propose a radical change to the existing southeast design. In other words, trust the developers and council.

What happens now with SCAOPI, a long running regulatory tool for modifying zoning? It is also used by residents to contest divisive changes through a referendum process. It is on the books, but rendered futile now.

At the April 14 council meeting, a notice of motion was submitted amending existing laws to allow the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADU). These essentially are small self-contained homes located within detached or semi-detached houses or as an exterior extension to them. This will have huge consequences for Westmount residents. No public consultation process was announced on this critical step.

More flexibility in the implementation of zoning by-laws is essential to speed up development when it does good for the public interest. But government, developers and residents must be equal partners. In Westmount, the community

is no longer considered an equal stakeholder.

Public consultation is desperately needed. Engaging with residents leads to better policies and outcomes. If you, as residents, believe this, raise your voices – at council, to your councillors and especially in this paper.

DENIS BIRO, 5000 DE MAISONNEUVE, NDG

**CITY COUNCIL IGNORING  
ITS OWN RULES, EXPERTS**

At recent council meetings, council has voted to overturn recommendations made by the Planning Advisory Council (PAC) regarding renovation permit applications. In at least four cases – two in April and two in February – the PAC [recommended that permits be] denied [...] because the proposals didn't meet the city's own guidelines – only for council to later approve them.

The PAC is a well-respected advisory body composed of two councillors and six architects or urban planners selected for their expertise in architectural preservation, history and design. According to the city's website, "the PAC reviews renovation, restoration and construction projects to ensure that they comply with the principles of architectural integration established in the by-law, while harmonizing with the built and natural environments that constitute the distinctive character of the city."

Council does have the authority to override PAC's recommendations, but that power has rarely been used – and is certainly not intended to be exercised casually

or routinely. Repeatedly dismissing the advice of this expert committee raises concerns.

Why is the current council – largely made up of professionals outside the fields of architecture and urban planning – choosing to disregard the informed guidance of specialists?

A few explanations come to mind. Perhaps council lacks confidence in the PAC's expertise, or perhaps it questions the validity of the very guidelines the PAC is mandated to uphold. Either way, this pattern calls into question the integrity and consistency of the permit-approval process.

If expert recommendations and established guidelines can be disregarded, residents need to understand what standards are actually being applied.

Confidence in the permit process depends on transparency and consistency. When expert advice is overridden, citizens should be given a clear explanation of how decisions are made and whether the current framework is functioning as intended.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.

**Correction****Prager lecture free for  
WHA members only**

Contrary to what we wrote last week (p. 4), the April 23 presentation by Vincent Prager on his mother, artist Eva Prager, is free for Westmount Historical Association 2026 members only. – DP

**WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT**

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**There are potholes and then there's this**

As seen at Prince Albert Ave. and de Maisonneuve March 31. This metal joint of some kind was there for many days, but had been removed by April 20, although an orange cone was still in place.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

City spokesman: New date to be set soon

# Police chief cancels meetings with Wood Ave. area residents re: protests

BY JENNIFER BALL

Citing “current obligations,” Station 12’s police chief Marie-Eve Lamarche of the Montreal police (SPVM) cancelled a meeting that was going to be held with Westmount Square’s Tower 2 and 3 residents on April 14, with a day’s notice, as well as one with the residents of 1 Wood the same day.

The residents were planning to discuss their concerns about fluctuating protests that have taken place since October 7, 2023 outside the Israeli consulate on Wood Ave. near St. Catherine largely and ostensibly regarding Israel’s reaction to Hamas’ attacks from Gaza that day. 1 Westmount Square, the location of the Israeli consu-

late, is adjacent to these three large condo buildings as well as many restaurants and businesses.

At the February 3 council meeting, councillor and commissioner of public order Paul Levine said, “Councillor [Kathleen] Kez, [commissioner of public safety], the mayor, myself, the DG [city director general] and Public Works met with the police to express our concerns about the demonstrations which took place throughout much of the last two years.”

Councillor Levine said, “The police have agreed to meet with the residents of both 1 Wood and the 4300. Those meetings are scheduled in April and the residents of both buildings were very, very pleased that they’ll be meeting with the police to dis-

cuss their concerns and to exchange with the police...”

“The police will take questions and give them a lot of tools in addition to help them in dealing with such a demonstration, should it continue to take place, which we hope it won’t.”

The SPVM meeting with the 4300 was later substituted for a meeting with Towers 2 and 3 of Westmount Square – as they are in closer proximity to where the protests take place – and that meeting was to occur on April 14 at 10 am in the lobby of Tower 3.

On April 13, Councillor Levine was informed – and alerted the *Independent* to the fact – that the SPVM cancelled that meeting as well as one with 1 Wood sched-

uled for April 14 at 11 am.

The *Independent* asked Marie-Eve Lamarche on April 13 what factors precipitated both cancellations. She replied the same day, “I spoke with Mayor Stern and explained the reasons to him. I also sent him an email explaining these points in more detail. I remain available if needed.”

Mugisha Rutishisha, the city’s director of communications, was asked to expand on Lamarche’s statement, and he said, “Our understanding is that the SPVM has re-scheduled these meetings due to current obligations, and a new date will be set soon. The [SPVM] have assured the city that they take this matter very seriously and remain committed to meeting with the stakeholders involved.”

## YMCA residence cont’d from p. 1

The former Reddy Memorial Hospital at 4039 Tupper St. has long been a YMCA-run residence for asylum seekers operated in partnership with the Quebec Ministry of Immigration and Programme régional d’accueil et d’intégration des demandeurs d’asile (PRAIDA). It provides temporary housing and support services – primarily for refugees and asylum seekers (see “Refugees find temporary shelter at Y’s Tupper St. residence,” November 20, 2018, p. 10).

### New program for homeless

When asked to define what sets this program apart, Côté explained that “The duration participants can stay is up to 45 days, which is longer than most winter

shelters and [the project is also testing out a] direct hospital-to-housing trajectory, which is currently unique in Montréal.”

Direct hospital-to-housing is a targeted homelessness-care model where a person is discharged from a hospital directly into permanent housing with supports, instead of being discharged to a shelter, the street or unstable temporary arrangements.

It’s an intervention for people whose homelessness is tightly linked to medical crises, chronic illness or repeated hospitalizations.

Côté listed the services that are being offered in the pilot project:

- private rooms (not dormitory-style like in some overnight and day shelters),
- clinical teams on site to provide medical services,

- programs integrated with existing hospital programs and housing-first orientation,
- structured access to subsidies, modular homes and therapy programs.

Côté also supplied details about the day-to-day operations of the residence, explaining how the YMCA governs the residence with the help of two CIUSSSs.

“The YMCA manages the building and its psychosocial team [while] CIUSSS West-Central Montreal’s clinical staff – nurses, social workers, homelessness/addiction liaison workers – are on site delivering care and case management. The CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l’Île-de-Montréal oversees project selection, funding of homelessness projects, and allocation of beds across Montréal.”

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The YMCA residence is located at 4039 Tupper St., as seen April 9.



## City undertakes garbage survey

# Not willing to reveal your age? City doesn't want to hear from you

BY JENNIFER BALL

The city launched a survey on garbage collection and household waste management April 2 to better understand residents' experience and to aid with the city's communications strategy.

"Waste ambassadors" rang doorbells on April 3 and offered homeowners a flyer, which included a self-explanatory url: [westmount.org/garbageurvey](http://westmount.org/garbageurvey).

### Our reporter's experience

This reporter took the survey - ignoring the fact that the flyer indicated that March 30 was the deadline to complete it - but was booted out of the digital questionnaire after a preliminary demographic question.

The question "How old are you?" appeared at the beginning of the survey, and "I'd rather not answer" was an option to select. The reporter selected that option, only to be booted out of the survey and offered the explanation, "Your profile does not meet the survey criteria. Thank you for your time!"

Not fully understanding why failing to reveal her age invalidated her from sharing her experience with biweekly and weekly garbage collection, she tried a second time, only to be met with, "[You are] not eligible to take the survey."

Undeterred, the city's garbage survey was completed using a proxy.

### City explains its requirement for demographic data

The *Independent* reached out to Mugisha Rutishisha, the director of communications at the city, on April 8 explaining this experience. On April 10, he said, "Beyond validating the minimum age requirement (18), the question regarding the respondent's age group is important for the data analysis. It will (hopefully) allow us to identify the specific issues resi-



A copy of the flyer that was handed out by the "waste ambassadors" on April 3. The French version indicates that the survey period is until "April 30" but the English version says the survey period is until "March 30". Photo taken April 7.

dents face based on their generational reality. Needs and habits regarding waste management may vary significantly from one age group to another, and we hope that these indicators will allow the city to better tailor its services...

"Also to ensure maximum statistical validity, we must ensure that the survey is not completed multiple times by the same individual. This is why we implemented a restriction based on IP addresses. While not infallible, this restriction can help pre-

vent duplicate entries that could skew the results. That is why, after your initial attempt, the system recognized that a submission had already been initiated from your connection, which prevented a new participation."

### Context

As the *Independent* previously reported, by December 31, 2027, the city of Westmount will be obligated to have a collection schedule for "residual materials sent to land-

fill" that does not exceed a maximum of 26 collections per year, in accordance with Measure 9 of the Metropolitan Waste Management Plan (PMGMR) of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM).

No measure in the plan specifies the collection frequency for organic (compost/brown bin) or recyclable materials destined for the blue bin (see March 31, 2026, p. 8).

At his first council meeting, on November 17 last year, Mayor Michael Stern brought back weekly garbage collection as of December 1, 2025 - it had been every other week for single family homes and buildings with two to eight dwelling units in fall/winter since October 2024 (see Nov. 25, 2025, p.1) - at a cost of \$56,000. His reasoning was: residents told him biweekly garbage collection was not working because they had nowhere to store medical waste or dirty diapers.

A small sampling of the survey questions included:

- "For your household [how many are]:
- Children in diapers,
- Individuals who wear disposable incontinence products (diapers, absorbent underwear),
- Individuals with special needs who generate additional waste, such as medical waste,
- Pets.

How did your household experience biweekly garbage collection (October 2024 to April 2025 & October to November 2025)?

- No problems at all, it went very well,
- Few problems, it went well,
- Some problems, it went more or less well,
- Many problems, it did not go well,
- I did not reside in Westmount at the time,
- I don't know/I don't remember.

For each of the following, please indicate whether it helped your household adjust to biweekly garbage collection:

- Participating in the food waste collection (green bin, compost),
- Participating in the recycling collection (blue bin),
- Sufficient storage space for my trash,
- We were already taking out the trash every 2 weeks or more,
- Private help (employee, family member, etc.),
- Active effort to reduce waste (reusing or repairing items, etc.),
- Good understanding of waste sorting guidelines.

The survey also asks, "What size is your outdoor garbage bin?" along with explanatory photos.

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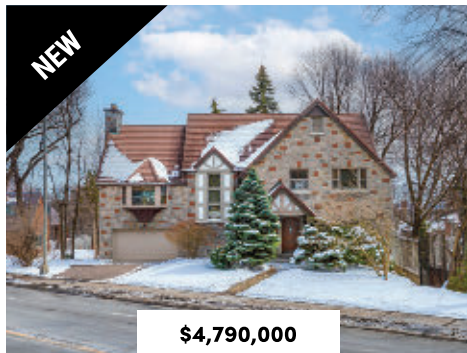
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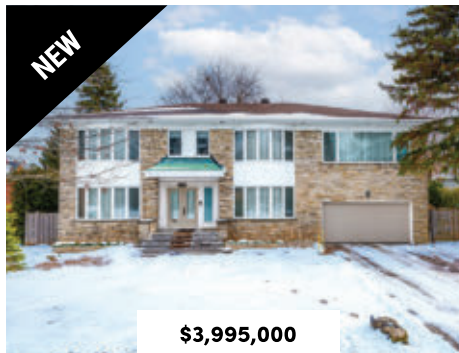
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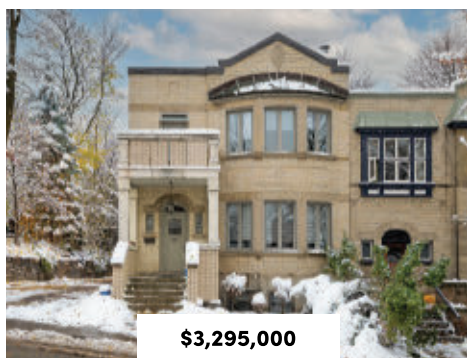
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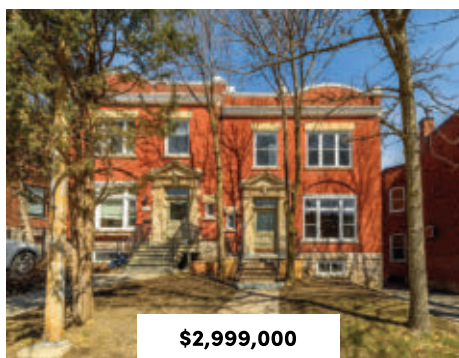
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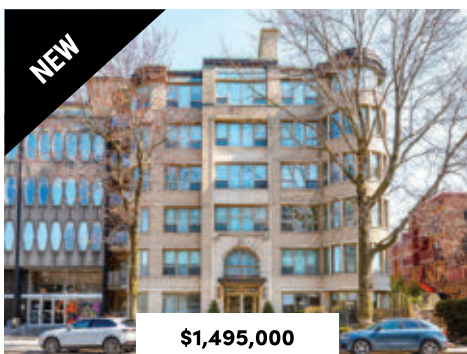
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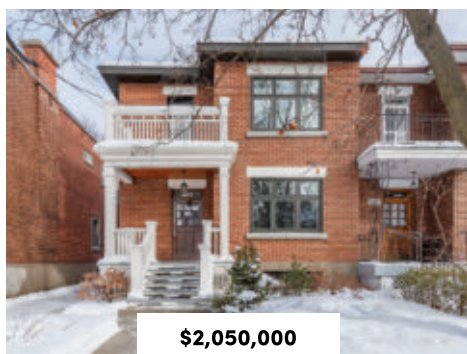
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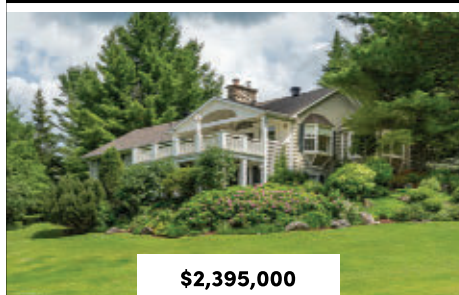


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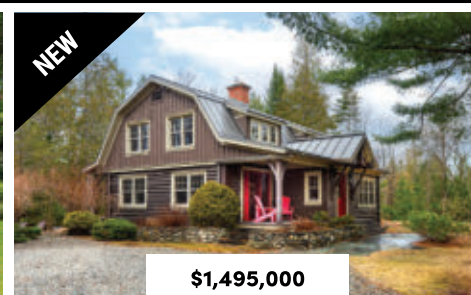


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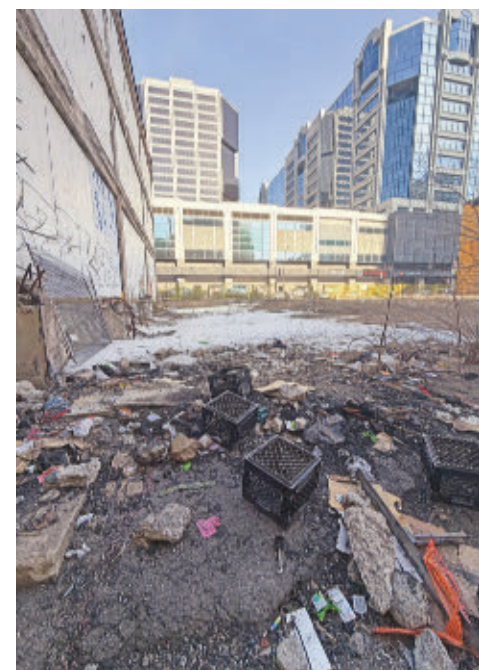


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A new yellow-metal fence was installed the week of December 8, 2025 around the perimeter of this empty lot at 4010-4022 St. Catherine, as seen April 2.



Evidence of a fire at 4010-4022 St. Catherine, as seen April 2 from the alley to the south. The ashes and cinders appear to be from a relatively recent fire.

**St. Catherine, cont'd from p. 1**

cluding the city's southeast plan that loosened restrictions ("City council votes 5-3 to approve southeast re-development project," September 23, 2025, p. 1) and a more recent "freeze" that did not include the trust's building (see March 3, p. 8).

There was no response by the *Independent's* print deadline.

**Empty lot activity**

The slightly older fence is a replacement and was installed the week of December 8, 2025. It runs around the perimeter of the empty lot to the east, which is the former site of a dépanneur and office building bearing the civic numbers 4010-22 St. Catherine.

Behind this slightly older fence, visible from the alley, there was evidence of a fresh fire having been set, although its date could not be determined by the *Independent*.

According to the agglomeration of Montreal's *role foncier* site, 4010 St Catherine is



The exterior of 4024B St. Catherine viewed from the alley to the south of it showing a new fence that was erected the week of April 7, as seen April 9.


owned by 9459812 Canada Corporation.

In the Quebec provincial business registry (CIDREQ), Samiei Ghohar Batool is listed as president of the company, whose activity is described "other real estate operator/activities," but no owners are listed for 4014-4022 St. Catherine.

City spokesman Rutishisha was asked on April 7 if the city initiated the replace-

ment of this fence.

On April 13, he said, "The previous fence was not secure enough to prevent access to the vacant lot. While the city did not install the new fence, the Urban Planning department required the owner to choose a sturdier fence. The city's ongoing role is to monitor the area to ensure there are no hazards to public safety."




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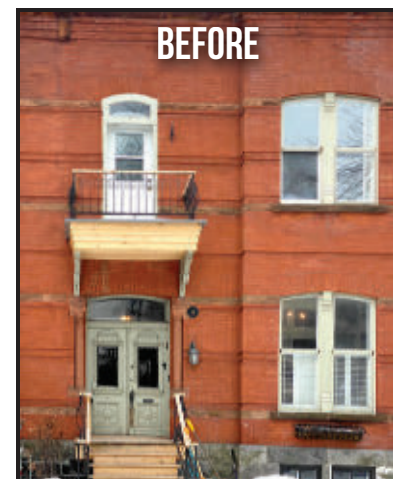
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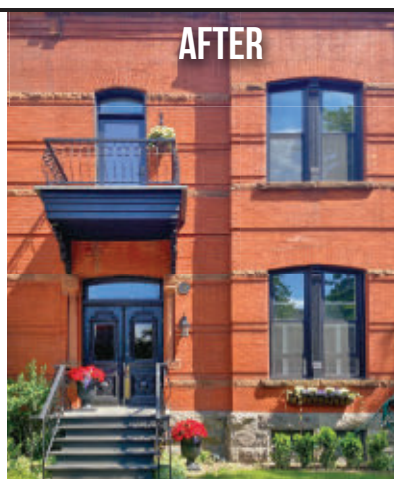
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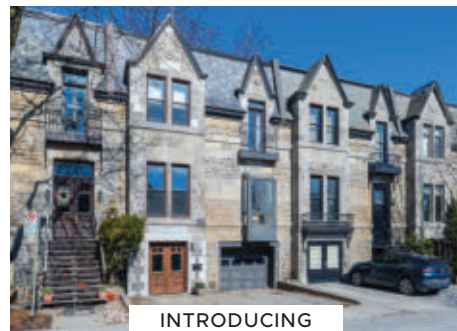
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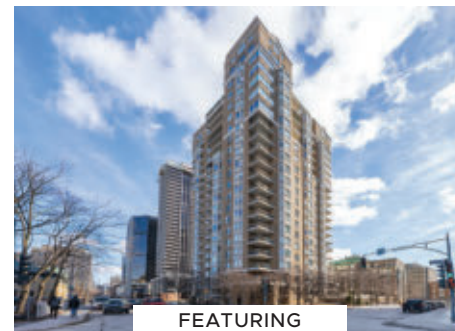
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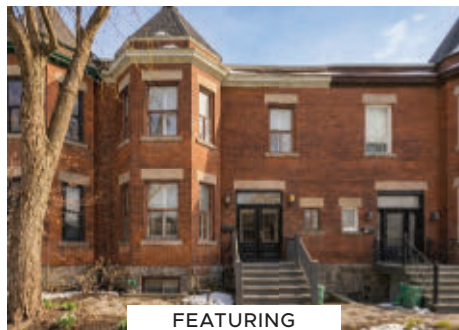
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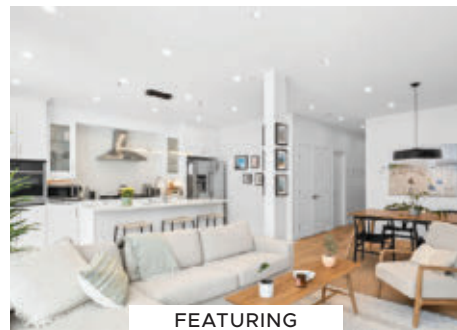
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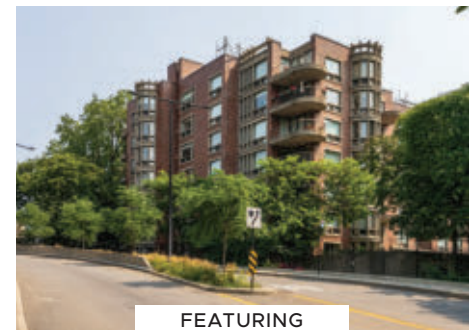
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2026.04.21 • Vol. 7/08



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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Tuesday, May 5



## Participez au sondage sur la collecte des ordures !

La Ville de Westmount a lancé un sondage sur la collecte des ordures afin de mieux comprendre la réalité des résidents et améliorer ses services. [westmount.org/sondageordures](https://westmount.org/sondageordures)



## Participate in the survey on garbage collection!

The City of Westmount has launched a survey on garbage collection to better understand residents' realities and improve its services. [westmount.org/garbageurvey](https://westmount.org/garbageurvey)

### Hydro Westmount :

#### Hausse des tarifs d'électricité

Une hausse des tarifs résidentiels (3 %) et commerciaux (3,8 %) est en vigueur depuis le **1<sup>er</sup> avril 2026**. Conformément à la Loi, elle reflète la variation de l'indice des prix à la consommation au Québec. [westmount.org/hydro](https://westmount.org/hydro)

### Les collectes des résidus de jardin et des encombrants sont de retour !

La collecte des résidus de jardin a repris le **13 avril** et celle des encombrants (sur inscription) a lieu une fois par mois de mai à octobre. Consultez les détails en ligne pour connaître les matières acceptées et le fonctionnement de chaque collecte. [westmount.org/collectes](https://westmount.org/collectes)

### Hydro Westmount: Electricity rate increase

A residential (3%) and commercial (3.8%) rate increase has been in effect since **April 1, 2026**. In accordance with the Act, it reflects the change in the Québec Consumer Price Index. [westmount.org/hydro](https://westmount.org/hydro)

### Green waste and bulky item collections are back!

Green waste collection resumed on **April 13**, and bulky item collection (by registration only) takes place once a month from May to October. Visit the website for details on accepted materials and how each service works. [westmount.org/collections](https://westmount.org/collections)

### Réouverture de la Bibliothèque

La Bibliothèque a ouvert ses portes au public le **jeudi 9 avril**. La réouverture fait suite à une inspection finale confirmant que les installations sont sécuritaires et prêtes à accueillir le public. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Restauration des escaliers public Roslyn

**Le 20 avril**, les travaux de restauration des escaliers publics Roslyn reprendront avec la phase 2, d'une durée d'environ sept semaines, reliant Le Boulevard à l'avenue Upper Roslyn. [westmount.org/travaux](https://westmount.org/travaux)

### Reopening of the Library

The Westmount Public Library reopened its doors to the public on **Thursday, April 9**. The reopening follows a final inspection confirming that the facilities are safe and ready to welcome the public. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

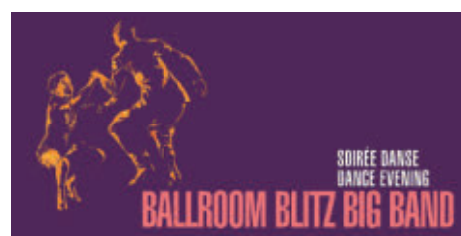
### Roslyn Public Staircase Restoration

**On April 20**, restoration work on the Roslyn public staircases will resume with Phase 2, lasting approximately seven weeks and connecting The Boulevard to Upper Roslyn Avenue. [westmount.org/works](https://westmount.org/works)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### 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](https://westmount.org/evenements)



### Ballroom Blitz

**2 mai, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Venez vivre une soirée de danse swing et ballroom avec les 16 musiciens de l'Orchestre Ballroom Blitz, accompagnés de la chanteuse Ruth Damas. Billets : 20 \$ en prévente | 25 \$ à la porte. [westmount.org/evenements](https://westmount.org/evenements)

### 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](https://westmount.org/events)

### Ballroom Blitz

**May 2, 7 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Join us for an evening of swing and ballroom dancing with the 16 musicians of the Ballroom Blitz Orchestra, accompanied by singer Ruth Damas. Tickets: \$20 in advance | \$25 at the door. [westmount.org/events](https://westmount.org/events)

### Atelier sur la désinformation

**30 avril, 13 h**, Salle Westmount (Bibliothèque). En anglais. Animé par Gabrielle Ancil, cet atelier pour les aînés permet de repérer la manipulation en ligne, comprendre la propagation de la désinformation (y compris liée à l'IA), renforcer l'esprit critique et apprendre des techniques de vérification des faits. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Club de Scrabble (10 à 16 ans)

**Les mardis, 16 h**, salle Westmount (Bibliothèque). En anglais. Du **14 avril au 19 mai**, rejoignez le Club de Scrabble avec Josh Sokul, Kyle Fellahi et Christine Cardinal pour perfectionner vos compétences et maîtriser l'art des jeux de mots. Une activité ludique et stimulante pour développer votre stratégie et votre vocabulaire dans une ambiance conviviale. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Workshop on Disinformation

**April 30, 1 p.m.**, Westmount Room (Library). Led by Gabrielle Ancil, this workshop for seniors will help participants spot online manipulation, understand how misinformation spreads (including AI-related), strengthen critical thinking, and learn fact-checking techniques. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Scrabble Club (ages 10–16)

**Tuesdays, 4 p.m.**, Westmount Room (Library). In English. From **April 14 to May 19**, join the Scrabble Club with Josh Sokul, Kyle Fellahi, and Christine Cardinal to improve your skills and master the art of word games. A fun and engaging activity to build strategy and vocabulary in a friendly environment. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Rencontre d'auteure : Catherine Mavrikakis

**3 mai, 14 h**, Salle Westmount (Bibliothèque). L'auteure discutera de son livre *The Annex*, en compagnie de la traductrice Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

### Author Event: Catherine Mavrikakis

**May 3, 2 p.m.**, Westmount Room (Library). The author will discuss her book *The Annex* in conversation with translator Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)



# ReLove works to ‘ReCycle’ vintage apparel, looks, quality



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Say “yes” to the second-hand dress.

Used clothing is all the rage, and celebrities such as Kate Moss and Amal Clooney have taken it to another level. For years, Moss has been renowned for her older satin-y slip dresses; more recently Clooney for couture from the past. Along with the branding of water as a Must-Have Drink in a Bottle, “gently-worn” (i.e. used) clothing has been re-branded.

Called “vintage” in recent decades, it is a hugely successful re-positioning. It’s gotten so hot that New York boutiques even offer bridal wear from other eras. Not only does vintage shopping address over-consumption and fast-polyester fashion, it also improves the offering. Only a few years ago, the quality was better – not only the fabrics, but the detailing.

Westmount’s newest shop, ReLove, recently moved to Westmount from NDG. Unlike some local vintage boutiques – *über* successful Charlotte & Gabrielle and Vin-



Jessica Yaffe and Jennifer Lassner.

tage Musts – they do not take consignment items. They search.

“We go to vintage fairs,” explained Jessica Yaffe. Owned by Jessica and Jennifer Lassner, the store is already a go-to destination. They not only follow seasons (“many more light jackets now”), but astutely connect with contemporary events.

Recently, they promoted prom. “Party day” – announced with a fun sidewalk chalk board – attracted soon-to-be-grads. They may have arrived in baggy/ripped jeans and running shoes (white, of course), but they were excited to peruse pretty things.

Some searched for slinky simple – riffing on the current CBK fad (after the late Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy); others wanted to shine in sequins. The elephant in the room is often about wearing “someone else’s clothes” – particularly given how a local library recently closed for a month or so. (It is now open.) “We hot steam every item,” Jessica assured me. “This is the proven way to sanitize and refresh.”

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As seen on Sherbrooke at Grosvenor April 1, left, and April 7.



PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON, LEFT, AND INDEPENDENT.



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# CITY OF WESTMOUNT'S SEMI-ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT – SPRING 2026

As held April 15 at Victoria Hall.

**Most Improved Skating:** Beginner – Evelyn Derlatcher, Maximilian Dauchez, Madeleine Peart, Gabrielle Vailon; Intermediate – Simone Hebert, Yoonseo Yang; Advanced – Astrid Goth; Powerskating – George Hao Cheng Wang.

**Indoor Soccer Sportsmanship Awards:** Girls' Soccer – Stella Chen, Lila Domanko.

**Basketball Sportsmanship Awards:** Sebastian Mendez, Chanho Lee.

**Instructional Hockey Most Improved Player Awards:** M9 – Yooha Eom; M11 – Amber Purmal; M13/15 – Euijin Jeong; M13/M15 – Evelyn Stern.

**M7 – Jeux de Montréal Champions:** Louis Bouchard, Gianluca Saia, Felix Rivest, Charles Martin, John Tang, Leo Prupas, Leo Varadi, Jackson Kaine, Leo Panasuk, Isadore Leider, Shuoru Wang, Bohdi Lennox.

**Westmount Minor Hockey Players of the Month for 2025-2026:** October: Holden Kelly; November: Walter Sala; December: Tabitha Woo; January: Canelo Amalfitano; February: Stella West; March: Henry Petrucelli.

**Junior C Inter-City Sportsmanship Award:** Elliot Beaudoin.

**Junior C Inter-City Most Improved Player Award:** Lorenzo Messercola.

**M18 A Inter-City – Tournament Banners & Trophies:**

- CAN/AM Hockey Challenge Cup – October 31 to November 2
- Pierrefonds Hockey Tournament – January 17 to February 1,
- EHL Playoff Champions + Lac St-Louis Regional Finalists

Tom Azeff, Peter Barbarosie-Tsang, Nicolas Belanger, Scott Coleman, Avery Hannon, Jonathan Houle, Spencer Kaplan, Holden Kelly, Matthew Lee, Jake Lubarsky, Shaia Maislin, Liam Martin, Taryn Mizrahi, Leo Semionov, Brody Wesetvik, Max

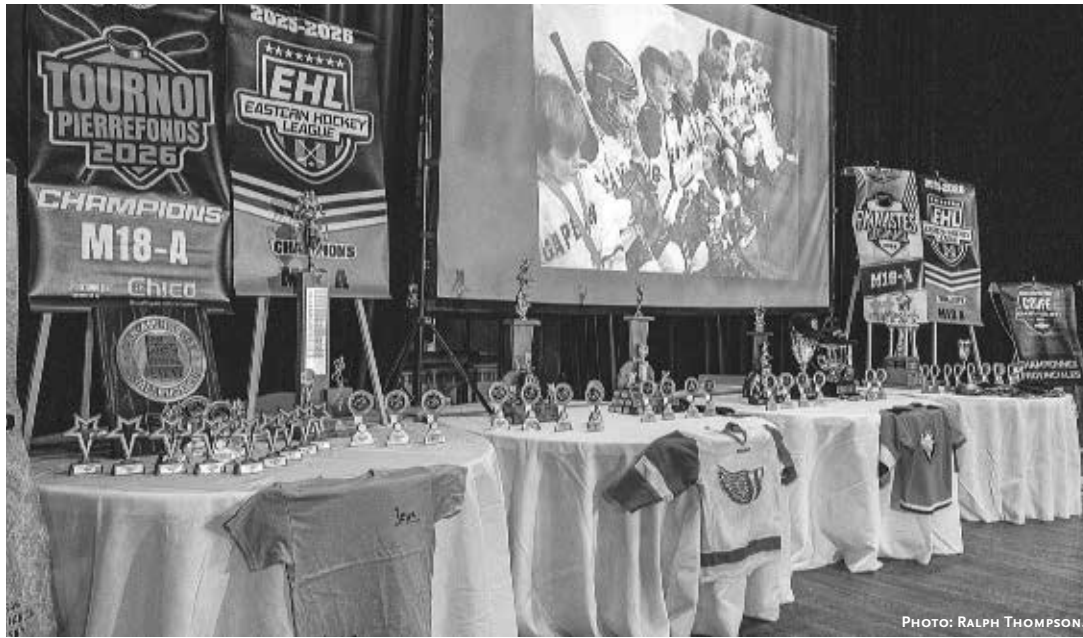


PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Zelermeyer. Coaches: Robert Lee, JJ Maislin, Johnny Reese, Ilya Semionov.

**M18 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:** M18 A – Peter Barbarosie-Tsang; M18 B – Orphee Curey.

**M18 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:** M18 A – Max Zelermeyer; M18 B – Noah Shinder.

**M15 Inter-City Sportsmanship Award:** M15 AF – Olivia Forlini; M15 A – Nicolas Clark.

**M15 Inter-City Most Improved Player Award:** M15 AF – Rebecca Mills; M15 A – James Siwiec.

**M12 AF Inter-City Tournament banners**

- Verdun Hockey Tournament Champions
  - Lac St Louis Regional Champions + Coupe Chevrolet Provincial Champions
- Alice Dodd, Audrey Robbins, Ava Prinsky, Caroline San Gregorio, Emily Hamilton, Emma Khazzam, Emmanuelle Ghattas, Laurie Beaupré, Morgan Piccioni, Sophie Frenkiel, Tabitha Skye Woo and Zoe Rochester. Coaches: Jennifer MacMil-

lan, Robert Piccioni, Lloyd Rochester, Franco San Gregorio, Kristina Stathas and Mile Prinsky.

**M13 A Inter-City EHL Finalists Banner**  
Canelo Amalfitano, Aether Anderson, Maddox Durocher, Noah Fox, Maximus Khazzam, Tristan MacDonald, Sebastien Plante, Isaac Urman, Alistair White, Shams Ahmad, Alex Barbarosie-Tsang, Alexandre Mantha, Zachary Guay, Greyson Schwarz. Coaches: Dominic Plante, Faisal Ahmad, Simon Durocher, Fred Mantha, Matthew Fox.

**M13 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:** M12 AF – Emily Hamilton; M13 A – Noah Fox; M13 B – Matthew Frenkiel.

**M13 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:** M12 AF – Zoe Rochester; M13 A – Isaac Urman; M13 B – Charles Chen.

**M11 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:** M11 A – Cenxu Wang; M11 B – George Wang.

**M11 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:** M11 A – Mathys Mossop; M11 B – Gabriel Boismenu.

**M9 Inter-City Sportsmanship Awards:** M9-CF – Lily Guaiani; M9-A – Samuel Ghattas; M9-B – Lucas Doyons; M9-C – Malcolm Nickel; M9-D – Noah Moss.

**M9 Inter-City Most Improved Player Awards:** M9-CF – Jaclyn Werbitt; M9-A – Adam Zarrabian; M9-B – Asher Viezel-Mathieu; M9-C – Jeremie Gelber; M9-D – Jiyool Oh.

**M9 Inter-City medals**  
**M9 A – Wings:** Adam Saheb, Adam Zarrabian, Alessandro Di Gregorio, Cashel Francoeur, Eason Wang, Henry San Gregorio, Hudson Shapiro Stotland, Jayden Zhang, Milo Bogdaneris, Pim Edens, Samuel Ghattas. Coaches: MJ Blais, Matt Stotland, Franco San Gregorio, Steve Di Gregorio.

**M9 C – Wings:** Alexander Fattal, Cedric Pospisil, Charlie Wiseman, Conrad John Harrington, Henri Guilbert, Jérémie Gelber, John Dickson, Leo Knecht, Logan Schwarz, Malcolm Nickel, Matias Arguello, Xavier Holody. Coaches: Jarred Knecht, Erik Holody.

**M9 B – Wings:** Asher Viezel-Mathieu, Ashley John Dunwoody, Gabriel Bouhaddi Chartrain, Gabriel Cinq-Mars, Ilan Khazzam, Jacob Shatilla, Lucas Doyon, Matthias Luc, Max David-Lussier, Philippe Bellavance, Zoryan Bilotkach.

Coaches: Christian Lussier, Xavier Cinq-Mars, Mike Khazzam, Richard Shatilla.

**M9 CF – Wings:** Claire Barazin, Jaclyn Werbitt, Kennedy Adam, Kylie Cheung, Lila Domanko, Lily Guaiani, Navy Trihey, Rania Ahmad, Sidney Piccioni.

Coaches: Breanna Roy, William Trihey, Faisal Ahmad, Fanny Mailhot.

**M9 D – Wings:** Camilo Jr Bejarano, Cristian Paul Abou Nassar, Henry Petrucelli, Jack Abadi, Jiyool Oh, Neel Srinvas Aourpally, Nicolas Forest, Noah Moss, Owen Goldberg, Shaurya Dhore. Coaches: Claude Petrucelli, Shawn Moss.

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## CITY OF WESTMOUNT'S SEMI-ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT – SPRING 2026

## Athletes, pizza and joy – City hosts sports Awards Night

BY RALPH THOMPSON

in full bloom April 15.

Hundreds of young sports champs flooded into Victoria Hall at 6 pm as a gallant but futile effort was made by city staff and volunteers to control their high-strung behaviour.

As predictable as the bulbs sprouting out of the soil in spring, unrestrained excitement for the city's semi-annual sports Awards Night at Victoria Hall was

**Girls' hockey growing**

"There's been a big growth in hockey activity this past winter, especially girls' hockey," said a very busy Andrew Maislin, division head of operations and sports facilities.

Alyssa Sherrard, sports coordinator, echoed his remarks, "This year marked a big step forward for girls' hockey at all levels. We are pleased with the launch of the Westluc partnership between Westmount, Côte St. Luc and Montreal West. We were able to grow the game with six girls' teams from M9 [under age nine] all the way to M15, creating more opportunities, stronger development and a real sense of community across our programs.

"We're particularly thrilled by the M12 AF Wings girls' team, who became the regional champions and Coupe Chevrolet provincial champions."

As the swarming youngsters made perfunctory efforts to assemble at assigned tables, designated groups lined up in turn for pop and chips while Jennifer Heaps, administrative officer, calmly managed the dissection of 40 large pizzas in the kitchen. The mayor, city councillors Gurveen Chadha, Kathleen Kez, Jonathan Chomski, Jeff Shamie and Shawn Moss, staff and volunteers then precariously balanced trays

of the delectable tranches and wandered between the multitudes distributing them to the hungry masses. Former city councillor Conrad Peart was also spotted in the crowd.

Dave Lapointe, the city's director of culture, sports, recreation and social development, welcomed everyone and introduced Mayor Michael Stern, who expressed his joy at seeing all the sports devotees and thanked all the staff and volunteers for all their contributions.

**Presentations**

Maislin finally managed to get noise levels below 100db and Kai Duenez, sports coordinator, introduced the first trophy winners in the Most Improved Skating Participants category. As each award winner and team thundered onto the stage, the mayor and councillors handed out the medallions, ornate cups and banners.

As the last awards were handed out, Lapointe again thanked the staff, volunteers and in particular all the coaches for their contributions to the community over the past season.

*For the list of winners, turn to p. 17 and see additional photos on p. 1 and p. 22.*



# CITY OF WESTMOUNT'S SEMI-ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT – SPRING 2026



## '2000412989' has no official name yet



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



cuss your interest and help plan your return home with White Paint, whom you may have given your choice of name to.

You can also choose a spacious cat carrier from the onsite boutique, which is also well stocked with different types of food, litters, accessories and toys. Enjoy your journey from this number to the name of your choice, who is ready to start his new life with so much love.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

The number is this kitten's identification file at the Montreal SPCA cattery. This funny little black-and-white kitten, still so young, is on a path to adoption and loving arms in a new home.

Let's call him "White Paint" for now. In any event, he is a true original, a stunning character. He is very healthy, on plan for his kitten inoculation program, neutered and microchipped.

At the Montreal SPCA website, [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), you must refer to White Paint through this identification number, 2000412989. Then plan your visit to discuss adoption with the coordinators on site, where you will also be planning time together with the kitten.

It is open every day, Monday to Friday from 11 am to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. The SPCA shelter is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

The coordinators will be pleased to dis-

## Loco is a great companion



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER



Gentle and calm, this very handsome fellow is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel. A quiet and outdoorsy family would be a perfect fit for him as he enjoys the daily routine and leisurely walks.

Loco doesn't pull on leash, he is curious and enjoys sniffing along the route. As an active and affectionate nine-year-old, Loco is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

For more information on him, do not hesitate to go the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and refer to Loco's information page through his identification number, A2000404925. The shelter is open every day: Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St, West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4. The adoption coordinators are looking forward to discussing Loco's personality, giving you an opportunity to visit with him, and discussing your needs

and interest in adoption.

He is a dear friend, ready for relaxed indoor cuddling as well as the active companionship of walks and play. This is a great opportunity to enjoy this great friend. Please do not hesitate to make plans to bring him home.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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## Dogs agree: No bedbugs at library



The city hired Orkin Canada to double check that there were indeed no bedbugs at the Westmount Public Library after the main month-long work terminated before its April 9 re-opening. On April 16, two dogs inspected and found no intruders.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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# Morantz, Schauer introduce Burundi hospital



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Adrian Schauer, Gillian Morantz and Alexis Nizigiyimana.

global health foundation instead of a traditional engagement ring.

The evening took place at Connections by Ralia on St. Lawrence Blvd. Mémé-Traiteur crafted a delicious African cuisine. Entertainment included Burundian dancers and musicians, and video presentations featured the hospital and the town with its mountainous surroundings.

MC was **Michael Bontyes**, director programs and digital health at the Madiro Foundation. Speakers included the three hosts who shared UVL's achievements. In addition, tech supporters with personal knowledge of UVL addressed the audience: **Lambert Manirakiza**, Montreal IT professional, a Mugamba native who returned home to find a fully functioning hospital where none had existed before; **Max Brie**, CEO of Westmount's Copy Learning Technology, whose company is providing UVL frontline health workers with multilingual, on-demand medical education tools; and AI specialist professor **Louis-Martin Rousseau**, Canada Research Chair, Polytechnique Montréal.

On learning about UVL, Rousseau's family generously offered support to help build UVL's maternal and newborn pavilion and advance its digital health infrastructure. *continued on p. 22*

A celebratory dinner was held recently to introduce the Ubuntu Village of Life (UVL).

The event was hosted by Westmounters **Gillian Morantz**, pediatrician, and her husband **Adrian Schauer**, CEO of AlayaCare. They were joined by **Dr. Alexis Nizigiyimana**, founder and director of the hospital in Mugamba, Burundi.

Nizigiyimana, then a recent medical graduate, opened a clinic in 2020 in a small abandoned bar in his commune of about 60,000 people where health services were non-existent, and infant and maternal mortality rates were alarmingly high.

Today, that clinic has grown into a bustling regional hospital and centre, serving a population of over a million, thanks largely to the involvement of the Madiro Foundation, which supports local health innovations in a number of African countries.

Madiro Foundation was established when Schauer proposed marriage to Morantz – then working in public health in Kenya – by presenting her a cheque for a



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## City's sports banquet



The view from the Victoria Hall stage on April 15.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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▲ Left, MC Michael Bontyes.

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

On an amusing – yet important note – as the event was charitable in nature – Schauer reminded attendees of the “stone soup” folk tale, a symbol of how small contributions lead to larger sharing, emphasizing the power of collective contribution.

The story? Hungry travellers put stones in their pot of “soup,” but trick villagers into adding vegetables and meat, thus creating a meal. The fable teaches that cooperation can transform.



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