

Future of 325 Melville facing Westmount Park back before council Mayor ready for comments on road repair, receives many other questions

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

“We heard you. We see it. We’re onto it,” said Mayor Michael Stern in opening the council meeting May 5 and pre-emptively explaining how the city would be starting to fix the streets now that weather conditions are making it possible.

“Hope is on the horizon because spring had given us the opportunity to re-build and renew,” he said.

Interestingly, however, the array of issues on the minds of more than a dozen questioners at the start of the regular monthly session was as varied as the residents.

These subjects included flashing-red traffic lights at Grosvenor and The Boulevard, a “dilapidated” and barricaded house at Melbourne and Metcalfe (see last week, p. 14) – which the mayor agreed was “an

eyesore” – and why the city wanted to plant a tree in a resident’s admired garden on de Maisonneuve.

325 Melville

Most substantially, council also was asked to deny a request for a permit that would allow a five-unit apartment building at 325 Melville to be converted into a single-family unit. This possible change would appear to facilitate the eviction of long-time residents.

The questioner on this issue explained that he had lived there with his four sons for many years. He had protested and recently appealed a decision from “a tribunal” to which he had appealed his possible eviction. This result would appear to be allowable at the ap-
approaching end of the *continued on p. 5*

Window washing goes high tech



A drone was being used to wash the windows at 1303 Greene Ave. May 11. The new approach was attracting lots of attention, with many taking photographs with their phones. The operator was standing on the parking area on the edge of Greene and patiently moving the drone from one window to the next, which was attached to a hose pipe that was being fed soapy water from a nearby van. The area was cordoned off with yellow tape.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Jason Yu 于泽
REAL ESTATE BROKER

514.600.6614
Jasonyurealty@gmail.com

JASON YU REALTY
RE/MAX COLLECTION

An expert in local and international real estate market

Project to last through July

Victoria Hall’s restoration work now slated to start May 25

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One of the city’s most high-profile buildings is finally set to undergo renovations to the main entrance as approved at a cost of some \$465,294 at the council meeting March 17.

While it had already been announced on the city’s website more than three weeks ago as already under way and having closed

the main entrance for an indefinite period, people were still seen going in and out last week.

As a result, an update on its status provided to the *Independent* May 13 after inquiries to city communications director Mugisha Rutishisha stated that: “It [now] seems [the work] will start on May 25.” It is estimated to be com-
pleted at the end of July. *continued on p. 9*

B | L | V | D
BOULEVARD

MARY CALABRESE
Residential Real Estate Broker

514.962.5527
mary@marycalabrese.ca

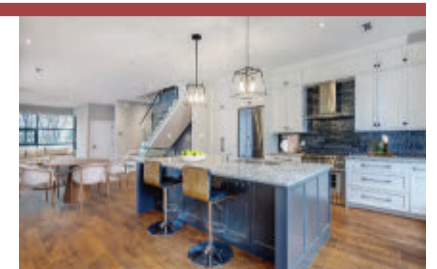
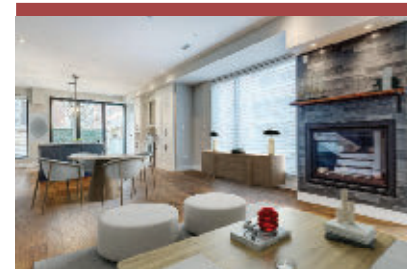
Sicotte & co.

Marie Sicotte Real Estate Broker

+1 514 953 9808
mariesicotte.com

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 2-4pm



Westmount
73 Hillside Av.

\$2,195,000
3 2+1 2

SELECTION OF FINE PROPERTIES



LE SHERBROOKE WESTMOUNT WESTMOUNT

Unit:
#302 \$1,495,000



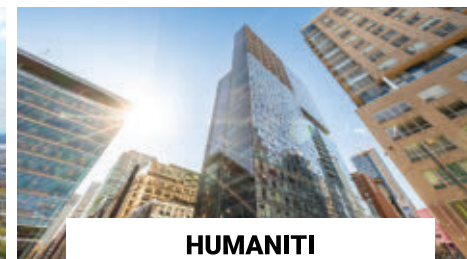
LE BELMONT WESTMOUNT ADJACENT

Unit:
#514 \$1,995,000



1111 ATWATER WESTMOUNT

Units:
#PH-3702 \$11,378,806+tx
#3602 \$5,166,535+tx
#3502 \$4,026,055+tx
#3603 \$2,633,500+tx
#3201 \$2,388,744+tx
#3503 \$2,302,955+tx
#3203 \$1,568,674+tx



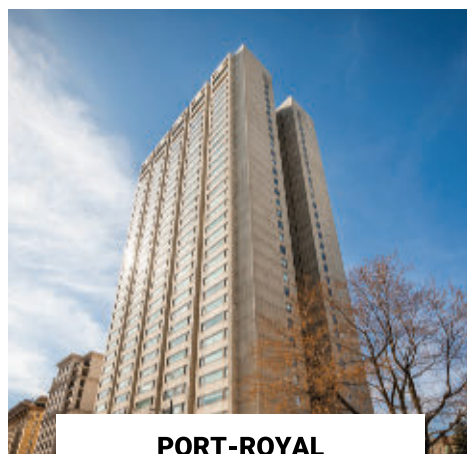
HUMANITI INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Units:
#2901 \$2,199,000
#3420 SOLD



LE LINTON GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

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



PORT-ROYAL GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Units:
#3004 \$4,495,000
#2801 \$2,695,000
#PH-3 \$2,199,000
#1002 \$1,495,000
#1606 \$1,099,000
#501 \$999,000
#605 SOLD
#2101 \$520,000



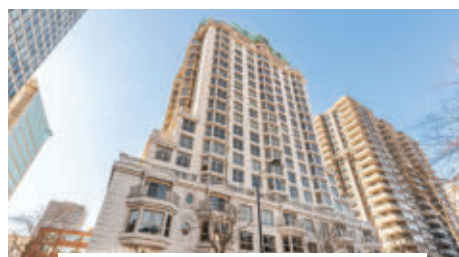
ICÔNE DOWNTOWN

Unit:
#3401A \$4,295,000
#PH3701 \$2,215,000+tx



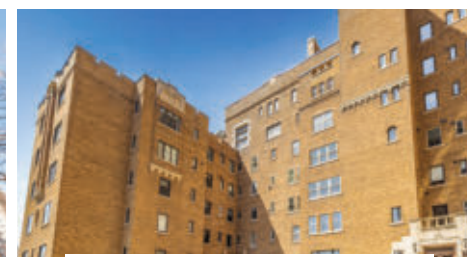
LE CHÂTEAU GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Units:
#B140-141 \$4,695,000
#E30-31 \$3,995,000



SIR ROBERT PEEL GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Unit:
#15-A \$2,995,000



GLENEAGLES WESTMOUNT ADJACENT

Unit:
#PH-D52 \$3,398,000



A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF LUXURY REAL ESTATE

MARIE-YVONNE PAINT & SAMUEL R. DEMERS

MYPAIN.TCA

'Vulnerable' persons urged to sign up for Public Security's registry

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A patrolling Public Security officer May 8 noticed a man at midnight described as a senior trying to cross Sherbrooke St. in front of Westmount Park and wearing only a shirt and shorts.

The patroller pulled up beside him asking where he had been and where he was going.

Appearing to be confused, he nevertheless was able to provide his name but was unable to figure out how to work a cell-phone he was holding, explained Kimberley Colquhoun, assistant Public Security director.

The officer tried calling a number on the phone and ended up successfully reaching the man's wife, who stated he had never "done this before." She arrived on the scene to help take him home.

They were identified as Westmount residents.

Public Security: Underlines need

This is an incident that underlines the value of a longstanding Public Security program identifying vulnerable persons that provides basic information on someone

who might benefit from the need of assistance at home or if they are found wandering on the street and encounter memory loss, Colquhoun explained.

It includes their photo, special needs and contact persons. There are 32 currently listed, she said.

Man from hospital found struggling with wheelchair on Olivier Ave.



Looking up Olivier Ave. towards Sherbrooke from de Maisonneuve on May 15. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

A man in a wheelchair on Olivier May 10 was spotted by a Public Security patroller at 7:30 am, officials said. He was reported to have been having trouble with the chair.

When asked if he needed assistance, he said he was "fine," came from out of town and had had medical treatment on his throat. Police and Urgences Santé were called and based on their information, the man was returned to the CHUM hospital centre. He came from St. Jérôme.



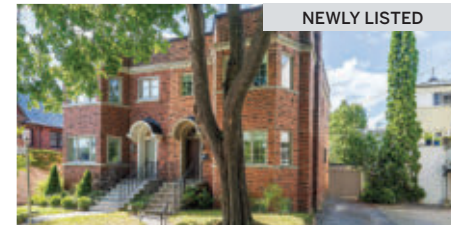
GROUP

Karpman-Cowper-Kassie

REAL ESTATE BROKERS

Karen Karpman | Ariane Cowper | Allyson Kassie

groupckc.com 514.933.2055



NEWLY LISTED

\$1,950,000

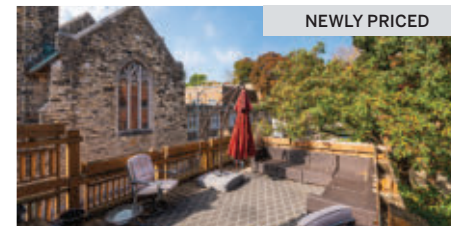
MLS 11699488

UPPER WESTMOUNT - 5 BELFRAGE
3+1 Beds | 3+1 Baths | 1 Garage
Inviting, bright, warm, ideal quiet street.



RECENTLY PURCHASED

MID-LEVEL WESTMOUNT, ROSLYN AVE.
4+1 Beds | 3+1 Baths | 2 Garages
Impeccable, spacious semi near Westmount Ave.



NEWLY PRICED

\$1,495,000

MLS 18150386

MID-LEVEL WESTMOUNT, 1 CHURCH HILL AVE.
4 Beds | 2+1 Baths | 2 Terraces | 1 Parking
2-storey condo, amazing terraces, great location.



NEWLY PRICED

\$1,695,000

MLS 19789945

GOLDEN MILE | LINTON, 1509 SHERBROOKE W.
2 Beds | 2+1 Baths | 2 Garages
Striking elegance, perfect downsize, location.

Sotheby's International Realty Quebec Real Estate Agency is Independently Owned And Operated. Residential & Commercial Real Estate Brokers.

Letters, p. 8

Police Report, p. 11

Pet page, p. 13

Travel: Sicily, part two, p. 16

Social Notes: Switoczek
Goldbloom memoir, p. 17



InfoWestmount, p. 12

Could your hot flashes be causing global warming?

The most common symptoms of (peri)menopause are: hot flashes, night sweats, irritability, mood swings, insomnia. In collaboration with your physician, we may be able to help you with personalized hormone therapy. 10-minute free consultation with this article.



BERTRAND COHEN TENOUDJI
pharmacie | pharmacy

5025 Sherbrooke W (west of Claremont) 514-484-2222
Fax: 514-484-2205 | www.montrealpharmacy.com



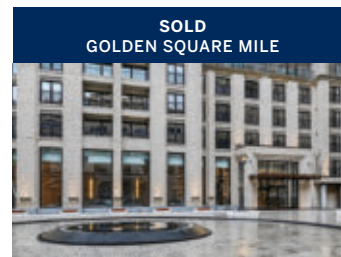
Susan Lloyd (Leduc)
Real Estate Broker
438.882.8088
sllloyd@sothebysrealty.ca



INTRODUCING
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Le Sherbrooke: Executive 1 bedroom facing the courtyard. Located in one of Montreal's premier full service buildings with outstanding amenities.

\$815,000 | MLS 10719861



SOLD
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Le Sherbrooke: Luxury executive penthouse on the 23rd floor, offering refined living in a New York-style building with premium services and amenities.



FOR SALE
CONDO IN GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Dr. Penfield: Prime location within walking distance of the downtown core and McGill. Renovated 2-bdr, 2+1-bth, garage. Communal rooftop terrace and gym.

\$648,000 | MLS 20673103



FOR SALE
SPECTACULAR PENTHOUSE

Quinze-cent: Stylish corner unit with panoramic river and city view from the 26th long balcony. Luxuriously appointed and premium amenities.

\$2,799,000 | MLS 17805108



Géraldine Libraty
Real Estate Broker
514.962.5563
glibraty@sothebysrealty.ca

Appointed by council as assistant director

MacLean named to permanent position in library, Community Events

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

City council May 5 appointed Lauren MacLean to the permanent position of assistant director of the library and Community Events. This follows the retirement January 23 of Donna Lach (see story January 20, p. 1).

MacLean has already become well known to users of the Westmount library since arriving as interim director July 2, 2024 during the maternity leave of Anne-Marie Lacombe (see October 15, 2024, p. 4).

"I am thrilled to be staying on with the library and Community Events as assistant director," she told the *Independent* last week.

She received her master's degree in library and information sciences from the University of Alberta in 2014 and worked in government archives in BC, Alberta and Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Her subsequent move to Montreal took her to the Jewish Public Library before transitioning to Westmount and taking on the interim role as director. Now she assumes the full-time assistant-director position, which includes the city's Community Events office.



Lauren MacLean at her desk on May 5.

VINTAGE MUSTS

ACCESSOIRES DE MODE ET DE MAISON
FASHION AND HOME ACCESSORIES

ART ET ARTS DÉCORATIFS DU VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE
FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

1 WESTMOUNT SQUARE, SUITE CK-05
MONTRÉAL [QC] CANADA H3Z 2P9
514-602-1545

**Enjoy the long weekend on Victoria Day!
Call us if you need any pool heater maintenance
or any other services.**



Canadians take care of each other.

Call for an Estimation

514-990-1346

Melville, cont'd from p. 1

lease if the city were to issue a permit for the building's re-development into a single-family residence.

After a lengthy discussion on the issue, the mayor referred the tenant to urban planning director Frédéric Neault.

Interestingly, this is the same building for which its owner at the time some five years ago had been denied a demolition permit based on being in "workable condition" and not meeting the criteria for

demolition (see July 6, 2021, p. 1).

That proposed demolition, however, was opposed by neighbours, stating the building had always been fully occupied and was a home to families with children and dogs.

**Developer, neighbour agree:
City cut its own trees**

Among other questions asked at the May meeting was one concerning the cutting down of trees at the 500 Claremont/100 Windsor condominium project.

After the meeting, developer Gideon Pollack of Forum told the *Independent* that it had come to his attention that "neighbours had attended to complain about us having cut trees down."

He said, "We did not cut any trees down. The city did."

He explained: "I suspect the trees in question belonged to the city and so they had it in their plan to trim or even cut [them]. I do not know which one. No one

consulted us. We found out when the rest of the neighbours did."

Frank Philpott, one of neighbours, subsequently told the *Independent* that the recently cut trees along the side were indeed removed by the city to enable work on the Hydro Westmount lines along a lane.

Many trees removed two or three years ago had been on the developer's property, he explained.



325 Melville on May 15.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



From left, John Stewart and Frank Philpott start off the question period May 5 asking about trees related to the condo project at 500 Claremont.

Strathmore EXPERT TREE SERVICES

Arborists you can trust

Expert Tree Services in Montreal and the West Island since 1992. Over the years, we have built a reputation for superior results and great customer service to residential and commercial customers.

- Pruning
- Dead Wooding
- Tree and Hedge Trimming
- Tree Removal and Planting
- Stump Grinding
- Cabling and Bracing
- Preventative treatments



CALL OR TEXT

514-831-8733 Emergency Work 24/7

Certified Arborist | arbo@strathmore.pro | www.strathmore.pro

emma
Archive Sale

2nd floor

70% off

May 26th from 12-6 pm


May 27th from 12-6 pm

May 28th from 12-6 pm

May 29th from 12-6 pm

May 30th from 12-5 pm

1350 Greene Westmount H3Z 2B1

 @emma_boutique
514 464 8389

Police Week comes to Westmount

Law enforcement reaches out with coffee, YMCA visit

BY JENNIFER BALL

Province-wide, police officers were out in the community for Police Week, including pamphleteering at the Westmount Y and serving coffee at the Sherbrooke/Claremont Ave. McDonald's.

Antonino Petrotta, community resource officer at Station 12, said on May 12 at the Westmount Y that “we wanted to get out into the community, and just give residents the opportunity to speak with us and ask us questions, and we’ve had good response here today...”

“We appreciate that the Y is an integral part of this community and we appreciate that they gave us the opportunity to come set up a table here for two hours where we are just mingling and talking with people.”

Focus on fraud, elder abuse, AI

The officers had pamphlets about fraud and elder abuse, which in addition to being information is a tactic, Petrotta said, to remove the barrier of speaking with the police.

“I think the table will make people come if they have questions.”

Fraud awareness is something that Pet-



From left, police officers Emmanuel Provencher, Mike Yigit, Antonino Petrotta, Charles Metcalfe, Patricia Drouin and Eric Kyriaco at the McDonald's on Sherbrooke at Claremont on May 13.



From left, officer Eric Kyriaco, YMCA front-desk agent Shannon Rochon, officers Patricia Drouin and Antonino Petrotta, and Y supervisor Oussama Labidi. Seated: YMCA user Bill Anderson. As seen May 12.

rotta often speaks about to local seniors.

So, what do we need to watch out for in terms of new scams and fraudulent activity in 2026?

Petrotta lamented that AI is changing the playing field. “The AI aspect is really coming along and we’re trying to just keep up with it. They’re so advanced with AI! They have an edge in that they can copy voices so you really think it’s somebody in

your family...”

“The advice we give is always be careful and have a safe word that only your family members know to use – as proof that they are your family members – and don’t give money. Whenever there’s pressure, just don’t do it.”

McDonald's too

On May 13, officers went on to the

McDonald's at Sherbrooke and Claremont Ave.

They served coffee from 10 am to noon and met with customers.

While many were pleased with the police presence in a convivial setting, one McDonald's customer was rattled to see them arrive – afraid she was about to be ticketed for parking and not paying – while she retrieved her food and beverage.

JOSEPH MAROVITCH REAL ESTATE

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL TO LEASE

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL TO LEASE

HAPPY BROKER



COSTA RICA RES DEVELOPMENT
GO TO WEBSITE



2159 MACKAY #100E
CENTRIS 13161747



LAKE FRONT 3 BDR COTTAGE
CENTRIS 20100856



1460 SHERBROOKE W #100E
CENTRIS 11086317



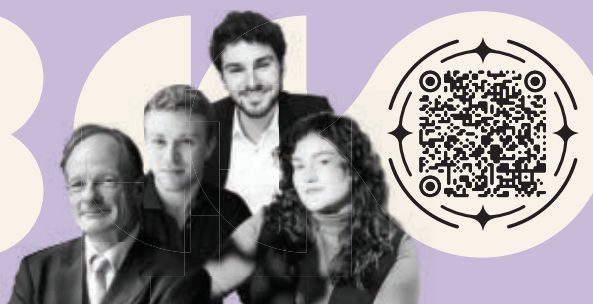
WWW.JOSEPHMAROVITCHREALESTATE.COM

XXIV
fmb
FESTIVAL MUSIQUE
MONTREAL BAROQUE

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026, AT 7PM
CHAPELLE NOTRE-DAME-DE-BON-SECOURS

J.S. BACH:
THE ASCENSION

The Ascension Oratorio and
the Orchestral Overture n°3
by Johann Sebastian Bach



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

514 845-7171 montrealbaroque.com

XXIV
fmb
FESTIVAL MUSIQUE
MONTREAL BAROQUE

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026, AT 7PM
CHAPELLE NOTRE-DAME-DE-BON-SECOURS

MELANCHOLIA
DOWLAND 400TH

Madrigals, lute songs
and instrumental works
by John Dowland



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

514 845-7171 montrealbaroque.com

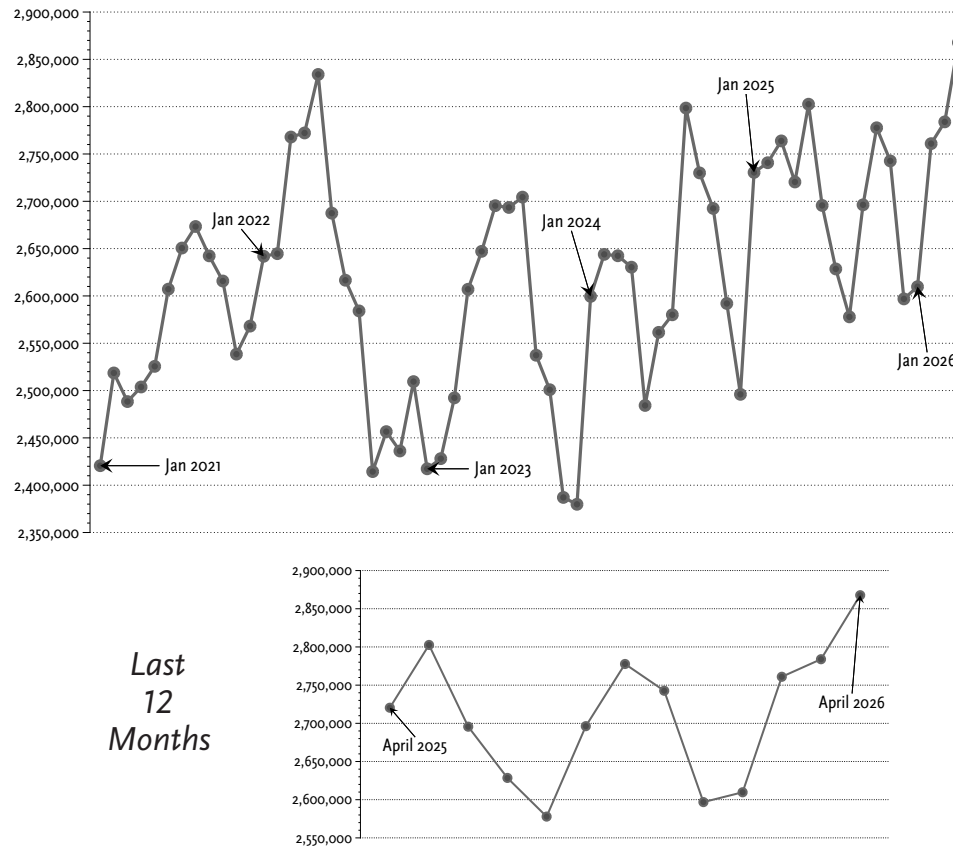


Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

April sales: Looking up

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2021 to April 2026, based on accepted offer dates



Last 12 Months

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in April 2026. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount's real estate market appears to be looking upward, seeking new heights as the spring "rush" for available housing reaches its peak.

Included in this phenomenon are an above-average volume of sales and lower-than-average number of days on the market for the first three months of the year (final April figures will have to wait); a record high number of listings (by mid-May); and no asking prices below \$1,149,000 (which house already has a pending offer to purchase).

Of the sales in April, only two of 10 were sold for less than \$2 million, and though the highest price for deals in April was \$3,350,000, so far this year agents have posted five sales over \$5 million (but none over \$10 million, although they came close).

The average mark-up over municipal valuation was 11.4 percent, down from 16.7 percent in March, but that figure was strongly influenced by one March sale that was the highest price for the year to date – \$9,950,000 – and the highest mark-up at 65.1 percent.

The 10 April sales posted so far include only three mark-downs, while most of the rest were actually double-digit mark-ups. One house on Lansdowne Ave. brought the highest price for April, \$3,350,000, and the highest mark-up for the month, 45.5 percent.

Condos
Westmount's condominium market appears to be waking up slowly, with four sales reported in April, after only seven offers were accepted in the first three months of the year.

The April transactions ranged in price from \$675,000 to \$2,225,000 with mark-ups from -20.8 percent to +26.5 percent. In the first quarter, the price range was very similar (\$640,000 to \$3,184,000) as was the mark-up range (-25.9 percent to +38.0 percent). The average mark-up was the same, at 6.2 percent in both time periods.

And if the local condos had trouble getting started, the adjacent-Westmount market fell flat in April: overall there were nine sales in January, 15 in February and 12 posted for March, then only two – a house in the Circle Rd. area and a share of a duplex on lower Marlowe Ave.

Adjacent
Of the 38 sales, 22 sold for less than valuation; the one- and two-family sales were divided evenly between southern Côte des Neiges, eastern NDG and the Trafalgar-Daulac area just east of Westmount, with six sales each. Only the latter had an

average mark-up above par, at six percent.

Listings & rentals

Despite the very strong volume, there are 151 homes listed for sale in Westmount as of mid-May, with the \$3-4 million price bracket having the highest number at 42, followed by the \$2-3 million bracket with 34. For the eighth month in a row, no houses have been listed for less than \$1 million, while there are 10 homes asking more than \$10 million.

Another 19 houses are available for rent, seven of them asking more than \$10,000 per month. So far this year, agents report having rented seven Westmount homes at rates from \$3,400 to \$9,982 per month.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE
PRÉSENTE
PRÉSENTE

Love and Information

par Caryl Churchill

mise en scène de Marissa Blair

4 Juin 19h30
6 Juin 14h & 19h30
7 Juin 14h

Victoria Hall
4626 rue Sherbrooke O
Westmount

BILLETTS/TICKETS
theatrewestmount.weebly.com

LOVE AND INFORMATION is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

WESTMOUNT'S TRUSTED RUG & CARPET CLEANING SPECIALISTS

ZOURIK INC.

Hand-washed
Never harsh
machine cleaning
Pet odour & urine
treatment specialists

Persian • Oriental
• Silk • Wool • Antique
• Wall-to-wall
• Upholstery cleaning
Also: fringe repair • binding
• spot removal

White-glove turn-key service
Pick-up • Delivery
• Re-installation

514-825-5500

zourikcleaning@gmail.com

REFERRED FOR A REASON

Arthur Younanian

Notaire – Notary

4635 Sherbrooke West
Westmount, QC H3Z 1G2

Tel.: 514 931-2531
info@aynotary.ca
www.aynotary.ca

Coiffure Jean John

4897 Sherbrooke, Westmount
514-486-6261

NEW online appointments now available!

saloncoiffurejeanjohn.com

Homme Men Femme Women Enfants Children

Master Editions

Antiques & collectibles

Estate & Moving Sales

We Provide

Professional Evaluations
Staging of your home
Courteous & bonded Staff
Clean-up after sale

Iona & Marvin
514-501-9072

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOISE, CO DAMAGE HEARING

I have gone deaf in my left ear mainly due to having worked in extremely noisy environments (newsprint paper-making machines with up to 120 dBA) and to being exposed to trace amounts of carbon monoxide gas (smelters that as a by-product had carbon monoxide gas and loud noise) in the 1960s and 1970s when worker safety standards did NOT exist.

Therefore, I also DO NOT favour any equipment that exposes people to loud noise nor trace amounts of carbon monoxide gas. Two-stroke [gasoline-powered] leaf blowers tend to be noisier and produce more trace amounts of carbon monoxide gas than four-stroke ones. To avoid hearing loss, noise levels should remain below 85 dBA in an eight-hour period. Also, trace amounts of carbon monoxide worsen hearing damage when combined with high-intensity noise (90 dBA).

However, on a positive note, while we have not done a detailed review or anything like it BUT, since we live on Victoria Ave. between Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard, so far we have found the use of flashing-red lights at the crossing of The Boulevard and Grosvenor a much better driving experience than the prior lights.

Or is it ONLY because most people now avoid the area?? Hmmm...

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

GREENE RAIL BRIDGE NEEDS HIGH-TECH ATTENTION

Every few months, another truck slams into the Greene Ave. underpass because it

is too high to clear the structure. The incident makes the news, traffic is disrupted, repairs are required, and then everyone moves on until it happens again.

Why are Quebec and the city of Westmount still treating this as an unavoidable problem instead of implementing a real solution?

The technology to prevent these collisions already exists and has been successfully deployed around the world. Modern overheight detection systems use AI, laser sensors, radar, cameras and connected traffic controls to identify trucks that cannot safely clear an underpass – before impact occurs.

These systems can instantly activate flashing warnings, display “OVERHEIGHT – EXIT NOW” messages, turn traffic lights red, lower barriers, alert traffic authorities, and even communicate directly with connected vehicle systems.

So why are we still relying on outdated signage and hoping drivers notice it in time?

At what point do we stop repeating the same mistake and pretending the problem has been addressed? If other cities can modernize their infrastructure and embrace proven safety technology, why can't we?

We often speak about innovation, smart cities and building for the future, yet too often our actions suggest we are comfortable operating with the infrastructure and thinking of the past.

This is not simply about damaged concrete or delayed traffic. It is about public



“Not a good sign...” punned photo contributor Charles Anderson when emailing this photo of the downed sign before the Greene rail bridge on May 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF C. ANDERSON.

safety, preventable costs and whether we are willing to implement solutions that already exist.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

Editor's note: In fairness to the authorities, northbound/uphill, there is now a higher tech warning system than the lone (and

battered) metal sign, although CP recently dodged answering questions about the efficacy of this motion-activated flashing-sign system (see March 24, p. 10). Sadly, the area is something of an interjurisdictional tangle (see January 11, 2022, p. 7). Welcome to Canada.... – DP.

Correction

We missed two churches



In our round-up of still operating Westmount churches last week (p. SL-3), we missed two: the Holy Trinity Church on

Melville Ave. and the Bethel Gospel Chapel (pictured above on May 15) at de Maison-neuve and Olivier. – DP

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
david@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter: Lauren Sweeney

Graphics: Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Accounting: 514.223.6138

office@westmountindependent.com

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

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them.

Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

13,500+ physical copies plus low-resolution email and web versions
(11,000+ during possible postal strike – 8,000+ during actual postal strike)
Distribution: Tuesday to Friday (longer when interrupted by postal holidays or strikes)

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

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

Victoria Hall, cont'd from p. 1

This means, he added, “it should be open” for the spring flower show reception on May 20. This is an invitational event held to welcome new residents and thank city volunteers.

The front entrance is directly across Sherbrooke St. from Arlington Ave., a street slated for extensive re-construction this year.

Where and how

The city council resolution approving the work March 17 referred to the project as “replacement of the foundations of the main staircase,” for which Councillor Shawn Moss subsequently explained was owing to “water infiltration” (see story April 14, p. 7).

The work is to be carried out in two phases to maintain functional access to the building. These involve the front entrance and the one to the east side at the elevator and access to the Gallery.

In summary, the work includes staircase work, repair of the structure’s supporting stone steps and landing, interior vestibule floor finishes, replacement of door thresholds and restoration of wooden doors.

Also included is upgrading the hand-



This photo of Victoria Hall’s front steps and their eastern banister on May 12 shows a gap between them.

rails “to meet current standards,” and restoration of landscaping.

During this work, a construction zone entrance but a secured section is to remain in place “for emergency exits only.”



The **Canada Summer Jobs** program is supporting nearly **100,000** young Canadians this summer, including **hundreds here in NDG-Westmount**, with opportunities to gain valuable experience and build the skills they need for their future.

Le programme **Emplois d’été Canada** aide près de **100 000** jeunes Canadiens cet été, **dont des centaines ici même à NDG-Westmount**, en leur offrant la possibilité d’acquérir une expérience enrichissante et de développer les compétences dont ils auront besoin pour leur avenir.



Hon./L'hon. Anna Gainey
Member of Parliament | Députée
NDG-Westmount

- ☎ (514) 481-1897
- ✉ anna.gainey@parl.gc.ca
- 📧 @annamgainey
- 📍 408-5165 Sherbrooke W/O

Apply today:
Jobbank.gc.ca/youth
Postulez dès aujourd'hui :
guichetemplois.gc.ca/jeunes



Rent your next dream home

Our dedicated service team will ensure that your rental experience with Groupe Copley is truly outstanding.

Questions? Reach out info@groupecopley.com or **514 656-6437**

Choose from our large selection of luxury homes for rent in Greater Montreal



View our homes on our new website:
groupecopley.com



Gabriel Safdie's *Affair with China* combines photojournalism with insights

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Blending photography, personal reflection and recollections from four decades of travels in China, longtime Westmounter Gabriel Safdie's new book *Affair with China* offers a rare and intimate perspective on a country that has undergone a massive and historic transformation over the past four decades.

The former Dawson College literature and creative writing professor writes about his travels throughout China, from the 1980s to the 2020s, during which he was engaged in both commercial trade and the arts.

He had the opportunity to visit China on numerous occasions annually for around 35 years while helping lead his family's Montreal-based textile import business (Safdie & Co.).

Through a combination of photography and narrative, he reflects on the country's remarkable makeover, as well as its energy, contradictions and the profound changes he witnessed over time.

Launched at Blue Metropolis

The book was officially introduced at the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival in Montreal on April 25, and was also presented by Safdie as part of the

Atwater Library's Lunchtime Series in early May.

During his travels, Safdie was able to witness China's transformation from a nation still under the influence of the ideologically rigid Cultural Revolution into a country where capitalist principles were eventually adopted and a business-based economy was allowed to develop.

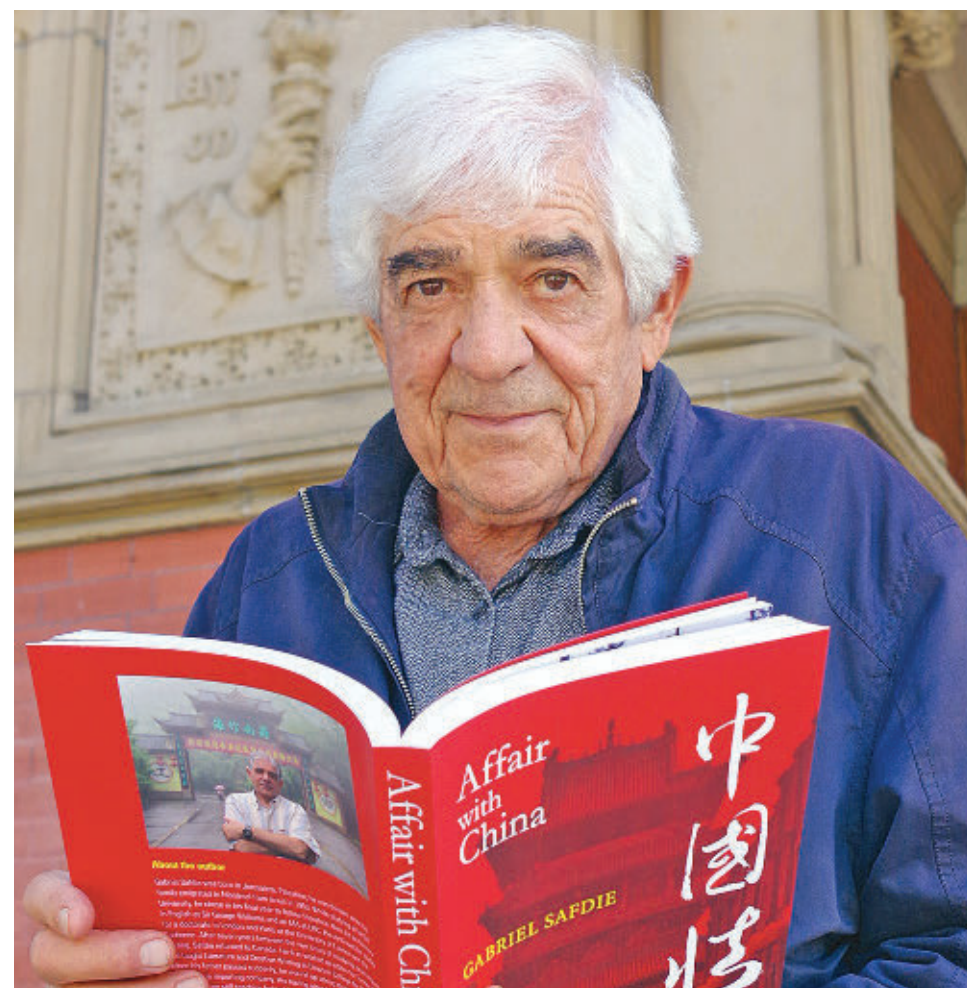
Perhaps one of the book's most interesting sections deals with his impressions of China in May and June 1989, around the time of the rise of a pro-democracy movement.

Memories of Tianamen

This was followed by the notorious Tiananmen Square massacre, during which – independent scholars have estimated – between 700 and 2,600 dissidents were killed by government forces.

"We were staying at the Grand Hotel, close to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, so from the balcony we could see the rising activity, with bikes piling up around the periphery," writes Safdie, who was accompanied by his wife Eva, while adding that "the atmosphere was charged yet peaceful."

By the time the Chinese government was cracking down ruthlessly on June 4,



Affair with China author Gabriel Safdie is seen here on the steps of the Westmount Public Library on May 12.

Safdie was in Hong Kong – at that time separate – during a visit to an electronics store where everyone froze, all eyes on rows of televisions "as images of tanks in and around Tiananmen Square flickered across the screens."

While writing that "nothing would ever be quite the same" after Tiananmen Square – "except, of course, the incredible transformation of the economy" – Safdie observes that the Chinese Communist Party "has never apologized" nor ever

acknowledged the crackdown.

"To this day, the subject of June 4 is taboo, erased from public memory with the most elaborate program of censorship. If anything, the country's subsequent success is seen as justification for the suppression of 'antisocial elements,' a necessary step along the way to superpower status."

Affair with China is published by Westmount-based John Aylen Books and is available at Paragraphe Bookstore downtown as well as online through Amazon.



Physio FormeSanté

Move better

- Improve posture & flexibility
- Build core strength in a safe environment
- Reduce stress & tension

Bougez mieux

- Améliore la posture & la flexibilité
- Renforce le core dans un environnement sécuritaire
- Réduit le stress & tension

15% off your first package
15% de réduction sur votre premier forfait
Code: WESTMOUNT15!



CONTACTEZ NOUS

4377 Notre-Dame St W, Suite 105,
MTL, QC, H4C 1R8
(514) 933-1910
info@physioformesante.com
physioformesante.com

REFORMER PILATES

For every body. For every level
Pour tous les corps. Pour tous les niveaux




BEFORE



Specialists in
wood windows
and doors!

FREE ESTIMATE
514 486-4635

AFTER



Distributeur des portes et fenêtres Lepage Millwork

LES INDUSTRIES



1977

Distributor of Lepage Millwork

You'll love what we can do for your home!

MartinIndustries.ca

Showroom 8178 Montview (corner Royalmount)




Police Report

Two arrested after shopliftings at Westmount SAQ outlet

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Security guards working for the Société des alcools du Québec summoned the Montreal police on two occasions last week to arrest shoplifting suspects at the provincial liquor retailer's Westmount store.

Faced with a rise in thefts at SAQ outlets throughout their retail network, the SAQ has increased in-store surveillance since last year, according to news reports, while spending more on security than in the previous decade.

According to a report last January in the Montreal daily *La Presse*, increased in-store surveillance resulted in twice as many shoplifters being nabbed at SAQ stores between 2021 and 2025.

"The SAQ sometimes have operations – because I know it happens often in the downtown area – where they have a security team that goes from store to store," said Cst. Mike Yigit, community relations officer at Montreal police Station 12 on Stanton St., which covers Westmount's territory.

While the SAQ's security team has been posted mostly at the downtown stores, he said they're known to drop by some of the others, including the store on Sherbrooke St. in Westmount, although it's "not known to be most problematic," said Yigit.

Around 6 pm on May 12, according to Yigit, an SAQ security guard was working undercover at the Westmount store and was following a customer who'd been seen concealing a bottle beneath the coat he was wearing while taking a second bottle to the check-out counter to purchase it.

The following day, another suspect was apprehended while trying to steal eight bottles of liquor with a total value of more than \$600.

As the incident report hadn't yet been

completed by the investigators, no additional information was available at deadline on how the suspect managed to conceal eight bottles.

According to Yigit, the SAQ security people detained the suspects until police officers from Station 12 arrived to take them into custody and charge them with theft.

\$1.50 stolen, beer can left behind

Whoever it was who decided to illegally enter a car parked on St. Catherine St. near Westmount Square last week got away with considerably less than what they had probably been hoping for – while leaving something behind.

After returning to the vehicle, the owner noticed it had been rummaged through during his absence, said Cst. Yigit. The intruder had also taken a small sum lying around inside the car.

"They stole roughly about \$1.50 that was in small change," said Yigit. "And they also left a can of beer in the vehicle before leaving."

FOR RENT – July 1st



443 Prince-Albert, Westmount
\$8,300 / monthly



Club de boulingrin et croquet de Westmount

Westmount Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club

PORTES OUVERTES OPEN HOUSE

401 Kensington Avenue et/and Sherbrooke, Westmount
www.bowlswestmount.ca

SAMEDI 23 MAI
SATURDAY, MAY 23
9H30 - 14H ~ 9:30AM - 2PM

contact: westmountlawnbowling@bell.net

Amateurs de sport, célibataires, couples, étudiants, retraités, ouvert à tous.

Sports enthusiasts, singles, couples, students, retirees, open to all ages.

Débutants ou joueurs de ligue.

Beginners to league play.

Venez essayer !

Come try it out!



Cours gratuits 25 mai - 6 juin, inscrivez-vous lors de la journée portes ouvertes
Free instruction May 25 th - June 6, sign-up at the open house

The ultimate Endermologie® silhouette

100% natural skin-fitness for health and beauty



- Firms the skin
- Smooths cellulite
- Slims the silhouette
- Drains the lymph



4060 Ste-Catherine W
Suite 510
Westmount
514 821 3088
www.massodermie.com

No needles - No surgery - No chemicals - No downtime

infoWESTMOUNT

2026.05.19 • Vol. 7/10



NOUVELLES

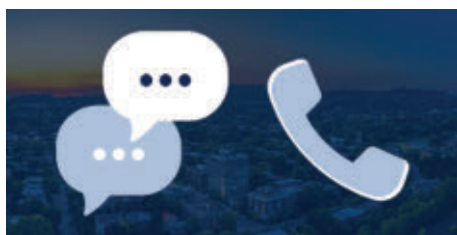
PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Mardi 2 juin

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Tuesday, June 2



Aidez-nous à mieux vous informer !

Segma Recherche mène actuellement un sondage sur les habitudes et les préférences en matière de communication municipale. Participez d'ici le **31 mai** ! westmount.org/sondage



We need your input!

A survey is being conducted by Segma Recherche on habits and preferences regarding municipal communications. Participate until **May 31!** westmount.org/survey

Travaux et entraves routières

La saison des travaux est commencée ! Pour rester informé des projets en cours à Westmount et à Montréal, consultez westmount.org/travaux et le **Portail citoyen**.

Parmi les chantiers à surveiller :

• **Rue Sherbrooke Ouest et avenue Arlington** : des travaux de réfection et de resurfaçage débuteront le 19 mai pour 23 semaines.

• **Avenue Grosvenor** : des travaux de réhabilitation sont en cours pour 15 semaines.

• **Victoria Hall** : des travaux de réfection à l'entrée principale débuteront la semaine du 25 mai.

Programme « Un arbre pour mon quartier »

Jusqu'au 24 mai, les résidents de Westmount peuvent se procurer un arbre à prix abordable et contribuer au verdissement de leur milieu de vie. Une initiative du REQ et de la Soverdi. westmount.org

RebutRécup

Pour vous débarrasser de vos articles en bon état, inscrivez-vous à la collecte RebutRécup qui se tiendra du **25 mai au 5 juin**. Les articles seront revendus lors d'un vide-grenier du **27 mai au 5 juin** (de 10 h à 16 h) au parc Westmount. westmount.org/evenements

Roadwork and Traffic Disruptions

Construction season is underway! To stay informed about ongoing projects in Westmount and Montréal, visit westmount.org/works and the **Citizen Portal**.

Projects to watch for include:

• **Sherbrooke Street West and Arlington**

Avenue: infrastructure repair and resurfacing work will begin on May 19 for 23 weeks.

• **Grosvenor Avenue**: rehabilitation work is currently underway for 15 weeks.

• **Victoria Hall**: repairs to the main entrance will begin the week of May 25.

Programme 'A Tree for My Neighbourhood'

Until May 24, residents of Westmount can purchase a tree at an affordable price, and help to grow the urban canopy in their community! An initiative by the REQ and the Soverdi. westmount.org

Trash2Treasure

Donate items in good condition by registering for the Trash2Treasure collection, taking place from **May 25 to June 5**. Collected items will be sold at a charity yard sale from **May 27 to June 5**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Westmount Park. westmount.org/events

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Conférence — *The Emergence of a Great Metropolis: Montreal 1820-1930*

21 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Assistez à une conférence de David B. Hanna, Ph. D., sur l'émergence de Montréal comme grande métropole entre 1820 et 1930, de Griffintown aux grands projets urbains, jusqu'à l'impact de la crise de 1930. westlib.org

Exposition jeunesse : *Se trouver*

Du 23 mai au 11 juin, la Galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'Exposition jeunesse : *Se trouver*, en collaboration avec la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount, le concours littéraire McEntyre et le Centre des arts visuels. westmount.org/evenements

Ciné-club : *Sentimental Value (2025)*

26 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. En norvégien, suédois et danois avec sous-titres anglais. Après la mort de leur mère, deux sœurs retrouvent leur père, un réalisateur en quête de renouveau, qui propose à l'une d'elles de jouer dans son film. westmount.org/evenements



Rencontre d'auteure : *Merilyn Simonds*

9 juin, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Rencontre avec Merilyn Simonds autour de *Walking with Beth: Conversations with My Hundred-Year-Old Friend*. Une réflexion touchante sur le vieillissement et l'amitié. westlib.org

Concert : *Immortal Tenderness avec Tong Wang*

10 juin, 19 h, Victoria Hall. La pianiste soliste Tong Wang présente *Immortal Tenderness*, un programme profondément intime qui capture des moments de sérénité, de contemplation, ainsi qu'un amour passionné et éternel pour l'humanité qui transcende le temps et l'espace. westmount.org/evenements

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lecture—*The Emergence of a Great Metropolis: Montreal 1820-1930*

May 21, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Lecture with David B. Hanna, Ph.D., on Montreal's development in the 19th and early 20th centuries, from Griffintown to major railway and commercial expansion, up to the 1930 crisis. westlib.org

Youth Exhibition: *Finding Yourself*

From May 23 to June 11, the Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the Youth Exhibition: *Finding Yourself*, in collaboration with the Westmount Public Library, the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition and the Visual Arts Centre. westmount.org/events

Film Club: *Sentimental Value (2025)*

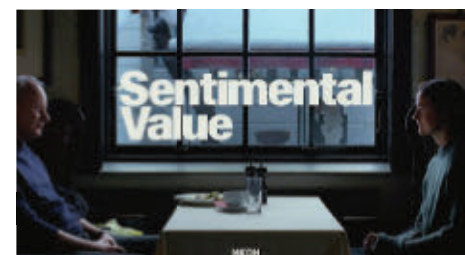
May 26, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. In Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish with English subtitles. After their mother's death, two sisters reconnect with their estranged father, a filmmaker seeking a comeback, who asks one daughter to star in his new project. westmount.org/events

Author Event: *Merilyn Simonds*

June 9, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Meet Merilyn Simonds, author of *Walking with Beth: Conversations with My Hundred-Year-Old Friend*. An honest and moving conversation about aging, friendship, and what it means to grow older. westlib.org

Concert: *Immortal Tenderness with Tong Wang*

June 10, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Solo pianist Tong Wang presents *Immortal Tenderness*, a deeply intimate programme that captures moments of serenity, contemplation, as well as a passionate and eternal love for humanity that transcends time and space. westmount.org/events





**Westmount
A-dog-tions**

LYSANNE FOWLER

Adorable Dany



To find out more about Dany, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to her information page from her identification number, 2000411616, and click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle on the right of her page. This will open the link to the adoption coordinator's standard form. As a next step, you would then provide your contact information and your interest in adopting Dany, in order for them to get back to you and move forward with the conversation about adoption.

Please do not hesitate. Dany is a sweet-heart who enjoys family life and home comforts.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Creamy



Here is a most handsome Creamy, a blond-and-white tuxedo tabby with a sweet face and huge gold-tone eyes.

He is presently at the SPCA Montérégie cattery, a middle-aged fellow who looks forward to enjoying a quiet home life. Creamy was adopted from the shelter as a kitten and abandoned seven years later. So now he needs an adult family where he can bask in the sun while looking out the window and patio door, and then join routine activities in the kitchen at mealtimes. He is affectionate and playful, enjoying his quiet time quite peacefully.

Creamy is quite healthy and has been well vetted. He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered, microchipped and has had the preventative parasite treatment and FIV/FelV testing. He has a maintenance diet of dry food and wet food for urinary crystals as there was an infection years ago. As a preventative measure, he has stayed on this type of food.

Please scroll to the SPCA Montérégie website at www.sPCAMonteregie.com, then refer to Creamy's information page at number 6559 on their Petfinder and Pattes Jaunes sites.

Do not hesitate to write to them directly at their email address adoptionSPCAMonteregie@gmail.com, sharing information about yourself, about your environment and why you would like to adopt. They will respond to you promptly and, if you provide your telephone number, you could plan a conversation about your interest in Creamy.

The shelter is located in a scenic area at 178 chemin du Vide, in St. Angèle de Monnoir in the Montérégie on the South Shore at J0L 1P0.

I adopted my red Doberman Emma Rose from them years ago and it was a

special moment to see her come home from the shelter. I hope that you in turn might choose to take that opportunity for adoption from them, as they are a most dedicated and caring group of volunteers.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

WOOD FINISHING DOORS • FURNITURE • WOODWORK

ON-SITE SERVICE

• Specializing in stripping & staining
ENTRANCE DOORS

- also -

• Touch-Ups & Repairs

• Kitchen Cabinets

• Fine Furniture



HENRY CORNBLIT, professional craftsman
FREE ESTIMATE 514.369.0295
www.woodfinishingmontreal.com

Lamp Repairs

25 years' experience
with Areuco Lighting
in Westmount

- In-home service
- Free pick-up and delivery

Call Robert at EclairSol
514-582-3906

Ruth Stalker Antiques



Jamie and Alison Stalker
514 931-0822
alison.stalker@bellnet.ca

155 Hillside Avenue
Westmount, Quebec
H3Z 1W1

PRIDHAM'S AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS **-OTTAWA-**

Fine & Decorative Arts

Call for an
appointment

1-877-533-5877
www.pridhams.ca

RB RONDA BLY ESTATE SALES CERTIFIED APPRAISER

Expert Evaluations
Full Professional Setups
Complete Cleanup Available

514 236-4159
www.rondably.com
The Gold Standard in Estate Sales Since 1998

Five local schools march for the climate

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Students from St. George's high and elementary schools, Selwyn House, The Study, Roslyn and Villa Maria teamed up May 8 for "Rising Voices: A Call to Climate Action."

Students, teachers, Mayor Michael Stern and city councillors Jonathan Chomski, Shawn Moss and Matt Aronson all marched from St. George's high school at The Boulevard and Ramezay Rd., along The Boulevard to Grosvenor and then down to King George (Murray Hill) Park, all the while escorted by Montreal police and Westmount Public Security.

The march was led by St. George's elementary school principal Aidan De Jean wearing a Habs jersey. Several students were holding the school mascot, a large blue dragon, and there were a lot of banners.

Teachers and students chanted with the help of megaphones "What do we want? To make a change!" And then "When do we want it?" followed by a very loud "Now!"

As the march progressed along The Boulevard, others from The Study, St. George's elementary and Roslyn schools joined in. A line of artwork by students



In front of their school, St. George's students get organized for the march. Standing in behind are elementary principal Aidan De Jean (Habs shirt), Mayor Michael Stern, and Westmount city councillors Jonathan Chomski and Shawn Moss.



Students and teachers from The Study join the march at Braeside Place and The Boulevard.



Students and teachers gather in the natural amphitheater of King George (Murray Hill) Park.

from The Study was arranged alongside the pathway into King George Park promoting "healthy snacks for you and your planet."

In the lower park, everyone was assembled in school groups and the event organizer Laura Officer and De Jean said a few words.

Lauren Alcorn, director of strategic partnership and development at Onedrop, enthusiastically congratulated the students for their concerns and action on climate change and spoke about the importance of everyone having access to clean drinking water.

This was the fourth year of the student-led climate march, with an expectation of 1,000 participants, although organizers

said there were fewer this year than previously.

Member of parliament for NDG–Westmount Anna Gainey and provincial legislator for Westmount–St. Louis Jennifer Maccarone were invited but unable to attend.

De Jean said that the bicycle path along The Boulevard previously requested by students was still an ongoing discussion with the city and it is hoped that this will be part of a future upgrade.

Green Team

Speaking to three young members of the St. George's Green Team – Sophie, Shawn and Patrick – the *Independent* learned that they were learning to establish leadership roles in climate action and how they were consulting with experts from the city on waste management. They have successfully lobbied for a greenhouse at their school that will be built shortly and students collected over a thousand pieces of litter from around Lake St. Louis.

The activity was wrapped up at 11 am and students accompanied by teachers returned to their schools.

Painting | Decoration & Finishing



**STUART
DEARLOVE**
www.stuartdearlove.com

Standard & Restorative Painting
Plaster
Stripping, Wood Finishing
Interior & Exterior
Spray Paint and Fine Finish



514-994-3187



sdearlove@bell.net RBO 8328 8514 09

OVER 20 YEARS PAINTING EXPERIENCE



Arthur Younanian
Notaire – Notary

4635 Sherbrooke West
Westmount, QC H3Z 1G2

Tel.: 514 931-2531
info@aynotary.ca
www.aynotary.ca



RBQ: 5776 5083-01

IAN SUTHERLAND
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

BRICK AND STONE WORK
CONCRETE STRUCTURE & FINISHING
FOUNDATION RESTORATION
ASPHALT

514.262.3320
constructionangus.com

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Painter Available

Excellent interior painter, meticulous, reasonable rates and references provided. Call Lucie 514-944-2763.

Climate protest comes to town



Protesting on Grosvenor Ave. See story at left.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON

From left, St. George's Green Team members Sophie, Patrick and Shawn talked about their projects, from cleaning up Lake St. Louis to lobbying for a greenhouse.

DESIGN
LG
LOUIS GEORGE

Full Bloom Savings on Furniture, Linens & Lighting

Save up to **20%** on select linen collections and up to **80%** on linen, furniture and lighting clearance.



Visit our Showroom or Shop Online

5500 ROYALMOUNT, SUITE 110 MONT-ROYAL
designlouisgeorge.com | 514-844-0671

*Certain restrictions and exceptions apply. Offer cannot be combined with other promotions or previous purchases.

Concert & Cocktail Reception

Jazz, Classical and pop repertoire

In support of the Friends of Mount Royal Cemetery

Your participation will allow us to fund tangible projects such as planting trees, restoring historical features and protecting wildlife.

Thursday, June 4th, 2026
Cocktail Reception at 6 p.m. | Concert at 7 p.m.

Tickets



MOUNT ROYAL

CEMETERY AND FUNERAL COMPLEX
1297 chemin de la Forêt,
Outremont, QC H2V 2P9
(514) 279-7358
www.mountroyalcem.com





Travel

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Sicily (part 2 of 2): Religion, food & art intersect

ziasantanastasia.com), which produces 500,000 bottles of wine annually.

Dinner with paired wines was the best ever – particularly the risotto (my favourite) with *funghi* (mushrooms). As you may know, meals in Italy – lunch (*pranzo*) and dinner (*cena*) – are *importantissimo*: a long enjoyable shared moment.

After the *antipasto*, there is the *primo* (first course; often pasta), and then *secondo* (meat or pasta), and then of course *dolci* (dessert).

At the Abbazia, one could swim after the unforgettable *dolci* but it was a tad chilly for my blood. I did, however, climb the *Vista Panoramica* for a drone's-eye view of Abbazia's extensive olive orchards and vineyards.

There were also cacti; the famous prickly pear cactus or Indian fig, from which jam is made as well as a delicious liquor.

Although I usually go to Italy by myself, this year I linked up with Vero Viaggio (veroviaggio.com).

What a pleasure! Leaders were Francesca (an Italian) and Jean (an Italian-speaking American) and both spoke English, although we were constantly reminded to *parlare in Italiano* – the goal of the trip. (Along with groups, they also organize private bookings. Just tell them where you want to go in Italy.)

Everything for us (six people) was pre-arranged. School (solemar-academy.com) all morning. Aperitivos (Dokeio Rooftop Lounge Bar: hotel-lagiara.it/dokeio-rooftop); lunches and dinners (portaterraris-torante.it) at un-touristy locations, as well as a private olive-oil tasting with Giovanna Garbo. (Livingandlovingsicily.it)

I miss it already.

As May 1 was a holiday in Italy, my school (Solemar Academy) was closed. So, off to a nearby medieval village built around a castle.

Castelbuono (population approximately 8,000) is seemingly un-touched. Narrow winding streets are mostly car free. The tourists – yes, even there – were mainly European.

The castle (11th to 12th century) is typically Arab-Norman: a strong archetypal Norman-Romanesque structure whose architecture is enlivened by pointed arches. The castle is now a museum including a contemporary art gallery.

The colourful piece that I noted there was a shout-out to the traditional Sicilian pine cone. A symbol of renewal and good luck, it is found in various cultures from the Mediterranean to India.

Invoking Sicilian artisan tradition, artist Salvatore Arancio re-invented the aesthetic, using psychedelic colours inspired by his time in London.

But the real surprise I discovered in this tiny town was the *panettone* (Christmas bread/cake)!

Pastry specialist Pasticceria Fiasconaro is celebrating 70 years of baking over three generations. Renowned around the world, last year at Christmas Fiasconaro had a sold-out pop-up in Manhattan.

Benedictine winery

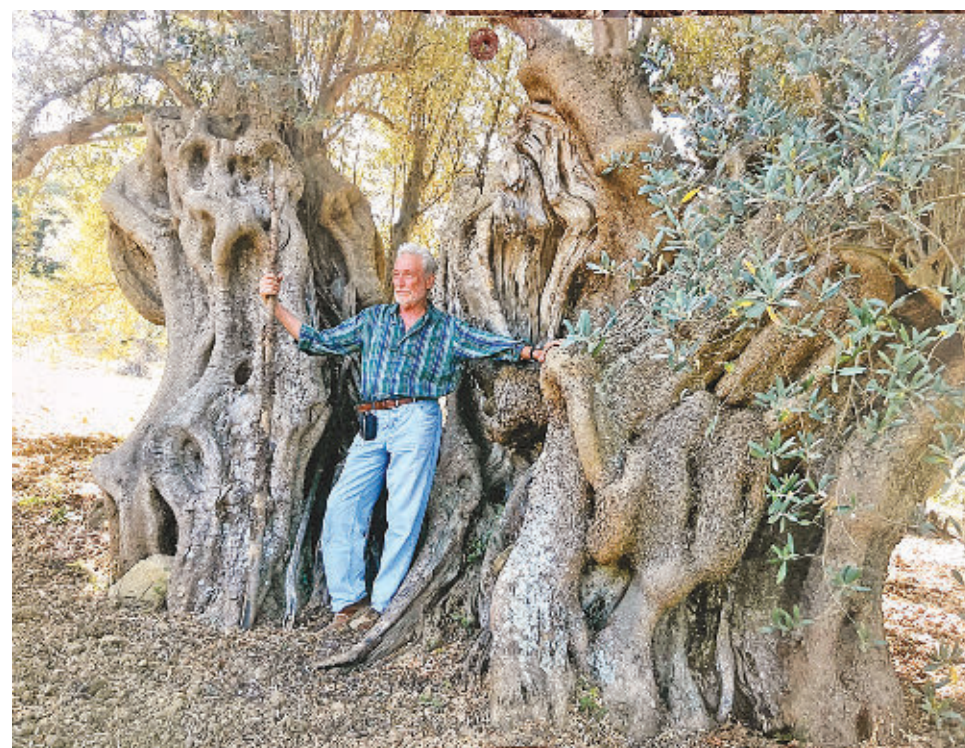
Then off to a former Benedictine monastery. The ancient abbey is now the resort and winery Abbazia Santa Anastasia (abba-



Salvatore Arancio's colourful pinecones at Castelbuono.



An arched walkway in Castelbuono.



A classic memory for me. A massive olive tree and one of those who work the land.



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Switocz Goldbloom explores *Family Secrets*, Polish roots

Family Secrets explores how secrets shape not only those who guard them, but also those who inherit them. The book is dedicated to Switocz Goldbloom's two children with her husband Jonathan Goldbloom. Adopted as infants from Poland and raised in Montreal, they grew up steeped in the legacy of their paternal grandparents, Sheila and Victor Goldbloom, who were active in the Jewish and Montreal communities.

But their maternal grandparents – their *Babcia* and *Dziadzia* – were a quieter presence. The children only saw them a couple of times a year. What they didn't know – what Alice Switocz Goldbloom herself didn't know until she started asking – was that these two ordinary people had lived through something extraordinary and then re-built their lives.

She wanted her children to know they descend from a nation that resisted tyranny with everything it had. She wanted them to understand that their Polish heritage holds both enormous suffering and extraordinary resilience.

She wrote *Family Secrets* to give them what she once tried so hard to leave behind. "This book is my attempt to give them *continued on p. 18*



Alice Switocz Goldbloom.

Alice Switocz Goldbloom's *Family Secrets* is a memoir. The recently-launched book documents her search for her parents' hidden war. The family history began in Poland. Switocz Goldbloom's Polish-Catholic immigrant parents raised three daughters in Canada after World War II.

But what Alice never understood was the magnitude of what her parents had survived. They never spoke about the years that nearly destroyed them. For most of her life, she was mortified by her parents' accents and their Old World ways.

But at age 96, her father Edward finally began to share memories: his teenage years spent near the Jewish ghetto walls; his role as a resistance fighter in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, the loss of his parents in Nazi concentration camps, and his survival of a winter death march as a prisoner of war.

Switocz Goldbloom also discovered the history of her mother, who was taken from her village at age 20, and forced into labour in Nazi Germany.



WAVE COLLECTION



42 diamonds 0.84ctw
\$10,000

32 brilliant cut diamonds
\$7,500



KAUFMANN de SUISSE

PASSIONATE JEWELLERY SINCE 1954

Patek Philippe · Parmigiani Fleurier · Arnold & Son · Moritz Grossmann
Schwarz Etienne · Gerald Charles · Laurent Ferrier · Armin Strom · Krayon

2195 Crescent Street · 514.848.0595 · KaufmanndeSuisse.ca





Bryan Demchinsky, Katherine Walsh, Nina Cherney and Rob Doyle.



Chris Roper, Paul Lamontagne and Westmount city councillor Jeff Shamie.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 17

their history, their inheritance, their roots.”

Among the many guests were Alice's husband **Jonathan Goldbloom**, former provincial legislator **Kathleen Weil** and **Michael Novak**, **Nina Cherney** and **Rob Doyle**, **Andrea Wolfe** and **Eric Maldoff**, **Joan Ivory**, **Guy Casgrain**, **Karen** and **Clarence Epstein**, **Fiona MacLeod** and **Michael Goldbloom**, **Rabbi Lisa Grushcow**, **Minna Shulman** and **Stephen Rotman**, **Cynthia Price**, former Westmount mayor **Karin Marks**, **Jonathan Goldbloom**, **Linda Shaw** and **Frank Motter**, **Madonna** and **Jean Claude Levy**, and **Gwen Nacos**, whose family owns the delicious Italian restaurant **Wienstein** and **Gavino's** where the event was held.



Cynthia Price and Gwen Nacos.



Geoffrey Chambers, Rita Karakas, Fiona MacLeod and Mary Rolph.

Chinese Works of Art WANTED

Censers
Jade
Paintings
Snuff Bottles
Buddha Figures
Porcelain Plaque
Porcelain

V.I. ANTIQUES & FINE ART
 Victor Isganaitis
 Appraiser-Consultant
514-944-4919

Westmount Dental Care
 Dr. Douglas E. Hamilton

Modern dentistry
 with a soft touch

514.937.3008

WestmountDentist.com | Westmount Square

PRADA
 GUCCI
 DIOR
 HERMES
 LOUIS VUITTON
 FENDI
 CHANEL
 Cartier
 BALENCIAGA

VINTAGE MUSTS

ACCESSOIRES DE MODE ET DE MAISON
 FASHION AND HOME ACCESSORIES

ART ET ARTS DÉCORATIFS DU VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE
 FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

1 WESTMOUNT SQUARE, SUITE CK-05
 MONTRÉAL [QC] CANADA H3Z 2P9
 514-602-1545

The ultimate Endermologie® silhouette

100% natural
 skin-fitness for health
 and beauty

- Firms the skin
- Smooths cellulite
- Slims the silhouette
- Drains the lymph

Centre de Massodermie de Montréal

4060 Ste-Catherine W
 Suite 510
 Westmount
 514 821 3088
 www.massodermie.com

No needles - No surgery - No chemicals - No downtime

PRIDHAM'S AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS -OTTAWA-

Fine & Decorative Arts

Call for an appointment
 1-877-533-5877
 www.pridhams.ca



Excellence in portfolio management

Portfolio management expertise and excellence, depth, professionalism and consistency — this is what has defined our business approach for over 40 years. It is central to how we manage portfolios, control risk, identify opportunities and build relationships.

At the Kent Group, we customize each client portfolio so that it is specifically tailored to meet your needs and expectations. Our personal approach, combined with our outstanding portfolio management, is why the Kent Group is the largest discretionary portfolio management group at RBC Dominion Securities across Canada, with over \$8 billion in assets under management.

It's time.

If you are seeking outstanding portfolio management and comprehensive wealth management, we would be pleased to discuss how we can put our experience to work for you.

To meet with us, please call:

Jean-François Dion,
Senior Portfolio Manager,
or Sholom Tabak,
Senior Wealth Advisor,
at 514-878-4216

1 Place Ville Marie, Montreal
kentwealth.com

RBC Dominion Securities Inc.



Wealth Management
Dominion Securities

J|P JILL PRÉVOST

Homeowner Tip #526

Support No Mow May: Avoid mowing your lawns in May to protect pollinators. Reminder that leaf blowers are banned June 1-Sept 30!

FEATURED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

C.D.N.



5600-5610 CAMPDEN PLACE

\$1,295,000 | Duplex with double occupancy + double garage. Poss. \$90k/yr revenue!

N.D.G.



6455 DE MAISONNEUVE #5

\$498,000 | Renovated 2 Bedroom condo with a/c, 2 balconies + parking.

DOWNTOWN



1926A TUPPER

\$1,700/month | 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in semi-basement.

RESULTS

SOLD!



436 CLARKE | WESTMOUNT

4 bedroom, 2½ bath home with beautiful garden and garage!

ACCEPTED OFFER!



3577 ATWATER #817 | WSMT. ADJ.

2 bdrm/2 bath 1,480 sq.ft. w/balcony, locker, + garage

SOLD!



40 QUERBES #6 | OUTREMONT

3 bdrm, 1 bath 870 sq.ft. w/2 balconies on the corner of Laurier!

Let's write your next chapter TOGETHER...



Visit all my properties
jillprevost.com

REAL ESTATE BROKER

514.591.0804



Sutton

Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest
Real Estate Agency