

## TD Summer Reading Club recognizes local chapter Westmount's children's library wins national award for 2025

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The Westmount children's library won second prize in the 2025 national competition for TD Summer Reading clubs. The award was presented to children's librarian Wendy Wayling at the Marigold Library System Conference in Calgary May 13.

"I am thrilled to accept this honour for our team and our community! Thank you," she said in accepting the award, a plaque and cheque for \$2,500.

On her return, she told the *Independent* that "we were over the moon" when initially learning of the recognition. It was not yet known how the award money would be used.

Each child who participated over the summer had set a personal reading goal

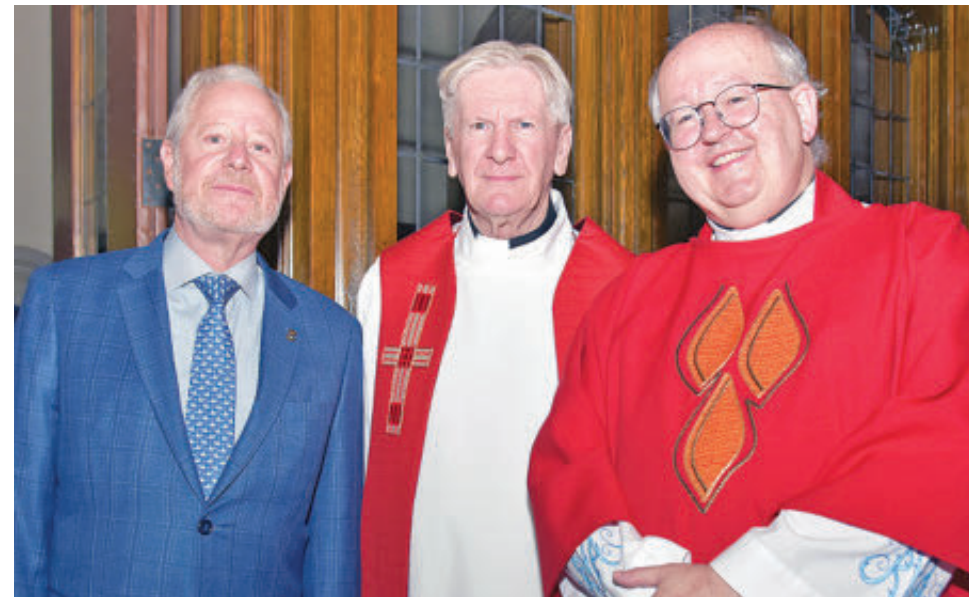
for themselves – if they finished 10 hours of reading before the end of the summer, they were eligible for a book prize at the closing party September 6.

### Faraway places

In the award's description, Westmount was cited for offering "a wide range of creative and inclusive programs in both English and French for readers of all ages and abilities" in this year's theme of "faraway places." The list of programs was "as long as it is awe inspiring."

The jury, it stated, upon analyzing Westmount's results, was "impressed by the 37-percent increase in attendance and all the heart-warming testimonials from parents and kids... The library ..... also transformed with *continued on p. 6*

## Ascension of Our Lord marking 100 years



From left, Westmount mayor Michael Stern, Father Lawrence MacEachen and Father Raymond Lafontaine are seen here at Ascension of Our Lord Church on May 24 following a concelebrated centennial launch mass at Westmount's English-language Roman Catholic church. To "concelebrate" a mass is to have two officiants. See p. 8 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

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City, library, community recognize McEntyre writing competition winners, p. 22

### Indie's summer schedule

Issues: June 9, 16 & 23

No issue: June 30 (Dominion Day observance)

Issue: July 7

Usual summer break: July 14, 21 & 28 and August 4

Back to weekliness: August 11 until Christmas



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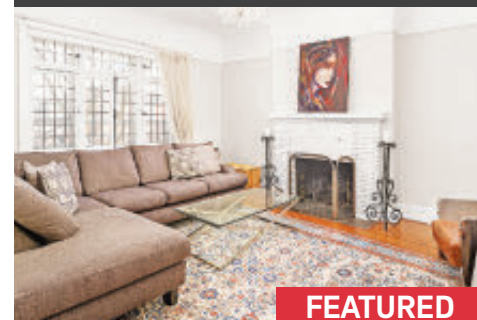
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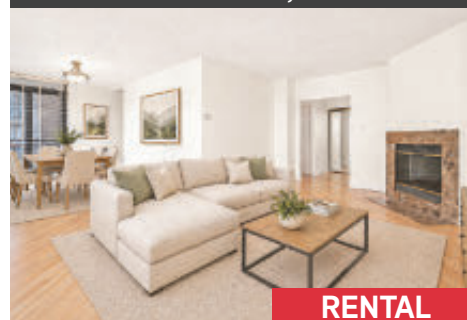
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## Boy hits head while falling in Westmount Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 10-year-old boy playing in Westmount Park May 26 at 7 pm was reported to have been injured when falling in the playground with friends, Public Security officials said.

An officer responding to a call for help found him holding a tissue to bleeding from the head and recommended after helping him that his parents contact a family doctor.

## Firefighters gain entry when water tank leaks

A water tank was found leaking from a house on Claremont May 21, Public Security officials said.

When the call was received at 7:28 am from the city's Public Works department, no one was reported to be home at the time and the resident could not be contacted.

Police and firefighters tried to gain entry, which eventually enabled firefighters to turn off a hot-water heater. An owner's representative said the problems would be taken care of.

## Still no word on second duckling

The city has still not responded to the *Independent's* May 22 email asking for details about Public Works' attempted rescue of ducklings from a sewer on Mount Stephen Ave. on May 21.

One duckling was saved, but we do not know about the other one (see May 26, p. 16). – DP.

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Retail Review:

Toufidis Couture, p. 14

Dodge on December real estate transfers, p. 18

Pet page, p. 26

Police Report, p. 28

Art: Louis Jaque, p. 28

Social Notes: Montreal Children's Hospital, p. 29  
InfoWestmount, p. 20



## Park cadets hired for summer



Four of the six Public Security park cadets hired by the city for the summer, from left, are: Lily Ramsay, Basil Hurtubise, Heliana Vermette and Edmond Lefebvre. Missing from the picture are Eva Capozzi and Maxime Lefebvre.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.



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**SOLD**

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*Library, cont'd from p. 1*

original décor.”

This had included transforming the main desk area into an old-fashioned train station, complete with a small cardboard train, clocks displaying times around the world, special displays in the children’s and adult departments, plus an oversized travel mural for kids to fill with real postage stamps.

A model train was also loaned for display by Westmount resident David Hanna.

Many incentive games, activities and challenges also took place for an overall participation total of 2,296 kids, reported to have included class visits in June. Over the summer, a total of 304 children participated in the actual reading club portion, for which 34 weekly prizes were awarded.

Also included was a “Story Walk” in Westmount Park featuring the book *Let’s Go!/On y va! /Haw êkwa!* by Julie Flett

Since 2007, the TD Summer Reading Club awards have recognized and rewarded the most innovative and effective club programs in local libraries across Canada.

According to its website, the awards were established to promote excellence in summer reading programs “by celebrating creative library staff who engage children in the joy of reading through their summer reading club program.”



Westmount children’s library staff, from left, seated: Lora Baiocco, Marie-Josée Duguay, Wendy Wayling and Caroline Lunney, and standing: India Ciamberlano, Faith Holness, Olive Andrews, Dawna Hobbs and Julie Bouchard.

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*Occasion provides some insight into process*

# City council rejects four building permit requests, but okays another

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

During the city's ongoing spring season of home renovations, city council May 5 provided final refusal for four requests to undertake major exterior work, but overturned a previous rejection for replacing windows on Sherbrooke.

These decisions provided insight into the criteria used in the final approvals and rejections, even though the resolutions themselves did not detail the reasons why various projects did or did not conform to the city's zoning By-law 1305 on site planning and architectural integration programs.

## One project accepted

A request to replace eight windows at the side and rear of 4469 Sherbrooke, which had been refused by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), was approved by the council.

In approving the request at this final stage in the process, the council resolution explained that while the project had initially received an unfavourable opinion from the city's Planning Advisory Committee, the council "is not required to approve a

PAC's recommendation."

The reason given was that the council found the windows to be in compliance with zoning By-law 1305.

## Four projects denied

Those proposals refused involved requests already rejected that were essentially "appealed" to the council for a final decision. They concerned 87 Holton, 623 Belmont, 241 Kensington and 621 Côte St. Antoine, whose details and rationale included:

- 87 Holton: a request to modify the hand railing on the main façade was deemed "not compliant" with By-law 1305;
- 623 Belmont: a proposal to replace 26 windows and one door on the main building, and one window and door on an "out building," was described as being non-compliant with 1305;
- 241 Kensington: a request for 14 windows in the main building was deemed not compliant with 1305;
- 621 Côte St. Antoine Rd.: a proposal to replace the front door facing the street based on plans and documents sub-

mitted to the city was denied.

## Chomski explains

Voting to approve all five resolutions (pro and con the relevant requests) was Councillor Jonathan Chomski, without explanation at the time.

He later told *Independent*, however, that he understood "that these [four 'no'] resolutions relate to applications or revisions that had [already] received an unfavourable recommendation from the PAC, [but] still required a formal council resolution to dispose of the matter under By-law 1305.

"More broadly, under the act respecting land use planning and development, every PAC recommendation is ultimately subject to council review, approval or rejection. The PAC's role is advisory [but] council is the legal decision-maker."

The recent approval decision for 4469 Sherbrooke, however, was "the reverse situation," he explained. "PAC issued an unfavourable recommendation regarding several proposed replacement windows,

but council ultimately determined that the application should nevertheless be approved within its discretionary authority under the land use and planning development By-law 1305."

## Levine breaks ranks on two denials

Councillor Paul Levine told the *Independent* that his support of the resident at 623 Belmont concerned only the colour of the windows requested and "did not change the architectural character or window configuration of the building itself."

This was the same reason for his support of the proposed windows at 241 Kensington, although his vote did not change the overall negative decision of the council.

"In my view," Levine said, "this ultimately comes down to a subjective aesthetic judgment rather than a technical or heritage integrity issue. Each application should be assessed on its own merits, and I did not feel this proposal justified preventing the homeowner from proceeding."

## Pressing work to be done soon on Atwater Ave. water main

# Montrealers, and Westmounters, asked to reduce water consumption, now

BY JENNIFER BALL

Due to urgent work to be carried out on the water system, the office of the mayor and executive committee at the city of Montreal is asking 16 of its 19 boroughs and six demerged cities on the island (Westmount, TMR, Hampstead, Côte St. Luc, Montreal East and Montreal West) to cut water consumption due to emergency repairs on a major Atwater Ave. water main.

The *Independent* received a statement from the city of Montreal's press relations office on May 29 that read, "Due to urgent work to be carried out on the water system, the city of Montréal is calling for a collective effort to reduce drinking-water consumption in the coming weeks..."

"Inspection and monitoring of a distribution main located under Atwater Ave. concluded that the main was in need of very short-term intervention. The city will therefore undertake work on this pipe in the coming days and in order to carry out this intervention, the pipe will have to be closed for several weeks, while two other main pipes, located elsewhere on the network, are already closed for re-construction or rehabilitation work..."

"Since this new closure comes at the dawn of the summer season, when the

demand for water is the highest of the year, the pressure will be very strong on the drinking water production infrastructure."

In order to cope with this exceptional situation, a reduction in the consumption of drinking water by all is essential, according to the statement.

Westmount is being asked to:

- "suspend continuous flushing of pipes;
- suspend preventative flushing and cleaning of sewer lines;
- suspend flow testing during hydrant inspections;
- suspend or limit certain activities, such as decorative fountains without re-circulation loops, street washing and non-essential watering;
- repair any leaks that may occur in the network as soon as possible, in order to limit water losses."

Westmount citizens are being asked to:

- "comply with water use regulations ... which specif[y] the permitted and non-permitted uses of drinking water, which will be subject to increased control;
- reduce watering;
- avoid the use of water for exterior cleaning;
- take any other daily action to save water, since on the scale of the entire population, each gesture has a major impact."

## Recycled cycle?



As seen on Sherbrooke St. at Mount Pleasant on May 26.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

# Ascension of Our Lord kicks off a year of centennial celebrations

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Parishioners at Ascension of Our Lord Church marked the start of a year-long celebration of their 100th anniversary with a centennial launch mass and reception on May 24, which was attended by Westmount mayor Michael Stern.

"This is a milestone for us," Father Lawrence MacEachen, the Sherbrooke St. church's pastor since 2015, said in an interview with the *Independent*.

Ascension of Our Lord was first recognized as a parish by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Montreal in 1926, and the cornerstone was put into place on October 23 the following year.

The church "feels like a second home," said Barbara Cefis, a member of the centennial committee.

## Request for church initially refused

A relatively little-known fact about Ascension of Our Lord, according to Fr. MacEachen, is that when the English-speaking Catholic community in Westmount approached the diocese for permission to open a church, they were initially refused.

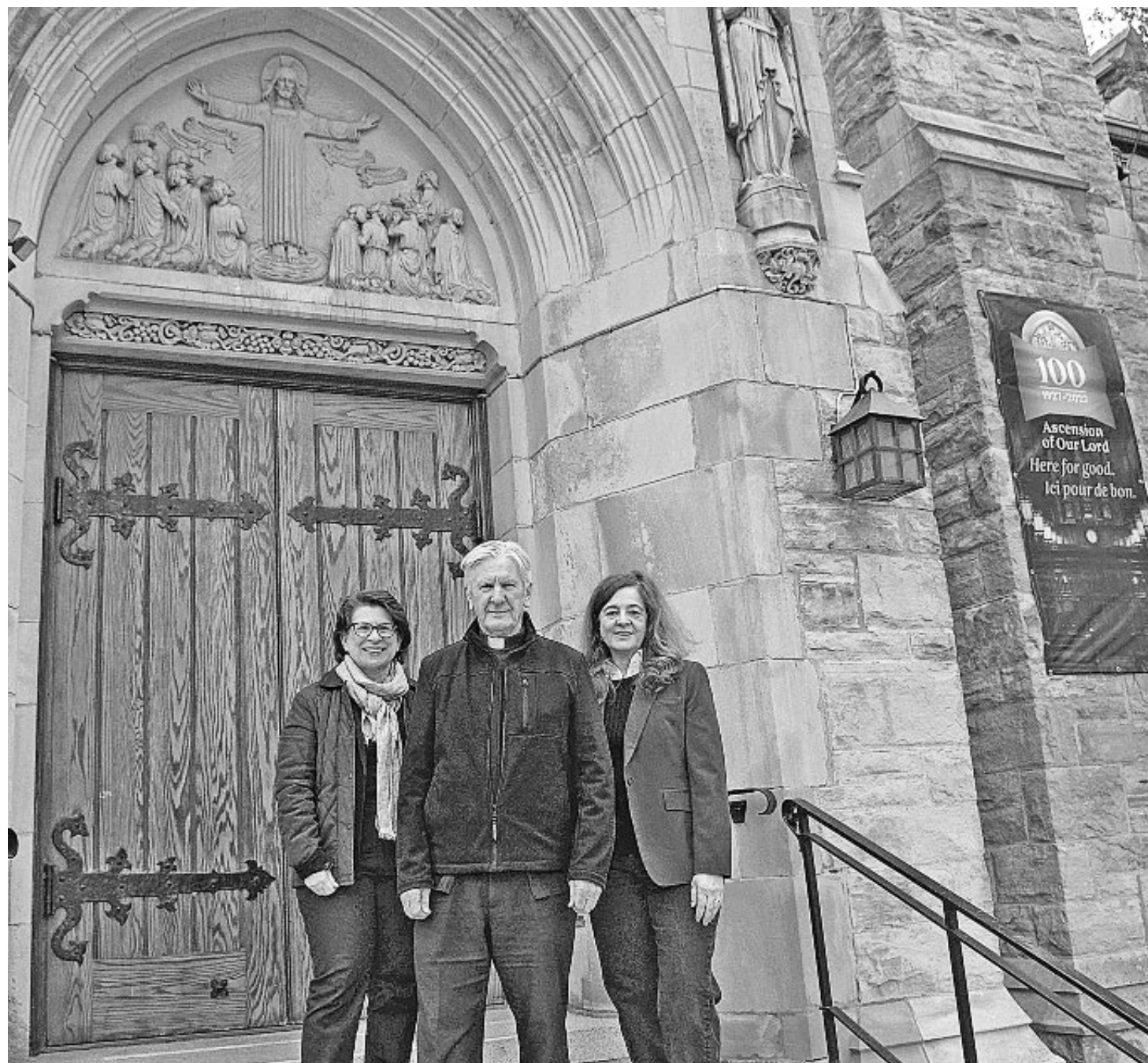
According to Fr. MacEachen, the archbishop didn't feel it was necessary to have a second Catholic church in Westmount when Église St. Léon was already serving the community.

"And so, a group of men went to Rome, the Vatican, and petitioned the pope to be allowed to build the church," he continued, adding that the pope wrote to the archbishop suggesting he grant the request.

Apart from the centennial activities, another goal is forward looking, said Anna Romano, a church warden and centennial committee member.

"We're going to have monthly seminars. We're going to have concerts," she said. "We are celebrating the past, but we need to build for the future."

Following the 10:30 am mass, parish-



From left, Anna Romano, a warden at Ascension of Our Lord, church pastor Fr. Lawrence MacEachen and Barbara Cefis, a member of the centennial committee, are seen here on May 8 on the Sherbrooke St. church's front steps.

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ioners enjoyed birthday cake while sipping Prosecco and coffee.

## Mayor strikes ecumenical note

Mayor Stern, who dropped by during the reception, said he felt right at home.

"Don't forget that Jesus and the 12 disciples were all born Jewish, so I consider us all here to be cousins," he told the *Independent*.

"Working together, we can make the world a better place, even far beyond the boundaries of Westmount."

In the months ahead, parishioners will be invited to gather again for coffee, tea, sweets and conversation following mass

on the first Sunday of each month.

Church officials met with the Westmount Historical Association recently to explore opportunities to offer the larger Westmount community some broader cultural and architectural insights into Ascension of Our Lord Church's place and history in Westmount.

Another highlight during the centennial year will be the Ascension Centennial Concert Series, running from September 2026 through June 2027. The series will open at 3 pm on September 20 with an organ concert by McGill University's internationally acclaimed Isabelle Demers.

See also p. 1 for photo.

**\$600,000 raised so far**

## Parishioners aim for \$1 million to restore St. Léon bell tower

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After forming a committee last year to collect \$1 million for the restoration of the steeple and bell tower at St. Léon Church on de Maisonneuve Blvd. at Clarke, the organizers are approaching their objective, according to a church official.

St. Léon Church has existed since 1901, while its steeple and bell tower date from 1920. Since 1997, the church has been designated by the federal government as a heritage site.

### Inside: a Nincheri masterpiece

The church's interior was designed by the prolific and talented Canadian artist Guido Nincheri (1885-1973). Nincheri combined architecture, stained glass, painting and sculpture to create one of his most remarkable masterpieces.

Nincheri's step-grandson, Roger Bocchini Nincheri (1935-2025), taught at Selwyn House School for many years and often spoke about his grandfather's work.

The fundraising committee has been soliciting major donors and others in the community since January.

"There's a few hundred thousand al-

ready donated and there are also pledges," church pastor Fr. Yves Guillemette said in a phone interview last week with the *Independent*.

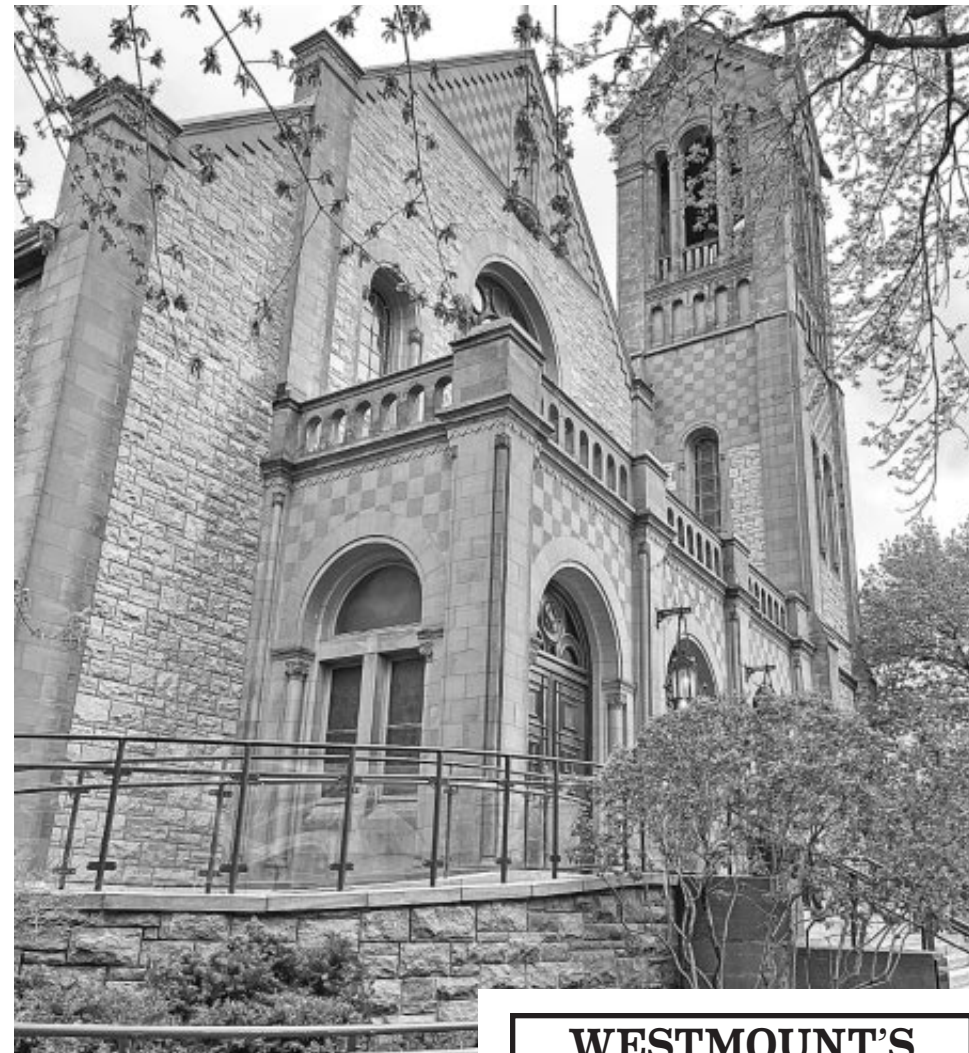
### Where things stand

He said that between the pledges and the donations received, around \$600,000 had already been raised. He said a later phase of fundraising, seeking \$800,000, will focus on lesser repairs that also are needed.

According to Fr. Guillemette, the steeple and bell tower work involves stone and masonry repairs on the outside, as well as inside the structure in an area at the top housing the bells, which was originally designed to be open and partly exposed to the elements.

"On the inside, it's a little bit more damaged because there's some plaster there, and what with the freeze and thaw, some of it has come loose over larger areas," he said, while adding that parts of a masonry "balustrade" (railing) in the bell tower also needs repairing.

► Seen here on May 14 are the steeple and bell tower of St. Léon Church on de Maisonneuve Blvd. at Clarke.



## Iny wins bronze medal at Canada-Wide Science Fair

BY JENNIFER BALL

Westmount resident and Marianopolis College student Sophie Iny, who is in her first year of the CEGEP's health science program, represented Quebec at the Canada-Wide Science Fair May 23 to 30, where she won a bronze medal.

As we reported in the May 26 issue (p. 7), Iny won the Quebec-wide Super Exposciences fair and her entry was picked for the Premier Prix Hydro-Québec as best overall project.

It focussed on Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 27B (SCA27B), a rare disease that has rapidly become recognized as one of the most frequent causes of late-onset cerebellar ataxia (lack of muscle coordination) in adults, including in French-Canadian cohorts.

On May 29, Iny told the *Independent*, "Two other teams from the Quebec delegation and I won bronze medals, and two other teams from our delegation won silver."

As forecast, "I traded my Westmount [lapel] pins, which came courtesy of Annique Dufour [executive assistant to Mayor Michael Stern] with one girl from Nunavut and another girl from Ontario."

## Tour de l'Île cycles through Westmount



As happens often (see June 4, 2024, p. 25), the island-wide Tour de l'Île bicycle event went through some of Westmount's streets on May 31. In this case, cyclists were going south and east along Sherbrooke, Claremont, St. Catherine St. and Glen Rd. This photo was taken on de Maisonneuve looking west into NDG.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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## Correction

Contrary to what we wrote in last week's edition (p. 1), Contactivity had no plans to have a bake sale at the city's Family Day event on May 30. It has not done so for several years. – DP.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## QUEBEC'S PROVINCIAL RIDINGS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY GERRYMANDERED

In the upcoming provincial election, the number of seats won will have little to do with the first-past-the-post system.

Blaming this system is a myth.

Quebec's seats are gerrymandered, a point I have made at the last three CRE (Quebec's electoral commission) hearings. The largest ridings are in urban English areas such as Westmount, the West Island and the Ottawa area. The smallest are usually in rural areas of Quebec.

In addition, voters in rural ridings are not as numerous as they seem. Citizens with summer cottages are counted as voters. However, citizens overwhelmingly vote from home.

Therefore, the rural voting participation rate often appears as less than 50 percent of the registered voters in PQ strongholds. Consequently, the PQ could probably win with about 42 percent of the provincial vote. The Liberals might well win more votes in total, but cannot overcome the gerrymandered system to win the most seats.

Next election, the PQ will probably win the most seats while the Liberals will possibly win the most votes. Sadly, media commentators, as usual, will blame the first-past-the-post system for this result.

SAM ALLISON, GORE, QC

**Editor's note:** For a more detailed argument by Sam Allison (writing with Jon Bradley) on these points, see September 6, 2022 p. 7 and October 24, 2023, p. 13. – DP.

## WHY \$3 MILLION ON ROSLYN STEPS?

Westmount residents are constantly reminded that resources are limited when it comes to repairing roads and other basic infrastructure.

That's why it's difficult to understand how the Roslyn steps project has now exceeded \$3 million while potholes and deteriorating streets remain a daily reality across the city.

The Roslyn steps may be a worthwhile project, but many will reasonably question whether the city's priorities align with its most pressing infrastructure needs.

HEATH SLAWNER, CLARKE AVE.

## PLEASE TAKE BETTER CARE OF MURRAY PARK

*Open letter to Mayor Stern and Councillor Matt Aronson, parks commissioner*

It came to mind while driving by Murray Park on Côte St. Antoine that, in the article by Laureen Sweeney where she quoted Councillor Aronson (May 12, p. 4), he was quite specific about NO MOW MAY. However, it appears that this does not apply to the care of King George Park – affectionately referred to as Murray Park.

According to the article:

In keeping with “No mow May,” Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes parks and green spaces, reminded residents at the May 5 council meeting “to let the grass grow this month.” Instead of rushing out with the mower to create a golf-course-style

lawn after the winter, he explained, the idea is to allow the grass to grow, along with dandelions, clover and other so-called weeds. This approach aims to allow for the proliferation of [...] pollinators. “Hold off on mowing to ensure pollinators survive,” he said.

It seems that everything was mowed down [in Murray Park] including the scilla area, which may mean they will not return next year. Also, the gardeners have been very busy running their trucks about and planting flowers every place possible, including areas where shrubs and bushes previously flourished, and where the bees and butterflies could be safely seen and pollinated, and in places designated by Sophie Robitaille in her approved park plan for bushes. Unfortunately, they have now started in on the pond area.

It was mentioned in a novel by Leonard Cohen: “[Murray Park] was the green heart. It gave the children dangerous bushes and heroic landscape so they could imagine bravery, etc..”

Can nobody stop this!?

As parks commissioner, do you not oversee\* what is being undone in the park? Frankly, it is shameful. I have lived in Westmount since 1962 and did my grade 6 Roslyn School summer project – yes, we did have to complete a project – on 10 different leaves that we had to gather and research as well as 10 different bugs. I found all of mine in Murray Park.

I have loved every inch of that park and have brought up three children and grandchildren there. It seems there is not much interest in the history of the planting, nor in the future care of the park from the current generation.

It seems that the wonderful design commissioned by Westmount and prepared by Sophie Robitaille is no longer available on Westmount's site.

What is being done to improve the park, not tear it down?

Please respond.

MARGOT McFARLANE HALL, SUMMIT CIRCLE  
\***Editor's note:** Readers are reminded that city councillors with commissionerships in regard to certain city activities and/or departments do not have executive authority over them like federal and provincial ministers have over theirs. In my view and experience, Westmount's commissioners are more like legislative shepherds in these areas than operational overseers. When something major needs changing, the relevant commissioner introduces, explains and (perhaps) helps write the relevant by-law or by-law amendment. But they don't call the shots at the department, and certainly not day to day. – DP.

## RESTORE WESTMOUNT PARK BEFORE CONSIDERING ARTIFICIAL TURF

I am writing with deep concern about the visible deterioration of what was once one of Westmount's most beautiful and cherished public spaces.

The condition and care of Westmount Park have visibly and significantly deteriorated.

Garbage is frequently left overflowing, public areas are poorly maintained, and there appears to be little meaningful oversight or enforcement regarding cleanliness, preservation and respect for the space.

Most upsetting is the condition around the small island/peninsula where the ducks gather. What was once a peaceful natural refuge has now been overtaken by picnic tables, overflowing garbage bins and even a recycling bin placed directly on the island itself – attracting litter and encouraging the area to function more as a picnic destination than as a protected natural habitat. The picnic tables and bins should be removed.

Even the beautiful tree trunk that once served as a natural sculptural bench – something organic and uniquely connected to the landscape of the park – was recently thrown into the pond. It reflects a broader sense of disregard and disrespect for the natural beauty and character of the space.

There is also an increasing lack of respect for pedestrian areas throughout the park. Bikes are frequently being ridden at speed on pedestrian walkways with little to no enforcement or oversight. Cyclists regularly “mountain bike” across grassy areas, damaging green spaces.

There has been some consideration of artificial turf for certain playing areas within the city. Before considering major investments into synthetic surfaces, perhaps the priority should first be restoring proper maintenance, oversight, safety and environmental responsibility within the public spaces we already have.

JUDITH HENDERSON, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## WESTMOUNT SQUARE RESIDENTS EXPECT RIGHTS, SAFETY TO BE PROTECTED

A full room of fed-up owners and residents of Westmount Square gathered for an informative 80-minute face-to-face with [police] Station 12's top brass [on May 20 – see May 26, p. 7 for news coverage].

After 32 months of disruptive noise and confrontational behaviour at their doorstep, officials were re-  
minded that residents .....  
continued on p. 26

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

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

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

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

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## Not Vic village's most elegant view



This toilet had been on Victoria Ave. north of de Maisonneuve since at least the weekend of May 23-24 when the *Independent* photographed it on May 28.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Not for immediate occupancy



As reported recently (May 12, p. SL-23), this former St. Catherine-near-Clarke site of Atelier Fade and Save N Ship (now both on Greene) is vacant. Since our May 8 photograph, the steps have been jackhammered into oblivion, as seen May 23, presumably to facilitate some sort of renovation.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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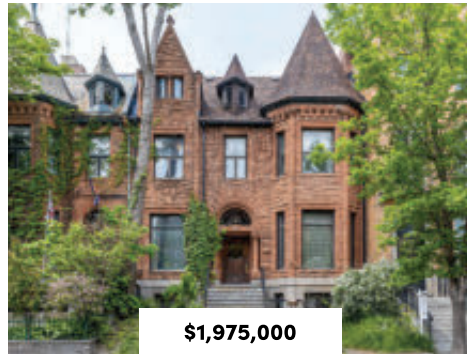
**514-990-1346**

## SELECTION OF FINE PROPERTIES



**\$2,999,000**

**117 AV. ARLINGTON**  
WESTMOUNT



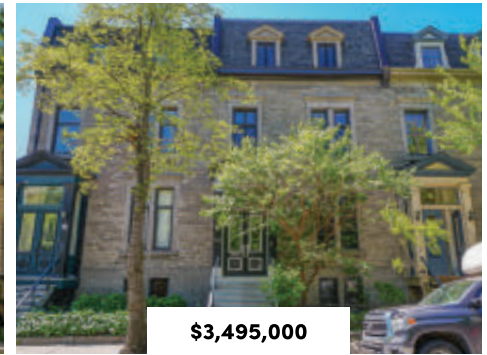
**\$1,975,000**

**1587 AV. DU DOCTEUR-PENFIELD**  
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE



**\$3,095,000**

**555 AV. ARGYLE**  
WESTMOUNT



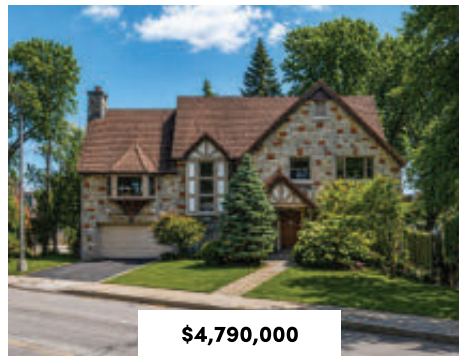
**\$3,495,000**

**1212 RUE ST-MATHIEU**  
SHAUGHNESSY VILLAGE



**\$3,995,000**

**529 AV. CLARKE**  
WESTMOUNT



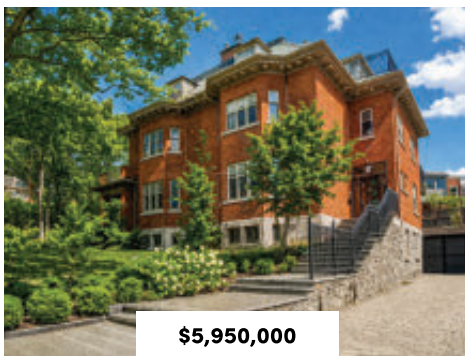
**\$4,790,000**

**3710 BOUL. THE BOULEVARD**  
WESTMOUNT



**\$3,995,000**

**473 AV. STRATHCONA**  
WESTMOUNT



**\$5,950,000**

**667 AV. BELMONT**  
WESTMOUNT



**\$6,800,000**

**68 CH. BELVEDERE**  
WESTMOUNT



**\$9,888,000**

**16 AV. DEVON**  
WESTMOUNT



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[MYPAIN.TA](http://MYPAIN.TA)

# Toufidis brings international touch, fabric to new Sherbrooke St. atelier



## Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

What a pleasure to feel fabric that's not synthetic.

(The last time I touched *couture* cloth, I wore it in Holt Renfrew fashion shows... but I digress.)

Westmount has a new boutique. Owner Mavra Toufidis designs one-off pieces, combining dressmaking and traditional tailoring. Gorgeous gowns stand like sculptures.

Mavra is not unknown. She had a shop in Vic Park on Victoria Ave. for six years. Now, a hand-draped strapless evening gown beckons from her Sherbrooke St. window. Inside, a sparkling award-winning veil with hand-applied Swarovski crystals swirls to the floor. A dramatic corseted black gown modelled at last year's Grand Prix red carpet signals that glamour is back.

Toufidis works with her team of seamstresses, called "*les petites mains*." European fashion houses have these highly skilled experts to bring the designer's dream alive. They translate sketches into carefully hand-sewn pieces.

Trained at the London School of Fashion, Toufidis' creations carry on a tradition of sewing that has been part of Greek culture for generations. Indeed, her mother, a seamstress, works with her.

### Wedding season!

"We are very busy now with weddings, not only for the bride but for mothers. For them, I have been creating dresses that are classic investment pieces as they can wear them long after the celebration."

Although most of her work is made to measure, a few pieces hanging elegantly



in the *atelier* are for sale. (They can be adjusted if necessary.)

The fabrics are the best in the world, from Italy and France. Often renowned fashion houses such as Valentino and Dior do not use the entire amount of fabric that they buy for their seasonal collections. The remaining yards, called "ends," are then sold to designers; thus Mavra offers her clients new *couture* fabrics each year.



Speaking of Dior, one fabulous fabric caught my eye. "It is a copy of the wallpaper from Christian Dior's family country house."

A delightful part of visiting local businesses for Retail Review is that I learn the most interesting things. I discovered the "surgeon's cuff" on a beautiful white tuxedo blazer.

"It comes from years ago when sur-

geons dressed elegantly, but then had to unbutton a sleeve to work."

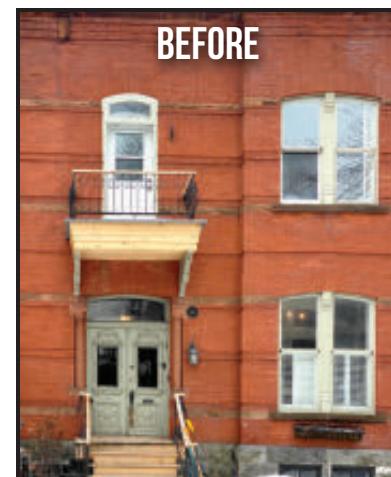
Who knew?

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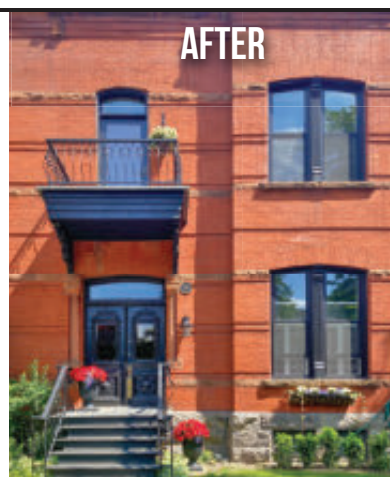
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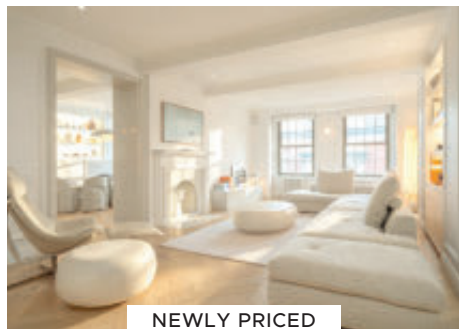


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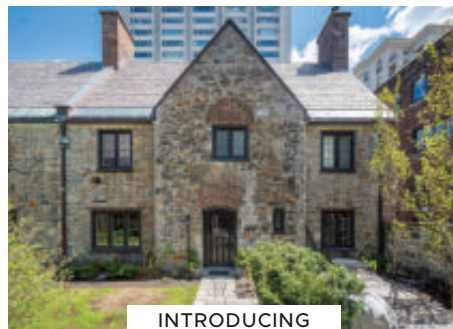
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425 GROSVENOR, WESTMOUNT  
**\$2,295,000**



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1227 SHERBROOKE O. 44, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE  
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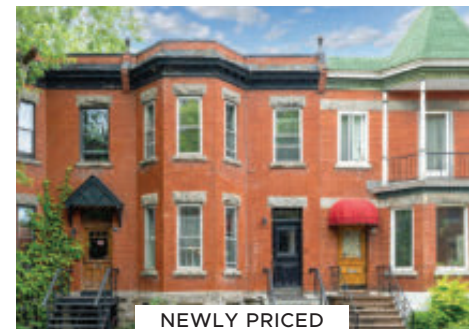
INTRODUCING

4 REDPATH-ROW, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE  
**\$1,929,000**



INTRODUCING

481 ARGYLE, WESTMOUNT  
**\$1,695,000**



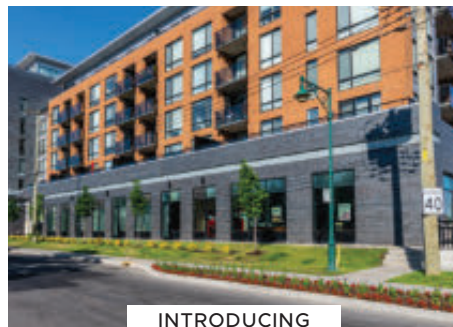
NEWLY PRICED

37 BURTON, WESTMOUNT  
**\$1,399,000**



INTRODUCING

2193 PRUD'HOMME, CDN/NDG  
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INTRODUCING

775 PLYMOUTH 401, MONT-ROYAL  
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32 ch. Ramezay, Westmount  
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455-459 av. Argyle, Westmount  
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65 crois. Rosemount, Westmount  
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**VENDU**  
3141 ch. Daulac, Adj. à Westmount



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49 ch. Belvedere, Westmount  
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59 av. Oakland, Westmount  
3,500,000\$



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3606 boul. The Boulevard, Westmount  
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4 ch. Belvedere, Westmount  
3,198,000\$



**VENDU**  
4323 av. Montrose, Westmount



61 rue Belvedere Circle, Adj. à Westmount  
2,700,000\$



**VENDU**  
4355 av. Montrose, Westmount



**NOUVEAUTÉ**  
380 av. Lansdowne, Westmount  
2,100,000\$



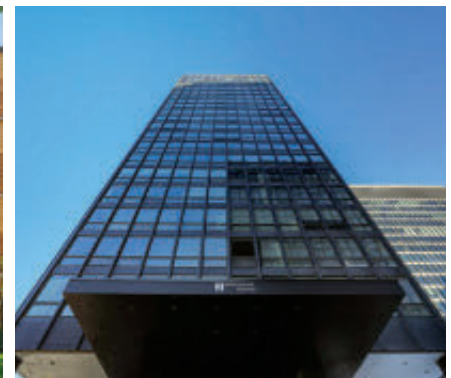
**VENDU**  
68 crois. Rosemount, Westmount



218 av. Metcalfe, Westmount  
2,500,000\$



343 av. Clarke #6, Westmount  
850,000\$



2 rue Westmount-Square #304, Westmount  
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# December transfers: 53 Belvedere brings \$18 million



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

important financiers.

The stone mansion was built by Yvan Dupont in 1996 and purchased from him by Desjardins in October 2017, for \$8,000,000. The property includes 2,901.10 square meters of land and 660.20 square meters of building.

## Recent big ones

Recent large sales have included 775 Lexington Ave., which sold for \$16,750,000 in March 2024, and 9 Braeside Place, for \$17,000,000 in December 2024.

Two sale prices in 2022 surpassed the Belvedere mansion's price, including \$23,000,000 for 9 Gordon Crescent in October (the current all-time record holder) and \$20,970,000 for 4 Surrey Gardens in June of that year. In November, 2021, the huge mansion at 12-14 Sunnyside, whose coach house also includes a second residence, sold for \$18,500,000.



53 Belvedere Rd.

Another notable home at 610 Clarke Ave. sold in December for \$7,000,000 and 728 Upper Roslyn Ave. brought \$3,700,000, but no other residential sale cleared the \$3-million mark. In fact, only five of the 14 sales sold for more than \$2 million, the lowest percentage of monthly sales over \$2 million since September 2024, when four of 12 sales cleared that mark.

## On the lower end...

The lowest residential price in December saw the duplex at 50-52 Columbia Ave., bordering on the CPR right-of-way, sell for \$1,225,000. That price was 10.3 percent less than its municipal evaluation, one of four mark-downs in the month, the most extreme involving 656 Lansdowne Ave., whose \$1,735,000 was 24.1 percent less than its tax value of \$2,287,000.

Biggest mark-up was 39.8 percent for 53 Belvedere; others in that category were 36.2 percent for 4260 Dorchester Blvd. and 35.4 percent for 728 Upper Roslyn.

All others had a ratio less than 20 percent, leading to an average price:valuation ratio of 15.1 percent.

## Condos cooler

Westmount's condominium market registered nine sales in December, bringing the total for the fourth quarter of 2025 to 15 sales, among them some very interesting transactions.

The two condos at 132-34 Arlington Ave. sold from different owners to the same buyer, who might have plans for the building.

A share of a triplex at 3255-59 St. Antoine St., which had not been subdivided into condos, sold from the owners of the entire triplex to one individual, who moved into 3257 St. Antoine. Separately, another buyer and a company jointly took over 3255 and 3259 St. Antoine St.

A number of estate sales, registered in November, involved condominiums, a parking space and a locker unit at 1 Wood Ave. One of those was actually donated to an African school, though the city now lists the owner as the former owner's executor, who lives in Nova Scotia.

For the record, the 15 condominium sales in the fourth quarter of 2025 brought their vendors \$16,691,900 for property evaluated at \$18,266,600, thus an average mark-down of 8.6 percent.



50-2 Columbia. All photos May 27.

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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in December

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
53 Belvedere	Jean-Guy Desjardins	\$18,000,000	\$12,874,200	39.8%
610 Clarke	Adriana Olga Embiricos Coumoundouros	\$7,000,000	\$6,883,100	1.7%
4260 Dorchester	Jérôme Thuillier & Géraldine Lerch	\$2,565,000	\$1,882,600	36.2%
6 Grenville	Mapsan Inc., Marc-Antoine Petrilli & Sylvie Nadeau	\$2,149,411	\$1,999,900	7.5%
658 Grosvenor	Michèle Bendavid Moatti	\$1,910,000	\$1,744,700	9.5%
690 Grosvenor	Bonita Carpenter	\$1,800,000	\$2,256,600	-20.2%
656 Lansdowne	Estate Harvey Sigmon	\$1,735,000	\$2,287,000	-24.1%
126 Lewis	Gregory Christie & Nancy Essebag	\$1,695,000	\$1,576,500	7.5%
347 Metcalfe	Margo Robitaille	\$1,925,000	\$1,635,000	17.7%
4336 Montrose	Baisheng Sun	\$1,975,000	\$2,368,700	-16.6%
728 Upper Roslyn	Degan Paillet & Charles-Antoine Allain	\$3,700,000	\$2,732,200	35.4%
16 Thornhill	Nadia Nour & Yves Alexandre Caron	\$1,965,000	\$1,712,600	14.7%
364 Wood	Canadian Consumers Loan & Finance Corp.	\$1,695,000	\$1,529,600	10.8%
<b>DUPLEXES</b>				
50-52 Columbia	Shawn-Lori Goldberg & John Synnott	\$1,225,000	\$1,366,400	-10.3%
<b>CONDOMINIUMS</b>				
132 Arlington	Eleanor Hynes	\$950,000	\$1,321,100	-28.1%
134 Arlington	Lesley Mclver	\$1,550,000	\$1,503,000	3.1%
399 Clarke #103	Derek Nador	\$375,000	\$348,500	7.6%
11 Hillside #208	Islam Elhegawy	\$599,900	\$632,600	-5.2%
4175 St. Catherine # 504	Estate Regina Wapniarski	\$980,000	\$1,309,400	-25.2%
4175 St. Catherine #1206	9126-7674 Québec Inc.	\$850,000	\$837,800	1.5%
1 Wood # 201	Estate Linda Nadler Wasserman	\$1,495,000	\$1,692,200	-11.7%
1 Wood # 204	Moise Feifer	\$1,200,000	\$2,943,000	-59.2%
27 York	Rachel Lacroix	\$425,000	\$544,600	-22.0%

.....  
continued on p. 22



405 Clarke, Westmount  
\$ 2,999,999 4 + 1 Bedroom



4459 Oxford, NDG  
\$ 2,399,000 4 + 1 Bedroom



18 Thurlow, Hampstead  
\$ 2,195,000 4 + 1 Bedroom

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2026.06.02 • Vol. 7/11



NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Mardi 7 juillet

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Tuesday, July 7



## Découvrez Antoine, votre assistant virtuel !

La Ville lance un nouvel outil sur son site Web : l'assistant virtuel Antoine est disponible 24 heures sur 24, 7 jours sur 7, pour vous offrir une assistance guidée à tout moment.

[westmount.org/assistantvirtuel](http://westmount.org/assistantvirtuel)



## Discover Antoine, your virtual assistant!

The City of Westmount is launching a new tool on its website: the virtual assistant Antoine is available 24/7 to provide you with guided support, whenever you need it.

[westmount.org/virtualassistant](http://westmount.org/virtualassistant)

## Sécuriser les trajets scolaires

À la suite des études de mobilité et de sécurité ainsi que des consultations citoyennes, la Ville met en place un plan pour sécuriser les trajets scolaires du secteur de l'Hôtel de Ville. Ce projet inclut la mise en sens unique d'une partie des **avenues Argyle, Metcalfe et Kensington dès juillet 2026**.

Les résidents sont invités à participer à la séance d'information publique virtuelle le **10 juin à 19 h**.

[westmount.org/trajetsscolaires](http://westmount.org/trajetsscolaires)

## Ouverture de la piscine municipale pour l'été

La piscine du Centre des loisirs de Westmount est ouverte pour la saison depuis le **1<sup>er</sup> juin** ! Une carte d'accès valide ou un laissez-passer est requis en tout temps. [westmount.org/piscine](http://westmount.org/piscine)

## RebutRécup

Pour vous débarrasser de vos articles en bon état, inscrivez-vous à la collecte RebutRécup qui a lieu 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](http://westmount.org/evenements)

## Safe Routes to School

Following mobility and safety studies, as well as public consultations, the City is implementing a plan to improve safety on commuter routes to schools in the City Hall area. The project includes the introduction of one-way traffic on portions of **Argyle, Metcalfe, and Kensington avenues starting in July 2026**.

Residents are invited to attend the virtual public information session on **June 10 at 7 p.m.** [westmount.org/saferoutes](http://westmount.org/saferoutes)

## Municipal Pool Opens for Summer

The pool at the Westmount Recreation Centre opened for the season on **June 1**. A valid Facility Access Card or guest pass is required at all times. [westmount.org/pool](http://westmount.org/pool)

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

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Rencontre d'auteure : Marilyn Simonds

**9 juin, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Rencontre avec Marilyn Simonds autour de *Walking with Beth: Conversations with My Hundred-Year-Old Friend*. Une réflexion touchante sur le vieillissement et l'amitié. [westlib.org](http://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 transcende le temps et l'espace. [westmount.org/evenements](http://westmount.org/evenements)

### Club de lecture d'été TD 2026

Dès le **12 juin**, inscrivez vos enfants au Club de lecture d'été TD ! Le thème « Plonge! » invite les jeunes à explorer de nouveaux univers tout l'été.

**Soirée de lancement (6 à 10 ans)** : *Lucky Mermaid* avec Mitali Banerjee Ruths, le **12 juin à 18 h 30** à la salle Westmount. Jeux, activités et plaisir inspirés de l'océan ! [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)



### Soirée de la Fierté : Bingo drag (18+)

**13 juin, 20 h**, Victoria Hall. Lancez la saison de la Fierté avec une soirée bingo animée par Misty Waterfalls, avec prix et ambiance festive. Ouverture des portes à 19 h 30. Billet : 5 \$, une boisson incluse. [westmount.org/evenements](http://westmount.org/evenements)

### Bloomsday 2026

**16 juin, 14 h**, Salle Westmount (Bibliothèque). Célébrez le 15<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Festival Bloomsday Montréal lors d'un après-midi et d'une soirée de lectures mises en scène inspirées de *Ulysse* de James Joyce. En collaboration avec le Festival Bloomsday Montréal. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Author Event: Marilyn Simonds

**June 9, 7 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Meet Marilyn 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](http://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 transcends time and space. [westmount.org/events](http://westmount.org/events)

### 2026 TD Summer Reading Club

Registration begins **June 12** for the TD Summer Reading Club! This year's theme, "Dive In!" invites young readers to explore new worlds all summer long.

**Launch event (ages 6–10)**: *Lucky Mermaid Pajama Party* with Mitali Banerjee Ruths on **June 12 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Westmount Room – games, activities, and ocean-inspired fun! [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Pride Night: Drag Bingo (18+)

**June 13, 8 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Kick off Pride season with a lively bingo night hosted by Misty Waterfalls, featuring prizes and a festive atmosphere. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$5, one drink included. [westmount.org/events](http://westmount.org/events)

### Bloomsday 2026

**June 14, 2 p.m.**, Westmount Room (Library). Celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Bloomsday Festival with an afternoon and evening of staged readings inspired by James Joyce's *Ulysses*. In collaboration with the Montreal Bloomsday Festival. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)



Building erected in 1949 by Rotary

## Rotary Club of Westmount returns to Centre Greene



The cornerstone of the Centre Greene building on April 15.

BY JENNIFER BALL

There is a cornerstone at the building where Centre Greene currently operates informing passers-by that the Rotary Club of Westmount built it in 1949 for the Unity Boys' Club.

Rotarians were invited back to the building for a community service day on April 16, and this time it was girls – specifically some from Sacred Heart School – who benefitted, namely by being informed about the value of life-long volunteerism.

The centre is located at 1090 Greene Ave., and the Unity Boys' Club of Westmount was a long-running youth organization at that site, serving primarily boys from southeast Westmount.

Its history has evolved from then. In



Left, Jason Hughes, Centre Greene's director of administration and finance, and Heather Hodges, executive director on April 15.

1989, community members formally established Centre Greene and began operating in the building. In 1993, the city of Westmount purchased the building from the Rotary Club and granted Centre Greene a long-term, nominal-rent lease.

### Community service at community centre

On April 16, the centre's executive director Heather Hodges told the *Independent*, "We are lucky to have the Rotarians here to talk about a life-long journey [in volunteerism and service to the community]. We're trying to start [students from Sacred Heart School in downtown Montreal] off as teen [volunteers], showing them why it's so important..."

"I have done so many community service days over the years and usually you invite students and volunteers [who do some] manual labour and that is really helpful – for a smaller, grassroots organization like us – but if you do not know why you are helping us, you did not actually get anything from the community service and [then it becomes so one-sided]."

Hodges said Centre Greene is flexible in its approach to having volunteers contribute, "We talk about what initiatives are important to you and what initiatives you can support. Just giving a little bit of time makes such a difference. [If you can give] five minutes or 10 minutes of your time to help us lift a heavy box or come and have a conversation, it helps."

Some of Rotarians said they started volunteering as teenagers.

*Jennifer Ball is a member of the Rotary Club of Westmount.*

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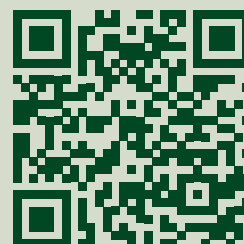
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# Community turns up in force for McEntyre awards, despite Habs game

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The awards for the city’s annual McEntyre Creative Writing Competition were held at Victoria Hall May 27.

The contest attracted contributions from 18 schools including all of Westmount’s. Adjacent schools qualify for Westmount residents.

There were over 1,270 entrants from grade 1 through grade 11, three percent more than last year. Forty-six received awards. The Friends of the Library contributed book awards that will be added to the library’s shelves in the name of the award winners.

“All contributors deserve praise. They were imaginative and so gifted,” said chief judge Liz McCallum.

### Entrants work to find themselves

Under the theme “Finding Yourself,” the young authors contributed stories and poems in English and in French, some handwritten.

McCallum said the organizers were disrupted by the “bed bug issue” at the library resulting in a move to Victoria Hall (see

March 31, p. 10) – but there were no stories about bedbugs, she said with a chuckle. The library has since re-opened (see April 14, p. 1).

The rules of the competition forbid the use of AI, and one submission was apparently rejected for this reason.

The activities began at 6 pm in the Gallery at Victoria Hall with a reception for the 89 volunteer judges. Canapés and drinks were served along with a gift of signature bottles of maple syrup inscribed with the competition’s name.

A children’s art exhibition, coordinated along with the Visual Arts Centre, adorned the walls based on a similar theme to the writing competition.

Guided workshops were held at schools, during which students created mixed-media artwork under the theme of “who they are and who they aspire to be.”

### Notable judges

Amongst the judges were several local authors including .....

Andrew Katz, a Dawson *continued on p. 23*

► Guest speaker and children’s author Mitali Banerjee Ruths interacted with the audience.



## Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in December... continued from p. 19

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
<b>OTHER</b>				
355 Prince Albert (March)	13908615 Canada Inc.	\$970,000	\$965,700	0.4%
1 Wood # 206 (October)	Estate Beverly McOuat	\$0	\$679,600	N/A
1 Wood # 303 (May)	Estate Seymour Avrith	\$820,000	\$967,500	-15.2%
1 Wood #B111 (October)	Estate Seymour Avrith	\$19,500	1	N/A
1 Wood #B074 (October)	Estate Seymour Avrith	\$140,000	\$73,000 <sup>2</sup>	91.8%
376 Redfern, 1.2156% (November)	David Nadir Zaidi	\$290,000	\$184,771 <sup>3</sup>	57.0%
SA3255-59, 32% (November)	Margaux & Valérie Smith, Yolande & Pierre Gaston	\$500,000	\$366,464 <sup>4</sup>	36.4%
SA3255-59, 68% (November)	Margaux & Valérie Smith, Yolande & Pierre Gaston	\$850,000	\$778,736 <sup>5</sup>	9.2%

<sup>1</sup>Locker only, valuation now combined with total for Apt. 501. <sup>2</sup>Garage space sold separately.

<sup>3</sup>Exclusive use of Apt. 3. Valuation is 1.2156 percent of \$15,200,000. <sup>4</sup>Exclusive use of 3257 St. Antoine. Valuation is 32 percent of \$1,145,200.

<sup>5</sup>Exclusive use of 3255 and 3259 St. Antoine. Valuation is 68 percent of \$1,145,200.



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teacher, and Monique Polak, known for her children's and young adult literature.

Also in attendance was former mayor Christina Smith and former city councillor Elisabeth Roux, both judges this year, and former chief judge and past city councillor Rosalind Davis.

Current councillors Jeff Shamie, Gurveen Chadha, Jonathan Chomski, Matt Aronson and Shawn Moss were all seen mingling with the crowd along with Dave Lapointe, the city's director of culture, sports, recreation and social development, as well as substitute/acting director-general and city clerk.

Mayor Michael Stern thanked all the judges and staff for their management of the event. He presented a bouquet of flowers and appreciations to McCallum.

At 7 pm, the judges joined the award winners and families in Victoria Hall. Despite the critical Canadiens game that evening, Victoria Hall was packed.

Lauren MacLean, assistant director, library and Community Events, welcomed everyone. Mayor Stern congratulated the winners and thanked the volunteers and staff.

The guest speaker was successful child-

ren's author Mitali Banerjee Ruths, who calls herself a "Quebexan." She grew up in Texas, studied medicine and went on to be a successful children's author while working in pediatrics in Montreal.

Councillor Chadha invited each award winner in turn to receive their certificate, monetary reward "in cash" and an anthology of the winners' stories.

Stern, Moss and Aronson congratulated each winner as they proudly stood with their awards and gathered as a group at the front of the hall – some a little nervous, some a little shy, but all showing pride of achievement with big smiles.

Children's librarian Wendy Wayling and staff were busy throughout the evening organizing the prizes and ensuring the event flowed efficiently and without a hitch.

The competition was started by former mayor Peter McEntyre (1969-71) to encourage writing and foster a community spirit amongst youngsters. He donated his newly compulsory mayoral salary to fund it, in part to show his preference for volunteer politicians. The contest has been an annual event ever since, without a break, even during COVID.

## McEntyre Creative Writing Competition winners

The city's writing competition for local students is run by the Westmount Library in conjunction with community volunteers. This year's theme was "Finding yourself." See January 13, p. 9 and March 3, p. 13 for more coverage of this year's competition. – WI.

### Grade One

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Arlo Parker        | Roslyn       |
| 2. Anders Waschke     | Selwyn House |
| 3. Aylin Kharratzadeh | The Study    |
| HM Louis Belfils      | Roslyn       |

### Grade Two

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. Fleur Desilets | Roslyn       |
| 2. Liam Cheng     | Selwyn House |
| 3. Eva Volvakh    | The Study    |
| HM Iris Bernadski | Akiva School |

### Grade Three

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Moritz Bossert  | The Priory           |
| 2. Mollie Bowen    | The Study            |
| 3. Lingyi Wan      | The Study            |
| HM Claire Godefroy | École Internationale |

### Grade Four

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Samuel Pehr             | Académie Michèle-Provost |
| 2. Zachary Liebman         | Akiva School             |
| 3. Vasilissa Puzynia-Rovba | The Study                |
| HM Olive Lewin             | The Study                |

### Grade Five

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Crescent Sun       | Selwyn House            |
| 2. Yitong Li          | ECS                     |
| 3. Mackenzie Grigsby  | The Priory              |
| HM Charlotte Desilets | Villa Sainte-Marcelline |

### Grade Six

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Karina Kosaraju    | The Study            |
| 2. Audrey Pitfield    | The Study            |
| 3. Catherine Kovarik  | ECS                  |
| HM Sydney Kirkwood    | ECS                  |
| HM Nathanael Godefroy | École Internationale |

### Grade Seven

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Sachie Kosuga    | Westmount High School   |
| 2. Emma Bui         | Villa Sainte-Marcelline |
| 2. James Brownstein | St. George's School     |
| 3. Eva Hébert       | Villa Sainte-Marcelline |
| HM Jessica Pearce   | The Study               |

### Grade Eight

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Tristan Bouvy           | Westmount High School   |
| 2. Samin Sadeghpour        | Villa Sainte-Marcelline |
| 3. Arielle Massicotte      | Villa Sainte-Marcelline |
| HM Xiaolin (Annabeth) Zhou | The Study               |

### Grade Nine

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Victoria Cyr  | École internationale  |
| 2. Oliver Vatch  | St. George's School   |
| 3. Haider Hanjra | Westmount High School |
| HM Talaya Cohen  | Westmount High School |

### Grade Ten

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bassam Dukmak | Westmount High School   |
| 2. Sabrina Guay  | Villa Sainte-Marcelline |
| 3. Widad Elhuni  | Westmount High School   |
| HM Lauren Szyk   | Westmount High School   |

### Grade Eleven

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ryan Dargahi         | St. George's School   |
| 2. Charlotte Milton     | Westmount High        |
| 3. Elio Falk            | Westmount High School |
| HM Sophie Champion-Hill | St. George's School   |

HM = Honourable Mention

See more photos on p. 24 and 25.



From left, judge Lynn Gatt, city councillor Jeff Shamie, former chief judge and former city councillor Rosalind Davis, and judge Glenna Uline.

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# City recognizes McEntyre Writing Competition winners

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



# City recognizes even more McEntyre Writing Competition winners

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



Names of winners in photos have been removed by the *Independent* to comply with the spirit of the city's protocol and counsel on photos of people at its public events. – DP.

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## Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Ella of our Hearts



So pretty and affectionate, Ella is a most social and playful Black Labrador-type. She is energetic and clever, and very interested in playing fetch and solving interactive toy games.

She is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, where she is showing her intellect, motivation and mastery of basic commands. Ella also enjoys meeting with other dogs on leash during family outings for neighbourhood walks.

Ella is a very healthy seven-year-old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like more information on her, please scroll to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then refer to her information page from her identification number, 2000419043.

You can then plan your visit as the shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

Ella enjoys cuddling and joining into the family routine, where she is best as an “only pet” to enjoy socializing and integrating into her new surroundings.

Do not hesitate to make plans to consider Ella for adoption. The SPCA coordinators are available to discuss your interest and present her to you. You can then start a loving relationship of everyday companionship and adventure with Ella.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



## 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Creampuff



A loving and playful young fellow, Creampuff is happy and silly. Aged between 18 to 24 months old, he is a growing kitten who enjoys a “cat tree” near the window to look outside.

He also enjoys playing with active toys. He is curious and agile, and he is also keen on cuddling with everyone.

Creampuff is presently at the SPCA Montérégie cattery, where he is getting attention from staff and volunteers. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He has had all the treatments and tests that are healthcare basics at the shelter, so he is now ready for adoption into a loving family.

If you would like more information about Creampuff, please refer to the SPCA Montérégie's website at [www.spcamonteregie.com](http://www.spcamonteregie.com). His profile is available on its Petfinder and Pattes Jaunes sites as well as its Facebook page. You can then write about yourself to the volunteers at its email [adoptionspcamonteregie@gmail.com](mailto:adoptionspcamonteregie@gmail.com) to find out more about Creampuff and discuss your interest in adoption.

For a visit, the shelter is a lovely family drive to picturesque St. Angèle de Monnoir, where the cattery adoption coordinators will be pleased to introduce you to Creampuff and arrange your time together to meet and bond. This wonderful young cat is a sweet companion who needs a home as soon as possible.

Please make this time waiting for your worthwhile. Your visit will make all the dif-

ference in the world to him. Your family will embrace him and share so much joy and laughter in the everyday routine.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

### Letters to the editor, cont'd from p. 10

expect their rights and safety to be upheld without double standards.

Speaking out against the flares and risks of fire during the Q&A, [a business

neighbour's representative] also raised concerns about the ongoing street-selling of protest merchandise by demonstrators and questioned whether permits had ever been issued.

His remarks appeared to catch law en-

forcement off guard, while audible sighs, jeers and applause rippled through the packed room.

In a time of global tension, attendees stressed that human rights must be applied universally – not selectively – and that

peaceable enjoyment of one's home should remain a central priority for all concerned in this residence-first part of the neighbourhood.

Many residents said that this standard had not been consistently met in practice, and had not been given sufficient weight in how the situation is managed, particularly given the frequency and nature of demonstrations in the community. They described ongoing impacts on safety, stress and quality of life, and feeling increasingly sidelined in discussions about conditions in the surrounding area.

This privately organized convening called for overdue action to restore calm, psychological and physical safety, and accountability.

Yet after nearly three years, residents said meaningful change still has not been achieved. Peace in place, please.

NATASHA ARORA, WOOD AVE.



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125th anniversary is now-ish

# Will Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club acquire a reciprocal relationship with Wimbledon?

By JENNIFER BALL

As it approaches its 125th anniversary, Westmount's Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club is working on a reciprocal relationship with the All-England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, better known internationally as Wimbledon.

The local club – which is found at 401 Kensington Ave. next to city hall – is one of the oldest continuously operating sports institutions in Westmount, with roots going back to 1901 and a formal founding in 1902.

Brian Lambert, a resident of Westmount for 40 years, is the president of the club and Chris Roper is the director of the croquet club. They co-presented a talk that was given to the Rotary Club of Westmount on May 6 at Victoria Hall.

## History

Lambert said it was a Scotsman, James Brown from Dumfriesshire in southern Scotland, who was the first secretary of the Scottish Lawn Bowling Association, and “lucky for us, he decided to emigrate to Montreal in 1884.”

In August 1901, Brown, along with fellow Scots James Baillie and James Rodgers, began investigating sand, turf and equipment for a new lawn bowling green in Westmount.

The three men drafted an open letter to Westmount residents proposing the creation of a lawn bowling club and their initiative led to a public meeting on September 6, 1901, where a provisional committee was formed to launch the club, which happened on June 28, 1902.

It was men-only then and Lambert summarized the attitudes of that era which fostered stereotypes of social roles, by saying, “Of course, [the ladies] were more than



Brian Lambert, president of Westmount's Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club on May 6.

welcome to serve tea and cakes to the men on the veranda...

“Bold proposals were made in the ensuing years to open the play to women. There was a lot of debate. These things take time, right?”

“And 33 years later, in 1935, the women were invited to play.”

In 2026, 50 percent of the executive team and 40 percent of the board of directors are women.

## City rescues club, clubhouse

Lambert said the city of Westmount came to the rescue of the club when, in the 1980s, it paid for some much-needed repairs to the clubhouse.

“And as a result, the clubhouse became the property of the city.

“In the late 1990s – under the stewardship of Peter Trent, the mayor at the time – there was a win-win situation when Hydro Westmount built a much-needed electrical substation under the club.

“The clubhouse and the greens were



Chris Roper, croquet director of Westmount's Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club on May 6.

completely re-built and modernized on top of concrete chambers that are 30 feet below street level and in recent years, the city has invested a lot of money in updating the lighting system, which is state of the art, and re-doing the roof, the building.”

Roper spoke about croquet, which he said, “became a very popular sport in England. By end of the 1800s, one [southwest London club in Wimbledon] even deigned to admit players from a new sport, the ‘pickleball of the era’, called lawn tennis...”

“The club then became the Wimbledon Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club in that order, however, this ‘pickleball equivalent of tennis’ picked up steam and the next thing you knew the club was known as [the All-England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club], which it remains today...”

“We’re looking to see if we can get a reciprocal relationship arranged with them to see if we can get some good seats at the very least.”

*Jennifer Ball is a member of the Rotary Club of Westmount.*

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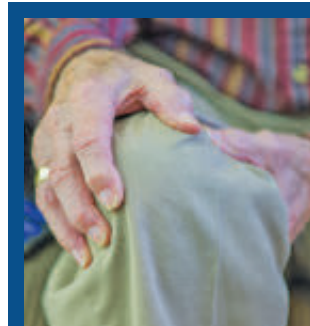
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Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE

## Louis Jaque book launched at Han Modern

Even so, in 1954, Jacques Beaulieu (1919-2010) chose to sign his work as Louis Jaque.

Author Monique Brunet-Weinmann writes about this Quebec artist in her book *Genèse d'une signature*, recently launched at Han Modern and Contemporary.

The art critic is recognized for her 2023 book *Riopelle en quête de son mythe*. (She also wrote the analytical introduction to the first three volumes of the *Catalogue raisonné de Jean Paul Riopelle*.)

At the vernissage, Brunet-Weinmann discussed Louis Jaque's work, much to the delight of the crowd. Chloe Ng, Han gallery director, explained that Jaque already has a following.

He had a solo show in 1966 at the MAC and a retrospective of his work at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in 1977.

Collector Dany Lamothe flew in from San Francisco just to see the Han show, *Louis Jaque: From Aurora Borealis to White Silence*.

Sadly, his favourite work was already sold.



Sam Leiter and Dany Lamothe.



Chloe Ng, Alain Beaulieu and Monique Brunet Weinmann.

### Police Report

## Contractor loses \$20K worth of tools after burglary on St. Antoine

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A construction contractor working on St. Antoine St. in lower Westmount could have to spend up to \$20,000 to replace tools stolen after thieves forced open a window to break into a multi-storey residential building under renovation.

The break-in took place over a weekend and was only discovered after the contractor's return.

At the Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St., community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit was treating the incident as a wake-up call for home and business owners to be vigilant over the summer when the burglary rate in Westmount has been known to rise.

"I know a lot of people start leaving for their chalets this time of year," he said. "So,

they need to make sure their doors are locked and they don't leave things around outside like ladders."

He said homeowners should take measures to be doubly certain the garage door is properly locked, as this is often one of the first places burglars will check for weaknesses.

"Oftentimes, what thieves will do is they will open up the garage, go in and take a ladder and then climb up to the upper floors," said Yigit, noting that many people tend to leave second-storey windows open during the summer for air circulation.

### Police: Always lock your car

A car parked overnight on Clarke Ave. on May 23 was broken into and a carrying bag for a laptop computer was stolen.

Cst. Yigit said this incident should also serve as a reminder that leaving anything, even of small value, out in the open in a vehicle only ends up tempting thieves, who are always looking for opportunities.

Station 12 was recently sent a link to a security camera video taken by a resident who said his car was repeatedly targeted by would-be thieves on a single evening.

"He was parked in an alley," said Yigit. "During the same evening, three different people walked up to his car and checked the doors for whether they were unlocked.

"So, this is just a reminder to make sure your doors are locked. Because in the middle of the night, people go around and check.

"It's important to make sure you have nothing lying around in the car."

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# Montreal Children’s Hospital sets fundraising record!



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 25th annual Bal des tannants for The Children’s presented by the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation was another huge success.

Honorary co-presidents were **Abe Adham**, head Quebec investment banking and chair Quebec market – TD Bank Group; **André Beaulieu**, CEO Azrieli Foundation; **Roberto Di Giorgio**, president ALRE Properties Inc.; **Marie Di Maso**, president DGDM Family Foundation; **Grégoire Baillargeon**, president BMO Financial Group; **Sean Finn**, legal counsel and corporate director; **Julie Godin**, executive board chair CGI; **Nadia Saputo**, owner Groupe Hôtelier Grand Château; **Kim Thomassin**, executive vp / head Quebec, La Caisse; **Isabelle Marcoux**, executive board chair TC Transcontinental; **Joseph Broccolini**, executive vp Broccolini, and **Deep**

**Khosla**, head of investment banking, Merrill Lynch Canada Inc.

More than 800 guests from the worlds of philanthropy, business, healthcare and politics gathered at Dorval’s Starlink Aviation hangar, transformed for the evening by Rachel St-Amand.

Dress ranged from pant suits and short cocktail dresses to *couture* gowns. Black ruled.

Encouraged to “be playful” many men wore fun items, adding bright socks, hats and fantasy bow ties to their black-tie ensemble. Habs gear was proudly sported by some guests as the team was playing that night.

And the Habs theme continued throughout the event. The evening honoured P. K. Subban and as he entered the ballroom, young players on the LCC hockey team created a hockey-stick “honour guard.”

MC **Ben Mulrone**y was joined onstage by Magalie, a patient of The Children’s. She was transformed by the medical care she received at The Montreal Children’s Hospital and by her doctor, .....  
Dr. Sam Daniel.

*continued on p. 30*



Seated: Marie Di Maso, Julie Godin and Mirella Saputo; back: Abe Adham, André Beaulieu, Roberto Di Giorgio, Grégoire Baillargeon, Renée Vézina, P. K. Subban, Nadia Saputo, Kim Thomassin, Isabelle Marcoux, Joseph Broccolini and Deep Khosla.



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Mitch Garber, Jessika Ossipov and friend.



Geoffrey Garbarino and Alfee Kaufman.



Ben Mulroney.



Mikaël Kingsbury and Laurence Mongeon.



Renée Vézina, P. K. Subban and Westmount mayor Michael Stern.



Juliana Lima, Chris Arsenault, Melanie Cosgrove and Andrew Lutfy.

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### Social notes, cont'd from p. 29

A video showed how she went from a child who could not speak and needed 24/7 care to a chatty, active child who was able to attend school for the first time in January.

The gala raised a record \$2.75 million in support of The Montreal Children's Hospital and its young patients. The foundation marked the conclusion of its major fundraising campaign Unexpected Ways to Heal, which has raised \$373,514,076, an unprecedented result that makes it the most successful campaign ever undertaken by a hospital foundation in Quebec.



P. K. Subban.



Jennifer Cosgrove-Setlakwe and Olivier Setlakwe.

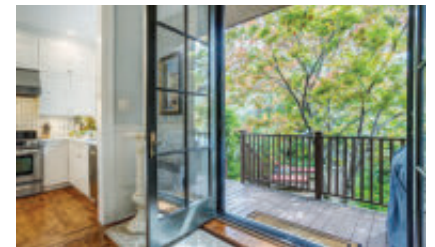
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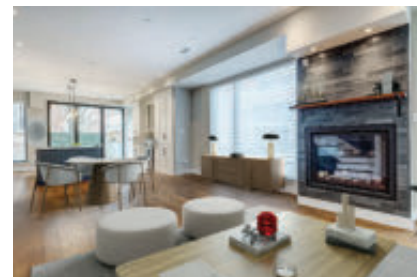
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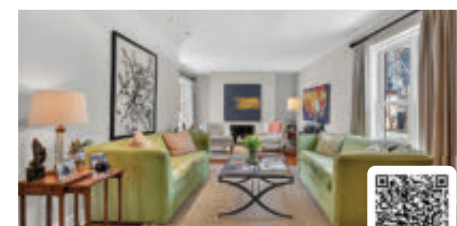
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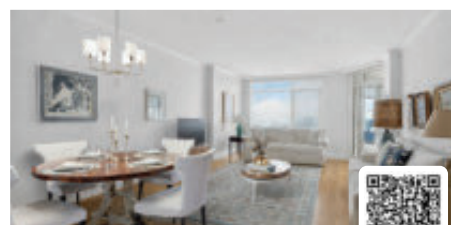
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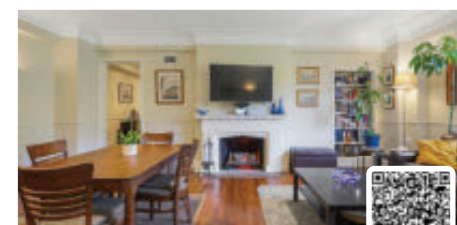
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