

Vic village festival this weekend

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The annual spring street festival in Victoria village takes place this weekend, mainly on Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14, with what is believed to be a record number of merchants and other participants, for a total of more than 50.

While some of the sidewalk sales will start off on the Friday, many of the main events are billed for the weekend and are to include face painting, a hip hop dance workshop for kids by Break City and a ceramic arts workshop at the Visual Arts Centre.

"We have more merchants participating than ever before," Leam Venafro of the merchants' association told the *Indepen-*

dent. Food and drink from local merchants are to be available throughout as well as sales, contests and prizes from individual shops.

A car wash to benefit Akiva School's graduating class is planned for Saturday at the Esso station while a hip hop workshop is set to take place at 2 pm in Prince Albert square, hosted by Break City.

Magic, circus arts

There will be magic by Monsieur Magic and circus arts in the streets with Amanda Dandelion.

Live music and shows are also scheduled for both days in Prince Albert square including Sunday performances by Gary White with his duo Double Tonic.

Performances by Montreal singer/songwriter Shane Murphy and Skipper Dean with Roger Mann are also planned as well as ones by Caleb Taylor, Emmy Aronovitch, The Invisible and Chaz Coats-Butcher.

**City's Family Day
pulls in large crowd,
see p. 10-11 for coverage**

Public Security, police stop & arrest man for attempted arson at Temple



There was an arson attempt June 5 at the back of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, which is located at 4100 Sherbrooke. This photo was taken in the east-west alley to the south of the building the following day. See p. 8 for story.

PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL

'Time is being wasted' when council overturns decisions

Cllr. Moss resigns from city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

District 5 city councillor Shawn Moss, whose commissionership includes urban planning, resigned as a member of the city's Planning Advisory Council (PAC) during the start of the city council meeting on June 2.

An architect by profession, Moss stated that he wanted to be brief but that since

working with the council as a group "I find that PAC has been recommending things that keep getting overturned. I feel strongly that that my time is being wasted on the PAC so, effective immediately, I am resigning from the PAC."

He later explained his professional support of the PAC and his need to support its recommendations.

At the start of his *continued on p. 3*

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Mayor looks back at first 6 months, effort to improve services, efficiency & communication

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In opening the city council meeting June 2 to a full house, Mayor Michael Stern looked back on the council's first six months in office, stating "we have begun turning commitments into real action."

This includes a commitment to "focus on the fundamentals, improve the services citizens rely on every day, strengthen public safety, invest responsibly in our infrastructure and make city hall more transparent and accountable," he said.

He referred to this as the first of regular six-month updates that residents can expect. "The direction is clear: stronger services, safer streets, stronger infrastructure, tighter financial oversight, and a city hall that listens and acts."

Over the last six months, increased basic services have included moving garbage collection to once a week, expanding recycling in Holton, de Casson and Barat lanes, and improving the way residents receive assistance by using the city portal.

Weekly garbage collection was reinstated by a council vote November 17 last year for the just-finished December-to-April period, during which time it had previously been scheduled for every other week. The period from May to September of this year was always expected to have weekly collection. (See November 5, 2025, p. 18).

Moss, cont'd from p. 1

career, Moss worked on the city's project to build the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

His commissionership also includes sustainable development as well as sports and recreation.

Next winter's garbage pick-up schedule has not been directly addressed by this council. The Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) has mandated that its constituent municipalities have a maximum of 26 pick-ups per year starting December 31, 2027 (see March 31, p. 8).

Brainstorming, and synthetic turf

The mayor said he had been meeting with various city teams "to hear their ideas, understand the challenges they face, and share my vision for a more responsive, efficient and citizen-focused administration."

Planned roadwork has increased, an infrastructure tax has been introduced to address long-term needs and "a complete overview" of city infrastructure was almost complete and ready to be communicated to citizens.

"We are studying the issue of a synthetic playing field and we will add a new pickleball court in Westmount Park," Mayor Stern said. In addition to this remark on process, later at the meeting the mayor repeatedly voiced his support for artificial turf in principle.

Acting on concerns of public safety, such as school safety, demonstrations, vandal- *continued on p. 14*

Woman falls from walker

Public Security received a call May 30 at 8:30 pm reporting that someone had fallen while using a walker at Sherbrooke and Victoria and was unable to get up.

Witnesses stated they had been unable to catch her as she started to fall but had called Urgences Santé. She was described as aged in her sixties and living on the Montreal side of Claremont below Sherbrooke. – LS

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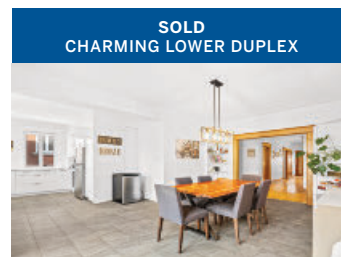
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UPCOMING ARGYLE CONVERSION TO ONE-WAY RAISES MANY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ABOUT TRANSPARENCY

The city's recently announced plan to convert a portion of Argyle Ave. into a one-way southbound street this July, as part of its broader Safe Routes to School initiative, has raised concerns that extend beyond traffic planning and school safety.

Residents only became aware of the proposal through word of mouth at the end of May. A flyer was distributed by the city two weeks ago, but by then many were alarmed by the lack of transparency and consultation surrounding a decision that would materially affect their daily lives.

For residents of Argyle, this is not a minor adjustment. The conversion would alter traffic patterns, accessibility, winter driving conditions, and the overall character of the street. Yet no direct consultation with affected residents took place be-

fore the project advanced toward implementation. A review of publicly available city meeting minutes also does not appear to show any clear approval process specifically authorizing the conversion of Argyle into a one-way street.

This letter is not intended to debate the merits of one-way versus two-way traffic. Everyone agrees that school safety should be a priority. The concern is the process itself: lack of transparency, lack of consultation, and lack of meaningful engagement.

When residents attended the last city council meeting to ask questions, they were directed instead to attend a one-way virtual "information session" where questions must be submitted in advance. Residents who requested the underlying plans and approvals were told to submit a formal access-to-information request – a process that may take up to 30 working days.

This approach is difficult to reconcile with the transparency, accountability and citizen engagement that the mayor and council members continue to emphasize publicly.

At this point, the issue has become larger than the one-way conversion itself. It raises a broader question: why is the city so reluctant to engage openly and directly with its own residents (and taxpayers) before moving forward with a major neighbourhood change?

SOPHIA DYNBORT, ARGYLE AVE.



Looking up Argyle Ave. from Côte St. Antoine on June 8. The city is making it one-way down/southbound from Montrose Ave to here.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Noisy equipment from 245 Victoria Ave.

Upset neighbours seek to see permit after council meeting



Residents from Grosvenor and de Maisonneuve attending the June 2 city council meeting included from left, top row: Laura French, Jacques Beaugerard, Mario Lecaldare, Lorne Woods and Philippe Guay; and bottom row: Johanne Pothier, Anne Morillot and Karen Beaulieu.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M. LECALDARE.

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Within a couple of days of complaints at the city council meeting June 2 about "noisy" ground-level ventilation equipment behind the office building at 245 Victoria, the large units were found to have been boxed but left in place.

"Yes, they are out of sight, but the noise persists," Mario Lecaldare of Grosvenor, told the *Independent*. The problem persists and "non-compliance with city by-laws remains entirely unresolved."

Lecaldare and seven neighbours had attended the council meeting.

While the units had since been covered with wood to which sound-proofing material had been added, they were encased in "a box without a lid," according to him.

He said he had been told city's Urban Planning inspectors would inspect the work to ensure it was compliant with Westmount regulations. They would also perform a sound/decibel test to see if the HVAC units respect the maximum noise level permitted for this type of equipment.

At the *Independent's* deadline, however, this was not known to have been received.

Lecaldare said he had seen no permits posted in the building lobby.

He maintained that this equipment should have been installed on the roof, out of sight and where noise levels do not impact adjacent homes.

"We want the city to issue fines" to the property owners and to have the equipment re-located and to meet maximum noise levels. And, if failing to meet code,

to simply have the equipment cease to operate.

He also wants to know why it is allowed run at times when the office building is unoccupied and why no effort was made by the city to communicate with adjacent homeowners.

The issue with such equipment is reminiscent of what had generated numerous reports from residents of Grosvenor – those just south of Sherbrooke – several years ago concerning rooftop equipment on the roof of the Metro building (see March 29, 2022, p. 9).



The new structure at 245 Victoria encasing its ventilation equipment on June 5. This view is from the parking lot behind the building, but it is also visible from the street.

Councillor's column

GURVEEN CHADHA

City of Westmount celebrations kick off summer in the city

submitted creative writing, including stories, essays and poems for consideration.

Before the ceremony, council joined the mayor in thanking the 89 volunteer judges, whose dedication makes this initiative possible. Chief judge Liz McCallum and children's librarian Wendy Wayling lead this effort with remarkable care, and it was a pleasure to recognize their work.

The awards ceremony that followed was filled with excitement as families, teachers and friends gathered to celebrate the winners from grades 1 through 11.

This year's event also featured special guest speaker and local author Mitali Banerjee Ruths, who offered inspiring reflections. Her speech inspired the kids and beautifully captured the spirit of the evening.

After the presentations, guests visited the Gallery to see the annual exhibition created in partnership with the Visual Arts Centre, featuring artwork from 245 students paired with quotations from the winning texts. The combination of visual and literary creativity is striking. The exhibit will be up until June 11, and I encourage

you to visit.

I am proud to support a tradition that brings together so many parts of our community – students, educators, volunteers and families – in celebration of creativity and civic pride. I look forward to championing the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition in the years ahead.

Family Day

Lastly, over the May 30-31 weekend, Westmount residents were able to attend the much-anticipated annual Family Day celebration, which is the largest event organized each year by the city of Westmount. After a long winter, the city of Westmount comes to life!

Family Day is also the launch of many city programs, including the TD Summer Reading Club organized by the library, and the outdoor summer concert series, which Westmounters can enjoy in the park starting in July.

For more information on these, as well as all the other exciting events coming up this summer, please visit the city's website as well as the library's website, and subscribe to their newsletters.

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Weinstein's *The Path That Luck Took* published as part of Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Former Wood Ave. resident Stanley Weinstein, who now lives at the Place Kensington retirement home, has written a compelling memoir, *The Path That Luck Took*, about the road to survival he was forced to follow in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

The book, which includes more than 20 pages of photographs, was published by the Azrieli Foundation on May 20 – just before Weinstein's 98th birthday – as part of its Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program.

It tells the story of his life in Poland prior to the war, his survival and liberation from the Buchenwald concentration camp, his life and initial forays into business in New York, then finally his success as a property developer in the suburbs of Montreal.

As Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, the Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History at University of Colorado Boulder, notes in an introduction for the book, "Holocaust memoirs have long been established as a distinct part of memory cultures, with a massive amount of wide-ranging and multilingual accounts by Jewish survivors."

150 titles published by Azrieli Foundation

The Path That Luck Took is part of a growing body of literature that the Azrieli Foundation has been helping to build for more than 35 years through its memoirs program, which has published more than 150 titles in English and French.

The book's title is derived from Weinstein's observation – after having deftly snuck in and out of various ghettos, forced labour and concentration camps – that even when he made mistakes, they often turned in his favour.

"When people ask me how I survived the war, I say it was because I was an idiot," declares Weinstein. "I was just stupid and



The Path That Luck Took author Stanley Weinstein is seen here at Place Kensington on May 20.

lucky. I took risks but somehow survived."

Weinstein doesn't shy away from the controversial topic involving evidence of gentile Polish collaboration with Nazi authorities.

He recounts how he was chased at one point by Catholic youths from his home-

town who recognized him and tried to chase him down in order to turn him over to the German occupiers for a reward. And yet, he also reflects on the role of Polish Jews who collaborated with the Nazis.

Weinstein cites numerous examples of ruthless brutality that he witnessed as a 15-year-old incarcerated in concentration camps. Among them, although only briefly, was one overseen by Amon Göth, whose role as commandant of the Plaszow camp in Poland was depicted in the 1993 film *Schindler's List*.

"The Holocaust was an unprecedented event. No matter how bad people hear it was, I can tell you it was worse," Weinstein writes in the book's final chapter, after summarizing his success after the war.

"Soon the people who lived through it will no longer be around to tell their stories," he says, "and this is why it's time for me to tell mine, now, so that people don't forget or deny what we lived through."

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Busy week at Greene rail bridge, including rare southbound strike



According to the *Independent's* unscientific records, the rail bridge over Greene Ave. below Dorchester is more often hit from the St. Antoine/northbound side, as it was on June 1 and 5 (not pictured). This southbound digger was caught by some combination of the protective I-beam and the bridge itself on June 3.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES ANDERSON.

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Police Report

SWAT squad assists during pre-planned arrest on Hillside Ave.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A special intervention carried out by the Montreal police during the late afternoon of May 27 on Hillside near Abbott Ave. required the use of the force's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

"That was a planned operation," said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, adding that officers had received a warrant to make an arrest and required the assistance of the SWAT squadron as a precautionary measure.

"Normally when we go to arrest someone – when it's a planned arrest – we assess the level of danger," he continued. "Sometimes it's someone who's armed, someone who has a knife. That's when we ask the SWAT to go in as a precaution."



Contrary to appearances, the person at top right is a Montreal police SWAT officer, not a member of the military. He was on Hillside Ave. May 27 to help with a pre-planned arrest, which went smoothly.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A PASSER-BY

In this particular case, according to Yigit, everything went smoothly and the

individual named in the warrant was successfully taken into custody. He did not specify why the suspect had to be arrested.

He identified a law enforcement interventionist dressed in military-style fatigues (seen in a photo furnished to the *Independent* by a passer-by) as a member of the Montreal police's SWAT team. According to the passer-by, pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic was halted for a short time during the operation.

Land Rover targetted, thrice

Car thieves active in Westmount last week were clearly focused on a specific make of high-end four-wheel-drive vehicle, attempting to steal two Land Rovers in the space of two days.

The most recent theft occurred on June 1 when a 2026 Land Rover parked on Met-

calfe Ave. near Sherbrooke St. was stolen overnight. "They broke the back window," said Cst. Yigit.

Although the suspects didn't end up leaving with the car, he added, they pulled wires from the dashboard and steering column in an unsuccessful attempt to start the ignition.

According to the incident summary filed at Station 12, the owner reported it was the third time an attempt had been made to steal the vehicle.

And another one...

In the middle of the night on May 31, an attempt was also made to steal a Land Rover parked on The Boulevard.

According to Yigit, "someone approached the vehicle, but in the end didn't leave with it."

"They came close to the vehicle, they touched it and all that, but then they left it so there were no damages," he continued.

However, security cameras captured images of the incident.

Currently under investigation as arson, not a hate crime

Incendiary object thrown at back of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom

BY JENNIFER BALL

A 38-year-old man was arrested for throwing an incendiary device at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom shortly after midnight on June 5. He has been charged with arson, not a hate crime.

Temple is located at 4100 Sherbrooke, at the corner of Wood Ave.

On June 7, senior rabbi Lisa Grushcow answered the *Independent's* questions about the Temple incident.

Rabbi praises community's, federal government's security efforts

When asked what should be done in the aftermath of the arson attack to make her congregation and the 22.4 percent of Westmount that is Jewish feel safe, Rabbi Grushcow said, "We need more enforcement of legislation and prosecution of crimes at all levels..."

"Security funding is essential. If it weren't for the infrastructure efforts of the Jewish community and the funding of the federal government, what happened at our temple would have been far worse."

She said that the arson attack on the temple was very hurtful.

"This is a place that is home to our current members but also has a place in the life stories of so many others – people who were married here, or celebrated *inei mitz-*

vah here, or welcomed their babies into the community here."

Grushcow praised the Montreal police (SPVM) and Westmount Public Security, saying, "The support on the ground is very good. We have positive and productive relationships with both Westmount Public Security and Station 12 police.

"The two [Westmount Public Security] officers who caught the person attempting to set the synagogue on fire were patrolling nearby and responded quickly and effectively, as did fire and police. The first responders deserve appreciation and praise for their work."

Stacy Maignan, division head of Communications at the city of Westmount, provided the *Independent* with information about the incident on June 8. "While on patrol, PSO [Westmount Public Security] officers heard a window break and, upon closer inspection, located a suspect in the rear alley. They immediately gave chase while dispatch simultaneously contacted the SPVM [Montreal police] and the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal (SIM). Westmount Public Safety officers secured the scene and worked closely with the SPVM throughout the intervention to ensure public safety and facilitate the police response. [...] A Westmount Public Safety sergeant arrived shortly thereafter to provide back-up and assist in the inter-

vention. The suspect was subsequently apprehended by the two Westmount Public Safety officers."

SPVM spokesperson Jean-Pierre Brabant provided the *Independent* with a statement on June 6 that described the incident and the arrest, saying the SPVM received a 911 call that was placed for a man trying to set fire to the temple.

"From there – with the information gathered from several witnesses – we were able to arrest a 38-year-old man." On the morning of June 6, he was charged with arson and possession of arson material.

Brabant said that the investigation is ongoing and that, "There's nothing that leads to a hate crime. It's arson, and while the investigation is not done at this point, we are not going forward with a hate crime investigation. We're going forward with an arson investigation."

While Grushcow expressed that she does not have all the information right now and believes every case needs to be judged individually, she said context matters. "It seems to me highly unlikely that someone randomly chose to set a building on fire and it just happened to be a synagogue..."

"This sends a really problematic message to potential perpetrators, and to all of us who are affected. It also is problematic for society as a whole. If we want these crimes to stop, we have to take them seriously."

Narnia nursery school also at building

The Centre de la Petite Enfance Narnia is located immediately next to the temple itself, also in 4100 Sherbrooke St. It is a non-denominational daycare for children aged 18 months to 5 years.

When asked the proximity of Narnia, Grushcow said, "This attack was not near the Narnia part of the building, but we are in constant contact with Narnia to ensure their families not only know they are safe, but feel that they are safe. We love having this CPE at Temple and always have the well-being of these children front of mind."

See p. 1 for photo.

Indie's summer schedule

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(Dominion Day observance)

Issue: July 7

Usual summer break:
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Family Day in Westmount Park doesn't disappoint

BY RALPH THOMPSON

There were almost endless activities for both young and old at Westmount's Family Day May 30, including inflated slides, an elastic tug-of-war challenge, the always popular Euro bungy, candy floss and hot dogs, decadent *Pommes de Terre Farcie à l'anglais* at the Mouton Noir tent, police cars, Public Safety vehicles, a dunk tank, a giant front-end loader and even a garbage truck to climb onto and honk its horns. As well, there were pony rides and a petting zoo, a miniature train ride around Westmount Park and much more.

Tables promoting the city's Environment division were kept busy, and the Westmount Public Library area was abuzz with enthusiastic children and a bewildering display of goings-on.

Youngsters pounded clay at the Visual Arts Centre table, and Westmount Soccer Club members were painting faces and helping to make friendship bracelets.

Welcoming smiles and friendly chats were exchanged at tables for Contactivity, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, the Rotary Club of Westmount and other local organizations.

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers were busy offering marshmallow roasting, soft drinks and a car race using small homemade wooden racers.

Two Montreal mounted police officers generated a lot of attention with their magnificently groomed Clydesdale horses. Most children barely reached the horses knees and their hooves were larger than their heads.

► Above, Luca was tickled pink by the animals at the petting zoo.

► Right, the fire department brought its home-fire simulator. These children were correctly scrambling along the simulated smoke-filled corridor on hands and knees to minimize the deadly suffocating effects of the "smoke."



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Evie and Sophia took a scary slide together and landed in a pile at the bottom still laughing and screaming.



Eton tried out a police motorcycle.



The Westmount Public Library staff whooped it up, along with owl mascot Sir Findlay Featherton.



Young Cubs and Beavers constructed small wooden cars that had no means of propulsion except gravity. They raced in side by side to determine the winner.



The Visual Art Centre was promoting its children's art courses for fine arts, jewellery and ceramics. They have summer camps, as well as courses for the fall and winter.



The petting zoo was a continuous source of fun and laughter.

Ubuki – fun and cuddly



*Westmount
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

He has grown up well and is a very intelligent young fellow, ready to continue training and socializing. Ubuki is a bit nervous if left on his own, which is to be expected in a transition between homes.

He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. If you would like to find out more about him, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then refer to his information page by his identification number, 2000299880. When reading about him, you can click on the “Fill out the form” rectangle. By presenting your contact information and your interest in Ubuki, the adoption coordinators will be able to contact you and plan next steps to consider visits and adoption. Ubuki is a dear puppy who will be very happy in your loving arms, please reach out for him.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Ubuki is a wonderful young English setter, so handsome with his black-and-white ticking and soft feathering fur.

He is presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA. The loving family who welcomed him has noted that this one-year-old puppy has a friendly interest in other dogs and is most social with everyone in the home and neighbourhood.

He is energetic and playful, enjoying tug-of-war games and fun walks. After walks and nicely tired out, he enjoys curling up on the sofa for companionship.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Loving and playful, Pikliz is a very handsome black-and-white tuxedo cat. He is presently at the SPCA Montréal cattery, where the volunteers are hoping for visits and interest in him. Pikliz was adopted as a joyous kitten, and all was well until the arrival of a new baby.

At the age of 12 to 18 months, he is now awaiting a quiet home life where his affectionate nature and kittenish playfulness will thrive. He is quite cuddly, curious and energetic. He enjoys a cat tree with multiple levels to enjoy a view of birds outside through a large window. He also enjoys tall scratching posts and flexible wand toys.

Pikliz is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and health treatments, as well as FIV/FelV testing, and is microchipped.

For more information on Pikliz, please refer to the SPCA Montréal website at www.sPCAMontreal.com. His profile is

Tuxedo Pikliz

available on its Petfinder and Pattes Jaunes sites as well as its Facebook page.

You can then write about yourself to the volunteers at their email adoptionspca-montreal@gmail.com to find out more about Pikliz and discuss your interest in adoption.

For a visit, the shelter is a lovely family drive to picturesque St. Angèle de Monnoir, at 178 Chemin du Vide JOL 1P0. The cattery adoption coordinators will be pleased to introduce you to Pikliz and arrange your time together to meet and hold him.

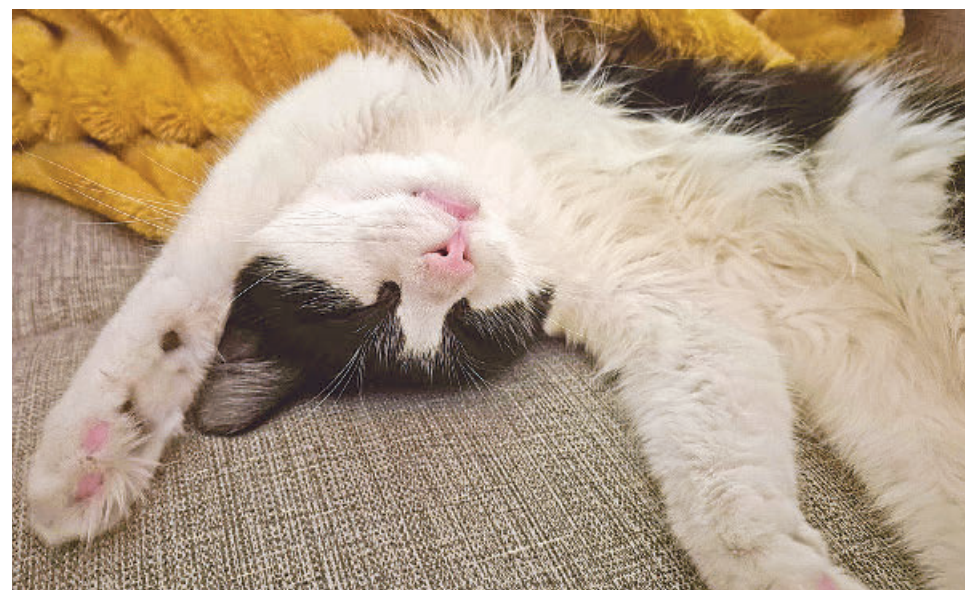
This wonderful young cat is a sweet companion who will enjoy home life with you in the everyday routine. It is beautiful that you keep him in your heart and plan him joining your family.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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Miriam Foundation event brings bling back



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



The sixth annual Big Fat Greek Fund-raiser for the Miriam Foundation was style on steroids.

Best-blinking eyelashes, best bling, best dressed. No supermarket totes here: initialled accessories were shout-outs to the “bags *du jour*.” Sexy sole mates ranged from Blahniks to ballerinas. And although trendy trainers were seen, heels ruled.

Organized by philanthropist **Linda Smith** working with committee members **Susan Alper**, **Sylvie Amar**, **Corinne Asseraf**, **Simone Elfassy**, **Lydia Mamane** and **Jennifer Silver**, the fundraiser sold out within days.

Celebrating her 20 years of fundraising support, local res Linda Smith was invited to join the Miriam Foundation board. The Foundation’s CEO **Warren Greenstone** and **Sarah Pinchevsky**, coordinator, greeted guests.

Noted arriving were *continued on p. 14*

► Mose Persico, Corinne Asseraf, Linda Smith, Warren Greenstone, Susan Alper and Jennifer Silver.

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Social notes, cont'd from p. 13

Andy Nulman and his son Aidan Nulman, Orla Johannes and her husband Chris Konstantopoulos, Jordan Schacter, Susan and Barry Pascal, Linda Shaw and Frank Motter, Janet and Jeff Solomon, Michael Pesner, Laurie Pesner and Alan Victor, Susan Gayle, Francine and Robbie Wiseman, Howard Stotland, Phyllis Tessler, Barbara Seal, Marie-Josée Coutu and Michel Nadeau, Arie Bettan and Osnat Siag, Elie Nour, and Rozlyn Druckman and Mitch Adler.

Miriam Foundation board members seen included **Pierre-Étienne Simard** (chair), **Nick Meti**, **Joël Paquin** and **Sylvie Coutu**. **Mose Persico**, CFQR radio, auctioned art donated by Galerie 203.

The event was held at Estiatorio Milos, and the internationally renowned restaurant did not disappoint. *Apertivo* time was jump-started with Beluga caviar. Event sponsors were Nour Private Wealth, Mitzi & Mel Dobrin Family Foundation, Hillrose Holding Ltd., Lydia Mamane & Family, Freda Applebaum, and Leslie & Alexandra Wexelman.

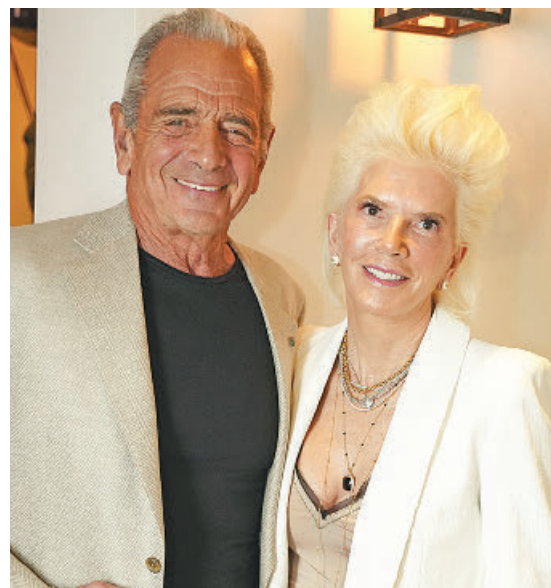
Gift bags were full of fabulous donations: Milos Greek olive oil, Bernie Beigne doughnut, bracelets by Cukier, a Psycho Bunny cap, and David's Tea and Mahrousé pastries.

Guests worked off the amazing meal dancing to DJ Yo-C and Michelle Sweeney.

The evening raised funds to support individuals living with neurodevelopmental challenges, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual disabilities (ID).



Moira Pesner and Jordan Schacter.



Frank Motter and Linda Shaw.



Andy Nulman.



Orla Johannes.



Robbie and Francine Wiseman.



Alan Victor, his wife Laurie Pesner and Michael Pesner.

Mayor, cont'd from p. 3

ism and security in the community, “we have engaged legal advice regarding demonstrations and appointed a commissioner of public order,” namely Councillor Paul Levine.

Tax payments have been increased from two installments to three “to ease pressure on residents. A curb had been placed on

hiring and on replacing retiring staff where appropriate...I have also taken on a role on the city of Montreal Audit Committee.”

Unanswered questions

“To improve accountability at our public meetings, I have instituted a new policy: all unanswered questions submitted at one open meeting will be answered at the start of the next meeting. Residents deserve to

know that their questions are heard, tracked, and answered publicly.”

He also addressed changes to the composition and approach of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), which he described as “rejecting proposals that did not reflect our priorities.”

When councillors subsequently addressed their own commissionerships, Shawn Moss, an architect by profession,

announced he was resigning from the PAC, citing the need as a professional to preserve the city’s built heritage (see p. 1).

“One of the most rewarding parts of the past six months,” the mayor concluded, had been hearing directly from people – residents and employees alike – “who feel comfortable reaching out to share their concerns, their ideas, and also their praise and where we can do better.”



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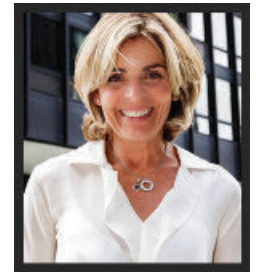
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