

‘Major technical failures’ plague city’s attempt to communicate about police search for possible shooter

By LAUREN SWEENEY

A widespread police search for a possible shooter June 22 led to the closure of many upper Westmount streets. It also generated concerns from residents as to how timely emergency messages can be effectively relayed to residents by the city.

The shooting of a Montreal police officer and civilian in Côte des Neiges on that day closed not only the Decarie Expressway, but also Lexington, Upper Belmont, Upper Lansdowne, Lansdowne

Ridge, Upper Roslyn and Sunnyside in Westmount when there was a report of a second shooter in that area.

It turned out that there was no second shooter (see Police Report #1/“Armed police deployed on summit after Côte des Neiges shooting,” p. 19).

While the Westmount streets were reopened by 4 pm, it was not until much later – some residents saying 5:30 pm – that they received information that the operation was under way and then an even later update at 7 pm that it had concluded. The delay may even have led to a lower-than-expected attendance at a public consultation meeting on zoning at city hall at 7 pm that night (see separate story p. 4).

It was a concern reiterated to the *Independent* by Westmount communications direc- *continued on p. 8*

Canada Day in Westmount



On a very hot day, cutting the Canada Day cake on the pool deck at the Westmount recreation centre during the city’s traditional July 1 party were city councillors Kathleen Kez, Jonathan Chomski and Matt Aronson, MP Anna Gainey, Mayor Michael Stern, provincial representative Jennifer Maccarone, and city councillors Jeff Shamie and Paul Levine. PHOTO: LAUREN SWEENEY.

Last issue before our summer break.
Next issue: August 11

No loss of tennis court – ‘Simply adds one additional pickleball court’ Westmount Park’s junior courts to be re-designed to add third pickleball court

By JENNIFER BALL

Early into the June 2 council meeting, Mayor Michael Stern alerted residents to the fact that there is a new pickleball court planned for Westmount Park. He was referring to the location of the Westmount Park junior courts.

The junior tennis courts are located in the southwest corner of Westmount Park, directly off Academy Rd. Currently, they

are configured with two pickleball courts and two hardcourt tennis courts.

The *Independent* wanted to know why people playing sports with racquets are ceding ground to players holding paddles, which Mugisha Rutishisha, director of the Communications department at the city, said was not the case.

On June 9 he said, “The project involves re-painting and re-con- *figuring the existing* *continued on p. 4*



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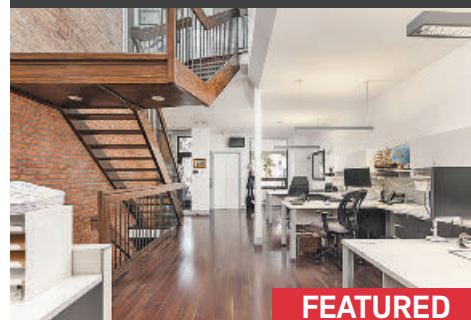
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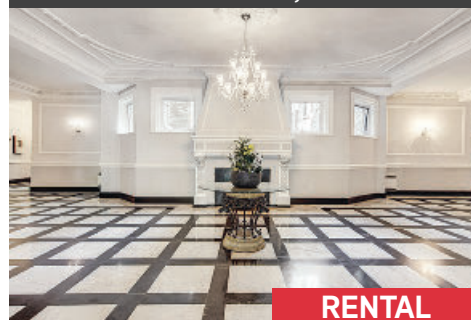
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Car exiting Westmount Square hits parked car



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PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

Letters, p. 6

Dodge on January
real estate transfers, p. 14

Pet page, p. 17

Police Report, p. 19

Social Notes:



Women Leaders, p. 21

InfoWestmount, p. 16

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A car coming out of the underground garage of Westmount Square onto St. Catherine June 26 at 10:30 am hit one parked across the street on the south side of the street at civic number 4142, Public Security officials said. The incident occurred when the driver reportedly hit the accelerator accidentally.

Both SUVs sustained heavy damage and the street was closed while they were taken away. No injuries were reported.

The driver of the car was described as a woman in her eighties.

Dog jumps off second-storey balcony

A big black dog jumped off a second-storey balcony at Sherbrooke and Prince Albert, June 24 around 8:30 pm, Public Security officials said. The balcony door had been left open when the dog's owner went out. A neighbour reportedly saw the dog jump and notified Public Security.

The dog was on the loose until picked

up, reportedly uninjured. It wore a licence tag that enabled its owner to be contacted quickly.

Cyclist seriously injured as handlebars break

A cyclist was taken to hospital June 29 with serious neck and shoulder injuries when he was reported to have flipped over the handlebars while rounding the corner of Westmount Ave. and Argyle, according to Public Security officials.

The accident occurred around 12:20 pm when the handlebars suddenly “broke” causing the rider, a young man in his early twenties, to suffer serious injuries around the neck and shoulder.

A patroller was reported to have been on the scene quickly along with a medical doctor and Urgences Santé.

The cyclist was wearing a helmet, which “probably saved his life,” said Sgt. Jennifer Chabot. “This shows how very important it is to wear one when you cycle. Something can happen unexpectedly.”

Indie's summer schedule

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

Back to weekliness: August 11 until Christmas

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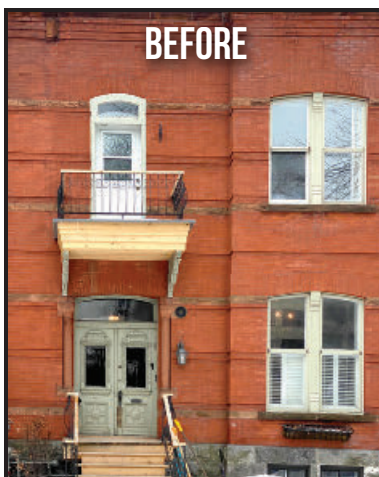
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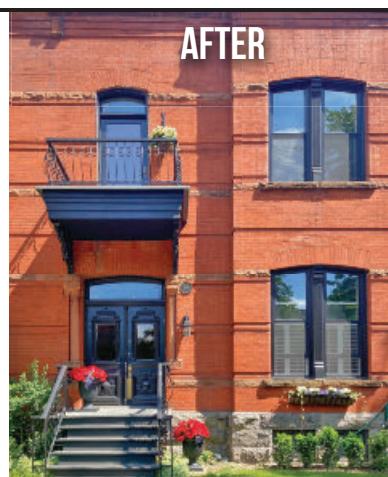
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Work set to start June 29

New street layout for Murray Hill explained to residents

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Details of the complete re-construction of Murray Hill Ave. this summer were unveiled at a public information meeting for residents June 17. This featured a new street layout at the street's intersections with Douglas to the north and Grenville to the south.

Presentation of the project at the Westmount recreation centre attracted an estimated 20 residents to hear about the work scheduled to start June 29 and continue through September.

The city's engineering team led by Shawn Aloysius and Michel Gagnon walked residents through existing conditions, proposed improvements, construction timelines and measures being put in place to minimize disruption during the work.

The project includes the widening of sidewalks to 1.5 metres, replacing street lights, adding green spaces, planting three new trees and removing east-side parking.

First 'yield street'

A notable feature of the re-design is described as the introduction of a "yield street." This is believed to be the "first of

Junior courts, cont'd from p. 1

pickleball court layout at the Westmount Park junior courts to add a third pickleball court. The decision was made in response to increased resident demand and the growing popularity of pickleball. The work is planned for the fall, when court usage is lower, to minimize impacts on users. The project is expected to take approximately 15 days to complete."

On June 11, Rutishisha provided more detail, saying. "The existing tennis courts will remain unchanged. The additional pickleball court will be created by re-configuring the layout of the current pickleball area. Specifically, the two existing pickleball courts located on a single tennis court footprint will be reoriented to accommodate a third pickleball court. As a result, no tennis courts will be removed; the project simply adds one additional pickleball court."

He was asked to account for whether Sports and Recreation has any data on whether pickleball is more popular now than tennis and he informed the *Independent* that, "Sports & Rec do not currently collect statistics on court usage. However, based on observations in the field, the pickleball courts appear to be used more frequently than the tennis courts, with consistently higher levels of activity throughout the season."

its kind in Westmount" where vehicles travelling southbound/downhill on Murray Hill will yield to northbound/uphill traffic. It is described as enabling the creation of wider sidewalks, additional green space and improved pedestrian conditions while maintaining two-way vehicle circulation.

At Murray Hill's intersections with Douglas and Grenville, the traditional T-intersections are to be changed by creating a continuous sidewalk on the east side of Murray Hill and removing east-side parking. This is described as allowing for a 5.2-

meter traffic lane with priority for northbound vehicles.

Understanding the rationale

"My overall impression was that residents appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from the engineering team," District 2 councillor Jonathan Chomski told the *Independent*. This helped them "better understand both the rationale for the project and how construction will be managed."

Two draft by-laws to be okayed July 7, after press time

Meeting addresses sheds, saunas



From left, at the zoning public consultation meeting June 22 were Councillor Antonio D'Amico (District 1), Councillor Jonathan Chomski (District 2), Mayor Michael Stern and Councillor Paul Levine (District 6). City urban planning director Frédéric Neault presents the draft By-laws 1664 and 1665.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city public consultation meeting June 22 on two draft zoning by-laws, 1664 and 1665, was opened by Mayor Michael Stern at 7 pm along with three city councillors attending: Antonio D'Amico (District 1), Jonathan Chomski (District 2) and Paul Levine (District 6).

While the session had been expected to possibly draw a full house, it was not known whether its two-person attendance might have resulted from an earlier police emergency operation that had closed streets on the upper levels (see story, p. 1).

Those attending were the *Independent's* reporter as well as resident Izaya Wener.

Introducing the draft by-laws, Westmount urban planning director Frédéric Neault summarized draft By-law 1664 concerning the demolition of buildings, as essentially an attempt to harmonize with how heritage buildings are treated by the

Montreal agglomeration.

On the other hand, By-law 1665 deals with amendments to permits and certificates concerning accessory buildings and garden structures in accordance with zoning and permits By-laws 1305 and 1634.

These accessory buildings are defined in the by-law as "a subordinate detached building excluding a garden shed or a sauna without a foundation and [that] is not in the front yard."

The by-law stipulates location, sizes, building materials and clearance from power lines. Some provisions are also detailed for fences, pool enclosures and installation of outdoor saunas.

Among questions asked by councillors D'Amico, Chomski and Levine were those concerning hot tubs, outdoor kitchens and play structures.

Both by-laws are slated for adoption at the council meeting July 7 after the *Independent's* press time.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, WESTMOUNT PUBLIC WORKS

Huge kudos to Westmount's Public Works department. Following the torrential rains this past weekend [June 20-21], many of the storm drains in our area were full to capacity, with water overflowing over the top of the drains, and no water moving through them or draining out. Water some six inches deep was pooling up on the extreme north end of Lexington.

All of this happened 10 hours after the rains had subsided.

When I notified Public Works about this situation, within two or three hours a crew had been dispatched and the drains on our street were cleared and running normally again.

Well done, Public Works. Keep up the good work!

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

THANK YOU, MONTREAL POLICE

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the remarkable work our police officers do to preserve peace and safety in our society.

I have previously written in this newspaper to thank them for their presence and for their efforts to help secure our school zones and streets.

Monday, June 22 was not an ordinary day. The tragedy that unfolded in Côte des Neiges left a profound impact on our collective consciousness. I would like to recognize the officers who acted swiftly and professionally to neutralize the threat. As

a citizen, I also wish to extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the two victims of this tragic event: officer Mohamed Lamine Benredouane, aged 34, and Michael Mizrahi, a 68-year-old citizen.

Some people may not be aware that a report concerning a possible second suspect was made later that afternoon.

The [supposed] sighting occurred near St. Joseph's Oratory. As a result, a significant police operation involving dozens of officers, tactical units and police dog teams were deployed throughout the area, including on Lexington, Upper Belmont, Upper Lansdowne, Lansdowne Ridge, Upper Roslyn and Sunnyside.

The officers thoroughly searched the neighbourhood to ensure that any potential threat had been eliminated. I would like to thank them for their professionalism and dedication.

In the photograph at right several officers can be seen carrying out their duties. Several others were all over that perimeter.

Events such as those of June 22 should never happen in Montreal – or anywhere.

Nevertheless, knowing that our police service is prepared to respond to situations of such complexity and danger gives us a greater appreciation of our society.

On behalf of many citizens, thank you for your commitment and service.

We are fortunate to have you standing with us.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS EMMANUEL,
UPPER BELMONT AVE.

**SCHOOL SAFETY?**

As a resident of lower Metcalfe, I was very concerned by the proposal to make parts of Metcalfe, along with Argyle and Kensington, one-way to ensure "school safety."

I can report that one group not consulted was residents and I was unfortunately unable to follow the June 10 meeting. Actually, part of Metcalfe is already one-way north for about two hours every school day afternoon as parents double, and sometimes triple, park on both sides of Metcalfe while picking up their children from the Akiva School.

I assume the same is true in the morning and also on Argyle to accommodate Selwyn House students.

Two alternative solutions: enforce parking restrictions by having Public Security officers available daily to distribute parking tickets (a good source of funds) or alternatively make that part of Metcalfe one-way south – making access to the school more difficult. There is probably a similar solution for Argyle.

I am unclear why regular residents should be inconvenienced to accommodate the parents of students attending expensive private schools, many of whom are not Westmount residents.

JO LAPIERRE, METCALFE AVE.

BANKS: PLEASE HIRE MORE TELLERS FOR SERVICE, SAFETY

Having had occasion to repeatedly use two banks on Sherbrooke in Westmount recently, one is struck firstly by the paucity of tellers working, and secondly the length

of the lines of frustrated customers waiting ages for "service."

Yet there are plenty of closed desks in them that could be opened to decrease wait times. It seems that there must be a strategy in place to try to oblige us all to convert to online banking. Yet there are many services that demand visiting the physical bank.

In addition, the media constantly assail us with stories of banking scams, where personal online accounts lose thousands of dollars to schemes that allow significant sums to be fraudulently removed from them. Then those losses are claimed by the financial institutions to be the responsibility of the scammed individual, rather than the banks' oversight controls, which are supposed to be designed to protect us from multiple, unexpected pattern changes to our usual banking practices.

No wonder many of us prefer to use traditional brick-and-mortar banks.

People need employment. Banks are raking it in. Do us a favour and bring back the facilities a lot of clients prefer; especially we susceptible seniors, who also benefit from the personal contact.

ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

245 VICTORIA NOISE ISSUE RAISES NUISANCE, GOVERNANCE QUESTIONS

As a Westmount resident for over 30 years, I am stunned at the poor handling by city officials of the noise emanating from HVAC equipment at 245 Victoria Ave.

For the last two months, the massive machine (which sounds like an airplane

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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We continue our dedication to our residents this summer

Mayor's Column

MICHAEL STERN

As Canada Day celebrations give way to the heart of summer, Westmount is truly coming alive. Our parks are full, our neighbourhoods are vibrant, and like many of you, I am looking forward to spending more time outdoors with family and friends.

Westmount workers working hard

While summer is a time to relax, it is also when our city teams are out in full force, working hard to keep Westmount running smoothly for years to come.

This summer, we are tackling essential

road and infrastructure upgrades, focusing heavily on replacing aging underground networks that can no longer wait.

One of the largest projects is taking place on Sherbrooke St. between Grosvenor and Strathcona avenues, as well as on Arlington Ave. between Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Sherbrooke.

Patching

We are also carrying out targeted asphalt patching on several streets. Unlike full reconstruction, patching simply replaces the top layer of asphalt. With our older infrastructure and harsh winters, we cannot rebuild every street at once, but patching gives us a smart, cost-effective way to keep our roads safe and drivable while we plan larger projects for the most urgent areas.

I want to thank residents, businesses and everyone travelling through Westmount for their patience and cooperation

throughout this construction season. Road closures, detours and delays could be frustrating. They are temporary. The benefits, however, will be felt for many years.

Please conserve water

We also need your help with water conservation. In addition to the ongoing work that requires the closure of the McTavish reservoir, urgent regional repairs to Montréal's network have placed critical strain on the water supply across the agglomeration.

Westmount has already taken steps to reduce water consumption in our parks and green spaces, and I encourage you to do what you can at home. Small changes, multiplied across our community, could have a meaningful impact on this regional effort.

Looking ahead, we are continuously investing in projects designed to further

improve our community's quality of life, both today and for generations to come. Through initiatives like Safe Routes to School and the modernization of our Urban Planning Programme, we are actively preparing for tomorrow while preserving the unique character that makes Westmount so special.

Last but not least, summer is also meant to be enjoyed. I hope you'll make time to attend concerts and movies in Westmount Park or take part in the many activities offered throughout the season. These events remind us that a strong community is built not only through infrastructure, but also through the moments we share.

On behalf of city council, I wish you and your family a safe, happy and memorable summer!

Michael Stern is the mayor of Westmount.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

turbine) runs from early morning to late evening seven days a week, preventing adjacent residents from enjoying their outdoor spaces.

This is more than an inter-neighbour dispute. It raises questions about whether city hall applies its by-laws consistently. Would a homeowner be given the same latitude? Has the city assessed daily fines on the corporate owner for violating noise by-laws?

The lack of communication and resolution is troubling. We deserve prompt treatment and a peaceful summer to take full advantage of our properties.

KAREN BEAULIEU, GROSVENOR AVE.

BAN 'ASTROTURF'

City council needs to step up and pass a by-law prohibiting AstroTurf in recreational areas. Evidently, it was a mistake that this was not done during Karin Marks' tenure [as city of Westmount mayor, from 2006-9].

A heritage park should not subject to the whims and wishes of soccer dads who are overly enthusiastic about their teenagers' house-league soccer aspirations. City council has the votes, step up and pass the by-law.

MARTIN MUELLER, MELVILLE AVE.

CITY NEEDS TO DO BETTER ON CYCLING PATHS

It has taken the city of Westmount until the end of June to mark the bike path along the Glen. This is a major connection to the Lachine canal recreation destination and has had no measure of security until now.

The lack of priority to ensure cycling

safety goes against the mandate of promoting active mobility and sustainability, and is very disappointing. Not only individual cyclists but also families with young children use this corridor, and it has been a challenge competing with speeding cars with no markings or bollards to provide a minimum of safety.

Even the very popular and busy de Maisonneuve bike path has only recently been marked and outlined with bollards. Pedestrians and cyclists are more vulnerable than drivers and yet their safety seems to be the last to be considered. The city of Westmount can and should do better.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE.

MAINTAIN THE CYCLING LANES, PLEASE – FOR THE CHILDREN

Westmount seems to be intent on opening itself to litigation in the case of injuries suffered by cyclists along cycling ways that are unmaintained. To be in mid-June [at

writing] without painted lines and bollards as protection against heavy, metal vehicles is inexcusable.

As for drivers, without painted lines and bollards, how do they know that bike paths even exist? The school year will be out in one week. All those weeks cycling to school without protection.

Shame on Westmount.

The mayor should walk down the Glen to the South-West Borough, or along Côte St. Antoine to NDG, or along de Maisonneuve to Ville Marie [downtown] to observe how our Montreal neighbours protect their cycling citizens.

Westmount has succeeded in attracting many new young families with kids, many of whom want their children to cycle, but unfortunately, cycling in Westmount is not safe, especially for children.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

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For the record

Late-breaking story – Decarie/Courtrai shooting incident

We published this short article on our website on June 23. As it happens, it did not need further embellishment in the following days. There was no Independent edition June 30.

According to metropolitan-level media, a Montreal police officer and a civilian were killed on June 22 (after the *Independent's* press time) at Decarie Blvd. and de Courtrai Ave. near the Namur Metro station and Jean Talon St. in an incident set off by a shooter, who was himself killed by police. Another officer was wounded.

As a precautionary measure and in search of a possible second suspect – who

turned out not to exist, according to current reports – authorities closed Lexington Ave., Upper Belmont, Lansdowne Ridge, Upper Roslyn and part of Sunnyside in Westmount later that day.

Two witnesses told the *Independent* that they saw police with guns drawn in that area.

At this time (Tuesday, June 23 at about 9 am), I know of no Westmount connection to the actual shooter, actual victims or actual incident's geography. The *Independent* hopes to have more coverage in our next issue, July 7. – DP

Shooter, cont'd from p. 1

tor Mugisha Rutishisha: "At around 4 pm, as soon as we received information from the Public Security department – which was working closely with [Montreal police] – a notice was published on the Citizen Portal, the homepage of the city's website, and on the city's social media channels," he said.

To do so, he added, "we utilized the emergency alert tool on the city's Citizen Portal for the first time to send emergency emails, as well as text messages and voice calls to residents in the area.

"Unfortunately, we noted major techni-

cal failures with the delivery of these messages by our provider, which resulted in reception delays of several hours. We will make the necessary corrections with the provider."

In this regard, the *Independent* asked who the provider is.

"We use Blanko as our service provider for the Citizen Portal from which we send emergency alerts," said Rutishisha.

Blanko is described as a digital agency based near Montreal that creates custom websites, mobile apps and artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

It specializes in software solutions for cities and municipalities.

City mum on status of repairing Mt. Pleasant-Holton stairs

BY JENNIFER BALL

Questioner Marc Henri Brillon, who resides on Delavigne Rd., spoke at the June 2 city council meeting, as he did at two previous council meetings, asking Mayor Michael Stern why he can get no answers as to why the Mt. Pleasant-Holton stairs were closed in April 2025.

Brillon said, "I've been trying to get to the bottom of why the stairs were closed in April of 2025 for basically that long and I guess my question to you is: Is that a satisfactory standard to have to wait this long? Come to three council meetings under different administrations just to find out why the stairs are closed?"

Both Stern and District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie said it is a safety issue that necessitated the closure.

The *Independent* has already reported on the procurement requirements and the awarding of a contract to repair the stairs (see February 10, p. 5 and February 17, p. 8

and May 12, 2026 – p. SL-27) and the reason for the closure, per signage affixed to the perimeter fence that sealed off access that reads: "Due to the deterioration of supports, for your safety, do not use."

On April 24, Mugisha Rutishisha, director of communications for the city, said, "The call for tenders for this project has not yet been published. I should know the exact date of publication [the week of April 27]."

On May 7 the *Independent* learned, "After verification, we can [not] commit to a date just yet, but the publication of the call to tenders should happen very soon. I will get back to you once I know the date for sure."

On June 8 the *Independent* asked Rutishisha,

- Has the Public Works department finalized the procurement requirements?
- Has a contract been awarded?
- Can a timeline for work be drafted?

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

Resident Hutchison: Emergency messages needed in both languages

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

While standard notifications, such as those regarding garbage collection and water work, are sent only to residents registered on the city's Citizen Portal, city communications director Mugisha Rutishisha explained that "emergency alerts can be sent via email, text message and voice-mail to all addresses in Westmount." These methods enable residents without immediate email or website access to receive them.

Beverley Hutchison, a resident of Kit-chener Ave., raised an additional component with the *Independent*: language.

"Once again, I found it an unfair disadvantage, being English. And this time in Westmount!"

On the afternoon of June 22, "the day of the tragic shooting event," her phone rang with a recorded message in French only. "Naturally, I was concerned, being a senior citizen. I phoned city hall but needed an extension to reach someone. That was not going to happen."

Then, she said, "I phoned Public Security, who assured me that all emergency messages were bilingual. But this one definitely was not."

She said she was then advised to call city hall in the morning since business hours had ended at 4:30 pm.

"My point is that the phone message to alert me was only in French" as well as being a recording. "I could not even talk to the message. Emergencies need to be in both languages."

"While we had prepared the alert messages in both English and French," city communications director Mugisha Rutishisha told the *Independent*, "a technical issue with the platform unfortunately caused the delivery failures and resulted in the message being broadcast only in French to some residents.

"We are currently working closely with them to implement necessary fixes, so this system functions perfectly across all channels – emails, texts, and voice calls – in both languages for future emergencies."

Chamber musician Wang plays at sold-out Victoria Hall

BY JENNIFER BALL

Soloist and chamber musician Tong Wang played Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Schubert at Victoria Hall on June 10 during a sold-out event that the city's Community Events department produced.

Wang is a Canadian pianist leading projects that explore the role of art in relation to identity, culture and social-political causes. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Red Deer Symphony Orchestra, and ensembles across North America and Europe.

At this recent concert, she chose to include Ludwig van Beethoven's "Piano sonata no. 30 in E major," Franz Schubert's "Piano sonata in B-flat major," Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Earl Wild – where beauty dwells" and Wesley Chu's "Flower club fantasy" in a piano recital that brought event participants to their feet to proffer a standing ovation.

◀Tong Wang performs her Immortal Tenderness program on June 10 at Victoria Hall.





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Albert Square finished? Finishing?



The saga of a residential development at de Maisonneuve and Prince Albert Ave. has gone on for over a decade (see May 31, 2016 p. 1). Construction of this particular project, the eight-residence Albert Square, began in summer 2021. No “cherry picker” for up-high brick pointing and roofing has been seen since before these photos were taken, and the city appears to have been given the green light to restore absent city infrastructure. The city lamppost visible in the background of the photo at left went in between June 22 and 24, with the one in the foreground at right going in by the next day. Around the corner on de Maisonneuve (not shown), a third one went in within 24 hours of that. Sadly for nearby residents exhausted by the whole exercise, a contractor’s truck was seen after that (albeit for a brief time) – and the street/stop sign remains to be re-installed on the corner.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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LE GALDIN - 38 SSGEC 617, LE SUD-OUEST
\$1,895,000

Players having ‘as much fun as the kids – or more!’

Westmount Soccer Club launches its first inter-city team for 35+ men

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount now has the city’s first-ever men’s intercity soccer team in the Montreal league, according to the new team’s main organizer, Jeremy Jonas.

Serving as vice-president of the Westmount Soccer Club since its founding in 2012 (see April 24-25, 2012, p. 5), Jonas has been involved in running the longstanding youth organization for players up to age 21. He recently took up the challenge to launch the city’s first soccer team for older players.

“After decades of supporting the kids in [the city of] Westmount’s house league and then through the [independent] Westmount Soccer Club, we have now introduced a 35-plus men’s team,” he explained last week. “We wear the same awesome kit as our kids, and frankly have as much fun or more!”

Playing against Montreal boroughs

“It’s a pretty cool community accomplishment to get this [men’s] team together, playing against huge Montreal boroughs,” he explains.

“The team’s recent on-field success is



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY JONAS.

extremely gratifying.” In two recent games, Westmount tied a June 4 game 2-2 and won one 2-1 on June 11.

Unfortunately, though, he added, “we

are not able to have a home field, since none of the fields here in Westmount qualify as acceptable to the [Montreal] league. Westmount would need to complete its

[artificial] turf field project, and then we could train regularly.”

Because there isn’t any field time available in Westmount, Jonas explains, every game has to be an away game.

“That takes us all over the island. Those teams are confused as to how a prosperous city like Westmount doesn’t even have a[n artificial] turf field, whereas we recently played on beautifully lit new turf in places like Villeray and Rosemont.” This felt, “downright glamorous and energizing,” he says. “It feels like walking out into a World Cup game.”

Mayor Michael Stern has stated his support for an artificial turf field, but there is not yet a location or budget or chosen supplier/brand. Marianopolis College has been mentioned as a possible project partner in the past, but its cooperation is not formalized yet either (see June 9, p. 3).

Jonas is a founding member of the Westmount Soccer Club, which is separate from the city’s soccer program organized by the Sports and Recreation department. He was also a District 6 candidate in the November election (see story August 26, 2025, p. 5).

3

Continents

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8

Study Lifers*



The Study

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The Study’s Class of 2026 received offers from leading post-secondary institutions both locally and around the world, including United World Colleges, International School Nido de Aguilas, Collège André-Grasset, Lower Canada College (LCC) Pre-U, Marianopolis College, and Dawson College. This fall, graduates will begin the next chapter of their educational journeys in destinations spanning Montreal and Vancouver, Canada; Santiago, Chile; and Maharashtra, India, joining a global alumnae network that spans 31 countries.

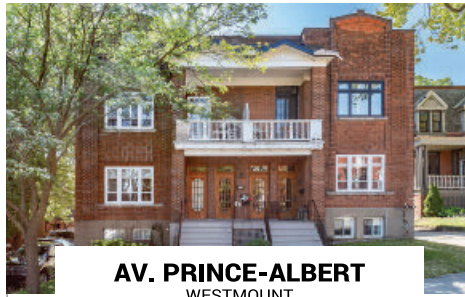


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*Lifers are students who began their journey at The Study in Kindergarten and graduated from Grade 11.

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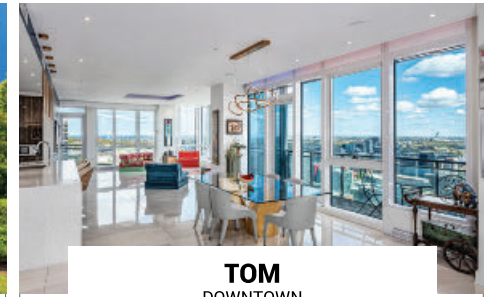
LE SHERBROOKE WESTMOUNT
WESTMOUNT

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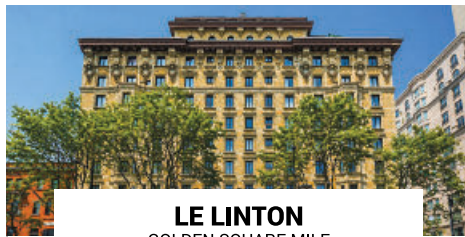
LE BELMONT
WESTMOUNT ADJACENT

Unit:
#514 \$1,995,000



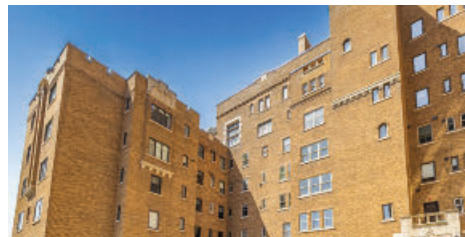
TOM
DOWNTOWN

Unit:
#PH-3907 \$2,349,000



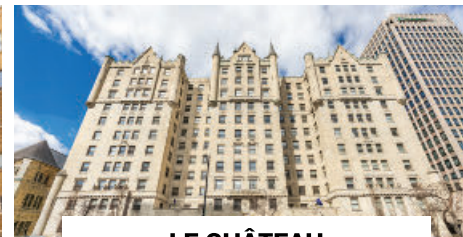
LE LINTON
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#15B \$349,000



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Units:
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#E30-31 \$3,695,000



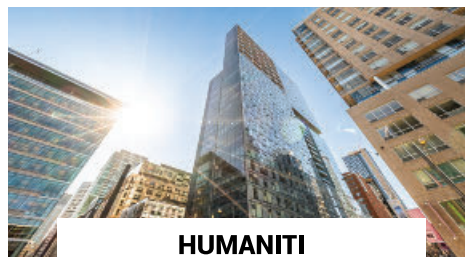
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#2801 \$2,495,000
#PH-3 \$2,199,000
#1002 \$1,495,000
#1606 \$1,099,000
#501 \$999,000
#605 **SOLD**
#2101 \$520,000



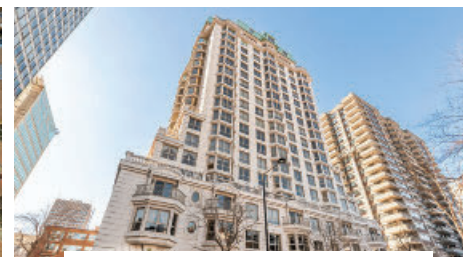
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January transfers: Heavy heavyweights and light lightweights



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in January 2026, gleaned from city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

It is seldom the case that the highest price for sale of a Westmount house also represents the highest monthly mark-up over municipal valuation, while the lowest price also represents the biggest mark-down.

Such was the case in January this year, as 311 Kensington Ave. – built in 1914 by Peter Charles Ogilvie at the corner of Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd.) – sold for just under \$5 million, more than double the price paid for it in 2018, and a whopping 68.9 percent above the new 2026

valuation.

Another house, at 71 Stayner St. went for \$975,000, the first sale under \$1 million since 49 York St. sold for \$805,000 in October 2025.

The Stayner property had a tax assessment of \$1,505,600, thus a mark-down of 35.2 percent, beating a 28.1-percent slash from the valuation of 317 Claremont Ave., but those were the only two January property sales to be marked down.

The eight residential sales brought a raw average price of \$2,387,500, with four sales over \$2 million and four under that level, and with an average mark-up of 13.6 percent, which would suggest that the “average” house in Westmount would have a value just under \$3 million, roughly where it has stood for the past two years.

Condos mostly below valuation

While the single-family sales generally sold above valuation, the same cannot be said for Westmount condominium sales, where only one of seven sales actually sold above tax value.

The volume of condominium sales almost matched the number of single-family transfers in January, with seven

sales ranging from \$825,000 for an apartment on Academy Rd. to \$2,680,000 for a sixth-floor apartment at 1 Wood Ave. that had been totally renovated, thus resulting in a 32.8-percent mark-up over the new 2026 valuation.

The other ratios ranged down from -1.7 percent to -41.7 percent, the latter for a sixth-floor penthouse unit atop the smaller of the two towers making up 1 Wood Ave. (A quick examination of all the condominium sales negotiated in the last two months of 2025 shows that only five of 15 sold for more than their new 2026 valuations.)

Sheinart's building sold

A notable property in lower Westmount changed hands in January, as 3001 St. Antoine St., corner Atwater Ave., was sold by a numbered company headed by Bernard Sheinart.

The building had housed Sheinart's clothing store for almost a century, opening in 1919 and closing thirteen years ago (see April 9, 2013, p. 21) before starting a lease with Sherwin-Williams Paints, which is still there.

The *Independent* uncovered three more

sales registered in 2025 that were not included in the lists of transfer taxes from city hall, including one garage that was sold in August by the proprietor of Apt. 204 at 1 Wood Ave. to another owner in the same building, before he sold the rest of his property in December.

Another missing transfer involved the December sale of 418 Metcalfe Ave., a townhouse between Springfield Ave. and Sherbrooke St., which sold for \$1,800,000.



The Sheinart's building at the time of the shop's closure in 2013.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



71 Stayner.



311 Kensington.



3001 St. Antoine St. All photos June 26 of this year unless otherwise stated.

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in January

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
634 Carleton	Jean-Marc Huot & Lisa Ann Teolis	\$3,600,000	\$3,437,400	4.7%
317 Claremont	Victoria Nicole Papp	\$1,530,000	\$2,128,500	-28.1%
311 Kensington	Maria-Cristina Gentile-Grassi	\$4,920,000	\$2,913,100	68.9%
346 Kitchener	Qifang Wang	\$2,075,000	\$2,005,800	3.4%
4480 Sherbrooke	Massood Besharat	\$1,380,000	\$1,254,200	10.0%
71 Stayner	estate Nicole Lagacé	\$975,000	\$1,505,600	-35.2%
628 Victoria	Vincent Bégin & Martine Laberge	\$3,295,000	\$2,390,700	37.8%
36 York	Marielle Beauchemin & Michael Arscott	\$1,325,000	\$1,176,900	12.6%
CONDOMINIUMS				
46 Academy #17	Chantal Ringuet & Pierre Ancil	\$825,000	\$1,025,400	-19.5%
285 Clarke #101	Donald Holdner & Elena Konopleva	\$975,000	\$1,204,000	-19.0%
331 Grosvenor	Milan Jelaca & Rebecca Grant	\$922,500	\$938,100	-1.7%
200 Lansdowne #903	Peter Charles Quinn & Shelagh Jean Quinn	\$1,250,000	\$1,508,000	-17.1%
4175 St.Catherine # 801	Linda Goldwasser	\$2,300,000	\$2,496,900	-7.9%
1 Wood # 603	Adam Benjamin & Lauren Brownstein	\$2,680,000	\$2,017,400	32.8%
1 Wood #PH7	Miriam Shapiro	\$950,000	\$1,628,700	-41.7%
OTHER				
3001 St. Antoine	2683903 Canada Inc.	\$2,350,000	\$1,993,500	17.9%
EARLIER SALES				
418 Metcalfe (December)	Sanooz Rahmati & Ali Taghizadheh-Azari	\$1,800,000	\$1,671,700	7.7%
1 Wood #C048 (August)	Moise Fefer	\$40,000	1	
1 Wood # 204 (December)	Moise Fefer	\$1,200,000	\$2,943,000	-59.2%

¹Valuation is included as part of the valuation for Apt. 204.



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NOUVELLES

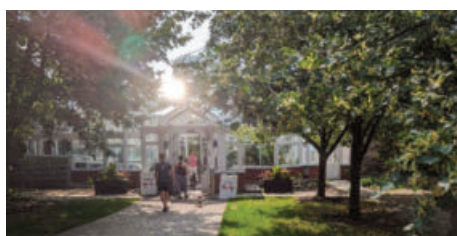
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DU CONSEIL

Mardi 4 août

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Tuesday, August 4



Rappels estivaux

Consultez les rappels saisonniers pour profiter au maximum de l'été à Westmount. Découvrez-y des rappels opportuns et des informations sur les parcs, les activités et plus encore.

westmount.org/ete

Refonte du Plan d'urbanisme

La Ville de Westmount entreprend la refonte de ses outils de planification et de réglementation d'urbanisme, une démarche qui permettra d'établir une vision renouvelée de l'aménagement et du développement de son territoire à l'horizon de 2050.

citoyen.westmount.org/projets

Travaux et projets

Plusieurs travaux et projets d'infrastructure sont prévus à travers la Ville au cours de l'été. Consultez le Portail citoyen et le site Web pour connaître tous les avis de travaux et les mises à jour.

westmount.org/travaux

Sécuriser les trajets scolaires

La Ville met en place un plan pour sécuriser les trajets scolaires autour du secteur de l'Hôtel de Ville. Pour en savoir plus, visiter la page du projet dans le Portail citoyen.

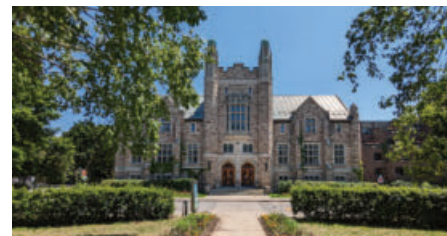
citoyen.westmount.org/projets

Ville de Montréal :

travaux d'aqueducs d'urgence

Des travaux d'urgence de la Ville de Montréal entraînent la fermeture d'une conduite principale de distribution d'eau sous l'avenue Atwater. Tous sont invités à réduire leur consommation d'eau potable.

westmount.org/actualites



Overhaul of the Urban Planning Programme

The City of Westmount is undertaking an overhaul of its Urban Planning Programme and planning by-laws, a process that will establish a renewed vision for the planning and development of the city through 2050.

citoyen.westmount.org/projects

Roadworks and Projects

Several roadworks and infrastructure projects are expected to be underway this summer throughout the City. Consult the Citizen Portal and the City website for all construction notices and updates.

westmount.org/works

Summer Reminders

Consult the City's seasonal reminders to make the most of summer in Westmount. Discover timely reminders and information about parks, activities and more.

westmount.org/summer

Safe Routes to Schools

The City is implementing a plan to make school routes safer in the area around City Hall. For more information, visit the project page on the Citizen Portal.

citoyen.westmount.org/projects

Ville de Montréal:

Emergency water main repairs

Emergency repairs being carried out by Ville de Montréal have resulted in the closure of a water main under Atwater Avenue. All are encouraged to reduce their drinkable water consumption.

westmount.org/works

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Vernissage — Exposition :

Louise Campion

La Galerie du Victoria Hall présente l'exposition *Les mots de tous les jours* de l'artiste Louise Campion, du 10 juillet au 14 août.

Le vernissage aura lieu le 9 juillet de 18 h à 20 h et est ouvert à tous, sans inscription.

À travers le dessin, la peinture et l'écriture, l'artiste explore les thèmes de la résilience, du soin et des liens humains à travers les gestes du quotidien.

westmount.org/evenements

CinéFil : *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006)

15 juillet, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Apportez votre projet de tricot, de crochet ou de broderie et venez visionner un film en compagnie d'autres créateurs!

westmount.org/evenements

Collecte de sang Héma-Québec

22 juillet, 13 h 30, Victoria Hall. Faites un don de sang et aidez à sauver des vies. Héma-Québec recommande de prendre rendez-vous avant de se présenter à la collecte.

westmount.org/evenements

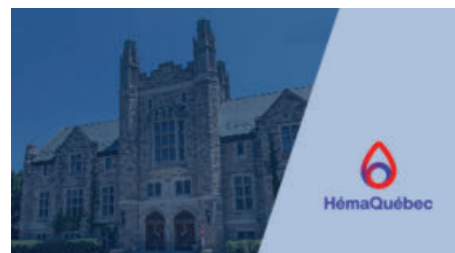
Club de cinéma et concerts d'été

Cet été, profitez d'une programmation culturelle gratuite au Victoria Hall et au parc Westmount!

Les concerts d'été ont lieu les dimanches à 14 h au parc Westmount près de l'étang, près de la lagune, du 5 juillet au 2 août, et présentent une variété de styles musicaux. En cas de pluie, les concerts seront annulés.

Le Club de cinéma se déroule chaque jeudi à 14 h à la Bibliothèque, du 9 au 30 juillet, avec une sélection de films variés dans une ambiance conviviale. Aucune inscription n'est requise.

westmount.org/evenements



LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Vernissage—Exhibition:

Louise Campion

The Victoria Hall Gallery presents *Les mots de tous les jours* by artist Louise Campion, from July 10 to August 14.

The vernissage will take place on July 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. and is open to all, with no registration required.

Through drawing, painting, and writing, the artist explores themes of resilience, care, and human connection through everyday gestures.

westmount.org/events

Fiber & Film: *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006)

July 15, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Bring your knitting, crochet or embroidery project and enjoy a film with other crafters!

westmount.org/events

Héma-Québec Blood Drive

July 22, 1:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Donate blood and help save lives. Héma-Québec recommends booking an appointment before going to the blood drive.

westmount.org/events

Summer Film Club and Concert Series

This summer, enjoy free cultural programming at Victoria Hall and in Westmount Park.

The Summer Concert Series runs on Sundays at 2 p.m. in Westmount Park by the lagoon, from July 5 to August 2, featuring a variety of musical styles. In case of rain, concerts will be cancelled.

The Film Club takes place every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Library, from July 9 to 30, featuring a selection of films in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. No registration is required.

westmount.org/events



Sierra and Bulle, both adorable



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Sierra, the beautiful silver-and-gray tabby with huge green eyes, and Bulle, the white-and-caramel shorthair with gold-tone eyes, are both at the SPCA Montérégie cattery.

They are about three years old, and they each have their distinct little personalities. Sierra is quietly shy at the onset, but then warms up from her perch or cat tree cubby-hole to set forth for warm cuddles and petting. For his part, Bulle is quite pleased to be approached and bonds sweetly as he is charming and personable.

Both Sierra and Bulle will thrive in homes with a single person or a quiet couple, enjoying the routine of companionship and play. They are very healthy, up to date with their inoculations and sterilized, and have had their parasite treatments, FIV/FeLV testing and microchipping. Please reach out to the adoption coordinators at the SPCA Montérégie's cattery at adoptionpcamonteregie@gmail.com in order for them to contact you and discuss your interest in adoption.

Then plan your visit to the shelter, located at a pleasant drive to St. Angèle de Monnoir, at 178 chemin du Vide, J0L 1P0. You can refer to its website at www.spcamonteregie.com or consult its Facebook page as well for more information. With a motto that reaches out with "rescue, protect, adopt," it offers solace to animals every day. At this time of year when shelters are so full, it is a wonderful chance to adopt. Please consider Sierra or Bulle as the volunteers have the joy of putting a loving little soul into your arms to share love.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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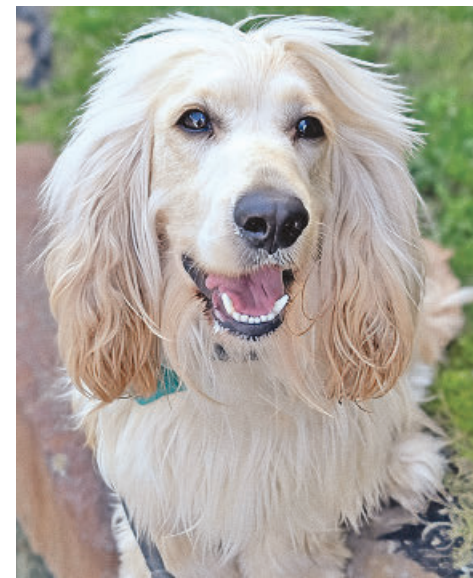
LYSANNE FOWLER

At two years of age, still growing and socializing, Archie is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel. He is ready for a quiet home environment where he can bond with a new family and learn the routine of a household and neighbourhood areas with other friendly young dogs. I look at him and see a mix of blond cocker spaniel with fluffy ears and maybe blond Labrador. What do you see?

So adorable, he is friendly and intelligent. He enjoys learning as he is ready to leave temporary shelter life and catch up with the activities and bonding that will now be routine in his new environment upon adoption.

Archie is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. You can find out more about him by consulting the Montreal SPCA website at www.spcamonteregie.com, then refer to his information page from his identification number, 2000357517. You can then plan your visit with Archie as the shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, with Saturday and Sunday

Young Archie



from 11 am to 6 pm. The Montreal SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4. The adoption coordinators will be pleased to greet you and tell you more about Archie in order for you to visit with him at the kennel as a family. Please do not hesitate to consider him for adoption and bring him back to join you in everyday comforts and joyful play as a member of your family.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Gropper, Herscovitch, Kuper & Reitman

Four Temple members receive One World Award for contribution to Holocaust education



Rachel Gropper.



Alice Herscovitch.



Eva Kuper.



Julia Reitman.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Temple Emanu-El-Beth-Sholom hosted a special shabbat, a *shabbat kavod* (honouring the sabbath with effort), to award four Temple members the One World Award for their outstanding contributions to

Holocaust education. The 2026 recipients are Rachel Gropper, Alice Herscovitch, Eva Kuper, and Julia Reitman.

Temple is located at 4100 Sherbrooke, corner of Wood Ave., and there on May 29, senior rabbi Lisa Grushcow said, “[They are] four very worthy recipients [and you] will not be surprised to hear they were quite reticent to accept any honour.”

Rabbi Grushcow said that the core idea behind the One World Award – which is named in honour and in recognition of the legacy of Rabbi Harry Joshua Stern, who was rabbi at Temple from 1927 until 1973, is “To honour those who have contributed to the life of our society, our city, our country, inside but also beyond the walls of Temple.”

Rachel (“Rae”) Gropper is on the board at the Montreal Holocaust Museum and she regularly speaks at schools regarding the Holocaust.

Alice Herscovitch is currently a consul-

tant on donor and government relations at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. She recently retired as the museum’s executive director after 11 years, during which time the organization grew considerably in terms of audience, programming and funding.

Eva Kuper pursued a career in education and educational administration. Since 2005, she has been a volunteer at the Montreal Holocaust Museum and has been a board member since 2013.

Julia Reitman is the governor emeritus of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, a position which she has held since 2023, and she is the chair of the “Give Voice” capital campaign for the new Montreal Holocaust Museum building.

The Montreal Holocaust Museum is fundraising for a new building because its current facility can no longer meet the scale, demand and mission of the institution. The museum has outgrown its space,

faced surging educational demand, and wanted to expand its role in combating anti-Semitism, racism and hate. Its current address is 5151 Côte St. Catherine and the new building, located at 3535 St. Laurent Blvd., is expected to open this summer.

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Two more Greene rail bridge strikes

Two vehicles were involved in strikes to the rail bridge over Greene Ave. on June 25 and July 3.

In the first case, a roofing truck’s extension device for placing skylights and other heavy items hit the protective I-beam. In the second, a more usual white delivery van did so.

Both were northbound/uphill, coming from St. Antoine St. towards Dorchester. – WI.

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Police Report #1**Armed police deployed on summit after Côte des Neiges shooting**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For a short time last week, some Westmounters with homes on the summit found themselves caught up in the frenzy of police activity after the shooting in Côte des Neiges in which a police officer, a bystander and the assailant were killed.

A spokesman for the Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St. confirmed to the *Independent* that rumours of a second shooter being active during the June 22 incident led to the deployment of police officers to an area around Sunnyside Ave. on the western edge of the summit.

"We didn't know if there was a second shooter," said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, adding that the action was taken after a concerned resident placed a call to the police.

"We thought he [the possible second shooter] might have been in the sector," he continued. "That's was the reason for the deployment of the police officers. But when the dust settled in the end, it turned out there was only one shooter."

A resident of the summit area who witnessed some of the police activity sent the *Independent* a video from that day.

In it, a half-dozen police officers walk in formation on both sides along an upper Westmount street with handguns deployed and pointing forward.

At one point, they are seen – guns drawn, ready to fire – crouched behind a car in a driveway as well as on the front lawn of a home, then they scurry along while carrying out a systematic property-to-property search.

"They were all over the place," the resident (who asked not to be identified) said in an interview, while adding that Westmount Public Security's public safety officers (PSOs) were also present.

Public Security praised

While he acknowledged finding the whole experience alarming, he described the conduct of Westmount Public Security as exemplary. "They were respectful. They were concerned. They did everything properly," he said.

Saying that he and a small group of four or five residents watched briefly from outside his home, he continued, "We were really appreciative of how they [the PSOs] treated us, sensitized us and were really concerned for our safety."

He said the residents were asked to



PHOTO COURTESY OF A WESTMOUNT RESIDENT.

shelter in place inside their homes with doors locked, and told to not come out until being given an all-clear.

"It lasted about 15 to 20 minutes," said the resident.

"I can't say enough how fabulous Westmount Public Security acted in this whole affair," he added. "Really, really professional, respectful, really concerned for all of us. My hat's off to all those guys."

Regarding the police, he said the residents had almost no interaction with them as the officers were fully preoccupied with their armed search. "When we first came out on our lawn when the police were walking by, they yelled out at us, 'Get back in your houses, please,' which we did."

Another resident's view of upper Westmount police op

A second Westmount resident contacted the *Independent* by text the day of the incident and summarized the upper Westmount police operation of June 22 this way:

"[There were] many cops on Upper Lansdowne and Sunnyside. They knocked on my door looking for a second suspect dressed in black... [They] told me to stay in, which of course I did...."

"[I had gotten] close to my window to see what was going on and realized one of the cops had a gun aimed at me or in my direction, walking towards my driveway (the one who then knocked).

"Yes, it is very unsettling to see eight cops with guns drawn taking cover behind [trees] and signalling to each other." – DP.

Police Report #2**Thieves target mid-range cars in Westmount**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Car thieves targeting vehicles parked in Westmount appeared to have shifted some of their tactics last week when they went after some modestly-priced makes rather than luxury cars, as was most often the case in recent months.

Since the beginning of this year, car thieves seemed particularly interested in stealing Land Rovers off the streets of Westmount, making off with five of the

higher-end SUVs since early January.

Out of several cars stolen in Westmount recently, a Lexus was the most costly. It was taken from a parking spot near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Côte St. Antoine Rd. overnight on June 19.

According to an incident report filed at Station 12 by the owner, there were no signs left behind on the pavement of forced entry such as broken glass where the car was parked.

On June 21, a Honda CR-V parked over-

night near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Wood Ave. was stolen. As with the previous case, there were no signs of force being used. (The Honda CR-V has long been coveted by vehicle thieves.)

Finally, a Hyundai Tucson compact crossover SUV was reported by its owner as missing from a lot in downtown Montreal where it had been parked on June 24, although it was later recovered on Clarke Ave. in Westmount.

Station 12 community relations officer

Cst. Mike Yigit acknowledged he was especially surprised by this last incident.

"When I saw this, I thought it had maybe been taken by joy riders," he said, referring to usually young car thieves who steal for the thrill.

However, he said some drivers forget where they parked and report their car as stolen, only to find it later a few blocks from where they thought they left it.

But at the same time, he noted that there tends to be a modest upswing in car thefts during the summer in Montreal as the warmer weather makes people more relaxed and less vigilant, creating opportunities for roaming car thieves.



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Women Leaders Cocktail event raises money for YWCA



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Karine Eid, Monique Jérôme-Forget, Danièle Henkel, Mitsou Gélinas and Geneviève Borne.

The annual Presidents and Women Leaders Cocktail celebrated its fourth edition in the penthouse lounge of the Bank of Montreal head office.

Under the chairmanship of **Karine Eid**, head business banking, Eastern Canada BMO Financial Group, the sold-out *soirée* brought together architects of Quebec's corporate landscape.

Among the luminaries in attendance were **Mélanie Joly**, Canada's minister of Industry; **Danièle Henkel**, senator and founder of Groupe Danièle Henkel; **Monique Jérôme-Forget**, former minister of Finance and president of the Treasury Board of Quebec; and **Mitsou Gélinas**, singer/media celeb/publisher.

Honorary vice-chairs of the evening were **Geneviève Vigneault**, board vp BCF business law, and **Nathalie Dionne**, Telus.

MC was **Geneviève Borne**, the evening's honorary ambassador. Executive coach **Danielle Cloutier**, president DC Executive Coaching, hosted the VIP pre-reception.

The event drew the backing of key corporate *continued on p. 22*



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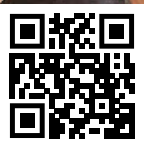


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Renée Vézina.



Nadine Gelly and Robert Vézina.



Diane Henry, Geneviève Vigneault and Danielle Cloutier.



Mélanie Joly.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

partners. Host partner was the BMO Financial Group. Premier sponsors including BCF Business Law, TELUS, Groupe Petra, Karine Joncas Cosmétiques and PCL Construction. The evening's menu was created by BMO lounge executive chef **Florian Coignée** and sommelière **Kathleen McNeil**.

The room buzzed with top-tier execu-

tives spanning architecture, real estate, law, finance, higher education and philanthropy.

"The evening was much more than traditional networking. It is a premier vanguard designed to recognize, elevate and accelerate the brilliant women who are actively re-shaping our economy and our society," stated event founder Robert Vézina, RJV Communications.

Noted in the crowded room were **Diane**

Henry, president Patrimonica; **Geneviève Vigneault**; **Dominique Anglade**, former vice-premier of Quebec and head of HEC École des Dirigeants et Dirigeantes; **Melissa Garnier**, Telus; **Isabelle Héroux**, Groupe Petra; **Véronique Bergevin**, PCL Construction; **Geneviève Vigneault**, BCF Business Law; **Stéphanie Trudeau**, Énergir; **Renée Vézina**, president of the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, and **Ruth Vachon**, Réseau des femmes d'affaires du

Québec.

The evening championed the Women's Y of Montreal Foundation (YWCA Montreal), dedicated to building a brighter more equitable future for the city's women and girls.

In a special moment of the night, Robert Vézina took the stage with **Nadine Gelly**, YWCA Montreal board president, to present \$35,000 to the YWCA Montreal.



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Greene Ave. is growing. Another delicious neighbour has just moved in. Westmounters Tania and Robert Itzkovitz launched "the first ever Smashberry!" during the Quartier Greene Festival on June 27.

Their new space offers traditional and innovative takes on açai the Brazilian "superfruit."

"Açai ('ah-sigh-ee') is one of the most antioxidant-dense fruits on the planet," explained Robert. "The açai we offer is

pure; not watered down."

I noted their "superfood" delights ranging from açai bowls to smoothies. The site – where Suetables was until it moved up the street – is perfect for sitting. Reflecting off mirrors, light fills the space. The colour of the walls and inviting sofas was inspired by the colour of the açai berry: a rich, dark purple.

Passing by, I caught Robert taking down the window coverings. As he did, sidewalk travellers quickly stepped inside. As well as attracting açai cognoscenti – there are many – Smashberry has some fun merch. Sweatshirts, colourful tees and water bottles are covetable take-aways.

Team leader Kelly Sawka was still greeting a crowd of newcomers when I departed, happily sipping my smoothie. The official launch day had a berry-inspired balloon installation. The prominent *in situ* portal dialled up drama on the street, adding punch to the community day: a berry best-in-show.

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Smashberry brings açai superfruit to Greene



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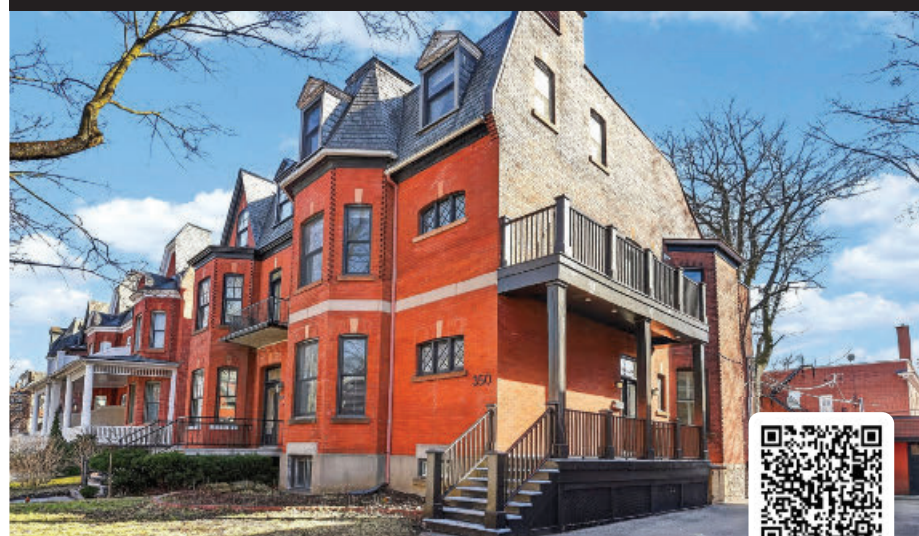
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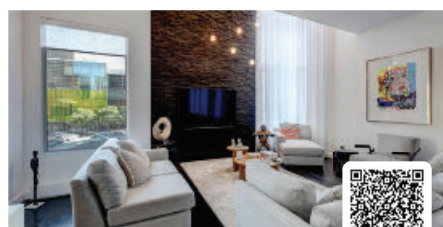
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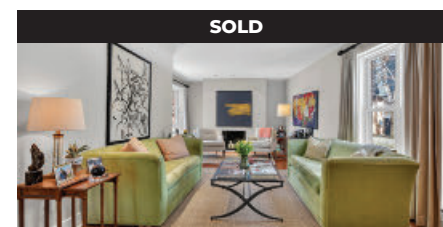
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