

Few details available yet in mayor's case

Mayor, city councillor face ethical allegations

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Allegations are flying about council members' recent words and behaviour at city meetings, and the province's municipal watchdog has seen fit to start proceedings in one case.

These charges are taking place under the city's By-law 1656 adopted April 14 concerning the "Code of Ethics and Conduct for all members of the city council and city employees." It came into effect April 17.

Over the summer, when many readers – and the *Independent* – were on holiday, these allegations against Mayor Stern were widely reported by metropolitan-level press outlets in both languages. They concern events at closed-door committee meetings April 8, 9 and May 22.

The Direction des enquêtes et des poursuites en intégrité municipale stated, in French, in a July 13 document: "In effect, the information in our possession may show that he [Stern] committed infringements of the rules..."

That document starts a case before a provincial tribunal called the Quebec Municipal Commission ("CMQ" from its French initials), to be heard at a date not known by press time.

Mayor: 'Allegations, not findings'

At the August 4 city council meeting, the mayor addressed this issue as it had come up in what he called "media reports."

He said they were "allegations against me – not findings" to which "I intend to continued on p. 8

Westmount to represent ... in Mongolia!



From left, St. Andrew's Rover Vinh-Duy Zaiser and 2nd Westmount Cubs Scouter Lien-Khanh Ho were about to set off from Dorval airport on July 23 to represent Scouts Canada at the 3rd International Mongolia Jamboree. "Westmount Scouting groups have proudly worn the city crest on their uniform since the 1960s," said Scouting volunteer Virginia Elliott. "The city flag borrowed from the Sports and Recreation department (thank you, Andrew Maislin) will once again be waved over foreign skies." See p. 3 for more.

PHOTO COURTESY OF V. ELLIOTT.

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Residents can sign up starting Aug. 11

New 'bodyweight workout' option added to Sports, Rec programs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If summer seems to have come and gone with the click of a computer mouse, it may be because it is again time to start clicking for Westmount activities. This reality is at least the case for Westmount residents who want to be among the first to sign up August 11 for the city's fall sports and recreation programs that generally

continue through November and December.

While local residents are given sign-up priority until August 25, registration is then opened to non-residents as long as space is available.

"Registration for fall programs can be completed online or in person at the Sports and Recreation office in the Westmount recre- continued on p. 3



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Westmount represented ... in Mongolia!

A Westmount Scouting contingent participated in the 3rd International Mongolia Jamboree from July 26 to August 1.

“Yes, it happened,” Scouter Virginia Elliott in reply to the *Independent's* verifying query after a pre-event email.

Also present from Westmount were Rover Vinh-Duy Zaiser and 2nd Westmount Cubs Scouter Lien-Khanh Ho, pictured on p. 1 before travelling to Asia, and Rover Minh-Anh Zaiser.

Home of Genghis Khan

The event took place in Khentii Province, home of Genghis Khan.

“It was a wonderful experience with the Mongolian hosts welcoming about 1,000 Scouting youth and adults from seven other countries (Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan,

Kazakhstan, Canada, US and France),” continued Elliott.

The four Canadians participated in programming and cultural exchanges. The theme of the jamboree was “Following in the footsteps of Changgis [Genghis] Khan.” Activities centred around traditional Mongolian sports – archery, wrestling, horse-back riding – and culture/calligraphy and ger (yurt) construction.

“As ‘international service’ team members (i.e. volunteers), we helped run programs and participated in the activities. We were treated as honoured guests and had a chance to visit several monuments, a fluoride mine, museums, a nomadic family and a Scout camp.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF V. ELLIOTT.

Sports, Rec, cont'd from p. 1

ation centre,” explained Dave Lapointe, as director of culture, sports, recreation and social development, and now acting as city director general and city clerk. “Our team will be happy to assist you with registration and provide information about all the programs featured in this brochure,” he adds in the city pamphlet. This is accessible on the city’s website and can also be consulted at the office.

“At the last minute,” he told the *Independent* August 4, “we have added a new fitness program for adults.” This is called “Bodyweight Workout,” taking place in the Lodge Room at Victoria Hall on Wednesdays at 6 pm. “It is available for all fitness levels and as a 60-minute session and “designed to elevate your heart rate and tone your entire body using zero equipment.” It is adaptable for all fitness levels. While not in the booklet, it is available on the online registration portal.

In an effort to integrate persons with a disability into the regular programming, those who so register “may have a com-

panion attend with them at no cost,” the brochure states.

A full line-up of numerous dance, exercise, art and other programs is listed in the categories of youth, adults and seniors.

Youth programs

Among several pages of the youth programs are babysitting, basketball, break-dance, ballet, art, drama, hip hop, karate, indoor soccer and yoga.

For adults

Programs for adults include belly dancing, ballroom dance, basketball, Boot Camp, choir, pickleball, classical ballet, tai chi, theatre dance and yoga. Special low-intensity programs are also scheduled for seniors.

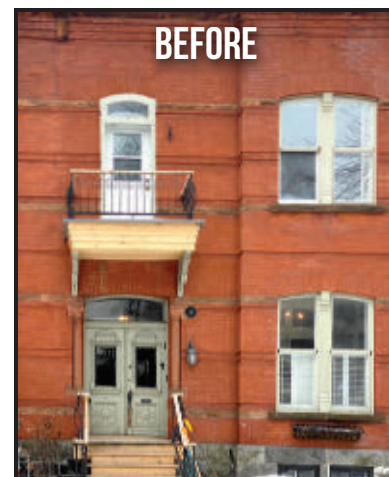
Hockey programs for many

Hockey for youth at the AA, BB, A and C levels is provided in the inter-city teams.

It is also available for players over age 18 in the categories of senior, executive, competitive old-timers, men’s and women’s recreational hockey and drop-in play.

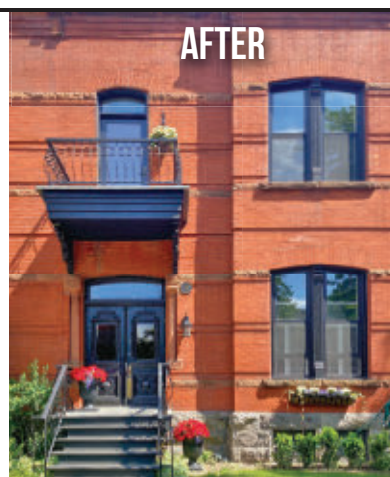


From left, Minh-Anh Zaiser, Vinh-Duy Zaiser, Lien-Khanh Ho and Virginia Elliott.



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'Think blanket forts, cardboard castles'

Library's new event Aug. 22: 'Living Room in the Park'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new event called "A Living Room in the Park" is being planned by the Westmount Public Library for Saturday, August 22, 10 am to 3 pm.

It is set to take place on the flat green space immediately across from the library's

east-facing entrance.

Described as a "cozy and creative free event" for all ages, the event is the brainchild of Westmount High School student Nhu Phuong Minh Dang and hosted by the library's Studio makerspace (open workshop), according to its specialized facilitator Claire Pienaar.

"The one-day pop-up event will feature simple materials, creative imagination and informal activities, built by and for community members," she told the *Independent*. "Think blanket forts, cardboard castles and plenty of crafts." The event is inspired by a concept of the "third place" – neither home nor work, but "a welcoming environment where everyone can gather, linger, and connect."

School assignment

Originally developed as a school assignment, Nhu's proposal to the library caught the interest of the team at The Studio, Pienaar states.

"Nhu's project aligns with so much of what we value and support at The Studio: accessibility, creativity, intergenerational programming, and connection across community. The collaboration was a perfect fit."

In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Westmount Room inside the library. "Anyone interested in helping build the space or animating activities can contact The Studio at studio@westmount.org or 514.989.5300, ext. 5601.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, CLLR. ARONSON,
FOR DEFENCE OF DUE PROCESS

We wish to congratulate our Westmount municipal councillor, Matt Aronson, for his principled defence of due process during the unprecedented tension of Westmount city council's marathon meeting on August 4.

Councillor Aronson spoke out for the right of councillors to respond to questions, to debate and to resist arbitrary wielding of power by Mayor Michael Stern, who showed no sense of compromise in his role as the meeting chair.

A group of councillors bravely dissented.

And they are in the right, because a winner-takes-all approach in municipal politics is sure to lead to a grave crisis.

At such a moment, due process in council meetings is all important, and we wish to thank Matt Aronson and his colleagues for defending that principle.

MARILYNN GILLIES & PATRICK BARNARD,
MELVILLE AVE.

QUESTIONS?
THAT'S OUT OF ORDER

The August 4 city council meeting provided another example of what many residents see as an increasingly closed and secretive style of governance.

During question period, I asked a question directed specifically to the city councillors. Before Councillor Matt Aronson could answer – and he was clearly trying to – the mayor interrupted and declared that council was “not a place to discuss

this,” effectively shutting down any discussion.

My question concerned the city's general committee [i.e. city council's private meeting] minutes, which are publicly available on Westmount's website. I had noticed instances where the mayor had been called out of order by a councillor, and I simply asked for an explanation. Given recent media reports [reporting on employees and the province] alleging uncivil behaviour by the mayor toward city staff, I believe residents need to understand what is happening at city hall.

The mayor replied: “We're not answering that question... The whole matter is before the courts... We're not addressing that... I don't want him [Councillor Aronson] to answer... This is not a place to discuss this.”

I was then escorted away from the podium by Public Security.

This exchange raises several questions. If city council is not the place to discuss matters already contained in publicly available council documents, then where should those discussions take place? Council meetings are meant to provide accountability to the public, not to prevent elected councillors from answering legitimate questions.

The mayor's statement that “the whole matter is before the courts” raises further questions. Which court? What matter? Who is involved? What are the costs to taxpayers?

It is important to note that, to the best of my knowledge, the incidents I asked

about are separate from those currently under investigation by the Quebec Municipal Commission.

The mayor has been in office for only nine months, yet there already appears to be a pattern of limiting debate, restricting councillors from speaking and avoiding public scrutiny. Residents deserve a forum where transparency and accountability are more than slogans, and where all elected representatives, not just the mayor, are free to speak on behalf of the citizens who elected them.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.

A MUNICIPALITY IS NOT
A CORPORATION, NOR IS
A MAYOR A CEO

An open letter to Mayor Michael Stern

Mr. Mayor,

Over the past several months, I have sent you numerous emails about the Argyle [one-way] project. You have not replied to a single one or even acknowledged receiving them.

After attending last Tuesday's council meeting [August 4], I understand why.

It felt as though I was witnessing government by decree rather than government by deliberation. There was no meaningful debate. Councillors who sought to ask difficult questions or express a different point of view were cut off and effectively muzzled. The outcome appeared to have been decided long before the meeting began.

A city council meeting is supposed to be a place where ideas are tested, questions are answered, different points of view are heard and elected officials debate important issues before decisions are made. That isn't what I saw on Tuesday night.

Residents spent months researching the issues, reviewing the city's own documents, writing respectful emails, attending meetings, asking thoughtful questions, and even obtaining independent legal opinions. Yet those efforts were largely met with silence or dismissal.

Listening is not the same as waiting for someone to finish speaking. It requires engagement, curiosity and a genuine willingness to consider opposing viewpoints. When emails go unanswered, legitimate concerns are brushed aside and responses amount to little more than repeating the same talking points, listening becomes a slogan – an exercise in appearances rather than genuine engagement.

I couldn't help feeling that Westmount was being run less like a democratic municipality and more like a private corporation, with a CEO who viewed disagreement as an inconvenience rather than an essential part of good governance. A mayor

is not a CEO. Councillors are not employees expected to fall into line, and residents are not obstacles to be managed. Disagreement is not disloyalty. Debate is not dysfunction. It is democracy doing exactly what it is supposed to do.

In the last several council meetings I have attended, you have shown very little patience, very little respect for process and proper procedure, very little regard for residents who have engaged with city hall in good faith, and very little respect for those councillors who sought to ask difficult questions or express a different point of view.

So I have to ask...Why did you want to become mayor?

SOPHIE DYNBORT, ARGYLE AVE.

DOES COUNCIL CARE ABOUT
RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON
CONSEQUENTIAL DECISIONS?

On July 7, council approved the biggest change in city-wide zoning in decades. It permitted the construction of auxiliary dwelling units (ADU) in Westmount.

This means a separate apartment, even a rental unit, within a house or attached to the exterior, perhaps built in a backyard. This applies to detached or semi-detached houses, totalling over 2,400 in Westmount. The ADUs can also be big, sized up to 35 percent of the interior footage of a house including the basement.

This major change impacts how Westmount will look, feel and function. There will be positives and negatives. Westmounters should have expected public consultation on this. A bare minimum would be a public information session laying out the consequences and gathering resident input.

Council rejected any community engagement. Provincial legislation does give municipalities *carte blanche* to enact ADU by-laws that override existing zoning without any engagement with the community. Council deliberately chose this path, shutting out residents.

What's puzzling to me is Mayor Michael Stern's statements at the start of the same council meeting: “Democracy depends on all of us,” “it depends on residents being informed and engaged,” “Residents have every right to know how and why these decisions are being made,” and “Their input helps shape the future of Westmount.”

That night, council's action totally contradicted Mayor Stern's assertions. Words matter. But, actions speak louder.

If council believes its current exclusionary approach to leadership is in the best interests of the community, then just say so. Skip the empty promises on engage-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ment with residents. They are tired of it. If council is serious about involving the community, then demonstrate it. An informed public discussion on ADUs is long overdue.

DENIS BIRO, 5000 DE MAISONNEUVE, NDG

ARE ALL CHILDREN’S SAFETY NEEDS TREATED EQUALLY?

Protecting students is unquestionably a top priority. Measures that directly improve student safety must be prioritized and implemented without unnecessary delay. At the same time, municipal safety decisions must be applied consistently, supported by evidence and proportionate to their effects on the community.

The mayor recently stated that “the decision has been made” to convert Argyle Ave. from two-way to one-way traffic [south from Thornhill Ave.], citing student safety near Selwyn House School. In October 2025, Selwyn House reported an enrolment of 607 students.

École internationale de Montréal reports that its secondary campus in Westmount serves approximately 560 students. The two schools are located on adjacent

blocks, with Selwyn House west of Argyle and École internationale east of it. Yet the street in front of École internationale has a sidewalk on only one side. Although residents and students have repeatedly requested a second sidewalk, it has not been built.

This request is consistent with official transportation-safety guidance. Quebec’s Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility recommends sidewalks on both sides of streets along school zones and school routes.

A second sidewalk would provide a continuous pedestrian route without changing traffic direction or re-directing vehicles onto neighbouring streets. Converting Argyle to one-way traffic, by contrast, will alter established routes for residents and other road users.

The city should not dismiss residents’ concerns or proceed with a decision that is inconsistent with the available evidence. It must demonstrate, using clear and verifiable facts, why the proposed change is necessary, effective and in the public interest. It should disclose the evidence supporting its decision, the alternatives considered and its assessment of the effects on surrounding streets.

Given the mayor’s decisive position on student safety near Selwyn House, why has the sidewalk request near École internationale never received comparable attention? If student safety requires immediate and decisive action, the same principle must apply here. When will the city commit to building the second sidewalk in accordance with the ministry’s recommendation?

Student safety cannot be applied selectively. All children deserve consistent, transparent and evidence-based municipal decisions.

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

SHOULD WE BE WATERING PLANTS? SHOULD THE CITY BE?

Maybe I am not understanding things correctly. On the one hand, the city of Westmount is encouraging residents to reduce their consumption of water owing to the repairs being done by Montreal at the Atwater pumping station.

Yet on the other hand, water trucks from Westmount are on the road regularly, watering the flowers and other plantings that dot our streets in the dozens of bump-outs and planters all over the territory.

I always understood that we were trying to reduce our water consumption, not add to it.

In the never-ending game of “Do as I say, not as I do,” once again the city of Westmount wins.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

See
August 4
city council
coverage
on p.12

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REFERRED FOR A REASON

Correction: Terrasse
was for Spuntino



PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Contrary to what we wrote last year (August 12, p. 10, August 19, p. 5), the terrace next to Victoria Ave.’s Spirulina café (on lot 1 581 439) was always meant for use by Sherbrooke St.’s Spuntino restaurant (on lot 1 581 442). Here is a picture of it August 7 with its intended user serving customers. The city council of the time was clear on this point (see July 8, 2025 minutes, item 18, and timestamp 2:28:45 of the July 7, 2025 city council meeting). – DP

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Summer security



Eva Capozzi and Lily Ramsay are among Westmount Public Security's summer patrollers. Both are police technology students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

Allegations, cont'd from p. 1

respond through the proper legal process.” He said he did not believe he had been disrespectful “to any employee.”

Moss vs. Shamie

The most recent complaint, however, was launched against District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie by District 5 councillor Shawn Moss in an email to the mayor, the director general’s email address and the city’s “legal” email address. The *Independent* was copied on this communication.

The actual director general, Julie Man-

deville, and the actual city clerk (and head of the city’s Legal department), Paule Geoffroy-Béliveau, have been on leave for months. Director of culture, sports, recreation and social development Dave Lapointe has been filling those roles (see May 12, p. 1).

Moss contends that when he opposed an amendment to By-law 1656 at the July 7 public council meeting, Shamie stated, “Here he goes again.”

“It’s my right,” Moss contended in the email, “to propose any amendment at any time I feel fit. He [Shamie] had no right to question or insult me.”

Moss asks Shamie to “deal with this be-

Public Security detains man trying to cut padlock off truck

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man was apprehended July 28 on Grosvenor and held for police while trying to cut a padlock off the back of a delivery truck on Grosvenor, Public Security officials said.

Initially spotted on a bicycle on Kensington at 1:30 am by a patroller who considered his behaviour to be “strange,” he was wearing a camouflage jacket. The patroller kept him in sight.

A few minutes later, on Grosvenor, the same person was seen trying to cut a lock off the back of a delivery truck. He was detained for police and described as “a man in his 50s.”

Help provided for woman unable to unlock her door

Public Security was dispatched July 18 at 5:50 pm to help a resident of a condo building on Hillside Ave. unlock the door, officials said. She had been assisted by a neighbour, who had been unable to open it either. Police also responded but no one could unlock it. A locksmith was finally able to open the door and a Public Security

officer was reported to have “escorted her inside to ensure that everything was alright.”

Homer lives!



The recent movie of *The Odyssey* has led to all sort of discussions about the ancient Greek poem. There was even a copy of the classic work out on the waiting-area table of Nettoyeur Victoria Village on Somerville and Victoria, as seen July 30.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

fore the next council meeting [August 4] or I may feel obliged to file a complaint with the CMQ.”

Moss had not received any reply when contacted by the *Independent* on August 5.

An August 6 request to Shamie for comment was not answered by press time August 10.

Stern faces 7 ethics charges

Addressing the outstanding complaints against Stern, the Direction des enquêtes cited the mayor for seven alleged ethics violations. These involved “disrespectful language and uncivil behaviour toward

municipal staff during work meetings held in April and May,” in the presence of various people, including the substitute director general (presumably Lapointe) and two city council members, whose identity is currently unknown.

The *Independent* asked the CMQ on August 3 for any other public documents that might relate to the Direction des enquêtes’ July 13 allegations. David Dussault, directeur – direction du soutien aux opérations juridictionnelles et administratives of the CMQ, replied the next day saying that there were none.

With files from DP.

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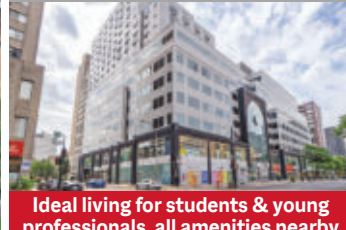
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65 crois. Rosemount, Westmount
3,950,000\$



660 av. Victoria, Westmount
3,500,000\$



59 av. Oakland, Westmount
3,500,000\$



11-15 av. Church Hill, Westmount
3,350,000\$



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



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



218 av. Metcalfe, Westmount
2,398,000\$



4059 av. Highland, Westmount adj.
1,899,000\$



343 av. Clarke #PH6, Westmount
850,000\$



2 rue Westmount-Square #304, Westmount
785,000\$

Some recently sold properties



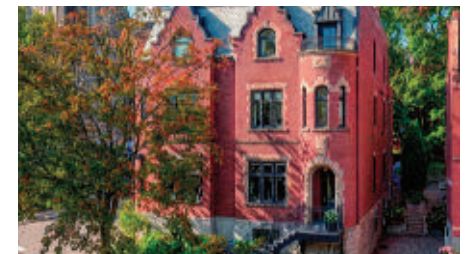
3131 av. Cedar, Westmount adj.



49 ch. Belvédère, Westmount



4380 boul. De Maisonneuve O., Westmount



115 ch. de la Côte-St-Antoine, Westmount

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32 years stationed in Westmount

Patrick Hearson retires, ends era for city’s fire brigade

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The retirement July 16 of firefighter and first responder Patrick Hearson marked the end of an era in the history of the city’s fire brigade. After 32 years at the local station on Stanton St., he was the last originally Westmount firefighter to have spent his entire career at the station.

Hearson had joined January 4, 1994 and continued to remain here after it became Station 76 in the 2002 merger of all island of Montreal fire departments into the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal (SIM).

In a retirement tribute, retired fire lieutenant James McAllister recalled how Hearson had never been transferred out of Westmount, or asked to be when the opportunity arose after the merger.

(McAllister himself had also never been transferred when he retired in 2022 (see story May 7, 2022, p. 7).)

Mt. Stephen fire

Among the major events in which Hearson was involved was the large apartment fire at 438 Mt. Stephen on a frigid January 2, 2008 (see story January 16, 2008, p. 1).



From left, Patrick Hearson and James McAllister while they were both employed by the Montreal fire department.

Throughout his career, Hearson worked his way up to firefighter first class. Along with being “first driver” of the 276 (the pumper), he was also supplementary driver of the specialized ladder tower, number 4076, and held a position of acting lieutenant.

He was described by McAllister as “a true professional” who will “truly be missed.”

Participated in Westmount events

Hearson also participated in many city events such as Family Days at Westmount Park and various fundraisers throughout the year, including during the Christmas holiday season collecting funds at street intersections in Westmount.

He played hockey weekly for the Westmount Firefighters’ Association against Westmount Public Security and police Station 12 as well as being active on the South Shore as a coach for various sport associations.

Asked what he plans to do now in retirement, Hearson told the *Independent* that “for the moment, I will take a few months off for the summer and to complete my rehabilitation for the shoulder surgery I had in April.”

He said he would be helping in his wife’s business, Hommage Production, “in creating tribute frames for retirees (firefighters, policeman, paramedics, etc...).” “Then, I would like to go back to work. I haven’t determined in exactly what field yet.”



The last “Westmount” firefighters, from left: Patrick Hearson, who retired last month, along with firefighters Gianni D’Argenio and Lieutenant James McAllister, who both retired in 2024.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF J. McALLISTER.

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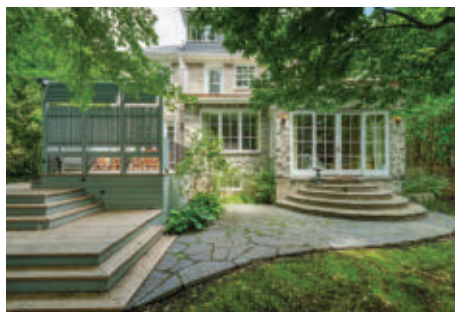
323 REDFERN, WESTMOUNT
\$4,250,000



66 CROIS. ROSEMOUNT, WESTMOUNT
\$3,950,000



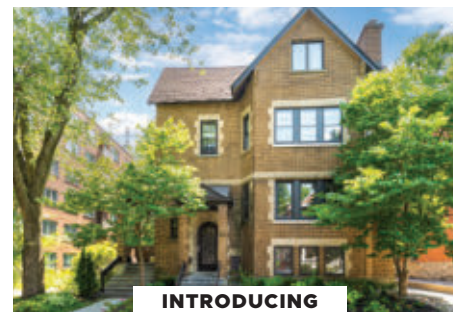
563 VICTORIA, WESTMOUNT
\$3,900,000



54 OAKLAND, WESTMOUNT
\$3,695,000



INTRODUCING
422 ROSLYN, WESTMOUNT
\$3,294,000



INTRODUCING
420-424 LANSDOWNE, WESTMOUNT
\$2,975,000



24 HOLTON, WESTMOUNT
\$2,695,000



721 UPPER-BELMONT, WESTMOUNT
\$2,495,000



2333 SHERBROOKE O. 217, VILLE-MARIE
\$2,395,000



1227 SHERBROOKE O. 44, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE
\$1,995,000



314A KENSINGTON, WESTMOUNT
\$1,295,000

What’s on residents’ minds?

Questions include focus on Argyle, turf field, weekly garbage pickup

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The August 4 meeting of Westmount’s city council could be said to have been dominated by long line-ups of questioners waiting a turn at the mic before and after a long business agenda, whose business items did not generally reflect the questions at this meetings.

Many at the mic denounced a plan to convert two-way Argyle Ave. to one-way south from Thornhill to Côte St. Antoine

without consultation. This, they suggested, would lead to dangerous traffic conditions for nearby school students and could reduce real estate values. They also asked about what professional advice the city had received, what reviews and research had been undertaken, numbers of accidents and input obtained from nearby schools.

“This has been decided and not even reviewed by the city’s own Traffic Advisory Committee,” stated one questioner to a round of hearty applause.



Public Security officers moved up beside questioners during the city council meeting August 4 on a couple of occasions when they had been asked to return to their seats and allow others in a long line-up to take their turn after lengthy discussions.

On the other side, parents of Akiva students spoke up for the change.

No space for garbage

Regarding Westmount’s approved council items to retain weekly garbage collection through April 2027 rather than move (back) to every two weeks, Mayor Stern answered that “most people do not

have the space to store their garbage” for longer.

Another questioner asked why it took 90 days for the city to issue a fine to the owner of the office building at 245 Victoria whose ventilation units exceeded city’s noise regulations and annoyed nearby residents on Grosvenor. (See story June 9, p. 4). “Fine them every day if that’s what it takes,” he said, adding that the city’s process was “seriously flawed” and “we don’t want anybody else to go through this.”

Declare playing field a heritage site

Patrick Barnard of Melville Ave. suggested the city declare the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) a heritage site to protect it from being converted to artificial turf as had previously been suggested.

On the subject of a suitable site for such an artificial field, John Fretz of Lansdowne proposed a suitable site might be an unoccupied area near the abandoned Westmount railway station. This was a suggestion Mayor Stern appeared to write down.

The second question period and meeting were declared over at 10:20 pm, more than three hours after the meeting’s opening at 7:05 pm.

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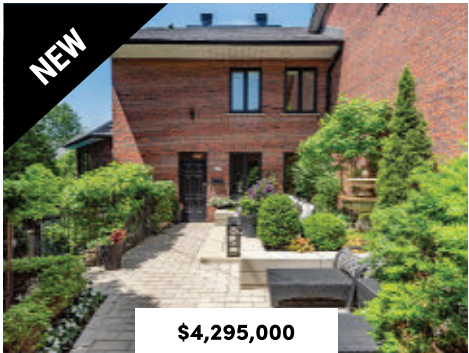
VALUE OF
\$70,323.31
(taxes incl.)

SELECTION OF FINE PROPERTIES



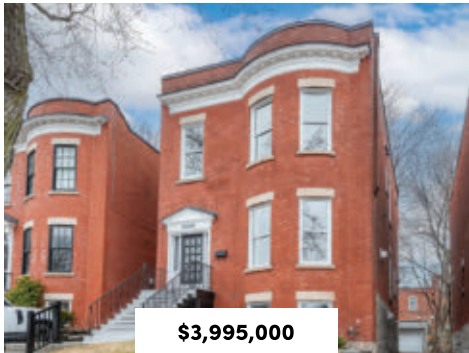
\$5,950,000

667 AV. BELMONT
WESTMOUNT



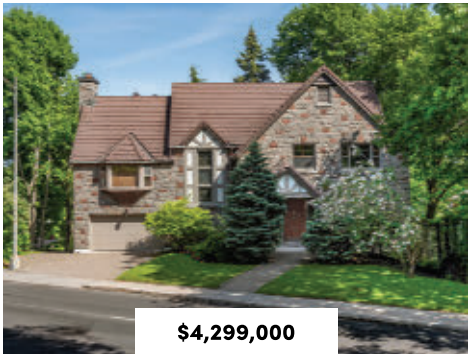
\$4,295,000

47 TERRASSE LES HAUTVILLIERS
OUTREMONT



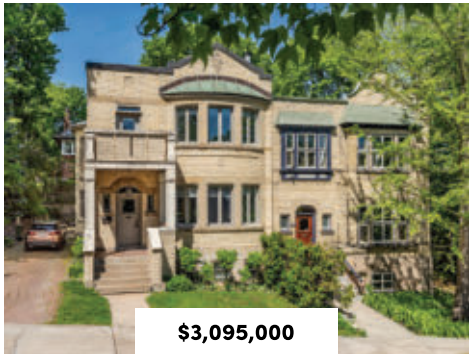
\$3,995,000

473 AV. STRATHCONA
WESTMOUNT



\$4,299,000

3710 BOUL. THE BOULEVARD
WESTMOUNT



\$3,095,000

555 AV. ARGYLE
WESTMOUNT



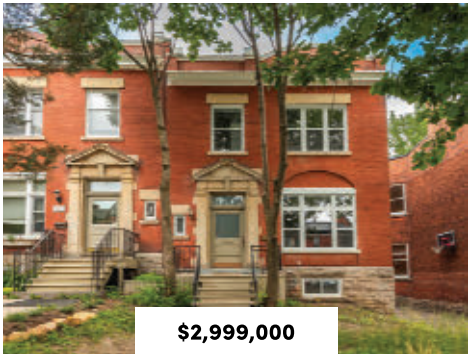
\$3,750,000

529 AV. CLARKE
WESTMOUNT



\$2,495,000

477 AV. PRINCE-ALBERT
WESTMOUNT



\$2,999,000

117 AV. ARLINGTON
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2150 CH. ATHLONE
MONT-ROYAL



AV. BRIGADOON
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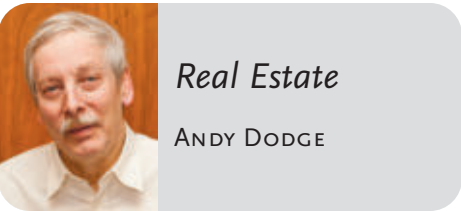
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Real Estate
ANDY DODGE

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

If anything can be said about the state of the real estate market in Westmount, it might be that it often looks like a roller coaster, with a steep climb upwards followed by a terrifying plummet, especially if the months of February and March this year are the examples.

In February prices of 10 sales ranged from \$1,700,000 to \$9,225,000. Only two sales were for less than \$2 million. The average was \$3,179,800 with a median price of \$2,442,500.

Price:valuation rates ranged from -23.7 percent to +57.4 percent, averaging -2.7 percent overall.

Then in March, there were another 10 sales (two were duplexes) ranging much lower, from \$1,150,000 to \$2,900,000; six of the sales under \$2 million, average \$1,817,100 and the median \$1,640,500.

The range of price:valuation ratios was much lower, between -32.1 percent and 9.4 percent.

February, March transfers: A roller coaster

The huge house at 9 Roxborough Ave. had been in the same family since November 1999, and the \$9,225,000 price was highest in the two-month period, but still 20.8 percent below valuation – one of three sales in February to go for more than 20 percent mark-downs.

On the other hand, a totally-renovated semi-detached house at 38 Church Hill changed hands for \$3,998,000, or 57.4 percent above the municipal tax value – more than double the next-highest mark-up at 672 Belmont Ave. The house had been purchased for \$1,700,000 in May of 2024, less than half the price paid this February.

In March, the highest-priced sale and highest mark-up involved the large duplex at 478-80 Mountain Ave., whose \$2,900,000 price tag represented a mark-up of 9.4 percent, lower than four of the mark-ups in February. The lowest price saw 10 Winchester Ave. sell for \$1,150,000, slightly lower than the \$1,550,000 paid for 3244 The Boulevard, whose 32.1-percent mark-down was the biggest of the month.

Condos low

If the markets ebbed up and down for one- and two-family homes early this year, the condominium market was consistently low.

Two sales in February and three more in March were added to seven condominium transfers in January, to complete the first-quarter sales list, which now includes 11 mark-downs and only one mark-up.



9 Roxborough, highest price in February, \$9,225,000. All pictures taken July 27.

The average of the 12 sales was -8.2 percent, lower than the average of -7.5 percent for the one- and two-family sales in March.

The only marked-up price of \$2,680,000 in January involved a totally-renovated unit at 1 Wood Ave., where Apt. 603 sold 32.8 percent above valuation. It had been purchased from an estate in September last year for \$1,750,000.

Other sales in February and March include a share of an undivided duplex at 418-20 Grosvenor Ave., again for less than the relevant valuation of the property.

In other news, the commercial building on the northeast corner of Grosvenor Ave. at Sherbrooke St. sold for \$4,500,000 in February.



478-80 Mountain, Highest price in March, \$2,900,000, highest markup in March, 9.4%.



69 Holton, lowest price in February, \$1,700,000.



3244 The Boulevard, biggest March mark-down, -32.1 percent.



38 Church Hill, biggest mark-up in February, 57.4 percent.



631 Victoria, biggest February markdown, -23.7 percent.



10 Winchester, lowest price in March, \$1,150,000.

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in February, March

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (%)
672 Belmont	Caroline Lafleur	\$2,500,000	\$2,016,700	24.0%
38 Church Hill	Norlap Enterprises Inc.	\$3,998,000	\$2,540,300	57.4%
602 Grosvenor	Ida Zahara Castillo Andrade	\$1,950,000	\$1,902,500	2.5%
69 Holton	Roxanne Vandenberg	\$1,700,000	\$1,572,900	8.1%
311 Metcalfe	Daniel Wise	\$3,250,000	\$2,827,300	15.0%
500 Mountain	Lihong Yang	\$2,000,000	\$2,608,400	-23.3%
9 Roxborough	Sondra Segal	\$9,225,000	\$11,645,600	-20.8%
50 Summit Circle	Alexacom Investments Inc.	\$2,345,000	\$2,545,500	-7.9%
755 Upper Lansdowne	Bernard Boucher	\$3,100,000	\$2,741,700	13.1%
631 Victoria	Aylene Marie Templeton	\$1,730,000	\$2,267,000	-23.7%
Home transfers in March 2026				
6 Burton	Barbara Evans & Matthew Strohl	\$1,200,000	\$1,498,000	-19.9%
9 Grove Park	Susan F. Kling & Patrick L. Benaroché	\$2,475,000	\$2,290,500	8.1%
9 Hudson	bailiff on behalf of Thi Tram Vo	\$2,000,000	\$2,678,200	-25.3%
14 Parkman Place	Stephen J. Weir	\$1,731,000	\$1,643,700	5.3%
240 Redfern	Katherine Baulu	\$1,415,000	\$1,810,000	-21.8%
3244 The Boulevard	Jean-Sébastien Lebon	\$1,550,000	\$2,283,700	-32.1%
4688 Westmount Ave.	Gary Perlman & Caroline Palmer	\$2,350,000	\$2,287,000	2.8%
10 Winchester	Scott Macklin	\$1,150,000	\$1,206,000	-4.6%
Duplexes (both in March)				
4839-41 de Maisonneuve	Frances Larkin Belland	\$1,400,000	\$1,288,900	8.6%
478-80 Mountain	Stephen Silverstein & Kathy Silverstein	\$2,900,000	\$2,651,100	9.4%
Condominium transfers in February, March 2026				
432 Claremont	Jose Ernesto Martin del Campo Martinez	\$674,500	\$695,700	-3.0%
75 Hillside	Georges El Achkar	\$2,000,000	\$2,010,200 ¹	-0.5%
12 Park Place #2	Stephane Semana	\$790,000	\$834,800	-5.4%
4410 St. Catherine #6B	Lorinda Smith	\$405,000	\$420,500	-3.7%
4700 St. Catherine #406	Thomas Gavin	\$1,000,000	\$1,326,300	-24.6%
OTHER				
418-20 Grosvenor, 61.9%	Guy Vadish & Brigitte Fortin	\$1,068,850	\$1,230,572 ²	-13.1%
4779-85 Sherbrooke	3856941 Canada Inc.	\$4,500,000	\$4,138,200	8.7%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$1,907,700 for the townhouse-condominium, \$102,500 for two condominium parking spaces. ²Valuation is 61.9 percent of \$1,988,000. Occupancy of 418 Grosvenor.

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Ex-Westmounter Perrier’s bike journey film screened at public library

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Westmount Public Library welcomed former Westmounter Paul Perrier on July 13 for a screening of his documentary film, *My Own Private Pilgrimage*, which follows a solo bicycle journey he took across Canada, while inviting those viewing the film to reflect, connect and exchange ideas.

Perrier, a retired professional photographer, had carefully re-edited the film (originally an award-winning feature-length documentary shot entirely on an iPhone) into a shorter format (39 minutes).

The abbreviated version sharpens the story of the 64-year-old’s grueling 5,400-km solo ride, during which he camped outside or stayed at cheap hotels. In his presentation, Perrier shared behind-the-scenes insights and personal reflections while engaging directly with the audience.

A book too

At the same time, he was promoting his published memoir, *Cracked Wide Open*, while raising awareness about addiction, homelessness and mental health. The book reflects on Perrier’s upbringing on Côte St. Antoine Rd. in Westmount, including memories of Expo ’67, the FLQ cri-



Former Westmounter Paul Perrier presented a shortened version of his documentary, *My Own Private Pilgrimage*, at the Westmount Public Library on July 13.

sis, the 1976 Montreal Olympics and how those formative experiences shaped his creative life.

Perrier said he found the screening was especially meaningful “because I was born and raised in Westmount.” He said he grew up playing hockey, baseball and football in the Westmount house leagues, and later worked as head lifeguard at the West-

mount pool during the late 1970s and early 1980s before moving to Toronto in 1991.

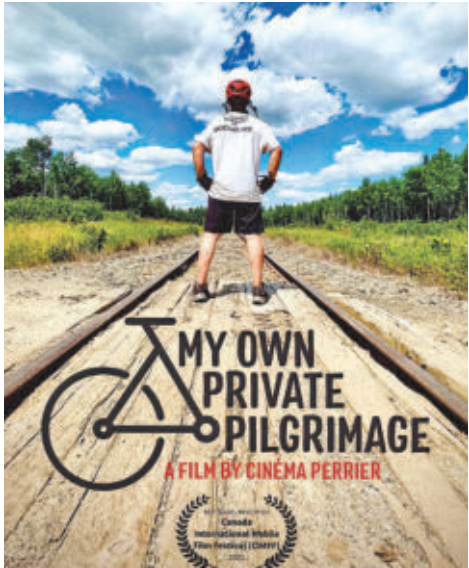
“During 66 days on the road, I got rained on maybe twice,” said Perrier, noting that he did, however, suffer a potentially catastrophic failure when he got a flat tire.

But he was soon rescued by a woman driving by who told him “the spirit of God

told me to turn around and pick you up.”

He said he “wasn’t searching for people. They seemed to come to me.”

Although Perrier made a good living in Toronto as a commercial photographer, he’s not fond of the city from the standpoint of creativity. “I feel more creative once I get to Montreal,” he said. “I love Toronto, but Toronto’s a tough city to be an artist and not too many people understand an artist in Toronto.”







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Razmig, young patient at The Children’s

The Legacy Challenge at a glance



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Sports et loisirs : inscription aux activités de l'automne

Participez à une foule d'activités sportives et récréatives cet automne ! Les inscriptions vont débuter le 11 août pour les résidents de Westmount et le 25 août pour les non-résidents. westmount.org/activites

Travaux et entraves routières

- **Réfection de la rue Sainte-Catherine** entre le boulevard De Maisonneuve et le chemin Glen (direction est) à partir de la semaine du 10 août.
- **Reconstruction de l'escalier Thornhill** à partir de la semaine du 10 août.
- **Reconstruction de l'avenue Mountain** entre l'avenue Cedar et la rue Sherbrooke à partir de la semaine du 17 août.

Pour en savoir plus sur les projets d'infrastructures à Westmount, consultez westmount.org/travaux et le **Portail citoyen**.

Sports and Recreation: Registration for fall activities

Take part in a wide range of sports and recreational activities this fall! Registration will open on August 11 for Westmount residents and on August 25 for non-residents. westmount.org/activities

Roadwork and Traffic Disruptions

- **Reconstruction of Sainte-Catherine Street** between De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Glen Road (eastbound) Starting the week of August 10.
- **Reconstruction of the Thornhill Stairs.** Starting the week of August 10.
- **Reconstruction of Mountain Avenue** between Cedar Avenue and Sherbrooke Street. Starting the week of August 17.

For more information on infrastructure projects, visit westmount.org/works and the **Citizen Portal**.

Sécuriser les trajets scolaires

L'installation de la nouvelle signalisation et des aménagements urbains visant à sécuriser les trajets scolaires autour du secteur de l'Hôtel de ville est prévue à la mi-août. citoyen.westmount.org/projets

Safe Routes to School

The installation of new signage and urban improvements to enhance the safety of school routes around the City Hall area is scheduled for mid-August. citoyen.westmount.org/projets

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Shakespeare-in-the-Park : *The Winter's Tale*

Du 12 au 15 août, 19 h, parc Westmount. En anglais. Profitez de représentations en plein air par Repercussion Theatre en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.

Contribuez à rendre cet événement écoresponsable ! L'Équipe verte sera sur place les soirs de spectacle pour vous aider à bien faire le tri de vos déchets. Passez les voir près du comptoir de restauration. westmount.org/evenements

Film sous les étoiles — *The Little Mermaid* (1989) (5 ans et plus)

20 août, à la tombée du jour, parc Westmount. Installez-vous confortablement avec vos chaises pliantes et vos couvertures pour une projection en plein air de *The Little Mermaid* (1989) (en anglais, 5 ans et plus). Aucune inscription requise. westlib.org

Shakespeare-in-the-Park: *The Winter's Tale*

From August 12 to 15, 7 p.m., Westmount Park. Enjoy outdoor performances presented by Repercussion Theatre in collaboration with the Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.

Help make this an environmentally responsible event! The Green Team will be on site on performance nights to help you sort your waste properly. Find them by the concession counter. westmount.org/events

Movies Under the Stars — *The Little Mermaid* (1989)

August 20, at dusk, Westmount Park. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for an outdoor screening of *The Little Mermaid* (1989) (in English, ages 5 and up). No registration required. westlib.org

Film dans le parc : *Roman Holiday* (1953)

27 août, 20 h, parc Westmount. En anglais. Soyez des nôtres pour une projection sous les étoiles ! Suivez les aventures d'une jeune princesse qui s'échappe de son quotidien protocolaire pour découvrir Rome, où elle fait la rencontre d'un journaliste au charme irrésistible. N'oubliez pas votre chaise ou votre couverture. westmount.org/evenements



TD Summer Reading Club Closing Party

August 29, 4:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Celebrate the end of the TD Summer Reading Club with *Hisse et Ho* by Le Gros Orteil, a lively circus performance featuring trapeze, juggling, breakdancing, clowning, and live music. Prizes, entertainment, and refreshments will be available. westlib.org





9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Precious black-and-white tuxedos Remi and Fiz were found in an abandoned apartment this June, just left without resources by whomever had lived there.

Our kind neighbours have taken in these young cats in order to give them a temporary home and present them for adoption to a family in turn.

Here we have daddy Remi, with the

Remi & Fiz, together as a family to a family



black nose (bottom of photo), born around June 2025, and then daughter Fizz, with the tiny pink nose, born in February 2026 (top of photo).

Both have been vetted, receiving their catch-up treatments and then sterilized. Remi is a lanky, affectionate fellow who is playful and companionable. Fizz is beautiful and hilarious, her kitten antics and affections bringing joy to the household.

If you would like more information on them, please contact Penny at pennysk8@gmail.com for more news and adorable photographs.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Mako and Chosi, sister shiba inus



Westmount
A-dog-tions
LYSANNE FOWLER

Most beautiful young half-sister shiba inus Mako and Chosi are presently in a foster family for the Montreal SPCA. They are active, playful, curious and affectionate.

Mako is three years old and very outgoing, while Chosi is two years old with a more reserved manner. They have always been together and are to be adopted into a new family as a bonded pair.

They are very healthy, up to date with their inoculations, spayed and microchipped. For more information on this adorable duo, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then scroll to their information page under Chosi's identification number, 2000453851. As they are presently in a foster home, they are not at the SPCA kennel.

Once you are at the information page, you can click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle and fill out the basic ques-



tionnaire in order for the adoption coordinators to get back to you.

They would then find out more about your interest and provide you with the most recent information on Chosi and Mako, with additional photographs and a framework for their integration into a forever home environment.

Best to not hesitate. They are very attractive and active, as this is also a perfect opportunity to be with a bonded pair who get along beautifully.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Nick's restaurant hosts event for novel set partially at Nick's

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

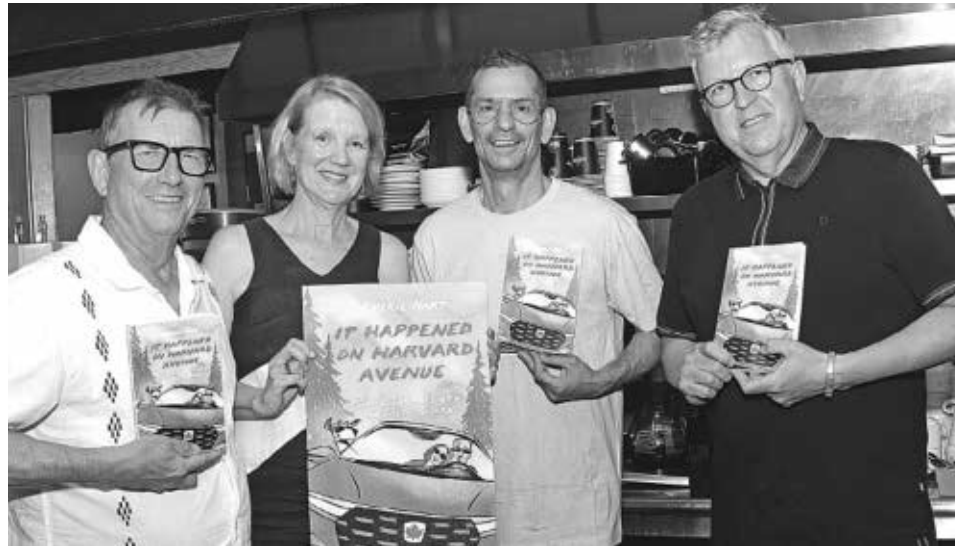
Westmount's venerable Chez Nick's on Greene Avenue and a fictionalized version of the *Westmount Independent* are given cameo appearances by author and documentary producer Cherie Hart in her latest novel, a humorous whodunit that reaches its climax on Harvard Ave. in NDG.

A launch event for *It Happened on Harvard Avenue* at Nick's on July 11 was attended by some of Hart's neighbours on Harvard, as well as a few friends and acquaintances from Westmount.

Originally from Virginia, Hart began her career writing for the supermarket tabloid *National Enquirer*, then worked as a TV news reporter and a magazine writer.

Later on, she was a press officer for the United Nations Development Program. In addition to this latest work, Hart has published three others (including a previous novel) since 2018.

This most recent book was issued under the imprint of Jalan, a France-based publisher, although the production, marketing and distribution were done in conjunction with Amazon, which describes it as "independently published," a frequent term for self-publishing.



From left, Cherie Hart's husband John Bleho, Cherie Hart, Chez Nick's co-owner Nicos Kyrikopoulos and Chez Nick's co-owner Rob Callard.

In an interview, Hart described *It Happened on Harvard Avenue* as a romance/crime fiction taking place in locations across Canada. The narrative revolves around the delivery of a rescue dog from Turkey to Montreal.

The thoughts of the dog, along with those of the other characters, are shared with the reader in short chapters, each of

which begins with a heading with the character's name.

A fictional Nick's

Hart describes "Nick's Diner" as sitting "incongruously at the corner of Sherbrooke and Greene, its sign a standout against the high-end jewellery and designer clothing stores."

de Miguel's new book *Power Play* puts tricks to bridle toddlers into the hands of frazzled parents

BY JENNIFER BALL

Local resident Marissa de Miguel has published an interactive book called *Power Play*, which serves as a toolkit to inject tricks into what can seem like the Herculean effort of parenting toddlers.

The *Independent* met with de Miguel – a brand strategist by profession who focusses on positioning, scaling, and launching consumer brands – on June 11 and asked her about the genesis of the book project, which is her first. While she does not call herself an author, she said her goal was to "build a brand that celebrates the everyday parent: real parents and their ingenuity, their creativity and all the resourcefulness that we bring. Because all too often – my generation at least – we turn to our phone, turn to the experts, the podcasts and the books and we forget that we're the experts."

de Miguel dedicated the book to her daughters Charlotte and Celeste, who are aged 6 and 4. She said she was fortunate that Charlotte did not present as "terrible twos" but she got the "three-nager," a term parents use to describe a three-year-old who behaves like a teenager: full of big emotions, sudden independence, dramatic

reactions and very strong opinions.

"Everything I tried to get her to do was met with a hard 'no' – brushing her teeth, combing her hair, putting her shoes on, getting in the car, everything! One day I [thought], 'I'm creative in my professional world. Why can't I bring that to [parenting]?'"

Collectively, the girls set her on her quest to speak with 200 families from around the world – many from de Miguel's own Rolodex that she built when living abroad, as well as many Westmounters – to glean 50 playful tricks to get toddlers to do what they never seem to want to do. She chaptered the book to reflect the broad divisions of morning, noon and night, all of which present unique and challenging problems for parents of young children.

A book to be used

The *Independent* asked de Miguel how she envisioned *Power Play* in the hands of frazzled moms, dads, grandparents and the children themselves? "I purposely made it so that it wasn't going to just sit on a shelf somewhere and get dusty..."

"I wanted it to be colourful; I wanted it to be fun because that way if kids pick it



up and they're excited then maybe it gives the parents confidence [to try out a trick or two from the book.]"

The spiral is oversized, the pages are colourful and they include illustrations by *New Yorker* cartoonist Liana Finck. While

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"The cool air from inside hit me, along with the unmistakable smell of frying bacon and freshly brewed coffee," states Liz. Nick's leatherette upholstered booths are described as "reminiscent of old New York diners, though a bit too polished and tidy to be mistaken for one of those funky eateries."

Hart is more critical when describing the "*Westmount Gazette*," a copy of which Michelle has grabbed from a pile of free newspapers left at the entrance to Nick's.

"This paper is nothing but an advertisement vehicle for expensive real estate," exclaims character Liz. "Look, it's all ads for those huge houses we just saw. It's a high-end shopper paper, not a newspaper. Besides, nothing ever happens here, anyway."

She goes on to quote from the "*Gazette*" police report section, paraphrasing a report published in the *Independent* in June 2024 about a stolen Jaguar F-Pace compact luxury SUV. "As hard as I try, I can't get excited about a bunch of people having their luxury cars stolen," says Liz.

It Happened on Harvard Avenue is available at Chez Nick's, at Phoenix Books on Sherbrooke St. in NDG, and online through Amazon.

de Miguel said she has no presumption or intention of being perceived as a parenting expert – she doesn't have a degree in psychology or child development – her big picture ambition was to create "a platform for real families."

Power Play – which has wipe-clean pages and includes a sticker sheet that families can use to track when a trick was successful in obtaining the desired parent-toddler interaction – can be purchased from her website marissademiguel.com and one percent of proceeds goes towards postpartum depression research, a cause which de Miguel said is very dear to her heart.

de Miguel has sold travel columns to the *Independent* in the recent past.

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Women's Health *Deserves Our Attention*

“ There are moments in life that change the way you see the world. For me, one of those moments happened during a parliamentary committee meeting. In the middle of speaking, I had a hot flash. It wasn't planned. It wasn't comfortable. And like so many women, my first instinct was to pretend everything was fine.

Instead, I talked about it.

I had no idea that simple moment captured on video would be viewed more than nine million times around the world. What surprised me most wasn't the number of views. It was the messages.

Thousands of women wrote to tell me they had experienced the same thing. They thanked me for saying out loud what they had been feeling in silence. Many told me they had never spoken openly about menopause, whether that meant in the workplace or at home. Young women thanked me for paving the road for change. That made me realize something.

Women's health has spent far too long living in the shadows.

Whether it's menstruation, endometriosis, fibroids, fertility, pregnancy, menopause or countless other conditions, too many women grow up believing these experiences are simply something they have to endure. Too often, symptoms are minimized. Diagnoses take years. Research lags behind. In Canada, only 7% of research funding is dedicated to women's health, despite women representing half the population. And conversations are still uncomfortable.

We must do better.

I've tried to use every opportunity I have to move that conversation forward. I've proudly sponsored petitions supporting menstrual health and access to menstrual products in our schools because no student should have to choose between their education and their dignity. As co-chair of the MUHC Foundation's Women's Health Campaign, I've had the privilege of meeting researchers, physicians, donors, and patients who are working every day to improve care and advance research that has been overlooked for far too long.

But perhaps the most inspiring people I've met are the women who simply decided to tell their stories. Because every time one woman speaks openly about her health, another woman realizes she isn't alone. That matters. Women's health isn't a niche issue. It affects our mothers, daughters, sisters, partners, friends, and colleagues. It affects families, workplaces, and communities. When women are healthier, everyone benefits.

This conversation goes beyond politics. It's about ensuring that women are heard, believed, and supported. It's about giving the next generation better information than many of us had. It's about investing in research, education and care that reflect women's realities, not as an afterthought, but as a priority.

I'm proud that this work has become one of my priorities, and I know there is still so much more to do. If my video, a conversation, or this article encourages even one woman to seek answers, advocate for herself, or simply realize that what she's experiencing deserves to be taken seriously, then it's worth it. But lasting change cannot depend on women fighting to be heard. It requires healthcare professionals who listen, employers who understand, governments that invest in women's health research and care, and all of us to stop treating women's health as something to whisper about. We need to talk about it openly, without stigma or shame.

Because women's health deserves our attention. And women deserve nothing less. ”



Everytime one woman speaks openly about her health, another woman realizes she is not alone. That matters.



Let's keep the conversation going.
I'm always here to listen, support, and work on the issues that matter to you.

✉ Jennifer.Maccarone.WSL@assnat.qc.ca

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Jennifer Maccarone
Westmount-Saint-Louis



Travel

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Annapolis Royal: Once a capital, always a delight



Centuries-old wooden pier supports recall the once-important wharves that welcomed Annapolis Royal's shipping industry.

Summer is a good time for an odyssey: a wandering journey. In this case, no “wine dark seas” as the classic poet Homer described the Mediterranean in his epic stories.

Here in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, the colour-shifting tidal waters reflect the sky. Annapolis Royal was once the capital of Nova Scotia. (Halifax became the capital in 1749.)

In 1605, this waterfront community saw the arrival of some of North America's earliest European settlers. One of Canada's oldest towns, it was fought over for centuries and quickly grew into a prominent port. Four-hundred-year-old wooden pilings/piers are a nostalgic reminder of the 13 wharves that once handled major shipping. The weather-beaten posts take one back to a time when wooden ships were powered by human muscle and the wind.

Today, streets feature handsome heritage buildings, many re-purposed into shops, inns and cafés. One of the oldest houses is Bailey House, circa 1770. Handsomely *continued on p. 22*

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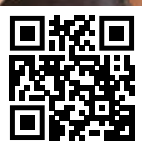


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Fort St. Anne.



Annapolis Royal's boardwalk.

‘Heart and soul of’ local charity
**Remembering Julie Dawson,
treasurer of Belvedere Residence**

Julie Dawson, longtime board member of the Belvedere Residence, died on July 8.

Prospect Belvedere Service Corp, the group’s legal name, owns and operates 4505 St. Catherine St., just east of Park Place, for low-income, independent residents.

In an email informing the *Independent*, Dawson was described by current president of the board Janette Braun as “a founding force behind our organization” and “truly the heart and soul of our board.”

Dawson served as treasurer for more than 50 years.

***Previous coverage of
Belvedere Residence***

- “Belvedere Residence marks 50th anniversary,” June 6, 2023, p. 1
- “Belvedere Residence’s local roots remain strong,” October 3, 2017, p. 10.



Julie Dawson in 2023.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

Travel, cont'd from p. 21

restored, it once hosted a grand ball for the duke of Kent before becoming “an aristocratic boarding house,” where Bailey’s widow served her renowned “moose muffle soup.”

Streets are shaded by magnificent centuries-old elms, oaks and maples. And if you need a little rest, benches are thoughtfully placed along the sidewalks. How charming is that?

What to do and see? Admire panoramic views as you wander along the town-wrapping boardwalk beside the estuary of the Annapolis Basin.

Far-Fetched Antiques and Art Gallery sells unique pieces from Asia.

From July 31 to August 3, the annual Naval Day Weekend showcased costumed cadets from all over the province at Fort Anne. A national historic site, the fort’s manicured rolling hills hide once-fortified ancient underground barracks.

A short step away King’s Theatre offers movies and live shows. Open year-round ARTsPLACE exhibits international as well as local talent, offering workshops and online events. The gallery organizes Paint the Town (this year, August 15-16) celebrating its 35th art-full year.

Don't forget the tides

The world’s highest tides are not far away in the Bay of Fundy. Ecotours take one to an explorer’s paradise: beaches, birds, trails and whales. Speaking of whales, what an awe-inspiring moment it is to see their massive fluke – the two-lobed tail – rise and rise and then coming crashing down in a sensational show of nature.

Canoeing lets you quietly explore as you listen to a lonely loon’s call.

Where to stay? Hedley House by the Sea is tucked between trees and tides. Units have private balconies facing sandy tidal beaches. The Queen Anne Inn, a beautiful 1865 historic property, is a bed-and-breakfast set amidst stately elms. Hillsdale House Inn is another elegant building. Annapolis Inn and Suites has a salt-water pool. Garrison House Inn, with Maison St. George dining, occupies an 1854 heritage building.

Are tapestries on your mind? After all, the internationally renowned Bayeux Tapestry has temporarily left its home in France and is now being exhibited in London. Well, Annapolis Royal also has a woven showpiece: the Fort Anne Tapestry. Shown at Fort Anne, it commemorates four centuries of history. And, it has a royal touch: a necklace hand-stitched by Queen Elizabeth II.

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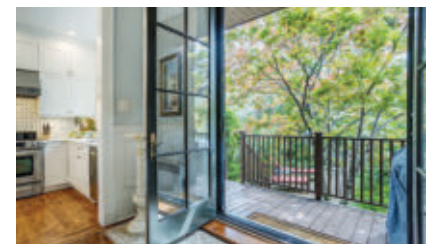
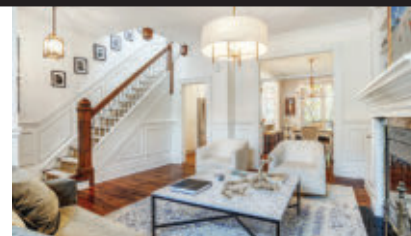
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