

Garbage collector cut by glass

'Be mindful of what goes into the garbage,' Public Security warns

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man collecting regular garbage from a home on Burton Ave. August 14 was cut by a piece of glass sticking out of the container, Public Security officials said.

A patroller who happened to see him on the ground went to his assistance.

The wound was bandaged and the man was reported to have continued working. The incident occurred around 10:45 am.

"It's important for people throwing away broken glass and other sharp material to be mindful of the need to wrap it properly, or put it in a shoe box or other container depending on the size," Sergeant Yook Wong advised.



Burton Ave's garbage out for collection August 21, one week after the incident. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Schubert retires from QWF, which names new residence program after her

►The Quebec Writers' Federation, headquartered at the Atwater Library in Westmount, says executive director Lori Schubert, who is retiring on August 31, has played a key role in helping Quebec's English-language literary community flourish over the past two decades. See p.22 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.



Residents have lots to say!
See letters on p. 6, 7, 10

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Marking 'endless summer'

Victoria village to hold back-to-school, fall sale August 28-30

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Call it "endless summer," or "back-to-school," it's a sidewalk sale from the Victoria Village Merchants' Association that's being planned for Friday to Sunday, August 28 to 30, says coordinator Tawn Friedman of Le Fournil.

"It's a good opportunity to have it this weekend to prepare for the fall and a return to ordinary life," she told the *Independent*

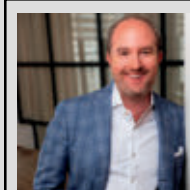
last week.

"A first-time feature will involve flash-mob musicians who can just pop up at any time and anywhere."

The event is expected to build on a large turnout of participating merchants reported for the spring sidewalk sale before it was rained out on the Sunday.

Among items to be featured for the coming events are food trucks and food stalls, live performances and face painting.

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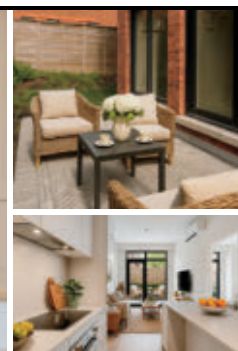
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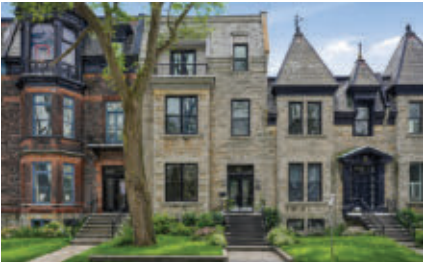
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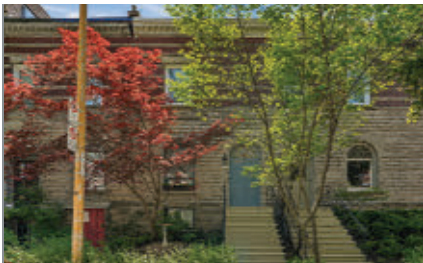
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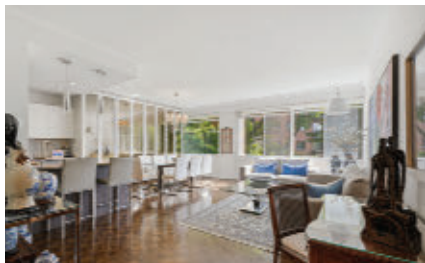
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Duck shows interest in Public Security bike



This photo was taken July 23 at the lagoon in Westmount Park. The duck's motives are not currently known to the *Independent*. A heist? Or maybe a desire to apply for security work? Ducks do consume quite a bit of patrollers' time as they make their way around town after their eggs hatch. Perhaps a community outreach worker is in order...

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

Longer hours begin September 17

Summer construction hours continue through Sept. 16

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While it may feel as if summer is coming to a close, residents are reminded that when it comes to construction hours, the season has almost another month to go.

Westmount's summer hours when construction is permitted from June 25 to September 16, are Monday to Friday, 7 am to 6 pm; and Saturday 8 am to 6 pm but never on Sunday.

"A lot of residents and contractors are not aware of this," said Public Security Sergeant Yook Wong.

The rest of the year, allowable construction hours are Monday to Friday 7 am to 9 pm, as well as Saturday 8 am to 8 pm and none on Sunday.

The reminder comes following an incident on Montrose Ave. August 11 when a patroller heard work ongoing at a house at 6:25 pm.

Workers told the patroller the work that they were doing on the roof was an emergency and needed an hour more, which they were allowed.

Letters, p. 6, 7, 10

Police Report, p. 17

Pet page, p. 23



Social Notes: ICRF, p. 25

infoWestmount, p. 18



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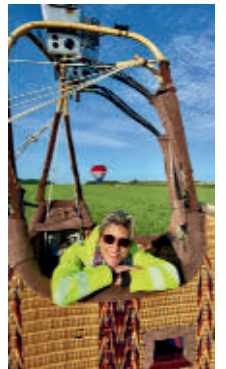
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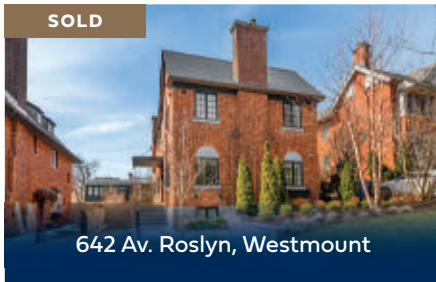
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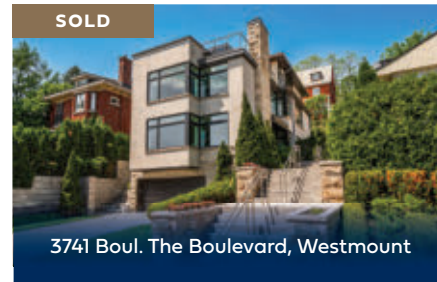
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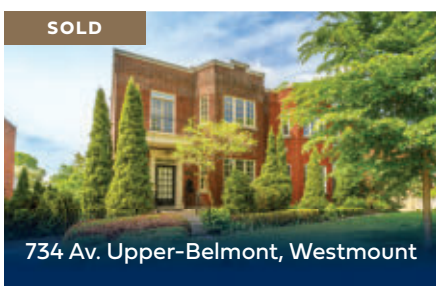
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting the mayor

MAYOR STERN ELECTED TO
STREAMLINE OPERATIONS,
END ETERNAL DEBATES

Congratulations to the city of Westmount city council and its extensive support team for creating and passing the “Code of Ethics and Conduct” by-Law on April 17 of this year.

Just in time apparently, as shortly thereafter Mayor Stern was accused of verbal behaviour contradictory to the highest ethical principles described in the above document – not for improper and/or abusive use of his position as the elected mayor, not for self-serving acts; but for “improper” language or behaviour towards the most sensitive of people ... or perhaps due to his frustration with and towards certain of the professionals leading the city departments.

In the first edition of the *Independent* after the summer break (August 11), there are multiple letters already published criticizing the mayor’s “non-democratic” behaviour during a past council meeting, in his circumventing extensive debate on subjects that he considered inappropriate and having the effect of blocking, or at least delaying, progress in actions.

We can only surmise that impatient responses (as so much of what transpires in the procedures, with so many inherent rules) and determinations behind closed doors do limit city operations and enacting potential beneficial decisions. Approvals take long, and are often hazardous – and are always vulnerable to repeated re-sub-

missions in response to official criticisms, often of dubious value.

Mayor Stern was elected on a stated platform of streamlining the operations with action; eliminating the eternal debates and disagreements; and also of listening to citizens, with prompt responsiveness to them. Bravo! He was not elected to caress the status quo.

Could it be that he became as impatient and intolerant to the functioning of city departments and their directors as the community has been, for years? – for example, repeated rejections by the all-powerful PAC....without access to them!

Could it be that he discouraged endless discussions during open council meetings debating divergent opinions often in the presenters’ self-interest ...in order for the city to succeed in achieving a greater goal for the community?

Could it be that he was trying to push for action and progress, perhaps without the diplomatic touch that maintains the traditional elegance, but actually masks the “immobilisme politique” of the past?

Could it be that positive action so as to reach results requires strong leadership with vision!

THOMAS ROBERT REINER, WESTMOUNT AVE.

MAYOR STERN TRYING TO CUT
THROUGH ENTRENCHED
COMPLACENCY AT CITY HALL

It looks like most letters to the editor regarding Mayor Stern are complaints and I thought I would take a moment to praise him and to point out some of his much

appreciated accomplishments.

For one, what he did on Edgehill turned probably the worst street in our city into a lovely smooth one and all in the space of a couple of days! The stairs at the top of Roslyn, although yes, they have taken a long time, are turning out to be very beautiful.*

It’s true Mayor Stern comes from a corporate background and probably needs to acquire more patience in his interactions with employees and questioners at city council meetings, but I believe he is trying to cut through entrenched complacency at city hall and some obvious inefficiencies that we can see around the streets.

I give you the example of three-man crews trimming weeds when the job could be done by one. In short, the mayor was elected and he will be there for the next few years. Let’s make our suggestions and letters to you more positive. Cheers!

HARRY BLOOMFIELD, SURREY GARDENS
**Editor’s note:* For clarity, the Roslyn stairs project began before Mayor Stern came into office. See, for example, September 16, 2025, p. SL-6. – DP.

CONSULTATION IMPORTANT, BUT
DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE

Open letter to Mayor Michael Stern

I recently read an article in the *Westmount Independent* and felt compelled, as a 50-year Westmount resident, to reach out and share my appreciation for the work that you have been doing.

Your job cannot be easy, but from what I have observed your performance has been outstanding.

Your approach to addressing the road issues has been superb and greatly appreciated.

While consultation is important, there are times when decisions need to be made efficiently and with confidence in order to move things forward. I believe the changes to the road directions on Argyle, Metcalfe and Kensington were necessary and required decisive action.

If any of these changes prove to be unsuccessful, they can always be revisited and reversed.

Overall, I encourage you to continue with the same confidence and determination. There will always be differing opinions, but I hope you will remain focused on doing what you believe is in the best interest of Westmount.

ARTHUR FELGAR, SHERBROOKE ST.

Cross benches

CMQ NOT NECESSARY – SETTLE
IT BETWEEN YOURSELVES, PLEASE

I was disheartened to see that Mayor

Stern and Councillor Jeff Shamie are facing a complaint process via the CMQ [Commission municipale du Québec]*, for allegedly not speaking nicely at recent city meetings.

While I definitely support respectful interaction during heated debates, it’s inevitable that sometimes words may get exchanged in these heated moments that some councillors may take the wrong way.

Resolution for these disputes shouldn’t have to go through the CMQ, or any provincial oversight. They can – and should – be resolved face to face, amicably, in the spirit of a healthy democracy.

Involving the CMQ drains financial and intellectual capital away from far more important priorities that Westmount is facing.

Westmount has been my family’s home (or in my case, home-away-from-home), for coming up on half a century.

If my family had to refer all our healthy disputes to the province for resolution – my goodness – not only would the province have far more debt, but I don’t think our family would be on speaking terms.

As my squash coach Mr. James McMillan (of Selwyn House) used to say when dealing with disputes over whether a ball was in or out: “Settle it between yourselves.”

DANIEL FREIHEIT, MONTROSE AVE.

**Editor’s note:* For clarity, only the complaints against Mayor Stern are being pursued by/at the CMQ. – DP.

Critical of the mayor/
majority of council

COUNCILLORS: VOTE ON
PROCEDURAL CALLS TO
SHOW DISAPPROVAL

It’s disturbing to read the charges, by the CMQ [Commission municipale du Québec] and others, against Mayor Stern and Councillor Shamie. Equally disturbing are the reports of stifled questions and forbidden discussion at council meetings.

One suggestion for councillors who feel their rights are being subverted: I believe council meetings are run according to Robert’s Rules. If/when a councillor feels that the mayor is ruling incorrectly, challenging the chair (with a recorded vote) is always in order.

Sometimes matters have to be brought to a (recorded) head.

And thanks to the *Independent* for covering all this, showing the essential value to democratic governance of local papers.

ALEX SIMONELIS, SHERBROOKE ST.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLEASE KEEP ELECTED OFFICIALS ON THEIR TOES!

Well said, Marilyn and Patrick [Gillies], in your p. 6 letter in the *Westmount Independent* of August 11 and, Patrick, during your participation at Westmount's council meeting [of August 4].

Westmount needs more concerned citizens, dare I say, to keep our elected officials on their toes! It is a pleasure to read intelligent comments, and from people I know. Thank you.

I would also like to congratulate Sophie Dynbort on her excellent letter in the same issue of the *Indie* on the same page. "A municipality is not a corporation etc." I loved her comment: "Listening is not the same as waiting for someone to finish speaking!"

Well said! So many people just like to hear the sound of their own voices.

David [Price, editor], thank you, once again, for listening to the citizens of Westmount and for keeping all of us informed, and letting us "say our peace," democratically!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

THE GOOD, THE BAD – AND THE BIRDS AND THE LIBRARY

After reading today's issue (August 11) of the *Westmount Independent*, I was reminded that we must stop authoritarianism from destroying our democracy, that bird watching is more healing than shiny new playgrounds, that artificial turf is toxic no matter who wins a soccer game, that preventive lawn maintenance is cheaper than cement Band-Aids, that effective park policing is more productive than griping about the behaviour of reckless cyclists and uncivil park visitors ... and the list goes on.

On a brighter note, kudos to our caring and imaginative librarians, and appreciation for our greenhouse and gallery and other Westmount goodies that also deserve our protection.

MAYA KHANKHOJE, METCALFE AVE.

STEAMROLLING IS NOT GOVERNING

Last February, a major shift in our neighbourhood was decided without any publicity or consultation: [part of] Argyle Ave. would become a one-way street under the city's "Safe Routes to School" project.

While the goal of child safety is beyond reproach, the city's process is a striking departure from established practice. At the last council meeting, residents argued the city failed to comply with its own procedural and ethical requirements.

When confronted, the mayor deferred to his lawyers, as if this was some kind of

arcane legal debate. It is not. It is a fundamental principle of democratic government in Quebec and elsewhere that municipalities can only act through publicized rules approved by due process. Municipal discretion is not a licence to bypass the law. If a city has a traffic or conflict of interest by-law, as Westmount has had for years, the council must follow it or change it. Period.

Research also shows that one-way roads are associated with a higher number of child pedestrian-motor vehicle collisions. The mayor refused to explain how a one-way Argyle Ave. with no new parking restrictions, minimal speed calming measures, increased congestion and no analysis of the impact of winter driving conditions would still be safe.

We value the mayor's desire to "get things done." However, municipal leadership isn't just action – it is ensuring that action is done in accordance with time-tested rules designed to protect our rights. Adherence to these rules is a guarantee that Westmounters will trust that city hall acts in their interest, and not that of one group or another.

When the process is flawed and critical questions remain unanswered, the only responsible decision is to pause – not proceed. It is astonishing that, at the last council meeting, only four of our elected councillors voted for a pause.

FRANÇOIS JANSON, ARGYLE AVE.

WHEN DID A PUBLIC STREET BECOME A PRIVATE SCHOOL DROP-OFF LANE?

Westmount's decision to make Argyle Ave. one-way southbound raises a simple question: who exactly is this decision intended to serve?

For residents of lower Westmount, Argyle is one of the few practical routes north. In winter, its importance becomes even greater. It is a relatively safe way up the hill, regularly cleared and sanded when other routes, including Mountain Ave., can become difficult or at times nearly impassable. In addition, we just learned that Mountain is undergoing work until August 2027!

Removing northbound access therefore has real consequences for residents. What is much harder to understand is what public benefit justifies those consequences.

If, as we understand, this change is intended in significant part to facilitate traffic around Selwyn House and make drop-off more convenient for parents (parents of school children made up 37 percent of residents interviewed...), the city owes residents an explanation.

Why should access for an entire neigh-

bourhood be restricted to improve traffic flow for the users of a private school? Why should residents lose one of their safest winter routes uphill so that parents dropping off their children can drive closer to the school? And when these competing interests were weighed, whose interests came first?

This is not an argument against Selwyn House, its students or its families. The school is part of the Westmount community. But there is an important distinction between being part of a community and expecting the community's public infrastructure to be re-organized around the convenience of one private institution.

Public streets belong to everyone. Decisions about them should be based on safety, mobility and the broader public interest, not on making school drop-off easier for a particular group of drivers. Westmount can and should hold itself to a higher standard and that administration should exist to serve the public interest, equitably and transparently.

The city should explain how this decision meets that standard. And if it cannot, it should reverse it.

ESTELLE MÉTAYER, KENSINGTON AVE.

METCALFE STEALTHILY TURNED INTO HIDEOUS, CONFUSING MESS

Since Saturday morning August 15, residents of Metcalfe north of Sherbrooke have faced a series of street modifications, adding up to an immense number of white

lines and cross striping as well as a huge, shoddily placed speed hump.

The lines seem to signify, from the west to the east side of the street, a parking lane, a traffic lane, another parking lane and a narrow lane of unidentified purpose. The painting was carried out in the dead of night in an apparent stealth operation, to be kept secret from the residents.

That section of Metcalfe is also now one-way north. I know of no street in Westmount or Montreal slathered with this chaotic density of white paint. It is all hideous. This appears to be part of an effort to improve safety of students as they arrive and leave Akiva School.

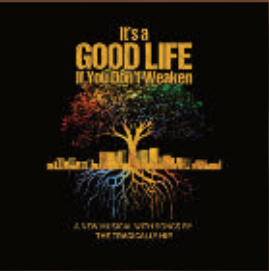
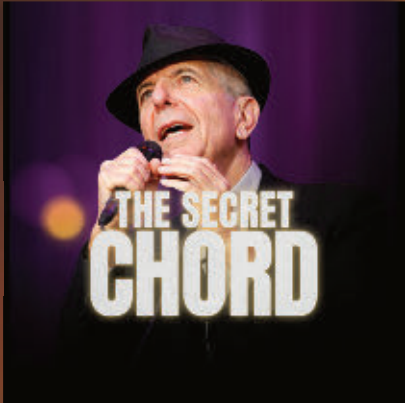
On other Westmount and Montreal one-way streets, the parking lane is apparent by the presence of parked cars. No lines needed. That narrow strip between the east side parking lane and the sidewalk is already causing confusion as some vehicles are parked straddling both the parking lane and the undefined lane.

It appears that the city wants this part of Metcalfe to have only single-file traffic, which is likely to augment congestion at peak activity times, such as for events at the attached synagogue. Imagine wedding guests' cars clogging that sole traffic lane down Metcalfe and extending along Sherbrooke, thereby eliminating the bus stop. Emergency vehicle access will be, at best, compromised.

Clearly a one-way street is safer for parents to cross with their children as it involves *continued on p. 10*



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Cllr. Levine appointed to
new commissionership for seniors

By JENNIFER BALL

During the July council meeting, it was revealed that a new commissionership had been established to focus on Westmount's seniors and it was decided that District 6 councillor Paul Levine would be assigned to the role.

Levine provided a statement on August 5 that details the commissioner for seniors' mandate, namely: "[to provide] leadership on matters affecting Westmount residents aged 65 and over, while promoting the well-being, participation inclusion and dignity of older adults."

"Recognizing that aging is both a demographic reality and a personal experience, the commissioner works with council, the administration [senior unelected city staff], residents and community partners to identify emerging issues, develop policy recommendations and advance initiatives that support healthy, active and age-friendly communities."

Levine also said, on July 28, that almost 30 percent of Westmount's population is aged 65 and over – well above the national average.

"While the city already offers valuable programs and services for older residents, such as the Vulnerable Persons Registry, and Good Morning Westmount [a telephone service similar to a wake-up call], our council felt we could go a step further."

Levine framed the genesis of the commissionership, saying it was a desire to establish a clear and coherent framework to address the evolving needs of seniors. "We were also inspired by neighbouring municipalities, such as Côte St. Luc, that have already embarked on similar initiatives."

► District 6 councillor Paul Levine in Queen Elizabeth Gardens at the corner of Wood Ave. and Barat Rd. on August 19.



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This fall, let's discover, get used to and monitor changes

Mayor's Column

MICHAEL STERN

I know the construction has caused inconveniences and delays. Living through construction is rarely anyone's idea of fun, but it is worth taking a moment to appreciate what is happening beneath our feet.

Westmount's infrastructure is aging. The work we undertake today is about protecting the quality of life we all value – not simply for ourselves, but for the generations that will call Westmount home after us.

None of this progress happens without people working together. We are fortunate to have city councillors who bring their time, energy and different perspectives to the table, united by a commitment to Westmount.

We are equally fortunate to have an extraordinary team of city employees whose work often happens quietly and behind the scenes. From planning and engineering to public works, public safety, recreation, and administration, their professionalism and dedication turn plans into progress. We owe them all our gratitude.

Change is also taking place in other parts of our community.

Changes to traffic around city hall

This fall, new traffic measures will be introduced on portions of Metcalfe, Kensington and Argyle avenues as part of our work to create safer routes to school. As with many changes, these measures have generated discussion and differing points of view.

That is healthy. We need to listen to one another.

That means listening to residents with concerns, just as we listen to parents, teachers, students and the professionals whose expertise helps guide these decisions. Above all, when children's safety is involved, we have a responsibility to act thoughtfully and carefully.

We also have a responsibility to see how change works in practice. We will monitor these measures, collect data and adjust as needed. Sometimes the best way to understand a new idea is simply to give it a little time – much like that first day of school.

Garbage to be picked up once a week, even in winter

The same spirit of balance applies to how we respond to environmental change. As a community, we are getting better at reducing and sorting our waste. At the same time, we recognize the practical challenges that less frequent garbage collection during the winter could create for some households.

For now, maintaining *continued on p. 10*

District 4 councillor to miss next meeting due to birth of first child

Value of 'respectful council debate': Cllr. Chadha

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

"Respectful debate" among city council members is not "disloyalty" but rather "the lifeline of a well-functioning democracy," District 4 councillor Gurveen Chadha stated at the start of the city council meeting August 4.

"I will not pretend that we work well together," she explained. There had been "challenging moments these past months" that had frustrated her. She could live with the decisions, not necessarily the way in which the council had arrived at them.

She also said it was important "to think of the residents who will inherit them" in the future.

In that respect, it was at this meeting that Chadha announced she would not be at the next meeting because she would be "occupied over the birth of our first child." This was greeted by hearty applause.

Referring to it as "life changing," she said it was causing her to reflect on the role of council and the impact of its decisions over the next 60 years on the people who will inherit the decisions.



Gurveen Chadha at the August 4 city council meeting.

PHOTO: LAUREEN SWEENEY.

She also expressed gratitude to the residents of District 4 who elected her and the public servants, "who keep the city running."

A Sweet New Addition to Sherbrooke Street, Victoria village

A rich new chapter in Westmount's culinary story opens this Labour Day weekend at 4935 Sherbrooke Street West with the arrival of Côneaisseur, an artisanal gelato boutique.

Founded by master gelatiera Maria Motta, Côneaisseur combines European culinary tradition with a deep passion for ingredient sourcing. Motta's journey spans years of experience working as a head pastry chef, in ice cream technology at the University of Guelph, and in advanced mastery at Italy's Carpigiani Gelato University.

Every batch of gelato is handcrafted in small quantities using high-quality local dairy and premium seasonal ingredients. Visitors can savour carefully balanced staple flavours or indulge in the shop's signature weekly creation, the Signature Cone.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

navigating through traffic from only one direction. Why not proceed step by step, starting with the one-way conversion?

It seems to me that a near zero-cost solution could involve painting a cross-walk on Metcalfe at Springfield and instructing parents to either use it or the traffic lights at Sherbrooke. The maximum walking time to such a cross-walk or to the traffic lights would be 10 seconds.

If I count correctly, there are 13 addresses on this strip, 12 residential on the west side and one institutional on the east side.

Has the city had the advice of appropriate professionals about this, such as traffic

Mayor, cont'd from p. 9

weekly winter collection at an additional cost of less than two dollars per month per taxpayer gives us a reasonable balance while we continue to look at longer-term solutions.

Enjoy community events

During these few remaining weeks of summer, I encourage everyone to take advantage of our many community events. It is always a privilege and a pleasure to meet residents, exchange ideas and cross paths with you throughout the season.

As summer draws to a close and a new season begins, there is much to look forward to. There will undoubtedly be more change ahead.

Some of it may take a little getting used to. But if the first day of school teaches us anything, it is that what feels unfamiliar in the morning can feel pretty good by the afternoon.

And with that, one last bit of back-to-school housekeeping from your accountant-turned-mayor: September 9 is the deadline for the final property tax instalment.

Wishing all our students, families and residents a wonderful start to the new season.

planners, urban planners and urban designers? A reasonable process of prior consultation involving such professionals and the affected parties can lead to a design to improve safety and create a softened, landscaped environment, with the appropriate look and feel for both the zoned residential and zoned institutional spaces.

In the past, we residents have received letters from the city describing upcoming public works on or near our street, giving the description and purpose of the work, the schedule, the name, phone and email contact for the project manager. This time it is silence.

I am requesting that the mayor and councillors reconsider this and do the right thing. It hardly seems likely that they would wish to have this kind of mess in front of their homes, so they should understand the issue.

DAVID H. FISH, METCALFE AVE.

Other topics!

POOL SCHEDULE MUST CONSIDER CHILDREN'S NEEDS, CLIMATE CHANGE

Following a question at the July 7 council meeting, I am writing to urge a re-con-

sideration of the current access policies at the Westmount municipal outdoor pool to better support our community's youngest residents.

The current schedule creates unintended barriers for families, particularly with the implementation of an "adult swim" around the dinner hour. For parents of young children (age five and under), finding a time to swim/cool off is incredibly difficult. The facility and adjacent splash pad are closed to the public for morning lessons, midday open hours conflict with standard toddler nap times, and the dinner-hour adult swim blocks the final window of the day since young children are asleep after 7 pm.

This gap contradicts Westmount's wonderful new initiative of planting trees for newborn and adopted babies to welcome young families. To truly be an all-inclusive municipality, our recreational infrastructure should align with these welcoming values.

Furthermore, as climate change accelerates and extreme heat waves become our summer reality, public pool access is no longer just a luxury – it is an essential refuge.

My four-year-old was recently turned away from the splash pad at 10 am during

an Environment and Climate Change Canada heat warning due to our outdated pool protocols. Would it not be a simple, common-sense adjustment to at least keep the splash pad open for young children on scorching hot days alongside morning swim lessons? Furthermore, it is unlikely that infants and toddlers playing in a separate area would disrupt lap swimmers or older children who are focused on their own aquatic activities.

True inclusivity means combating ageism at both ends of the spectrum, ensuring our policies protect and accommodate our youngest residents just as carefully as our older population.

Updating these guidelines to allow flexible cooling options for young families is a constructive step forward. I encourage the city of Westmount to re-visit the current pool schedule so our community spaces remain accessible to all ages.

DIANA ANDERSON, ST. CATHERINE ST.

VIC VILLAGE RETAILERS SHOULD NOT LOSE PARKING SPACES TO BIXI

Last year, the much needed re-construction of Sherbrooke St. created travel and parking chaos in the Victoria village area. The job was completed on time and was well done. But it was the merchants along Sherbrooke who suffered dearly, as their clients and customers could not find adequate parking permitting them time to do their shopping.

That said, it is quite thoughtless that Westmount should now undertake to remove three or four parking places on Victoria at Sherbrooke in order to accommodate the BIXI bike programme. Just what the merchants and restaurants in that locale needed. Less parking that could equate to fewer customers. What exactly were the people at city hall thinking? Several years of COVID restrictions, followed by road construction and now the ultimate detriment to commerce, removal of more parking.

What could be next on the agenda? Perhaps Sherbrooke between Grosvenor and Grey could be turned into a pedestrian mall, with no cars permitted at all. And here we all thought that the new city administration would be a change for the better!

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

Husky in a sidecar



As seen on Sherbrooke near Prince Albert Ave. on August 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Devon and Stayner Park tennis courts will have new fencing



The Stayner Park tennis courts on August 12.

By JENNIFER BALL

The July council meeting revealed that there was fence replacement planned for the Devon and Stayner parks' tennis courts because the current fences are no longer deemed safe for public use.

Devon Park is located at the corner of

Devon Ave. and Upper Belmont Ave., and Stayner Park is located at the corner of Greene Ave. and Stayner St.

In a statement that Mugisha Rutishisha, director of communications at the city, provided on August 3, it was noted that the contract for the project has been awarded to Clôtüre Fortin with a budget of approxi-

mately \$67,000.

"The work is planned for the fall, but we are awaiting final confirmation from the contractor regarding the exact start. Please note that the [tennis] courts will need to be temporarily closed to players during the work."

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The Stayner Park tennis courts on August 12.

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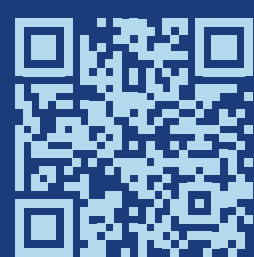
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11-foot-high stop sign on Wood Ave. under review by city

By JENNIFER BALL

Typically stop signs have a height of seven feet from the ground in Westmount. So is the 11-foot-high stop sign at de Casson and Wood Ave. visible to motorists heading north from Sherbrooke?

And was the faded stop line there on the city's radar?

On August 6, Mugisha Rutishisha, city communications director, said: "We are currently verifying the technical details related to its installation and would prefer to confirm those details before commenting on the specific reasons for its current height. We can confirm, however, that the sign has been damaged several times as a result of vehicle collisions and has had to be replaced on multiple occasions..."

"With respect to the stop-line pavement markings, we are aware that some markings were inadvertently missed during this year's work program. A review is under way to identify the affected locations, and our contractor will be asked to complete the missing work during a future mobilization."

The white stop-line pavement marking was re-painted at the intersection on August 15.

► The eleven-foot stop sign and the faded white stop line ▼ on Wood Ave. at the corner of de Casson on August 3. Inset: August 20.



August 3

August 20

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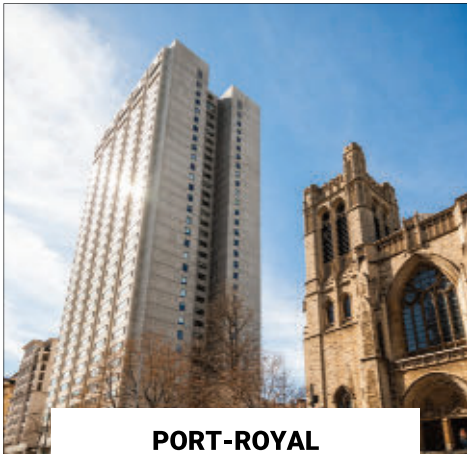
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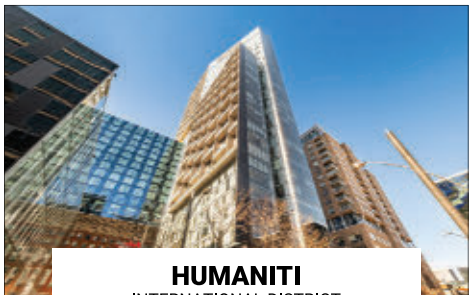
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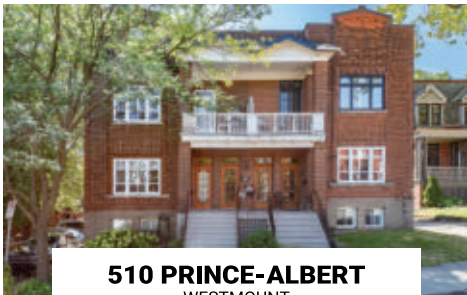
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Summer means construction!



As complete reconstruction of Sherbrooke (Grosvenor east to Strathcona) continues, the additional work to reconstruct Arlington north to Côte St. Antoine beside the Westmount YMCA is being undertaken at the same time as part of the \$7.875-million project. This work shown August 20 across from Victoria Hall includes new sidewalks and Hydro Westmount lines.

PHOTOS: LAUREEN SWEENEY

Summer is coming to an end, so make sure you soak up all the sunshine while you can! Now is the perfect time to make sure your pool heater or heat pump is working properly. If you have any issues or need repairs, give us a call!!



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Police Report

Car thieves steal Cadillac SUV, while porch pirate grabs an Amazon package

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The theft of a luxury SUV in upper Westmount and an Amazon package stolen inside a de Maisonneuve Blvd. apartment building were the only criminal incidents reported by police at Station 12 last week.

According to a complaint filed at the Stanton St. station by the SUV's owner on August 18, the vehicle, a Cadillac Escalade, was parked near the corner of Bellevue and Sunnyside avenues the day before.

Security camera images obtained by the police revealed two suspects approaching the vehicle around midnight on August 17.

"They had hoodies on," said Station 12

community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, while adding that there was no further information about the suspects' appearance.

The owner noticed the vehicle was missing the following morning.

'Porch' pirates move inside

The pilfering of a package delivered by Amazon to a seemingly secure drop-off point inside a de Maisonneuve Blvd. apartment building could serve as a reminder that there are safer ways to ensure the delivery of online purchases.

According to Cst. Yigit, the package was dropped off inside the building on August 14. "A suspect walked in and grabbed the box and left with it," he said.

With the ever-growing popularity of rapid home delivery for products from retail web giants like Amazon, it's become very common to see packages left, sometimes all day long, on stoops outside homes all over Westmount.

Station 12 previously has filed charges against individuals (often repeat offenders), prosecuting them with evidence gathered by home security cameras that recorded them stealing packages delivered by Amazon or other online retailers.

Although there's an immense convenience to having almost anything delivered to the door, it's also become easier than ever for anybody with dishonest inclinations to steal from doorsteps while out walking along just about any residential Westmount street.

Among the methods suggested by the police to safeguard against porch piracy is to set up an outdoor drop box next to the front door with instructions on its use for the delivery person. As well, Amazon now offers secure and charge-free drop-off points in retail settings, some of which are overseen by Canada Post.

'Take something' but not the tree



The site of seemingly successful left-for-pickup transaction on Prince Albert below Sherbrooke, as seen May 27.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Just blocks from Westmount, children are facing tremendous barriers to success

For more than a decade, the Valiquette Foundation, a registered Canadian charity on Van Horne Avenue, just three doors from Victoria and a few blocks from Westmount, has helped children overcome financial and social barriers through education, camps, youth development and community support.

The distance is only a few blocks, but the difference in circumstances is profound.

Many parents we serve sacrifice tremendously for their children, sometimes working two or three jobs. Roughly 30% of our families are single-mother households, nearly half do not own a car, and almost none own a home – but their dreams for their children are no different from those of any parent.

Poverty should not be mistaken for a lack of potential

Our philosophy is simple: poverty should never be mistaken for a lack of potential. Children do not choose their circumstances, but with the right opportunities and support, they can change the trajectory of their lives.

Our year-round programmes include tutoring, French and English, typing, financial literacy, AI, camps, emotional intelligence, leadership and Youth Success, which introduces older students to vocational, educational and employment pathways.

We keep these programmes as affordable as possible, but even our highly subsidised rates are beyond the reach of some families. Parents sometimes delay enrolling their children or withdraw them before the school year ends simply to save money. No child should lose access to educational support because a family cannot afford it. Every week, we feed up to 100 children through our after-school and weekend programmes.

We have donated more than 80 computers. In 2025 alone, we provided more than \$22,000 in free and heavily subsidised summer camp and tutoring. At camp, children receive daily French and mathematics alongside sports, swimming and arts. We serve children from more than 20 schools, including families referred by CLSC Côte-des-Neiges, CLSC NDG and Batshaw Youth and Family Services.

Our work has received three awards



and been featured on CTV News and CityNews Montréal.

Unfortunately, demand exceeds our capacity. After more than a decade, we have demonstrated what can be accomplished with limited resources. To reach more children, we need others who believe in what we are doing.

You can help

You can help by making a financial contribution, sponsoring a child's tutoring or summer camp, sharing professional expertise, providing corporate or foundation support, or introducing us to someone who shares our belief that a parent's financial circumstances should not determine a child's future. Sometimes one person can change the trajectory of a child's life.

Perhaps that person is you.

**We need your help.
More importantly,
the children need your help.**

Jay Valiquette

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DU CONSEIL

Mercredi 9 septembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Wednesday, September 9



Résultats du sondage sur la collecte des ordures

Les résultats du sondage mené au printemps 2026 auprès des résidents visés par la collecte des ordures aux deux semaines sont maintenant disponibles. westmount.org



Results of the Garbage Collection Survey

The results of the survey conducted during the spring 2026 among residents affected by biweekly garbage collection are now available. westmount.org

Sécuriser les trajets scolaires

Depuis le 15 août, des tronçons des avenues Argyle, Metcalfe et Kensington ont de nouvelles configurations de circulation visant à renforcer la sécurité aux abords des zones scolaires.

- **Avenue Argyle** (de l'avenue Thornhill au chemin de la Côte-Saint-Antoine) : sens unique vers le sud.
- **Avenue Kensington** (du chemin de la Côte-Saint-Antoine à la rue Sherbrooke Ouest) : sens unique vers le sud.
- **Avenue Metcalfe** (de la rue Sherbrooke Ouest au chemin de la Côte-Saint-Antoine) : sens unique vers le nord.

citoyen.westmount.org/projets

Travaux et entraves routières

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

- **Ville de Montréal** : poursuite des travaux de reconstruction d'une conduite d'eau sur l'avenue Atwater.

Pour en savoir plus sur les projets d'infrastructures à Westmount, consultez westmount.org/travaux et le [Portail citoyen](https://citoyen.westmount.org).

Safe Routes to School

Since August 15, portions of Argyle, Metcalfe and Kensington avenues have new traffic configurations to enhance safety around school zones.

- **Argyle Ave.** (from Thornhill Ave. to Côte-Saint-Antoine Rd.): One-way going south.
- **Kensington Ave.** (from Côte-Saint-Antoine Rd. to Sherbrooke St. W.): One-way going south.
- **Metcalfe Ave.** (from Sherbrooke St. West to Côte-Saint-Antoine Rd.): One-way going north.

citoyen.westmount.org/projets

Roadwork and Traffic Disruptions

- **Reconstruction of Sainte-Catherine Street** between De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Glen Road (eastbound).
- **Reconstruction of the Thornhill Stairs**.
- **Reconstruction of Mountain Avenue** between Cedar Avenue and Sherbrooke Street.
- **Ville de Montréal**: Reconstruction work on a water main continues on Atwater Avenue

For more information on infrastructure projects, visit westmount.org/works and the [Citizen Portal](https://citoyen.westmount.org).

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition : Geoffrey Tucker
22 août au 24 septembre, Galerie du Victoria Hall. La Galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'exposition Solo : Archives sur papiers de l'artiste Geoffrey Tucker.

À travers des œuvres sur papier, l'artiste partage souvenirs, rencontres, lieux et moments marquants de son parcours. Une exposition intime et sensible, où chaque œuvre invite le visiteur à interpréter une écriture personnelle et unique. westmount.org/evenements

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

Fête de clôture du Club de lecture d'été TD
29 août, 16 h 30, Victoria Hall. Célébrez la fin du Club de lecture d'été TD avec le spectacle Hisse et Ho du Gros Orteil, un mélange de cirque, de clown, de musique et d'acrobaties. Prix, divertissement et rafraîchissements sur place. westlib.org

Pique-nique communautaire
19 septembre, 12 h, parc Westmount. Venez célébrer la fin de l'été entre amis et voisins ! Apportez votre pique-nique et votre couverture; les jeux et la musique sont fournis. Aucune inscription requise. westmount.org/evenements



LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition: Geoffrey Tucker
August 22 to September 24, Gallery at the Victoria Hall. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present Solo: Archives on Paper by Geoffrey Tucker.

Through works on paper, Tucker shares memories, encounters, places, and meaningful moments from his life. An intimate and sensitive exhibition that invites visitors to interpret his unique visual language. westmount.org/events

Movie in the Park:
Roman Holiday (1953)

August 27, 8 p.m., Westmount Park. Join us for a screening under the stars! Follow the adventures of a young princess who escapes her royal duties to explore Rome, where she meets a charming journalist. Remember to bring a chair or blanket. westmount.org/events

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

Community Picnic
September 19, 12 p.m., Westmount Park. Join friends and neighbours for a picnic to celebrate the end of summer! Bring your own picnic and blanket—games and music will be provided. No registration required. westmount.org/events



SPVM's Station 12 welcomes Abdullah Emran as its new commander

By JENNIFER BALL

Abdullah Emran commenced his new mandate as commander of Montreal police Station 12 on June 1, replacing the outgoing Marie-Eve Lamarche, who served in the role since the autumn of 2024.

Station 12 is located on Stanton St.

Emran began his policing career in 2003 on Montreal's South Shore before joining the SPVM (Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal) in 2005 as a patrol officer in downtown Montreal.

He told the *Independent* that he feels privileged to work in Westmount. "[The city] is a remarkable community with engaged residents, dynamic businesses and strong institutions...

"Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to work in several very different communities across the city, including downtown Montreal, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, St. Léonard, Lachine and now Westmount.

"I also served as an official SPVM spokesperson where I worked closely with the media and the public during major incidents and investigations. These experiences



Abdullah Emran at SPVM's Station 12 on August 7.

have given me a broad understanding of the challenges, realities and strengths of different neighbourhoods throughout Montreal."

Emran: 'Building trust' important

Emran said that throughout his career, one constant has remained the same: "building trust with the community and working closely with residents and partners to keep neighbourhoods safe."

In terms of his priorities, Emran said it is listening and learning. "I want to meet residents, merchants and community partners to better understand their concerns.

"My second priority is making sure everyone feels safe and welcome. We take hate crimes and hate incidents very seriously, and encourage people to report them. Another important priority is road safety, especially around schools during the back-to-school period.

"Finally, I want residents to have easy access to their local police chief and to know that their concerns will be heard."

Community relations is a big part of the commander's job and because Westmount has witnessed attempted arson at Temple

Emanu-El-Beth Sholom (see June 9 issue, p. 1 and 8) and many protests since October 7, 2023 outside the Israeli consulate, the *Independent* asked Emran about any applicable and specific policing techniques.

'Hate crimes ... have no place in Westmount'

He said, "Let me be clear: anti-Semitism, hate crimes and hate-motivated acts have no place in Westmount or anywhere in Montreal. Any reported incident is taken seriously, thoroughly assessed and investigated according to the facts. We encourage victims and witnesses to come forward so that appropriate action can be taken."

He told the *Independent* that he understands that the events of the past few years have had a real impact on the sense of security of many residents, families and business owners.

"My commitment is straightforward: public safety comes first. Every resident has the right to feel safe in their neighbourhood, to access their home or business freely and to go about their daily life without fear or intimidation."

Temporary walkway, fencing removed from Greene entrance to Westmount Square

By JENNIFER BALL

Due to an ongoing infrastructure renewal program at Westmount Square, the Greene Ave. entrance to the shopping complex was closed in October 2025, then in

late November 2025 temporary pedestrian access was created that required customers and residents to use a temporary wooden walkway to enter the complex via Greene Ave, while the majority of the entrance space was fenced off.

By the week of July 20 all construction material, machinery and fencing were removed.

The infrastructure project is currently in Phase 2 and includes a new water membrane under the exterior plaza and replace-

ment of the domestic water pipes, with a projected cost of \$18.4 million, which is shared by the residential owners and the commercial towers.



The Greene Ave. entrance to the Westmount Square shopping complex on July 26.



Temporary access to Westmount Square's concourse and its tunnel to Alexis Nihon opened on November 27, 2025, as seen the same day.

Westmount’s Capyo sets up school in Sierre Leone, adapts AI for learners worldwide

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Capyo, a Westmount-based AI company building digital classroom infrastructure for schools around the world, set up a school in Makeni, Sierra Leone in June, establishing a full online classroom from scratch with laptops and Starlink.

“It went beautifully. Over 600 students gained access for the first time,” said company CEO Max Brie.

The company has also been grappling with some of the complex issues involved in applications using artificial intelligence.

Capyo’s flagship product is an AI-powered platform for remote teaching. Designed to absorb any school’s curriculum, training materials and protocols, it turns them into a personalized learning experience in virtually any language.

Although Capyo is a for-profit venture, Brie and his partners work closely with the non-profit Montreal-based Global Impact Canada, which works with sponsors to provide payments to Capyo for specific projects.

According to 26-year-old Brie, Capyo deploys three ways: software only (when a



Capyo CEO Max Brie is seen here on August 13.

school already has hardware); a portable kit with ruggedized laptops and Starlink (when they don’t); and a fully off-grid solar-powered classroom (manufactured in Quebec), placed inside a shipping container that arrives at the school on a truck.

“We’re live in Sierra Leone, Haiti, Malawi, Burundi and more,” Brie said in an interview with the *Independent*. “With a waitlist of more than 200,000 learners across 20

plus countries, everything ships pre-configured from Westmount.”

International – and local

Although his travel to Africa can seem more interesting, the company has also been doing similar work closer to home. According to Brie, they’ve started delivering the same platform to newcomer and refugee families here through YMCA

Greater Montreal’s francisation program.

“For a lot of newcomers like those you see at the YMCA, it’s very difficult to set time aside to go to a class in a language they don’t yet understand to learn,” said Brie.

“Our goal is to offer them our platform in the language of their choosing to get them up to date on whatever they need to get jobs that are not traditional newcomer employment.”

That being said, Brie admits the company is also dealing with at least one secondary issue generated by the use of artificial intelligence. As AI’s influence grows, a tendency has been noted (especially among remote learning students) to use AI to cheat on tests, exams and essays.

According to an August 10 article in *The New York Times*, AI student cheating is accelerating beyond copying chatbot-generated essays and solutions to assigned problems.

With AI agents, according to the *Times*, it’s now possible for students to outsource entire semesters of assignments. With just a few commands, AI agents can watch videos of lectures, take tests, write papers – even chat with classmates about assigned readings.

“When it comes to students cheating in general, there’s always going to be those who are going to find a way to use modern tools, whatever they may look like, to cheat,” Brie said, adding that the AI in Capyo’s platform was designed to never give up answers no matter how students try to circumvent the system.

With lingering uncertainty over the issue of AI’s capabilities, he said Capyo also employs human monitors to evaluate the flow of interactions in platform channels. “They monitor how the platform is working with students,” said Brie.

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Writers' group grew from 300 to 1,000 in her time

QWF's Schubert retires as new in-residence program named after her

By MARTIN C. BARRY

With just a short time left before retiring at the end of August, Lori Schubert has been reminiscing about the 23 years she spent at the Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) – mainly as its executive director.

Schubert, whose last day on the job will be on August 31, is being succeeded by Remy Attig, who is returning to Montreal after working in the US as an associate professor of sociolinguistics and translation at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

In a statement, the QWF says Schubert presided over a period of sustained growth at the federation, "greatly expanding its existing programs and launching new initiatives to serve writers of all genres, levels, ages, backgrounds and regions of Quebec."

"Lori has always created and sustained a warm, welcoming space for all writers, with open arms and a ready ear, for which she is much and rightly loved," said QWF president Rachel McCrum.

Awards added for youth-oriented works

Under Schubert's leadership, the QWF added awards for children's and young adult literature, playwriting and spoken word, created new professional opportunities for writers through the Fresh Pages Diversity Initiative, launched two literary journals, and expanded membership from 300 to more than 1,000.

"In terms of the number of that activities we do and the people we reach, we've gone outside the Montreal area more and more," Schubert said in an interview with the *Independent*. "We do more outreach in the Eastern Townships and also a little bit elsewhere."

For Schubert, a highlight of her time at the QWF was the creation of the literary journal *Quist*, which publishes work by Quebec youth aged 14 to 21, and a new Youth Mentorship Program. They were



Lori Schubert with marketing for one of the QWF's best-known activities.

launched in 2024 and 2025 respectively. Beyond her work at the QWF, Schubert

was instrumental in the founding of Quebec's English-language Arts Network (ELAN)

and the National Juries and Awards Working Group (NJAWG). As well, she served in an advisory capacity for YES Montreal, the Blue Metropolis Foundation and the Atwater Writers' Exhibition.

As well, she chaired the Arts & Culture Education and Skills round table, leading to the upcoming launch of a new program to be housed at YES.

Concurrent with Schubert's retirement, the QWF also announced a new writer's residency program, named in Schubert's honour, for Quebec-based English-language writers over the age of 60.

New writer-in-residence program

The Lori Schubert Writer-in-Residence Program will award one writer each year a \$10,000 stipend and time to work on their own creative project. The program is funded in perpetuity with a sizeable donation made by a long-time QWF supporter.

Beginning in 2027, the four-month residency will take place annually from January through April. The selected writer will divide their time between working on their project and offering feedback to QWF members on short writing pieces or guidance on writing and publishing.

Each residency will culminate in a public event featuring the writer in residence. Applications for the inaugural Lori Schubert Writer in Residence, which will take place in 2027, are now open. The deadline for applications is September 30.

See p. 1 for another photo.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

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As you can see, this little prince enjoys lounging on a cushion even though he can also have a wonderful play session on his cat tree.

Slim is an exquisite Bengal-type, with water-green eyes that are memorable and a coat that presents the classic marbled-and-spotted markings.

He is agile and playful, very intelligent and interested in all around him. Slim is 10 years young, very healthy, will be up to date with his inoculations upon adoption, and neutered. He has gone outside in the past, but he has been an indoor-only cat for some time now.

Slim will now thrive in a family where he can feel safe, loved and relaxed. For more information on precious Slim, also with photographs and videos of him relaxing and playing, please do not hesitate to contact our neighbour Ana at 514.953.3035 or email at anaeg6439@hotmail.com.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Detours without end



Westbound St. Catherine St. traffic is currently blocked from Victoria to de Maisonneuve because the usual westbound lane is being used for eastbound traffic. The usual eastbound lane is under construction, as seen August 24.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Former mayor Smith awarded highest service medal of Quebec



Christina Smith and Jennifer Maccarone. PHOTO COURTESY OF J. MACCARONE'S OFFICE.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A pending Quebec election in October

raises “enormous” issues for electors, retired Westmount mayor Christina Smith told more than 70 invited guests plus city



Current municipal council members (minus Gurveen Chadha and Antonio D'Amico) and Jennifer Maccarone with Christina Smith, centre.

officials at a reception in her honour August 18.

“Once again, the question of Quebec’s future is very much part of our political conversation,” she stated. “We cannot take democracy for granted.

“The consequences of disengagement are simply too great. The stakes could hardly be higher.”

It was at this event at Victoria Hall that former mayor Smith was presented with Quebec’s highest service medal by Jennifer Maccarone, provincial representative for Westmount-St. Louis.

This Medal of the Member of the National Assembly recognizes “individuals whose exceptional commitment, leadership, and service have made a significant contribution to their community and to Quebec.”

Served with integrity

“Christina Smith has devoted her career to serving others with integrity, vision and compassion,” Maccarone said. “Her leadership in municipal government, the private sector, and the community has left a lasting impact on Westmount and beyond.”

While the city’s former mayor has not declared any future political plans, she said she was “grateful for the people of Westmount who had entrusted me with the responsibility.”

In her 12 years in municipal politics, starting as the District 5 councillor, she said she had developed “a deep respect for colleagues at every level of government.” She had decided before the November

2025 municipal election not to seek another mayoral term.

Truly humbling

“Receiving this honour is truly humbling,” she said in accepting the medal.

“I have always believed that public service is about listening, working together, and making a meaningful difference in people’s lives.

“I am deeply grateful to everyone who has supported me throughout my career and to the many dedicated volunteers, colleagues, and community organizations that make our community so strong. This recognition is one that I am honoured to share with all of them.”

Building bridges

Addressing Maccarone, Smith stated she had also discovered that Maccarone’s Quebec role, currently being in opposition, is not easy. “You have consistently worked to build bridges to find common ground to influence legislation in the daily lives of Quebecers.”

Among the many seen at the event were MP Anna Gainey, former city director general Duncan Campbell, current substitute director general Dave Lapointe and many members of the city staff.

Mayor Michael Stern and most current council members attended while former ones included Victor Drury – who opened the event – as well as Conrad Peart, Elisabeth Roux, Anitra Bostock, Mary Gallery, Rosalind Davis and Nicolas Matossian.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

ICRF's 50th year capped with \$350k fundraiser



Robert Bard, Alex Feifer Wexelman, Vivian Billick, Jeffrey Solomon and Jeffrey Bernstein.

The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Montreal welcomed guests to its 49th annual gala at the newly restored Le 9e.

The evening brought together business, philanthropic, medical and scientific communities, including ICRF board members, Montreal research fellows and members of the organization's scientific advisory board.

A cocktail reception catered by Beso was followed by a high-energy performance by *I'm a Soulman*.

Gala honorary chairs were **Vivian Billick** (there with husband **Dr. Robin Billick**) and **Jeffrey Solomon** (with wife **Janet Solomon**).

Event chair was **Alex Feifer Wexelman** there with her husband **Leslie Wexelman**.

Noted in the crowded room were ICRF's CEO **Brigitte Fortin** and **Guy Vadish**, co-presidents **Jeffrey Bernstein** (with **Maxine Foldiak**) and **Robert Bard** (with **Leah Moss**); SAB chair **Dr. Walter Gotlieb** and his wife **Ariella**; ICRF fellow **Amatzia Gantz**, **Shauli Talmor**, and ICRF fellow **Dr. Yossi Tzur** there with his wife **Yael Frank**; **Sara** and **Bram Freedman**, CEO Jewish Gen-

continued on p.26



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Noah Billick and Peter Rosenthal; Sara and Bram Freedman; ICRF fellow Dr. Yossi Tzur and Yael Frank; Alana Wexler Schwartz, Maxine Foldiak, Jeffrey Bernstein and Howard Schwartz.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 25
eral Hospital Foundation; **Debra Margles** and **Pino Forgione**; ICRF board members **Noah Billick**, **Peter Rosenthal** and **Alana Wexler Schwartz**, there with her husband **Howard Schwartz**; **Richard Stern**, president Olymbec; **Susan Libman** and **Barry Pascal**; **Karen Beaulieu** and **Clarence Epstein**; **Lysa Lash** and **Mark Hornstein**; **Merle** and **Sam Hornstein**, **Jill** and **Carl Schlesinger** and **Camila Velandia** and **Jeff Baikowitz**.
Top sponsors included the **Felicia** and **Arnold Aaron Foundation**, **Venue Sponsor Le 9E**, **Maureen** and **Jack Dym**, **Lysa** and **Mark Hornstein**, the **Cons family** and the **Howard Stotland Family Foundation**.

The fête raised more than \$350,000 and marked the close of ICRF's 50th anniversary year, celebrating five decades of impact in cancer research. Since its founding in 1975, ICRF has funded more than 3,000 cancer research grants in Israel contributing to discoveries that have helped transform cancer treatment worldwide. ICRF Montreal also plays a unique role through its fellowship program, which supports Israeli post-doctoral researchers conducting cutting-edge cancer research in Montreal hospitals under the mentorship of leading physicians and scientists.
Please send information on your upcoming event for the Indie's Fall Social Calendar to veronica@redgravepr.com.



Karen Beaulieu, Clarence Epstein and Merle Hornstein.



Pino Forgione and Debra Margles. Barry Pascal and wife Susan Libman. Mark Hornstein and Lysa Lash. Amatzia Gantz, Shiri Tamam and Shauli Talmor.

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