

## Westmount Park playground, paths slated for \$2.5-million updating

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After previous proposals for re-developing the playground in Westmount Park were considered three years ago, city council February 26 approved a separate new contract to update the area including walkways around the playground.

The contract was approved unanimously at a cost of \$2,442,097 including tax credits and at a maximum of \$2,674,400 to Paysagiste Promovert Inc. This was described as the lowest conforming bidder.

"This is an exciting new contract for our outdated play models," said Councillor Mary Gallery who moved the resolution as commissioner of parks. "I'm delighted this is moving forward."

Mayor Christina Smith pointed out that this is the city's most-used park and playground, by residents, schools, daycares, day camps and by "people coming from

afar."

Previous small play structures that had been put in place in August 2022 for kids up to five years old had replaced "unsafe" ones, she recalled (see story April 26, 2022, p. 1, 25).

The new play structures for various ages will include "some things we've never seen in our parks before," Mayor Smith added. She referred to them as including trampolines and climbing structures "integrated into the ground."

As well, she added, "as anyone can attest who has walked around there, the paths are in desperate need of work."

### Details of approved plan

In the absence of a detailed illustration of the plan for the playground itself and the paths, city director general Julie Mandeville shared the following additional information *continued on p. 8*

## Spring was here...



Two large spring smiles were spotted on Greene Ave. March 8. From left, Valérie Cross is studying finance and Kaylee Nuez is studying nursing. The two friends were off to have breakfast together. The warm, sunny weather did not last. It snowed March 10. Last snowfall? PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

## Total value of construction permits increases 16% in 2023, as number falls 6.8%

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The value of construction and renovation work in Westmount in 2023 reached a total of some \$106,173,964, according to permits issued by the city's Urban Planning department. This is up 16.0 percent from 2022, but down 20.5 percent from 2021.

On the other hand, the total number of 101 permits was a drop of 6.8 percent from the 147 reported issued in 2022, which

totalled \$91,519,301 (see tables on p. 8).

According to Urban Planning director Frédéric Neault, who provided the results on request, the 2023 dollar amounts were boosted by two projects.

### Selby, Albert Square drive total

The first was an occupation certificate in February for Phase 1 of The Selby project of 126 units.

The second was a construction permit in Oct- *continued on p. 8*

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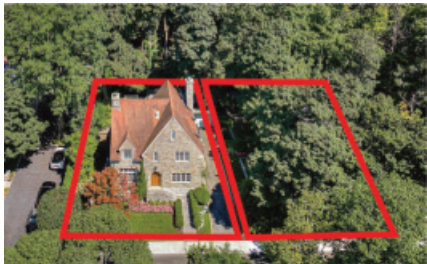
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# Small dog squeezes through WAG fence leading to lengthy search

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A small off-leash Daschund managed to squeeze through an opening in fencing at an entrance/exit to the dog run at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) March 6, Public Security officials report. The dog was one of four that two handlers were caring for at 1:45 pm while preparing to leave the run.

The loose dog was then reported to be “running wildly” on the WAG’s running track, alluding capture by two public safety officers and a worker with Public Works.

“Unfortunately, it exited at Hallowell and continued” on its freedom run, said Public Security director Greg McBain. Meanwhile searchers checked the backs of houses as well as along the train tracks. It was eventually spotted again squeezing through a fence at the tracks.

Officials were later informed that the dog walkers had found the Daschund. No details were recorded as to where or how. It had worn a licence tag.

## Dropping the leash to talk on phone generates \$232 ticket

A Westmount woman was given a \$232 ticket March 6 for allowing her dog to run “off leash” in King George (Murray) Park, Public Security officials said.

The woman was spotted at 9:45 pm and recognized while speaking on her phone. By using the phone, she had enabled the dog to wander freely, trailing a loose leash behind it.

The patroller reported having previously “intervened” with her on two other similar occasions. The dog’s licence tag was checked and the previous incidents confirmed.

## Owner found, moves car from site of broken water pipe

A parked car was found March 3 to be blocking an area where work crews were preparing to excavate to repair a broken water pipe at Lewis, Public Security officials said. It was described as causing a “minor” water leak.

Officers were able to track down the car owner through a sticker on the vehicle, which was moved to enable the work to proceed the next day.

## Patrollers check for March break absences

Westmount was “very quiet” last week during many schools’ March break holiday, Public Security officials report. Spring-like weather upset many plans for outdoor sliding or skating. As many residents took the occasion to travel, a number were reported to have availed themselves of the PSU’s program for “special passing attention” (SPA). This enables patrollers to remove telltale signs of absences such as parcels left on porches.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANGLO/FRANCO RELATIONS  
GOOD ‘ON THE STREET’

I attended a lecture by Julius Grey, a lawyer who often defends the rights of anglos, as part of the lunchtime series at the Atwater Library (see also February 20, p. 14).

The subject dealt with the French/anglophone situation in Quebec at both the political level and “on the street.”

I then made my way downtown. When it was time to return, I walked up to Sherbrooke St. to take the 24 bus towards Westmount.

I saw the bus a few blocks away, but was unable to cross the street due to heavy traffic as well as having a red light.

When the bus arrived at my intended stop, only one person got on and the driver had a green light. Still on the south side, I frantically waved my Opus card, trying to get his attention. He looked at me and then drove through the green, but stopped after about 10 feet and put on his emergency lights. I entered the bus and said “*Merçi, tu es tres gentil.*”

He responded with “*Merçi.*”  
When I got off the bus near Westmount Park, I once more said “*Merçi,*” but added “You’re a good guy.”

His response: “Thank you.”  
I realize this letter is quite long but it’s a good illustration of the reality “on the street.”

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

PRESERVE THE PAST  
(TRAIN STATION), NURTURE  
THE FUTURE (CHILDREN)

As Westmount proudly celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, it’s disheartening to acknowledge the 25th year of abandonment of the Westmount train station, acquired from CP Rail in 1999.

Despite being identified as a priority by various city councils, this historical gem has remained deserted for over two decades. Previous proposals for its use have included a public market, an art gallery, a café, a tech hub, a heritage museum for the Westmount Historical Association, and an ecological awareness centre. Some have even suggested we simply leave it boarded up to save taxpayer funds.

Given the current glut of office space, it seems unwise to invest in converting the building into more workspace. And its potential use as a retail venue is questionable due to its distance from the main shopping area of Victoria Ave.

Quebec has an acute shortage of daycare facilities, so could we not consider exploiting this space for a CPE (*Centre de la petite enfance*)? While the province-wide shortage of child educators is a challenge beyond our city’s control, we can do our share by leasing the building to a non-profit group that could establish a public daycare.

While the interior area of the train station may be modest, at just under 2,000



1394 Greene, the Sherbrooke “entrance” to Greene, on a snowy March 10 afternoon. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

square feet, the extensive 20,000-square-foot lot can be developed into a multi-functional space. This could include a dedicated playground for the kids and a community garden. The location already provides secure access to drop off and pick up children. To further ensure security, a safety and sound barrier could be erected adjacent to the train tracks.

In fact, the building can serve a dual purpose: hosting a community-accessible venue such as an exhibition centre or public gathering space in the evenings and on weekends when the daycare is not in use. This approach would maximize the building’s utility and provide citizen engagement.

The educational and social nature of a non-profit day care would honour the community spirit of this municipal building. And growing up in an environment of historical importance could foster a lifelong appreciation of our heritage among the pre-schoolers.

Let’s hope Westmount can celebrate its 150th anniversary and welcome a new addition to our public space, revitalizing this historic landmark for generations to come.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.

SOUGHT: RETAILER TO RENT  
‘ENTRANCE’ SITE TO GREENE  
AT SHERBROOKE

There have been wonderful improvements on the street in the past few years for the entire Greene Ave. community to enjoy. Fabulous galleries line the street; the shops, boutiques and restaurants have all been enhanced by lively festivals, and colourful outdoor seating arrangements have

breathed new life into our avenue. There is one flaw, however.

The shop space at Sherbrooke and Greene has been inexplicably unoccupied for eight years. Eight years.\*

The community has been so diligent in improving the appearance and feel of the street and it is frustrating to see papered-over windows detract from these efforts.

- Research shows that vacant properties:
- Can have a domino effect on surrounding properties, lowering the value of nearby real estate.
  - Can invite crime to the area.
  - Can have a negative effect on foot traffic to other adjacent stores.

The face of Greene Ave. to the rest of the city – its Sherbrooke entrance – is half masked by papered-up windows. Wouldn’t it be grand for a new bustling business to take up proud residence in this sad and depressing corner, and improve our image to the benefit of the whole community?

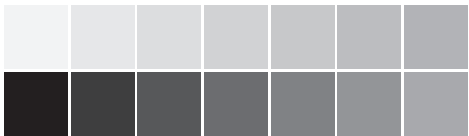
ROSANNE GROSS, GREENE AVE.

\***Editor’s note:** Longer! By our count, it is coming up on 10. See April 1, 2014, p. 18, April 29, 2014, p. 18 and August 12, 2014, p. 23. – DP.

Overheard

Victoria near Somerville March 7 at 2:30 pm, one man to another:

“He asked me what my deepest fears were.”



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# Wild turkey surprise!



What photographer Craig Buntin calls “this beauty queen” was seen on Sherbrooke St. west of Roslyn March 7. Public Security received several calls last week about wild turkeys from Prince Albert to Hillside Lane. This led to director Greg McBain to issue advice on how residents should respond and “co-exist with them” despite their dominant behaviour. “Stay away, or scare them with noise or an umbrella, without hitting them,” he said. “Reduce access to food and fallen seed from bird feeders. The main thing is simply stay away.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF C. BUNTIN.

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## Victoria Ave. water main breaks, get fixed



A water main began to leak March 7 on Victoria north of Somerville, according to the city's website, but it was repaired by the time the *Independent* got there at 2:30 pm, according to workers on site. "One of many leaks so far," summed up one of them philosophically.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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# Biodiversity, climate resilience winners from King George Park tree plan

*ECOWatch*

HEATHER BLACK

The *King George Park Tree Masterplan* was presented at city hall by Westmount landscape designer Sophie Robitaille of Robitaille-Curtis on February 12. It is an excellent document and its recommendations support both tree and wildlife biodiversity and – by retaining the beloved, black-locust grove – our cultural heritage too.

## *Trees for climate resilience*

Robitaille's tree selection favours indigenous species – now only 32 percent of the current 363 trees. Recommended canopy trees include the deciduous white elm, linden, hornbeam, hackberry, shagbark hickory, paperbark and yellow birch as well as the evergreen eastern hemlock, eastern red cedar and white spruce. These trees tolerate Westmount's cold winters and humid summers as well as absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases to improve air quality and counteract global warming.

With rising temperatures, Westmount is now in plant hardiness zone 6a and Robitaille wisely includes the drought and heat-tolerant white fir as well as the beautiful, flowering eastern redbud and buckeye – both native to our "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecozone." These and disease-resistant elms will thrive on the hot, south-facing slope and add tree biodiversity to offset pathogens or insect infestations like the recent ash borer, which decimated city trees.

As climate resilience requires limiting invasive species that outcompete native trees, recommendations include the replacement of aging Norway maples. The less-invasive black locust trees are restrict-



Some of King George Park's trees on February 12.

ed to existing groves – a solution that respects citizen requests. It also maintains an early blooming tree – an important pollen and nectar source for declining bee and butterfly populations, as well as returning hummingbirds.

## *Trees for biodiversity*

Robitaille's tree selection includes early to late flowering ones like the eastern redbud, pagoda dogwood, serviceberry and hawthorn, which attract mason or bumble

bees, the eastern comma butterfly or io moth. The canopy birch, hickory, linden and elm are among the National Wildlife Federation's – and entomologist Doug Tallamy's – top larval-hosts for butterfly or moth caterpillars. These, in turn, support the white-breasted nuthatch or yellow warbler as well as nestlings. For instance, a black-capped chickadee clutch requires 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to survive.

Native trees – and number – are important to cavity-nesting downy woodpeckers

or chickadees, which only select nesting sites with over 70 percent native species. Birch and hornbeam catkins attract goldfinches or black-eyed juncos, while hemlock, spruce and fir cones are food for red crossbills or golden-crowned kinglets. Serviceberry or hackberry fruit attract migrating eastern bluebirds as well as overwintering robins, cardinals or cedar waxwings.

The inclusion of Audubon Vermont's top shrubs – fragrant sumac, highbush blueberry, red twig dogwood and winterberry – provide autumn colour and winter interest as well as nesting sites. Their berries together with hornbeam or hickory nuts support birds as well as small mammals. The design recommendation of grove planting – grouped species are easier to spot – also contributes to the survival of migrating birds and pollinators.

## *Model analysis*

Presented to the public, Robitaille's well-researched tree recommendations improve biodiversity, climate resilience and park aesthetics. As the document – posted at [www.engage.westmount.org](http://www.engage.westmount.org) – includes ecological rationale as well as long-term remedial actions, it serves as a model for a much-needed tree assessment of all city parks.

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Westmount Park, cont'd from p. 1

about the playground area with the *Independent*.

The changes “take into account the park’s historic character (shape of paths, playground, terra-cotta paving, round concrete tub, rounded shape),” she said. “They also bring in unique and original elements to create a ‘signature’ park.”

While taking account for “inclusivity and accessibility and the environment,” they are also designed to update the overall look of the playground, incorporate measures to counteract heat islands such as a misting system and tree troughs, integrate a family zone (with a picnic table) and a rest zone (with a hammock under the trees).

They are also to include “riskier” games to develop agility such as a slackline and zip line, upgraded street furniture, flower boxes, removal of cement circulation surfaces/replacement by light-grey unistone (like Devon Park) and terra-cotta brick pavers reminiscent of the park’s history.

Replacing previous plan

A previous online survey from Stantec consultants regarded extensively refurbishing the entire park, including the playground and lagoon. It had been withdrawn just before the election in 2021.

At that time, it was explained as to be enacted by the new council after the election (see story May 25, 2021, p. 1 and 8).

Other than replacing the slide-related structure in 2022 as mentioned, no other plan for playground equipment or pathways has been for proposed until this one.

Permits, cont'd from p. 1

ober for the Albert Square project at de Maisonneuve and Prince Albert. This was “to extend and allow some minor modification” to the original 2021 permits for eight residential units, he said.

“A few larger permits are currently being analysed but they do not represent anything significantly different in terms of the volume of permits or the number of new housing units. These analyses remain non-public for as long as provided for in our regulations.

“Of course,” he added, “no projects are currently being analyzed in the southeast sector, which is subject to a freeze on permits during the consultation process that will shortly be launched to the general public” (see story on freeze extension, October 31, 2023, p. 1).

The large increases in dollar amounts and number of permits in 2021 over 2020 are almost certainly the result of “catch-up” work after the first year of the COVID pandemic and its many wide-ranging lockdowns.



Some of Westmount Park's 2022 play structures on March 10.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Values of Urban Planning permits (2020-2023)

Month	2020 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$
January	8,492,291	8,451,433	4,482,233	4,648,663
February	13,746,418	3,847,741	7,001,273	17,439,451
March	4,439,069	40,773,859	6,520,129	7,849,875
April	2,272,342	11,065,534	7,955,854	9,106,495
May	3,948,482	6,982,815	9,395,674	10,624,588
June	5,572,335	7,290,483	11,927,851	7,855,247
July	8,700,096	6,435,255	6,185,432	4,298,405
April	6,425,172	4,967,626	7,675,031	11,399,962
September	9,634,295	5,781,120	13,808,408	5,729,725
October	4,583,752	25,556,520	9,628,734	18,009,525
November	5,236,008	5,931,994	3,714,945	6,019,189
December	4,116,383	6,540,149	3,223,737	3,192,839
TOTAL	\$77,166,643	\$133,624,529	\$91,519,301	\$106,173,964
Change	n/c	73.2%	-31.5%	16.0%

Number of UP permits issued for construction, renovation (2020-2023)

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	82	65	56	75
February	86	83	79	80
March	45	125	85	86
April	25	183	136	91
May	97	162	143	151
June	162	153	136	132
July	120	112	85	74
August	117	90	147	101
September	156	108	114	84
October	127	169	101	121
November	152	86	76	100
December	61	46	65	45
TOTAL	1,230	1,382	1,223	1,140
Change	n/c	12.4%	-11.5%	-6.8%

n/c = not calculated.

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# Wrong way on de Maisonneuve



This truck was photographed going east, against the one-way, on de Maisonneuve between Prince Albert and Victoria on January 30.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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lecartier.ca



# UGO Pizzeria brings familiar faces back to Greene neighbourhood



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

For readers who have so kindly commented on my “postcards” from Florence, you will be pleased to know a slice of Italy is now nearby.


UGO Pizzeria has opened in Westmount Square. And – further good news – it was launched by the former owners of Greene Ave.’s Pain Doré, which became Brioche Dorée after they sold it in 2002. (It closed recently.)

Italian-speaking Lily Koutsos and her husband Angelis Koutsos, along with partners Elena Koutsos and Frank Candido, just premiered their second location after their Old Montreal UGO, a destination famous to foodies. And I understand why.

The pizzas are like nothing you have tasted: except maybe in Italy.

“Pizzas are served on sourdough, which we make ourselves. It takes 72 hours to rise and is easy to digest. Not only that, it is light as a feather. I like to say, ‘Now you know what it’s like to taste a cloud!’”

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Lily Koutsos.

Pizza choices all have female names – “Women who are important in our lives. The favourite is mushroom-topped Zina.” Mine too.

I also gazed fondly at the classic Margherita, as well as Rafaella, Carmella and Lucia. They sat looking alluringly delicious under clay pots bursting with basil. Focaccia sandwiches are equally tempting.

Since opening, word-of-mouth has driven lunch-time line-ups, quickly eased by Lily’s efficiency. Her “Ciao – welcome” to former-Greene-Ave. fans is full of typical Italian warmth. *Molto simpatica.*

But wait. There’s more. The coffee is “like velvet” – not bitter. I know as I sipped my morning espresso (actually called “espresso”

in Italian, but I digress) and upped my energy with their *tiramisu*.

“Our desserts, imported from Italy, are vacuum packed: easy to take home.” Speaking of taking home, Angelis explained they use Uber Eats for deliveries. For take-out or eating *in situ*, UGO Pizzeria is open every day from 9 to 5; closed on weekends.

The team has a dream. “Our goal is to expand and become a chain,” noted Lily. I’m sure they will succeed. *È buonissimo!*

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P.S. They also offer fabulous focaccia sandwiches. Perfect for picnics.

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## Police Report

# Forden Ave. house burglar makes dramatic 'stuntman' escape

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A burglar who was cornered after being caught red-handed following an early evening break-in on March 3 at a Forden Ave. house made a dramatic exit reminiscent of a movie stuntman.

He went crashing through a second-storey glass window, leaped to the ground below, and escaped into the night.

According to a Montreal police department incident report, the house's owner, who wasn't home at the time, received an automated alarm system notification that an intrusion was in progress.

When his two sons were sent to check it out, they immediately noticed that a kitchen window had been broken. At the same time, they heard noise coming from the second storey of the house.

"So, then they saw the suspect walk down the stairs with a bag in his hands," said Cst. Mike Yigit, Station 12's community relations officer. "So, then they chased him upstairs and he jumped through the window."

Police investigators called to the scene found significant amounts of blood on the ground outside. Forensic analysis of blood samples may help identify the suspect through a DNA match.

It wasn't clear whether the suspect got away with stolen items, although a preliminary inventory submitted to the police referred to "jewellery missing."

The police usually counsel people not to confront criminals, but to call 911.

### Building tagged

A protester who painted some graffiti on part of an abandoned St. Catherine St. building during a demonstration outside the nearby Israeli consulate on March 3



4024-4032 St. Catherine St., the site of a former Subaru dealership, on March 11. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

was detained and may be facing a criminal charge of defacing private property.

According to a description of the alleged offense in a Station 12 officer's incident report, the suspect was seen writing the statement "cease fire now" with a red marker on a garage door at the former car dealership building located between Wood and Atwater avenues.

"They're not exactly sure if there's going to be any charge because the building is abandoned," said Yigit, referring to the investigating officers. He said the building's owner may also have a say in whether the police proceed with a charge.

"If the owner is the victim of a loss, then there can be accusations [charges]," he said. "But seeing as the building seems abandoned, the owner might just forego the accusations."

### Pick-up stolen

The owner of a Ford F-150 pick-up truck that was parked overnight on Kensington Ave. on March 4 woke up the following morning to realize it was gone.

The owner last saw the vehicle at 11 pm. At 5 am, he noticed it was missing.

The Ford F-150 currently ranks as number three on the top-10 list of cars and trucks most stolen in Canada.

As many people have no doubt heard, the Honda CR-V ranks number one, while Dodge RAM 1500 trucks are in second place.

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# infoWESTMOUNT

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 18 mars

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, March 18



**Des Canadiennes inspirantes**  
Un événement en l'honneur de la Journée de la femme a aussi marqué l'ouverture de l'exposition « Women Are Persons! » à l'hôtel de ville. Visitez-le d'ici le 15 mai et soyez inspirés par les « Famous 5 » ! Détails à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Échantillonnage de plomb à domicile**  
Dans le cadre de la campagne pour l'élimination du plomb dans l'eau, la Ville invite les ménages ayant une forte probabilité d'être desservis par des entrées de service en plomb à participer au programme d'analyse de l'eau.  
  
Les maisons admissibles sont **des maisons unifamiliales ou des immeubles de 8 logements ou moins, construits avant 1971**, qui n'ont pas été testés par la Ville précédemment. Cette année, 250 tests sont disponibles gratuitement.  
  
Détails à [westmount.org/plomb](https://westmount.org/plomb).

**Faune urbaine : quoi faire en présence d'un dindon sauvage ?**  
Le dindon sauvage se fait apercevoir plus régulièrement à Westmount. N'ayez crainte et adoptez les bons gestes pour coexister harmonieusement :  

- Ne vous approchez pas. Utilisez un parapluie ou un bâton pour les épeurer et les encourager à s'éloigner, sans les frapper.
- Réduisez l'accès à la nourriture en assurant que vos bacs à déchets sont bien fermés.

  
Apprenez-en plus à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).



**Inspiring Canadian Women**  
The "Women Are Persons" exhibit opened at City Hall with a Pink Tea event for International Women's Day. Be inspired by the Famous 5 and visit the exhibit at City Hall until May 15. Details at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Lead Water Testing in Your Home**  
As part of Westmount's campaign for the elimination of lead in drinking water, the City invites households that have a high likelihood of being served by lead pipes to participate in the lead sampling programme.  
  
Eligible dwellings are **homes or apartment buildings of 8 units or less, built before 1971**, that have not been tested by the City in previous years. This year, 250 tests are available at no cost to residents and homeowner.  
  
Details at [westmount.org/lead](https://westmount.org/lead).

**Urban Wildlife: What to do in the presence of a wild turkey?**  
Wild turkeys are being spotted more regularly in Westmount. Adopt these habits to coexist peacefully with these animals who generally pose no threat:  

- Do not approach. Use an umbrella or a stick to scare and encourage the animal to retreat, without hitting them.
- Reduce access to food by ensuring your waste bins are properly closed and secured.

  
Learn more at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

**125<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Bibliothèque**  
Restez à l'affût des annonces d'événements spéciaux et préparez-vous à célébrer avec nous !  
  
**Parlons opéra !**  
**Dimanche 24 mars, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. *Enigma*. En collaboration avec l'Opéra de Montréal. Inscrivez-vous [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).



**Appel aux artisans**  
**Jusqu'au 5 avril.** Les artisans confectionnant des oeuvres à la main sont invités à participer à l'édition 2024 d'Artisans Westmount Informations et formulaire : [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Appel de soumissions : concerts d'été**  
**Jusqu'au 15 avril.** Les musiciens sont invités à soumettre leur candidature afin de participer à la saison de Concerts d'été 2024. Informations et formulaire : [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Appel de dossiers 2024**  
**La Galerie du Victoria Hall**  
**Jusqu'au 15 avril.** Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leur candidature pour la prochaine saison d'exposition. Informations et formulaire : [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Ciné-club — Priscilla (2023)**  
**Mardi 26 mars, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. Sofia Coppola raconte l'histoire de Priscilla et Elvis Presley. Inscrivez-vous à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Conférence : The Origins of Public Libraries**  
**Vendredi 15 mars, 14 h**, Bibliothèque. Retracer l'histoire du concept des bibliothèques. En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).  
  
**Galerie du Victoria Hall: exposition**  
**Jusqu'au 28 mars.** Œuvres de Tina Louise Jones et Wendy Hayden. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Concours littéraire McEntyre 2024**  
Nous t'invitons à écrire au sujet des bibliothèques, des livres et des mots, comme si la bibliothèque nous parlait. **Date limite : le dimanche 24 mars.**

## LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Library**  
Watch for special event announcements and get ready to celebrate with us!  
  
  
**Let's Talk Opera!**  
**Sunday, March 24, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. *Enigma*. In collaboration with the Opéra de Montréal. Register at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition**  
**Until March 28.** Works by Tina Louise Jones and Wendy Hayden. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**2024 McEntyre Literary Competition**  
We invite you to write about libraries, books, and words, as if the library is actually speaking to us. **Deadline: Sunday, March 24.**  
  
**Calling All Artisans**  
**Until April 5.** Artisans are invited to submit their handmade work for inclusion in the 2024 edition of Artisans Westmount. Details and online form: [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Call for submissions: Summer Concerts**  
**Until April 5.** Musicians are invited to submit their candidacy for inclusion in the 2024 Summer Concert Series. Details at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Call for proposals 2024**  
**The Gallery at Victoria Hall**  
**Until April 15.** Westmount artists may submit proposals for the next exhibition season. Information: [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Film Club — Priscilla (2023)**  
**Tuesday, March 26, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Sofia Coppola tells the story of Priscilla and Elvis Presley. Register at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).  
  
**Lecture: The Origins of Public Libraries**  
**Friday, March 15, 2 p.m.**, Library. Retrace the history of the concept of Libraries from the Renaissance. Register at [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).



## Marisol and Mencia, joy and play



*9 Lives*

LYSANNE FOWLER

of their coats.

Both are very healthy, up to date with their inoculations, spayed and micro-chipped.

You can find out more about them through the rescue's website at [www.moustache.petfinder.com](http://www.moustache.petfinder.com), by copying and pasting the link to their form to open it in your web browser in order to provide your contact information for a volunteer to then get back to you.

You can also send them an email at their [moustacheadoptiondechats@outlook.com](mailto:moustacheadoptiondechats@outlook.com) for more information, wonderful photographs and their adoption framework.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

A sweet, funny bonded pair, these young cuties are ready for a forever family. They are presently in foster care for the volunteer animal rescue group Moustache Adoptions de Chats.

They are friendly, affectionate and gentle companions. Marisol and Mencia are short-haired calicos with a silky white contrast.

They both have exquisite amber-coloured eyes that bring out the gold shades



## Sunny, regal and bright



*Westmount  
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

dogs and adults.

Sunny is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and micro-chipped.

If you would like to find out more about Sunny and visit him at the Montreal SPCA, please refer to its website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), direct yourself to his information page by his identification number, 50394966, and plan your visit to the shelter from their scheduled opening hours.

It is open from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges, H4P 1X4.

Please do not hesitate. Sunny is a wonderful companion to join an active family in our neighbourhood.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Most handsome and affectionate, Sunny is a bit over three years of age. He is a young three years old, though, and would benefit from a catch-up with more socialization and training, which he should have had as a youngster.

He is learning well and fast at the Montreal SPCA kennel, where he is up for adoption. They report that, as a sensitive and attentive fellow, he is now much less fearful and enjoys the company of other



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*‘Love capitalism’ comes to Westmount*

# Annabi’s start-up aspires to share 99% of its profits

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A Westmounter with a cosmopolitan upbringing and a professional background in equities analysis has decided to throw caution to the wind by launching a web start-up that focuses on social networking and merchandising, while sharing 99 per cent of its profits.

Karim Annabi refers to his movement as “love capitalism.” Through it, he wants to make profit sharing a new business standard to be followed by corporations around the world.

Activate (iactivate.love) operates through app- and web-based platforms. It aims to deliver billions of dollars in grassroots funding, while fostering social cohesion and interpersonal collaboration.

Annabi, 43, notes that in a traditional business model, shareholder profits must be maximized in order to meet legal requirements.

“I think this is a pretty misguided model,” he said, while adding that he disagrees with a notion promoted by some economists that greed is good.

“Why can’t business leaders be less greedy and measure their success and be happy by living modestly?” said Annabi.



Karim Annabi, seen here on February 28 in the Westmount Conservatory, recently launched Activate, whose logo is on his sweatshirt. It is a web-based social network based on a profit-sharing concept through which 99 percent of revenues are returned to account holders.

“It’s still possible to live well – but measuring success by the benefits you’re creating for others.”

With this in mind, Activate has no shareholders who would be expecting a return on their investments. Instead, revenues are shared with members through an embedded “wallet” feature.

Every new account holder receives an initial US\$1 deposit as an incentive, which is renewable annually. Revenue is generated through sponsorships and ad content, as well as from the sale of distinctive merchandise.

Members can create and fund their own projects as well as those of others, in their own communities or in distant regions of the world, using pooled wallet funds.

Annabi, 43, was born in Algeria, but has lived mostly in the US since the age of four. After obtaining a degree in finance at New York University, he worked on Wall Street as an equities researcher, also spending some time in London, England.

But he says he never felt right with a 9-to-5 work routine. The purchase of some rental revenue properties allowed him the breathing space to contemplate what he really wanted to do in life.

Activate was the end result.

## Spring means cleaning



## ... and even street cleaners need emptying



March 9 and the city was already out cleaning up the winter debris along Westmount Ave.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



*Participants to encourage: new Canadians, less affluent*

# 'We need to do better,' Hockey Canada's Goldbloom says in wake of players' 2018 sex-assault charges



BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Alluding to the latest controversy the governing body for ice hockey in Canada is now embroiled in, Hockey Canada board president Jonathan Goldbloom said in a speech at Selwyn House School last week that verbal or physical abuse cannot be tolerated in hockey.

Hockey Canada is facing a second major scandal in less than two years. This follows a storm that erupted in late 2022 over the organization's handling of sexual assault allegations and secretive payouts to victims using funds from player registration fees, precipitating the resignation of the Hockey Canada board of directors.

In the latest controversy, five former world junior hockey players from Canada are facing charges over an alleged sexual assault incident that took place at a London, Ontario hotel room in 2018.

Goldbloom, a Selwyn House graduate and former chair of the school's governing board, was appointed to the Hockey Canada board in December 2022 (see February 7, 2023, p. 12), after which he was appointed chairman in November 2023.

## Selwyn House now in CSSHL

On February 28, he was addressing parents of students enrolled in the Selwyn House hockey program, after news of the school's acceptance into the Canadian Sport School Hockey League (CSSHL).

Goldbloom said that during his time as head of the Selwyn House board, when William Mitchell was headmaster at the school, "he always talked about the need

Seen here on February 28 at Selwyn House School, Hockey Canada's board president Jonathan Goldbloom told parents, students and sports program students that verbal or physical abuse cannot be tolerated in hockey.

for a civil society.

"And he talked about Selwyn House being a civil place where people of different backgrounds came together to discuss differences openly and together in common vision and purpose.

"Civility in hockey is critical," said Goldbloom, adding that "we all know that Hockey Canada has been dealing with toxicity" and bad behaviour in the sport, including some involving parents and not just players.

"I think it's important to say that we need to do better. Everyone in the hockey world needs to do better. Parents have to stop berating volunteer coaches and volunteer refs.

"Racism has no part in our game. Physical and verbal abuse have no role in our game. And when we see that, we have to report it and we have to take the steps necessary to address it."

More positively, Goldbloom said "part of the good news is that reports of mistreatment across Canada to Hockey Canada are up significantly" because "people are having the courage to come forward."

He suggested that flexibility is necessary in order to grow the game, although certain problems need to be addressed.

## Too much hockey? Or too little?

"The day of the three-sport athlete is gone with the dodo bird," he said, noting that Wayne Gretzky played soccer as well

as hockey in his formative years, but that today "some kids are playing too much hockey" and "that's not necessarily good."

As well, he pointed out that "it's expensive to play hockey. We need to do a better job of reducing the cost so that people can afford those sticks and the equipment. We also have to do a better job of getting new Canadians to play. It's not part of their culture. If they want to be part of the game, we have to open up our rinks for them."

Also on the plus side, Goldbloom maintained that more people than ever are playing hockey in Canada, with Hockey Canada records showing that more than 650,000 people were registered this season, including a record-high 100,000 women and girls.

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An advertisement for 'VINTAGE MUSTS' featuring a stylized illustration of a woman's face wearing glasses. Surrounding the face are various luxury brand logos including PRADA, GUCCI, DIOR, GIVENCHY, L'ORÉAL, HERMES, LANVIN, CHANEL, Cartier, LOUIS VUITTON, FENDI, and BALENCIAGA. Below the illustration, the text reads 'VINTAGE MUSTS' and 'ACCESSOIRES DE MODE ET DE MAISON FASHION AND HOME ACCESSORIES'. At the bottom, it says 'ART ET ARTS DÉCORATIFS DU VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY' and provides the address '1 WESTMOUNT SQUARE, SUITE CK-05 MONTREAL [QC] CANADA H3Z 2P9' along with the phone number '514-602-1545'.



## Trivia night at Victoria Hall



From left, Matthew Eramian, Claire Lovell, Alaric LeBlanc, Jason Chen and Mackenzie Myatt.



From left, co-quiz masters Brittany Williams and Emily Gamble.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF M. ERAMIAN.

The city hosted a trivia night at Victoria Hall February 28, as reported by reader Matthew Eramian to the *Westmount Independent*. The event was called “Pub Quiz:

Pop Culture Edition.”  
How did his team do?  
“We did pretty well, actually. We didn’t win, but had a solid performance in the

second round, where we got 38/40. Our first round, we only got 30/40, but everyone did badly that round.” A different pub night – on March 14 for St. Patrick’s Day – is

already sold out.  
The icing on the cake? According to Eramian: “We actually heard about the event from the *Independent*, so there you go!”

## Snow hangs in at King George Park



The Murray Park toboggan run, viewed from above on March 3, left, and March 8. It opened January 25.



# Chabad's Feast of the Nations supports October 7 victims



*Social Notes*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Ben Weider Educational Centre/Chabad Seminary of Canada recently held Feast of the Nations, their annual gala.

Proceeds this year support young women affected by the October 7 terrorist attacks by funding efforts to help them re-settle in Canada and continue their education in Montreal. All costs associated with their move, including transportation, housing, food, clothing and education, are borne by the Ben Weider Educational Centre/Chabad Seminary of Canada.

The evening paid tribute to **Diane and Sal Guerrera**. The organization presented the Chai Lifetime Achievement Award to **Gad Bitton** and **Sydney Sweibel** and the Memorial Tribute to **Sandra** and **Leo Stroll**.

Honorary gala chairs were **Raquel and Lawrence Stroll**, and **Randy Stroll**. Co-chairs were **Aldo Bensadoun**, **Michael Rosenberg**, **Patricia Saputo**, **Barbara Seal**, **Stephen Shiller** and **Ron Shlien**.

*continued on p. 18*



Gad Bitton, Rabbi Abraham Cohen and Sydney Sweibel.



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Salvatore Guerrera and Clarence Epstein.



Michael Ray, Maurice Supino and Michael Rosenberg.

*Social notes, cont'd from p. 17*

“We will always remain committed to the education of our youth,” said **Rabbi Abraham Cohen**.

Israeli singer **Shuky Sadon** performed to much applause.

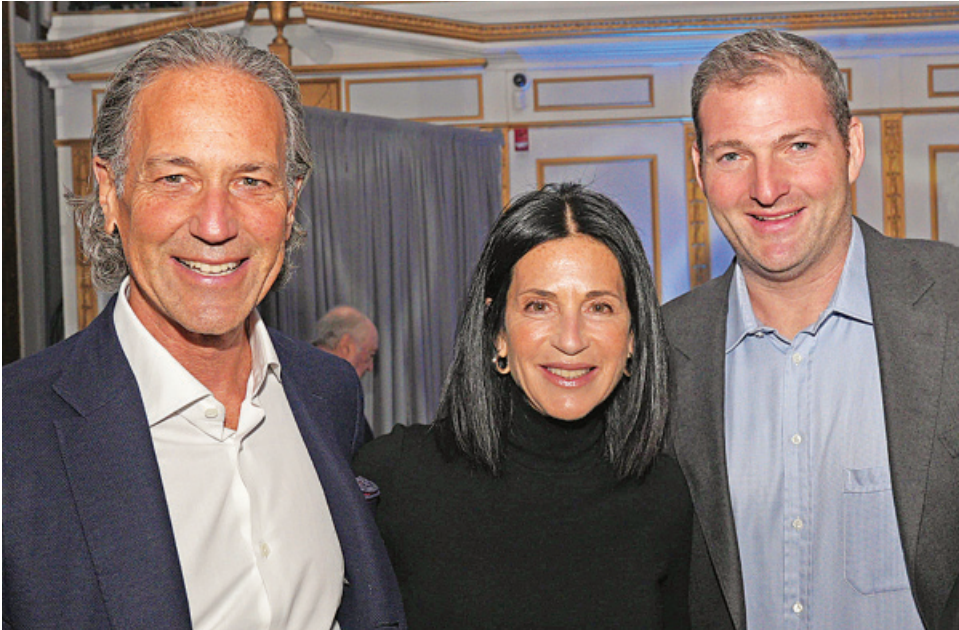
Guests heard **Perl Haimov’s** personal story. She fled Ukraine with her family at the onset of the war with Russia and her two daughters attended the seminary last year. Following October 7, Haimov volunteered to enlist as a nurse to help care for the wounded. Already scheduled to attend the Chabad evening, she spoke on how the seminary changed the lives of her daughters, and about the ongoing situation in Israel and how Israelis are coming together to help one another. She noted that the strong support of the Montreal Jewish community is very much appreciated in Israel.

Noted in the packed room were **Elisa-**

**beth Prass** (provincial legislator for D’Arcy-McGee), **Karen and Clarence Epstein**, **Zohar Krivorot**, **Michael Ray**, **Maurice Supino**, **Brandon Shiller**, **Michael Rosenberg**, **Debra Margles** and **Brian Cytrynbaum**.

Established in 1989, the Ben Weider Educational Centre/Chabad Seminary of Canada, under the auspices of the worldwide Chabad movement and the Quebec CEGEP system, is dedicated to the highest calibre of post-secondary education for young Jewish women from the province and beyond. The collegial certificates bestowed are recognized across Canada, the United States and Israel.

*Please send information on your upcoming events for the Westmount Independent’s Spring Social Calendar to [veronica@redgravepr.com](mailto:veronica@redgravepr.com)*



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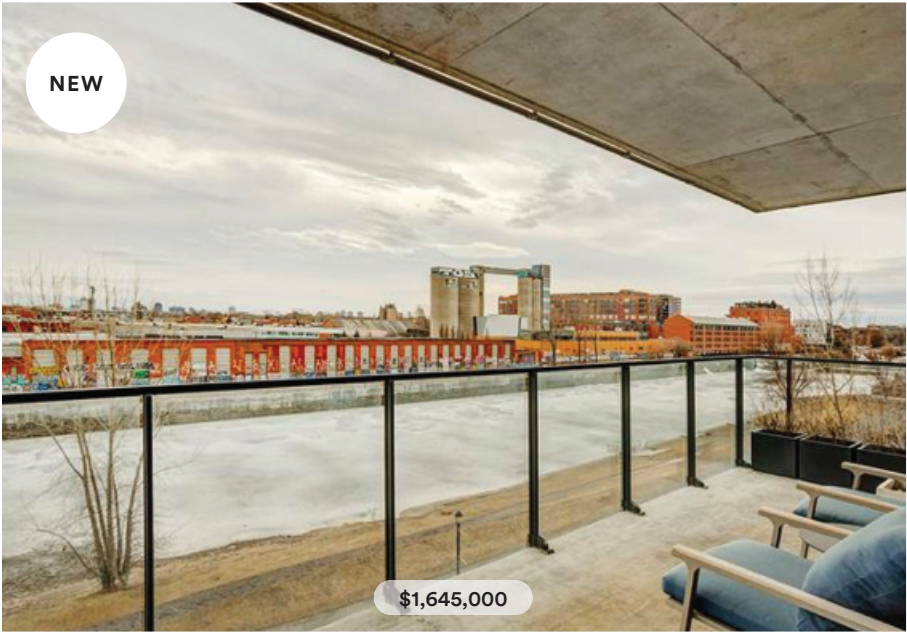




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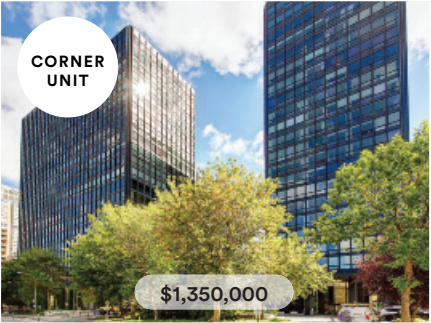
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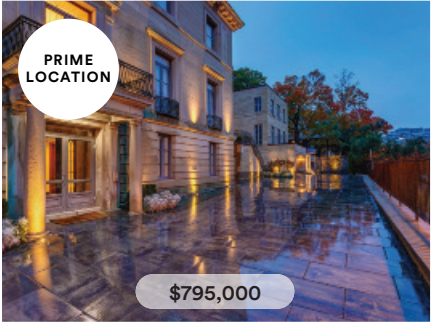
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