# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 10 No. 3b

We are Westmount

### Plans revealed for permanent closure of Summit Circle

#### By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The permanent closure to traffic of one third of Summit Circle is about to become reality. The northern section is to be integrated into Summit Woods as a primary footpath this summer - some 25 years after the idea was first proposed.

"Instead of a road, there will be a gravelled winding foot path," Mayor Peter Trent wrote in a letter mailed to all Westmounters this week.

This stretch of paved road was closed off experimentally in 2009. It was in 1990, however, that Trent launched the idea as a "trial balloon" to create a continuous urban forest linking Summit Woods with Belvedere Park down the north side of the mountain to Ridgewood and Forest Hill in Montreal.

Tenders are expected to be called as soon as possible so the work can start in June,

### Letters p. 8

Social Notes By V. Redgrave p. 17



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Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Sustainability, told the Independent last week.

Lulham obtained a Quebec government grant for the city last year to pay for half the \$800,000 cost of the project (see story

### Training for the north

Westmounter Frank Philpott was training on his cross country skis March 5 on the upper field at King George (Murray) Park. He was to be travelling, a few days later, to Moosonee, on the banks of James Bay in northern Ontario, where he was to join a group called "Ski with the Cree." He said he would be eating traditional Cree food, living for part of the time in a teepee and skiing on ice-encrusted surfaces. Photo: Ralph Thompson

### March 10, 2015, p. 1).

"This grant and Lulham's work to move the project forward is what's now making it possible," Trent said.

March 8, 2016

The current condition of the asphalt paving has deteriorated to such an extent that it would otherwise cost the city \$1 million to replace it for traffic use, he states in the letter. Integrating it into the urban forest would save the city \$600,000.

#### Details outlined

"The permeable pathway will be serpentine and hug the rock face [rising to the south] to showcase the natural beauty of the stone," Lulham said.

The plan calls for removing the asphalt from the seven-meter wide roadway between Oakland Ave. to the west and 15 Summit Circle to the east and replacing it with a four-meter wide gravel footpath. The current guardrails, light standards and benches will disappear. The reclaimed land bordering the pathway will be naturalized by the planting of tall prairie grass and 75 in- continued on p. 15

### Three dog walkers, 2 dogs hurt in Summit Woods melée

#### By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Efforts to separate nine dogs involved in a fight in Summit Woods February 25 ended with two professional dog walkers and a woman with a single dog reporting injuries to their hands and to two dogs.

In describing the incident, Public Security officials said patrollers responding to a call at 12:15 pm found three complainants had been trying to break up the skirmish. Dogs are allowed off leash on the summit until April 15.

When all was sorted out, it was the woman walking her single dog who suffered what was reported to be the most serious of the injuries. She had a deep tooth puncture on the top continued on p. 11





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### City could save \$400K for water supply in new agglo pact

#### By Laureen Sweeney

A two-pronged agglomeration agreement announced March 4 between the city of Montreal and the 15 demerged suburbs will be good "overall" for Westmount and others with high property valuations, Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent*.

Starting in 2017, the suburbs' shared cost of Montreal's escalating development projects in the downtown sector will be capped. On the other hand, the supply of potable water will be charged according to consumption. Both are now based on property valuations.

"It's a fairer way," Trent explained, though there are winners and losers among the suburbs, he said.

Westmount, with a comparatively high real estate valuation, could expect to save roughly \$400,000 in the supply of water based on figures from 2014 when it paid some \$1.4 million, he said.

Under the current system, Westmount consumes about one percent of all potable water in the agglomeration but is charged on its relative valuation of 2.4 percent. The agreement worked out between Trent, as president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), and Montreal mayor Denis Coderre resolves two of the more controversial issues still outstanding from the demerger of the suburbs at the start of 2006.

The savings for Montreal and the suburbs in the agreements are described by Trent as "a wash." Based on the current situation, he said, the suburbs' development costs will be capped at \$8 million plus inflation, up from the \$6 million they currently pay based on property valuation. The suburbs, however, will pay less for the production and delivery of water.

Paying for water by consumption will also be an incentive to reduce water use and repair leaking pipes, he said. Total water costs are complicated by the fact that the suburbs will continue to pay the shared debt on Montreal's filtration plants according to property valuation.

The real gain for the suburbs lies in the cap on the potential development costs in downtown Montreal, where projects coinciding with Montreal's 375th anniversary

# Miss Vicky's pleading injunction case at press time March 7

#### By Laureen Sweeney

Lawyers for Miss Vicky's pre-school were expecting to be in court Monday morning, March 7, at the *Independent*'s press time. They were to plead their case for an injunction to keep the school open after Friday, March 11.

"We're disappointed not to be able to come to an agreement" with the Quebec Family ministry, public relations consultant Jonathan Goldbloom explained. "But we're cautiously optimistic about getting the injunction." Located at St. Matthias' Church on Church Hill, Miss Vicky's was ordered by the ministry to cease operation by March 11 if it had not obtained a licence to operate as a daycare (see story February 16, p. 3).

Founder and owner of the private school Victoria Naday has stated that it was not feasible to operate as a daycare at that location because of the renovations that would be required and the longer hours. The school is attended by some 80 children age five and under. Many live in Westmount. are growing "by leaps and bounds," Trent explained. Among them are Griffintown and the Quartier des gares (between Central and Windsor stations).

"We [at the ASM] predict that these costs could rise to \$14 million without the cap," he explained.

This designated downtown sector actually comprises 18 square kilometers from Atwater to Amherst, and Griffintown to Pine Ave., for which the suburbs have been assessed development and infrastructure costs based on property valuation. "It's been a source of endless debate," Trent explained.

This is not only over what type of work should be considered an agglo expense but also because the costs are not also shared by communities on the north and south shores that also benefit from Montreal being the "economic engine" of the region and province.

The demerged suburbs contribute about \$400 million a year to the agglomeration, approximately 18 percent of the total from Montreal and the suburbs.



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### Westmount Scouters play leadership Rovers' Nepal project to help

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By Laureen Sweeney

A month-long trekking and international community development project to Nepal by Montreal-area Rovers is being spearheaded and coordinated by several Westmounters in Scouts Canada.

The aim of the expedition is to work at three or four different projects that need help after the May 2015 earthquake, Quebec provincial council member Maggie Shaddick said last week. Shaddick, who spearheaded the idea, has been involved in Westmount Scouting for decades.

The project, called the "Rovers' Yeti Challenge," will take the group through the region between Kathmandu and Mount Everest base camp, where Westmount Rovers undertook development work in 1990 and 1992 after the earthquake in 1989.

"What I think is important is that young men and women in this age group of Rovers still have the interest and dedication to go on such an expedition," Shaddick said. "They have to be admired for doing so." So far, nine Rovers *continued on p.* 5



Westmounters included in organizing the Rovers' 2016 expedition to Nepal are, from left: Maggie Shaddick, Doug Leahey, Virgina Elliott and Griffin Leahey (Doug's son). They are shown holding the project's "Yeti" mascot during a local Scouting celebration at Victoria Hall February 24.



### role in expedition planning rebuild after earthquake

(Scouts age 18 to 26) are signed up along with three advisors - including two from Westmount, Doug Leahey and Virginia Elliott. They are expected to devote some of their time to conservation and restoration work of alpine eco-systems in the Sagamartha National Park, a World Heritage Site, according to a preliminary schedule.

The expedition, which involves Rovers from Baié d'Urfé, Montreal West and Longueuil, includes Westmount Rover Griffin Leahey, Doug's son. The contingent will also be joined by Nepalese Rovers for some of the projects.

Doug Leahey, the Westmount Park Scoutmaster, is chairing the organizing committee. Elliott, its secretary, is deputy area commissioner and Cubmaster for the Second Westmount Pack at Mountainside Church.

#### Fundraising support

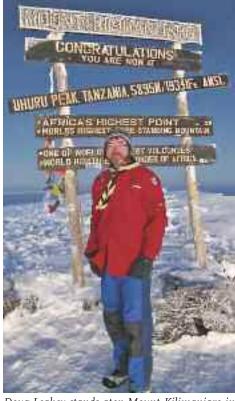
Supporting the contingent's fundraising efforts are Westmounter Rick Hart, a fellow of the World Scout Foundation and a former Scouter, as well as Andrew Molson, honorary commissioner for Quebec.

Doug Leahey is no stranger to trekking, having climbed to the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro a year ago, where he was photographed in his Scouting uniform. This is the highest mountain in Africa.

While each Rover is expected to raise \$1,000, the trip will cost more. Donations are tax deductible.

Among the plans are a rebuilding project at the Sherpa-run Khundi hospital and at a monastery in Thyangbouche village that had been rebuilt after the 1989 earthquake. Reforestation work in the Sagamartha National Park is scheduled to take almost a week.

The "Yeti" project is taking its name from the Nepalese word for the abominable snowman used as a logo by the Sir



Doug Leahey stands atop Mount Kilimanjaro in his Scouter uniform, February 16, 2015.

Edmund Hillary Foundation, Shaddick explained. The Rovers will make a \$1,000 donation to the foundation, which is arranging the details within Nepal.

"It was the support we had from [the now late] Sir Edmund Hillary and from Zeke O'Connor, who founded the Canadian branch of the foundation, that made our expeditions in 1990 and 1992 so successful," Shaddick said.

"This support from O'Connor is ongoing and helping to make this year's project possible."



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### Tree limbs fall on fences, cars in high wind

#### By Laureen Sweeney

Trees limbs were blown down during the early morning of February 25, according to Public Security reports. Damage was discovered starting at 6:47 am when a large section from a city tree at the northeast corner of Côte St. Antoine and Claremont had fallen inward onto the property of the historic Riverview house. A fence was damaged as were screens next door.

Among others were a branch that fell on a fence and the front door at 625 Belmont,

### Woman blown over, taken to MGH

An "elderly" Westmount woman suffered an injured elbow March 1 after being blown over by heavy wind on Cavendish Blvd., Public Security officials report. The woman made it back home to Claremont Ave., where she called public safety officers at 12:20 am on discovering it was bruised and swelling. She was transported to the Montreal General Hospital. and one that damaged the side mirror of a car parked on the street at 463 Mount Pleasant.

Another car across from 315 Olivier was also found to have been hit by a branch from a city tree damaging the hood and lower front panel.

A hazardous situation resulting from a large split down the main trunk of a tree at 599 Roslyn was referred to Public Works for attention.

### Loose dog taken into KGP dog run

A golden retriever running loose in King George (Murray) Park February 26 was reported to have been "rescued" by a dog owner who took it into the dog run and called Public Security at 8:42 am. Department officials said responding officers took it to the Stanton St. station. The owner was contacted through an expired 2014 dog licence, picked up dog and was told to obtain a 2016 permit. The dog had apparently escaped through an improperly latched gate.



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### Climate change event Mar. 19 Viability of outdoor rinks, a 'hot topic' for Earth Hour event at Vic Hall

### By LAUREEN SWEENEY

What's happening with this winter's fluctuating temperatures and lack of snow?

Answers and a long-term outlook on outdoor skating rinks, in particular, are expected to be forthcoming in a keynote address at the city's 8th celebration of Earth Hour. The event takes place at Victoria Hall Saturday, March 19, organized by the Healthy City Project.

Lawrence Mysak, a Westmount resident and McGill emeritus professor of Atmospheric and Ocean Studies, will discuss "Outdoor Hockey Rinks and Climate Change" and provide perspective on what is "the warmest winter we've ever had," said event coordinator Tony Moffat.

### Hockey rink study

Mysak, a former hockey player and now a skier, told the *Independent* he plans to present findings from a hockey rink study conducted by his students that show evidence of changes in winter and long-term trends, such as this year's warm spells.

Is this year an anomaly or a harbinger of

winters to come? "It's a hot topic," he said, pun unintended. There's a difference between weather, on a day-to-day basis, and climate, "which is what you expect," he explained.

The environmental impact on climate change is the main thrust of Earth Hour being marked around the world on the same date. Its symbolic lights-out period from 8:30 to 9:30 pm is a way to create awareness of the negative effects of light pollution on human, animal and plant life and the repercussions of climate change, according to Moffat, an astrophysicist.

### **Event presentations**

Plans for this year's Westmount event include a family workshop on bees, short talks on birds by Bird Protection Quebec and on the relationship between monarch butterflies and dwindling supplies of milkweed. There will be a continuous screening of the environmental film *Watermark*.

Weather permitting, a "star gazing" session will be facilitated in Westmount Park by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Members will guide citizens in the use of telescopes to obtain "up-close" views of Jupiter as it appears at its closest point to Earth during March.

Among some of this year's 20 exhibitors are the Concordia Greenhouse Project, the Blue Dot Project of David Suzuki, which the city of Westmount signed on to last year, and Eco-Action programs from Natural Resources Canada on geothermal heating and grey water systems.

The city's Urban Planning department will provide information on storm management, Hydro Westmount on lighting and electrical savings, Public Works on environmental programs and Public Security on security and aging.

With Westmount entertainer George Bowser as emcee, the event takes place from 6 pm to 10 pm. It includes short speeches from Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Sustainability, MP for NDG-Westmount Marc Garneau and local provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon.





### Graffiti results in widespread damage

A private house on Abbott sustained a "substantial" amount of damage from graffiti overnight February 23-24, Public Security officials said. The entire length of the north wall and garage alongside a lane had been defaced by the black paint. More black graffiti was also discovered on the east and south walls of the Château Maisonneuve at 4998 de Maisonneuve but the tags were different. More graffiti was reported February 26 on a new fence at the rear of 76 York covering an area 25-to 30-feet long and four feet high.



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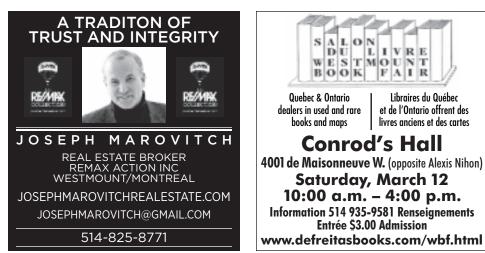
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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **BEFORE LAYING BLAME RE:** UNDERSPENDING ....

Before faulting Westmount's infrastructure planning and its Public Works department for underspending of the infrastructure budget, it would be worthwhile to determine how Westmount's performance in that respect compares with corresponding performance in similar cities elsewhere in Canada. For reasons as outlined below, it is virtually inevitable that every city's annual infrastructure budget will always be underspent.

Accounting rules dictate that the annual infrastructure budget must include all payments to be made within the budget year in accordance with planned or contractually scheduled performance milestones for all of the year's foreseen infrastructure work. However, on a statistical basis, past history will typically indicate with absolute certainty that a certain percentage of the overall infrastructure work will always fall short of meeting the milestone schedule for payments to be made within the budget year. Additional underspending may be incurred if the budget includes a fund for contingencies.

There are many unpredictable reasons

why a percentage of infrastructure work virtually always fails to meet scheduled performance milestones. For example, some typical reasons include adverse weather conditions, late delivery of necessary material from a supplier, inadequate timely effort from other involved entities and labour action during union negotiations with a contractor for some of the infrastructure work.

John Dorey, Victoria Ave.

### A NOTE WOULD HAVE **BEEN NICE**

So there I was February 24, sitting on a very comfortable chair at the Westmount Public Library having a wonderful read. How was I to know that someone had smashed into the rear bumper of my car (which was parked in the parking lot) with such force as to create a major dent.

Perhaps that person was sitting beside me earlier on or maybe he or she had been at the YMCA across the street having a workout.

I will never know as no one left a note. SAM BEITEL. ABBOTT AVE.

### **WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT**

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HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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#### Letters & Comments:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. *Please check your letter carefully as we may* be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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### **MONTREAL CHILDREN'S** LIBRARY LITTLE BUT DOES **BIG THINGS**

The independent, not-for-profit Montreal Children's Library is the little library that does big things for little kids. Founded 87 years ago, its start is owed to Elizabeth Murray from Westmount who believed that every child should grow up with books.

When Elizabeth discovered that the Fraser Institute's librarian, M. de Crèvecoeur, had set apart a section for children's reading but lacked the funds to purchase books for it, she contacted the Local Council (later the Montreal Council of Women) for assistance. A committee, chaired by Maysie MacSporran, took up the challenge and raised \$3,000 for new books. Thanks to their efforts and community generosity, the Montreal Children's Library (MCL) was opened in the Fraser Institute in 1929.

Since then, the library has served children and their families in 20 different locations. Today there is a branch downtown, in St. Michel and in Little Burgundy.

As it was 87 years ago, community sup-

#### port for children's literacy is critical. Donations allow the branches to continue to provide free access to books, programs, and community outreach services.

That is why the MCL board of directors wishes to thank the following for their valued support of our recent fundraising events:

Bridge Luncheon - Mountainside United Church, Alvéole, Carole Levinson, Heather Gibbons and the MCL honorary board.

Pool tournament - Forum Sports Bar, Dale Carnegie and Acklands Grainger.

2016 art calendar - Cheryl Braganza.

Whisky-tasting workshop - Fondation MacDonald Stewart (use of Maison Forget), Ouidram Whisky Tasting and Simply Wonderful catering.

Looking forward, there will be a jazz benefit concert on March 9 at the Upstairs Jazz Bar and Grill. Reserve at 514.931.6808. Thank you to Joel Giberovitch, the talented jazz duo, Renée Yoxon and Chad Linsley, and Babar Bookstore for their kind sponsorship.

THERESA COFFEY, MEMBER OF THE Montreal Children's Library board OF DIRECTORS

### **Batshaw Children Needing Homes** Sisters close, also competitive

The story of Janet, 4, and her 3-year-old sister Jean mirrors the stories of the majority of children Batshaw Youth and Family Centre is called upon each day to provide a safe, loving and nurturing family. However, the uniqueness of this sibling group is that at their young age they understanding the bond of siblinghood.

They are spirited and even though they are of different ages, they insist on dressing alike. They are always checking on what the other is doing, and there are times when their relationship takes on different aspects of their individuality.

Janet is very helpful. She is always ready to help her foster mother with bed-making, she loves to play "dress up," and thus changes her clothes quite a few times throughout the day. Jean is able to play individually, she likes to colour, dance and

listen to music.

Caring for the siblings can be challenging, as their sisterly relationship can become competitive. They are demanding of individual attention, and their play can become aggressive.

The sisters are presently in an emergency foster home, where they have made significant progress with structure and consistency. Developmentally, they lag behind in the area of speech, and therapy is being explored.

Janet and Jean are in need of a family. Ideally, they need a two-parent black family that can make the commitment to them for as long as they need.

For more information, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, ext. 1139.

Electronic Independents available Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

### Lane rage



Two motorists communicated aggravation towards each other on March 1 in the alley between Victoria and Prince Albert, north of de Maisonneuve. The SUV driver honked at length to protest the obstacle to his way north. The driver of the delivery van finished closing up his back compartment and shared some angry words with the honker. After he and his truck exited the alley by going south, the SUV u-turned and went south too, seemingly in pursuit.

Photo: Westmount Independent

### Comin' Up

#### Thursday, March 10

Author **Keith Henderson** discusses his historical novel *The Roof Walkers*, set in the lead-up to Canadian confederation. With Irish harpist Susan Palmer. 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

#### Friday, March II

Vernissage and book launch of Ezra Soiferman's *Last Game at The Forum*, 5 pm to 7 pm in the lobby of Victoria Park, 376 Victoria Ave.

#### Saturday, March 12

Annual Westmount **Antiquarian Book Fair**, Conrod's Hall, 4001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. (Dawson College entrance). 10 am to 4 pm. Cost: \$3 (free for children 10 and under). Info: www.defreitasbooks.com/wbf.html.

#### Monday, March 14

**St. Patrick's Day** crafts for 4+ years. Register at the children's desk with child's library card. 4 to 5 pm. Info: 514.989.5229.

#### Thursday, March 17

Westmount Historical Association presents Rosalind Pepall on "Charles W. Kelsey: The Craft of Stained Glass." 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: www.westmounthistorical.org.

#### Saturday, March 19

An **Earth Hour** event, encouraging people to turn out their lights between 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Activities at Victoria Hall 6 to 10 pm.







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# St. Matthias' concert raises \$1.2K for Syrian family



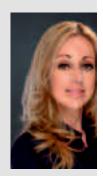
Vocalist Sarah Albu performs during a fundraising concert held on February 19 at St. Matthias' Church. The concert was held to support a fund to help a Syrian family come to Canada with the help of both St. Matthias and St. Andrew and St. Mark Church in Dorval. According to the organizers, a \$500 goal was surpassed, for a total of \$775. The concert was given by Albu with special guests the Ina Vocal Ensemble. The program included traditional songs from Kazakhstan, Estonia, works by Henri Pousseur, Giacinto Scelsi and the premiere of a work by Isaiah Ceccarelli. Photo: Martin C. Barry

### EXTRAORDIN



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# Contesting ticket?



A city of Westmount-issued parking infraction ticket is seen stuck through the mesh protecting a tree on Victoria Ave. the morning of March 4. Was it found and placed there for retrieval? Or was this the defendant's way of protesting a ticket? Photo: Staff

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### **Melée** cont'd. from p. 1

on the top of her right hand.

A professional dog walker, also a Westmount woman, had a "minor" puncture. Another professional dog walker – a man from the Hochelaga area of Montreal – had a bruise and minor cut on one finger.

A cocker spaniel sustained a minor bite on the head near one ear while a bull terrier had what was described as "a more serious injury."

Officers took photos of the injuries and verified dog vaccination papers. None of the walkers was found in possession of more than the by-law limit of four dogs. All the dogs had valid licences.

The number of dogs anyone is permitting to take into a fenced dog run or Summit Woods at the same time was initially proposed at three by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Sustainability (see story May 14, 2013, p. 25). She stated there was "no way" anyone could control many off-leash dogs. The number was subsequently raised to four after an outcry from people in the dogwalking business.

### Timely signs ordered removed

An income tax preparer was ordered to remove signs for his services posted on city poles along Sherbrooke from Claremont to Clarke February 23, Public Security officials said. He was contacted after public safety officers received a complaint at 10:03 am. He had no prior offences and was not issued a ticket.



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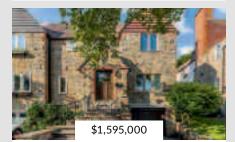
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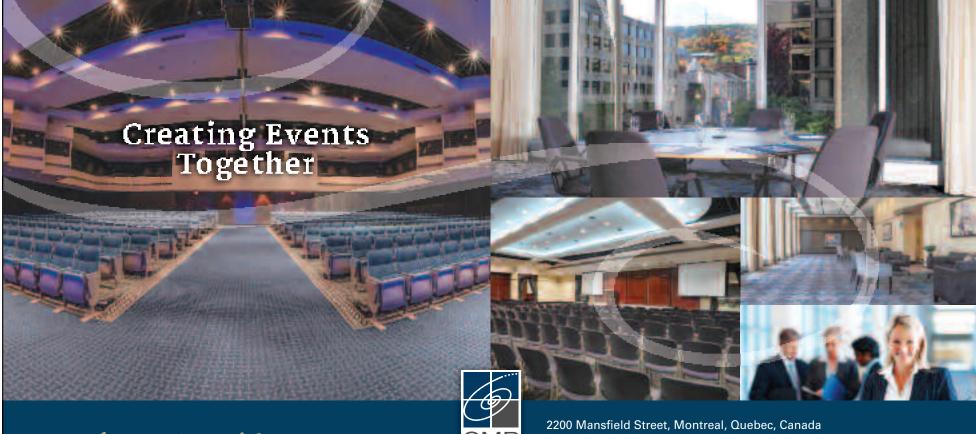
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### Not just books at Atwater Lib.



The Atwater Library invited knitters and crocheters to bring a finished or almost-finished handmade scarf for its Knit with Love! Valentine's Day scarf two-hour workshop January 30. Expert knitter Arlene Lund was on hand to show how to do finishing touches, such as how to make pom-poms, tassels or fringes. Gift tags were provided to write an encouraging message for the recipient. The finished pieces were to be on display in the library's atrium until mid February. Then they were to be given to clients of a Montreal charity for Valentine's Day. Seen in the photo, from left, are Anna Maria Caranci, Valerie Broege, Barbara Covington, Virginia Thomas and Arlene Lund.



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### Shearer never forgot Westmount, film historian tells WHA

#### BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Legendary Hollywood star Norma Shearer once said in an interview that she felt attached to only one thing during her life: the engagement ring she received from her late husband, Hollywood producer Irving Thalberg.

However, Concordia University film historian Oksana Dykyj told members of the Westmount Historical Association on February 18 that a conclusion she reached after a thorough study of the actress' life was that Shearer felt an attachment to something else - 507 Grosvenor Ave. in Westmount.

Shearer, one of the biggest movie stars of the 1930s, began life in Westmount before moving to New York and then on to Hollywood.

According to Dykyj, who champions Shearer in some of her academic work, film company publicists made numerous references to 507 Grosvenor throughout Shearer's career and "would not have constantly put that address into all these publications had she not kept telling them to do that - to tell them how wonderful her life was where her dream began.

"When we look at a lot of Hollywood

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publicity material, articles about her, interviews that she'd granted to people, 507 Grosvenor always appears. There's always a mention of exactly where she lived."

While other movie stars in their biographies would usually mention the town or street they came from, Dykyj said they almost never referred to a specific address as Shearer did.

The actress was born in Westmount in 1902, the youngest of three children. Her father, Andrew, owned a construction supplies company, and the family initially enjoyed a privileged life. According to Dykyj, Andrew Shearer's annual income would have been the equivalent of around \$200,000 today, taking into account that there was no income tax then.

Dykyj's research suggests that the Shearers appeared to be socially active in Westmount. Her parents were mentioned in a community newspaper, the Westmount *News*, on February 23, 1912 as being guests at a Victoria Hall dance. In one of the many articles on Shearer that Dykyj read, Shearer mentions that 507 Grosvenor was built by her father as a wedding present for her mother, Edith.

A number of publicity materials have claimed that Shearer attended a variety of

Floor



Film historian Oksana Dykyi, left, presents WHA president Doreen Lindsay with a copy of Norma Shearer's unpublished memoir.

schools in Westmount, including Roslyn School and St. Paul's Academy, although Dykyj could not confirm this. But she dismissed a claim made by at least one author that Shearer attended Westmount High

School.

"Based on what Norma herself said, she never did go to Westmount High – sorry Westmounters." said ..... Dykyj, while adding that continued on p. 14





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### Friends of the MUHC shifts from 'friendraising' to 'fundraising'

#### BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After being officially granted charitable status last fall, it's full steam ahead for the Friends of the MUHC, a new volunteer group.

"We've been ready to go since November," Andrea Usher-Jones, a Friends board member responsible for communications, said in an interview with the Independent. "Up to now, we've been 'friendraising,' but now we can fundraise."

Despite some initial birth pains, Usher-Jones and Friends board president Lesley Reford, both Westmounters, said they are very enthusiastic about the road ahead. "Our motto is 'all hands on deck.' We're really hands-on," Usher-Jones pointed out. "We would like to see people becoming involved from the community," Reford added.

According to a page on the MUHC website, the group's functions include raising money for the health centre as well as promoting the hospital's image in the community. Money raised can be used to pur-

Shearer's time in Westmount was draw-

ing to a close before World War I when her

father was forced to sell his interest in his

company as well as 507 Grosvenor. Dykyj

suggested that his gambling and bad in-

vestments had a lot to do with it. A 1912-13

Lovell's street directory listed a Southam as

Shearer moved with her children to the

US, where Norma rose to fame in films.

Athole also tried to make a career in

After leaving her husband, Edith

507 Grosvenor's new occupant.

town Montreal.

chase medical equipment, sponsor research awards and support programs that enhance patient care.

Reford said the auxiliaries of the six merged hospitals (the Montreal General, the Royal Victoria, the Montreal Children's, the Montreal Neurological, the Montreal Chest Institute and the Lachine Hospital) lost membership and orientation in recent

years, leading to a Friends of the MUHC president Lesley Reford, left, and board member concerted move to Andrea Usher-Jones, seen here on January 28 in Reford's home, would like create a new central- to see more people from the community involved in the new MUHC group. ized organization.

Two other MUHC units, the Cedars Cancer Centre and the MUHC's Research Institute, will also be benefiting from the Friends' efforts, they added. So far, ac-

### **Shearer** cont'd. from p. 13

Shearer and her sister Athole did attend movies, but suffered from a bi-polar dis-Montreal High School for Girls in downorder and did not have a comparable amount of success.

A third sibling, Douglas, became a highly successful sound recording engineer in Hollywood and won seven Academy Awards for his work.

When Shearer was named to the city's posthumous honor roll of exceptional citizens for 1991, she was also described by the city as having lived on Columbia after the move from Grosvenor.

At the end of her presentation, Dykyj presented the WHA with a copy of Shearer's unpublished memoir.



cording to Reford and Usher-Jones, the Chest Hospital auxiliary has officially shut

and handed over its remaining funds. Several of its members have also joined the new organization.

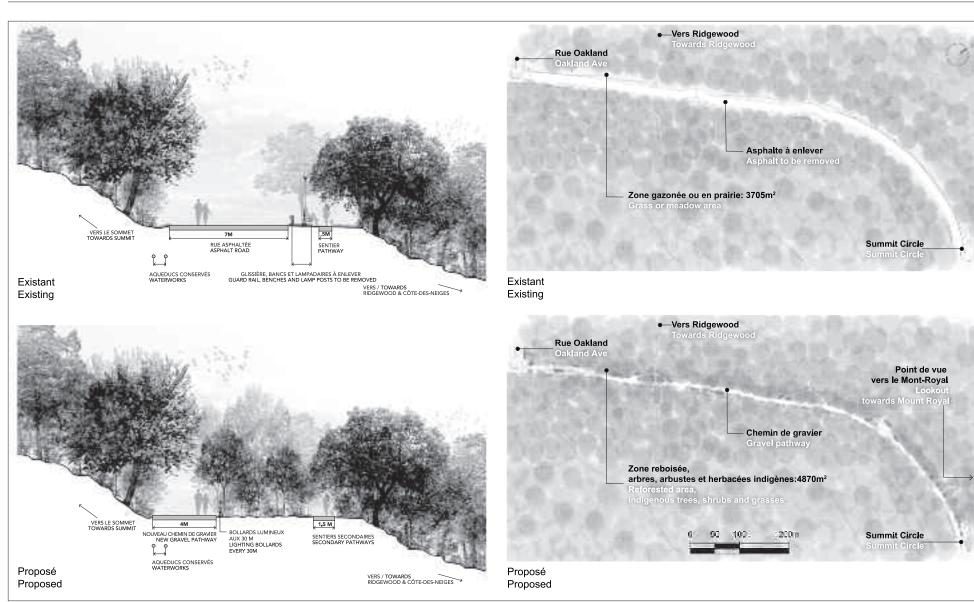
The Children's Hospital's auxiliary did the same in December and transferred \$10,000 to the Friends.

They said that a special effort has been made to ensure that appointments to the Friends of the MUHC's 16-member board are done in a manner that equitably represents the former auxiliaries. They also wished to dispel the time-worn notion that hospital auxiliaries are dominated by women.

They pointed out that a man, Kevin Peacock (also a Westmounter), is vice president of the Friends' board and that the group has many other male members.

For more information about Friends of the MUHC can be obtained by emailing friendsofthemuhc@gmail.com.





The illustrated Summit Circle plan is to be included in Mayor Peter Trent's letter.

Image courtesy of the city of Westmount

### Plan calls for service road, view-point, 75 new trees

#### cont'd. from p. 1

digenous trees.

The new path will also serve as a service road for fire trucks and waterworks vehicles and others to access hydrants and other water installations. A major Montreal water main lies beneath. There is also some hydro infrastructure.

Bollards – some lighted, others bearing reflective tape – will delineate the path, Lulham explained. "We don't want any trucks going off the cliff."

She said the plan had been approved by the fire department. The last time a fire truck was known to have required access to the area was during a brush fire in the woods two summers ago. At that time, firefighters had had to cut a chain used to prevent entry to the closed portion (see May 14, 2013, p. 3). Removable bollards will now block off the gravel pathway at both ends.

Would a bike path be included? No, Trent replied. "We don't allow bikes in Summit Woods."

#### Viewpoint to be created

At the east end, just north of the last house at 15 Summit Circle, the city will create a mini look-out, being called a "viewpoint." This will have a low stone wall similar to the view-point in King George (Murray) Park, Lulham explained.

"We will lop off a few trees and remove some invasive ones to provide a view of Mount Royal without cutting any trees."

The removal of invasive trees and other vegetation throughout Summit Woods is among rehabilitation measures of the summit area. This began last summer with the naturalization of the mountain's east face under way on Belvedere Rd. near Côte des Neiges Rd. and the city's Public Works depot.

The permanent closure of Summit Circle is the second phase of the program to restore the Summit Woods area. This includes reforestation, rehabilitation of natural drainage, rejuvenation of paths in the woods and elimination of extraneous trails that intrude into vegetation and bird habitats in the protected nature reserve (see story February 3, 2015, p. 1).

#### 25 years and counting

When Trent as a city councillor initially floated the idea of closing off Summit Circle at the council meeting of November 5, 1990, he was quoted in news reports saying that "the main hitch" to the plan lay in closing off access to emergency vehicles and two fire hydrants. That, however, could be solved by maintaining a service road. The idea was met by some opposition from local residents and lay dormant thereafter.

Trent recalled last week that in closing Summit Circle permanently, the city has been using a parallel strategy to that followed in the 1970s when the city closed off de Maisonneuve (then Western Ave.) through Westmount Park.

The idea, then as now, he said, was to close the road temporarily to see how people liked it. Since 2009 when Summit Circle was temporarily closed off, little opposition has been received, he said.

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### Stewart and Hildebrand: Sensory architecture



### Art Scene

Heather Black

Recent Westmount exhibitions included Penelope Stewart's dynamic beeswax installations at Dawson College's Warren G. Flowers Gallery and Dil Hildebrand's stylized paintings at the Visual Art Centre's McClure Gallery. Although different in subject, material and technique, both artists create a sense of space that invites the viewer in.

#### Nature revisited

Stewart's exhibition entitled Cleave, a Path in the Wilderness features a magnificent 16-foot by 18-foot wall hanging. Composed of over 11,000 leaves moulded from beeswax, ochre oak leaves interspersed with golden maple ones create an arresting composition. Illustrative of the sculptural and tactile quality of Stewart's unique work, this installation also conveys the versatility of tinted beeswax as an artistic medium. For Stewart, nature is both a source of aesthetics and creative inspira-

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tion.

The term sensory architecture also describes the installation of strung tubular blossoms, smooth beach stones and ridged tree bark. Artfully arranged, wind-strewn bark placed adjacent to neat rows of bark or patterned stair posts conveys mankind's ordering of nature. This theme is explored further in the large black-and-white photograph of a gardenhouse. Presented as both a positive image and photo negative, the classical architecture and idyllic scene appears sinister, if not life-threatening.

In one display window, three beehive wicker baskets or skeps tinted earthy gold, brown and black reminds the viewer of the fragility of the bees' habitat. Evoking mankind's symbiotic relationship with bees, Stewart conveys the interdependence of nature and culture. This thought-provoking exhibition continues until Saturday, March 12 at 4001 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

#### Tools of the trade

Dil Hildebrand's exhibition of paintings and mixed-media collage is whimsically entitled Whilst Hanging from a Round Planet. Inspired by astrophysicist Arthur Eddington's description of relativity, circles, arcs and triangles - both painted and pasted - dominate this colourful collection. Many recall the op art compositions of Quebec artist Jean-Paul Jérôme or constructivist images of Russian Vladimir Tatlin.

Geometric patterns in the yellow and green painting "Twenty Miles a Second" convey an orbiting earth. Another, "Cross Fade," features a sophisticated palette of turquoise, cobalt and pink. Painted rivets and metal plates add a textural and architectural element. The design theme is extended in the oil and acrylic composition,

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Penelope Stewart – A detail of "Cleave, a Path in the Wilderness"

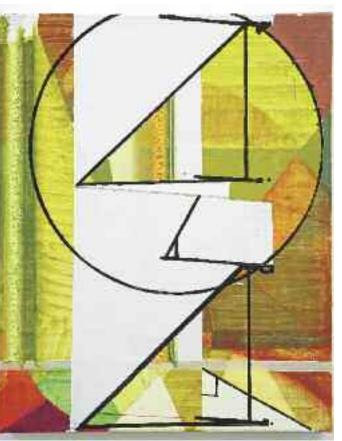
"It is a Complicated Business," where a gridded surface suggests a cutting board. Hildebrand's focus is

on creation and perception within accumulated knowledge and artistic technique. A design aesthetic reminiscent of op art and constructivism - and humour – permeates the composition "Long in the Tooth," where pointed white wedges are set off against a colourful border of circular motifs. These colourful works were on display until February 27 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

#### A sense of space

Space informs both Stewart's installations and Hildebrand's paintings. Suspended or arranged beeswax sculpture create magic,

mystery, or serenity, while pattern and tone suggest movement and temperature. In these unique and interesting exhibitions, both artists display a shared responsiveness to form as well as an original perspective.



Dil Hildebrand "Twenty Miles a Second"

### Squirrel gets cold exit

Two public safety officers managed to get a squirrel out of a house February 24 on Summit Cresc., according to Public Security officials. The resident called for assistance at 2 pm.

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### Canadian Friends of Hebrew U previews Stolen



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond Veronica Redgrave

Amidst wonderful bronzes – a cow by artist Joe Fafard, a huge horse by Barry Flanagan and an abstract piece by Sorel Etrog - the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHU) held a reception at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts November 23.

"An Evening in Tribute to the Max Stern Art Restitution Project" (MSARP) was packed. Guests' cars were whisked away by valet Bob Perras' team, which moved them quickly out of traffic.

Simon Bensimon, executive director of CFHU, welcomed guests, including Manon Gauthier, member of the city of

Montreal's executive committee.

The evening featured Westmounter Clarence Epstein, director of the MSARP for the past 10 years, who attended with his wife Karen. Epstein is the senior director of urban and cultural affairs at Concordia and was recently named to the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board. He also heads MSARP, a global initiative to reclaim artwork stolen by the Nazis.

Guests were treated to a preview of Stolen, a documentary about Max Stern, produced by Henry Less of HLP Partners films, who came in from Toronto with his wife Sissy Federer.

Committee members of the eve included Westmounters Karen Etingin, Evelyn Bloomfield-Schachter, Sylvia Vogel, Carol Koffler and Amy Kornik, along with Paula Blitstein, Karen Levine Cohen, Bernard Grant, Monette Malewski, Lillian Shiller and Robin Turack.

The program notes thanked Iris Ami-

zlev, Lauren Dobrin and Phyllis Ellis.

Local residents noted included Mitzi Dobrin and her sons Ronnie and Lewis Dobrin (there with his wife Rosalie Jukier), Naomi and Eric Bissell, Etty and Ralph Bienstock, Miriam Rolland, Charlene Weiser, and Rhoda and Robert Vineberg.

Seen chatting with fans was media star and super chef Ricardo Larrivée, there with his wife Brigitte Coutu. Enjoying the presentation were Lillian Vineberg and Morris Goodman, Fernanda and Sydney Ivanier, Janice Arnold, Angela and Ralph Lipper and Sara and Irwin Tauben.

Guests squeezed in line to enjoy the healthy kosher sushi provided by Blossom catering, which also served trays of fried egg rolls, small hamburgers and lemon chicken in charming Chinese boxes.

The event was to sensitize people to the making of the film, according to organizers.



Clarence Epstein, left, and Simon Bensimon.



From left: Ricardo Larrivée, Sissy Federer, Brigitte Couture and Henry Less.

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Ralph and Angela Lipper. Photo courtesy of CFHU.



Manon Gauthier, left, and Monette Malewski.



## TRENDSETTERS

### Véronique Pourcelet

#### By Veronica Redgrave

As I often see Westmount Y instructor Véronique Pourcelet in great work-out clothes, I was interested to hear that she had attended a red-carpet party in LA with her husband, who works in the music industry. What fun it must have been to attend the glamorous Grammys! I was intrigued to discover her range of style, so here it is.

#### STYLE

### How would you describe your personal style?

I actually have several styles. I wear "classic with an edge," that is, skinny pants, pointy shoes and "tribal-style" pearl earrings along with colourful handbags. I also like to wear trendy – fur vests, leather pants and skirts, as well as tight-knit dresses. And sometimes I go "Bohemian," putting on flared jeans (which are now the "in" look anyway!) with peasant blouses and large hoop earrings.

#### What is your favourite way of dressing?

In the summer, I love to wear colourful long dresses and bright tops. But by the fall I am into knitted tops and turtleneck sweaters with textured pants and skirts. And in the winter, I wear leather, suede, velvet and fur. I also love leopard and polka dot prints.

#### On weekends, what do you like to wear?

On weekends I am usually in the country and the Bohemian in me comes out – I like to wear my torn, faded jeans and furry booty slippers.

When you have to dress up for a party, what do you choose?

Long dresses or skirts, palazzo pants or jumpsuits. I have a great purple and a beautiful turquoise one. And I wore a fabulous black one at the Grammys. This past holiday season, I opted for some winterwhite outfits. I like to accessorize with modern and vintage necklaces.

### *If* you had a choice, where would you live, money being no object?

I would keep a *pied-à-terre* in Montreal, spend springs in Europe, winters in Palm Springs and Laguna, California, as well as the Caribbean and summers at my country home in Magog.

### What is your favourite flower? Do you have flowers in your home?

I adore many flowers – tulips, irises, peonies, orchids. I find sunflower and lavender fields breathtaking. I always have an orchid in my bathroom and fresh or potted flowers in my home.

### Who would you invite to a dinner, if you could invite anyone from any era?

My great grandparents, Chris Martin of Coldplay, Salvador Dali, Jim Morrison of The Doors, Robert Downey Jr. and Ernest Hemingway.

#### Who are your favourite designers?

I like Max Mara coats, Emilio Pucci prints, Bulgari coin jewelry, Betsey Johnson's fun and witty clothes, and designer Trina Turk.

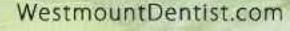
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Westmount Square 514.937.3008 outfits with a few possibilities, usually neutrals such as black and white, with some more dramatic coloured pieces to add a punch. I pack a lot but usually wear everything. And I always bring lots of accessories; shoes, bags and jewelry.

#### What do you think of today's fashions?

I love the come-back of the Bohemian fashion – flared pants, block heels, boho tops and hats, cat-eye make-up, but am not very fond of all the mixed-up prints – I find them messy and not pulled together.

Do you see more "work-out" clothes being worn everyday?

Yes I do. I see more leggings and yoga pants worn every day and to travel in. Many designers are putting out leisurewear; they are comfortable and functional. But, as a group fitness instructor and personal trainer, I spend half my days wearing work-out clothes, so I am happy to change out of them.



Véronique Pourcelet photographed at her home on Rosemount Ave, January 12.





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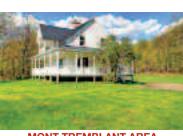


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MONT-TREMBLANT AREA \$599,000 244 Crystall Falls \$499,000 Unique renovated farm house, 3 bedrooms with approximately 20 acres of land. MLS 14156558



Starting at \$209,000



# **MOUNT ROYAL**

Ski out. MLS 19120117

\$365,000 240 Ch. Bates #311 \$348,000 with views, MLS 13684694

MARIE SICOTTE

**Real Estate Broker** 

514 953-9808 marie@mariesicotte.com



Beautiful 2 Bdr ground level condo overlooking Fabulous innovative loft style condo corner unit Contemporary lofts in wooded area, 7 KM from Tremblant. Private trails, access to Rouge River.



**NEW PROJECT / MT TREMBLANT AREA** 



### mariesicotte.com

min from Tremblant. MLS 21652782

MONT-TREMBLANT AREA Exceptional domaine bordering the Rouge River, 15





**459 MOUNT PLEASANT, WESTMOUNT** Splendid turnkey townhouse with original details, state of the art renovation, beautiful eat-in kitchen, 3+1 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, A/C. Amazing basement. Asking **\$1,695,000** 



AFFORDABLE PENTHOUSE Convenient CDN/ Queen Mary location! Sunny w/views, 2 bedrooms, 2 renovated baths, garage, Indoor pool. Estate sale. 1353 sf. Immediate occupancy. MLS 24259880 \$418,000



**EXQUISITE WESTMOUNT ADJ. CONDO** Beautifully designed condo in one of Montreal's finest buildings. Absolutely move-in, spacious 1 bdrm, 1.5 baths. Sunny western exposure. Deluxe open concept kitchen. MLS 21139975 **\$518,000** 



#### ST HENRI LOFT

Charming pied-a-terre at Imperial Lofts. Extremely bright , excellent layout,12 ft. Ceiling. Open views toward mountain and courtyard. MLS 26749485



### WESTMOUNT DELIGHT!

Phenomenal family home on the flats. Very serene décor complements its spaciousness. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Central air. Beautifully landscaped garden. 2 car parking. **\$1,318,000** 



**REFINEMENT AT THE CHATEAU** Elegantly renovated downtown apartment in an iconic Montreal landmark. A spacious & comfortable 1950 sq.ft. 3 bdrms,3 beautiful baths, garage. Central air. MLS 9797158 \$1,245,000



LOCATION AND CHARM IN ST HENRI Beautiful 2 bedroom condo walking distance to new MUHC, Metro and trendy restaurants. Many updates. 10' high ceilings, exposed brick, fireplace. Parking. 1241 sf. MLS 25709392 \$374,000



EASTERN OLD MONTREAL INVESTMENT Convenient location near new CHUM, city Hall and old Montreal attractions. Spacious condo on 2 levels. 1+1 bedroom, 1.5 baths. 9' ceilings Garage. Rented \$1850/M \$399,000



LUXURIOUS VILLE MARIE PENTHOUSE Contemporary design and perfect detailing provide a tranquil ambiance in this 3,500 sq.ft. sky home with 3 bdrm, 3.5 bths, 2 garage. Views. Rooftop pool. Terrace. MLS 9546960 \$2,500,000

# TaniaKalecheff

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