

## Mayor may walk in parade

# City offering St. Pat's quiz, float not pursued due to no one 'asking to participate'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was a long tradition for Westmount to enter a contingent in Montreal's annual St. Patrick's Parade. But when it unfolds Sunday, March 17, the city won't have an official entry for the second consecutive year owing to "a lack of interest."

"I don't have any residents asking to participate," Smith told the *Independent* last week. "I might walk with a group of other

politicians but that's not decided yet," she added.

Instead, the city is putting its efforts into organizing a special Irish pub night at Victoria Hall, March 20, and the library was to continue holding its St. Patrick's story time and craft session for children Monday, March 11, after press time.

The city first entered the parade in 1985 with a contingent that escalated quickly to include the mayor of the day seated on a fire truck along with an award-winning city float constructed by volunteers. But participation began dwindling steadily in the last five or so years to leave a lone Public Security car and a few walkers.

Announcing last year's decision not to participate, Councillor Mary Gallery, commissioner of library, culture and sports and recreation, had stated hopes to revitalize participation for 2019 (see story March 6, 2018, p. 10).

Nevertheless, because parade involvement requires a certain amount of time and organizing by staff and volunteers from community groups, it was decided to put the time and resources into the Victoria Hall evening.

### Transforming Vic Hall

"We'll be transforming Victoria Hall for a special pub quiz evening," said Julie-Anne Cardella, director of library and community events. "So brush up on your knowledge of the Emerald Isle (music, lit-

## St. Patrick's Day is coming



Daria Sarafzadeh, 5, admires the St. Patrick's display in the children's section at Westmount Public Library March 4.

PHOTO: LAUREEN SWEENEY.

**de Maisonneuve Blvd. between Atwater Ave. and Wood Ave. to close March 18 for most of year, see story p. 14**

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erature, pop culture, etc.) and come play with friends or individually for your chance to win great prizes."

A cash bar will also serve certain specialties such as Guinness, Harp and Irish coffee.

The event is free but requires reservations for up to 80 at the Community Events office (514.989.5226).

For children, chosen for reading was *That's What Leprechauns Do* by Eve Bunting – a story about three leprechauns who must race to dig up a buried pot of gold before a rainbow comes – and clouds are gathering. The craft was making a shamrock character.

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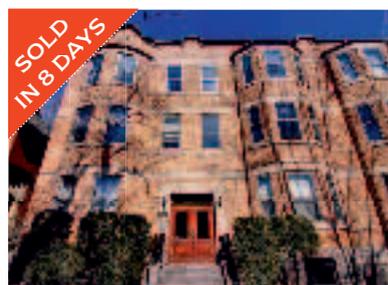
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## 'Victorian' victuals for the birds



The hedge that runs along the western edge of the Victoria Ave. Metro grocery store's parking lot has long been a popular place for one or more individuals to leave items for birds or squirrels, as it was on March 7. It is illegal under Westmount by-laws to feed animals on public property; or birds anywhere, except with a closed feeder.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Saucepan scam comes to Westmount?

A resident of the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment building was recently offered a

deal on saucepans after having given two men directions to the airport.

The incident took place on Prince Albert on March 3. The men were French speaking and driving a red or burgundy Dodge Caliber. They said they were from Switzerland and could not return home with all their goods from a trade show. He declined the offer, but looked up "saucepan scam" on the internet afterwards and, sure enough, found an article from a British newspaper about third-rate goods – complete with a front website – being sold this way.

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# City awards \$128,000 in grants to 7 non-profit groups

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Seven non-profit community organizations will receive a total of \$128,000 in support funding for 2019, city council announced by resolution March 4.

This is up 2 percent from last year in the city's program aimed at helping them provide services beneficial to citizens that the city does not offer.

While there are some winners and losers over last year's allocations, the Contactivity seniors' centre at Westmount Park Church is to receive \$53,500. This accounts for almost 49 percent of the total approved for the seven groups and is an increase over its grant of \$44,500 in 2018.

"Contactivity does amazing work with seniors," said Mayor Christina Smith.

The other beneficiaries (with last year's funding in brackets) are: Atwater Library \$36,500 (\$39,000), the Westmount Y \$13,000 (\$15,000), Repercussion Theatre \$9,000 (\$9,000), the Visual Arts Centre \$7,000 (\$9,000), the Westmount Historical Association \$5,000 (\$5,000) and Centre Greene \$4,000 (\$4,000).

And in a separate resolution, the council for the first time awarded another \$10,000 to each of the two new non-profit merchant associations. These are the

Greene neighbourhood's merchant association and the Westmount Victoria Village Merchants Association (see separate story, p. 5).

While organizations must apply annually and meet specific criteria, this is the first time they have been able to apply online. The final allocations depend largely on the programs they plan to offer and reasons for amounts requested.

### Benefits, needs

The example of Contactivity illustrates its benefits to the community and needs, according to Julie-Anne Cardella, director of Library and Community Events, which assesses the applications. "They expect their programs to increase participation this year by up to 2 percent as the population ages," she explains. "They provide a wide range of programs including two meals a week, outside excursions, bridge, ping pong, security phone calls, visits to shut-ins and isolated seniors, blood pressure testing, foot care clinics, and volunteer drivers for medical appointments."

In fact, Cardella said, "one day when the library was short of volunteer drivers to deliver our books to shut-ins, we had to call on Contactivity to help out."

This year's grant "is a terrific vote of

confidence in us," executive director Mary Stark said. The centre's request for \$55,000 from the city was based in part on the expiry of a one-year federal government grant from New Horizons for Seniors as well as the uncertainty of a year-by-year grant for out-reach services from Quebec's family ministry running out in a month.

While the second largest of the support grants went to the Atwater Library, staunch supporter John Fretz expressed disappointment it did not receive more to help with a proposed elevator as he has been requesting at council meetings.

Mayor Smith has stated previously that the city's grants are to support programs and services rather than building operations. She told Fretz that, in a meeting with the library's executive director Lynn Verge, she learned the library would not be proceeding with an elevator until receiving confirmation of a grant from the federal government. "So it is not a done deal."

Verge told the *Independent* that "the reduction (from \$39,000) in our sustaining grant is extremely disappointing and hard to understand, given the Atwater Library's great value to Westmounters and our innovative programming."

In addition, she said, .....  
"On top of the cut in our *continued on p. 5*

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# Merchant groups get \$20,000

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A total of \$20,000 was approved by city council March 4 to be shared equally by the city's two new non-profit associations representing merchants in the Victoria village and Greene Ave./St. Catherine districts.

"It's a first," said Councillor Marina Brzeski in moving the resolution on behalf of Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who has been spearheading the revitalization of commercial districts. "Now that they have formed formal associations, they can receive grants from the city."

## Grants, cont'd. from p. 4

supporting grant, the council has failed to respond to repeated Atwater Library requests for grants to offset fees and taxes we are paying Westmount with the conservation and upgrading of our 100-year-old heritage building. The previous council headed by Peter Trent readily provided such offset grants."

She said the library had already paid \$1,200 in permit fees this year for the restoration of its windows, "and this is only March."

It had been seeking \$50,000, though the figure mentioned at the council meeting

"Officialized" as non-profit groups in October 2018, they can receive the financial assistance from the municipality "to promote the well-being of the population," according to the resolution.

The city and PME Montreal "have committed to providing these associations with financial assistance to promote their activities, implement a website and carry out marketing studies," it states. The PME Montreal is a network of financial and planning specialists that receives financial support from the Montreal agglomeration (see story March 5, p. 3).

was \$55,000. As it is, the grant of \$36,500 "is a significant investment of taxpayers' dollars," Smith explained.

Although the library is located in Westmount, it also serves a large sector of the population in Montreal. The city's initial grant for the library years ago was to help it continue to offer the type of computer expertise that the Westmount Public Library did not.

In its grant policy in October 2018, the council agreed on the maximum amount of \$128,000 for 2019 "and that for the subsequent years this amount be increased or decreased based on" the CPI.

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## City had to make a bench inventory first Resident waits for news on memorial bench requests

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Repeated requests over many months from a resident of Claremont for a memorial park bench in the name of his wife were raised again March 4 as the city moves toward taking the first step in a somewhat lengthy process to implement such a commemorative program, it was revealed.

This would replace the city's previous memorial tree planting program that has not been functioning for several years.

Kenneth Toye, a 10-year resident of Westmount whose wife passed away in July 2017, said he had been told his request was essentially on hold while the city conducted a survey of all its benches, but said all he wanted was a plaque on a bench.

He asked Mayor Christina Smith if she had an update for him and city director general Benoit Hurtubise replied that the city would be implementing a new program for memorial benches now that "the council has asked the city to invest more in park projects."

While Public Works has been short-handed, he said, "we are now in the process of hiring a specialist" who will be in a position to propose a certain model for new park benches that will be architecturally appealing yet durable. "Will we have the benches this summer? I'm not sure."

"I'm just asking for a plaque on a bench," Toye stated.

He said he had seen a number of existing benches in solid condition and had his eye on one in King George (Murray) Park near the tennis courts where his wife used to sit watching their grandchildren practise tennis, at which they are now excelling.

The bench has additional meaning to him because it is where he and his wife used to sit and admire the view.



Kenneth Toye addresses city council March 4

Mayor Smith repeated his request about the bench in KGP saying, "I'll get back to you with a timeline."

### Signatures submitted

Toye's idea for a memorial bench came from a neighbour. He collected close to 100 signatures from people, most of them Westmount residents stating they "knew and loved Betty" and that she "deserved a commemorative bench."

Following up on requests to council from Lucien Savard, a neighbour, Toye sent these signatures along with a letter last September 24 to his councillor, Philip Cutler, saying in part that while he understood "a complete inventory of all the benches... is an ongoing necessity, we are, for all intents and purposes talking about only one bench."

He asked Cutler at the *continued on p. 7*

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# Memorial benches to replace tree program, costs vary

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Following news at the council meeting March 4 that the city is planning to implement a future program of memorial park

*continued from p. 6*

March 4 meeting what he had done to “expedite” the matter, to which Cutler said he had referred it to the council.

Toye’s wife, Betty, who owned the Tiki Ming fast food outlet in the food court at Alexis Nihon for 30 years, passed away in July 2017.

## Two benches installed

While only two memorial benches are believed to have been installed in Westmount, many municipalities have differing programs with varying criteria and costs for donors (see separate story, above.)

The two near the entrance to Westmount Public Library were installed by the city in December 2015 in tribute to Jessica Holman-Price. She was the 21-year-old who gave her life saving her younger brother, Peter Luc, from slipping under the wheels of a snow removal truck at Sherbrooke and Strathcona in December 2005 (see photo January 19, 2016, p. 10).

benches, city director general Benoit Hurtubise told the *Independent* last week that a new bench generally costs \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Though costs were not mentioned at the meeting, Hurtubise said it depends on the model but that the administration “will need to make a proposal to council before confirming what will be asked from the donor’s family.”

The donor cost for a memorial bench at the Toronto Botanical Garden, for example, is \$5,000, according to its website.

## Pierrefonds

Similarly, a memorial bench acquisition program in Montreal’s Pierrefonds-Roxboro borough, subject to extensive criteria, charges \$500 plus taxes for the supply, production and installation of a memorial plaque “on an existing bench.”

The cost rises to \$2,500 plus taxes for the supply, transportation and installation of a new bench on a new concrete platform and installation of a memorial plaque.

A program launched recently in Pointe Claire is offering residents the opportunity to commemorate a person or symbolic event with a personalized plaque on a public bench at a cost of \$800 plus tax for 25 years or \$500 for an additional 25 years.

The city’s memorial tree program is no longer active, according to Hurtubise. Though he does not know when this program stopped, these trees can be identified in some of Westmount’s parks where a memorial plaque hangs from a chain or is fixed to a rock below.

Among such trees planted in recent memory was one in Westmount Park in memory of lawyer Philip Cutler, husband of former mayor May Cutler and grandfather of Councillor Philip Cutler.

## Remembering Danny Ponzo

Another was just off Côte St. Antoine near the Lawn Bowling Club at the site of the city’s underground electrical substation. It was planted in 1997 in memory of Danny Ponzo, who succumbed to cancer in his thirties while serving as director of Westmount Light and Power (now Hydro Westmount) and assistant city director general. The original tree had to be replaced when it did not do well, explained Bruce St. Louis, director general at the time. He said last week he was unaware the memorial program no longer existed.

“Our intention is to relaunch the memorial program using park benches that can be better controlled over a long period than trees,” Hurtubise explained.

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## EDITORIAL

## In defence of Cromwell's economic freedom

I am writing to disagree politely (I hope) with two commentators (and *Indie* supporters – thank you, despite our disagreement here) in our March 5 issue. On p. 3, resident Denis Biro was reported as endorsing a vacancy tax, specifically to deter (allegedly) high rents at buildings owned by one company. In Victoria village at present, this means Cromwell Management.

Contributor and columnist Caroline Breslaw (p. 10) identified Cromwell by name and cast aspersions on its policies (e.g. “forced out”), saying it has “acquired over 50 commercial properties along the [Sherbrooke St.] stretch. Very large rent increases have forced out a number of tenants, in my view, and franchises have replaced many of the small businesses.”

(Cromwell's ownership of many properties in Victoria village is old news. Please see our May 15, 2011 front-page story, “Has Cromwell conquered Victoria village?”)

It was I who added the words “in my view” to Breslaw's piece because I don't think it has been established that it is high rents that have been the principal factor in changing the retail landscape of Westmount – in Vic village, on Greene Ave. and elsewhere. My guess (and everyone is guessing until a very careful study is done) is that the internet (which Breslaw also mentions) has played more havoc with the retail sector than rent – and its clouds rain on everyone, not just Cromwell tenants. Also, high commercial municipal real estate taxes have driven up rents, so in talking of “high” rents are we looking at a cause or an effect?

Regardless, I think Cromwell should be

able to set its own retail and commercial rents, and live with vacancy rates it finds acceptable. It is a question of freedom and of generally better economy outcomes.

Residents may want 50 rented shops, but if the owner finds 30 rented shops more profitable, who are we to tell it otherwise? Should the owner of real estate be forced into a lower return due to the preference of the resident? Where else do we accept such a pricing philosophy?

**Freedom**

Firstly, consider freedom. Don't you want to be able to set prices in your own business, subject, of course, to finding customers that want to pay them? Do you want politicians or bureaucrats setting your prices?

Let's be clear on what we would be doing with a vacancy tax: punishing an entity for failing in its main economic goal, i.e. leasing its assets at the prices that it thinks it needs.

The government might not like how much product you have sold in a given year. Don't you want to be free of an “inventory tax”? If you are in a service business, the government might not like how many hours you have billed. Don't you want to be free from a “slack-time tax”?

If you don't have a business, don't you want to be able to ask, and perhaps receive, any salary under the sun without a government having a view on its correctness? I have no idea if Cromwell's rents are the “right” ones and I don't endorse its decisions, but I endorse its freedom to set them in agreement with its tenants and to have

vacant shops if it so chooses. As one character writes to another in the more sombre, South African context of the movie *A Dry White Season* (1989): “No one can be free until all are free.”

Consider the Soviet Union, which Ronald Reagan rightly characterized as an “evil empire” in 1983. Nowadays, it is primarily disdained for its abysmal record on political rights – and rightly so. Citizens were not free to move around, or leave, or assemble, or express themselves (individually or via a free press), or petition the government. They certainly did not have the right to choose their government. People were imprisoned or killed or sent to mental hospitals for their beliefs. And it oppressed its neighbours.

But there is another lesson to be learned from the USSR, which, in the West of the last 30 years, after many instances of creeping regulation, might be more relevant than the first one. In the Soviet Union, people were not free to follow their own economic calling or form businesses or change jobs or set prices. This lack of freedom also chafes, wherever it is found.

Many will be more moved by the net economic effect of this lack of economic freedom. It can be summarized in one word: disaster. The Soviet Union was large and populous and educated and endowed with natural resources, but its economy was a shambles in terms of economic output, quality of goods, level of innovation and choice of products. In the West, “variety is the spice of life” is a benign platitude. I guess that Soviet citizens knew the opposite proposition to be a grim law of human existence.

Many of the stories from that era, some perhaps apocryphal, have a bleak humour to them. Workers bribing their foreman for more cement. Researchers being denied exit visas, not to guard technological secrets, but to keep the secret of Soviet backwardness from being revealed to the West. Expressions like “The state pretends to pay us and we pretend to work.”

And there were shortages of basic consumer goods, and line-ups, and poor-quality goods, which were less funny.

**Central planning**

The lesson is this: no amount of central economic planning by intelligent and, in many cases, well-meaning people can produce good economic results. There is no correct price for any good. There is no correct amount of any service. There is no way to plan, centrally, for everything and everybody in even a simple economy to be in the right place at the right time in the right amounts. And there is certainly no way to change, centrally, a whole economy quick-

ly when there is an unforeseen shock, be it economic, natural, demographic, military or otherwise.

Only a myriad of free actors making economic decisions in the light of the most recent information can, as an effect, produce a good economic result. Free people are more informed and faster and more flexible and more innovative than central planners. And they work like crazy in pursuit of their economic dreams. It is why companies that did not exist a decade ago are worth billions today. It is why products and services that did not exist two years ago will be easily available tomorrow. It is why we can get fresh fruit at the grocery store in January and why pizza (and just about anything else) can be delivered to your house in minutes (or days).

This observation applies to real estate, too. If investors are not free to set their own prices, and are coerced into lower ones, who will want to own real estate? Or maintain what they have? Or improve those properties? Or develop new projects?

There are, of course, exceptions to the wonders of the free market. Restricting monopolies is one widely recognized one and many think it applies to Cromwell. I don't buy it. Firstly, there are many non-Cromwell buildings. I thought of six material ones in Victoria village without much effort, and then found another nine after a little digging, with a total of seven vacancies between them. Others could likely be found, depending on how one defines the search. Secondly, “Vic village” is not the world, nor is it even all of Westmount, and there are many places to rent real estate without submitting to this alleged monopolist. Cromwell is not Hydro Quebec or the SAQ. It can be avoided.

**Municipal resources**

Lastly, consider our municipal sphere. Don't you think the municipal politicians and permanent employees have enough on their plates with the regulation and provision of snow removal, parking, traffic, zoning, public security, and sports and rec (including possibly planning an indoor pool)? Do you want to add choosing a vacancy tax format and rate to their responsibilities? And what choices will they make? What should it cost to rent a shop in Vic village? And how many vacancies are too many? And what should the fine be for not conforming to a central economic plan?

I do not endorse Cromwell or its pricing and vacancy choices, nor do I know its principals. But I endorse its economic freedom, because it is mine and it is yours, and it should be Cromwell's.

No one will be free unless we are all free.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am  
(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

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. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

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Distribution: Tuesday to Friday (longer when interrupted by postal holidays)

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CITY WORKERS LEFT FALLEN SENIOR STRANDED

On March 1, I attempted to make my way from the library via the pathway down towards the playground, around the shuffleboard area to the round point and over to Melville Ave. What a disaster!

The entire pathway was a mix of piles of ice and frozen snow, areas of glistening slippery ice with no abrasive, interspersed with ankle-deep pools of mixtures of filthy water and slush where salt had been dumped. Trying to traverse the bobsled run that passes for a pathway around the shuffleboard area, I was obliged to climb onto snowbanks.

Ahead of me I noticed an older lady also struggling with the slippery narrow track on the snowbank, formed by others unable to navigate the path. As she approached the round point, she fell in the snow and I called to ask if she needed help, but she was able to get herself up.

As I continued from the round point to the gazebo, I looked back and saw that she had again fallen and was sprawled on the icy path, unable to get up. As I prepared to return and go to her aid, I was relieved to see two young city employees approaching from the bicycle path in their orange golf-

cart type vehicle, and head down the path towards her. However, instead of going to her aid when they spotted her waving, they stopped their vehicle, reversed and went back towards the dog-run.

I was astounded and very disappointed at this uncaring behaviour on the part of city employees. I returned to help her and together we managed to navigate the hazardous footpath out to Melville. That afternoon I called the director general's office to register my concerns about the employees' behaviour and received a prompt follow-up call from the director of Public Works, who has committed to investigating the incident.

Of course, the real question here is why the city cannot, or chooses not to, maintain the pathways through Westmount Park in a safe and walkable state for pedestrians, instead leaving them in an appalling and dangerous state. Despite the recent bad weather, particularly the freezing rain, it should be possible to at least put down salt or grit. After all, there appears to be no difficulty in ensuring that the bike path is cleared the minute the first snowflake falls and it is relentlessly salted and sanded every day. Why is the city not just as concerned about pedestrians?

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.



## De Maisonneuve Boulevard closure

The replacement of Atwater station's waterproofing membrane will result in the **closure of De Maisonneuve Boulevard between Atwater and Wood Avenues** from March 18 to December 2019 and from March to December 2020.

Access to the métro station and its key destinations will be maintained at all times. A pedestrian path and bike lane will also connect Atwater and Wood Avenues, via De Maisonneuve Boulevard.

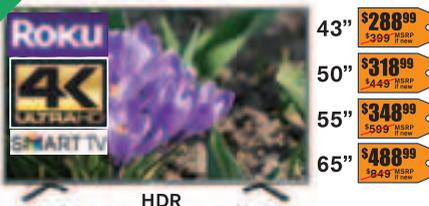


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[stm.info/atwater](http://stm.info/atwater)  
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Québec



# TRENDSSETTERS

## YVES JEAN LACASSE

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON

### INTRODUCING



\$12,000,000

WESTMOUNT

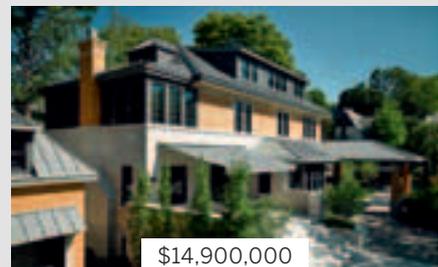
Spectacular estate on immense private lot with pool. MLS 11780148



\$22,500,000

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Mansion w/approx 27,000 ft<sup>2</sup> dble lot, 14 car garage & inground pool. MLS 9935267



\$14,900,000

WESTMOUNT

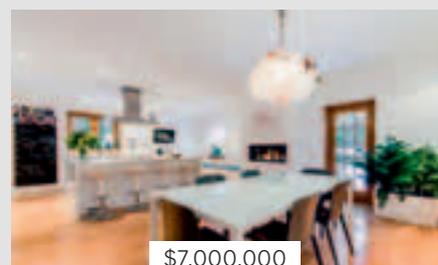
Impeccable modern masterpiece. Pool. 2 car garage w/coach house. MLS 9860712



\$8,500,000

WESTMOUNT

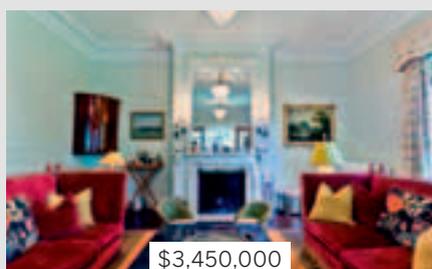
Grand estate with pool & 6 garage. MLS 14711337



\$7,000,000

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Grand luxury home, 16,000+ ft<sup>2</sup> lot. MLS 21086472



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## 'I draw inspiration from many centuries past'

There are fashion designers and there are fashion designers. But few have the elegantly eclectic eye of Yves Jean Lacasse, who recently moved his shop from Westmount to 372 St. Catherine St. W., downtown. His amazing creations for men and women combine sophistication with a Baroque, sometimes medieval touch. Patterns, colours and luxurious fabrics are mixed and mis-matched in glorious ways. The designer's collections have been shown in Europe and the US. Not only is there a piano in his boutique – which looks like a living room btw – but he plays it. His success stories range from showing his collection for a McCord Museum evening to presenting a fashion show in Boston with Philippe Starck as guest.

### STYLE

*How would you describe your personal style?* Like my personality and the philosophy of my creativity: historic, ethnic romantic... and "dandy." I draw inspiration from many centuries past.

*On weekends what do you like to wear?* Very comfortable and up to date. I would say my fashion style is trendy. I am also a

keen cyclist, so wear bicycle gear, especially for my 200-km trips!

*Do you have favourite flowers?*

*Do you have flowers in your home?*

I love flowers and plants, I always have plants around me: in my store, in my house, and lots on my balcony for as long as I can through the seasons. I put pots of flowers on the stairs ... until the seasons change. My favourite is a bouquet of peonies.

*Do you have favourite art (artists)?*

I love the 18th century French painter François Boucher. And also the other arts. Serguei Polunin, a Ukrainian ballet dancer and Vincent Boucher, the organist St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

*Do you have art in your home?*

I collect all kinds of art. I am a fan of religious art statues. Mine are different sizes from 1 cm to 8 feet tall! I love contemporary art especially when I know them personally like Claude Théberge.

*If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money no object!)*

Sidi Bou Saïd, Tunisia. The white buildings are amazing against the turquoise sea. *continued on p. 16*

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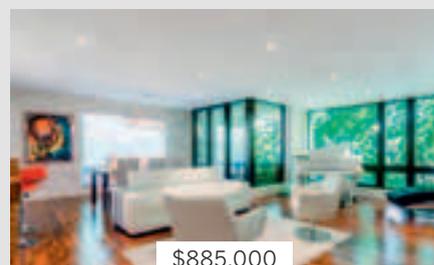
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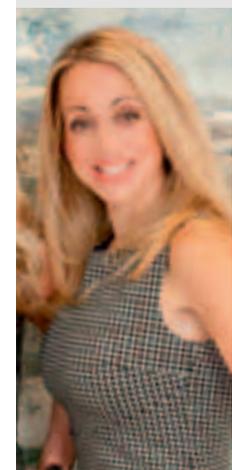


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## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### STM : fermeture du boul. De Maisonneuve entre Atwater et Wood dès le 18 mars

En raison de travaux majeurs à la station de métro Atwater, le boul. De Maisonneuve sera fermé à la circulation automobile du 18 mars, jusqu'à la fin de l'année. L'accès au métro, aux voies piétonnières et cyclables, sera maintenu. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Concours littéraire McEntyre 2019

Thème de 2019 : *On peut être différent*. Apportez vos textes au comptoir des enfants de la Bibliothèque le **vendredi 5 avril 2019** avant 21 h. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### StoryWalk® d'hiver :

*Missuk et les oies des neiges d'Anne Renaud*  
**Jusqu'au 18 avril**, Parc Westmount. 514 989-5229.

### Inscription - printemps

**À compter du mercredi 13 mars**, Bibliothèque. Pour inscrire votre enfant, présentez-vous au comptoir des enfants avec sa carte de Bibliothèque. 514 989-5229.

### Club de lecture en français

**Le lundi 18 mars, 13 h**, Bibliothèque. *Emmanuel Carrère*. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5229.

### Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

**Le mercredi 20 mars, 19 h**, Bibliothèque. 514 989-5299.

### Conférences à 14 heures : Michel Renaud

**Le mercredi 20 mars, 14 h**, Bibliothèque. *10 Ecological Habits While Gardening: The Pleasures of Creating Ecosystems*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### Ciné-club

**Le mardi 26 mars, 14 h.**, Victoria Hall. *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (2018). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### Club de lecture en anglais

**Le mardi 26 mars, 19 h**, Bibliothèque. *Austerlitz* de W.G. Sebald. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman.

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Artisans Westmount : appel pour soumissions

L'édition 2019 d'Artisans Westmount aura lieu les 9 et 10 novembre. La date limite pour soumettre une candidature est le **vendredi 5 avril**. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> avril

### Concerts d'été : appel de soumissions

**Jusqu'au 12 avril**. La Ville invite les groupes musicaux à participer à la série de concerts d'été au parc Westmount. Formulaire en ligne à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers

**Jusqu'au 15 avril**, Victoria Hall. La galerie acceptera les propositions de dossiers d'artistes de Westmount pour sa programmation 2019-2020. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

**Jusqu'au 29 mars**, Victoria Hall. Œuvres de **Lydia Lockett** et **Sharon E. Sutherland**. Rencontrez les artistes le jeudi 21 mars à 19 h. 514 989-5265.

### Conférence : Parlons opéra!

**Le dimanche 17 mars, 10 h 30**, Victoria Hall. *Twenty-Seven* de Gordon & Vavrek. Présentation en anglais par L'Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

### Conférences-midi

**Le mardi 19 mars, 12 h 30**, Victoria Hall. *Celebrating the Cello and the Montreal Chamber Music Festival* avec Denis Brott, C.M. 10 \$ 514 989-5226.

### Pub Quiz : édition de la St-Patrick

**Le mercredi 20 mars, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Gratuit; bar payant. Inscrivez-vous : 514 989-5226.

### Architek Percussion : *Marimba Plus*

**Le mercredi 27 mars, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Concert gratuit; réserver au 514 989-5226.

### Une heure pour la terre 2019 à Westmount

**Le samedi 30 mars, 17 h**, Victoria Hall. Activités, films, observation des étoiles et plus. Gratuit. 514 989-5226.

## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Rappels : les chiens au bois Summit

Tous les chiens amenés au Bois Summit doivent porter une médaille valide émise par la Ville. De plus, il est interdit d'être le responsable de plus de quatre chiens dans un lieu public à Westmount. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Projet Turcot : fermeture des ateliers municipaux à compter du 18 mars

En raison de travaux majeurs et de la présence d'équipements lourds, les ateliers municipaux de Westmount seront fermés au public pour une période indéterminée. Les résidents et les entrepreneurs privés sont priés d'utiliser les Écocentres de Montréal pour se départir de matières résiduelles. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

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## CITY HALL

### STM: closure of De Maisonneuve Blvd. between Atwater and Wood as of March 18

Due to major work at the Atwater metro station, De Maisonneuve Blvd. will be closed to vehicles from March 18 until the end of this year. Metro access will be maintained throughout, as well as pedestrian and cycling paths. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## LIBRARY

### 2019 McEntyre Writing Competition

This year's theme is *It's Okay to be Different*. Submit your entry to the Library's Children's Desk no later than 9 p.m. Friday, April 5, 2019. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Winter StoryWalk®:

*Missuk's snow geese* by Anne Renaud  
Until April 18, Westmount Park. 514 989-5229.

### Spring registration

Starting Wednesday, March 13, Library. Please register at the Children's Desk with your child's Library card. 514 989-5229.

### French Book Club

Monday, March 18, 1 p.m., Library. *Emmanuel Carrère*. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5229.

### Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m., Library. 514 989-5299.

### 2 O'Clock Series: Michel Renaud

Wednesday, March 20, 2 p.m., Library. *10 Ecological Habits While Gardening: The Pleasures of Creating Ecosystems*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

### Film Club

Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (2018). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

### English Book Club

Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m., Library. W.G. Sebald's *Austerlitz*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Artisans Westmount: call for submissions

The 2019 Artisans Westmount event takes place November 9 & 10. The application deadline is Friday, April 5. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## Next Council Meeting Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

### Summer concerts: call for submissions

Until April 12. The City invites music groups to participate in the summer concert series in Westmount Park. Online form at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Gallery at Victoria Hall: Call for projects

Until April 15, Victoria Hall. The Gallery is currently accepting proposals from Westmount artists for its 2019-2020 exhibition season. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

Until March 29, Victoria Hall. Works by Lydia Lockett and Sharon E. Sutherland. Meet the artists Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. 514 989-5265.

### Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!

Sunday, March 17, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. *Twenty-Seven* by Gordon & Vavrek. Presented in English by L'Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

### Afternoon Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 19, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Celebrating the Cello and the Montreal Chamber Music Festival* with Denis Brott, C.M. 10 \$ 514 989-5226.

### Pub Quiz: St. Patrick's Day edition

Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Free cash bar. Please register. 514 989-5226.

### Architek Percussion: *Marimba Plus*

Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Free concert; reservations. 514 989-5226.

### Earth Hour 2019 in Westmount

Saturday, March 30, 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Activities, films, stargazing and more. Free. 514 989-5226.

## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Reminder: dogs at Summit Woods

Dogs brought to Summit Woods must bear an up-to-date exemption issued by the City. Also, a maximum of 4 dogs per handler is permitted. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Turcot Project: closure of municipal yards beginning March 18

Due to major work and to the presence of heavy equipment, the municipal yards will be closed to the public for an undetermined period beginning March 18. Residents and private contractors are asked to bring their residual materials to one of Montreal's Écocentres. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).



*Mental stimulation through simulation***'Tales & Travels' aims to help Alzheimer's caregivers and patients**

Westmount Public Library director Julie-Anne Cardella is seen here on February 28 with staff librarian Daniel Míguez de Luca, who developed the library's Tales & Travels program, and some of the materials which are used.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With the incidence of Alzheimer's disease expected to rise dramatically in Canada over the next decade, Westmount Public Library has developed an activity for individuals and caregivers coping with Alzheimer's designed to stimulate through simulated travel.

According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, half a million Canadians are now living with dementia, and about 25,000 new cases are diagnosed every year. By 2031, that number is expected to rise to 937,000 – an increase of 66 percent.

The inspiration for the library's Tale & Travels Series came from retired academic librarian Mary Beth Riedner as well as staff and volunteers at the Gail Borden Public Library District in Illinois.

"It started with a librarian who felt there was no help or programs for people who

suffered different types of dementia," said Westmount Public Library director Julie-Anne Cardella, who learned about it while at a librarians' conference a few years ago. "Her husband actually was a sufferer. So she had a very good idea of what he would enjoy if there was a library program."

Upon Cardella's return from the conference, she mentioned Tales & Travels to staff librarian Daniel Miguez de Luca, with the suggestion a version should be developed at Westmount Public Library.

The sessions at the library are offered to up to 20 participants, broken into smaller groups, and are animated by de Luca with Isabelle Caldairou, coordinator of activities for people living with dementia at the Alzheimer Society of Montreal.

The sessions are designed to encourage participation, conversation and expression. Each week when the program is under way, participants explore a country through

books and images, sharing of stories and memories, listening to music, and watching videos. A snack based on the week's theme is also served.

"We have short conversations in a low-anxiety environment in the Westmount Room so that people feel comfortable," said de Luca. "Being in small groups takes away some of the stress sometimes associated with Alzheimer's."

An initial positive outcome of Tales & Travels, he continued, is that caregivers appear to connect better with each other to create contacts and networks – a very important element for some who may feel isolated and overwhelmed while caring for those with Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to the sessions at the library, the library has developed three suitcase "kits" to be loaned out to local retirement residences where the Tales & Travels program can also be offered.

Sessions of Tales & Travels take place on Fridays from 1 to 3 pm. They begin on March 15 and run for five weeks until April 12. Following this, another series of sessions will begin on May 17 and run until June 14.

Places are limited and registration is required. Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the sessions. For more information, please contact Daniel Miguez de Luca at 514.989.5530 or at dmiguez@westmount.org.

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- Or check out our friendly walking group that roams twice a week: free with Contactivity membership.

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*Some other groups have a wait list:  
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## de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood to close for most of 2019, 2020

The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) announced recently on its website that de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood would close on Monday, March 18 until December, and then again for the same period in 2020. The STM will be re-furbishing the Atwater Metro station's waterproofing membrane, which lies below the roadway.

"All work related to this project, including the work inside the station, will be completed in spring 2021," its website summarized. Other work includes installing elevator shafts (but not elevators, for now).

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In a reply to letter writer Tim Carsley in our February 19 issue (p. 6), editor David Price said that he had seen city workers scraping the ice sheets that form where sidewalks meet the asphalt roadway. On March 8 at Roslyn and Sherbrooke at around 7:15 am, he caught them in action.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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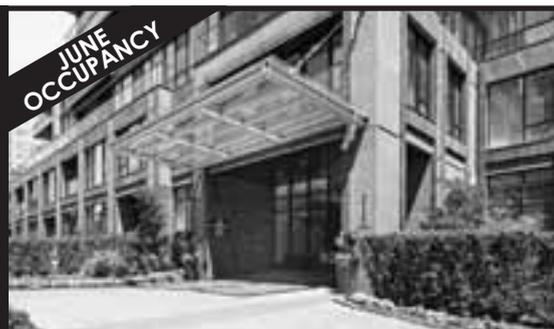
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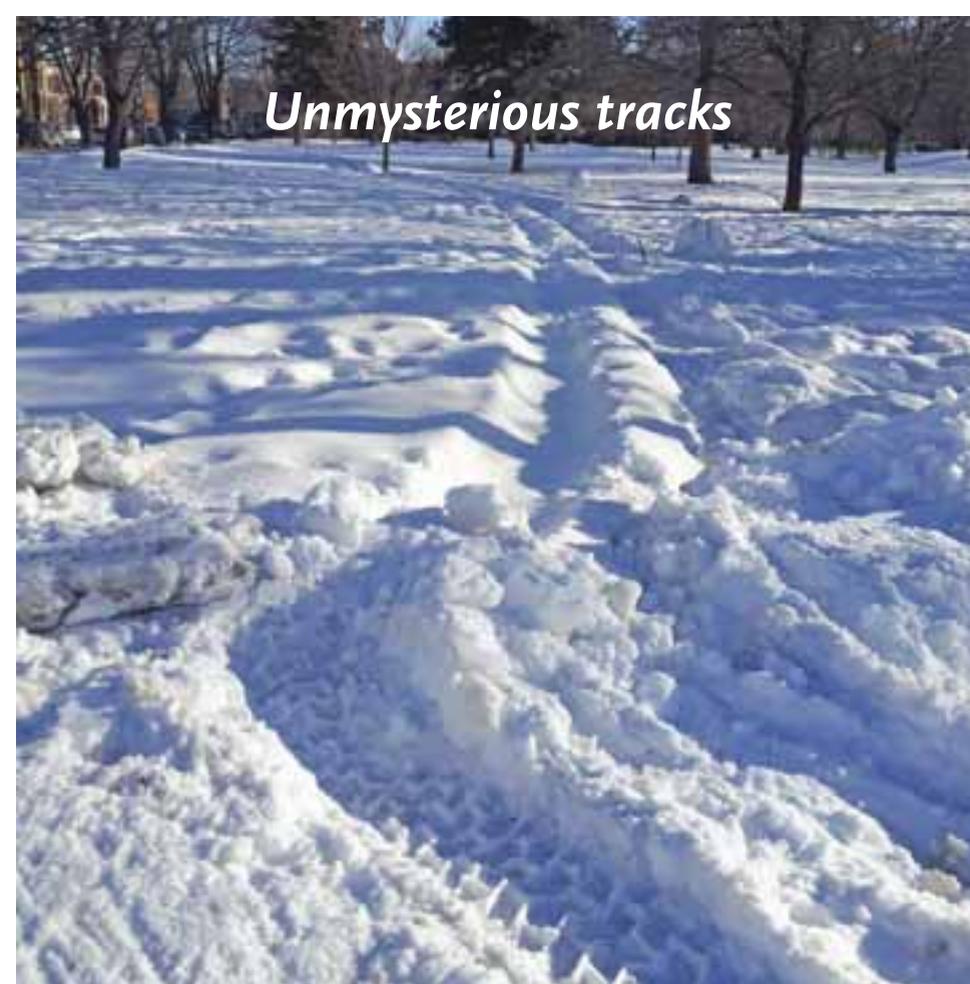
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## Unmysterious tracks



These vehicle tracks in Westmount Park between the Westmount Public Library and Melville Ave., photographed on February 27, were caused by a city vehicle when a crew went to repair a defective lighting circuit, according to Westmount director general Benoit Hurtubise. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



VILLE DE WESTMOUNT | CITY OF WESTMOUNT

## LES ATELIERS MUNICIPAUX SERONT FERMÉS DÈS LE 18 MARS 2019

## THE MUNICIPAL YARDS WILL BE CLOSED AS OF MARCH 18, 2019

L'accès aux ateliers municipaux est interdit à tous les résidents et aux entrepreneurs privés pour une période indéterminée en raison de la reconstruction d'un mur de soutènement de l'autoroute par le MTQ.

En raison des travaux, l'accès aux dépôts n'est plus possible. **Nous vous suggérons d'utiliser les écocentres de Montréal afin de disposer vos matériaux ou débris en toute sécurité.** Sachez que l'accès aux écocentres est gratuit aux résidents de Westmount.

**Access to the yard is prohibited for all residents and private contractors for an indefinite period due to the reconstruction of a retaining wall of the highway by the MTQ.**

Due to the work, access to the depots is no longer possible. **We suggest that you use Montreal's ecocentres to safely dispose of your materials or debris.** Please note that access to ecocentres is free to Westmount residents.

**Voici les écocentres près de Westmount :**  
**Here are ecocentres near Westmount:**

- Écocentre Côte-des-Neiges, 6925, ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges
- Écocentre LaSalle, 7272, rue Saint-Patrick

**Pour plus d'information, composez le 514 872-0384.**  
**For more information, call 514 872-0384.**

**Nous vous remercions de votre compréhension et de votre patience durant cette période. | We thank you for your understanding and patience during this period.**



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*9 Lives*

LYSANNE FOWLER

These two grey-and-white tabbies are so beautiful, with Mikey on the left with the short-haired coat and Lizzie on the right with the long-haired coat. They have been through difficult times but are still together and the best companions. They are now 18 months old, having had kittens together when they were kittens themselves and having them all adopted, so they are back to being two again. Mikey loves his Lizzie and is generous and affectionate towards her. They make sure to spoon and groom each other, which is so heart-warming.

Lizzie and Mikey are in foster care for Gerdy's Rescue at the moment, being ready for a family in a forever home together. They are sterilized and vaccinated, both very healthy and affectionate to family members. If you would like more information on them, please do not hesitate to contact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) or refer to their website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org). Your neighbour, Lysanne

# Lizzie and Mikey, sweet together



*Trendsetter, cont'd. from p. 10*

The town is, in fact, famous for its blue and white colours, sparked by magnificent fuchsia bougainvillea, the colour loved by Balenciaga.

*Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world, and from any era?*

All my best friends. It is not about the meal, but about the people. Choosing from another time, I would invite Joan of Arc, Catherine the Great, Mozart and Handel.

*What do you think of today's fashion?*  
The fashion industries around the world think we going to a futurist way to work. That is true in that many people buy online. Often they buy basics: sweaters, tights etc., but I find that with a piece from a fashion collection there is a need

to touch the fabric – to sense the feeling of the look. I love the street fashion in Paris and Milan. The women are still chic, while adapting to the trend of the day. In Montreal – and certainly in Westmount – I see couture pieces mixed with fashion basics. Today there is room for everything: Ready-to-wear, fast aka throw-away fashion and couture. It's about personal style.

*Do you have a favourite fashion designer?*  
In Montreal, I loved the collections of Georges Lévesque, who passed away in 2011. In France, I love Christian Lacroix and in the UK Alexander McQueen. These designers know how to intelligently mix the past and the present, while at the same time adding their own magnificent touches.

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# St. George's School hosts third annual tribute dinner



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

For the *Westmount Independent's* Spring Social Calendar, please send information (date, place, ticket price and contact etc.) to redgrave@videotron.ca.



Estelle Ritchie-Hopmeyer, Rosalind Fisher-Labow and Judith Coull-Adamson.

With apologies to Snoopy, it was, indeed, a dark and stormy night when St. George's School of Montreal held its annual tribute dinner. Head of school **Sharon Klein** welcomed arrivals.

The third such event paid tribute to four grads from 1958 – the school's first class of graduates. **Judith Coull-Adamson**, **Rosalind Fisher-Labow**, **Estelle Ritchie-Hopmeyer** and **Margaret Forbes** were honoured with the award of distinction.

An amusing page from *The Montreal Star* in 1958 showed girl grads all in mid-calf white dresses. Times have changed. Today, St. George's is the only co-ed kindergarten to grade 11 independent school with a building Westmount.

At the sit-down dinner, members of the community who "reflect the qualities inherent in the founding principles of the

school" were honoured, including **Robert Sibthorpe** (community champion), **Zenia Dusaniwsky** (outstanding contribution to teaching and learning), **Khursheed Khursigara** (outstanding staff member) and **Matthew Smiley** ('99 grad – alumnus of the year).

Smiley, now an LA-based artist and filmmaker, donated an art work to the auction. Sibthorpe, a trained first responder, helped save the life of student **Ben Silverman** ('19) who collapsed during a softball semi-final. The Robert Sibthorpe and Benjamin Silverman First Responders Fund, established by Silverman's parents, **Dr. Roberta Shear** and **Gary Silverman**, now ensures that all the school's students have the opportunity to become certified in CPR.

The tribute dinner ..... committee was **Risa** *continued on p. 18*

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

Lukofsky ('82), Regina Husa, Patricia Lavoie, Jason Levine, Julie Sossanpour ('85), Coreer Delormier, Donna Boyd, and Renée Sanders Ladenheim ('88).

Students honoured were Jasper Billig ('19) outstanding student, whose parents are Elke and Kurt Billig, and Alexandra Cohen ('14) young alumna of the year, now at McGill Medical School.

Alexandra's parents, English Montreal School Board spokesman and *Suburban* columnist Mike Cohen and his wife Ilana Spector attended along with grandparents Shirley and Ruben Spector.

The cocktail hour was full of style, ranging from funky-street ensembles worn with ankle booties to full-length gowns, worn with a "St. G" gold pin. Food served was a delicious respite from the usual.

Chef Vaughan Chittock of Old Montreal's Pub St. Pierre, offered tasty Peking duck in pita, Korean satays and the best grilled cheese party sandwiches ever. His bartenders Alexa Massé and Matheus Simonin kept everyone happy.

During the cocktail hour, St. George's Alumni Quartet, Donny Kennedy (high school music teacher), Aaron Dolman ('12), Samuel Kirmayer ('07) and Jarrett Richman ('18) played fabulous jazz sets. Dinner co-chairs were Westmouter Regina Husa and Risa Lukofsky, working with



From left, back: Robert Sibthorpe, Jasper Billig, Matthew Smiley, Zenia Dusaniwsky and head of school Sharon Klein; front: Khursheed Khursigara, Alexandra Cohen, Rosalind Fisher-Labow, and Estelle Ritchie-Hopmeyer.

committee members Coreen Delormier, Jason Levine, Patricia Lavoie, Donna Boyd, Renée Sanders Ladenheim and Julie Sossanpour.

Attending from St. George's were board chair Jason Levine (there with his wife Brenda Levine), former board chair Cheryl Wood, and Rebecca Riordon, communications coordinator. Also from the school were many teachers, staff members, and administrators – including high school assistant head Michael O'Connor and ele-

mentary school assistant head Aidan De Jean, who both spoke during the dinner.

Emcee was Adam Greenberg ('04), from Virgin Radio. Guests anxiously bid on silent auction items, ranging from fabulous Canadian seats and a lesson with Canadian Oyster Shucking Champ Daniel Notkin ('91), to a tour of L'Oréal headquarters and services at Deauville Coiffure Spa. Proceeds from the tribute dinner fund scholarship and bursary programs.

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Risa Lukofsky, Regina Husa, Patricia Lavoie, Jason Levine, Julie Sossanpour, Coreer Delormier and Donna Boyd.

## Comin' Up

### TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Public meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) on presentation of SCAOPI project for the office development at 1100 Atwater. City hall. 8:30 am.

Westmount Horticultural Society presents a film on gardens in the rolling hills of the Charlevoix region. Westmount Library. 7 pm. Guests \$7.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

St. Matthias Human Trafficking Forum. Free. Victoria Hall. Doors open 6:15 pm,

programme 7 to 9:30 pm.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

'St. Patrick's Day' Pub Quiz. Victoria Hall. Free, cash bar. Reserve at Eventbrite or call 514.989.5226. 7 pm.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Earth Hour. Westmount health City Project. Exhibits, films, star gazing. 5 to 10 pm. Victoria Hall. Lights out.



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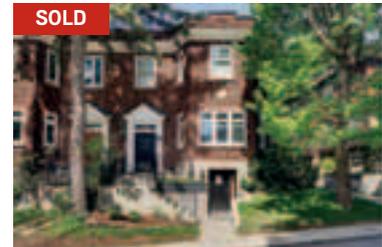
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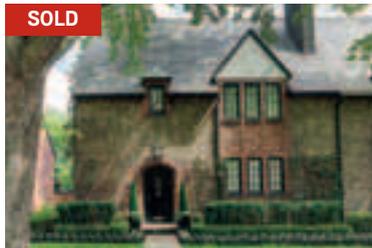
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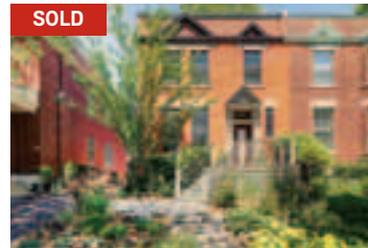
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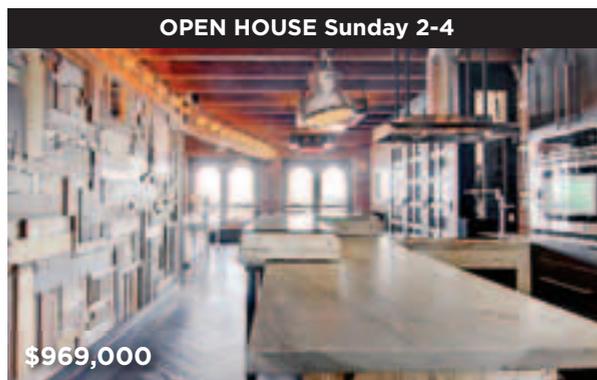
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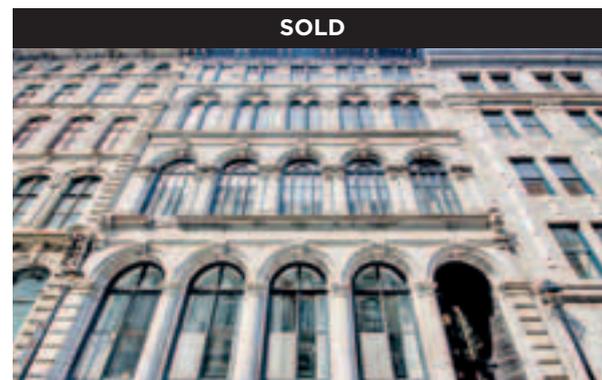
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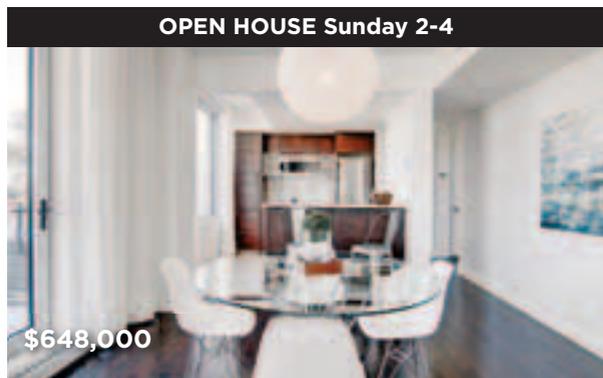
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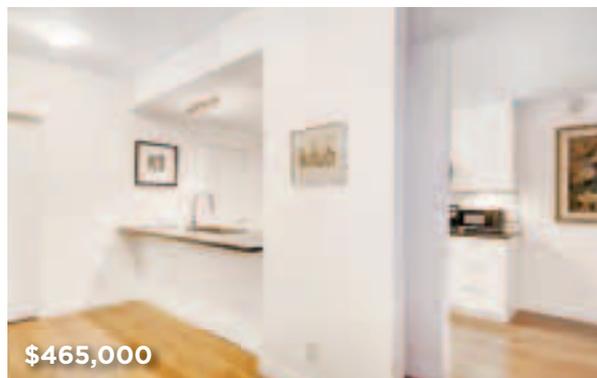
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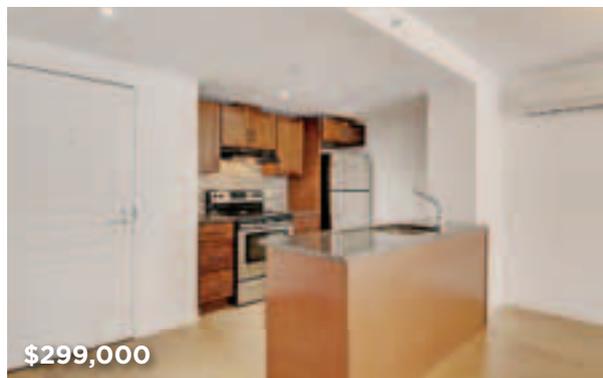
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