

Needs 100 more volunteers to operate program

City ‘desperate’ for parents to ‘step up’ as soccer coaches

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the start of the city’s youth soccer program a month away, its viability at the lower age levels is at stake, according to Sports and Recreation officials.

“It takes 150 volunteer coaches to run the full program and, so far, we have only one third,” said Andrew Maislin, operations man- *continued on p. 10*

City’s houses-of-worship study results are in, see p. 16

Westmount Park United loses major tenant, see p. 17

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Council members attend Dawson event for murder victim Rose



From left, Louis Alain Robitaille (Collectif Carré Rose), Patrick Demarais (president, Fondation Emergence), Richard Burnett (The Montreal Gazette), Fo Neimi (executive director, Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations), Diana Rice (coordinator, Dawson College Peace Centre), Nikolas Regimbal (president, Etcetera Club), Devyn Sherry (vice commissioner of Etcetera Club) and, from Westmount city council, Councillor Mary Gallery, Mayor Christina Smith, and councillors Anitra Bostock and Kathleen Kez.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWSON COLLEGE.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith and three Westmount city councillors were among those attending a commemorative service at Dawson Collage March 25 marking the 30th anniversary of the murder of student Joe Rose, who was living with HIV/AIDS. He was 23.

“It was an interesting and very moving ceremony in support of the LGBTQ2+ community at Dawson,” Smith said.

Rose was the founder of the Etcetera

Club in 1985, the first LGBTQ2+ club and safe space on campus for members of those communities, and was a vocal advocate for those living with HIV/AIDS.

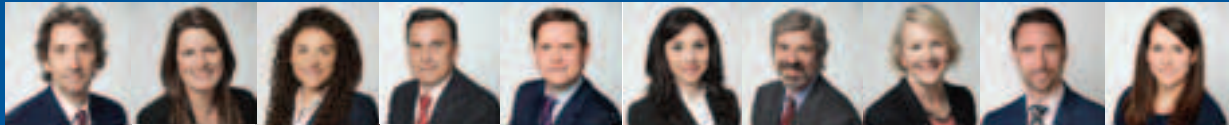
He, along with friends, had boarded the No. 358 eastbound bus at the Atwater Metro station in the early hours of the morning and was headed to the east-end AIDS hospice where he lived. He and a friend were attacked by a group of teenagers and Rose was stabbed to death as the bus approached the Frontenac station.

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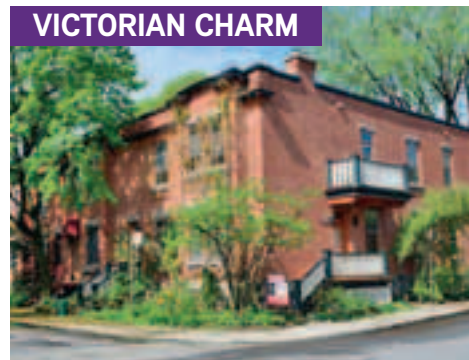
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Many firsts for CEO, philanthropist

Cody tells ECS students about succeeding as a female engineer



"When I studied engineering, I was the only woman in the class. When I worked in an engineering company, I was the only woman engineer ... I went to a conference of 700 engineers and I was the only woman. They opened the conference with 'Lady and gentlemen,'" said Cody.

When she became the CEO and owner of a large engineering company, she would get comments on the telephone like "... Err, no. Could I speak to the boss, please?"

She completed her bachelor's degree in structural engineering in Iran and a master's degree in engineering at Concordia University in

1981. In 1989, she became the first woman to gain a PhD in building engineering from Concordia.

Cody also has a head for heights, not just as a CEO but in her first job in the private sector climbing construction cranes and crawling along the gantry to complete safety inspections. In 2010, *Profit* magazine named Cody one of Canada's top women entrepreneurs, and listed CCI as the ninth most profitable Canadian company owned by a woman. Last year, Cody donated \$15 million to Concordia University. The faculty of engineering and computer science was named after her, the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, and she became the first woman in Canada to have an engineering faculty named after her.

By RALPH THOMPSON

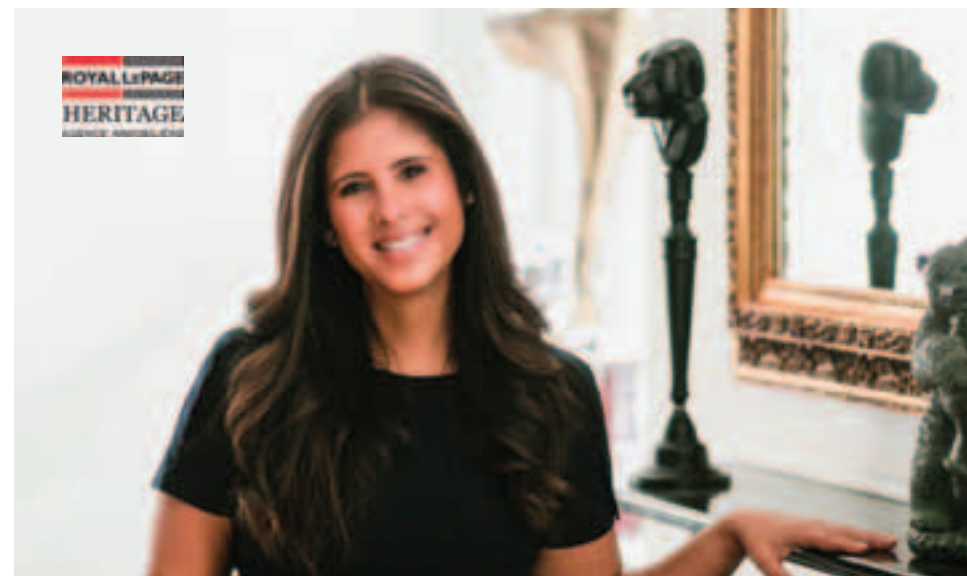
Iranian-born engineer and entrepreneur Gina Cody was a special guest at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School (ECS) on March 22. A large group of students, senior boys from Selwyn House and invitees gathered in the ECS gymnasium to hear how a woman could succeed in what was a man's world.

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(Brilliant Night), p. 21

Comin' Up, p. 22



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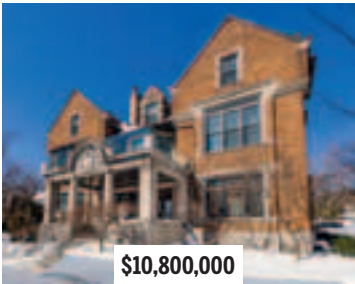
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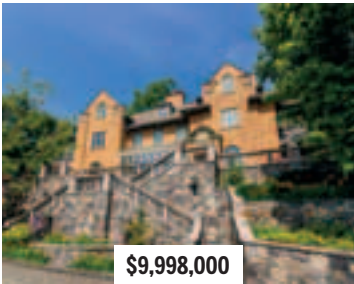
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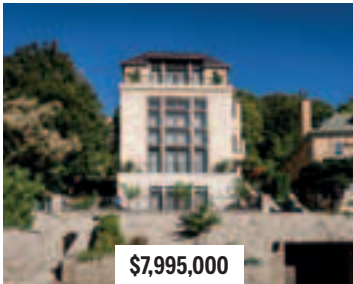
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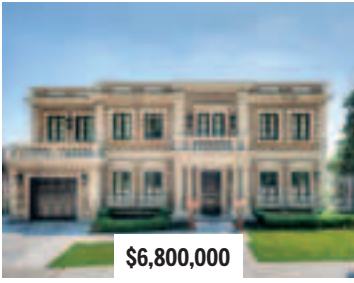
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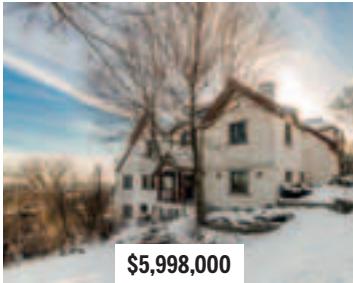
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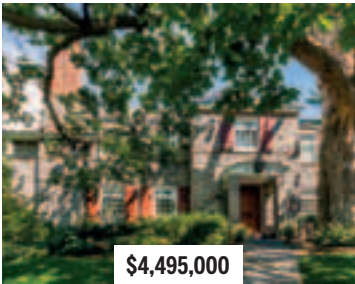
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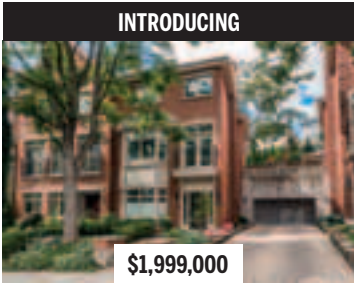
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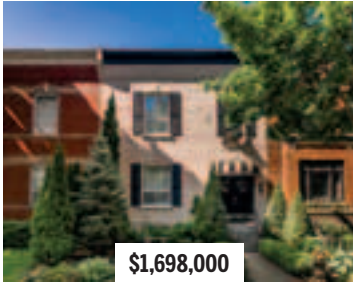
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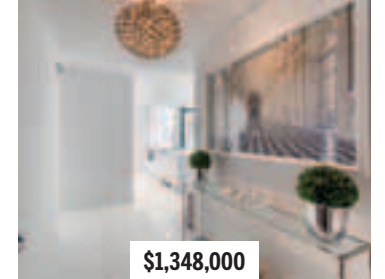
Château Westmount, Westmount



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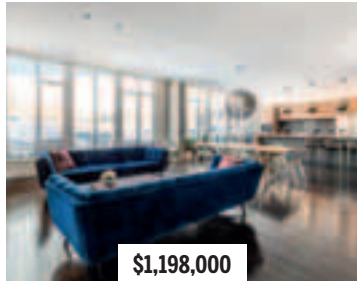
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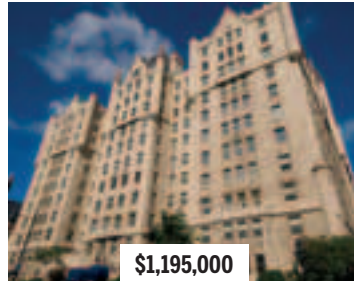
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Y00, Downtown



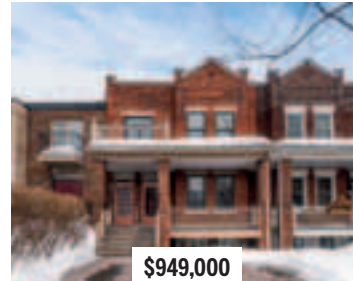
\$1,198,000

M9, Montreal



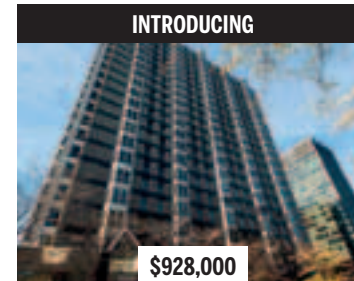
\$1,195,000

Le Château, Downtown



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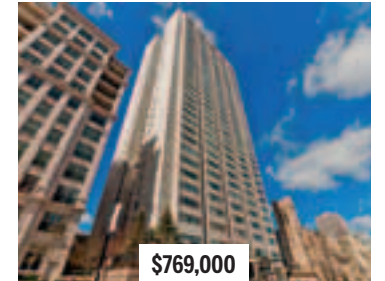
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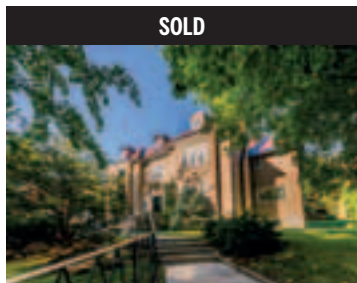
Château Westmount, Westmount



\$769,000

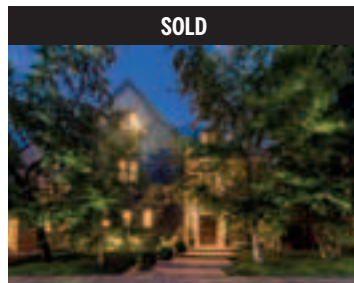
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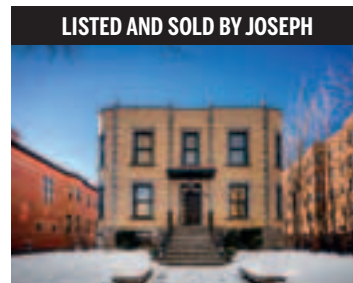
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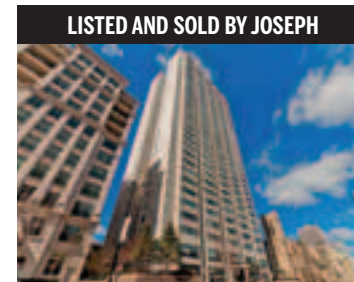
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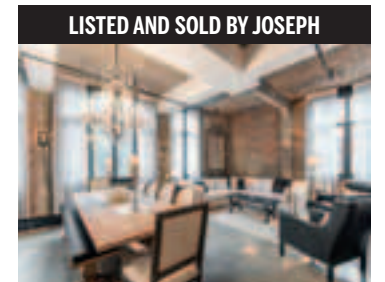
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Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-François Denis (left) and the then 100-year-old David Lloyd Hart after the 2017 Remembrance ceremony at the Westmount cenotaph.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Colonel David Hart (1917-2019)

March was a tough month for the RMR family as we lost a dear friend: Honorary Colonel David Hart, MM, CD, who died on March 27, 2019 at the age of 101.

“Colonel Dave” Hart was a friend of the Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) since the early 1950s, when he first began attending the RMR officers’ mess annual reunion dinners, which had begun in 1920. He first attended the 34th annual reunion dinner, and his last dinner with us was a few months ago in November 2018, which would have been our 98th edition. Knowing that he never missed one of our dinners, I estimate that he had attended 64 of 98 RMR officers’ mess annual reunion dinners. I am pretty sure that no RMR officer ever came close to that record!

To give the reader an idea of the esteem that the RMR officers held him, when the RMR’s last remaining World War II officer veteran, Lt. Col. Ernest Skutesky, died in 2011, the RMR officers’ mess asked Colonel Hart – who had never served with the RMR – to assume the duty of proposing the traditional toast to the RMR’s “Fallen and missing comrades” at the next an-

nual reunion dinner in 2012. Humbled by the request, he did not acquiesce immediately as he had personally known many of the original RMR officers from World War I, who were still attending the reunion dinners up until the 1980s. He eventually agreed and performed this duty flawlessly every year.

The funeral for Colonel Hart, the honorary colonel of the 34th Signals Regiment, and the longest serving honorary colonel in the Canadian army’s history (40+ years), was well attended with 30+ serving and former RMR members, of the several hundred in attendance, there to pay their respects. Of special significance was the great honour and privilege extended to two RMR individuals. Former honorary colonel Peter Trent was one of the eulogists selected by the family and Sergeant Flickringer Oidi carried – with poise and dignity – Colonel Hart’s medals on a black cushion as part of the funeral party. Lest We Forget.

LT. COL (RET’D) COLIN ROBINSON, CD,
HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL –
THE ROYAL MONTREAL REGIMENT

Potential residential project on Hillside New armoury developers seek decontamination permit

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the new owners of the former Hillside armoury hope to turn it into a residential project to conform with the current zoning, much depends on an engineering report and discussions with the city, the *Independent* learned last week.

Asbestos and lead contamination as well as structural issues are requiring more research, explained Luciano Girlando, one of the partners in the development company that purchased the site at Hillside Ave. and Hillside Lane December 19. He described himself as the one with the construction licence.

“There is a lot of lead in the building so now we are requesting a permit to clean it up soon,” he said. “We know the brick is in very bad shape and we are expecting an engineering report in three or four weeks concerning the structure itself.

“We knew the building was in bad shape but not to this extent, he said adding, “but the location has lots of potential.”

While the new owners are listed under

a numbered company (9387-6852 Québec Inc.), “we are a small company and use a different name related to each project,” Girlando explained. “We have not yet come up with a name for the Hillside one.”

As an example, he cited the company’s construction of an eight-storey downtown project of condos and lofts at 1212 Bishop, which they named after the address.

Westmount based

The company’s offices are located in Westmount at 4592 St. Catherine, corner of Lewis.

The armoury, a Category II heritage building dating to around 1910, was sold December 19 by Hillside Limited Partnership to Girlando’s group for \$4.8 million. It had been purchased by Karl Beauchamp for some \$3 million from Canada Lands in March 2017.

Beauchamp had been planning to turn it into a sports complex with initial plans to include an ice rink and an indoor pool that was subsequently abandoned (see story August 15, 2017, p. 1).

Budget increases to \$4.3 million, council to cancel existing contract

Greenhouse/conservatory work reassessed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Another delay has been encountered in restoring the city's historic conservatory following closure of the greenhouse complex to the public in 2015 for safety reasons.

The delay comes as city council at its meeting April 1, after press time, was expected to cancel the mandate for professional services it awarded last May after reassessing the needs, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* last week.

The scope and complexity of the work required to complete the project had been underestimated and required re-evaluation. "The timing on this is horrendous. The closure of the greenhouses is going into its fourth year." But, she added, "It has become a very complicated project."

Because the law does not allow for the city to add on to the existing contract to increase professional fees in keeping with the more extensive work, tenders will have to be called for a new one, she said.

New estimates from architects for the proposed project now push the budget to around \$4.3 million for both interior and exterior work, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

This is up from \$1.5 million, a previous estimate made in a study two years ago that applied to the building envelope alone, though the cost for the entire project was expected to be closer to \$2.5 million.

The latest delay over seeking a new contract brings "everything to a halt," Smith said. Despite the loss of time, however, the delay will allow for "a more viable restoration and renovation concept...to provide added value in terms of design and mobility," she explained.

According to Hurtubise, the challenges include installation of an interior ramp connecting the library and conservatory, which will change the interior design and electro-mechanical work required to install an independent heating and watering system for the greenhouses. The existing one is interconnected with Victoria Hall.

It was on May 7 almost a year ago that council approved the tender for professional services to the architectural firm of Nadeau, Nadeau, Blondin at a maximum cost of \$278,756 for "restoration of the patrimonial greenhouse (see story May 22, 2018, p. 11.) This included design, drawing up of plans and architectural supervision.

While the contract provided for fees of

some \$254,000 (before taxes), they stand so far in the range of \$148,000 without the supervision aspect of the work, which is yet to come but expected to push the total to some \$333,901 for completion of the restoration, Hurtubise explained. This is the amount cited in the April 1 council agenda for cancelling the existing contract and requiring a new one.

"We're really happy with the work they've done so far," Hurtubise said of Nadeau, but to move forward, changes and increases in professional fees will require a new mandate.

"This means construction tenders won't be ready for this spring."

The professional services mandate was described at the time as "launching the start of the work with construction to be started in 2019." Because the 1927 cascading conservatory is one of few in existence, there are not many examples of similar restoration projects to use as models.

The complex was closed to the public by the city and the Quebec workplace safety board after a pane of glass fell from the ceiling, narrowly missing a visitor. Others were discovered to be slipping (see story October 20, 2015, p. 1).

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Beginning in August of last year, the *Independent* has been reporting on the opening of restaurants in the Greene Ave. area, including Kinton Ramen (top left), Ryū (top right), Liv Salads (bottom left) and St. Sushi (bottom right). The area has temporarily lost Lucille's to renovations (inset), but its re-opening is now planned for April according to its website. They were photographed on March 29.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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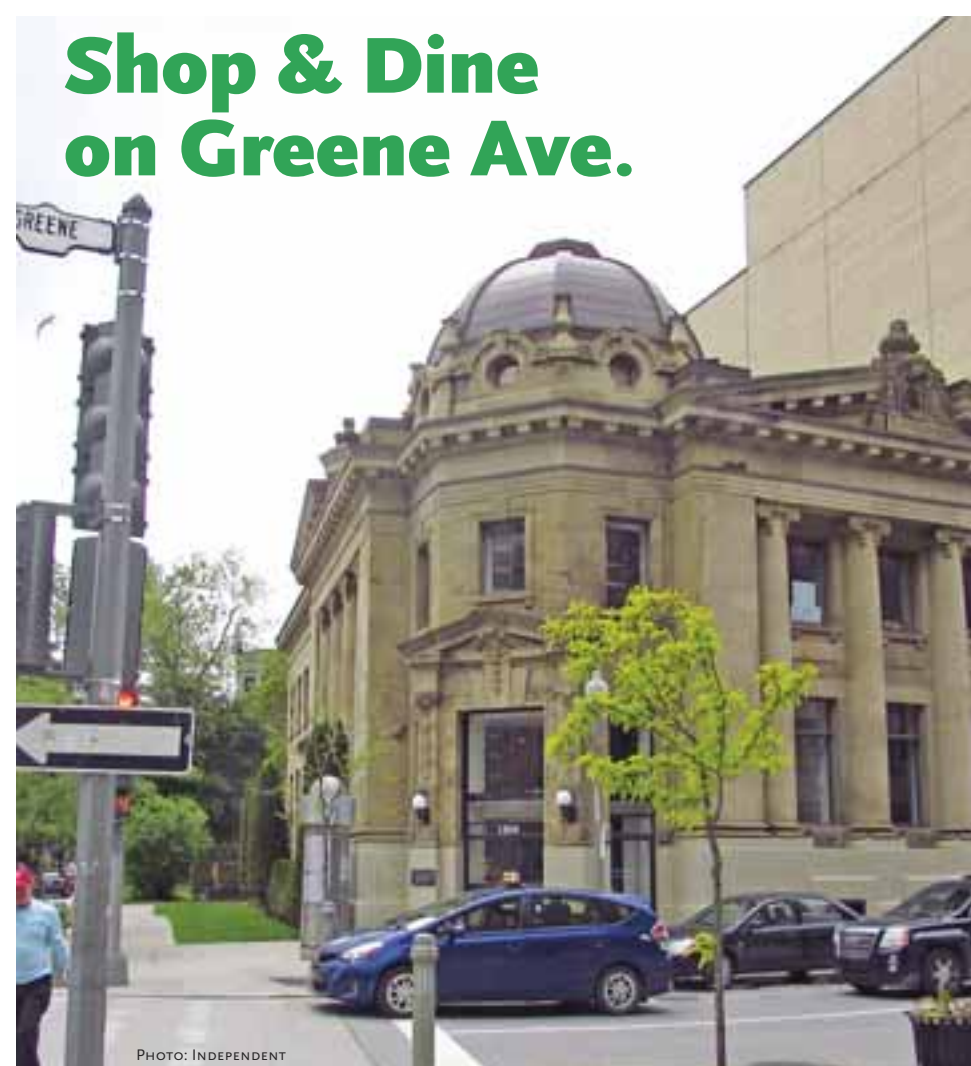
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Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Spring arrived in Westmount with colourful paintings by Sharon Sutherland and Lydia Lockett at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. Light and the juxtaposition of colour, line and pattern define Sutherland's abstract collages and Lockett's abstracted realism.

Also noteworthy, Nick Veasey's x-ray compositions at Galerie de Bellefeuille ex-



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Sutherland, Lockett, and Veasey: Light and shadow

pose life's shadowy layers.

Dance of colour

Sutherland's use of dynamic line and rich colour creates a bold vision in the series



Sharon Sutherland's "Hommage à Jimi Hendrix."

Coaches, cont'd. from p. 1

ager. "I'm sending an email to all the parents who registered their children to explain the situation.

"We've been desperate other years, but not this desperate."

The program has some 1,000 boys and girls aged 5 to 17, from which close to 75 teams are to be formed. Volunteer coaches, mostly parents, are the "bread and butter" of the spring program, which operates between April 29 and June 30, he explained.

Coaches already signed up are typically for the older-age teams, leaving the younger ones in jeopardy, Maislin said. "It's the new kids whose parents need to step up," he said. For parents who have never coached or even played soccer, the city runs a training session.

"We train and set them up. But, at the end of day, the aim is just to get the kids

"Torn Edge." Reflecting words of contemporary or classical Chinese, Persian and Celtic poets, fluid brush work is punctuated by bits of fabric, paper or music scores. A large canvas, "Hommage à Jimi Hendrix," recreates a powerful medley in vivacious orange and yellow brushstrokes.

Lyric red, gold and black evoke Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee" in "White Bee you buzz in my soul." The theme of love also reverberates in "Love is a trembling happiness," where a gold



Lydia Lockett's "At the Beach."

metallic disc set within diagonal black lines evokes a full moon. For "We have finally arrived," printed, pleated paper forms a bridge over turbulent water.

In these works, Sutherland expresses

running around and being outside."

This year's soccer registration means the city hopes to run some 40 boys' teams and 34 for girls.

Field schedule changed

As well, the grass fields typically get so much use that the city is rejigging and switching around its schedule in the hopes of allowing more time for the grass to grow on the large Melville field that was re-sodded at the end of last year's season, as well as in 2016.

The older teams – Bantam, Pee wee and adult ages (16-24) – will start the season on the field at King George (Murray) Park. The Melville field will be off-limits until the end of May after Family Day, which will take place on the junior fields along Academe Rd., he said.

With the closure for two years of Westmount Park School, Maislin said, it's

hoped this will relieve some of the wear-and-tear on the one field directly in front of the school, which is also used as the school's playground.

In heavy use

"I do believe we've made strides in maintaining the fields by city staff," he said. While the city took over daily maintenance three years ago from a contractor, it still maintains a contract for major work such as re-sodding and maintenance of the sprinkler system.

But the fields can be used for more than five hours a day including by local schools (The Study, ECS, St. George's, Westmount High and Selwyn House), inter-city competition and the adult program (ages 16-24).

The Melville field is used all summer for inter-city and adult games as well as rugby.





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Merrill on 'Watercolour' exhibition at the McClure Gallery

BY HEATHER BLACK

Guest curator Michael Merrill spoke on the "Watercolour" exhibition at the McClure Gallery on March 21. For the show, Merrill, an artist and instructor at the Visual Arts Centre, chose two pivotal works – an abstract by Henri Michaux and a landscape by Goodridge Roberts – as well as contemporary watercolours by Marie-Claire Blais, Catherine Bolduc, Pierre Dorion, Karilee Fuglem, Sky Glabush, Yves Tessier, Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane.

These included watercolours of city buildings, cartoonlike drawings and complex abstracts. Merrill said, "The idea of the show is: What is watercolour? And what can it be?"

Introduced by Elisabeth Galante, Merrill

ries – is a photographic composite of x-rayed skeletal figure merged with a negative of a costumed subject. The result – a three-dimensional, grinning superman – is a curious, yet powerful image.

The relaxed pose of a "Rat Pack" skeletal man in an Eames wing chair also combines humour with mortality. Photographed with a cigarette in one hand and glass in the other – bottle and ashtray at his feet – the subject is individual but represents many. Veasey's unique and fascinating images are currently on display at Galerie de Bellefeuille II on Greene Ave.

Visible and invisible

Sutherland, Lockett, and Veasey make the invisible – the mortal and immortal – visible. Lockett's saturated subjects recreate affection and endless summer days. Inspired by poetic wisdom, Sutherland's dynamic compositions interpret spirituality and love, while Veasey's x-ray photographs create a commentary on our shadow self.



Michael Merrill with work by watercolourist Pierre Dorion.

first described his experience with – and passion for – the medium. He also explained that "Michaux's and Roberts' works represent two types of creative expression" – the artist's "interior vision" or "exterior vision" of the surrounding environment. The work of contemporary watercolourists respond or relate to these ideas.

As Merrill described the subjects or approach of each exhibitor, attending artists commented on their work and answered questions posed by the audience.

The exhibition "Watercolour" ended March 30 at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave.



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Nick Veasey's "Rat Pack."

an inner reality.

Lockett's vivid semi-abstract paintings convey the scenes – and people – from her travels. In "Walkin' Home," lush greenery and turquoise skies recreate Caribbean life. Similarly, in "People at the Beach" and "At the Beach," sunbathers and colourful beach umbrellas amid sand, sea, and blue skies are reminders of warm summer days.

In "Texas Cowboys," fluid green-and-red brushstrokes capture the restless energy of horse and rider. For "Sit a Spell," a girl and young boy relax on a bench bathed in yellow sunshine. The subjects of "7 Li'l Girls" shimmer in saturated tones of red, hot pink and blue. Here, Lockett's use of diagonal line creates a semi-abstract style that represents both a particular child and all children. This dual exhibition continued until March 29 at the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Shades of X-ray grey

The British photographer, Veasey, reveals the magic of x-ray vision and car architecture in "1988 Ferrari F40 GTE." The image "Batman" – from the "X-Posed" se-

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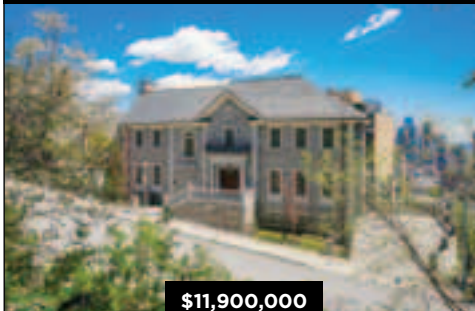
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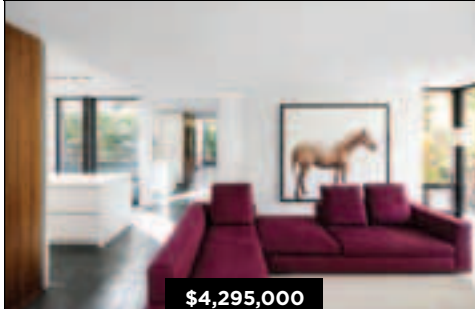
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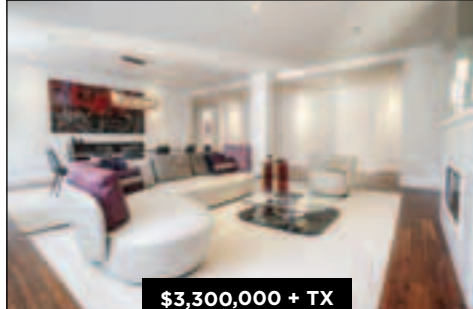
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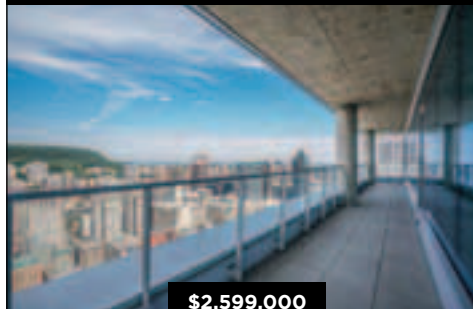
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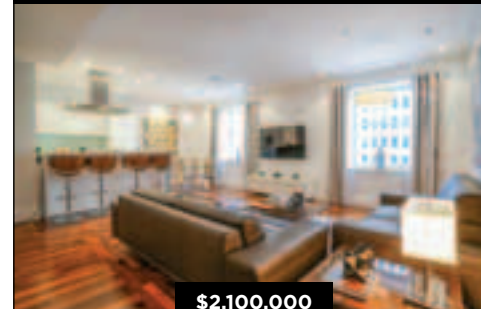
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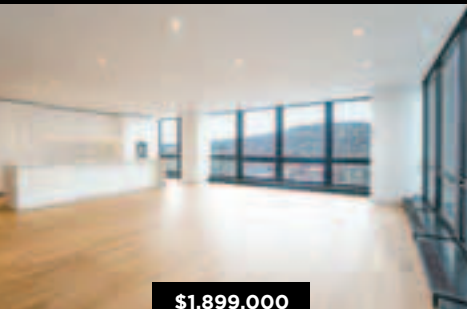
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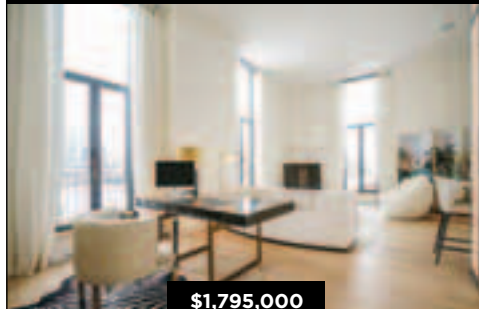
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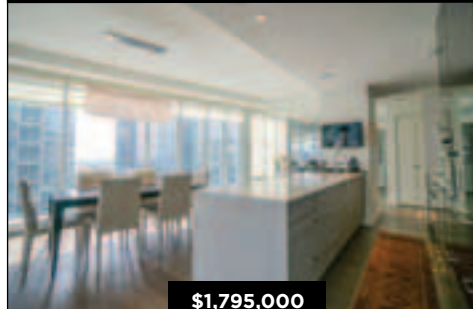
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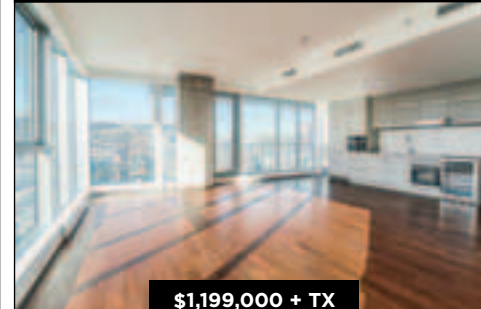
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November transfers: market slowing down



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE,
CRA (RET.)

NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November 2018, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.



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The volume and price of real estate transactions closed in November in Westmount eased off somewhat as the city headed for the holiday season, but the number of \$2 million-plus sales kept pace with previous months. It was also the first month since August to have a house sale at less than \$1 million.

Deeds for 11 single-family dwelling sales were signed in November, totalling \$19,503,500 or an average \$1,773,045. That raw average has been moving down since it peaked at \$2,325,000 in August, but the average price-valuation ratio has hovered between 1.2 and 1.4 for most of 2018. In November, the average mark-up over valuation was 25.5 percent and the average for the year (through November) was 24.6 percent.

The lowest price in November, in fact the second-lowest price of the year, was registered in the \$684,500 sale of 317 Melville Ave., less than its \$741,700 municipal valuation and the only single-family mark-down of the month. Highest price in November involved 49 Aberdeen Ave., at \$3,850,000; five other sales last year went for more than that, but the pace of those high-priced sales is, in a word, slow. There were 24 Westmount houses listed for sale

at prices over \$4 million as of mid-March.

Two condominium apartments, both at 1 Wood Ave., sold in November, including a second-floor apartment in the south tower, which went for 20 percent less than valuation, while a 17th-floor unit went for almost 20 percent more than valuation. The two add to three October sales, which bring the total so far in the fourth quarter of 2018 to an average mark-up of 12 percent, with December sales still to come.

Among other sales registered in November was a commercial unit underneath 1 Wood Ave. (4055 St. Catherine St.) which went for seven times its municipal evaluation but still only \$150,000. Also a small storefront at 4918 Sherbrooke St., which sold to a numbered company.

de Maisonneuve closed at Atwater

The STM closed de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood April 1, after the closure was delayed from March 18 as previously reported. City director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week that problems had been resolved related to keeping the bike

continued on p. 20

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in November 2018, and others

| ADDRESS | VENDOR | PRICE | 2017 VAL | RATIO (%) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 49 Aberdeen | estate Olga Svabova | \$3,850,000 | \$2,865,900 | 34.34% |
| 303 Grosvenor | Dany Vachon & Brigitte Signori | \$1,200,000 | \$1,158,700 | 3.56% |
| 337 Grosvenor | Francine Langan & André Pagé | \$1,599,000 | \$1,095,700 | 45.93% |
| 661 Grosvenor | Sheva Wolfe-Strolovitcvh | \$1,525,000 | \$1,155,000 | 32.03% |
| 708 Grosvenor | Angel Joel Lombano Olivares & Marina Josefina Melendez de Lombano | \$2,280,000 | \$1,822,300 | 25.12% |
| 309 Melville | Mary Julia Feher & David Peter White | \$1,190,000 | \$1,107,500 | 7.45% |
| 317 Melville | estate Monique Garneau | \$684,500 | \$741,700 | -7.71% |
| 323 Redfern | Michael Rasminsky | \$2,100,000 | \$1,702,500 | 23.35% |
| 83 Stayner | Ella Feig | \$1,040,000 | \$817,900 | 27.15% |
| 645 Victoria | Eddy & Haig Dikranian Family Trusts | \$1,460,000 | \$1,284,900 | 13.63% |
| 4690 Westmount Ave. | Jean-Sébastien Monty | \$2,575,000 | \$1,789,200 | 43.92% |
| CONDOMINIUMS | | | | |
| 1 Wood # 211 | Carolyn Rothman | \$690,000 | \$864,100 | -20.15% |
| 1 Wood #1702 | Gloria Kadanoff | \$1,650,000 | \$1,407,200 ¹ | 17.25% |
| SHARE SALES | | | | |
| 328-30 Wood, 50% | Birgitta Lindstrom | \$625,000 | \$515,850 ² | 21.16% |
| COMMERCIAL | | | | |
| 4918 Sherbrooke | GWLF Property Corp. | \$1,515,000 | \$1,125,600 | 34.59% |
| COMMERCIAL CONDOMINIUMS | | | | |
| 4055 Sherbrooke #126 | Juliard Investments Inc. | \$150,000 | \$20,400 | 635.29% |

¹Valuation is a combination of \$1,356,300 for the apartment and one garage, \$50,900 for a second garage.
²Valuation is 50% of \$1,031,700. Occupancy of 328 Wood.

Pursuant to a request to the city of Westmount's city clerk under *An act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information*, the *Independent* received a list of addresses that received "welcome tax" bills in and near November 2018. Other information published here was researched by columnist Andy Dodge.

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Survey results for houses of worship

Citizens most value venues for architecture, meetings

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Results of the city's survey of residents last November on the sustainability of some 12 heritage houses of worship were released this week after tabulation of replies from 369 residents after 9,400 notices of the survey were sent out.

Respondents most appreciated these buildings for their architectural heritage followed by the complementary use of these spiritual buildings as community meeting places, for which 60 percent favoured the city modifying by-laws to allow mixed uses in the buildings.

In the event of a sale and de-consecration of a house of worship, the most acceptable redevelopment project would be, in increasing order: community services, performance hall, school or housing.

"We conclude from the survey results that the architecture and the preservation of built heritage of the houses of worship are the aspects the community is most concerned about," Urban Planning director

Tom Flies said.

"Zoning changes to integrate complementary uses are deemed acceptable by the community."

These findings, he said, would be "taken into consideration when working out a proposal to submit to the city council in the near future."

Multiple answers

The survey's 12 questions, some allowing multiple answers, stemmed from the city's efforts to examine ways of helping houses of worship survive given rising maintenance costs and dwindling congregations (see story September 25, 2018, p. 8).

The survey began with 9,400 postcards the city sent out last November informing residents of its online process, "and the possibility to complete the survey in paper format at the library."

Of the total 369 respondents, 90 percent were reported to have completed the survey in English, according to an introduc-

tory page of the results. A statistical margin of error was reported as 5 percent, within a reliability guarantee of 3 to 5 percent.

More than one third believed the city's main effort should focus on planning and regulation while 17 percent also wanted financial support to be provided through tax exemptions, assistance in fundraising or similar means, rather than outright financial aid.

Of those who replied, 44 percent worked full time while 34 percent were retired. Fully 39 percent were aged 65 or older while almost as many at 36 percent were between 45 and 64.

Most respondents, 57 percent, lived near either Westmount Park Church (20 percent), Westmount Baptist Church (14 percent), St. Léon de Westmount (3 percent) or Shaar Hashomayim Congregation (10 percent).

A complete presentation of the survey results can be found on the city's website at www.westmount.org/heritage/houses-of-worship.

Police Report

Drug-impaired driver charged, after passing alcohol test

MARTIN C. BARRY

A 40-year-old woman suspected of being alcohol-impaired as she was driving along René Lévesque Blvd. downtown was finally placed under arrest in Westmount when police determined she was under the influence of drugs.

On March 22 around 11:30 pm, the police received a 9-1-1 dispatch call regarding a car that was immobilized next to the cen-

tre median on René Lévesque near the corner of St. Marc St.

"The police officers got there, they evaluated the driver and everything seemed okay – she didn't smell of alcohol – they didn't suspect anything wrong," said Montreal Police Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière.

After the driver, who was not a Westmount resident, was al-
lowed to continue on her *continued on p. 20*

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United Church's Quebec HQ moves out

Westmount Park pastor suggests city should provide subsidies

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With just 40 registered parishioners left at Westmount Park United Church, but up to 30,000 people meeting there each year for activities offered by organizations that are tenants, pastor Neil Whitehouse wants the city of Westmount to discuss the future of religious buildings on its territory, while also considering the possibility of subsidizing Westmount Park United.

The city completed one large step in its discussion of houses of worship with the release last week of its survey of residents on the subject (see story on p. 16).

On April 1, Westmount Park United lost one of its three longtime anchor tenants, when the United Church of Canada's administrative office for Quebec (which had been at Westmount Park United for 30 years) moved to new quarters.

While the Contactivity Centre for senior

citizens and a children's daycare remain as the two largest users of space, a list of other community groups that rent space for gatherings at Westmount Park United includes a camera club, a theatre company, musical performers and a film club.

Kelsey collection

Although Westmount Park United was founded during the late 19th century, the current church building was dedicated in 1930. Among the architectural treasures to be found within are large stained glass windows created by renowned Canadian stained glass artist Charles William Kelsey.

"We have the world's largest collection of his work," said Whitehouse. Kelsey created stained glass windows for several other churches in Montreal, including St. George's Anglican, St. James United and in the chapel at Concordia University's Loyola Campus.

Quoting the Gospel of St. Matthew ("The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few"), Whitehouse said, "We've a tremendous inheritance here. What we're looking for are partners to help us make that a fruitful inheritance. So not to pro-

mote religion, but to focus on what we have in common, regardless of your religious background."

In an e-mailed submission to the *Independent* explaining Westmount Park United's goals, Whitehouse, while referring to the city of Westmount report on religious buildings, said he wanted to "speculate on going further than I expect the city council is willing to go."

Noting that since the end of World War II churches and other places of worship in Germany have been funded by the government, Whitehouse said, "Would people in Westmount accept part of their municipal tax being given to the 12 places of worship in Westmount in order to keep them open in these difficult times?"

"I'm not expecting people to agree with me, because taxes are high enough already," he added. "But I'm inviting people to think about it, not for the specific religious contribution of a place of worship – because I think people have voted by their feet about that – but for the broader contribution offered by this particular place of worship."



Westmount Park United Church pastor Neil Whitehouse on March 28.


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As you can see, it was Maisie's turn and, after her grooming, she was wearing her lovely pink handknit sweater and enjoying the attention. Like most Persians, she is a

Precious Maisie, fashionable Tortie Persian



mixture of stunning beauty and adorable sweetness, incredibly affectionate with people and other pets.

Maisie is now in foster care for Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions, taken in from a basement apartment where she was temporarily after her owner was moved into pallia-

tive care. She is now ready for a family, being spayed and up to date with all her vaccinations.

Please contact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions at their website contact page www.gerdysrescue.org for more information on stunning Maisie.

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The bollards for the de Maisonneuve bike path went up on March 29. These photo were taken at Prince Albert.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.


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Wan wins Virtuoso piano competition

By DAVID PRICE



There were lots of giggles as three young pianists came by the *Independent's* offices March 28 and tried to stay serious for the camera. They were, from left, Westmounter Dora Wan (10), Can Zhou (9) and Tristan Yang Goon (11).

All three have placed first in the Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, held online in January. Wan played Robert Schumann's Intermezzo from the Viennese Carnival; Zhou, Franz Liszt's Consolation in D flat major; and Goon, Khatchaturian's Toccata in E flat minor.

When asked about their favourite musicians, the trio offered mainly classical composers: Schuman for Wan, Liszt for Zhou, and Schubert and Rachmaninoff for Goon, although he also said that he likes The Carpenters. Wan did offer up, "I don't mind playing some happy stuff, not very serious stuff," and Zhou said he likes radio station The Beat 92.5.

Teacher Dr. Angela Chan of the 19-student Lambda School of Music and Fine Arts in Pierrefonds explained her approach: "Musicians are made, not born. We do not hold auditions [for entry to the school]. Anyone can apply. We put in the

ingredients, including parents who support the students. There is not one way that fits all."

The school aims to instill confidence and a "mode of operation" for more than just music. Students are also encouraged to have a sense of social obligation by play-

ing for charities.

"We are not a prodigy hothouse," she summarized.

All three winners are to perform at Royal Albert Hall in London, England and the Ampitheatre, Paris Philharmonie in April.

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Police report, cont'd. from p. 16

way, she arrived at the corner of René Lévesque and Sussex St. where there is a traffic light. The officers in their cruiser noticed that she hesitated for several seconds longer than normal to proceed after the light turned green.

At this point, the police warned the driver with a blast of their siren that they were watching. While she continued, said Laperrière, the car began weaving as the police cruiser followed, until finally they pulled her over near the corner of Greene Ave. and Dorchester Blvd.

After having the woman undergo a roadside alcohol detection test, the reading indicated she was not over the limit. All the same, according to Laperrière, they still couldn't understand why she seemed to be acting erratically and decided to do additional testing for the presence of drugs.

Because it was a cold day and the ground was covered with ice in many spots, the officers took the suspect to the entrance of RCMP-Quebec headquarters on Dorchester, where they sought permission from the guards to conduct walking and eyesight tests on the lobby floor so the tests would be unbiased.

The woman failed a "nystagmus" test to verify whether her eyes could follow an object without moving her head. She also failed a "heel to toe" test during which she

had been expected to keep her balance while walking.

Finally, she couldn't maintain her balance while standing on one leg as she held the other from behind. "She was then placed under arrest because they believed this person might have been driving under the influence of drugs," said Laperrière.

The woman was brought to the Montreal police's downtown detention centre on Guy St., where she was questioned further by a specialized evaluator. Her driver's licence was confiscated, and her car was towed and impounded.

While conducting a search, the police found she was in possession of drugs. Although it was determined she had consumed alcohol before driving, it wasn't above the legal limit. She faces charges of driving under the influence and of being in possession of illegal drugs.

de Maisonneuve, cont'd. from p. 14

path open while the transit authority embarked on a two-year project to replace the waterproof membrane over the roof of the Atwater Metro station, working from the top (see story March 19, p. 4).

After the STM met with the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, it was decided to route cyclists up and down over the ramp at the entrance to the Alexis Nihon apartment tower.



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

After leaving cars with the uber-efficient VIP valet team, guests arriving at the 4th annual A Brilliant Night followed massive fake trees – the better to hide the even-more massive construction at Windsor Station.

Once inside, chic partygoers enjoyed a fun concept, complete with an aromatic bag of popcorn as they entered the nightclub-style-stanchion line leading to a marquee reading “A Brilliant Night.” And indeed, it was!

Event honorary chair was **Nathalie Pilon**, CEO ABB, with honorary vice-chairs **Ivan Boulva**, vp Cadillac Fairview; **Lorena Cook**, Sarah’s Fund, Cedars Cancer Foundation; **Eric La Flèche**, CEO Metro Inc., and **Madeleine Paquin**, CEO Logistec.

Honorary ambassadors were **Olivier Boulva**, director of corporate development

For the *Indie’s Spring Social Calendar*, send information (date, place, ticket price, contact, etc.) to redgrave@videotron.ca.

A Brilliant Night was, well, brilliant



Wendy Sculnick, Ivan Boulva, Madeleine Paquin, Nathalie Pilon and Dr. Kevin Petrecca.

at Kevric Real Estate Corporation, there with his wife **Jasmine Adhami**; **Brian Hession**, vp softgoods and footwear at Giant Tiger Stores Ltd.; **Peter Lombardi**, chair at Construction C.A.L.; and from Quailco Investments Inc. **Louis St-Laurent**, president and **Maxime St-Laurent**, director, attending with his wife **Marie-Andrée Le Chasseur**.

A fundraiser for brain tumour research

at The Neuro, A Brilliant Night was co-founded by Westmounters **Suzanne Wexler**, **Heidi Small** and **Marie-Claude Lacroix**. The trio worked with committee members **Roberta Bennett** and her daughter **Daphne Barron**, **Jason Lavigne**, **Sheldon Ludwick**, **Mia Patt**, **Christine Rushworth**, **Wendy Sculnick**, **Lucy Wenger**, **Robin Westhaver**, **Sheryl Goldstein**, **Ellen Wolfe**, **Megan Flynn**, and **Dr. Kevin Pe-**



Jessica Scalera and Suzanne Wexler.

trecca, chief of neurosurgery at The Neuro.

Amidst the many local res present were **Dr. Abraham Wexler**, **Ira Goldstein** and his volunteer daughters **Halle**, **Jordyn** and **Sydney**, **Dr. David Hauerstock**, **Alana** and **Alan Schwartz** (Dorel Industries), doctors **Karl** and **Nikole Schwarz**, **Joyce** and **Chuck Rubin**, **Sharon Mashaal** and **Richard Leon**, **Lisa Vatch** and **Jonathan Wilner**, **Marney Sobel** and *continued on p. 22*

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Marney Sobel, Heidi Small and Max Abadian.



Alan Schwartz, Alana Wexler-Schwartz and Joyce Schwartz.



Dr. Karl Schwarz, Katherine Marchand, Christine Cozens, Dr. Nikole Schwarz and Caroline Savoie.

Social notes, *cont'd. from p. 21*

Max Abadian, Niki Karamanos and Adrian Abdoo, Lindsay Hollinger and Dr. Jason Retter, Melissa Essebag and Michael Martella, Caroline Savoie, Valerie Azoulay and Andrew Grove, Monica Dery-Goldberg, Heather Feinstein, Pamela Lipson, David Freiheit and Marion Van Horn, research associate at The Neuro.

The eve raised \$1 million, thanks to sponsors and fabulous food vendors: Tuck Shop, Moishes, Arthur's, Beatrice, Yuzu

Sushi, Le Fournil and the SAQ. Hats off to the many chefs and owners who not only attended but served!

Since the inaugural gala, the event has raised \$2.67 million. On leaving, attendees were overheard raving about the substantial swag bags, which for once had loads of donated goodies. They were a welcome change from the usual bits of paper reading "Gift certificate: a percentage off a purchase at our store."

PS: The coffee from Kaito was delicious.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Free public one-hour guided tours of MUHC Glen site, exploring art, architecture and history. Meet at main security desk, RC level. Comfortable shoes essential. Reservations encouraged by email at heritage@muhc.mcgill.ca. Also April 18; May 2, 16; June 6, 20; Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3, 17; Nov. 7, 21. 1:30 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019

McEntyre Writing Competition for Westmount students, organized by the Westmount Public Library, deadline. 9 pm.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Workshop on filing your tax return online. Registration required. To add your name, contact Richard Cassidy at richard@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344 x 206. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 1 pm.

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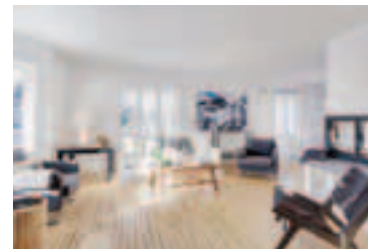
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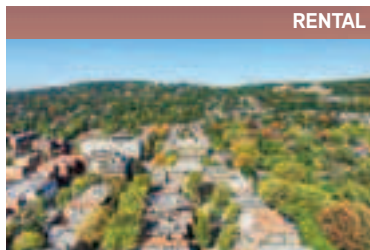
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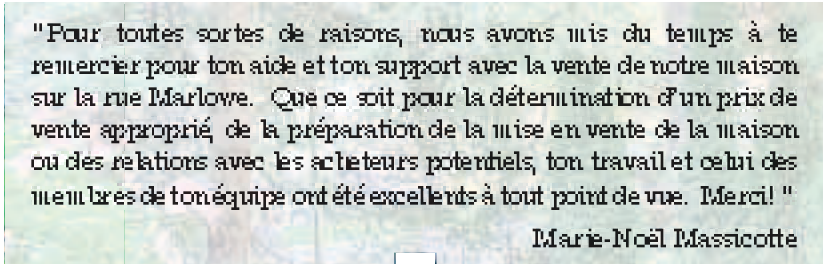
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