

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 13 No. 5b

*We are Westmount*

May 14, 2019

**Family Day is Saturday, May 25**

## This year's 44th event gets new look, change of location

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The 44th Family Day in Westmount Park on May 25 will have a very different look. The annual event, which typically attracts hundreds of people, will take place at the south end of the park on the junior soccer fields and playground in front of Westmount Park School.

The reason for the shift in layout is to allow new sod on the main Melville field to establish itself, according to Dave La-

pointe, Sports and Recreation director.

"That's going to be the big change for us," he said last week. "It's going to be a little different. We still have to work out the logistics." The flow between the various attractions will be linear instead of activities circling the main field.

The petting zoo, however, is expected to be set up as usual near the main field while the make-up booth is planned for the gazebo; exhibits and kiosks from community groups and organizations will continue to be along the walking path. Gates to the fenced junior soccer fields will be open and, as usual during the event, signs on the bike

*continued on p. 20*

**City to cyclists: slow down – cyclist to pedestrian: 'Watch out'**



The city has placed "slow" signs on the de Maisonneuve Blvd. bicycle path at the crosswalk near the gazebo in Westmount Park. A cyclist going east shouted "watch out" to a woman as he barrelled past her May 9 at 3:30 pm. On May 5, an 85-year-old man was knocked down in the park by a cyclist estimated to be 10 to 12 years old. See letter, p. 6.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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HONESTY INTEGRITY RESULTS

**Public consultation on 3 by-laws May 23**

## New zones, uses aim to help houses of worship survive

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In keeping with a city project to help houses of worship survive, draft legislation was presented at the council meeting May 6 allowing them to rent out vacant space for a wide range of services and activities as long as 50 percent is retained for their designated orientation.

A list of additional uses includes pro-

fessional offices, community activities, medical services, private and fitness clubs, government and paragovernment agencies and retail for residential needs. Some "conditional" cases even include nursing homes, CEGEPs, universities and museums.

"Our goal is to help the houses of worship remain viable," stated Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

She noted the "enor-

*continued on p. 8*

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# Bignell returns – Abry hosts 4870 St. Catherine St., 51 years later

BY RALPH THOMPSON

British publisher, writer and former Westmount resident Alan Bignell and his wife Arlene returned May 7 to visit his 1968 address, 4870 St. Catherine St. Before coming, he wrote to the current owner of the house, Vincent Abry, and a meeting at the house was arranged.

Bignell has recently self-published a

book entitled *The Year I became Al* about the time he spent working in Montreal for a large international advertising agency, Spitzer, Mills & Bates. The title of the book derives from the North American habit of abbreviating first names and Alan becoming known as “Al.”

In 1968, Bignell lived in the then four-bedroom house next to then-functional Westmount railway station with four col-

lier period than 1917. Today, it is a quaint two-storey, two-bedroom, single-bathroom cottage.

Bignell loved Montreal and Westmount, but his zest for adventure took him off travelling around North America. He eventually returned to England, where he started his own advertising agency. He has revisited Canada again for his work, but his last visit to Montreal was in 1979.

As his life progressed, he studied the Alexander technique. According to the

website [www.alexandertechnique.com](http://www.alexandertechnique.com), “An Alexander technique teacher helps you to identify and lose the harmful habits you have built up over a lifetime of stress and learn to move more freely.” It goes on to contend that the technique is useful for repetitive strains injuries, back pain, office workers, musicians and athletes.

Bignell left his job as a copywriter, took a three-year training course approved by the Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique and is now a teacher of it himself.

Bignell would like to renew any contacts from his time in Westmount and encourages anyone to contact him at [alan@forwardandup.co.uk](mailto:alan@forwardandup.co.uk).



Alan Bignell (foreground) with his wife Arlene and current owner of 4870 St. Catherine St. Vincent Abry, photographed May 7.



Alan Bignell (foreground) on the same spot in 1968 with his four housemates.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. BIGNELL.

leagues, who were also British. Every morning, he travelled on the train to work downtown at Place Victoria's Exchange Tower.

The house itself is listed by the city as being built in 1917, but Bignell believes it was actually built in 1899 and is quite different today. The old ornate interior door and skirting boards certainly hint at an ear-

**Montreal West** – This exceptionally gracious 3-storey Victorian home features wrap-around garden views and a third floor master bedroom suite on a double size lot. Adding to its elegance and grace are original oak woodwork and trim, magnificent architectural details, wood-burning fireplace, exposed brick walls, skylights, and a butler's pantry. The formal living, dining and music rooms blend nicely with the newer kitchen and family rooms, designed for all to enjoy. Kids and adults alike will be drawn to the warmth and comfort of the kitchen, with its center island, adjoining dining area, and arched bay windows. The sunroom is drenched in natural light and is ideal for studying or for practising your favourite hobbies. Mud room with heated tiled floors, closet, powder room and spacious laundry room.

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house and tons of green space. The driveway accommodates up to 4 cars and leads to a detached two-car garage, and storage. Ideally located just steps from public transport (bus & train) and schools. 53 Ballantyne North has been the host of several films and television productions: “The Day After Tomorrow,” and “11 Somerset,” to mention just a few.

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## MDs win Exec A



From left, top row: Marcel Belanger, Francois Laurin, Chris Wright, Tim Anderson, Paolo Santini, Mark Williams, Marc-Andre Lalonde, Russell Kirstein and Paul Carmel; bottom row: John Macdonald, Jake Chadwick, Charles Martin, Ken Shaw, Mark Sinnett and Greg Dunning.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW LAWTON.

The “MDs” of Westmount’s Executive A hockey league beat the “CAs” 5-3 on March 25 to win the championship. They finished the regular season in second place

in the six-team league, while the CAs finished in first.

“In a dozen or so years of being captain of the MDs, this year’s edition was by far

the team that played best ‘as a team,’ and that is why we won,” Paul Carmel told the *Independent*.





ONLY  
**1**  
LEFT!



## Westmount Rugby on tour to start season



The Westmount Rugby Club played two games in Burlington, Vermont May 4 against the Burlington Rugby Football Club. Both the men's and women's team lost (14–22 and 0–47 respectively), but “gained valuable pre-season experience,” according to member Charles Fabi Allaire. The men's side is playing its home opener on May 25 at 1 pm at Murray Park, while the women start at home June 22 at 12 noon. Above, club members Aya Abulkhair, left, and Amine Mimoune carrying the ball on the tour.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT RUGBY CLUB.



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**WESTMOUNT**



### JOURNÉE NATIONALE DES PATRIOTES Heures d'affaires et services municipaux

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés **le lundi 20 mai 2019** en raison de la Journée nationale des patriotes.

La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée le dimanche et le lundi.

Il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures, qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

### VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY Business Hours and Municipal Services

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be closed **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019** for the Victoria Day holiday.

Westmount Public Library will be closed Sunday and Monday.

The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

[westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## CYCLIST KNOCKED OUT MY HUSBAND – PLEASE ENFORCE THE PARK’S NO-BIKE RULE

Last Sunday, May 5, around 3 pm, my husband and I went for a walk in Westmount Park. There were many people and a lot of kids on their bikes. My husband, Serge Morin, who is 85 years old, was hit in the back by one of them. He fell on the ground, hurt his head and stayed unconscious for four to five minutes, bleeding, eyes open and not responding. I thought he was dead! I felt very distressed.

Many nice people came to help, but no guardian could be seen anywhere. A lady who had a cell phone called for an ambulance. It took about 20 minutes for it to arrive. My husband had no memory of what had just happened to him. We were driven to the Montreal General Hospital.

At the hospital, the wound on his face was taken care of, and he had to have two scans to make sure there was no bleeding in his brain.

This accident should not have taken place. Citizens should feel secure while taking a walk through the park. We were told that children under 12 years are tolerated on their bicycles on the sidewalks, even if it is [technically] forbidden. The boy who hit my husband appeared to be 10 to 12 years old. But even a 5-year-old kid can hit and hurt somebody. The rule of walking beside your bicycle in the park is not respected by most cyclists who go across the park every day.

We think all bikes should be forbidden in the park unless they obey the rule while

crossing.

We would be very grateful to the person in authority in the park to consider reinforcing the rule in existence and double the supervision, which seems inadequate at the moment.

MARGOT CAMPBELL MORIN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## CHILD HIT BY CAR – CROSSWALK, STOP SIGN NEEDED AT ST. LÉON

On May 2, yet another child was hit by a car on Clarke Ave. in front of École St. Léon de Westmount. It is miraculous that the child came out of the accident with only some bruises and a very big scare.

Every morning, I look with despair at the numerous parents who stop in the middle of the street to let their children out of their cars into oncoming traffic, or the parents crossing from the east side to the west dragging their kids behind them, or kids crossing by themselves...

So many drivers drive over the 30 km/h speed limit. Every morning, I think this is the day that a child’s life will change.... We need a crosswalk and a stop sign in the middle of Clarke between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke – and a few bumps would be the cherry on top.

It is not realistic to ask parents and kids to walk to the south or north intersections to come back to the school entrance. It would take on average ten minutes, and more in winter.

It is not unreasonable to have a school crosswalk and stop sign for our school near the entrance. Hopefully, the city of West-

mount will not wait until a child gets seriously injured or worse.

A petition has been started online. It can be accessed by going on the “Westmount families” page on Facebook.

MARIE-ANTOINETTE NOVY,  
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

## EATZ ENCORE, METRO HAVE DONE THEIR BIT ON PLASTIC – UP TO US NOW

Until recently, there were no options or choices for take-away beyond containers and cutlery, but the tide has begun to turn. Since mid-March, instead of using in-store plastic containers, customers of Westmount’s EatZ Encore can bring their own reusable containers to be filled.

On April 15, Metro announced that customers across Quebec would be allowed to shop with reusable containers at their deli, fish and meat counters – a significant initiative in the corporate grocery and food industry. Kudos to both stores! Now it’s our turn – the great well-intentioned public – to step up and ditch our addition to the “convenience” of single-use plastic.

The science is irrefutable: it takes many hundreds of years for such material to decompose. The reality is that two thirds of these plastics end up in the garbage, in our water systems and our “plastic oceans.”

The proliferation of harmful plastics has gone on for decades.

We all know that the environmental stakes are very high. Believing that recycling is the panacea is to turn a blind eye: only approximately 11 percent of materials are recycled. The recycling industry is overwhelmed and no country is willing to accept Canada’s recycling any longer. Now it ultimately becomes garbage or landfill in someone else’s backyard.

The Healthy City Project, a volunteer Westmount committee in cooperation with the city and council, recently held an Earth Hour event at Victoria Hall. The theme: banning single use. We are committed to working with merchants and residents to facilitate our reduction of plastic. Public participation is the key. This must be an all-in community undertaking.

CAROLINE JONDAHL, HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

## BAD VIEWS FROM BELLEVUE TO BELVEDERE

Sunnyside Ave. from Bellevue to Belvedere.... no excuse!

I realize the city does not wish to encourage the mountain road down to Côte des Neiges as a thoroughfare, but c’mon.

The manhole at Sunnyside and Belvedere Rd. is continuously sinking...expect the drill rig any day now.

SOUMIA SAHRANE, SUNNYSIDE AVE.



## EYESORE AT DE MAISONNEUVE & LANSDOWNE NEEDS ATTENTION

There has been mention lately in the *Independent* about shabbiness in some of Westmount’s public areas, but the elephant in the park, so to speak, has to be the eyesore beside the bike path at de Maisonneuve and Lansdowne.

This gruesome sight seems to be one of the results of unfinished landscaping following construction of the Westmount recreation centre several years ago. It is anyone’s guess what those things are poking through the festering wound. Could they be some of the building’s innards?!

This was once a peaceful little corner, with Westmount Park United Church facing a row of mature trees. Now, it is sadly run down.

Perhaps those in charge believe that this area can be ignored since it is frequented mainly by cyclists and pedestrians (including dog owners using the nearby dog park and people taking part in activities at the church). Well, cyclists and pedestrians are taxpayers too, and some of us think we should be shown more consideration.

Let’s hope that this is the spring when the city sees fit to complete the landscaping and whatever other work is needed here to do justice to our beautiful Westmount Park.

JANE BRODERICK, ST. CATHERINE ST.

**Editor’s note:** This corner was written about by resident Gary Scavone in our November 27, 2018 edition (p. 8). Westmount director general Benoit Hurtubise replied in the December 4 edition (p. 8) that money was in the 2019 budget for landscaping, but concluded his letter by writing: “As for the structure near the bike path, we will investigate possibilities, but solutions are limited due to the direct proximity of this structure to the bike path and available depth for planting.” – DP.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POOP BAGS NEED PROPER DISPOSAL

As I walk my two dogs around the King George Park area, I cannot help but notice the number of neatly tied-up, full poop bags that litter the area around the bin on Westmount Ave., as well as those that appear to have been randomly dropped on residents' lawns near the sidewalk.

Could you please pass the message along to dog owners that it is not only important to pick up the poop and knot the bag, but also to properly dispose of the bag in one of the city bins, or take it home to put in your own.

Thank you.

EMY BENJAMIN, ARLINGTON AVE.

### GARBAGE, GRAFFITI LEADS TO GARBAGE, GRAFFITI

I understand that St. Catherine St. between Atwater and Wood avenues has been neglected for a number of years. I was hoping that the city would have made more progress in the re-development of the area by now. That said, the city should put pressure on the building owners to keep the area clean of garbage and debris. This recent picture taken at the Miso Restaurant is inexcusable. The city should be issuing them a fine or at least force



them to clean up the area. Garbage and graffiti attract more garbage and graffiti.

FRANK CANDIDO, PROSPECT ST.

### NEGLIGENCE WAITING FOR VICTIM

This photo of the gazebo in Westmount Park was taken on Monday, April 29.



Dodge on real estate transfers of 2018, p. RE-3

Permits, p. RE-6 & p. RE-10

2018 real estate transfers, p. RE-22

Update on Hillside houses, 500 Claremont, 1100 Atwater, p. RE-18

Update on Selby condos, p. RE-30

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### Indie turns 12

## Now we are six, times 2

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As actor George Peppard said while playing *The A-Team*'s Hannibal Smith: “I love it when a plan comes together.”

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

What is the city waiting for to repair the missing steps?

It has been in this pitiful state for months.

In the meantime, I am hoping that nobody gets hurt. If someone does get hurt,

it would be flagrant negligence on the city's part.

It would not be an accident as this issue could easily be fixed.

NATHALIE K. ALLARD,  
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

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WESTMOUNT SQUARE

**Houses of worship**, *cont'd. from p. 1*  
mous” cost of maintaining these aging properties as landmark and community resources while revenue decreases from dwindling congregations.

“The idea is to ‘remove’ the houses of worship from residential zones where they now exist through vested rights and establish them primarily as houses of worship with many auxiliary uses.”

To create these new institutional-type zones requires amending the city’s zoning By-law 1303 as well as adopting two new by-laws, one listing additional uses, the other conditional ones. All three are to be presented at a public consultation meeting

May 23 at city hall at 7 pm.

Exceptionally, the zoning amendment by-law to create the 12 new zones – one for each house of worship – is exempt from the referendum process because it conforms to the agglomeration’s land use and development plan, Lulham explained.

The other two will each be subject to the referendum process, according to Nicolas Gagnon, Urban Planning project manager.

By-law 1540 listing additional uses would be subject to a city-wide referendum, while By-law 1541 on conditional uses would be applied separately to any of the 12 zones that seek a referendum register.

The proposals result from a project initiated in 2015 to study the 12 churches and synagogues as well as the preparation of value statements. Respondents to a survey of residents reported favouring the use of these buildings for additional purposes. “It’s been a huge amount of work by the Urban Planning department and the Local Heritage Council,” explained Lulham, urban planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks.

Each of the new zones will bear the prefix of CO (for “community”).

Because the houses of worship will no longer be in residential zones, the city’s next step is to propose a framework for the conversion of the buildings as a last resort, she said. This is expected in the fall.

# 4160 Sherbrooke gets second reading



4160 Sherbrooke on May 9.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council May 6 gave second reading to a resolution allowing the use of a rooftop structure at 4160 Sherbrooke, just west of Elm, as a residential condo unit. It was

originally approved as a structure for common recreational use of all the condo residents when originally built 30 years ago.

“It’s a corrective measure dating back to 1989,” said Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture.”

In order to grant a variance to the city’s zoning by-law, the requested change has been going through a process for non-conforming projects called SCAOPI, for specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposal for an immovable.

A public consultation meeting took place in this respect April 25 (see story May 7, p. 1).

The change now heads into the referendum procedure, though no deadline had yet been set last week for the filing of a register. This would require a valid application for a register from either the concerned zone in which the building is located or a contiguous one.

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is a private non-profit continuing care residence for senior ladies. This gracious facility provides a special combination of residential living, activities, support and health care designed to meet the individual needs of each resident.

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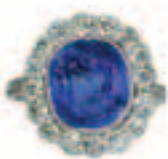
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## Polak celebrates Dutch monarch's birthday for 10th time



For the 10th time since becoming honorary consul-general for the Netherlands in Montreal, Michael Polak celebrated the Dutch monarch's birthday. On April 26 this year, it was a Konings-Dag ("king's day") for King Willem-Alexander at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, although the first four were KoninginneDagen ("queen's days") during the reign of Queen Beatrix, Willem-Alexander's mother. The event is a national holiday in the Netherlands. From left, Westmounters Pennie and Michael Polak and Willem Westenberg, a co-organizer of the event.

PHOTO COURTESY OF W. WESTENBERG

### 12 schools could be affected

## Council adopts declaration against Bill 21

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just as hearings began last week into Quebec's Bill 21 banning the wearing of religious symbols by certain categories of public employees including teachers, Westmount city council May 6 adopted a declaration in support of the secularism of the city.

Mayor Christina Smith pointed out the existence of some 12 schools in the community and said "and we don't know the full implications of Bill 21," which has yet to be adopted in any form.

She previously announced the city's position against it (see story April 9, p. 10).

Called a declaration "reiterating the institutional secularism of the city of Westmount and the religious freedom of individuals," the resolution states that Westmount citizens regardless of their religious beliefs and origins are equal and full members of the community.

It also reaffirms "the inalienable nature of the right of freedom of religion, conscience and expression so as to ensure that its community reflects its citizens and the province of Quebec in the 21st century."

As well, it states that the city "supports all its employees regardless of their beliefs and the manner in which they express them."

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Owner of Westmount Travel Tony Fragapane in his office at 345 Victoria Ave, suite 301.

## Westmount Travel turns 60

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount Travel (Voyages Westmount) has a 60-year history in Westmount, having been incorporated as Westmount International Travel Service Inc. by “Roger L. Huysmans, Travel Agent and Flora G. Theisman, housewife, wife common as to property of the said Roger L. Huysmans” according to the Gazette Officielle de Québec dated October 24, 1964.

The current owner, Tony Fragapane, bought the business in 2015. According to his wife, Maria Viviana Urso, who has researched the firm’s history at the Westmount Public Library, the “head office” was first identified as being located at 4835 Sherbrooke. Lovell’s directory of 1977/78 lists the address as 4991 Sherbrooke St. and, in 1985, it was relocated to 326 Victoria Ave.

The present location is 345 Victoria Ave., suite 301.

What is it like owning a travel agency in the digital age? “We like the internet. It is complementary to our services. We are busier than ever right now,” said Fragapane. “Clients find airline tickets, hotels, car rental, train fares and other services on the internet, and ask if there are better products available. We can find the best services to meet the client’s needs.”

He pointed out that in Quebec, travel agents are licensed and bonded, which provides benefits to travellers. There are scams on the internet and when problems arise, such as WOW air declaring insolvency in March, a travel agent can be contacted to assist in resolving the problem. Another recent case involved a young traveller who had lost her passport in India.

“A travel agent provides peace of mind,” said Fragapane. He also has facilities in Lachine and Westmount, with 29 travel consultants under the umbrella name Voyages Concierge Deluxe Travel Inc.

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# City works to help entrepreneurs

By RALPH THOMPSON

The city of Westmount hosted PME MTL and local entrepreneurs May 9 at Victoria Hall for a business networking event. A hundred and fifty people had registered and about 70 turned out at 6 pm to enjoy drinks and canapés, and to hear about proposals to invigorate the retail business areas in Westmount.

City councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of urban planning, economic development and parks, welcomed everyone.

“Many years ago Greene Ave., Laurier and St. Denis were the top three retail areas of the city of Montreal,” said Lulham.

She went on to explain that PME MTL has funded and facilitated new websites, and the city has funded branding projects, for the two merchant associations, which in turn made the decisions on content. The city will be reviewing and revising by-laws to accommodate pop-up shops and new

potential uses, and will work with the associations on promotional material for the commercial areas.

Using elements of the branding, the city will be developing signage and decorative totems, in a similar manner to the pink balls strung across St. Catherine St. in the Gay village. Greene and Victoria are barely visible for people driving through Westmount so the city wants to create eye-catching decorations that will encourage people to visit. The goal is to install them this summer.

The city is also looking at new affordable technology that will facilitate more parking. Lulham went on to announce a competition for Greene Ave. that will come with three \$25,000 grants through PME MTL for three successful contestants who

propose new, expanded or taken-over establishments, with a goal to bring new businesses to the area of Greene. The contest rules are on the fully bilingual PME MTL website. There are other funding pos-

## Quartier Greene

WESTMOUNT



The merchant associations' logos.



Councillor Cynthia Lulham described decorative totems and a \$75,000 entrepreneurs' competition.

sibilities on the website that are available to any Westmount businesses and entrepreneur.

Lulham also said she was forming a round table for anyone with commercial concepts and ideas and she encouraged people to contact her at [clulham@westmount.org](mailto:clulham@westmount.org).

This was the first time PME MTL had visited Westmount. The executive director of PME MTL said that his organisation has 25 people and close to \$1 million to help and encourage businesses in his sector of Montreal (Côte des Neiges-NDG, Plateau

Mont Royal, Outremont and Ville Marie boroughs, and Westmount).

The two associations presented their new websites, including branding designs. When asked of his opinion of the initiatives, long-time local business man and co-owner of Flore L'Atelier Denis d'Etcheverry said, “I have been involved since the beginning of this new merchant association. I'm happy it's a non-profit with a charter and regulations and I think it will give us a real voice with the city.”

Lulham concluded the presentations by saying “this is just a start.”

## Picasso, who thinks he's a dog



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

odd to have a cat with pride of place, purring noisily amongst the other snoring pooches, yet this is lovable Picasso at his best.

Picasso is a young adult now, almost a year old. He came to Gerdy's Rescue from abandonment, as a wee kitten who was so feeble he couldn't walk and needed his

Picasso is a delightful fellow, so handsome with his slick black coat, contrasted by his stunning gold eyes. I have met him myself at the Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB, where he is boarding, purring away and reaching out to be carried. So I present him as a happy cat who has a hilarious doggy side to him, which is so prevalent that he hangs out with the regular dogs at the clinic's daycare. When my own dog Xena is sleeping and snoring in her daycare group, she has a soft spot against her tummy for him. He walks over the other snoozers and takes his place. It should be



health care attended to immediately. After catching up to other kittens, thanks to the kindness of the Gerdy's Rescue volunteers and veterinary clinic staff, he is healthy, has had all his treatments and vaccinations, and is also neutered.

We all look forward to Picasso becoming a member of a family in our neighborhood, where he would be keen on bonding with a dog of his own. Please contact Gerdy's Rescue at its website [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org), where you can send a note on its contact message page or email at [info@gerdy'srescue.org](mailto:info@gerdy'srescue.org).

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Greene to St. Antoine sidewalk closed until June

# Graffiti, noise issues raised during Turcot Neighbourhood Committee meeting

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Concerns about graffiti and overall noise levels during the ongoing reconstruction of the Ville Marie expressway were two issues raised by Westmouters during a meeting of the NDG/Westmount Neighbourhood Committee at Victoria Hall April 24.

“My main concern is the overall noise,” committee member Michael Mossop of Columbia Ave. in Westmount said in an interview with the *Independent*. According to Mossop, the current level of noise allowed near Columbia Ave. is 68 decibels.

“But at the other measuring stations on Bruce, and I believe there’s also one near Hillside, the allowable overnight decibel level is 75, day and night,” he added. “There’s no adjustment for levels at night. So have they moved the goalpost or what? What is the allowable level?”

“My main concern is if you allow the level to be 75 daytime, this is the equivalent to a jackhammer. I just want to make sure they’re measuring to the levels that they committed to.”



From left, Westmount citizen-members Brigitte Stock and Michael Mossop, Jonathan Auger from the city of Westmount and Laurent Turcot-Lamarre and Olivier Beaulieu of KPH Turcot.

As is often the case with the Neighbourhood Committee, answers to these and other questions from the KPH-Turcot construction consortium or MTQ officials aren’t to be given until the next committee meeting months later.

During the meeting, it was announced that the Greene Ave. pedestrian crossing would be closed from April 22 until an un-

specified date at the beginning of June. The Greene Ave. underpass is already closed to motor vehicle traffic.

During question period, Westmount city councillor for District 8 Kathleen Kez voiced concerns about graffiti being painted on the walls under the reconstructed expressway on Greene Ave. between Prospect Ave. and St. Antoine St.

“There’s graffiti there because it’s a new structure,” Kez told the *Independent* afterwards. “My concern is who is going to be responsible to take it away?”

Kez also asked about the future of Selby Park, a linear green space next to the expressway that stretches from Greene Ave. eastward past Brooke Ave.

Kez said she is waiting for the MTQ to provide the city of Westmount with plans for the future of the park, where there once were benches and children’s play equipment. The park has been shut for the past three years during the construction work.

“The land is owned by the MTQ, but it’s an agreement that they have with Westmount for a park there,” Kez added. “It would be nice if Westmount worked with them to configure something nice. The MTQ had said they would be making plans for it and would be contacting Westmount.”

The Neighbourhood Committee will hold its next public meeting on June 11 at 5600 Upper Lachine Rd. in NDG.

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# COMPLETION OF A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE VENDÔME PROJECT

Over the Easter weekend, we successfully performed a tunnel jacking procedure under the railway tracks. Once completed, the tunnel will provide an underground link between the new Vendôme station entrance building and the exo train station, which are both universally accessible.

With only 72 hours to carry out this technical feat, we promptly established a timeline divided into 15 minute increments and had our teams on their toes day and night. Despite poor weather, we successfully completed the procedure in under 59 hours!

## A European technique

The work used a technique called sliding by Autofonçage® for the first time in Canada. To perform this delicate manoeuvre, we cut railways #2 and #3 and excavated part of the ground underneath. The tunnel, made of reinforced, waterproof concrete and manufactured directly on site, right next to its final location, was pushed by computer-aided hydraulic jacks. Its final position was adjusted down to the last millimetre.

## Advantages of the technique

This technique reduces the amount of excavation required and therefore the length of time needed to install tunnels. It is particularly useful when a new tunnel has to go under railways, as it cuts down on interruptions to train service. It also allows the tunnel to be placed as close to the railways as possible so that the customers who will use it won't have to make unnecessary treks up and down.

## What's next?

The second part of the tunnel, which will go under railway #1 and provide access to the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), will be installed at the beginning of the summer. It will be made up of four prefabricated rings that will be placed side-by-side using a traditional excavation method. Customers will be able to access all of these new facilities from fall 2020 onward.

## Highlights of the project



Tunnel construction began on site in January.



The tunnel pushed into its final location.

- ▶ 12 metres long
- ▶ 8 metres wide
- ▶ 600 metric tonnes
- ▶ Advances 1.5 metres per hour
- ▶ 70 metres of rail were removed on each railway to clear enough space for the procedure



# Pop-op artist Patrick Rubinstein at GdB ‘Meet the Artist’

BY HEATHER BLACK

Paris artist Patrick Rubinstein was in town for the April 27 opening of his exhibition at Galerie de Bellefeuille’s Sherbrooke St. gallery. Known internationally for his mesmerizing kinetic images, this is the artist’s first exhibition in Montreal and his first visit to Canada. Drawing on 1960s and 1970s pop culture, many subjects – like John Lennon, Audrey Hepburn and Steve McQueen – are figures from his youth. The gallery describes the works as

being “at the crossroads of optical, pop, and street art.”

“Art,” Rubinstein said, “is successful if it sparks an emotion and taps into our memories.”

Other subjects include artists Frida Kahlo and Andy Warhol, and the “Mona Lisa.” For each work, Rubinstein creates optical and kinetic effects through the use of an accordion fold. He said, “I like to play with the transition of black and white to colour.” When viewed left to right, the “Mona Lisa” dissolves into a Warholesque



Patrick Rubinstein with “Le sourire et le regard” (central view) on April 27.

series of bright mini portraits or to a central, combined image. Other artists are grouped in large works where each portrait is backed by a collage of his or her paintings. The combined central view – the outline of the artist’s face with their art – is a celebration of individual style.

Rubinstein said, “I like to pay homage through my work.” Introduced at age 17 to accordion-fold photos by his father, early portrait commissions enabled him to buy his first car.

After his father’s death in 2006, he demonstrated the technique to his own children and his interest was renewed.

After much experimentation – photographs are digitally reworked and folded by hand – he developed a signature, multiple-image style.

Rubinstein continues to explore related methods including a louver technique for an iconic soup-can work. Recognized internationally, he exhibits throughout France and the EU as well as in New York, Miami, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, and – with several works on display on Greene Ave. – Westmount.

Rubinstein’s exhibition was to continue until May 14 at GdB III, 1455 Sherbrooke St. W.

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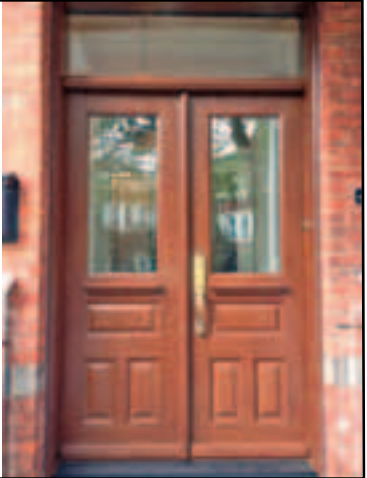
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## Retail Watch

An assortment of news about retailers and retail spaces in Westmount. If you have retail news, please email us at david.price@westmountindependent.com before the 21st of each month. Major changes since the last coverage (March 26, p. RE-10) in bold.

### GREENE AVE. AREA

#### New

**Maison Camélia** preserved flowers, **Westmount Square**, former site of **Rogers/Planète Mobile**, now operating at 2100 Marcel Laurin Blvd. in Ville St. Laurent.

#### Re-opened

Lucille's, 4124 St. Catherine St.

#### Moved

The Rogers/Planète Mobile cell phone store has moved from Westmount Square to 2100 Marcel Laurin Blvd. in Ville St. Laurent. Its Alexis Nihon location remains open.

#### Construction under way

206-208 Olivier Ave.

#### Not in retail use

1394 Greene Ave. (south of Sherbrooke), former site of Lululemon and, before that, the Bank of Nova Scotia.  
1362 Greene Ave., former site of Bistro on the Avenue.  
1358-60 Greene Ave.  
1347 (approx.) Greene Ave.  
1308 Greene Ave.  
1215 Greene Ave. (south of de Maisonneuve), former site of Lou Goldberg Jeweller. Construction permit in window in name of Canada Far-East Art Center Inc.  
1212 Greene Ave.  
4024A St. Catherine St. (east of Atwater), former site of Tutti Frutti  
4026 St. Catherine St., former site of Morning Glory  
4026A St. Catherine St., former site of Tia Maria prêt a porter  
4028 St. Catherine St.

4146 St. Catherine St.  
4148 St. Catherine St.  
4148A St. Catherine St.

### Two first-floor units in Alexis Nihon (up from one)

Unit in Westmount Square near Greene Ave. entrance  
Greene area vacancies: 13  
Estimated\* number of storefronts: 99  
Estimated unit vacancy rate: 13 percent

### VICTORIA VILLAGE

#### Coming

Office of Joseph Montanaro, real estate broker, 4918 Sherbrooke St. (upper), former site of Made in Italy

#### Re-opened

Dormez-vous. 5016 Sherbrooke St.

#### Now open

UCHUU. 4883 Sherbrooke St., former site of Manteaux Manteaux pop-up store.

#### Closed

The North Face boutique at 4924 Sherbrooke St. is now closed.

#### Not in retail use

South side of Sherbrooke  
4822 Sherbrooke St., former site of SunSource  
4848 Sherbrooke, former site of Laurentian Bank  
4858 Sherbrooke, former site of Brasserie Melrose, Brasserie Central, Well House and Mess Hall.  
4920 Sherbrooke St., former site of La Canadienne's Westmount location  
4926 Sherbrooke St., former site of Evolve toy pop-up store and, before that, JoshuaDavid  
4928A Sherbrooke St., former site of Happy Legs, which is now web only.  
4930 (basement) Sherbrooke St., former site of Sharyn Scott, now operating at 4916 Sherbrooke St.  
4932 (upper) Sherbrooke St.  
4932 (lower) Sherbrooke St., former site of Flore, now operating at 4818 Sherbrooke St.

5014 Sherbrooke St, former site of Bois et Cuir, which has moved to 3000 St. Antoine St. W., at Atwater Ave.

#### North side of Sherbrooke

4823 Sherbrooke St., former site of Pier 1  
4825 Sherbrooke St., former site of Gascogne  
4909 Sherbrooke St.  
4915 Sherbrooke St., former site of Ben & Tournesol and Wilfred & Adrienne, now operating at 4937 Sherbrooke St.  
4927 Sherbrooke St. (upper) former site of Au Sommet pop-up store  
4935 Sherbrooke St., former site of Envers.  
4945 Sherbrooke St, former site of Swiss Chocolatier.

#### Victoria Ave.

4 Somerville, former site of Ceiba.  
245 Victoria, former site of Spa Aliyah, now operating at 5000 Jean Talon St. W.  
320A Victoria  
344 Victoria, former site of Déjà Porté consignment store  
344A Victoria, former site of Galerie Licorne/Oleg Dergachov, now operating by appointment only  
345 Victoria (north unit)  
397 Victoria, former site of Guy Lachance Pharmacien, now operating at 370 Victoria.  
Victoria village vacancies: 27  
Estimated\* number of storefronts: 132  
Estimated unit vacancy rate: 20 percent

### OTHER

#### Not in retail use

4498 St. Catherine St., former site of Clifford's grocery store

\*The *Independent* has tried to count all the store spaces easily accessible from street level, which usually means up to one level above or below the sidewalk. Some judgement was required. The Greene Ave. area totals exclude Westmount Square and Alexis Nihon.

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Council okays small ‘wedge’ of tower at 1111 Atwater on Westmount/downtown border



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Demolition Application**

1. The City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit, and for a preliminary programme for the building located at **45 Roxborough Avenue**;

2. A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **June 17, 2019** at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, in Westmount;

**Public consultation meeting**

1. On Monday, May 6, 2019, the Municipal Council adopted, by resolution, the first draft of the following by-laws:

- *BY-LAW TO MAKE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE URBAN PLANNING BY-LAWS IN REGARD TO HOUSES OF WORSHIP*
- *BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND ZONING BY-LAW 1303 – ADDITIONAL USES IN HOUSES OF WORSHIP*
- *BY-LAW ON CONDITIONAL USES*

2. Council will hold a public consultation meeting on **Wednesday, May 23, 2019** at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount.

The legal notices relating to the foregoing are available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

[www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org)

This planned entrance to 1111 Atwater Ave., between Tupper and Dorchester, leads to the condos at the top of the tower. It will be in Westmount. Inset: A site plan extract showing the western portion of the city block under development as “Square Children’s.” The triangular lot at left is in Westmount. Arrow and street names added by *Independent*.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It may be only a small triangular wedge of territory in Westmount but it led to huge challenges before city council approved a building permit May 6 for the portion of a 38-storey tower at 1111 Atwater.

This is at the former site of the Montreal Children’s Hospital where some 95 percent of the tower lies in Montreal, the tallest of five others planned.

“We have come to some compromises and are moving forward,” said Councillor Conrad Peart in moving approval of the permit as commissioner of urban planning for permits and architecture.

“The building straddles the border,” Peart pointed out. “It’s been a very complicated file.”

Interestingly, this is because the line that divides Westmount and Montreal angles through the tower diagonally rather than aligned with the street.

Dealing with both Montreal and Westmount has been a big issue, said Francis Charron, president of Batimo developments and vice-president of EMD construction, which built 175 Metcalfe in 2014 (see story March 11, p. 1, 15).

“If we think we had problems getting the permit for 175 Metcalfe, imagine trying to get it for a 38-storey building where only 5 percent is in Westmount!”

The Montreal permit was obtained some time ago but it had little bearing on the Westmount portion, which has taken some 14 months of review, he said. The project has been under consideration by the Urban Planning department and the Planning Advisory Committee (see story February 26, p. 1).

**Zoned for 9 storeys**

The Westmount zone C11-24-10, in which only the southwest corner of the new building will lie, has a maximum height restriction of 125 feet, equivalent to the nine storeys that are to be in Westmount, Peart explains.

This applies only to what he calls “the tiny wedge” at the southwest corner of the tower.

The first three storeys will actually be covered by six others that will overhang the lower ones for the total of the nine allowable in Westmount. On top of these are 29 floors, all in Montreal.

The tower’s retail section will be on the

The view looking southeast at Tupper (left) and Atwater (foreground and right). The corner of the building at the right of the image is in Westmount. "9th storey" text added by *Independent*.

ground floor, on top of which are seniors' rental apartments, including independent and care units. All are being topped off by eight floors of what are being promoted as 22 luxury condos.

"The Montreal market is on fire," Charon said. "I never imagined I could sell condos at an average of \$1,600 a square foot."

The only entrance in Westmount, at 1111 Atwater, will serve exclusively the condo units. As a result, these will have the Westmount address but will actually be in Montreal. There are two separate retail and apartment entrances on Tupper in Montreal.

The Westmount-Montreal border angles from the dome of Dawson College southeast to well beyond Atwater at Dorchester. This led to similar challenges during the major construction and renovation work to convert the Mother House into Dawson College 30 years ago.

Excavation of the tower started in April with construction expected to take 34 months and delivery in 2022.

#### ***Back and forth***

One complication in the city's review of the project, Peart said, is that the Westmount by-laws were written for buildings of a much smaller scale. "As a result, there's been a lot of back-and-forth with

the developer."

One of the compromises, according to tower architect Stéphane Tremblay, of Lemay architects, involved building materials. It resulted in a final decision to use terra cotta panels on some of the façade, which the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) accepted in lieu of the glazing used on the rest of the building.

"One of the things we were looking for was some kind of coherence with the nurses' building," Peart explained.

The three-storey former nurses' residence, most of which lies in Westmount on the northeast corner of Dorchester and Atwater, is the only original building left at the site. Known for its landmark colonnade entrance, it has been preserved by its heritage rating.

This is the building whose address of 2307 Dorchester, Westmount, is still being used by the city in regards to the city portion. It is reportedly earmarked for commercial-type occupancies.

After construction, very little space will exist between the tower and the nurses' residence, Peart said.

A one-storey garage/utilitarian structure that previously abutted the residence was demolished after a permit was approved following a demolition hearing February 26, 2018 (see story March 6, 2018, p. 1).

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Police Report

Random plate check leads to arrest and DUI charge

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A random licence plate check run by Montreal police officers on a vehicle seen



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driving along Claremont near de Maison-neuve in the early morning hours of May 9 led to the arrest of the driver, who was suspected of being at the wheel while under the influence.

Around 3:40 am, officers in a cruiser carrying out a nocturnal patrol of Westmount spotted and then decided to intercept the vehicle after conducting the plate check and confirming that registration fees for the vehicle were unpaid.

“After investigating the plate, they found the vehicle didn’t have the right to circulate,” said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière.

Although the vehicle’s owner (not a Westmounter) wasn’t at the wheel – another family member was driving – the officers decided to conduct a roadside sobriety test, even though the driver seemed sober, but said he’d visited several drinking establishments earlier.

The roadside breathalyser test estimated the 30-year-old male driver was over the legal limit for blood alcohol content. Laperrière said the suspect was taken into cus-

*Family Day, cont’d. from p. 1*

path will ask cyclists to walk their bikes. The daylong event is typically the city’s best attended, attracting people of all ages between 10 am and 4 pm.

**Starts up at 10 am**

Morning activities are scheduled to start with the make-up booth, the park train, inflatable games and the two Eurobungee attractions, to be joined at 10:30 by pony rides (for ages 10 and under), petting zoo, booths and displays.

Public Security, to be positioned on the paved stretch, will also be on hand and available to check vehicles for the correct installation of child seats. A fire truck and police are also expected to be on the scene with personnel to answer questions and

tody and transported to the Montreal police department’s downtown detention centre on Guy St. where more precise testing for the presence of alcohol was conducted.

“He blew twice, and for the first one it was nearly twice over the legal limit, while the other was just under,” said Laperrière. At this point, the driver was formally placed under arrest for allegedly being at the wheel while having more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

After being tested again just after 5 am, he was still nearly double over the legal limit, Laperrière added.

The vehicle, a 2013 Toyota Scion xD, was impounded. The driver was later released on a promise to appear before a judge for arraignment.

**Storage locker robbed**

A resident of Victoria Ave. who decided to check on her storage area after having not done so in nearly six months filed a complaint with police at Station 12 recently that some of her property from the

explain the operation of their vehicles.

The Contactivity centre’s bake-and-handicraft sale will start at 11 am on the walking path while traditional and novelty races take place on the west soccer fields until 12 noon.

Games (egg toss, balloon toss and tug of war) are scheduled from 12:30 to 3:30 pm also on the west fields, along with carnival booths from 2 to 4 pm, when Family Day ends.

A program is to be delivered to all Westmount addresses listing individual times. Water is to be available throughout the day on the junior fields and attendees are reminded to bring their water bottles.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase from Girl Guides, Venturer Scouts and the Café Mouton Noir.

locker appeared to have been stolen. “It had been since November, but she realized only in May that two items were missing and a report was made,” said Laperrière, while adding that the stolen property was estimated to be worth several thousand dollars.

**Cars damaged**

Two cars parked in an apartment building garage on St. Catherine St. near Metcalfe Ave. sustained light damage, while property was stolen from within one of the vehicles, during a theft incident on May 9. “A suspect got into the garage by an unknown means,” said Laperrière. “They smashed two windows on cars and stole some items from inside the cars.” One of the items stolen was a children’s bicycle, he added.

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## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

It was a game of phones.

Selfies were snapped continuously at the Batshaw Centres Foundation's "Défi Canapé."

Held at the Entrepôts Dominion, the benefit concept is delicious. Renowned local chefs from **Wolf and Workman**, **Grumman 78**, **Le Kitchen**, **Mouton Noir**, **Restaurant Sumac** and **Tuck Shop** serve their signature canapés.

(All participating restaurateurs not only donate their time and expertise, but also all their costs. Bravo!)

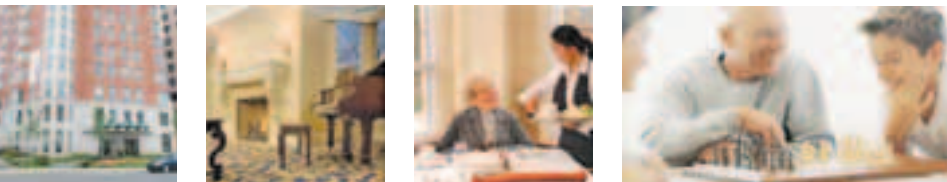
Then guests vote on their favourite. While the competition is friendly, chefs and their teams take it very seriously. Tantalizing offerings ranged from salmon gravlax cured with gin, sous-vide compressed cucumber (lemon and olive oil), dill sour cream, blood orange and caviar mujjol (one of two canapés by Wolf and Workman); corn tortilla with rhubarb compote, halibut (cured in salt, sugar and pine needles) and poblano crema (Grumman 78); shrimp corn dog with .....  
furikake topped popcorn *continued on p. 22*

# Batshaw inspires 'Game of Phones'



Ava Nouraeyan, Parker Sheil, Lisette Olso, Laura Lavy, and co-chairs Tina Khan and Janet Faith.

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Emilia Jamieson, Dan Geltner & Mandy Trudeau of Le Kitchen.



Richard Hart, Jawaid Khan and Timothy Price.



Mark Lowe, Sara O'Brien and Greg Adelstein.

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

(Mouton Noir); feta-stuffed dates with lemon labneh, coconut cashew dukkah and saffron honey (Sumac); and Memphis-style ribs, homemade hush puppy and coleslaw (Tuck Shop).

A tight call, the winner was Le Kitchen's barbecued oyster mushrooms with burnt nori emulsion and fermented cashew cheese on a beet cracker.

Event co-chairs were Tina Khan and Laura Lavy, working with Parker Sheil,



Frank and Alexandra Heidemann.

Lisette Olsson, Ava Nouraeyan and Janet Faith (co-president Batshaw Foundation).

Noted in the crowded room were Westmounters Sara O'Brien and Mark Lowe, Susan and Jawaid Khan, Richard Hart, Denise and former city councillor Timothy Price, Linda Smith, Nicole Small and Charles Porteous, Alison Frupp, Ines Linares and Serge Farman, Lukas Lhotsky, Andréa Nicolas-Cloutier, Charles Bennett, Lucy Riddell, Rochelle Cantor, Greg Adelstein, Tadhg Ferrier, Katherine Nikidis, Alexandra and Frank Heidemann, Lucy Raikes and Andrew Sofin, Shana Rotstein

and David Perlman, Hana Kim, Jean Hamaoui, and Sonia Struthers and John Prendergast.

Attending from the foundation were Michael Udy (executive director) and Elizabeth Cantor (director).

Before venturing into the windy eve guests eagerly lined up at the sweet selection by DoughNats. Batshaw Centres provide services to children, youth and families who have experienced situations of abuse, neglect, serious behaviour problems or delinquency. The fun eve raised more than \$90,000.

## Comin' Up

**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

► Westmount Historical Association presents former principal Paul Saunders on "Westmount Park School: Moving On." \$5. Westmount Public Library. 7 to 9 pm.

► Charles Bronfman on the relationship between Israeli and Diaspora Jews at the Victor and Sheila Goldbloom Family Forum. Free. Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. 7 pm.

**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

Lionel Perez, lawyer, entrepreneur and member of the Montreal city council. Lecture followed by lunch. \$5, reservation appreciated: 514.937.9474 x 139. Shaar

Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. 12 noon.

**THURSDAY, MAY 23**

Public consultation on proposed by-laws for new uses of houses of worship. City hall. 7 pm.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 29**

Jamie Bernstein hosts "Tonight, Tonight!" in honour of her father, Leonard Bernstein. Full orchestra, choirs of Shaar Hashomayim and St. Matthias, and 10 soloists. \$100 to \$250: 514.937.9474 x 139 or [shaarhashomayim.org/event/concert2019](http://shaarhashomayim.org/event/concert2019). Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 120 Côte St. Antoine Rd. 7:30 pm.



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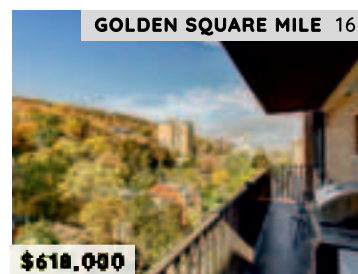
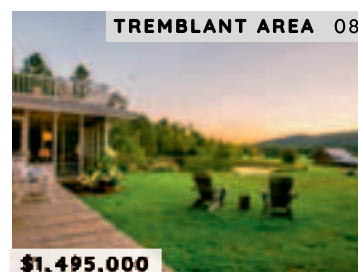
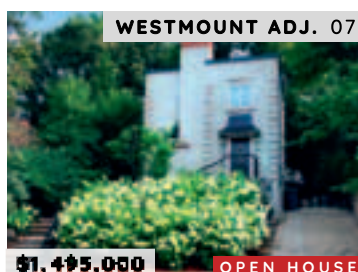
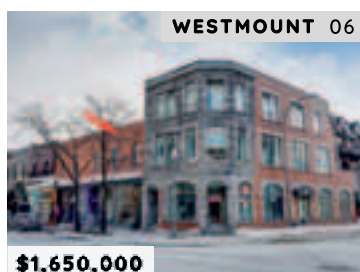
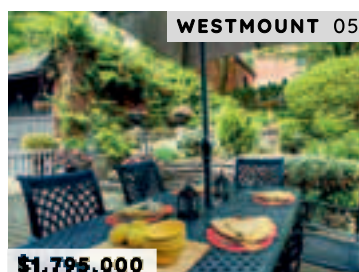
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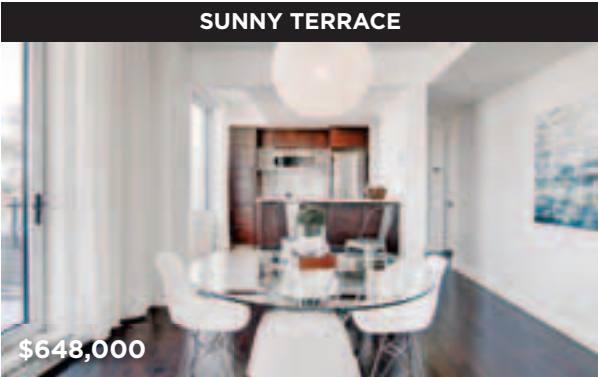
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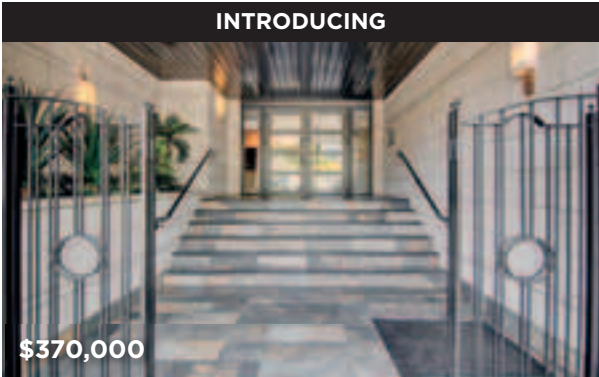
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