

Status of some rec programs unknown at press time

## New COVID restrictions mean adult hockey suspended

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Quebec's new red-level restrictions announced October 5 have suspended all adult hockey in Westmount and related ice rental, director general Benoit Hurtubise said at press time. The city was still awaiting guidelines from Hockey Quebec regarding youth programs related to practices, he said.

### Unclear re: fitness, dance

Also unclear, he said, was whether the fitness, dance and other group activities, such as those at Victoria Hall, could be maintained as long as the current social distancing and other protocols are retained.

Anyone involved would be informed, Hurtubise said.

The new prohibition on gatherings in public spaces announced October 1, however, means community organizations will not be able to use city parks and will probably lead to the removal of the tent outside city hall, he said, but "School activities are not affected."

Dave Lapointe, director of Sports and Recreation, said the department was still planning its registration before the suspension of team sports was announced. Registration for winter programs is still tentatively planned for November 17."

### Some classes cancelled

Some of the department's fall classes scheduled for Victoria Hall had already been cancelled but because of low registration – as sometimes happens – rather *continued on p. 6, bottom*



### Great day, Great Dane

Humphrey, a Great Dane, was enjoying Westmount Park early October 3 along with his people: four-year-old Aila and her mother Letitia Parker.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## 10,000 tonnes of salt coming! City secures road salt, 40 snow-removal trucks

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When concerns turn to the approaching winter, there may be some comfort to residents in finding out the city is stocking up on road salt and the rental of snow removal trucks – even ensuring that the roads superintendent has had his contract extended.

These were three of the business items approved at the city council meeting September 21 following on other winter preparations at the September 8 session.

"The city's slopes require salt to keep the roads as safe as possible," said Councillor Philip Cutler in moving a resolution to join a group purchase with 19 Montreal bor- *continued on p. 6, top*

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**Pick-up service only slightly affected by COVID 'red'**

# Library launches 10 upcoming online events for October

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The reservation and pick-up service called “contactless loans” used by the Westmount Public Library over the last few months has now had to undergo “small changes” as part of Quebec’s new October 1 red-level restrictions, according to library director Julie-Anne Cardella.

While the library has been essentially closed to the public since March, the table where members have been able to pick up reserved items in the main hallway has now been moved to the library door so staff can work warmly while patrons can still get their “contactless loans” without actually entering the library. A scheduled appointment is not needed.

Unlike some libraries, Westmount’s had never advanced to the next opening “stage” that allowed for browsing, Cardella pointed out. “So strangely enough it’s now almost business as usual.”

Right after Premier François Legault announced late September 28 that libraries would be closed October 1, however, “we must have received 500 reservations that night,” she said. “People had been concerned they would not be able to receive what they wanted.”

## Online programs

Because the library had been preparing to launch a number of online events, activities and programs for the coming season, it was ready to list them on its website October 1. Those up to Halloween include:

- October 5: Take and Make Craft Kits for Kids, a fall collage;
- October 7: Lecture on Paris in the days of post-impressionism with Grace Powell, art historian;
- October 12: A Zoom poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd;
- October 13: the Westmount Cinema Club moves online;
- October 17: Virtual Quiz Night;
- October 19: Take and Make Craft Kits for Kids, a spooky craft;
- October 19: French book club, Catherine Cusset;
- October 24: Victoria Hall Studio Sessions;
- October 26: Zoom poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd;
- October 29: Music and Nature by the Season (2- to 5-year-olds)
- October 30: 2020 Halloween Gala online.

More details and times plus listings for November and December can be

found on the library’s website. An icon for receiving the library’s newsletter is also available, Cardella appointed out.

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A library worker talks to a member of the public on October 1 with a table in between them.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

  
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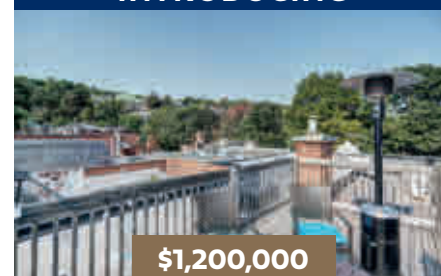
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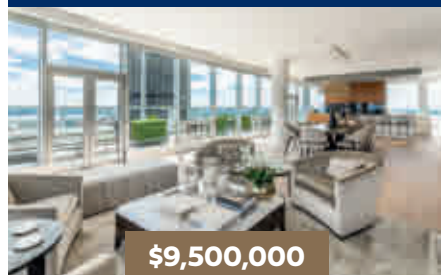
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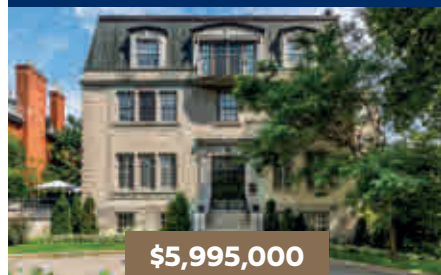
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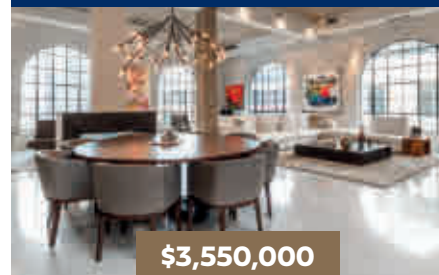
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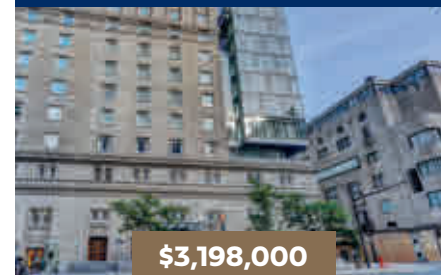
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**Winter is coming, cont'd. from p. 1**  
oughs and the 15 demerged cities to purchase the salt.

“Purchasing in bulk leads to a better price,” he explained, as council voted to spend \$244,263 for the supply of “approximately 10,000 metric tons [sic] of road salt and approximately 250 metric tons [sic] of processed salt for the winter season 2020-21.”

**40 trucks hired**  
When it comes to the snow removal trucks, however, the city goes it alone to obtain some 40 of them with drivers for a

minimum guarantee of \$9,500 per truck before taxes based on hourly rates set by the Quebec Transport ministry.

Council therefore authorized a minimum amount of \$380,000 plus taxes for the supply of 40 trucks for the season from Transvac Montreal and at a maximum of \$1,171,500 plus taxes.

**Roads super**  
The contract of Denis René who had initially been appointed in October 2019 to the position of roads superintendent for Public Works was extended for a fourth time to April 30, 2021.

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The entrance to Victoria Hall, which was both “closed until further notice” and an “entrance only” on October 1. The “exit only” doors were to left/east.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

**Level red, cont'd. from p. 1**  
than new government restrictions, he said. Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator, said 12 classes in all had been cancelled, or 15 percent of those offered, but in some cases age levels had been combined. She attributed the lower-than-usual registration numbers to a “tight” registration timeline before being given the go-ahead by the city and also “vague” information from the provincial government.  
“We’re going to be providing the usual longer registration period for the winter programs,” she added.  
While most of the youth courses had been going ahead, she said, among some of the courses cancelled were adult ballet, weekend adult *tai chi* and adult “discovering English.”  
On the other hand, the new Zoom on-line options for some of the fitness and low intensity classes at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) had been “very positive.”

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# Phone glitch had some worried about Atlas Taxi

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After a telephone system glitch last week left some clients under the impression that Atlas Taxi had gone out of business, the company's general manager said he wanted to set the record straight.

"We're still here," said Kamal Azimi.

For around two hours shortly after 10 am on September 29, according to Azimi, the main incoming phone line (514.485.8585) at Atlas Taxi's offices on Regent Ave. in NDG became disconnected.

"It was some sort of technical error," Azimi said in an interview with the *Independent*, while noting that Atlas's direct line phones located in stores and other public places were unaffected by the outage.

"That was the only reason we couldn't take calls," he said. "Some of our regular customers, when they were calling, there



Seen here outside Atlas Taxi's offices on October 1, general manager Kamal Azimi says the company's main phone line went dead for around two hours one day last week, leading some clients to think incorrectly that Atlas Taxi had gone out of business.

was a message telling them this line was out of service. That's why some people thought we were out of business."

One concerned woman from Westmount contacted the *Independent* last week to say she was concerned Atlas Taxi had closed for good.

Azimi said he first became aware of the phone line problem through Facebook: Atlas drivers were responding to comments left by customers who were reporting the out-of-order line.

However, in spite of challenges like Uber and the COVID-19 pandemic, Azimi said Atlas Taxi is coping well with all the changes by providing chauffeured transportation

to a loyal clientele.

"Even with the pandemic, we have been providing the best possible service, and we will continue to do this for a long time to come," said Azimi.

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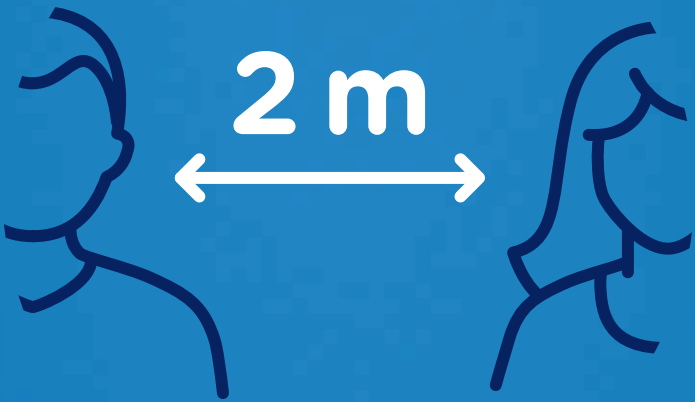
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## St. Catherine St. work awaits construction permit

# 'Le 4469' to convert vacant lot into 'high end' rental units

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new five-storey apartment building approved August 3 by city council on the site of two demolished landmarks on St. Catherine St. is now awaiting its construction permit before the shovel can start digging.

This city requirement involves a number of construction details to be supplied from the contractors and sub-trades, work that is proceeding "very slowly," said Lawrence Vatch, spokesperson for the project called "Le 4469" located just west of Metcalfe.

Taking its name from the address of the Westmount BBQ (formerly known as the St. Urbain BBQ), which had to be razed after a fire November 28, 1991, the project was described last week by Vatch as providing six "high end" rental units.

The "condo-style" units, as he calls them, are to be sprinklered and feature heated bathroom floors, their own central air, hot water tank, granite counters and "lots of cupboard space."

### One ground-floor unit

The one ground-floor unit of 900 square feet is designed to have one bedroom and its own attached private garage. Each of the second and third levels has two two-bedroom, two-bathroom units of 1,100 sq. ft. each while a single unit will take up the fourth floor and the smaller recessed fifth one.

Because this unit will be occupied by Vatch and his wife, Evelyn Wajcer, this leaves five of the new units available for rental.

The project is being developed by Le 4469 Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Evelyn Wajcer Holdings Inc., incorporated 32 years ago, which owns the property as well as KIDS Daycare next door at the northwest corner of Metcalfe and St. Catherine.

The new building, designed by Rick Rubin of Fugurr Architects, is to be faced with St. Marc limestone. Conforming to city zoning has helped hasten the process, Vatch said. It is hoped that occupancy might be possible "as early as the summer."

### Waiting for more space

The well-known Perrette's store and building at 4471 St. Catherine that had adjoined the barbecue and also sustained damage in the fire was later demolished in 1995, leaving the two narrow, separately-owned lots appearing to be one property.

"While we had bought the Perrette property in 1993 directly from Perrette Inc.,



The planned new apartment building at 4469 St. Catherine in a rendering by Fugurr Architects.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF L. VATCH.

it was too small to build on," Vatch explained. But it wasn't until acquiring the (4469) property two years ago from Boulajeri & Papamonioudis that the two vacant lots could be legally amalgamated into an enlarged one allowing for the current pro-

ject to proceed.

Both he and Wajcer are well-known longtime Westmount residents.

Vatch, a former Marianopolis professor, ran for a seat on city council in 1987 against longtime councillor Joan Rothman, which

she won.

Wajcer is the owner and founder of KIDS daycare and other early childhood educational projects as well as daycares, camps and after school programs as a specialist in the field.



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EDITORIAL

Advice to provincial government: be explicit in your messaging, think ahead about minority groups

The province is doing its best to make good decisions about the COVID pandemic and to inform us of them. I would like to make the two following suggestions about its messaging:

- Anticipate questions about less frequent, “non-standard” or exceptional situations. Rather than wait for reporters to ask about this or that minority group, and how new COVID rules apply to it, have a list of groups ready beforehand and explain right away how (if applicable) the new provisions apply to each of them, including: those who live alone, those who need care, those who are vulnerable, those who have two (or more) houses, those with children in school, those who live in multi-generational households, those with cleaners or other domestic staff, those who need repairs or who are in the midst of renovations, those who use public transit, those who travel (in- or outside the province), those who work, those who work in perilous situations, those who don’t work *et cetera*.

- We shouldn’t have to wait a few days into a new regime to hear about how new rules apply to some or all of these known groups.
- Be very clear about the scope of any new

rules. For instance, it seems clear now that the new red-zone rules prohibit *all* gatherings *anywhere* with people outside of one’s household/address, but when first mentioned, that was not made explicit, leading many to assume that the outdoor gatherings that they had been having for months were still okay. I would suggest a wording like this:

“Your household is composed of those people who live at your address. All indoor and outdoor gatherings with people outside of your household are prohibited (except demonstrations with masks), including gatherings that respect the six-foot rule or with masks, and including gatherings in private back yards and on private front porches, in public parks, and on public sidewalks and streets.”

David Price is the editor of the Westmount Independent.

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November 1 school board election

EMSB candidate Rapoport sees room for an independent voice

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Irwin Rapoport, who is challenging incumbent English Montreal School Board commissioner Julien Feldman for the EMSB’s only seat (Westmount-Sud Ouest) not already won by acclamation, is a long-time freelance journalist in west-end Montreal, as well as a former school commissioner and municipal election candidate.

An NDG resident, he became active in community journalism in the early 1990s when he started writing for the weekly *Suburban* newspaper.

By the early 2000s, he was a regular freelance contributor to a number of trade publications in Canada and the U.S., including at least one for the construction sector. As well, he has previous experience as a school board commissioner.

During the early 1990s, he sat on the council of commissioners of the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, which was merged, along with several other boards, in 1998 into the EMSB.

In the early 2000s, he ran unsuccessfully in Côte des Neiges for a Montreal city council seat. For those who are habitual listeners to CJAD, Rapoport is a regular caller during listener phone-ins.

Of the 10 commissioners acclaimed on September 27, only Montreal West-NDG commissioner Joseph Lala was acclaimed as an independent. All others were part of acclaimed EMSB chairman Joe Ortona’s Team Ortona.

Since Rapoport believes the EMSB should have at least some alternative representation, he says voters in Westmount should elect him as the council of commissioners’ second independent member.

“An independent point of view is required on council to ensure all points of view are put forward without being compromised by party politics,” Rapoport said in an interview with the *Independent*. “Public institutions have a responsibility to be beholden to their stakeholders for their actions, and I will strive to ensure that occurs.”

However, at the same time he says he respects the leadership of the EMSB’s newly-elected chairman and says he is not concerned Team Ortona’s overwhelming majority might cause the council to backslide into a situation similar to the one that saw the EMSB placed in trusteeship.

“Mr. Ortona said that he wants respectful and constructive debate, and I trust him on that implicitly,” said Rapoport. He said he had no comment to make on Julien



Seen here on October 1, Irwin Rapoport, who is running as an independent in the EMSB’s Westmount-Sud Ouest ward in the school board election on November 1, is running against incumbent EMSB commissioner Julien Feldman.

Feldman, a veteran EMSB school commissioner.

“This election is not about myself or Mr. Feldman. This election is about the community having an elected commissioner who’s going to speak out for the issues concerning the ward, and issues concerning the EMSB as a whole, and for the protection of the independence of our English school boards.”

Legge Orr, Charest co-chairing MUHC’s Dream Big

Westmounters Suzanne Legge Orr and Jean Charest have been named co-chairs of the McGill University Health Centre Foundation’s Dream Big campaign, which has a \$60-million goal, along with Marc Parent, the CEO of CAE.

“Alongside critical COVID-19 research are priorities such as cancer and cardiovascular care. Not just treatments but cures,” explained an October 1 press release.

The campaign’s goals are to “Solve humanity’s deadliest puzzles, antibiotic resistance and infectious diseases like COVID-19.”

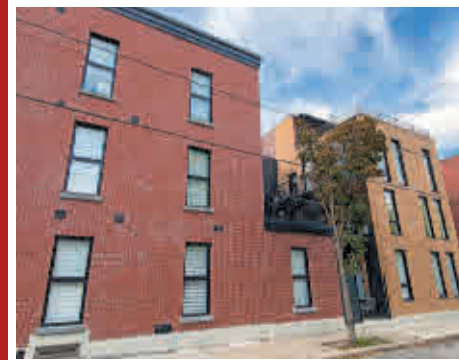
“The MUHC is one of the best university hospitals in Canada. With the Dream Big Campaign, we will make it one of the best in the world,” Norman Steinberg, chair of the foundation’s board of directors is quoted as saying.



## Final soccer of the season?



In Westmount Park September 25 (before the province declared “level red” for Montreal), from left, Isabelle Ince-Cushman, Samia Baki and Abby Iny honed their soccer skills. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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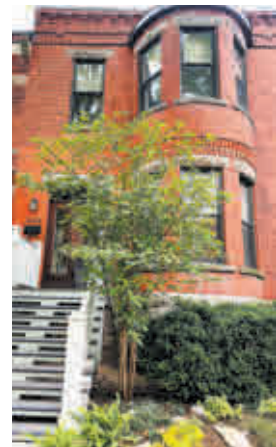
RE/MAX ACTION Westmount  
 1225 Greene Ave,  
 Westmount H3Z 2A4  
 514-933-6781  
 fax 514-313-5362




### Westmount Adj., 3424-8 St-Antoine

Triplex only 10 minutes walk from the metro. Always rented. 3 parking spots included in the leases. Top floor apartment is on 2 levels. Balconies. Drenched in sunlight. Elastomere membrane roof 2020. Great investment!

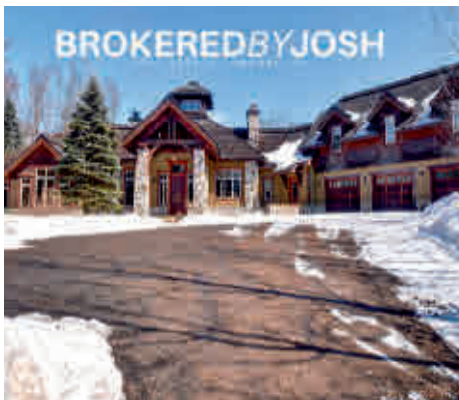
**\$1,300,000**



### Westmount, 252 Prince Albert

Gorgeous family home, in the heart of Victoria village, where everything is walking distance. Renovated with great taste and flair. 12 ft ceiling with ornate original details. Spacious living and dining rooms. New kitchen and bathrooms. Finished bsmt with bedroom, gym, and family room. Private home office on 2nd floor with wrap-around windows.

**\$1,380,000**



**\$3,575,000**



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Work continues on Westmount Park paths



Looking north towards Sherbrooke



Looking east towards Melville



Looking south towards de Maisonneuve

Westmount Park was abuzz with activity October 1 as two paths leading north to the bridge over the lagoon were closed and repaired. The bridge was closed too. This work follows repaving of the path lining the south side of the lagoon (see September 29, p. 16).

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.





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# An approach adapted to the different regions to limit transmission of the virus

It is now more important than ever that we follow health measures to limit the spread of the virus. It is essential that each of us remains vigilant and adopts good habits. Since the virus is not spreading everywhere at the same rate, a new tool has been implemented to show how the situation is evolving in each Quebec region. This four-level alert system will make it easier for you to keep track of the government's interventions.

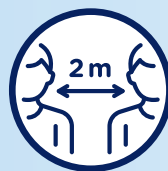
We must contain the spread of the virus throughout Quebec. This is how we can retain some level of normalcy over the next few months. Each region can make a big difference in limiting the spread of the virus. Let's continue to protect each other.

## Progressive regional alert and intervention system

The Progressive regional alert and intervention system specifies which additional measures each health region must take to slow the transmission of the virus. These depend on the alert level reached and are intended to limit the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, protect those who are most at risk and avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

The alert levels are established based on the recommendations of public health authorities who regularly review the situation, taking into account the epidemiological situation, transmission control and the capacity of the healthcare system.

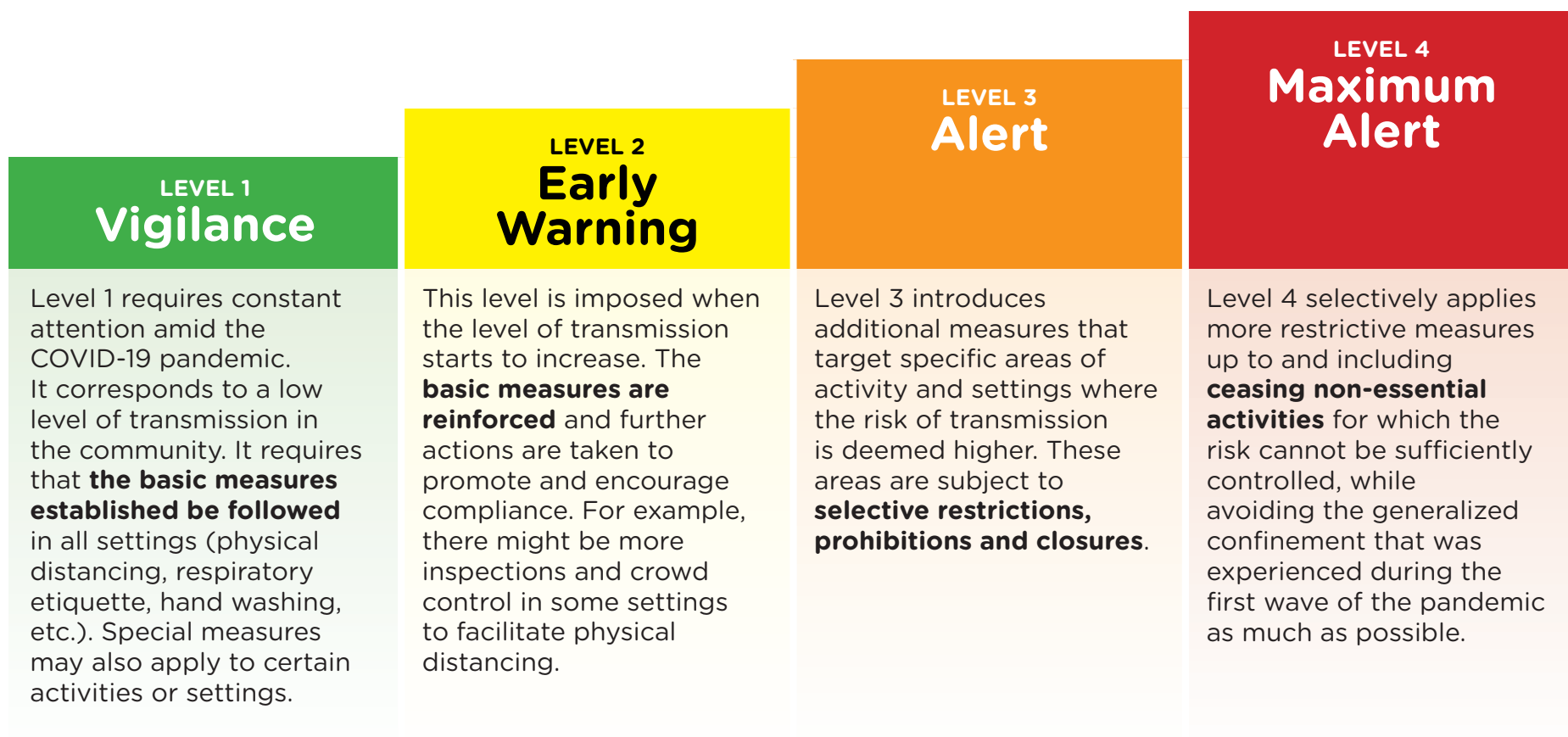
Don't forget that everyone must adopt behaviours that limit transmission of the virus. We do it to ensure that our children can keep going to school, to protect our seniors, to ensure the safety of our healthcare workers and to revive our economy. **Follow the basic measures at all times:**



- Keep your distance
- Wear a face covering
- Cough into your elbow
- Wash your hands
- Adapt your greetings



## FOUR ALERT AND INTERVENTION LEVELS



To find out the alert level in your region, consult the Map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at [Québec.ca/alertlevels](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels).

[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

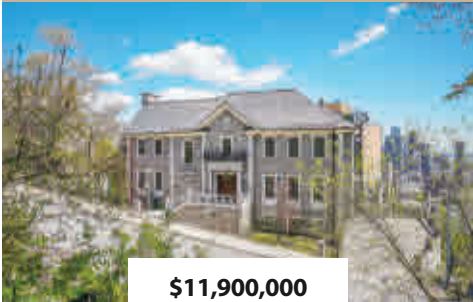
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Québec 



LUXURIOUS HOUSES

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\$11,900,000

RUE REDPATH-CRESCENT, WESTMOUNT ADJ.

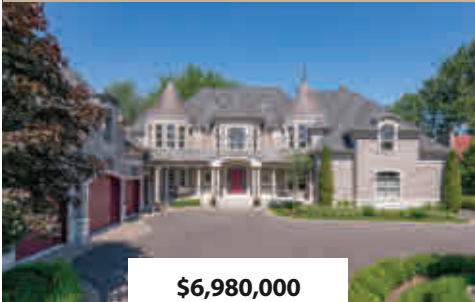
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



\$7,500,000+TX

RUE DE LA MONTAGNE, GOLDEN SQ. MILE

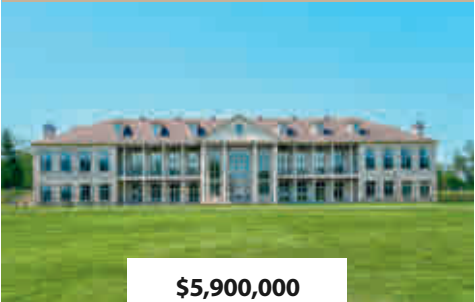
WATERFRONT PROPERTY WITH INDOOR POOL



\$6,980,000

BOUL. MARIE-VICTORIN, BOUCHERVILLE

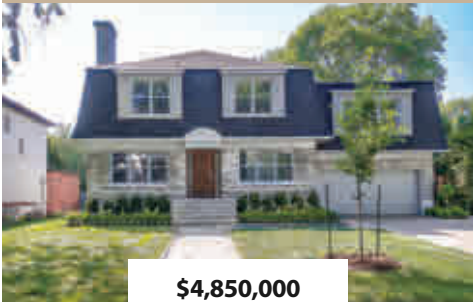
WATERFRONT MANSION | 62 ACRES LOT



\$5,900,000

RUE MAIN, HUDSON

CONTEMPORARY HOME | 7 BEDROOMS, 6 BATHROOMS



\$4,850,000

GENEVA CR., TOWN MOUNT-ROYAL


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\$4,850,000

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OLD-WORLD ELEGANCE | IDEALLY LOCATED



\$4,195,000

AV. MURRAY, WESTMOUNT

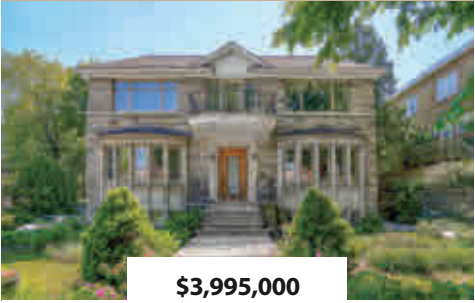
GRAND THREE-STOREY MANSION | 4 GARAGE SPOTS



\$3,998,000

AV. FORDEN, WESTMOUNT

DETACHED STONE DUPLEX | REVENUE PROPERTY



\$3,995,000

AV. VICTORIA, WESTMOUNT

SPACIOUS WATERFRONT RESIDENCE



\$2,995,000

RUE OLIVIER, AHUNTSIC-CARTIERVILLE

THREE-STOREY HOUSE | 2 LARGE TERRACES



\$2,595,000

RUE JEAN-GIRARD, WESTMOUNT ADJ.


GENEROUS VOLUMES | VICTORIAN CHARM



\$2,195,000

AV. ROSLYN, WESTMOUNT

TUDOR-STYLED HOME | PRIVATE DRIVEWAY & GARAGE



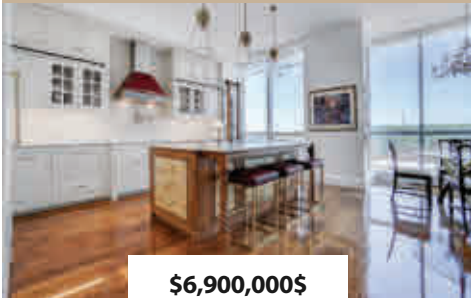
\$1,695,000

AV. GROSVENOR, WESTMOUNT



## PRESTIGIOUS CONDOS

PENTHOUSE | 4,958 SQ. FT. | PANORAMIC VIEWS



**\$6,900,000\$**

**“AVENUE”, DOWNTOWN**

SUBLIME PENTHOUSE | 4,500 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE | PRIVATE ROOFTOP TERRACE

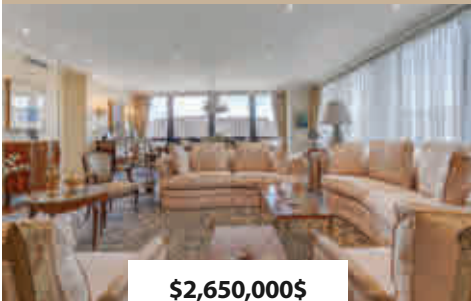


**\$4,895,000\$**

**“COURS MONT-ROYAL”, DOWNTOWN**



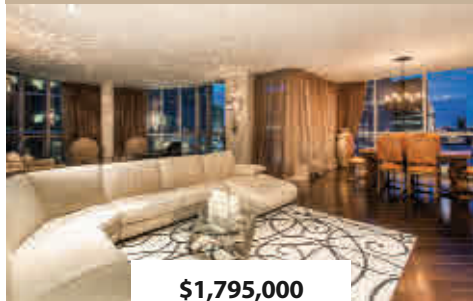
SPACIOUS APARTMENT | SUBLIME MOUNTAIN VIEW



**\$2,650,000\$**

**“WESTMOUNT SQUARE”, WESTMOUNT**

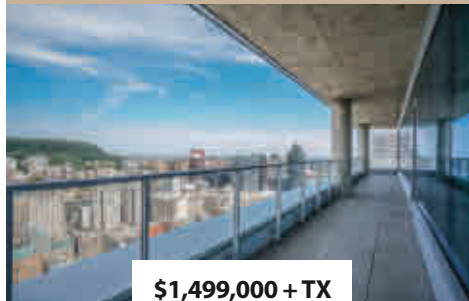
SOUTH-EASTERN VIEWS | DOUBLE GARAGE



**\$1,795,000**

**“LE PHÉNIX”, OLD PORT**

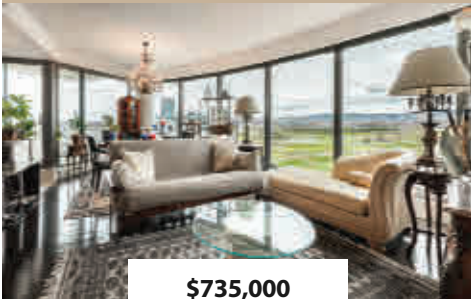
ON CONCRETE | IMPRESSIVE TERRACE



**\$1,499,000 + TX**

**“ICÔNE”, DOWNTOWN**

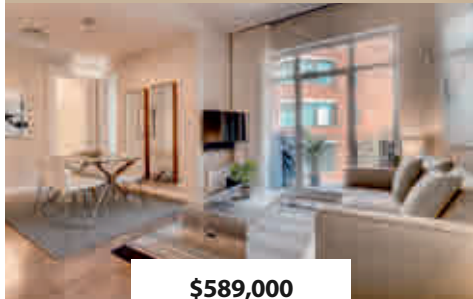
CONTEMPORARY APARTMENT | PANORAMIC VIEWS



**\$735,000**

**“VISTAL”, NUNS’ ISLAND**

HIGH END FINISHES | ONE PARKING SPOT



**\$589,000**

**“175 METCALFE”, WESTMOUNT**

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**“COURS MONT-ROYAL”, DOWNTOWN**



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# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in April 2020

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
5 Anwoth	Alice Switocz & Jonathan Goldbloom	\$2,525,000	\$2,498,700	1.1%
57 Columbia	Richard Guay	\$1,210,000	\$1,012,500	19.5%
356 Côte St. Antoine	9166-7949 Québec Inc.	\$2,125,000	\$1,781,500	19.3%
4820 de Maisonneuve	Liming Ma	\$1,998,000	\$2,041,000	-2.1%
338 Elm	Proximi-T Developments Inc.	\$1,532,000	\$1,230,000	24.6%
252 Kensington	Paul Raymond & Sophie Roberge	\$1,890,000	\$1,599,100	18.2%
375 Metcalfe	Jennifer Lockhart	\$1,350,000	\$1,325,900	1.8%
4400 Montrose	Yves Michel Creton	\$2,200,000	\$1,713,800	28.4%
526 Mount Pleasant	Gary Shannon & Kimberley Holden	\$3,350,000	\$2,290,800	46.2%
15 Renfrew	Phyllis Wener	\$1,695,000	\$1,344,000	26.1%
22 Rosemount	Guy Savard	\$2,425,000	\$2,288,900	5.9%
481 Roslyn	Richard Cherney & Ronda Diamond	\$3,325,000	\$2,650,200	25.5%
4473 St. Catherine	Leiter International Inc., Jewel Publications Ltd., Shirley Sarna	\$870,000	\$961,200	-9.5%
91 Summit Crescent	Lofts des Arts Properties Inc.	\$4,450,000	\$4,250,000	4.7%
103 Sunnyside	Dan Shen	\$1,700,000	\$1,599,700	6.3%
4848 Westmount Ave,	Murielle Zagury	\$1,805,000	\$1,334,300	35.3%
OTHER				
Holton Ave. (garage)	Jeremy Kornbluth & Jessica Reinglas	\$350,000	\$110,500 <sup>1</sup>	216.7%
4300 de Maisonneuve	bcIMC Realty Corp. (based in Vancouver)	\$192,360,000	\$96,700,000 <sup>1</sup>	98.9%

<sup>1</sup>Sale took place in November, 2019, valuation is the 2017 valuation which was in effect in 2019.

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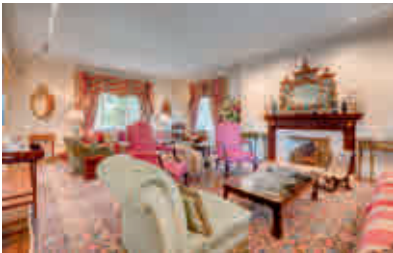
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# April transfers: Volume continues strong

## Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

*Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in April 2020. A list of sales can be found on p. 18.*

Volume surged in April this year in terms of real estate closings, as buyers signed deeds to purchase 16 single-family dwellings, after averaging only seven per month in the first three months of the year.

The sales ranged in price from \$870,000 for 4473 St. Catherine St. – the second-lowest price and one of only three houses in Westmount to sell below \$1,200,000 so far this year – to \$4,450,000 for 91 Summit Crescent, the highest price for a house in the first four months of 2020. The latter is an elegant transformation of a 1956 bungalow, which was redesigned and basically rebuilt by architect Alain Carle (see January 29, 2013, p. 2).

Between those two extremes were two houses selling between \$3.3 and \$3.4

million, another four between \$2.1 and \$2.6 million and eight others, all well over \$1 million.

The St. Catherine house was the biggest mark-down compared to municipal valuation, 9.5 percent less than valuation. (It is just west of two empty lots being developed into a small apartment complex. See story, p. 9)

The highest mark-up in April was 46.2 percent, involving the second-highest April price, at 526 Mount Pleasant Ave., \$3,350,000.

The average mark-up for the month was 15 percent, down slightly from the averages in February and March but in fact almost equal to the first-quarter average. Average price in April was \$2,153,125, and if the average mark-up is applied to the average 2020 valuation, the price would move up to \$2,229,000.

## Condos

Buyers apparently were not interested in signing for condominiums in April, and it would appear there was little interest in buying condos early in 2020, perhaps because of the initial reaction to the pandemic news, even though the higher-than-usual volume among single-family buyers



91 Summit Crescent on September 25.

## Other Vic Park businesses unaffected

# 'Victoria Park Health Club' closes, re-opens on Sherbrooke as 'The Studio MTL'

The Victoria Park Health Club has closed, the *Independent* learned last week, although the business' owner, Val Desjardins, was quick to point out that her business was only named after the large, multi-tenant building on Victoria Ave. near Sherbrooke. "Victoria Park as a building is still there and running."

"The business model [of our gym] as it

was was not sustainable," she told the *Independent* by phone October 5. She never re-opened in person after the spring lockdown, although trainers continued to work via Zoom, and she has now "reimbursed every single client."

She has re-opened in a smaller (5,000 vs 20,000 square feet), "much more COVID-friendly" space "for the next year,

at least," where North Face boutique used to be on Sherbrooke near Prince Albert. The new site is called The Studio MTL and trainers are again working via Zoom as Desjardins awaited word from the provincial government on conditions and regulations before opening the new facility.

shows that they didn't seem to be worried about the coronavirus. In some of the deeds, notaries wrote that they had been "signed remotely" and the deeds later confirmed in person.

Processing of deeds by city hall revealed two more sales in November 2019, including by far the highest-priced sale of that year, as the massive 4300 de Maisonneuve Blvd. complex changed hands from a Vancouver-based holding company to an Ottawa-based group, the Minto Apartment Limited Partnership, for \$192,360,000, almost double its 2017 valuation. Another sale involved a garage behind houses on Holton Ave. between ..... Wood and Elm Aves., *continued on p. 20*

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*Dodge, cont'd. from p. 19*

whose sellers had been residents of 488 Wood Ave. This may indicate the value of off-street parking spaces near the very busy commercial area around Sherbrooke St. in eastern Westmount.

## Skunk near Stayner

Two Westmount residents saw a skunk in the alley between Stayner St. and Dorchester the evening of September 30. To their great relief, it did not spray them.

### LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

#### Lawn Mowing, Gardening

Lawn mowing, weeding, trimming, raking leaves, snow shoveling. Please contact Vince at 514-294-5562.

#### Lost Glasses

Sunglasses, Black and blue frames, prescription lenses, on Sept. 22nd. Please contact Scott @ 514-839-7891.

### Classifieds in the *Independent*

Why list your goods (or services) on fly-by-night, who-knows-who-is-replying websites when you can list (and sell) locally?

Buy a classified in the *Westmount Independent* at:

**[www.westendclassifieds.com](http://www.westendclassifieds.com)**

**Buy locally to sell locally**



4473 St. Catherine on September 25.

## Simons offers platform for Chez Doris mittens

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter Marina Boulos-Winton, executive director of Chez Doris, announced The Mittens Project now has a sales outlet.

Working with Cécile Branco, director of Fabrique 1840 by La Maison Simons, mittens made by Chez Doris' clients and volunteers will be sold on the Fabrique 1840 virtual marketplace, a sales platform created by Simons to support Canadian artisans.

The proposal to approach Simons came from one of Chez Doris's longtime volunteers, Tina Donolo, who manages the Mittens Project.

"We agreed to collaborate with Chez Doris because we are all affected by the actual situation and especially women who live in precarious situations," said Branco.

Boulos-Winton is pleased that the project can raise funds for the refuge. Founded in 1977, Chez Doris is a charitable organization offering women in difficulty daytime shelter seven days a week. The house provides meals, respite, clothing, socio-recreational activities, and practical assistance in a secure and accepting environment.

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#### POSEIDON PLATTER: \$225

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GRILLED OCTOPUS, GRILLED CALAMARI  
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# infoWESTMOUNT

2020.10.06 • Vol. 1/12

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Published by the City of Westmount

## NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 2 novembre

## NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, November 2



### Vaccin contre la grippe 2020 : pas de clinique mobile au Victoria Hall

En raison de la pandémie, le CLSC ne tiendra pas de clinique mobile cette année. La vaccination sera disponible uniquement sur rendez-vous au CLSC. Plus de détails : [clicsante.ca](http://clicsante.ca) ou [ciussscentreouest.ca](http://ciussscentreouest.ca).



### 2020 flu vaccine: no mobile clinic at Victoria Hall

Due to the pandemic, the CLSC will not hold mobile clinics this year. The flu vaccine is available only by appointment at the CLSC. For more details, consult [clicsante.ca](http://clicsante.ca) or [ciussswestcentral.ca](http://ciussswestcentral.ca).

### COVID-19 : passage en zone rouge

Consultez le message de la mairesse Christina M. Smith à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Appuyez nos entreprises locales

En raison de la désignation zone rouge, les salles à manger et restaurants sont désormais fermés. La Ville offre une liste de commerces locaux offrant des services par livraison ou pour emporter. Consultez-la à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Bureaux municipaux fermés au public

En raison de la pandémie, les édifices de la Ville demeurent fermés, mais nos services sont toujours disponibles par téléphone ou en ligne. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Imagine Westmount 2040

Suivez cette démarche participative de révision complète du Plan d'urbanisme de la Ville. [engage.westmount.org](http://engage.westmount.org)

### Travaux de réparation des sentiers du parc Westmount

La Ville effectuera des réparations nécessaires à certains sentiers en béton du parc Westmount au cours des deux prochaines semaines. Ces travaux nécessiteront l'usage d'équipements et de véhicules dans le parc. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Patinage et bâton-rondelle

Réservez en ligne pour les activités de patinage et de bâton-rondelle. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### COVID-19: Moving into the red zone

Read the message from Mayor Christina M. Smith at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Support our local businesses

Due to the red zone designation, restaurants and dining rooms are now closed. The City has published a list of local businesses that offer delivery and takeout services. Find it at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Municipal offices closed to the public

Due to the pandemic, the City's buildings remain closed, but our services are available by phone or online. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Imagine Westmount 2040

Follow this participative process to produce a new urban master plan for the City. [engage.westmount.org](http://engage.westmount.org)

### Repair work to footpaths in Westmount Park

The City will carry out necessary repairs to some concrete footpaths in Westmount Park during the next two weeks. This will require the use of equipment and vehicles in the park. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

### Shinny Hockey and Skating

Reserve online for skating and shinny hockey. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Activités d'automne

Découvrez notre programmation d'activités culturelles et communautaires qui seront diffusées sur le web et sur les médias sociaux cet automne. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)



### Gala d'Halloween 2020 en ligne

Envoyez-nous une photo de toi en costume avec ta citrouille décorée (sculpture permise). Il y aura un sac surprise et un bricolage à ramasser, et des prix à gagner! [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Conférence : Paris in the Days of Post-Impressionism

Mercredi 7 octobre, 19 h via Zoom. Grace Powell, historienne de l'art et guide au Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, parlera de l'exposition Signac et les indépendants. [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)

### Club de cinéma de Westmount

Le club se déplace en ligne! Inscrivez-vous au bulletin du club à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### L'heure du conte en ligne

De nouveaux contes pour les enfants d'âge préscolaire, les tout-petits et les bébés seront diffusés à [youtube.com/bibliowestmount](http://youtube.com/bibliowestmount) et à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Service de cueillette sans contact

La Bibliothèque demeure fermée au public, mais notre service de cueillette se poursuit. Une fois vos items sont réservés et confirmés, vous aurez deux jours pour les récupérer, sans rendez-vous. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Besoin d'une carte de bibliothèque?

Demandez votre carte de membre à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Suivez-nous sur les réseaux sociaux!

Recherchez les icônes sur la page d'accueil à [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

## LIBRARY

### Fall activities

Discover our wide range of upcoming cultural and community events that will be presented online this fall. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### 2020 Halloween Gala online

Send us a photo of you in costume with your decorated pumpkin (carving allowed). There will be a surprise loot bag and a spooky craft to pick up, and you could win a prize! [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Lecture: Paris in the Days of Post-Impressionism

Wednesday, October 7, 7 p.m. on Zoom. Grace Powell, art historian, docent at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, will discuss the exhibition Signac and the Independents. [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)

### Westmount Cinema Club

The Club is moving online! Sign up for the Club's newsletter at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Storytime online

New stories for pre-schoolers, toddlers and

babies will be posted online at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org) and [youtube.com/bibliowestmount](http://youtube.com/bibliowestmount).



### Contactless pickup service

The Library remains closed to the public, but our pickup service continues. Once your items have been reserved and confirmed, you will have a 2-day pickup window, no appointment necessary. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Need a library card?

Request your membership card at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).

### Follow us on social media!

Look for the icons on the main page at [westlib.org](http://westlib.org).





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Renaud's new book hot off the press

'Superpower' wins over dislike of Brussels sprouts

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A little girl named Albertine Petit-Brindamour hates Brussels sprouts, although she thinks they're great for playing mini-golf and marbles or making snow-men's eyes. Anything, that is, but eating. And she's quick at finding them when mixed in with green beans, broccoli, eggs in an omelette or even camouflaged in mashed potatoes.

That's the subject of Anne Renaud's latest children's book, hot off the press September 16 called *Albertine Petit-Brindamour déteste les choux Bruxelles*. This is at least the tenth children's book from the prolific Westmount author in either English or French or both.

Favourite food: muffins

And just like the subject of some of her other stories for kids targeting ages 5 to 8, this one was inspired by one of her nieces, this time one who was "a bit picky" about sprouts. Renaud set out to find a solution and ended up doing a fair amount of research on what parents might do to encourage kids to eat the veggie.

"Because one of my niece's favourite foods is muffins, I thought that might make the sprouts irresistible," she said. And it was. "When they were mixed in with grated carrot and honey, they tasted more like carrot muffins," she explained.

And this led to the story in which Albertine's mother tries to tempt her into eating

sprouts saying they are full of vitamins, good for the brain, are the colour of emeralds and even

sells sprouts muffins to make. As they cook, the kitchen smells yummy. Once cooled, she gobbles one then another and another, waiting to see what sort of superpower will result.

Suddenly she doesn't feel so well but as she lets out a big fart that startles her cat, she's left with a huge smile at her newfound superpower.

A recipe, modified and taste-tested, is included at the end of the book, which is now available at Westmount Public Library by reserving to pick up at the curbside service, according to children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

Published by La courte échelle in Montreal, every page is brightly illustrated by Élodie Duhamel, who turns Brussels sprouts into little green faces laughing and sticking out their tongues. The company also owns the English rights, although there is no plan for an English edition at present.

*Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament*, Renaud's award winning book from the Canadian Writer's Federation in 2018, was read last month by Julie Andrews (of *Mary Poppins*) and her daughter on their podcast [www.julieslibraryshow.org/episode/2020/08/12](http://www.julieslibraryshow.org/episode/2020/08/12).

Renaud, who works at city hall as executive assistant to Mayor Christina Smith, said she has two more French books and one in English awaiting publication in 2021.

green like Albertine's favourite superheroes. Who knows, she suggests, maybe they will give her a superpower?

Cooking up a superpower

So with that on her mind, Albertine goes to bed wondering about the superpower and then combs through her mother's recipe books until she finds Brus-



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## In Conversation

HEATHER BLACK

## Author Siré on writing in trying times

about the challenge of writing in 2020.

**Pandemic reality**

For the past 15 years, Siré has written poetry, fiction, essays and reviews full time. But she explained: “Back in March as the pandemic was developing, I was too anxious and distracted to write.” However, when the *Montreal Review of Books* asked her to review two books of poetry, she said yes.

As a child, Siré was encouraged by her mother to write reviews of the books that she read. Among her published works, reviews for *Arc Poetry* and *Montreal Serai* as well as the *Montreal Review of Books*. Reviewing *POP* by Simina Banu and *The Loudest Thing* by Joshua Levy – published in their Summer 2020 edition – enabled her to re-engage with her own creative writing.

The summer proved to be productive for the author. Siré worked with an editor on a upcoming book of poetry and with a translator on *The Other Oscar*. She was also interviewed for an essay on her literary work to be published in the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies*. She commented: “Being creative is good for your soul. Trying to do something or taking a workshop distances us from our anxieties or the situation that we find ourselves in.”

**Industry adaptation**

In the past, Siré has given readings of her work at literary events across Canada and in New England, as well as at Concordia and a university in Slovenia. “But this spring,” she said, “one by one my engagements were cancelled.” However as literary events went online, Siré’s slated performance with Gloria Macher at the Festival de Poésie de Montréal evolved into a video-poem.

But the pandemic – and social distancing – also entered the author’s imagination when she questioned: “Are my characters getting too close?” Siré said: “The West-

mount Public Library and Atwater Library were a lifeline to me – keeping me thinking and reading.” She also praised *Argo Bookshop*: “They are great supporters of local talent and local readers.”

A creative-writing coach, her advice for those seeking publication is to submit to literary journals and writing competitions. Siré has been a finalist several times and was shortlisted for the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction in 2017 offered by the Quebec Writer’s Federation. She explained: “The challenge of work-

ing with deadlines and length constraints forces writers to be succinct and use language that is compact and compelling.”

**Creative resilience**

Beginning October 6, Siré will present an online, eight-week creative-writing workshop for the Quebec Writer’s Federation. Her advice to novices: “Writing is magical, and if you keep it up and work hard, you will see great results.” Her final comment for these trying times: “And don’t be afraid!”

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# It's crystal clear: people want to bead it



## Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As these days (daze!) put strain and stress on the best of us, some people are turning to a centuries-old source for calm: natural rocks.

Sisters Jaime, left, and Jessica Sigler of Bead It explained that crystals are said to offer healing for mind, body and soul. Whilst closed during the spring lock-down, luckily their online shop continued to thrive.

Now open again, the boutique offers an array of beautiful beads.

"We bring the world to Westmount. We literally have beads from all around the globe," explained Jessica.

"Our natural stones are real, not dyed," adds Jamie.

Ancient philosophies have praised crystals' power to allegedly enhance positive energy, while helping clear the negative.

Apart from a steady stream of clientele "who believe in stones' healing abilities," customers love the stand-out necklaces made of fabulous semi-precious stones.

The sisters showed me gorgeous jades – both green and lavender. Who knew? The outstanding blue *lapis lazuli* from Afghanistan comes in a ready-made piece or in strands.

"Most of our clients are now buying ready-made."

I just made it out of the shop before my classic black T was adorned with a gorgeous pink aquamarine classic piece, its large round stones both modern and tribal. Oh, and the pearls beckoned alluringly.

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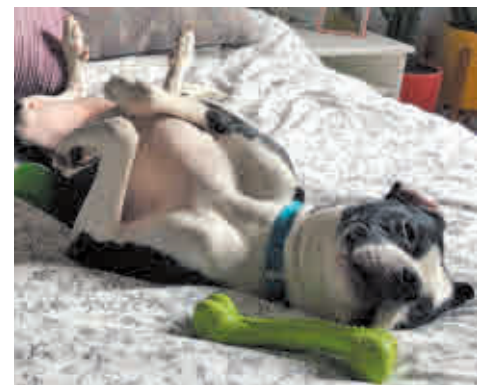
# Oreo, looking for love

Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, such a wonderful photo of Oreo enjoying a snooze on the bed. There are so many other photographs from his foster mom's album, including ones where he is sunbathing on the deck, snoring under a blanket on the sofa, smiling as his head rests on a soft toy ...

This darling dog was taken in by the Montreal SPCA after his caregiver died. He was then placed in foster care.



Poor Oreo was alone in the home until he was rescued and, after these difficult circumstances, he is still in need of extra affection and comfort. His foster family is very caring and nurturing, which has given him great strength and, as you can see, so much joy.

In our neighborhood, we pride ourselves on knowing our dogs: their breeds, their health, their nutrition, their activities, their vetting ...

We also know how to help a poor soul who needs time and affection to find his place in a loving environment.

Oreo is a precious senior at 10 years of age, he is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He has also just had a dental treatment and has a sparkling smile!

Oreo's identification number is A45476382 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



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## THE GOLD SQUAD REPORT THRIVING DURING THE SECOND WAVE



By Heather Parnell

During the spring and much of the summer, we were in confinement for so long — it felt like forever. We were all in survival mode.

Then, we seemed to collectively realize that survival wasn't nearly enough. The fallout from lockdown — especially among seniors — was substantial. No exercise led to physical decline. Isolation led to loneliness and desperation. For many, lack of stimulation meant cognitive deterioration. At the time, the drastic measures taken were understandable: protection and survival were the priorities while navigating an increasingly chaotic landscape. Then the sun came out. We became cautiously optimistic. Yes, it was a new normal — but it was something!

Now... we're in the second wave. People seem calmer. We've all learned something — but we have to use that learning so that seniors and their families feel secure, protected, reassured... and optimistic.

Increasingly, seniors and families are opting for staying at home. This provides a certain measure of control, a considerable measure of accessibility and a major measure of comfort.

Seniors who require in-home companionship and care must be vigilant about their care providers.

- Where else does each caregiver work?
- What measures are taken about the caregivers' clothes?
- How many caregivers are necessary?
- How to ensure that clean masks, gloves and sanitizers are

always used?

- What kind of activities are on offer during a second wave?
- How to deal with hospital and doctors' appointments during the pandemic?
- How to ensure physical as well as mental stimulation?

These are all important questions. Fortunately, Gold Squad has the answers. Not only do we guarantee the utmost protection and care for our clients, early on, we also realized the need for a repertoire of creative initiatives. These include art therapy, memory care, life journaling, and more.

To be sure, caring for seniors requires the mastery of specific tasks; dealing with the necessities of a daily routine. But even before our lives were touched by COVID-19, Gold Squad understood that seniors are vibrant members of our communities who have much to give — and still have much to live. Dealing with a pandemic just brought this into sharper focus.

Ask questions — and ask for more. Gold Squad gives you more.

**Heather Parnell is the owner of Gold Squad, a family and friends run team of professional caregivers. You can reach Heather by calling 514-967-8694 or visiting [gold-squad.com](http://gold-squad.com)**



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# Levi survived streets, looking for a home



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He was plucked out of an alley by his rescuers, and given a warm foster home to find his self-confidence again and enjoy everyday pleasures. Levi's foster family reports that he is an affectionate, attention-seeking cuddler. He is confident enough to spend time on laps, nesting and asking to be petted.

Levi is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and treatments, neutered and microchipped. As this adorable fellow is in foster care for the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions volunteer animal rescue group, please refer to its website at [www.gerdys-rescue.org](http://www.gerdys-rescue.org) where there is a contact link in order to receive its short adoption questionnaire. You can also send them an email



directly at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) to find out more about him.  
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# Westmount Park trees gone



A red oak fell in Westmount Park between the lagoon and the library September 3 (see September 8, p. 21) and a second tree was cut down in the same spot on October 1. The second tree's remains, including hollow and whole pieces, were carted away the same day (top photo), leaving no stumps for either tree that the *Independent* could see (centre), plus some mystery insulation (bottom).





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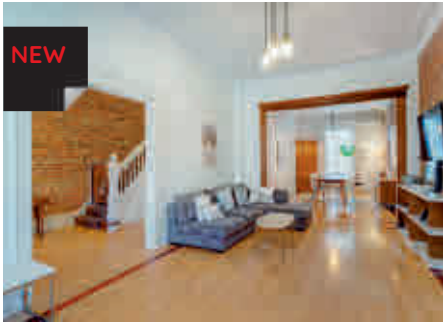


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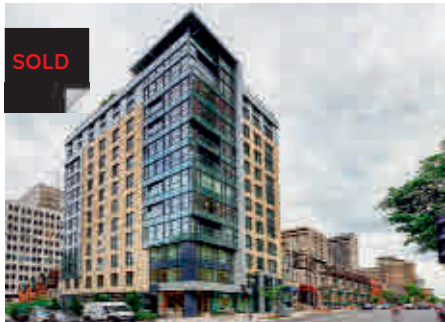
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