

Hydro Q to pay Hydro W – Hydro W to pay customers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount residents can look forward to receiving credits on their electricity bills similar to those being publicized for customers of Hydro Quebec, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise. “These were required by Quebec Bill 34 adopted just before the holidays so now all Hydro Westmount customers can also

look forward to this, probably sometime in March,” he said. This is also when more details will be announced. Exact amounts are not yet known until all meters have been read but are based on about 2.5 percent of consumption billed between January 1, 2018 and December 1, 2019 (before taxes). Based on estimated average consumption, however, he said the credits could be around \$60. Since Hydro Westmount buys electricity from Hydro Quebec as one large single customer and redistributes it to local residents at required Hydro Quebec rates plus “a small profit,” Hurtubise said, the local utility will be reimbursed from Hydro Quebec at what is being estimated at about \$1.1 million. Because the credits include some of the utility’s profit, Hydro Westmount can be expected to lose out in the overall process.

Heads up, cyclists! Car on path



This car was photographed going eastwards on the Westmount Park bike path on February 6. Up until the 1970s, de Maisonneuve Blvd. did run through the park. Was this nostalgia for that era, a mistake in the snowstorm or something else? PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL

COUNCIL COVERAGE

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No requests for possible city-wide referendum Council adopts 2 by-laws to speed up permit processes

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was clear sailing for the approval by city council February 3 of two new urban planning by-laws, 1547 and 1548, regarding landscape design. No petitions were received for a register, which could have led to a city-wide referendum. Both new by-laws were presented at a public consultation meeting December 18.

They amend By-laws 1303 and 1305 on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programs and, in the case of 1305, to modify Guideline 6 on landscaping work in Guidelines to Renovating and Building in Westmount. The new by-laws will enable a number of related projects such as fences, retaining walls and decks to bypass time-consuming review continued on p. 3

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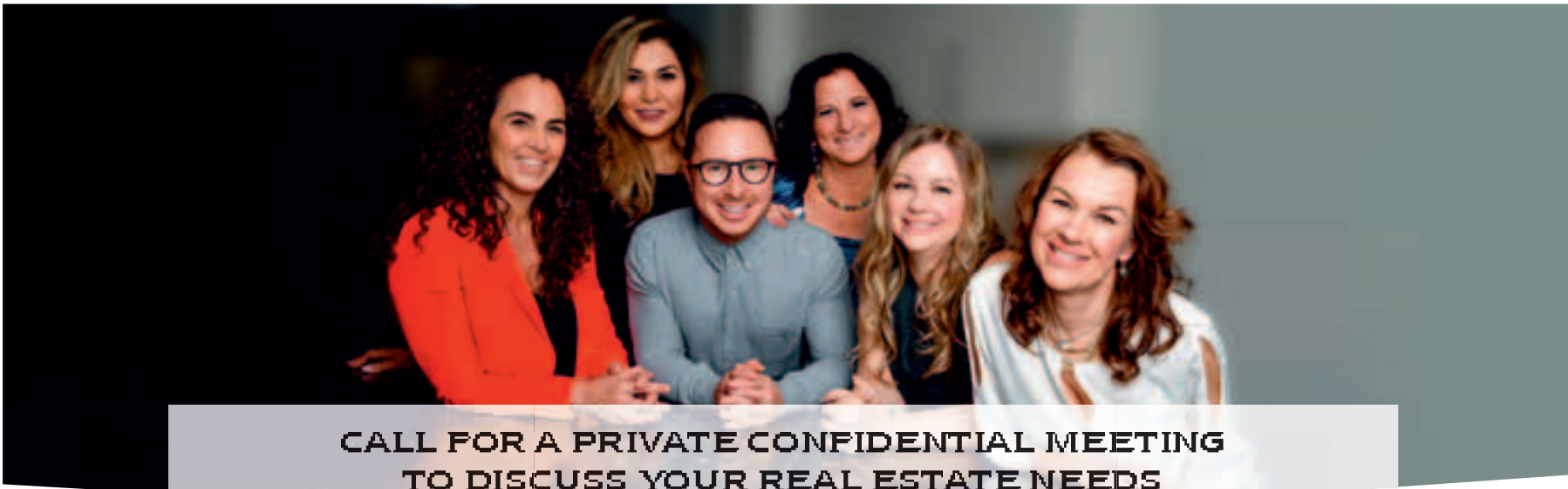
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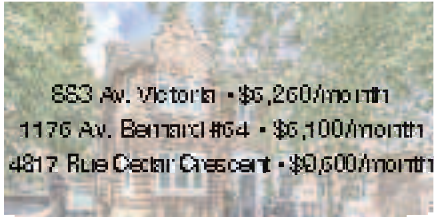
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Church aims to be community centre

Schulich musicians perform at 'peace concert' fundraiser



From left, Conn Scott of St. Henri listens to Emily Rekrut-Pressey on viola and Leah Plave on cello.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Four young classical musicians from McGill University's Schulich School of Music helped raise funds for the Westmount Park Centre for Community, Peace and Ecology with an "English Wit" concert held at Westmount Park United Church on January 25.

It was the fourth in a series of peace concerts organized by Westmount resident Nigel Penney, founder of the Montreal

Music Collective.

Funds raised by the four events will be used to help transform the church, which is currently facing declining membership, into a community centre focused on peace and ecology.

The four performers were Adam Jeffreys on violin, Emily Rekrut-Pressey on viola, Kiarra Saito-Beckman on violin and Leah Plave on cello. They performed works by J. S. Bach, Paul Wiancko, Elizabeth Maconchy and Joseph Haydn.

By-laws, cont'd. from p. 1

processes by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). These permit requests are now to be handled by Urban Planning department employees (see story December 10, p. 1).

Among some of the changes, the use of asphalt paving in new driveways will be prohibited and replaced by more permeable coverage. School yards are exempted from certain landscaping requirements. Also included is a long list of trees indigenous to the Mount Royal heritage site that are recommended for planting in Westmount. This replaces a previous one.

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Asbestos practice of city dates back to 2015

By Laureen Sweeney

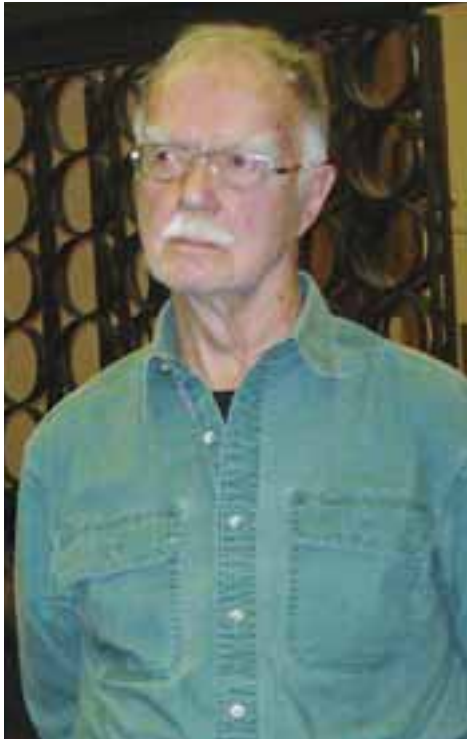
Given the age of so many Westmount houses, for how many years have contractors and do-it-yourselfers been removing even small portions of ceilings and walls with asbestos?

While Westmount has required asbestos checks since 2015 before issuing renovation permits, Richard Lock of Lansdowne Ave. told the council meeting February 3 how a bathroom renovation had forced him to move to a hotel paid for by his insurance company while properly-protected workers removed the contaminated material and used negative pressure fans.

He mentioned how a recent Radio Canada investigation for its program *Enquête* had highlighted Westmount's anti-asbestos stand, which the city subsequently featured on its website last week.

The report, which cited Westmount as an example of a best practice has been requested by the city "since we are the only municipality found in their research which requests asbestos reports," Urban Planning director Tom Flies said last week. But, he confirmed that the city has not changed its requirements since 2015.

That was when then Urban Planning



Richard Lock of Lansdowne Ave.

director Joanne Poirier told the *Independent* that the city was requiring proof of asbestos removal for interior renos before issuing

a permit (see story titled "City now requires proof of asbestos levels for interior renos," November 17, 2015, p. 10).

Asbestos is a known carcinogen. The friable or crumbling form has been generally outlawed since the 1980s. Some insulating materials and drywalls were among products in which it was used.

But while most contractors are well aware of their responsibility to protect their workers, Poirier had explained, when the presence of asbestos exceeds a certain level, "the health and safety of residents is also important for those who may be living in the house during the work."

Quebec government regulations require that workers dealing with asbestos be outfitted in required gear and take numerous other precautions including the disposal of the asbestos-contaminated material.

So what about projects that may be undertaken by do-it-yourselfers who may try stripping plaster or repairing a wall or ceiling without a permit?

'All hell broke loose'

While Lock told the tale at the city council meeting of his recent work that required workers in decontamination suits and breathing apparatus, another Lansdowne

resident who did not want her house identified told the *Independent* separately about her experience "more than five years ago."

"It happened with a water leak in a second-floor bathroom whose repairs required opening a small hole in an inside wall below the bathroom to check pipes there, and all hell broke loose: inspections led to evacuating and sealing off the ground floor for many weeks. I had to move out. It was followed by struggles with our insurer. Asbestos is likely in most houses as old as ours was."

Many of Westmount's buildings date to the turn of the previous century when asbestos was regularly used in plaster and other building materials, Poirier had explained. The city is not enforcing the Quebec government regulations but rather ensuring that they are carried out properly. "We're not taking the word of any 'Joe Blow,'" concerning the absence of asbestos.

She said the information is required during the permit process in which interior demolition or stripping is involved. "We're talking about opening or removing a wall or relocating a doorway, not window replacement. That's minor."

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Leroux introduced as Hydro's new customer service chief

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Chantal Leroux was appointed division chief – customer service for Hydro Westmount at the city council meeting February

Directory sign also approved

1100 Atwater gets final okay for retail in residential zone

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council gave its final go-ahead February 3 to zoning variances requested for the commercial building at 1100 Atwater and, soon after, approved a permit for the installation of a directory of businesses at the northeast corner of the property at Atwater and Tupper, also as requested.

A final resolution allows the office building to exist in what is now a residential zone rather than through vested rights and to have retail premises on the ground- and first-floor levels.

The directory sign is permitted under the city's Guideline 7.1.5 that allows for a free-standing sign at sidewalk level identifying the name of an office building or its

3. She comes to the city in a reorganization of the customer service team and is the first to hold its title of division chief.

In introducing her, Mayor Christina Smith said that after meeting Leroux ear-

lier that evening, "what really struck me is that she believes in service."

"I'm looking forward to serving the citizens of Westmount," Leroux said in response to the welcome.

City director general Benoit Hurtubise, former director of the electrical utility, told the *Independent* that Leroux has a strong customer service managerial background

in similar industries. Her position replaces one previously filled by a team coordinator but the new position requires more managerial responsibility.

The customer service team of four is responsible for billing, debt collection and all interactions with customers including questions from new customers, he explained.



Chantal Leroux at her appointment February 3 and Hydro Westmount director Salah Bouziane.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHORT-SLEEVED STM SAMARITAN

We Westmounters were due for our annual snow storm, and we got it February 7. Standing on the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Decarie, the wind gathered so much strength that it nearly toppled me over, and would have done so had I not grabbed the sign post. No cabs were responding to calls.

Fortunately, Société de transport de Montréal van was standing on red lights and its driver, a good Samaritan dressed in short sleeves, jumped out and, without saying much, helped me and my daughter inside his van.

In true Montreal courteous manner, he drove us to my doorstep at the Manoir Westmount, waving off our offer to compensate him and ignoring my motherly advice to dress properly in the winter.

I think among all the chaos that storm brought us the sun smiled for a moment on our city.

MARIETA BRZESKI, SHERBROOKE ST.

REF NEEDED FOR SNOW- CONTRACTOR ‘GAME’

I thought that *Westmount Independent* readers might appreciate a game of sportsmanship by private snow contractors in Roslyn Lane during the recent major snowfall. I will identify the contractors by the colour of their equipment.

The blue team cleared the driveways of many even-numbered houses on February 7 around 3 pm. This blue team pushed some snow on the side of the lane, and

spread the rest in the lane. Two cars got stuck in the lane afterwards, both of them from even-numbered houses.

The orange team came during the night at around 2 am and cleared the driveway of an odd-numbered house. This orange team was considerate enough to not spread the snow in the lane. They just pushed it on the driveways of an immediate neighbour and of two others across the lane.

The green team came on February 8, cleared the driveway of that immediate neighbour and spread half the snow across the lane.

The white team from Public Security was never seen to give penalties to the faulty teams.

The “super” team hired by the city to clear the lane did a superb job on February 9 at noon.

Maybe the maroon team from city hall should ensure that its rules are applied for snow clearing from private driveways in lanes. The maroon team could also tighten these rules to make clear that private snow contractors have to bring their driveway snow all the way outside the lanes.

(I found inspiration for this letter during the prior snowstorm when what I later found out was the orange team pushed a big snow pile on our parking apron and left it there. They did it again at 9 am on February 10.)

LOUIS CAOUCETTE, UPPER ROSLYN

FIAT LUX

A library is expected to provide a place of enlightenment, however given the large

Reprimand, and help, from police



This driver pulled out of the Esso station on Grosvenor and went west on Sherbrooke at 10:40 am February 10, to be welcomed by a police cruiser and flashing lights. The car pulled over and both officers approached. One gave the driver a good “talking to” while the other swept the pile of snow off the top of the car. The driver did not get a ticket.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON

number of ceiling light bulbs that have burnt out (and not been replaced), I am



concerned that Westmount Library might soon be entering the Age of Darkness (at least when the sun goes down). I believe that all of them were changed about a year ago!!!

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

THANKS FOR RETURNING MY WALLET

I wish to thank the decent, compassionate person who found my lost wallet on January 17 and took the trouble to mail it to my bank branch (the Royal Bank at Victoria and Sherbrooke). It was totally intact: cash, credit cards and IDs, and was a dream come true.

I guess the person who found it is a Westmounter, as I am, and another reason for me to be happy to be living in the area.

Once again, much thanks to you.

RUTH GRAY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

THANKS FOR ATWATER 100TH COVERAGE

On behalf of the Atwater Library, huge thanks for your paper's great coverage of our activities. Your front-page story about our 100th year in Westmount is especially appreciated.

LYNN VERGE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ATWATER LIBRARY)

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Keep food waste out of the garbage!



SUSAN GRUNDY
AND
ROSS BROWN

Composting organic matter is a critical component of Westmount's waste management program for two reasons: first, Montreal's landfill sites are filling up rapidly, and second, organic waste in landfills generates methane, a greenhouse gas many times more powerful than carbon dioxide. In 2018, organic material represented 23 percent of the total annual waste generated in Westmount. Forty-eight percent of this material was diverted from landfill via composting, which is above the Montreal agglomeration average, but falls below the provincial objective of 60 percent.

We can do better.

Back in 2009, Westmount was one of the leaders in implementing a compost collection program for single-family homes and small multi-residential buildings. In 2018, the composting program was expanded to include buildings with nine units and more, over a four-phase program

with the second phase targeted for completion by 2020. Despite these expansion efforts, the tonnage collected has not increased. In fact, it has declined. This situation is not unique to Westmount: a recent report in *Le Devoir* (January 25, 2020) presented figures from Recyc-Québec indicating that just because the compost bins are distributed doesn't mean that residents use them.

A compost pick-up program in multi-residential apartment buildings is essential for making progress in higher density urban areas. In Westmount, these buildings represent 4,490 residences. To date, only 24 buildings (812 residences) have successfully initiated a composting program. Challenges typically described include: lack of space, odour, additional workload for building staff and residents' unfamiliarity with composting.

Kensington Ave. story

Recently, volunteers with the Westmount Healthy City Project visited a 60-unit building on Kensington Ave. that has implemented a successful compost program. The concierge explained that the decision to participate was highly influenced by the building residents, many who were already bringing their individual bins to the curb. There was an initial glitch with a missed collection at the start of the program (with smelly results!), but despite this, the concierge reported a consistent and reliable pick-up, and a healthy 50 percent participation rate among the building's residents. A key decision was to store the compost bin near the garage door for ventilation and convenience. This example proves that composting in apartment buildings can work when residents are willing to participate and when building staff provide practical solutions to manage the bins.

The compost pick-up program in Westmount offers residents a simple and effective way to reduce waste going to landfill, to turn food waste into enriched soil, and to reduce the generation of greenhouse gases. Curbside compost collection is time and truck efficient, requiring only two trucks working six hours each to cover Westmount compared to garbage collection, which requires seven trucks working ten hours each.

Composting is not difficult. Information (e.g. pick-up schedule, accepted materials, bin request) is provided on the city of Westmount website under "Environment – Waste management – Composting". More detail on composting is provided in an excellent pamphlet available in most municipal buildings,

"Food is not garbage – La continued on p. 20

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‘We can do better.’ Mayor Smith

Council hears same concerns over composting, plastics

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Environmental concerns were raised at the council meeting February 3 for the second consecutive month – generally the same questions, which in turn generated repeated replies about the city’s efforts. Would the city follow the example of Montreal and some municipalities to ban the sale or distribution of plastic bags? What will Westmount do to encourage in-

creased composting or to tell people how to dispose of product identification labels (PILs) put on bananas and other fruit? (See also January 21, p. 6.) Susan Grundy, of Burton, a member of the environmental subcommittee of the Healthy City Project (HCP), said the group was doing a survey into residents’ participation rate in the city’s current composting programs and asked what the city would be doing to be a leader in composting. “We were leaders but plateaued,” replied Mayor Christina Smith. “We can do better. We need to do more advertising” and improve communication and education. This year, the city is planning to increase recycling in the parks, including composting, she said.

She later told the *Independent* that “I certainly appreciate the work they (the Healthy City Project members) are doing. We are keen to work with them on their survey.” When it comes to banning single-use plastic bags, she also repeated her reply from last month that the city believed in working with merchants to educate them on the issue rather than issue them “exorbitant fines” such as, she said, St. Sauveur was doing. On the subject of PILs, Richard Lock of

Lansdowne repeated his previous request for the city to have more information to provide to residents on how to dispose of them since they cannot be composted.

Save the wetlands

On a different environmental matter, Patrick Barnard of Melville Ave. said that as a member of the Green Coalition he had spent the day in court concerning efforts “to save the last wetlands on the island of Montreal” north of the airport and prevent the proposed expansion of the St. Laurent Technoparc. The wetlands are a nesting area for many species of bird.

Court testimony, he said, stated that studies on the wetlands had been done “at the wrong time” indicating that “the devil is in the detail.” Would the city take this adage into account when dealing with climate change?

Mayor Smith said the city considered it very important and used as an example the effort to improve the cleaning of icy sidewalks for pedestrian safety resulting from “changing weather patterns.”



Susan Grundy of Burton Ave.

‘The kind of community we are.’ Mayor Smith

Westmount adopts definition of anti-Semitism

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Following the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the World War II Auschwitz death camp January 27, Westmount city council February 3 adopted a working definition of anti-Semitism developed over 12 years by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). The resolution states that the city “is

dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism and discrimination in all forms.”

“I am very proud,” said Councillor Mary Gallery, “to move that ‘Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and

religious facilities.” Mayor Christina Smith said that the definition is “to remind people of the kind of community we are.” While this definition has been adopted by Canada and some 30 other member states of the IHRA, including the United Kingdom and Germany, some municipalities including Montreal are reported to be working on their own definitions.



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Critics question proposed 4216 Dorchester’s modernism

By MARTIN C. BARRY

There was a big turnout for a public meeting at Westmount city hall on January 28 when plans for a new residential building at 4216 Dorchester Blvd. were presented to the city’s Planning Advisory Committee by the architect.

There was agreement among some people who attended that one particular concern was the building architecture’s somewhat modern design.

Although a number of modern buildings have gone up on Dorchester since the mid-to late 1960s when the city of Westmount was more open to the trend, they contrast with the many 19th and early 20th century buildings that predominate in the area.

The former Order of Quebec Nurses headquarters building at the corner of Greene Ave. has frequently been criticized for its lack of harmony with the surroundings, as has a high-rise apartment block on Dorchester near the corner of Bruce that was built during modernism’s heyday.

Over the years, some city of Westmount officials, including former mayor Peter Trent, have acknowledged that allowing an extensive intrusion of modernism into neighbourhoods filled with heritage architecture was a mistake by past administrations.

The proposed new building, designed by Montreal architect Jean-Pierre Bart, would include 11 units, 11 parking spaces and 11 spaces to park bicycles.

Although the building seems to harmonize nicely with the strikingly modern ‘Nurses’ building that is just next door, two Victorian-era stone residences on the opposite side attest to the neighbourhood’s original aesthetic.

While maintaining that the overall response by residents to the new building was positive, District 7 city councillor Kathleen Kez, who was at the meeting, said “the major concern was over the architectural design – whether it would architec-



Front (above) and rear views of the proposed building at 4216 Dorchester Blvd.

SOURCE: DEVELOPER’S FILE ON THE CITY’S WEBSITE.

turally fit in.”

As a resident of Dorchester Blvd., Kez said she “didn’t have a major problem” with the design, but “I thought it could be improved aesthetically,” she added.

Greene Ave. resident Patricia Dumais said, “The thing that bothered me the most was the façade – it’s very modern – and it has a very heavy look to it when compared to the rest of the street.” All the same, she said she felt the design submitted for 4216 Dorchester “leans a bit too much towards the modern.”

Another resident, former city councillor George Bowser, who has lived on Columbia Ave. since 2014, wasn’t especially troubled by the design. “It seems to me the architect was trying to create a compromise between the building on the right and on the left,” he said.

“It looks like they’re trying to create a building that shares the elements of both the old, with red brick, and the new, which is the gray slab front [of the ‘Nurses’ build-



ing].”

Bowser said his own concern involves issues when the building is completed, including noise and motor vehicle traffic. Al-

though a study conducted for the project claims there will be no traffic increase, Bowser responded, “It’s not possible to have no effect if you put a building there.”

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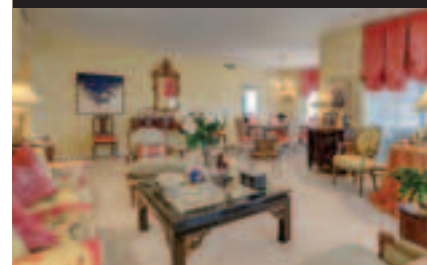
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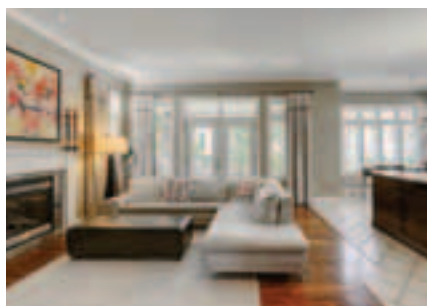


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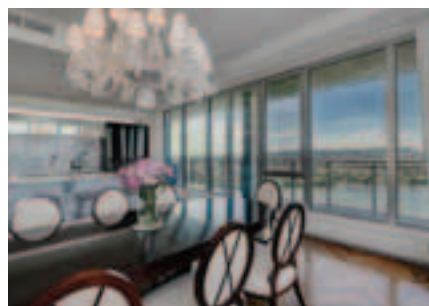
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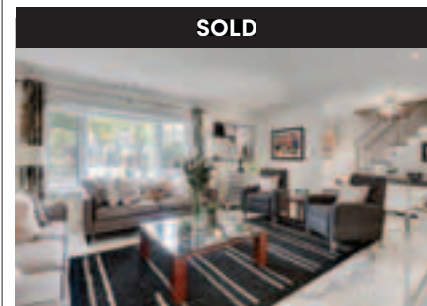


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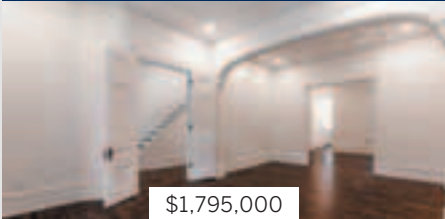


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GOLDEN SQUARE MILE - VILLE-MARIE

Stunning mansion in one of the city's most prestigious enclaves. MLS 12243104



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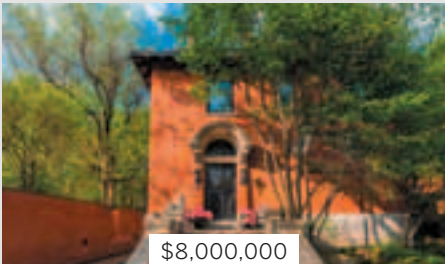
Impeccable modern masterpiece. Pool, 2 car garage w/coach house. MLS 9860712



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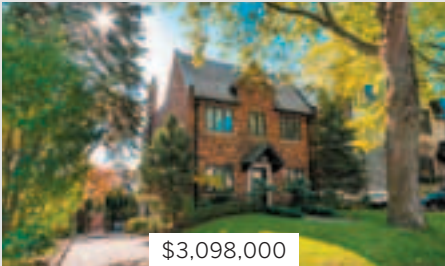
Masterfully designed residence near park w/ pool & a 2 car garage. MLS 21254016



\$8,000,000

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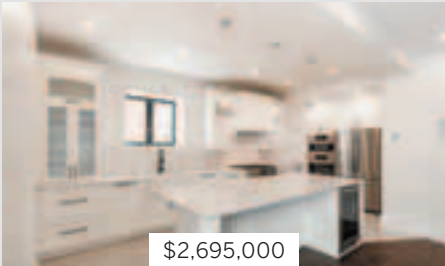
Turn of the century mansion sits across Murray Hill Park. MLS 26590203



\$3,098,000

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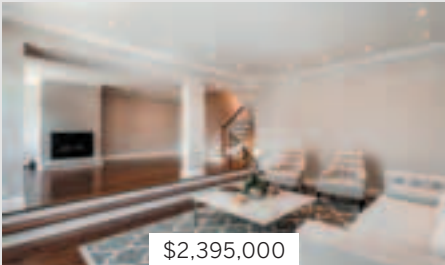
Turnkey detached home with pool and garage. MLS 13141912



\$2,695,000

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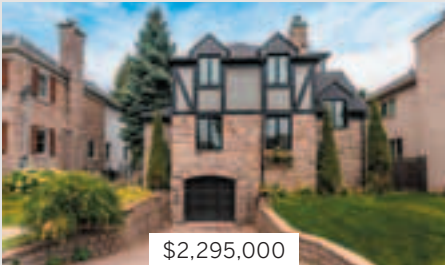
Completely renovated home 6+1 bdrm & double integrated garage. MLS 9850219



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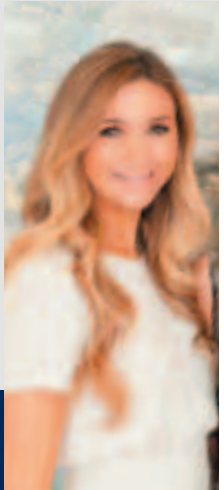
Staying in 'Contact'



Ninety seniors gathered at the Contactivity Centre in Westmount Park United Church for a special Winter Carnival Valentine's Day lunch February 6. The annual event, organized in conjunction with the city of Westmount, included door prizes, entertainment, singing, dancing and a barbecue chicken lunch with homemade dessert. The event was supported by city employees Claude Danis,

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on a snowy Valentine's



Alyssa Sherrard and Jessie Zhou, and by volunteers, including grade six students from Selwyn House School, who were called “*Les Gentils Griffons*” (“the kind griffons”) after the name of the school’s sports team. Teacher Meghan Schofield explained that the boys volunteer in various community activities and then recall their experiences at the end of the year. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Council provides second draft approval
Concerns voiced over St. Léon add-on, register process

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the extension to overcrowded École St. Léon receiving approval to a second draft resolution at the February 3 city council meeting, two residents of Clarke Ave. where the school is located questioned traffic mitigation and future enrolment.

They also asked how the city would inform residents about the register process and the project’s variances to existing zoning.

Maura McKeon asked what guarantee would be provided that the addition, based on current needs, would not be outdated once it was competed.

Mayor Christina Smith pointed out that Westmount did not run St. Léon but that the Commission Scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) had already promised to open two new elementary schools for students downtown, who now have none and are bussed to St. Léon (see story June 5, 2018, p. 1).

The school is the only French public elementary one in Westmount and “is a very important school to our community,” she explained.

Robert Wilkins, a former Westmount city clerk and McKeon’s husband, asked council to distribute clear and understandable written information on the project, its variances, traffic mitigation and the register process to residents from eligible zones.

‘So many don’t understand’ notices

“So many don’t understand the legal notices,” he explained and may not be familiar with the internet.

“I don’t think it’s the best use of our (financial) resources” to send around written information, replied Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture.

Mayor Smith emphasized that the information would be on the website.

The *Independent* has been carrying information on the expansion plan since it was announced in 2017.

This includes renderings of the proposed three-storey wing jutting into the north end of the playground on Kitchener to include five new classrooms, a library, and multi-purpose and resource rooms as well as offices (see plans April 23, 2019, p. 1 and 4).



Maura McKeon.

St. Léon register application deadline set for February 19

Now that the St. Léon expansion project has progressed to the registration stage, applications from qualified electors interested in submitting a petition to be able to sign a register will close February 19, according to city clerk Andrew Brownstein.

Eligible zones from which they may apply are R3-23-01 (the concerned one), plus the following contiguous zones: R3-21-04, R9-23-02, R5-34-06, R2-22-02 and R4-23-04. The zones are identified on a map posted on the city’s website under Resident zone/Urban Planning/Zoning map (3rd row, second icon).

The date of a possible register that could lead to a referendum will be determined based on the number of applications received. Information is available from the city clerk’s office at 514.989.5318.

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2020.02.11 • Vol. 1/3
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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL **lundi 2 mars, 19 h 30**



Début des inscriptions printemps et été le 11 février

Inscrivez-vous en ligne ou en personne au CLW dès aujourd'hui! Votre compte 2020 doit être activé avant de vous inscrire. Consultez le répertoire en ligne à westmount.org/repertoire.

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING **Monday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.**



Spring & summer registration begins February 11

Register online or in person at the WRC as of today! Your 2020 account must be activated prior to registering. Consult the activities guide online at westmount.org/guide.

Imagine Westmount 2040

L'information présentée à la séance publique et lancement du 29 janvier est disponible en ligne à westmount.org/engage2040.

Finis les frais de retard pour les enfants!

La Bibliothèque n'imposera plus d'amendes de retard sur les livres et magazines pour enfants. westlib.org.

Condition des patinoires extérieures

Les mises à jour sont affichées à westmount.org.

Taxes municipales 2020

La date limite pour le premier versement des taxes foncières 2020 est le lundi 24 février. Pour effectuer le paiement de compte en ligne (par virement bancaire ou par carte de crédit), consultez le feuillet inclut avec votre compte de taxes ou visitez westmount.org/taxesenligne.

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2020

Le thème cette année est *Liberté!* Participez en écrivant une histoire, un poème ou un essai original. Date limite : 3 avril 2020. westlib.org.

Imagine Westmount 2040

The information presented at the January 29 launch and public session is available online at westmount.org/engage2040.

Fine free for children!

The Library will no longer charge late fines on children's books and magazines. westlib.org.

Outdoor skating rink conditions

Check for updates at westmount.org.

2020 municipal taxes

The deadline to pay the first installment for the 2020 property tax is Monday, February 24. To make the payment online (by electronic bank transfer or credit card), consult the information included with your tax bill or visit westmount.org/onlinetaxes.

2020 McEntyre Writing Competition

This year's theme is *Freedom!* Enter by writing an original story, poem or essay. Deadline: April 3, 2020. westlib.org.

CALENDRIER

Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition
Jusqu'au 15 février : œuvres de Heather Dubreuil, John Fretz et Mana Hemami. 514 989-5265.

Série Récits de voyages

Les jeudis à 10 h 30 ou les vendredis à 13 h jusqu'au 14 février, Bibliothèque. Une activité pour individus atteints de démence. Inscription : dmiguez@westmount.org / 514 989-5530.

Concert : Un après-midi viennois

Dimanche 16 février, 15 h, Victoria Hall. La musique de Strauss Jr. et Lehár interprétée par la soprano Aline Kutan et l'Orchestre classique de Montréal. orchestre.ca. 514 989-5226.

Club de lecture en français

Lundi 17 février, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Robert Solé. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Conférences du Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal

Mardi 18 février, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Behind the Scenes of « From Shore to Sky: A Reconciliation Story »* avec Aphrodite Salas. 10 \$/conférence. 514 989-5226.

Après-midis conférences (14 h)

Le mercredi 19 février, 14 h, Bibliothèque.

Darjeeling Tea: The Nectar of the Himalayas avec Kevin Gascoyne. 514 989-5299.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Le mercredi 19 février, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. 514 989-5299.

Concert : Un festin Klezmer

Mercredi 19 février, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Avec l'ensemble Magillah. Présenté en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Gratuit. 514 989-5226 / eventbrite.ca.

Ciné-club

Mardi 25 février, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Cold War* (2019). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais

Mardi 25 février, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Warlight* de Michael Ondaatje. 514 989-5299.

Imagine Westmount 2040 : projection du film documentaire *The Human Scale*
Mercredi 26 février, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Une discussion en compagnie d'urbanistes suivra le visionnement. Obtenez votre billet gratuit à la Bibliothèque ou à eventbrite.ca.

CALENDAR

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition
Until February 15: works by Heather Dubreuil, John Fretz, and Mana Hemami. 514 989-5265.

Tales and Travels Series

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. or Fridays 1 p.m. until February 14, Library. An activity for individuals with dementia. Registration: 514 989-5530 / dmiguez@westmount.org.

Concert: A Viennese Afternoon

Sunday, February 16, 3 p.m., Victoria Hall. Music by Strauss Jr. and Lehár performed by soprano Aline Kutan and the Orchestre classique de Montréal. orchestre.ca. 514 989-5226.

French Book Club

Monday, February 17, 1 p.m., Library. Robert Solé. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 18, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Behind the Scenes of "From Shore to Sky: A Reconciliation Story"* with Aphrodite Salas. \$10/lecture. 514 989-5226.

2 O'clock Lecture Series

Wednesday, February 19, 2 p.m., Library.

Darjeeling Tea: The Nectar of the Himalayas with Kevin Gascoyne. 514 989-5299.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Wednesday, February 19, 7 p.m., Library. Bring a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

Concert: Un festin Klezmer

Wednesday, February 19, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. With Ensemble Magillah. In collaboration with the Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Free. 514 989-5226 / eventbrite.ca.

Film Club

Tuesday, February 25, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Cold War* (2019). Tickets req'd. 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Tuesday, February 25, 7 p.m., Library. Michael Ondaatje's *Warlight*. 514 989-5299.

Imagine Westmount 2040: screening of the documentary *The Human Scale*

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Library. A discussion with urban planners will follow the screening. Obtain your free tickets at the Library or at eventbrite.ca.



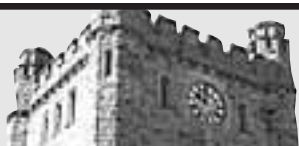
Winter Carnival 2020



February 8 at Murray Park: crossbred Belgian-Persian draft horses Baby and Max, top, stride proudly in step around the soccer pitch guided by Robert Coallie (red cap); two Novice-level hockey games were well under way at 10:30 am; left, roasted marshmallows around a smoky log fire, a perfect Canadian winter indulgence; and, bottom, tobogganing!

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.





IMPORTANT NOTICE

Application to open a registry in view of approval by way of referendum – SCAOPI – 360 Clarke Avenue – Second Draft Resolution

1. At its regular meeting held on Monday, February 3, 2020, the Municipal Council adopted, by resolution, the second draft resolution No. 2020-02-27 concerning an immovable bearing the civic address 360 Clarke Avenue located on lot 2 626 404 of the Quebec cadaster.
2. This second draft resolution contains seven (7) provisions subject to approval by way of referendum:
 - a) Grant a variance to section 8.4.1.5 of By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the 5% or 92.9 m² restriction imposed for the area of an enlargement to an assembly building appearing in Table 4 of Division 8, an enlargement of approximately 2,120 m²;
 - b) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum site coverage authorized of 30% for this assembly building appearing in Table 4 of Division 8, a site coverage of approximately 37%;
 - c) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum floor area ratio of 0.90 authorized for this assembly building appearing in Table 4 of Division 8, a floor area ratio of approximately 1.14;
 - d) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum construction height permitted in the physical and spatial specification grid for zone R3-23-01 of the City's zoning plan, a height of approximately 1.25 m (4'-1¼") in excess of the authorized 10.668 m (35'-0");
 - e) Grant a variance to section 5.5.9.2 of By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum permitted mineral surface rate of 30% for a building in a residential area, a ratio of mineral surfaces of approximately 84% for the school yard;
 - f) Grant a variance to section 6.2.1 of By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the requirements for the location of a fence in the front yard of a lot, a fence at the proposed location in the landscaping; and
 - g) Grant a variance to section 6.2.4 of By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the requirements for the maximum height of a fence in the front yard of a lot, a fence between 1.8 and 2.1 metres high proposed in the landscaping drawings.
3. Interested persons may submit to the City Clerk's Office, no later than **February 19, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**, an application to open a registry in view of submitting the provision of the second draft resolution to the approval of certain qualified votes.
4. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/>



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Each one of these little darlings is unique and needs a family as soon as possible. These are the last four pups, now young adults, who were taken in by Gerdy's Rescues & Adoption volunteers from a backyard breeder seizure last fall. So I am now reaching out for your help in finding them homes!

Robin is the cream-and-black-tip Yorkie and powder puff mix "hugging cuddler" on the far left; Ricky is the tan-and-black

Falling for Robin,
Ricky, Lucas
or Trixie?

"little cute guy" Yorkie second from left; Lucas is the "leader of the pack" black Yorkie and terrier mix in the middle; and Trixie is the cream "precious princess" Yorkie and powder puff mix on the right of this photograph.

Small dogs are usually a classic mix of shyness with strangers and sweetness with family, as these are as well. They have adapted well to their foster life and it is time for them to transition to a forever home environ- *continued on p. 20*



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Precious siblings Lily and Oscar

They are so identical, it's fascinating ... the same domestic shorthair grey-and-white tabby coat and cap markings with bright white contrast, so best to be checking the pink nose for Lily and grey nose for Oscar to tell them apart!

This gentle bonded pair is so huggable, they can't be denied when they both cuddle for affection. It is wonderful to see them so playful and confident, knowing that they had a difficult start to life as they were abandoned outside as kittens.

Thankfully, when they were 10 months old, they were taken in by the foster family that is caring for them now and they have had a wonderful five months to

grow into young adults. They are very intelligent, strong and healthy, up to date with their inoculations, spayed and neutered.

They have always been together and they should be adopted by a family that will want them both, as supporting each other will help them transition to a new home.

If you would like more information on them and more photographs, please do not hesitate to contact their foster mom at reikicare9@gmail.com.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Winter Can Seem Long

And for a shut-in senior it can seem even longer. Can you volunteer 1-2 hours a week to make a difference for a Westmount senior?

Picking up a few groceries, dropping someone off for a medical appointment, or just chatting over tea – all of these gestures that can make a big difference.

Give us a call at 514-932-2326 or check out the volunteering section of our website at <https://contactivitycentre.org/volunteer.phb>

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Scheibler awarded German Order of Merit



Westmounter Alexandra Scheibler left was awarded the Order of Merit by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany (not pictured) “in recognition of her outstanding achievement in founding and directing the annual Montreal Bach Festival,” according to a press release from the festival. German consul general Markus Lang (right) conferred the honour in a January 16 ceremony at the Montreal Goethe Institute in the presence of her husband Hans Scheibler and their sons Johan and Gustav, as well as relatives and friends from Europe and Canada.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FESTIVAL BACH MONTRÉAL.

Healthy City, cont'd. from p. 7

nourriture n'est pas un déchet”.

A useful tip is to store kitchen waste in a designated section of your freezer, especially during the summer season or if you are out of town on collection day. Composting can quickly become a healthy habit, like remembering to bring a re-usable bag to the grocery store.

Stay tuned for our April column when

we will report the results of a composting participation survey being carried out by volunteers from the Westmount Healthy City Project. What does the participation rate look like on your street?

WHCP acknowledges the important contribution of Ms. Patricia Racette, Public Works, in support of Westmount's composting program.

Soutar marks Porte Parole's 20th

Former Westmounter and documentary playwright Annabel Soutar is celebrating the 20th anniversary of Porte Parole, the not-for-profit theatre company that she founded with husband and actor Alex Ivanovici.

Soutar taught drama at Selwyn House from 2009 to 2011 and Ivanovici from 1998 to 2012.

It promises to be a busy year for the firm with its production of *Assembly* on at the Segal Centre February 16 to 21 and a presentation of Soutar's play *Seeds* February 29 at Théâtre rouge. (See also “Lawrence is Monsanto exec in Soutar's play *Seeds*” November 12, 2013, p. 4, and “Soutar: Concrete is sexy,” May 19, 2009, p. 24.)

Assembly then goes on to performances at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa February 27 to March 7.

Assembly also exists in a French version, and American, German, Brazilian and Lithuanian versions are in the works. The play has actors present the edited but verbatim conversations of four politically (and otherwise) diverse people to an audience. Each character/actor also has a breakout interview, also taken from a verbatim conversation with a real person. The theme is how society can function in an age of political polarization.

Adoptions, cont'd. from p. 18

ment, in order to enjoy the summer months in our neighbourhood.

All four are very healthy, intelligent and affectionate. They are up to date with their inoculations, treatments and are spayed and neutered. It would be wonderful if they could be adopted out as two sets of siblings together. They would be more secure in the transition to a new family.

Please do not hesitate to contact Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org for more information or refer to their website www.gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Annabel Soutar on Victoria Ave. on February 5.
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Porte Parole's play *J'aime Hydro* by playwright Christine Beaulieu just finished a return visit to Montreal in January and will soon be shown in France. (See also “Electrical performance by Porte Parole,” June 20, 2017, p. 13.)

Soutar threw herself into the theatre world after graduation from university in the 1990s.

What has been the biggest surprise? “That I am still standing,” she joked to the *Independent* at its office February 4, but went on to say that she has unexpectedly had to evolve into “a business person, an entrepreneur,” which necessity seemed to be there right at the beginning.

“It was pretty clear right away [in the 1990s] that I would have to produce myself. No one knew what ‘documentary theatre’ was.”

In fact, many people asked Soutar at the time why she did not just go into documentary film. Well, all these years later, she has just founded the for-profit company SpokesPeople Media, which licenses content from other media for film, including from Porte Parole.

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‘YidLife Crisis’ at Westmount’s Temple El-Beth Sholom



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Temple’s fall fundraiser was a huge success. The event was divided into two parts: a cocktail dîatoire and then the comedy show.

The chic VIP cocktail was deliciously catered by Satay Brothers, Park Restaurant and Le Pois Penché. The silent auction was a crowded hit, as was the photo-booth, where guests took pictures with the YidLife Crisis comedians, the hilarious **Jamie Elman** and **Eli Batalion**.

Speeches during the cocktail were by Temple president **Neil Weiner**, there with his wife **Sylvi Plante**, and **Gloria Mintz**, event co-chair with **Cheryl Blas**.

The comedy show, open to all, was introduced by **Rabbi Lisa Grushcow** (attending with her wife **Shelley Grushcow**), and emceed by the inimitably witty **Andy Nulman**, there with his wife **Lynn Harris**.

To replenish all the energy lost by laughing the night away, guests enjoyed a fabulous dessert reception catered by Daboom.



Jamie Elman, Neil Wiener, Sylvi Plante and Eli Batalion.

Noted were **Jewel and Paul Lowenstein**, **Marcia and Brian Bronfman**, **Audrey Lamonthe**, **Anna Krol**, **Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed** and her husband **Siddiq Mohamed**, **Denise Grossman**, **Kayla Schneiderman**,

Nicole Ginsberg, **Susan Greenberg**, **Betty Palik** and **Michael Prupas**, and **Nancy Gold** with her husband senator **Marc Gold**.

The evening was sponsored by the **Brian Bronfman Family Foundation**;

Nancy Maklan and **Martin Smith**; **Janice Greenberg** and **Joel Silcoff**; **Gloria and Neil Mintz**; **Betsy Pomerantz** and **Sam Berliner**; **Decarie Motors**; **Fasken**; **Jarislowsky** continued on p. 22

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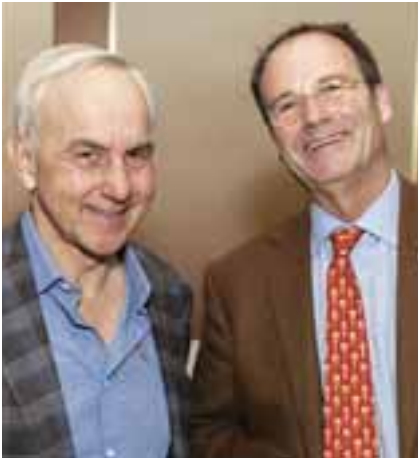
Lynn Harris and Andy Nulman.



Gloria Mintz and Cheryl Blas.



Rabbi Lisa Grushcow and Susan Greenberg.



Michael Prupas and Senator Marc Gold.



Brian and Marcia Bronfman, Audrey Lamonthe, Anna Krol, Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed and Siddiq Mohamed.

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 21

Fraser; Agence Pink, Gregory Baizer, Beatrice Restaurant, Biltmore, Columbia Frame, G. B. Micro, Green Mountain Inn, Denise Grossman, KidLink, Mitchie's

Matchings, Stephanie Moll, Monkland Tavern, Reitmans, Spa Maya, The Wheel Club, Unfolden Media, and Stephen Yaffe. Proceeds from the event support the Temple's educational programs.

Comin' Up

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The Westmount Horticultural Society presents the film "Bringing Meadows to Small Spaces." \$7. Westmount Room, Westmount Library. 7 pm. Coffee & cookies 6:30 pm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Medieval music by Ensemble Scholastica and Dance of the Labyrinth. \$20-30. St. Matthias' Anglican Church, 131 Côte St. Antoine. 4 pm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents "Behind the Scenes of 'From Shore to Sky: a reconciliation story'" by journalist and Concordia University professor Aphrodite Salas. \$10. (Sandwich lunch \$8 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.) Vic-

toria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke. 12:30 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

The Westmount Historical Association presents MacKay L. Smith, author, who has self-published a series of four illustrated books about Montreal, each on a theme. Guest fee \$5. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library. 7 to 9 pm.

ONGOING

Parenthood drop-in. Free. Two Doulas is partnering with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom to offer a weekly drop-in for coffee, cookies, and company with your babies (one year and younger). Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Wednesday mornings from 10 am to 12:30 pm.

To include your event in Comin' Up, write us at editor@westmountindependent.com.

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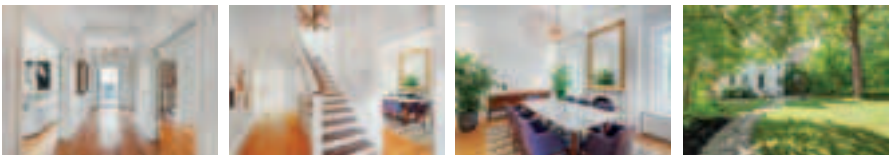
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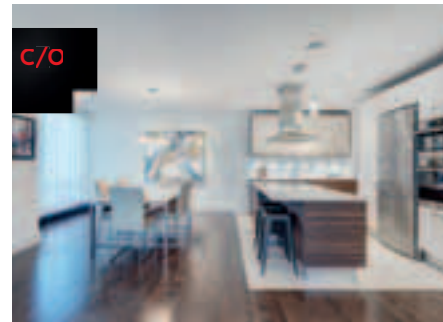
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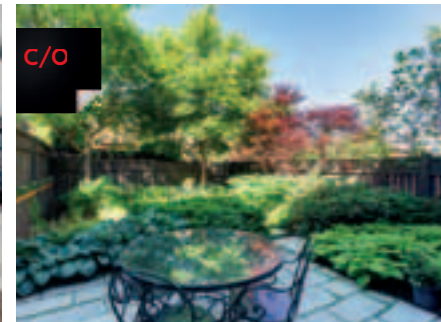
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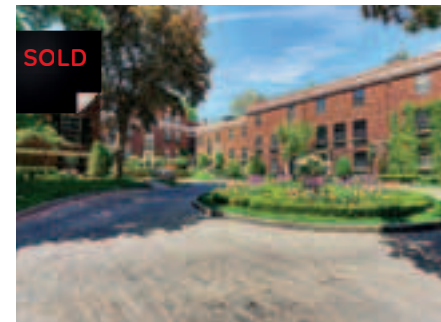
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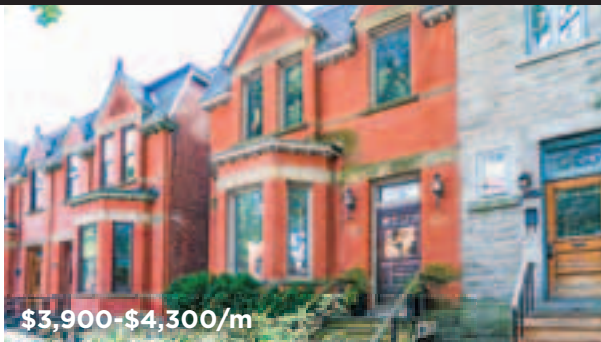
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