

Feedback from city's 'Imagine 2040' launch

Long wish-list, recommendations, suggestions featured in report

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How should Westmount residents be consulted on the city's project to update its master plan for urban planning to shape the community for the next 20 years? Long lists of written ideas from participants at an information session January 29 are included in a feedback report from the Victoria Hall meeting, including a list of wide-ranging suggestions from many who wanted to get right to the end-point of what's needed now. "Of note," states the seven-page report dated February 13, "much of the shared feedback does not concern the review process, as was the meeting's aim, but rather general topics that pertain to urban planning land development and city affairs." "Participants seem more interested in

discussing issues than the process," reads one comment. Among these were parking, bike paths, sound barriers, a palliative care centre, the city's stand on an indoor pool, showcasing proposed real estate developments, sustainability, and "making the city self-sufficient and prioritizing basics... before undertaking new projects." The project to update the 20-year-old master plan "is a huge undertaking," said Mayor Christina Smith, who participated in the launch event. "We're in a different environment. Our city has changed." There's climate change and more people are working from home, for example, she said.

Consultation ideas

On the public consultation process itself, sugges- continued on p. 4

February fun



André, 3, and Vera, 6, were enjoying the beautiful weather and the fresh snow in Murray (King George) park February 23. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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E-scooters won't be back this year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Self-service e-scooters will be banned from Westmount this year just as in Montreal, Mayor Christina Smith said last week. The decision was based on the failure of users to wear helmets and leave them in designated parking areas during last year's trial. "We will follow suit because it doesn't make sense not to," she explained, considering users of the scooter-sharing services used them to travel back and forth

between Montreal and Westmount. "We did have a lot of negative feedback, mainly from seniors who felt uneasy when the scooters were used (illegally) on the sidewalk." "It's very disappointing because micro transport is here to stay. I think if we can work with these suppliers, a way can be found through closer monitoring (to bring them back)." Privately owned scooters and Jump e-bikes are not affected, only the companies that obtained permits to operate such as Lime and continued on p. 3

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Police Report

Supporters of Wet’suwet’en chiefs demonstrate outside RCMP

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. were on heightened alert last week after a protest with acts of vandalism was staged outside RCMP headquarters by supporters of the railroad blockades set up across Canada in solidarity with Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs.

“We have our eyes open more than usual,” Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière told the *Independent*. “We are patrolling more often around the RCMP building and other possible targets.” Around 6:10 pm on February 13, a group of nearly 100 demonstrators gathered outside the RCMP’s main entrance on

Dorchester Blvd. near Greene Ave. According to Laperrière, many of the protesters were dressed from head to toe in black. As well, their faces were partly masked. It appeared to be a “flash mob” type gathering, as the participants converged suddenly on the scene, then dispersed discreetly.

Before leaving, said Laperrière, they threw small vessels (possibly balloons) containing paint at the side of the RCMP building, as well as rocks. “They damaged some police cars,” he said, while adding that the demonstrators spray-painted the message “RCMP get out of British Columbia” on ..... the south-east corner of *continued on p. 6*

Sports and Rec spring sign-up under way  
Kids’ cooking, Sat. ballet introduced

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

On the heels of a major snowstorm and in the wake of winter carnival, local residents began registering quickly February 11 for Sports and Recreation’s spring activities. Some classes are now already filled, though priority is being given to West-mounters until March 10, at which time remaining spaces will be opened up to non-residents. “The youth hockey camp for 30 players (Novice and Atom) filled up within 44 min-

utes,” said department director Dave Lapointe last week. Also full shortly after were ballet for ages 5-6 on Mondays and ages 7-8 on Fridays as well as the coding class for those aged 7 to 9 with several other activities near the cut-off point. New programs being introduced for the first time are Essentrics fitness for adults, Kids’ Kitchen and Sports Nutrition for 6 to 8 year-olds, and classical ballet on Saturdays for ages 7 to 8. “Weekend activities were one of the re-

quests that came out of our survey last fall,” Lapointe said. “This is something we’re working on, trying to find instructors who will work at this time.” Most of the spring and summer programs were already scheduled when the survey results were known in October, he pointed out.


New in the line-up

The Kids’ Kitchen is a hands-on program that will teach the basics of food preparation and good nutrition, explained Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator. It will be held at Centre Greene, whose kitchen is large enough to accommodate the number of participants. “Essentrics is a very popular fitness pro-

gram at some places and is a workout based on continuous movement,” she said. It will take place at Victoria Hall for a maximum of 20 people.”

Tennis, swimming come later

Registration for three summer programs will take place later: youth summer day camps on April 14, followed by tennis and swimming lessons on April 21. The demand for basketball that came from last fall’s survey will be on tap for the fall and winter, Lapointe said. Public Works is working on the creation of a multi-use court for next spring-summer (2021) at King George (Murray) Park (see story October 22, p. 1).



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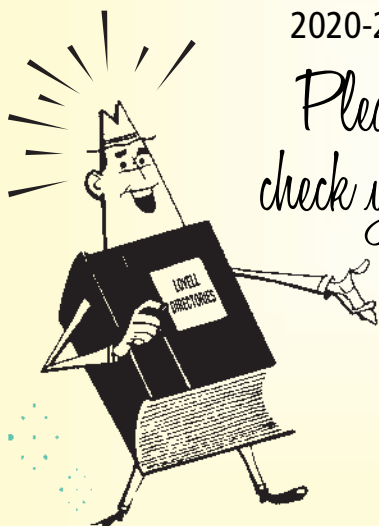
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# McEntyre writing competition's 2020 poster unveiled



Rosalind Davis, left, and Wendy Waying.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Chief judge Rosalind Davis and Westmount Public Library's children's librarian Wendy Waying dropped by the *Independent's* offices February 20 to show off the 2020 poster for the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition.

Davis is the former city councillor for District 4.

"We would like to encourage all Westmount students, and students who live in Westmount but may go to school else-

where, to join this year's competition. Entries can be written in either French or English," said the contest's press release.

This year's theme is freedom in the context of community. The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 3. More information can be found at the Please Westmount Public Library's website, [www.westlib.org](http://www.westlib.org).

## E-scooters, cont'd. from p. 1

Bird. Therefore, at least for this year, permits will not be renewed.

Montreal's decision announced February 19 did not come as a surprise, Mayor Smith said. "We had been meeting over the issue with Montreal which had collected data over a very short trial." The scooters went into operation in Westmount in August.

**Pet adoptions, p. 11**

**Social Notes (Toy Tea), p. 13**



**Comin' Up, p. 14**

**infoWestmount, p. 10**

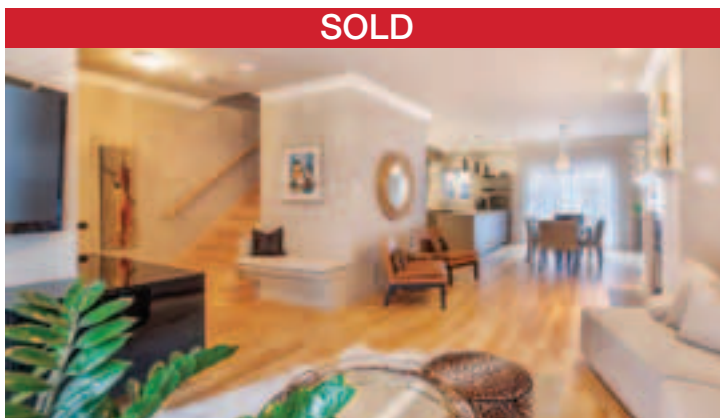


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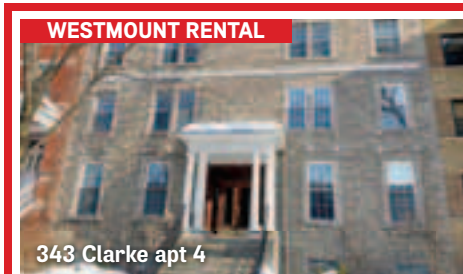


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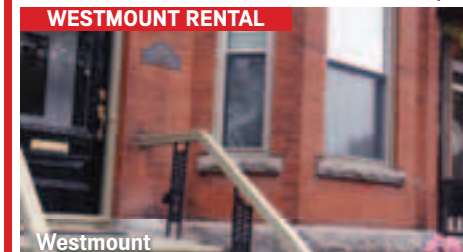
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## St. Léon expansion project

# No news yet on whether threshold was met for register

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Following the deadline February 19 for the filing of applications regarding a possible referendum register on the project to build an addition to École St. Léon, some applications were indeed received, city clerk Andrew Brownstein said the next day.

## The Human Scale to kick off 2040 discussions

A kick-off discussion on the “Imagine 2040” project takes place Wednesday, February 26 with a viewing of the documentary film *The Human Scale* at 7 pm at Westmount Public Library.

This is to be followed by talks with urban planners Raphaël Fischler, of the University of Montreal, and David Hanna, of Westmount’s Local Heritage Council. Free tickets may be obtained from the library or at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca).

It is not yet known how many, if any, are valid until names of recipients are verified for eligibility, he explained. After that is determined, a third final resolution of council’s approval of the project would have to be adopted at a subsequent council meeting.

Only if and when this should occur will

2040, cont’d. from p. 1

tions focussed on diversity: reaching as many people as possible by holding large and small sessions in schools, community centres, parks and local neighbourhoods. Consultation activities should be publicized well in advance through social media, newspapers, flyers and posters in storefronts, “and not only online.”

Activities should be webcast and information should be provided not only in English and French but also to various ethnic groups in their native language “to foster participation,” stated one.

Six recommendations were presented by the consultants from Transfer Environment and Society who organized the event and prepared the report based on feedback at the meeting (see story February 8, p. 8). These included sticky notes, 110 forms handed out to participants on entering and an appreciation poll of the session.

These conclusions advocated providing detailed and advance information on planned consultation activities, objectives and schedules as well as promoting “greater transparency towards the public.”

Each public activity should involve “greater use of local media to convey relevant information to the community while maintaining the (city’s) website as the primary tool for public information.”

Three zones from which the register applications were reported as received are: R3-23-01 (the concerned zone), and two of five eligible contiguous zones: R5-34-06 and R9-23-02.

it be known whether or not a register would take place and on what date, he explained.

Eligible zones from which valid applications could be accepted were 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.



Participants filling out their forms with ideas at the January 29 ‘Imagine 2040’ event.

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This car was seen heading east, against the one-way, on de Maisonneuve near Kensington Ave. on February 11.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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The documentary *The Human Scale* will be shown at 7 pm on February 26 at the Westmount Public Library. An Imagine Westmount 2040 event, the screening will be followed by a discussion with specialists Raphaël Fischler and David Hanna. Moderated by Westmount’s director of Urban Planning Tom Flies, this public consultancy will help residents understand how human-scale design contributes to more livable and ecological cities.

The term “human scale” evokes small shops, heritage residences and tree-lined avenues. Comments published by the city mention issues of livability and a sense of place. Concerns ranged from pedestrian

# Imagine a human-scale Westmount

safety to the increase in high-rises as well as preservation of such heritage buildings as the Hillside armory.

The construction of high-density housing is also a concern to environmentalists as the reduction in urban canopy – and local carbon sequestration – increases local pollution. Also, with more people per building, increased traffic results in higher particulate and noise levels. As automobile emissions decrease at slower speeds, Westmount and other cities have adopted traffic calming measures such as raised crosswalks at de Maisonneuve and Metcalfe.

This and other traffic measures such as pedestrian islands also makes the community safer for walkers. As more sustainable transportation – like buses and bicycles – is available, safer streets encourage “transportation walking” to the Metro or corner

store. Pro-pedestrian policies – taken from the perspective of the person on the street – also encourage more recreational walking, which in turn increases the perception of a human-centred city.

Now ensconced in many urban plans and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) guidelines, the concept of city walkability is gaining momentum. Research indicates that by-laws limiting building scale and height increase city walkability. One study found that communities with high walkability have a 1:1.5 to 1:2 ratio of street width to building height. Other human-scale factors include building setback from the sidewalk and upper-storey setback from the facade.

For planners, these measures can be used for renovation or new-construction approval. For instance, rather than a solid six-storey block, a four-storey building with a setback of two upper storeys would complement existing Sherbrooke St. façades

and retain a sense of place. Visual interest at the street level – from architectural details to flowering front yards – also encourages citizens to walk and socialize.

While the value of high-density buildings is debatable – the “garden city” is again in vogue – the need for walkability and pedestrian safety is not. And questions of human scale – does that building design or setback make our community more or less walkable? – is one that Westmounters can ask and answer.

For city hall, resident participation in our new master plan creates a consensus on which to implement municipal projects, control future development and protect heritage buildings. While the planning process is complex, a shared vision of a walkable and human scale community is one that environmentalists – and all Westmounters – can all move forward on. For more information – or to reserve a place – visit [westmount.org/imagine2040](http://westmount.org/imagine2040).

## Wajzman now heads WMA

Beryl Wajzman, who ran to be mayor of Westmount in 2017, is the new interim president of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), according to a statement on its website dated February 14. He is the editor-in-chief of *The Suburban* newspaper.

In the 2017 mayoral race, he received 528 votes (9 percent) to Patrick Martin’s 1,878 (31 percent) and Christina Smith’s 3,619 (60 percent).

According to the website, the WMA’s mission is “to encourage individual participation in community activities and government, to provide a means for citizen

contact with the municipal government, [and] to represent and intervene when necessary at Westmount city council meetings.”

Also according to the WMA website, the position of secretary is vacant, Liz McCallum is its vice-president and Antonio D’Amico – who ran for city council in 2017 – is the treasurer. Also listed as board members are 2017 city council candidates Gabriel Felcarek, Joanne Wallace and Johanna Stosik, as well as Anne-Marie Merkly and 2013 council candidate (before withdrawing to support Mavis Young) Nigel Goddard.

### Police report, cont’d. from p. 2

the building at the intersection of Greene Ave.

But no sooner had it started than it was over. “It was very quick,” said Laperrière. “The police were never far. But by the time they got there, the crowd had dispersed.”

They ended up going to the Lionel Groulx Metro, where they took off their black clothing. They had other clothing underneath. They then mingled with the crowd, and were able to do so without being identified by the police and without attracting attention.

Laperrière said the demonstrators were so discreet while leaving the area and blending into the crowd that a Metro station ticket booth attendant whom the police spoke to afterwards reported that he hadn’t noticed them at all.

Laperrière said the Montreal police are familiar with the tactic employed by the demonstrators. “We’ve seen it used at other demonstrations,” he said, noting he had personally witnessed it while doing surveillance work at some other demonstrations.

“Since there are a lot of them gathered in one place and it’s at night, and a lot of them have similar builds with the same weight and height, and all they have is their eyes showing, it’s hard to identify who in particular is doing what.”

Although no arrests were made and

there have been no criminal charges, Laperrière said the incident remains the focus of an investigation.

As well, staff at Station 12 are coordinating with police stations in other areas of Montreal, including downtown, where there have recently been similar protest activities.

### Car hits snow removal worker

A collision on Sunnyside Ave. near Upper Lansdowne between a car backing out of a driveway and a snow removal worker illustrates why drivers should always make certain there are no obstacles behind when reversing.

According to the incident report, on February 8 around 2:40 pm, the driver of the car was hindered by poor visibility while backing out of the driveway because of high snow banks on each side.

While the driver was aware that a snow removal dump truck was slowly making its way along Sunnyside past the driveway, he was unable to see that a snow removal employee was following the truck on foot.

“The employee was struck from behind and was projected forward towards the ground,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, reading from the report. “The vehicle backed up and never saw the employee.”

Ironically, added Pimentel, the employee’s job was to follow the truck for safety reasons, which required he make sure no one would be hurt by the truck.

Fortunately, the snow removal worker sustained only a minor injury, he added, largely because the car backing out was moving slowly.

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## Correction

In the February 18 coverage of the Hillside armoury presentation, the names of the PAC panel should have included Eric Marosi rather than Gerald Soiferman.



## Lots of shovelling, lots of heat



This short-sleeved-shirt-and-shorts wearing man shovelling snow on Kensington Ave. between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine St. was seen on February 11. It was a warm afternoon for wintertime, but he was alone in his sartorial choices as far as the *Independent* could see. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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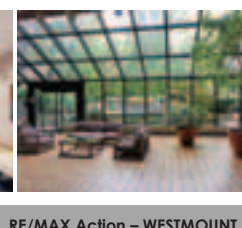
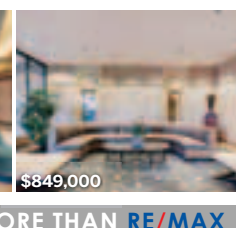
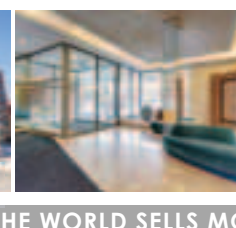
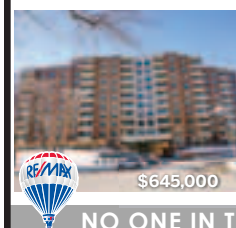
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GROUPE SUTTON CENTRE OUEST

# Outlook ‘positive’ at Centre Greene, Wightman tells AGM

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Centre Greene had “a really positive year” in 2019, despite some basement flooding and a resulting renovation project delay, Jane Wightman, president of the community centre’s board of directors, reported during their annual general meeting on January 30.

Wightman highlighted five positive developments at Centre Greene over the past year. Among them, a renovation of the basement, including a large studio room, was completed.

As well, a new working space was created for Centre Greene staff, which has “made a huge difference,” added Wightman, acknowledging “the tremendous support” received from the city of Westmount, which owns the Centre Greene building on Greene Ave. below Dorchester.

She said one of the pillars of a strategic plan last year was to increase Centre Greene’s outreach.

As a result, the centre has expanded from nine to 21 partners in the last 12 months.

Three of the new partners are the



Centre Greene board members and supporters marked the closing of the community centre’s 30th anniversary during the annual general meeting on Jan. 30.

Kahnawake language and cultural centre in Kahnawake, the Tyndale–St. Georges community centre in Little Burgundy and the YMCA residence on Tupper St.

“Our programs for seniors continue to expand and we are thrilled to have a cooking class and a partnership with the Alzheimer Society through the ‘Tales and Travel’ program,” Wightman said.

Jim Richards, vice-president of Centre Greene, recounted some of the difficulties that were overcome last year. “As work was about to start on the studio, we discovered water infiltration issues in the basement,” he said.

He said staff from Westmount Public Works responded quickly and discovered the problem originated with a broken pipe outside the building.

“This was a major repair,” said Richards. “But the city fast-tracked the process within allowable procedures and we suffered only a minor delay before the contractor could start the basement renovations.”

Coincident with the renovations, the city replaced the doors from the basement studio to outside the building. Richards said this was greatly appreciated by all at the centre, as it had been an ongoing problem with drafts and air leakage due to the poor seal of the doors because of deterioration over the years.

Looking ahead to the coming year, Richards said Centre Greene executive-director Beth Symansky and Jane Wightman will be actively soliciting donors, with the aim of funding renovations to the main floor entrance, lobby and meeting room.

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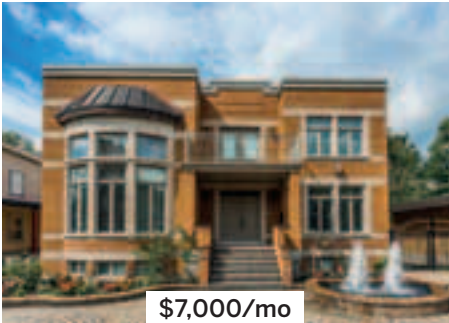
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# infoWESTMOUNT

2020.02.25 • Vol. 1/4  
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Published by the City of Westmount

## NOUVELLES

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

## NEWS

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



### Imagine Westmount 2040 : Soirée film documentaire

**Mercredi 26 février, 19h :** Soyez des nôtres lors de la projection du documentaire *The Human Scale*. Une discussion en compagnie d'urbanistes suivra. Billets gratuits disponibles à [eventbrite.ca](https://eventbrite.ca).



### Imagine Westmount 2040: Documentary film evening

**Wednesday, February 26, 7 p.m.:** Join us at Victoria Hall for a screening of the documentary film *The Human Scale*, followed by a discussion with urban planners. Free tickets at [eventbrite.ca](https://eventbrite.ca).

### Imagine Westmount 2040

Le rapport sur la séance publique du 29 janvier est maintenant disponible en ligne. Suivez le projet à [westmount.org/imagine2040](https://westmount.org/imagine2040).

### Artisans Westmount : appel de soumissions

Le salon des artisans, qui met en vedette des items de qualité supérieure faits à la main, aura lieu les 14 et 15 novembre au Victoria Hall. Le formulaire d'application sera disponible en ligne à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org) du 1<sup>er</sup> au 31 mars. 514 989-5521.

### Concerts d'été : appel de soumissions

Les groupes musicaux sont invités à soumettre

leur candidature pour la série de concerts d'été 2020 au parc Westmount. Le formulaire d'application électronique est disponible à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org). Date limite : le 9 avril.

### Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel aux artistes

Ce concours annuel est ouvert aux artistes qui sont résidents ou qui travaillent dans un studio d'artiste à Westmount. Formulaire d'application disponible à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org). Date limite pour les soumissions : le 15 avril.

### Concours littéraire McEntyre 2020

Soumettez votre histoire, poème ou essai original. Date limite : 3 avril 2020. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

### Imagine Westmount 2040

The report on the January 29<sup>th</sup> public session is now available online. Follow the project at [westmount.org/imagine2040](https://westmount.org/imagine2040).

### Artisans Westmount: call for submissions

Artisans Westmount, which features high quality, handmade goods, will take place November 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at Victoria Hall. The online application form will be available at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org) March 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>. 514 989-5521.

### Summer concerts: call for submissions

Musicians are invited to submit a proposal for

the 2020 summer concert series in Westmount Park. The online application form is available at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org). Deadline: April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Gallery at Victoria Hall: call to artists

This annual call for submissions is open to artists that reside in the city or work in a Westmount art studio. The application form is available at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org). Deadline for submissions: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### 2020 McEntyre Writing Competition

Enter your original story, poem or essay. Deadline: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

## CALENDRIER

### Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition

**Du 27 février au 28 mars :** Anna Gedalof et Bruce Roberts. Vernissage : 26 février, 18 h. 514 989-5265.

### Conférences en soirée

**Judi 27 février, 19 h,** Bibliothèque. *MOB, a play by Catherine-Anne Toupin – Production at Centaur Theatre* avec Eda Holmes. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### Samedi Cinéma

**Samedi 29 février, 14 h,** Victoria Hall. *The Philadelphia Story* (1940). 514 989-5226.

### Club de la Galerie d'art

**Mardi 3 mars, 14 h à 15 h,** Galerie. Venez faire un tour à la Galerie pour une discussion décontractée sur l'exposition en cours. 514 989-5265.

### Relâche scolaire : films en après-midi

**Lundi 2 mars, 14 h :** *The Addams Family* (7 ans+) **Mardi 3 mars, 14 h :** *Lilo and Stitch* (6 ans+) Bibliothèque. 514 989-5229. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

### Collecte de sang Héma-Québec

**Mercredi 4 mars, 14 h 30 - 20 h,** Victoria Hall. Donnez du sang. Donnez la vie. 514 989-5226.

### Club de films documentaires

**Mercredi 4 mars, 19 h,** Bibliothèque. *Amazing Grace* (2019). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### The Sound of Music : Projection Interactive

**Samedi 7 mars, 14 h,** Victoria Hall. Joignez-vous à vos voisins pour célébrer en chansons le 55<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la sortie de *The Sound of Music*. Billets requis. 514 989-5226.

### Parlons Opéra!

**Dimanche 8 mars, 14 h,** Victoria Hall. *La voix humaine*. Présenté en anglais par l'Opéra de Montréal. Inscriptions : [operademontreal.com](https://operademontreal.com).

### Soirée au pub irlandais

**Samedi 14 mars, 19 h,** Victoria Hall. Venez prendre un verre de bière et écoutez de la musique irlandaise à notre pub éphémère. Bar payant. Billets requis. 514 989-5226.

## CALENDAR

### Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

**February 27 to March 28:** Anna Gedalof and Bruce Roberts. Vernissage: 26 February, 6 p.m. 514 989-5265.

### Evening Lecture Series

**Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m.,** Library. *MOB, a play by Catherine-Anne Toupin – Production at Centaur Theatre* with Eda Holmes. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

### Saturday Cinema

**Saturday, February 29, 2 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. *The Philadelphia Story* (1940). 514 989-5226.

### Art Gallery Club

**Tuesday, March 3, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.,** Gallery. Drop in to the Gallery for a casual discussion about the current exhibition. 514 989-5265.

### March break film afternoons

**Monday, March 2, 2 p.m.:** *The Addams Family* (7+) **Tuesday, March 3, 2 p.m.:** *Lilo and Stitch* (6+) Library. 514 989-5229. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org).

### Héma-Québec Blood Drive

**Wednesday, March 4, 2:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Give blood. Give life. 514 989-5226.

### Documentary Film Club

**Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m.,** *Amazing Grace* (2019). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

### The Sound of Music Interactive Screening

**Saturday, March 7, 2 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Join voices with your neighbours to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of *The Sound of Music*. Tickets required. 514 989-5226.

### Let's Talk Opera!

**Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. *La voix humaine*. Presented by L'Opéra de Montréal. Registration: [operademontreal.com](https://operademontreal.com).

### Irish Pub Night

**Saturday, March 14, 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Grab a pint and enjoy some Irish music at our pop-up Irish pub. Cash bar. Tickets required. 514 989-5226.



# Nicolas Kitten, and dates for neonatal kitten training



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Nicolas Kitten is hilarious and stunning at the same time. I am not sure what makes me smile most, his smoochable face or his wildly multicoloured tail! This sweet black domestic longhair is eight

months old now, up to date with his vaccinations and treatments, neutered and microchipped.

He plays with wonderful energy then cuddles and snoozes.

Young Nicolas is in foster care for the Montreal SPCA (reference number 42945493) and you can reach his foster family at [saphia.pm@hotmail.com](mailto:saphia.pm@hotmail.com) for more information on him and great photographs of him at play.

## Learn to save kittens

Nicolas is on his way to a healthy and happy life. Not all kittens will have the benefit of a good start in life. As spring is around the corner, the Montreal SPCA is getting ready to start receiving abandoned singles and litters of orphaned newborn kittens. So never too early to organize SPCA volunteer troops to be ready and trained for loving care in volunteer families across the city.

In that light, it has planned its next season's training programme for volunteers who would like to learn how to foster

newborn orphaned kittens and save little lives at their most vulnerable. Please refer to its website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) for more information and online registration. The next sessions are on Saturday, March 21 (10 am to 11:30 am) in English, and on Friday, February 28 (6:30 pm to 8 pm) or Thursday, March 19 (6:30 pm to 8 pm) in French.

Best to register as soon as possible as last year's sessions were booked up very early.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



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LYSANNE FOWLER

Billie is three months old – very young – and now in need of a home environment as she is presently kenneled at the Montreal SPCA.

She is such a delightful puppy, affectionate to all and very intelligent. Young Billie has had her first inoculations and will be followed in her healthcare program throughout the next months.

Please refer to her identification number 43837418 and contact the Montreal SPCA at 514.735.2711 to find out more about her and arrange a visit. The SPCA

## Billie lovebug

shelter is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, and its visiting hours are 12 noon to 7 pm from Monday to Friday, and 11 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



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*Art Scene*

HEATHER BLACK

Stitched compositions, mobile art, and ceramic sculpture delighted gallery goers this month at The Gallery at Victoria Hall. Created by Westmount artists Heather Dubreuil, Mana Hemami and John Fretz, these works combine experimentation with compositional finesse. Presented together, the exhibition also illustrates Marshall McLuhan's concept: "The medium is the message."

*Appliqué art*

Created with pieced-together, hand-dyed fabric, Dubreuil's abstract and semi-abstract compositions are superimposed with dynamic stitchery. In the "Orange and Blue Series," a repetition of shapes recalls traditional quilt-making while asymmetric colour and rows of needlework and patterns create a contemporary design. Dubreuil commented: "There is a need for materiality in today's virtual world and it's a feminist statement for me as well."

Traditional architecture is juxtaposed against modern in the red and blue "View from the Highline." In this composition, the stitched outline of windows and doors accentuates the geometric forms. In "Port Clyde #5," stitched telephone lines add interest while a vivid, red and gold palette offers a fresh take on a rural scene.

*Buildings as brushstrokes*

Modern architecture is both the subject of Hemami's semi-abstract digital images and the means. Composed on a mobile phone, photographs of angled windows and highrises are layered and superimposed with colour in beautiful, dramatic – and unexpected – imagery. Hemami explained: "For me, it's about light bouncing off a building. I try to use the buildings like a brush."

# Dubreuil, Hemami and Fretz: Media and message



Heather Dubreuil, John Fretz and Mana Hemami at the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

In "Pink Nimbus," bold and unexpected colours – pink, red and lime – enliven the black, diagonal lines of windows throughout the composition. In contrast one – almost horizontal – highrise forms the base of the green, cyan and lime image "Through the Looking Glass." Transparent and triangulated shapes create a butterfly pattern of light against a New York tower in "Turquoise Butterflies."

**3D play of light**

Fretz's colourful handbuilt sculptures – of figures, frogs or park scenes – combine humour with commentary. A matte statue of the Biblical "Noah" includes a bird perched on his head while the glossy "Hello Goodbye" features a woman with a hand to her head in an ambiguous pose. Mythology is modernized in the sculpture "Centaur Couple" and Fretz revisits a classic form in the bust of a Roman senator.

The gloss surface of butterflies on a dog's nose and back create a play of light in "Butterfly Dog." The exuberant fluidity of pose is also seen in another dog sculpture "Saltimbanque" and in "Talkative Frog." Commenting on the importance of observation, Fretz said: "Watching the dynamics of a group on a street – or in nature – it's life."

**Media integrity**

This mix of artistic media creates a lively and colourful exhibition. From Dubreuil's modern needlework or Fretz's play on classic sculpture to Hemami's new mobile art, these artists experiment within traditional and contemporary art forms.

And by remaining true to their materials, in their work medium and message converge. This interesting exhibition ended February 15 at The Gallery at Victoria Hall.

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## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Toy Tea terrific! Again



Erika Ludwick, Jon Aune, Georgia Liakopoulos, Paulina Flores Rutenberg and Ginger Petty.


The first clues that Victoria Hall was hosting a holiday event were masses of miniature munchkins, unrecognizably swathed head to toe in hats, mitts, boots and puffy, hooded winterwear. Most were jumping up and down with excitement. One was overwhelmed, so simply sat down and wept.

That is until the alluring aroma of cookies wafted overhead.

It was the Toy Tea. The annual event not only serves the most delicious croissants, brownies, lemon squares, zucchini cakes – you get the sweet idea – but collects toys to be distributed during the holidays to less fortunate families.

Committee members this year outdid themselves. Westmount sisters **Erika Ludwick** and **Paulina Flores-Rutenberg** were co-chairs, working with **Vicki Ajmo**, **Annie Bergevin**, **Hillary Caissie**, **Amanda Eaman**, **Caroline Fletcher**, **Eddy Miller**, **Heather Monaghan**, **Karen Moore**, **Michelle Morin**, **Sophie Palmer**, **Maria Piscardelis**, **Emily Beckerleg Ritchie**, **Laurie Bucci Sandler**, **Stéphanie** *continued on p. 14*

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Mayoral executive assistant and author Anne Renaud and Mayor Christina Smith.



Catherine Turner and Tamara Haver.



Angela and Alex Auclair.



Jane Molson, daughter-in-law Kate Molson and Emily Beckerleg Ritchie.

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 13

Savard, Catherine and Tiffany Turner, and Tamara Haver, photographer extraordinaire.

The hard workers – all über stylish – were identifiable from afar as they wore special necklaces: twinkling tree lights. What a fun idea!

Noted guests included Westmount’s mayor Christina Smith and councillor Mary Gallery; Jennifer Maccarone, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis, and Tea founder Ginger Petty.

Guests each arrived with an unwrapped, new, non-violent toy, which were placed in one of two huge mounds of gifts. One side of the room held age-appropriate items for boys; the other, for girls.

After the tea, the committee and volunteers stayed late and organized the toys for next-day pick-up by the shelters.

The event is celebrating 28 merry years.

Choirs from Miss Vicky’s, Marcelline, Westmount Park School, The Priory, St. George’s School, ECS, The Study and Selwyn House School joined those from St. Dorothy E.S., Notre Dame de Sion and LCC.

Holiday tunes were performed, much to the delight of proud families and appreciative guests who came from all over Montreal to enjoy the magic moment(s).



Harry, Caroline and Jackie Fletcher.



Tina Soufi and Janet Shannon.



Andrea Ritchie, Courtney and Michelle Beckerleg.

Comin’ Up

MONDAY, MARCH 2

City council meeting, city hall. 7:30 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

The Krishnamurti Information Centre of Montreal presents video “Can Our Minds Being in Disorder, Create Order?” \$7. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 2 pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

The Westmount Horticultural Society presents “The Garden as History: What’s past is prologue” by Nicholas Hoare. \$7. Westmount Room, Westmount Library. Tea,

coffee & cookies 6:30 pm. Lecture: 7 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

“From Vienna with Debt” – the Montreal Music Collective plays Mozart and Haydn. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Tickets on Eventbrite: \$10-\$30; \$35 at door. 7:30 pm (6:45 pm reception).

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

The Westmount Historical Association presents “Looking at Montreal’s Contemporary Architecture of the Last Thirty-Five

Years” by Nancy Dunton & Helen Malkin. \$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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MARIE SICOTTE

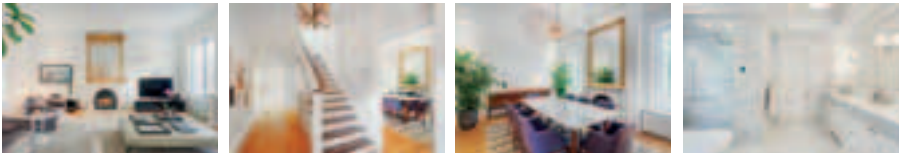
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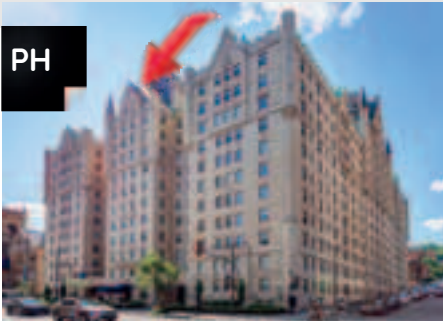


*open house*  
SUNDAY, MARCH 1  
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