# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 14 No. 5d We are Westmount May 26, 2020

# Sunday markets planned for Victoria, Greene

By Laureen Sweeney

Sunday street markets – possibly weekly or every second week – are coming to Westmount's two commercial areas: Victoria village and Greene Ave. "We're still working on the details," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham in announcing the plan after the May 19 council meeting. They could start up in June.

"The markets will be a way to attract people to the commercial areas and allow for social distancing to help increase business for our local merchants, some who

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Pet adoptions, p. 10
Social Notes (Mia Goodman), p. 13
Province's COVID-19 guide, p. 8-9

have small stores."

It will also help them compete with non-Westmount merchants since the local retailers will have first choice in booking the free space, she said. After that, "we're looking at allowing green grocers and specialty stores that can "enhance but not compete."

While the plan is to locate one market on the Greene Ave. parking lot, a venue has yet to be worked out for the Victoria area, where many of the stores already have tables for their merchandise that are used for the district's street festivals.

The markets are part of the city's threepronged effort to help the commercial business and building owners, explained Lulham, whose commissionership includes economic development (see also stories on expanding terrasses, below, and providing interactive legal/financial presentations, p.10).

# Some things getting back to normal



Main photo: Parking meters and parking restrictions are back. A long line of cars received warning notices on Arlington Ave. May 19 at 12 noon due street cleaning. Inset: apart from a short and brief pre-opening line-up at The Running Room, the *Independent* could see no unusual activity in Victoria village at 10 am on May 25, the day that "non essential" retailers with doors to street were allowed to re-open on the island of Montreal. This photo is of Sherbrooke and Prince Albert at that time.

Main Photo: Ralph Thompson; Inset: Independent.

# City council moves to waive terrasse fees, ease restrictions

By Laureen Sweeney

City council gave notice of motion May 19 to a by-law amending the city's tariffs by-law in order to waive fees related to temporary outdoor café-terrasses in an effort to allow them to deal with financial strain and a need to expand space due to pandemic distancing restrictions.

The by-law is expected to be adopted at the June 1 meeting along with possible ways to provide the terrasses with as many seating possibilities as possible, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week.

# \$50 permit stays

The object of the changes to the tariffs by-law is "to suspend the tariffs applicable to terrasses of a commercial nature for the 2020 summer season" except for a \$50 permit charge, which would require changes to other continued on p. 14

# Dog runs to re-open – pending maintenance

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's three fenced-in dog runs "might" re-open this week after signs are prepared and maintenance work is completed. They have been closed since March 27 over pandemic restrictions. They are at the Westmount Athletic Grounds, Westmount Park and King George (Murray) Park.

The news came May 22 from city direc-

City's day camps to open too, see p. 5 for details

tor general Benoit Hurtubise, who said that signs posting the new regulations were being prepared and that the city contractor was ready to undertake maintenance that includes levelling.

Users will be required continued on p. 14

# We can gradually restart normal activities while protecting ourselves!

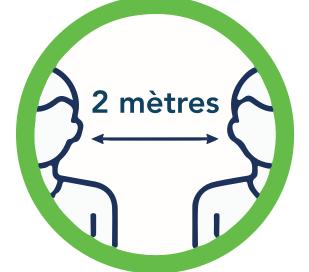
Votre gouvernement

Information and advice inside.

Québec 🚟



# À tous nos résidents | To all our residents







GARDEZ VOS DISTANCES
STAY AT A DISTANCE

PORTEZ UN MASQUE DANS LES ENDROITS PUBLICS WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC SPACES LAVEZ VOS MAINS WASH YOUR HANDS

Alors que de plus en plus d'aspects de notre vie quotidienne retrouvent un semblant de normalité, veuillez continuer à être vigilant et à respecter les mesures de sécurité.

Nous sommes tous ensemble dans cette situation.

As more and more parts of our daily lives return to a semblance of normalcy, please continue to be vigilant and abide by the safety measures.

We are all in this together.

La mairesse Christina M. Smith et le Conseil

Library launches drawing campaign

# Campaign aims to put Westmount rainbows 'on the map'



Entry from Georgia, an 11-year-old Westmount resident.

PHOTO FROM WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITE.

#### BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The many rainbows of hope that have been appearing in windows over the pandemic have led the Westmount Public Library to launch a campaign for residents to submit photos of their drawings to share with other residents and also to add to a map of Quebec rainbows.

"We were inspired by an interactive map of the Grande Bibliothèque du Québec and wanted to create a portrait of the hope and spirit of Westmount," said Lora Baiocco, online services and archives librarian.

As a result, the Westmount library launched its own campaign May 15 to portray local handmade contributions that are

to be posted on the website as well as on its Facebook and Instagram accounts, she

It features a drawing from 11-year-old Georgia.

A link and information on how to be involved, including photos of rainbow drawings, can be found on the library website. As they are submitted, the rainbows are to be available for viewing on the homepage www.westlib.org as well as on the library's Flickr account www.flickr.com/bibliowest mount.

To put Westmount on the Quebec map of rainbows they must be submitted directly to the Grande Bibliotheque's map at ntni.banq.qc.ca/arc-en-ciel/. This was launched April 30.

We don't know what is going to happen with the real estate market. What we do know, is that the "new" market is a shifting market, and that the

"later" market is anybody's guess. What is not a guess is this: in my 36 years as a residential broker, I have seen several shifting markets.

How do we handle a shift? We get creative and find new ways of doing things, we acquire new skills, and we rely on our knowledge and experience to navigate the future obstacles.

We've all changed. As a real estate broker and as a mom, I have become much more alert, productive, and engaged with my family, my clients and with my community. I have adapted, have made significant changes, and have come more alive and awake during this time. I have learned to let go of my attachment to the way things used to be, and I am embracing the change.

If you have been giving any thought to moving within the next few months, reach out to me immediately and let's have a conversation.

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Kensington Ave. was again displaying its positivity May 17, with many properties displaying the rainbow signs with the words "It's going to be okay."

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# GIVE FOOD

Those of us who always look forward to gardening in our municipal plots are very happy that Westmount has finally opened them up. While we are disappointed that we will only be allowed 90 minutes twice a week, we understand the need for such distancing rules, although they are perhaps a bit harsh, what with having to sign a compliance contract, wearing an ID and so forth, under threat of banishment.

I understand that some residents have opted out for this year. It would be great for the city administration to use the empty lots to grow food for what will be, unfortunately, a growing number of people with no food security.

Many gardeners have traditionally shared their modest crops with Chez Doris and other homeless shelters in the vicinity. It would be a badge of honour for Westmount and its residents if the administration assigned a municipal employee to grow food and distribute it to a food bank or shelter.

MAYA KHANKHOJE, METCALFE AVE.

# PICK UP TRASH, DON'T SET UP BENCHES

Why are crews being sent out to install

benches all around the city? Public health officials have been hammering us over the head for months about social distancing. This is only inviting the temptation for people to congregate.

The city's priorities and resources are in the wrong place. Focus on the disposed gloves and masks left behind by reckless users in addition to garbage in general in our neighbourhood. Cleaning up the waste that is left behind regularly, not weekly, would be a good starting point.

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

# THE JOYS OF SUMMIT WOODS

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Given COVID cutbacks at most of our advertising clients, the INDEPENDENT is running on a skeleton staff.

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**Chief reporter** Laureen Sweeney

**Graphics** Ted Sancton

Classified ads www.westendclassifieds.com

PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am (except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

Letters & Comments: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

13,500+ physical copies DW, plus low-resolution email and web versions Distribution: Tuesday to Friday (longer when interrupted by postal holidays)

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Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9



Yellow dogtooth violets (erythronium dens-canis).

# Spring planting adds to 50 last fall

# City plants another 125 trees along streets, in parks

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city has planted a total of 125 trees this spring to add to the 50 just before the snow fell, Councillor Cynthia Lulham reported at the council meeting May 19. They replaced those that had been taken down due to disease or rendered unsafe for other reasons, she said.

While the city had received a number of complaints about the vacant spots left from felled trees, it has begun making up for the delays resulting from the departure of the city arborist. This position has now been filled by Stéphane Galarneau who is in charge of the planting project.

"This is our (new) tree inspector, who was very helpful with residents who wanted to make changes in the type of tree to be planted in front of their property," according to Public Works director Robert Talarico.

Of the 125 trees planted this spring by the city contractor at the end of the week ending May 3, 120 were on public streets and five in various parks. Residents who had trees planted in front of their properties were sent letters ahead of time naming

# Letters, cont'd. from p.4

for daily walks in this area. Of particular interest to us at this time of year are the wild flowers, which come out in early May ahead of the trees, making them easy to spot and enjoy. This year was no exception, despite the rather dry conditions, with blue violets first, followed by white bloodroot blooms, delicate yellow dogtooth violets and finally carpets of white trilliums. Let us show some of the pictures (see p. 4) we have taken even with our iPhone. All you have to do is stoop very close to capture the

We want to thank Westmount for restricting the street parking in this area and for recently extending the park area so we can walk safely around the whole Summit Woods.

Tony & Ann Moffat, Sunnyside Ave.

#### CIVILITY IS A WARNING

What a pleasure to live in our neighbourhood. Noting what looked like a parking ticket (grr), I rushed out to move my car. To my astonishment – and relief – the flapping paper was a lovely note. Official, but lovely. As perhaps one does not yet know the parking rules in Westmount, it seems that I received a delicate warning, letting me know I was incorrectly parked for "entretien." The rules of civility, well,

VERONICA REDGRAVE, HALLOWELL AVE.



A new tree at the York St. parklet on May 22, with a seemingly dead one in behind. Just in time?

a few proposals for the types to be planted, he said.

Talarico provided the species and numbers of the trees planted this spring, listed as follows by their common names: 18 ginkgo biloba (maidenhair tree), 7 ginkgo biloba "Princeton Sentry," 12 American elm "Valley Forge," 22 pin oak, 8 catalpa, 10 Turkish hazel or filbert, 11 katsura, 14 purple beech, 12 American hop hornbeam, and 11 American hornbeam.

"These trees are on average between five to seven years old. We will continue planting trees in the fall with different species. The vast majority are replace-

# Day camps to start up, but under new limitations

Westmount's youth day camps are expected to open this summer but in accordance with Quebec government restrictions announced last week, city officials said. The April registration date had been delayed because of COVID-19 and a new one had yet to be set.

While the weekly sessions take place over an eight-week period, the number of weeks any one child can attend will be limited, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week. "We want to make them as accessible as possible."

The city will also need more space and lower counsellor/camper ratios at the younger ages, he said. "It's going to take a lot of organization." - LS.

ments for trees felled in recent years due to the emerald ash borer."

Some of these were on the Dorchester median (see story November 19, p. 10).

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A police cruiser was driving through Westmount Park May 17 at 4:30 pm telling people they must maintain 2 meters distance unless they are from the same household. Not social distancing could result in fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000.



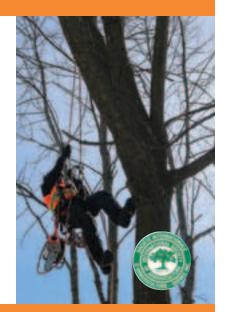
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Comments now posted after legal review

# Long process concludes over extension of St. Léon

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A multi-step process to build a three-storey extension to École St. Léon was concluded May 19 when city council adopted its final resolution to approve the new wing for the community's over-crowded and only public elementary school in the French system.

"It's only once in a generation that this type of (government) investment is made in the community," said Mayor Christina Smith referring to the reported \$11.5-million initial cost.

"This is something that is definitely needed in the community," said Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture. "I'm very supportive of this." The city would be "diligent" in monitoring the construction and mitigating disturbances to neighbours, he said.

Opposition from some residents across the street from the school on Clarke concerning deviations from current zoning was voiced over the year-long period the project has taken to make its way through the by-law process for specific construction, alteration or occupancy for an immovable (SCAOPI).

While the council had expedited the process for approving the project without holding a register or possible referendum as allowed by the Quebec government during the COVID-19 period, "We know we've had to adjust the SCAOPI process at this time," Mayor Smith said.

She added that many conditions imposed in the resolution should give residents some confidence.

Focused mainly on reducing the impact of traffic, these have been explained in draft approval resolutions.

#### Recent comments posted

Eight written comments replacing the register ranged mainly from longtime traffic concerns that continue unaddressed on Clarke to why the city was rushing to bypass the register process during the pandemic.

The written comments were posted on the city's website under Resident zone, Urban Planning SCAOPI/360 Clarke.

## SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PRICE



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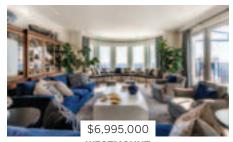
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**WESTMOUNT**Completely renovated home, 6+1 bedrooms & double integrated garage. MLS 19388853



WESTMOUNT
Pristine 5+1 bedroom home steps from
Murray Hill Park. MLS 22792352

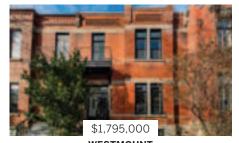


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# INTRODUCING



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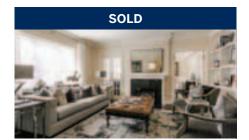


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# INTRODUCING



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# We can gradually restart normal activities while protecting ourselves!

In the coming weeks, activities will gradually resume in Québec, with the consent and collaboration of public health authorities. The reopenings will occur in phases, depending on the type of activities and the geographic zone. You can check information about the reopening phases on the Government of Québec website: Québec.ca/coronavirus

Throughout this process it will remain essential to abide by protective health directives, which limit the danger of the virus spreading. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, it is equally crucial to follow the recommendations for home isolation in order to avoid transmitting the disease to others.

# Abide by the protective health recommendations

After you go out in public, monitor yourself for symptoms and abide by the following recommendations.



- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette:



Cover your mouth and nose with your arm to reduce the spread of germs.



If you use a tissue, dispose of it as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards.



- If you must go out, stay at least 2 meters (around 6 feet) away from people who do not live in your household.
- If you are unable to stay at least
   2 meters away from others, wear a face covering.
- If you are sick, avoid all contact with more vulnerable people such as seniors and people whose immune system is weakened or that have a chronic disease.
- Avoid direct contact when you greet someone, such as shaking hands, and use alternative ways to greet people.



# **Face coverings**

Wearing a face covering is recommended in public settings whenever physical distancing is not possible. For example, this could be when you go shopping for groceries or take public transit.

When you wear a face covering in public, you must also follow other safety measures, such as hygiene.

If you are sick, stay home. If you must go to a medical clinic or the hospital, wear your face covering until you are given a procedure mask. Children under 2 years of age and people with respiratory difficulties or who are handicapped or unable to remove their face covering without help, should not wear one.

You can learn more about the correct use of a face covering and how to make one by viewing the short videos on the Government of Québec website:

Québec.ca/couvre-visage

# Resources

If you are concerned that you might have COVID-19 or have symptoms like the appearance or worsening of cough, fever, difficulty breathing and/or loss of smell or taste without nasal congestion, call one of the following phone numbers: 418 644-4545, 514 644-4545, 450 644-4545 (toll free throughout Québec) to be directed to the appropriate resource. If you are a hard-of-hearing person, call 1800 361-9596 (TTY toll free).





a tightly woven fabric



Bandana or a tightly woven fabric

**Québec.ca/coronavirus** 

**9** 1877 644-4545



# City to hold virtual workshop Thursday, May 28

# Financial, legal info set for business, building owners

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city is set to present an information session for business and building owners regarding the legal ins and outs of navigating government financial incentives to reduce the burden they face from COVID-19. It takes place Thursday, May 28 on the city's website.

This will be the second interactive presentation by commercial and real estate lawyer Matthew Aronson, a Westmount resident and partner in the law firm of Adessky Attorneys. The first one took place May 21.

The events are part of the economic development measures planned by the city to provide assistance to the commercial sector, Councillor Cynthia Lulham announced at the city council meeting May 19. Lulham's commissionership includes economic development.

"A lot of our citizens are also our merchants," she pointed out. "Notifying them of these presentations has been difficult because many of their businesses have been closed, some did not have phone answering services, or their voicemail boxes were full; some have email, others



9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

The intensely busy season has started at the shelters: The summer moving months, transitions to "no pet" policy apartments, condominiums and retirement homes, abandoned litters of kittens and puppies.

The Montreal SPCA has a broad mission and it is important to support it through our adoptions, fosters and donations. Senior pets are wonderful adoptions, having come from a home and waiting patiently for love again.

Mariam, for one, is a gorgeous senior, a stunning blonde domestic longhair who loves to be cuddled and gives so much affection in return. She is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations and treatments, is spayed and microchipped.

Dear Mariam is still waiting at the Montreal SPCA cattery and her identification number is 43978117. Please refer to its web-

Westmount

A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

might not."

Details on how to register for the webinar were to be available on the city website

# Affectionate Mariam



site at www.spca.com and complete its simple online application for Mariam's adoption. You will be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

# Gustave, for great cuddles and walks



hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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www.andydodgeassociates.com andy@andydodgeassociates.com Gustave is a unique fellow. Not only noticed for his great style, with the warm brown eye and blue-eyed look and adorable freckles, but his wonderful attitude. Happy to join in – be it a comfy snooze, a hearty meal or a fun walk – he is an all-around

Sweet Gustave is at the Montreal SPCA kennel and is in need of a loving family now. He is only two years old and he has so much affection to give. Gustave is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and treatments, neutered and microchipped.

great companion.

His identification number at the Montreal SPCA is 43466701, and you can refer to its website at www.spca.com to complete its simple online application for Gustave's adoption. You will be contacted within 24

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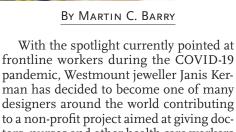
VISIT CANADA.CA/CORONAVIRUS TO LEARN MORE



# Jeweller Kerman taking part in 'Hand Medal Project'



Westmount jewellery designer Janis Kerman at her work bench.



The Hand Medal Project is bringing together jewellery artisans from 36 nations on seven continents. Working from master templates, they are hand-crafting metal sheets into thousands of hand-shaped medals. For her part, Kerman will be producing more than three dozen of the commemorative creations.



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Re/Max Action Inc Agency - Westmount



Some unfinished examples of the Hand Medals.

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tors, nurses and other health care workers some lasting recognition for their selfless efforts.

All the designers making the medals have agreed to remain virtually anonymous on the artwork, Kerman added. "On all these pieces, the only denotation will be the registration number given to each artist," she said.

However if a recipient wants to know who made their medal, they will be able to match the registration number to a designer's name in an online directory. "There won't be any logo, stamp or anything like that," said Kerman. "It's really not about us."

It is expected that the finished medals will be presented on a single day in early November, in a manner reminiscent of AIDS quilts presentations, to frontline health care workers around the world - including Montreal and other cities across

The creation and distribution of the hand medals is being accomplished through a network of jewellers, "keepers" and "givers." Galerie Noel Guyomarc'h on St. Lawrence Blvd. in Montreal has been designated as the keeper for hand medals produced in Canada.

As givers, health care workers in hospitals, health centres and nursing homes ultimately will decide who among their colleagues should receive medals recognizing their dedication to the fight against the COVID-19 virus.

According to Kerman, there are currently 17 jewellers across Canada registered to take part. So far, she is one of the very few jewellery designers in Montreal working on the project.

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# Classifieds in the Independent

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Buy a classified in the Westmount Independent at:

www.westendclassifieds.com Buy locally to sell locally

Cause: Goodman Gala

# Fundraiser Profile: Mia Goodman



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As Social Notes depends on social events, which depend on gatherings, times have changed. But we'll meet again.

Until then, we profile the disappointedbut-determined supporters of great causes to see how they are faring in our smaller world and learn their event's new plans.

#### What was your event? Cause?

The Goodman Gala. Held every two vears, it has raised more than \$10.5 million for McGill's state-of-the-art cancer research initiatives and activities.

Building on the vision established in 2018, the event extends the Collaborate to Cure mission beyond the local Lung Cancer Network. The networked research model has gained tremendous interest, and the Goodman Cancer Research Centre is driving initiatives at the local, national and international levels to tackle some of the most complex questions in research around the most challenging cancers. The ambition is to unite high-calibre partners in this mission.

## It was planned to be held on what date? Have you planned a new date?

The gala was to take place on June 4 at McGill University, in support of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre's vision Collaborate to Cure: Momentum 2020. It has been postponed until June 2021.

In the meantime, the centre will be hosting a special online red-carpet event, Santé, on June 4 at 6 pm.

### Link / information for supporters?

Lauren Donnelly, development officer,



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David and Mia Goodman.

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In response to COVID-19, the centre has ramped down work at most of its labs. The centre has donated masks, gloves and other supplies to our local hospitals. Live cell experiments are continuing, with essential researchers working two at a time in a lab to respect safe guidelines. No new experiments are being started at this time. The current focus of the researchers and scientists is on online teaching, learning and grant applications. A Goodman Cancer Research Centre COVID-19 response video will be released shortly to our supporters.

#### How are you sheltering in place?

I have been at home with my family and have continued my volunteer work. It has been inspiring to see how so many volun-

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teers have continued to come together as a community to support the centre. We have all gotten used to connecting through Zoom video calls and are working hard together to plan and organize upcoming virtual events.

#### Have you developed a daily routine?

I wake up early and do some exercise while the house is quiet! Then I start my meetings and work until early afternoon. If the weather is nice, we will go out and get some fresh air. I have been cooking a lot, trying new recipes and tackling organizing projects around the house.

#### Instead of cocktail attire, what are you wearing?

I have always liked comfortable clothes that are easy to wear so I haven't changed my attire too much. I will often wear jeans and a colourful sweater that is appropriate

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for my video calls and but also makes me feel like I am keeping to a routine.

## How are you staying in touch?

I have always believed that staying in touch with family and friends is important, so I reach out to check in and find out how everyone is doing.

#### What do you miss the most about our smaller world?

I miss being together with family and



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# Chasing away COVID – and the COVID blues



Could this be a novel recipe for the era of the novel coronavirus? Two empty bottles of wine and a full bottle of hand sanitizer in Murray (King George) Park on May 17, perhaps the aftermath of a Victoria Day weekend party.

Photo: RALPH THOMPSON.

## **Terrasses**, cont'd. from p. 1

by-laws, according to Urban Planning director Tom Flies.

The amended tariffs eliminate the previously complicated system involving a charge of \$10 per chair to occupy the private domain and \$50 for each square meter used on the public domain.

"We've been having (virtual) meetings with the two merchant associations looking at pedestrian corridors and ways the city can enlarge the terrasses while maintaining parking," Lulham explained.

What's at stake in wake of the provincial government's social distancing directives, explained Flies, who is in charge of the project, is not only finding new ways to help the establishments but also to enable residents to enjoy summer in Westmount during the COVID-19 period of limited travel.

# Assessing each, case by case

"For those who have already applied for a terrasse permit, we're looking at each depending on their location to see how we can allow them more space while managing the circulation of pedestrians, traffic and parking," Flies said.

"We're trying to make adjustments on a case-by-case basis and be flexible. There are so many different scenarios, which also depend on private versus public space (on the sidewalk)." At the moment, the focus is on Sherbrooke and Greene rather than around Victoria and Sherbrooke, where there are not only Metro deliveries but also the grocery store's renovations, which require added street space and the district's need for parking.

#### Looking at examples

He said his department has been looking at examples used in Montreal and other municipalities as well as those farther afield such as in Germany. Perhaps benches, rather than seating at tables is a possibly, he suggested. "We're looking at a bunch of ways to keep people safe. Restricting seating capacity by 50 percent changes everything."

There's one thing certain, "It's not going to be what it was like before," he said. "It's challenging times."

# **Dog runs**, cont'd. from p. 1

to maintain the two-meter physical distancing, are expected to adhere to other limitations as posted, and police the runs themselves, he said. The regulations and opening dates are to be posted on the city website.

Dogs are required to be leashed at all times in Summit Woods during the spring migration period, April 16 to June 15.



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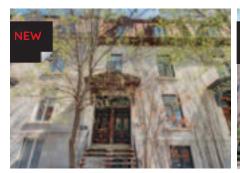
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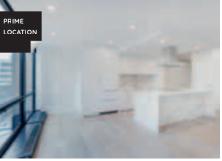


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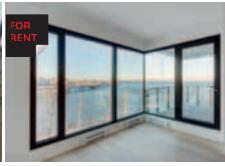
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