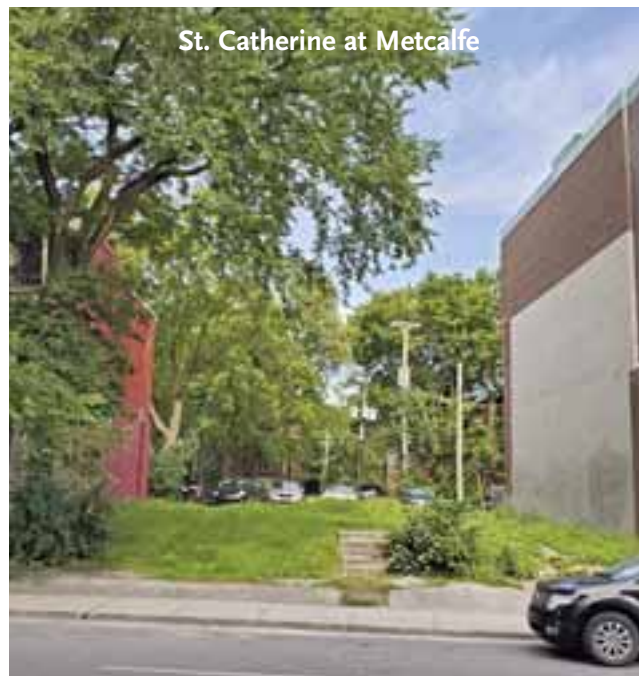
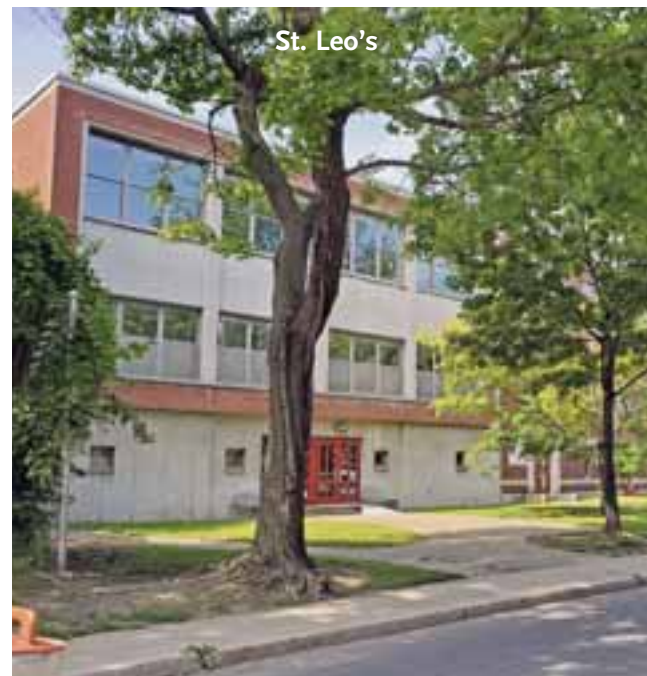


Major permits granted

St. Leo's

St. Catherine at Metcalfe

Mount Pleasant near Severn



On August 13, from left, a part of École St. Léon on Clarke Ave., the empty lot at 4469 St. Catherine St. and the one at 480 Mount Pleasant Ave. All three had major permits approved by city council on August 3. See complete stories on p. 13 and 14.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Wine distributor, Microsoft, visual effects company 1100 Atwater tenants are mix of local, world-wide firms

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Microsoft and several other high-profile tenants are preparing to move into the newly renovated office building at 1100 Atwater – some leasing entire floors, Pixomondo has already occupied the entire 20,000-square-foot main floor.

This visual effects firm with offices and studios around the world signed for the

space during the COVID period and is an example of a tenant that is putting down roots here. Others are relocating within Westmount to the location, according to Sébastien Hylands, vice president of Kevric real estate, which owns the property.

Some tenants include video gaming companies, an engineering simulation firm, a medical clinic and
a wine distributor that is *continued on p. 8*

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The ABCs of going back to school safely

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4898 de Maisonneuve now close to 50% sold

‘Prudent’ benchmark needed to start work ‘very close’: developer

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

With four of the eight units now close to being sold for the residential development at 4898 de Maisonneuve, final construction details and schedules are being worked out for the project at the corner of Prince Albert, according to Noam Schnitzer of Renwick Development.

“Fifty percent is the prudent benchmark,” he said last week. “We really didn’t lose time over the pandemic because we were waiting for the sales.”

As a result, “we will now have to finalize our schedules and financing, and have a meeting with the city to get all our green lights. This means we will probably start the construction work in mid-September or October.”

The project involves converting the original office building into a total of six upper and lower homes, and building two “grand” townhouses in a separate building on the property’s current parking lot on de Maisonneuve.

To assure York St. neighbours

“We also have to meet again with residents of York St. whose parking pads are at the back of their homes to reassure them that they will continue to have access to their parking from our lane” [off Prince Albert], though Schnitzer said he was not certain what would happen during excavation if the lane were to become too dangerous to use.

The lane has been the only access to the backs of the houses, which appeared

from the plans to be cut off by the need to build a retaining wall. But Schnitzer said he has told them he will build access through this wall (see story August 13, 2019, p. 1).

The Albert Square project, as it is being called, received council approval for its permit at the meeting of August 5 a year ago (see story August 13, 2019, p. 1).

The project has also had permits for interior work to completely strip and decontaminate the former office building, now

done and certified. “Now I’m very upbeat about moving forward,” Schnitzer said.

Dodge’s graph on July real estate *p. 16*

9 Lives, *p. 12*

Westmount Adoptions, *p. 12*

Social Notes (Roula Roussy/Selwyn House), *p. 17*



4898 de Maisonneuve on August 13.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT

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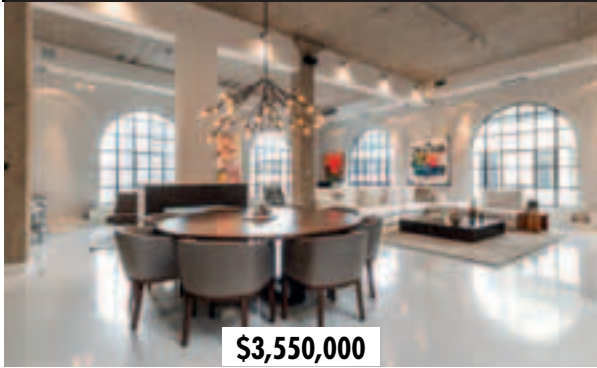
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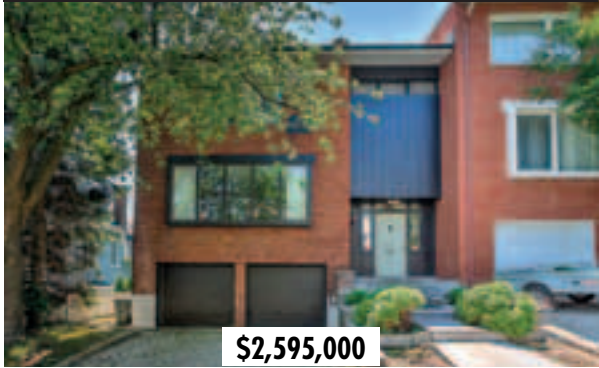
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Council asked to help reduce greenhouse gases

Cyclists' group: Add bike lanes on Sherbrooke, 'fix' Lansdowne

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council was asked August 3 to take advantage of reduced traffic and increased bicycle use during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing some driving lanes with bike paths along Sherbrooke and to "fix" the block on Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke.

That was one of the emailed questions submitted to the virtual council meeting by the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount (APCW), asking for a decision before the end of the council mandate in November 2021.

These are the two "routes used heavily by through-traffic and cyclists," explained Dan Lambert, president of the APCW. The Lansdowne

bike path from Westmount Ave. south to de Courcelle in St. Henri becomes dangerous between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve by a lack of clear markings and the sudden change of parking from the east to west side.

"We wish to highlight our concern about the lack of action by Westmount over the last three years to reduce greenhouse gases from motor vehicles, the greatest contributor to climate change," Lambert's question preamble stated.

"I wish it would be possible to pull up a lane of traffic," Mayor Christina Smith replied, referring to Sherbrooke. "We will



Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke on August 14.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

continue to invest in Bixi and active transportation, and will continue to talk with Montreal and [Montreal's borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG]. The biggest risk is not having a [bicycle] network."

Switch Lansdowne parking

In a separate but related question, Lansdowne resident Richard Lock reiterated his previous suggestions that the city switch parking in that block from the west to the east side. This would allow for an uninterrupted line to be painted for the bike path next to the curb, as it is north of Sherbrooke.

For the line painting, Mayor Smith said "We have not had weather co-operating and we're late because of COVID." As for parking, "we will look at it again," she added, referring to a petition in 2012. The sidewalks do not allow for two-way traffic, one parking lane and one for bicycles, she said.

Councillor Anitra Bostock said the city would re-evaluate the suggestions while Marina Brzeski acknowledged there "should be changes" but there were many factors to be considered.

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.....
1100 Atwater, cont'd. from p. 1
moving into two entire floors in the building located on the west side of Atwater between Tupper and Dorchester.

“Because we have multiple tenants, there is no one major tenant,” Hylands said. “But when you look at the mix, you can see that many are either international companies or local ones that are expanding from other locations because they find it to be a very interesting area and quality neighbourhood.”

Vins Philippe Durand, for example, a distributor of foreign wines, has leased two of the seven floors and will be relocating from the Old Post Office on Greene.

The only remaining available space is about half the fourth floor that’s reserved for multiple tenants as well as 2,000 square feet designed with its own entrance at grade level for a retailer such as a café that can “animate the neighbourhood,” he said (see story November 26, 2019, p. 4).

Floor by floor

While the seven floors differ in size because of the two set-backs in the two upper ones, they provide an average of 27,500 square feet each. Those who have leased space from the top floor down are described by Hylands as follows:

Seventh floor: Vins Philippe Durand on the entire heavily glazed 4,000-5,000 square foot area;

Sixth floor: The 23,000sq. ft. area is leased by Microsoft for Compulsion Games, owned by Xbox, Microsoft’s gaming division;

Fifth floor: 2K, which is part of the Tak2 video gaming firm, will occupy all 28,000 square feet;



1100 Atwater on August 13. A separate retail entrance is to the left/south.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Fourth floor: A multiple-tenant floor of 28,000 sq. ft., it is the only one where space is still available. The medical clinic of Dr. Karl Schwarz is moving from its offices at

4200 Dorchester Square to occupy about half the floor area;

Third floor: All 28,000 sq. ft. are leased by Maya HTT, a Montreal-based engineering simulation firm;

Second floor: All 28,000 sq. ft. to be occupied by Vins Philippe Durand which also is leasing the entire seventh floor;

Main floor: All this 20,000 sq. ft. area is now being used by award-winning Pixomondo, the international special effects firm for movies and TV;

Grade level: retail space of about 2,000 sq. ft. with its own separate entrance: “This would be space for a café or something to animate the neighbourhood,” Hylands said. “We haven’t been pushing this but are discussing it with a couple of people who are waiting until things settle down” over the pandemic.

Meanwhile, he said, tenants are in the throes of laying out and building up their offices, and will soon start bringing in the furniture.

He said it is still undecided about which firm will be highlighted by a sign on the building, though one at the secondary entrance door will designate the retail occupant. A company directory of all occupants will be located at street level as already permitted by the city.

Hylands said he was happy about how the work on the building worked out despite the long process of obtaining its zoning approval as a non-conforming office building in a residential zone. “It’s almost a building that had been forgotten about” due to its previous bunker-like structure that had been used since the 1970s as a data and cheque processing centre operating 24/7.

The project encountered little opposition from the nearby residential neighbourhood (see story November 26, 2019, p. 4).

We welcome your letters

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Police Report**Another sports/bike rack theft, pick-up stolen too**

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The theft of an expensive bike rack off a car parked in an area of Westmount where a similar theft took place a little more than a week earlier has police at Station 12 wondering whether they are seeing the start of a pattern.

In the latest incident, a bike rack was stolen sometime between 10 am and 2:15 pm on August 6 off a car parked on a street north of Sherbrooke St.

“It was in broad daylight,” said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, while adding that the stolen rack was “a high-end model worth several thousand dollars” and was large enough to transport four bicycles.

In the previous incident, as reported by the *Independent*, a sports rack was stolen off a car parked near King George (Murray) Park on July 28.

While the rack in the first incident was a roof-mounted model, the second was a rack that mounted onto the back of the car. No bikes or sports equipment were attached to the stolen racks in either incident.

Although it isn’t known if the rack in the first incident was locked onto the

vehicle, the police report confirmed the rack in the second incident was locked, but the perpetrators somehow managed to steal it anyway.

“It’s two weeks in a row that these racks have been stolen,” Laperrière noted, while adding that the Station 12 investigative squad has been notified and will be following up.

Pick-up stolen

A substantially more expensive kind of theft took place sometime between noon on August 11 and 8:30 am the following day when a Dodge Ram pick-up truck was stolen from a parking spot on a street in upper Westmount.

“This is under investigation,” said Laperrière.

The investigators don’t know how the thieves removed the truck, as it would initially appear that they didn’t use force. “There were no signs of broken windows, so we have no idea if they used a truck to tow it,” Laperrière said.

While basic model pick-up trucks like the Dodge Ram sell new for more than \$70,000, the one that was stolen was at least five years old and had an estimated resale value of around \$20,000.

Westmount High grad Harris VP candidate for Democrats

As has been widely reported in other media, Westmount High 1981 graduate Kamala Harris is the Democrats’ candidate for vice president in the upcoming US federal election. The current California senator is the first black and Asian VP candidate for a major US party, and the third female one.

The others were Geraldine Ferraro (Democrat, 1984) and Sarah Palin (Republican, 2008).

Using its Twitter account, Westmount High Tweeted on August 11: “We couldn’t be more proud of WHS graduate @KamalaHarris – future vice president of the United States!”

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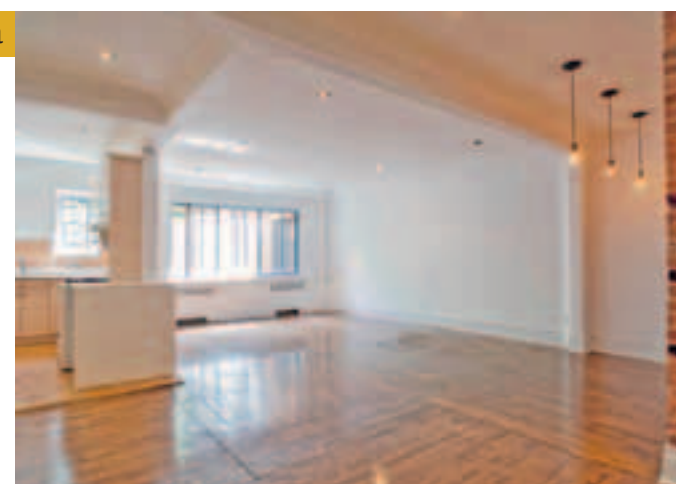
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LYSANNE FOWLER

Billie is so easy to train: here she is giving her paw and learning more and more. She is a delicate fawn-shaded shorthair, with soft brown eyes – very pretty and sweet.

Billie is only two years old, a perfect age to join a family this summer. She is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel and I hope she will soon join the dogs in Westmount to play



Billie, giving her paw

in our dog runs and join the other young active dogs at Summit Woods.

Billie is very healthy, spayed, up to date with her inoculations and microchipped. Her identification number is 42313365 and

you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Animal
Kingdom

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is Max the lionhead rabbit, a stylish long-eared fellow with an exquisite wooly mane around his head, hence a tiny regal lion. Adorable in all ways, so soft with his white coat and bonbon pink nose.

Max is a sweetheart, very intelligent,

Max Bunny

keen on cuddles, little run-arounds and play. He is five years young, as they live long lives. He is the picture of health, being up to date with his inoculations and neutered.

Rabbits are very neat, they easily use a litter box and always keep their hutch clean. Their food is available in pet food stores, the grass hay that they enjoy, and they like prepared snacks as well (not only salad and carrots!). They chew to keep their



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, we can all see that adorable Belle is affectionate and playful, hoping for a belly rub. She is a beautiful grey, black and white tabby with jewelled green eyes and a perfect smile. She is in foster care for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, where they report that she is a loving companion, now looking forward to a forever family.

She is very healthy, maybe a bit rubin-esque, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please contact

Belle is just a sweetie!



the dedicated volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at its email address info@gerdysrescue.org, after which they will forward its adoption questionnaire, or visit its website at www.gerdysrescue.org to find out more about Belle and this grass-roots volunteer animal rescue group.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



teeth filed down and there are varieties of toys and chewsticks for selection at the pet stores for that occupation as well.

A very cute little Max, just waiting at the Montreal SPCA for his affectionate new family to take him home. His identification number is 45158335 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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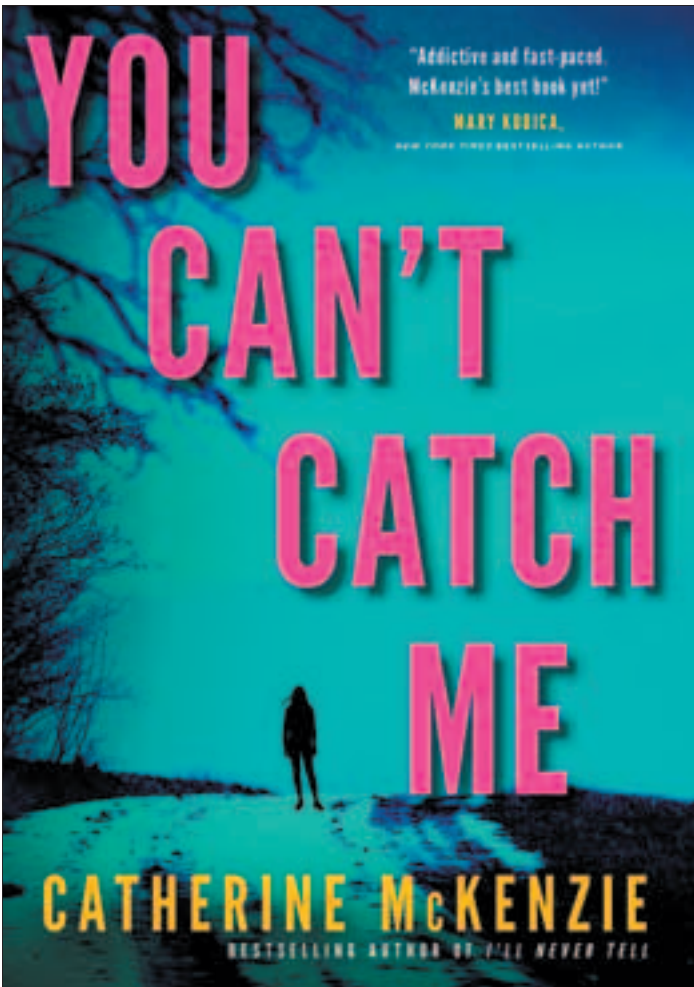
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On vacant lot next to K.I.D.S. daycare

Condo building gets permit to rise at 4469 St. Catherine

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new condo building has been approved to rise on the vacant lot where a fire November 28, 1991 at what was then called the Westmount Bar B-Q led to destruction of the building at 4469 St. Catherine, just west of Metcalfe. This was followed by demolition of the Perrette store in 1995. Both had been popular landmarks.

The permit for the new building was approved by city council August 3 “provided the screening of the air conditioning condensers on the rear facade be opaque.”

To be an infill building adjacent to the K.I.D.S. Daycare, the new building is to contain 16 to 20 condominium units, according to Councillor Conrad Peart who moved adoption of the permit list at the council meeting as commissioner of urban planning for permits and architecture.

The plan for the building at the same height as K.I.D.S. conforms to current zoning, he later told the *Independent*. This means it will not be subject to public consultation. No other details were provided.

See photo of site on p. 1



The 4469 St. Catherine site in 1983, before the restaurant was renamed the Westmount Bar B-Q and destroyed by fire in 1991.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

St. Léon permit approved Aug. 3

Construction details required before work can begin

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While city council approved the permit for the expansion of École St. Léon August 3, that doesn't mean the work is about to begin just as school starts back for the fall term.

Councillor Conrad Peart told the *Independent* there are many technical and other construction details that will be required before any construction permit as such will

actually be issued. The council approval, however, means that the project has received council's okay to proceed with the project despite its deviation from several zoning requirements, such as height and coverage.

Specifically designated in the list of permit approvals are the addition of five classrooms, three other dedicated rooms, three security offices, a library, and a multifunctional room as well as reconfiguration of

the playground.

The permit approval also details several conditions explained many times during various stages of the process.

These deal mainly with steps that the school must take to mitigate traffic, which has been the main concern of nearby residents.

These include conforming to recommendations from the city's Transportation Advisory Committee, a communications

campaign covering traffic policy, a program for children walking to school and concrete directives to parents dropping off and picking up students as well as measures to maintain traffic flow around the school during peak morning and afternoon hours.

See photo on p. 1

BUILDING PERMITS 🏠 What's permitted

Council approves 5 'significant' permits on August 3, refuses none

This following list was described at the council meeting as “short but significant.”
4469 St. Catherine: to construct a new resi-

dential building on a vacant lot provided the screening of the A/C condensers on the rear facade be opaque (see story p. xx);

480 Mount Pleasant: to build a new residence of freestone comprising two storeys with a third one in the attic along with a basement, and covered by sloping roofs; (see story p. XX);

49 Rosemount: at a Category I house, to add a door canopy on the rear façade;
360 Clarke: at École St. Léon, a Category II building, to build an extension to the school with conditions (see story p. 12);
3233 The Boulevard: at The Study school, a Category I building, to remove a chimney on the roof of the junior school building.

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Previous design led to ‘historic’ refusal

Permit approved for new house at 480 Mount Pleasant



The house at 482 Mount Pleasant on August 13, with the empty lot to the left. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council approved a permit August 3 for a new house on the vacant lot at 480

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Whether you are a practising musician who wants to improve your skills or a beginning player who has always wanted to learn the guitar, live online lessons are a personalized and fun way to help you achieve your goals.

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If you are in the market to buy a guitar online or have an old one lying around, I can advise you.

Chris van Soest

24 years’ experience in Westmount, NDG, Hampstead & CSL
cvansoest70@gmail.com
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Mount Pleasant after another design made history three years ago when the council of that time refused to sanction one recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The permit approved August 3 by council is to build a new residence in freestone, comprising two storeys with a third one in the attic along with a basement, covered by sloping roofs.

While no other details were available, the property’s history and efforts to build a new single-family residence provide insight into the permit approval process and council’s discretionary powers (see story February 21, 2017, p. 1).

The design that the council had refused to approve, February 6, 2017 was overturned in part as being too modern/contemporary to meet the requirements of By-law 1305, which requires a new house to

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A rendering of a house for 480 Mount Pleasant that is being used to advertise the lot for sale.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF GROUPE JOSEPH MONTANARO.

conform to the defining characteristics of the streetscape and to other architectural guidelines.

The council resolution rejecting the new house had also referred to a by-law provision stating that a new construction on a site that was part of an original property on which original buildings still stand, must be harmonious with them “in style and scale.”

In this case, this applied to the large Category I house on the large property of 482 Mount Pleasant, 480’s neighbour, which has a traditional sloped-roof design. It is also the house in which Westmount firefighter Eric Hart lost his life fighting a fire November 30, 1979.

Considered to have been “an extraordi-

nary vote” for being the first time in at least 30 years that a council had overturned a PAC recommendation, the vote led to legal action, later withdrawn, against Mayor Peter Trent and councillors Victor Drury and Theodora Samiotis, then urban planning commissioner, as well as the city itself.

The vacant property, which has been on the real estate market for \$1.95 million, was also on sale at the time of the previous permit refusal.

The design that was approved August 3 does not bind a future owner to adopt it, real estate broker Joseph Montanaro told the *Independent* last week. It is a resource to show what the city of Westmount would accept, he said.



Another view of the house at 482 Mount Pleasant, as seen February 17, 2017.



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

There's no more alluring "Aladdin's cave" full of treasures than Greene Ave.'s Lapidarius.

The shop showcases Japanese prints, Lalique glass, a bronze of Napoleon, iridescent glass, royal pieces (William IV and George III), and much, much more. The decorative Victorian silver trays would make Martha Stewart weep: they are perfect for holding a pizza or flutes of champagne.

Sadly, the amazing collectibles are now offered up in Lapidarius' "estate sale." Art and antiques connoisseur and owner

Lapidarius to close – and continue

Maged Taraboulsy has been in "the business of beautiful things" all his life. The family has managed Lapidarius' outstanding collections for over 100 years, from Alexandria, Egypt, to Place Bonaventure and then Crescent St. (1984-1990).

For the past 30 years, renowned for quality and price, the Greene Ave. store has been a destination for collectors, designers, celebrities and fashionistas. A stylishly dressed lady was eagerly eyeing the antique Hermès valise and the vintage Louis Vuitton weekend totes the day I visited.

And work by Canadian artists Stanley Cosgrove and John Little lured a group of admiring aficionados.

Here, one must truly wander to discover. Carefully, though: the boutique is packed. Amidst the jade, the ivory minia-

tures, gleaming Thistle glasses ("designed for Napoleon"), one can discern buys ranging from African tribal masks to "gently-used Oyster Rolex watches." There is even a Renoir-signed bronze plaque. "Possibly the only Renoir for sale in Canada," Maged chuckles.

He can recall the halcyon days when his shop was asked by clients to hand deliver 300 holiday gifts: "Dunhill gold lighters!"

But, as the song goes, "times they are a-changin'." Perhaps stainless steel cutlery is easy to clean, but Lapidarius' heavy-weight silver dinnerware is so much nicer to handle, not to mention eternally elegant.

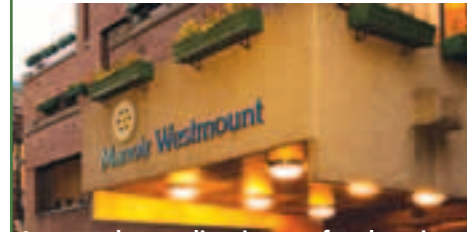
But Maged is not disappearing. A trained jeweler, for the past few years he has been not only re-modeling/updating rings and necklaces but designing one-of-a-kind gorgeous pieces, "using rubies, emeralds, diamonds and sapphires." His plan is "to downsize Lapidarius Jewellery and Antiques into Lapidarius Jewellery and occupy a smaller space within the same premises." I, for one, will miss browsing in his "*petit musée*," but change can be a good thing. "Everything has its time."

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Maged Taraboulsy of Lapidarius on August 8.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in July 2020. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Last issue, we were cautiously optimistic about the market turning the corner following the COVID-19 shutdown, and the addition of five late arrivals to the June list certainly helped in that regard, bringing the total number of June house sales in Westmount to 14 – including two above the \$5-million mark – which is the highest monthly volume this year and matches the volume in June last year.

So far, only seven more sales have been posted as taking place in July, ranging in price from \$1,375,000 to \$3,175,000, with mark-ups over municipal valuation from nine to 90 percent. Because one of the \$5 million-plus sales in June went for only 67

July sales: Turning the corner

percent of valuation, it brought down the average mark-up for that month to only three percent, but in July the average resurged to almost 28 percent, the highest since the new valuation roll came into force in January.

The most exciting statistic in July is the number of days to sell, at 23 days compared to 129 in June. In fact, three of the June sales had been on the market between 307 and 780 days, while in July, the longest-marketed house was 77 days, and all the rest were 18 days or less. This was proof of the “seller’s market;” all of the July sale prices were at least 90 percent of the asking price, though none sold over asking.

Condos

Only three condominiums sold in June, including two apartments and a portion of a made-over duplex, for prices between \$680,000 and \$2,740,000, the latter for a two-storey penthouse in one of Westmount’s high-rise buildings. It is the third condo sale this year over \$2 million.

Adjacent

The adjacent-Westmount market was busy, too, with nine house sales between June and July, plus a townhouse-type con-

Average adjusted price for ‘typical’ Westmount house, by month, January 2015 to July 2020, based on accepted offer dates



dominium on de Breslay Rd. and two brand new houses, yet to be entered on the city rolls, on Stanley Weir St. in Côte des Neiges. The June sales list also includes the first sale we have seen this year in the Shaughnessy village area, on St. Matthew St.

The mid-August tally shows 99 houses on the market in Westmount, almost back to the level we reported in mid-June, with the first asking price of less than \$1 million since back in March, at \$995,000. From there, prices go up to \$17,950,000, with four (up from three) asking more than \$10 million.

Notice

that as of December 1, 2019, Dr. Marvin Pinchuk, dentist, formerly practicing at 4141 Sherbrooke Ouest, Westmount, QC H3Z 1B8 (514-934-0748), has entrusted legal custody of his patient files to Clinique Dac. For any requests regarding information about your file, please contact Clinique Dac at 4141 Sherbrooke Ouest, Westmount Qc H3Z 1B8 (514-934-0748).

Rentals

So far this year, agents have logged 21 house rentals, in fact a lower number than by this time last year, when there were 28, and 27 the year before.

Agents are slowly finding their way through the morass of protocols surrounding the COVID-19 situation, so the prospects are hopeful for a strong fall market.

Classifieds in the Independent

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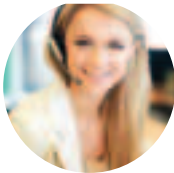
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Social Notes

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 disappointed but determined supporters of great causes to see how they are faring in our smaller world and learn their event's new plans.

Roula Rossy, chair, organizing committee, Selwyn House School's "Known & Loved" gala

What was your event? Cause?

The Selwyn House School "Known & Loved" gala: A farewell celebration in honour of our headmaster Hal Hannaford and his wife Susan Doherty. The purpose was to gather the Selwyn House community to bid a proper farewell to Hal and Susan in recognition of their wonderful service and dedication to the school, where they made everyone feel known and loved.

All sponsorships, donations and proceeds from the gala would have gone to The Hannaford/Doherty Mental Health and Wellness Fund.

It was to be held on what date?

The gala was to be held on May 1, 2020 at Maison Principal.

Have you planned a new date?

For the moment, the event is postponed without a re-scheduled date. We are wait-

We welcome your letters

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.

email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com

Cause: Selwyn's 'Known & Loved' Hannaford gala Fundraiser Profile: Roula Rossy



ing to see what life will be like in the new school year.

How are you sheltering in place?

My husband and I are home with our three kids, who are doing online learning with their respective universities and school.

I am keeping busy mostly with being a homemaker full time. Also, I am taking advantage of the extra time to advance on projects I wouldn't necessarily have the time for in normal days.

Have you developed a daily routine?

I am living in a certain routine just by the sheer necessity of what needs to be done in a certain order during the day. At

the same time, I will sometimes take longer to accomplish something because I have plenty of time to do it. Not a good habit to develop!

Instead of cocktail attire, what are you wearing?

I am sadly mostly living in comfortable attire, with the occasional nice top when I have a Zoom call. I do miss my clothes.

How are you staying in touch?

I have to say that I am very busy at home and the days are going by fast to my disbelief. But I find I am not keeping in touch enough. I will do the very occasional phone call or Zoom with friends. Mostly, we text each other to check in.

Link for your event/cause supporters?

We are a committee of volunteer moms planning this event: Karen Anderson, Ann Carolyn Lapierre, Luisa Matheus, Suzanna Accurso, Leslie Silver, Emma McCavour, Lorna Denham, Kari Cullen with the guidance of Mary Ann Cloherty, director of annual giving at Selwyn House. We have put up information at: selwyn.ca under the logo "Known & Loved" Gala.

What do you miss the most about our smaller world

I miss a lot about our world. I miss human connection, face to face. I miss getting together with my family and friends. I miss planning life: planning an event, a trip, a lunch or dinner.

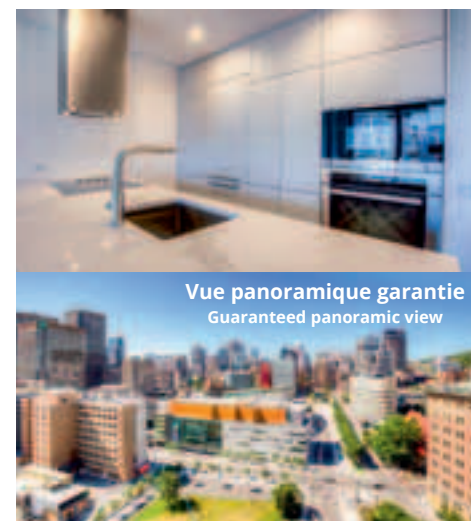
I miss freedom.

At the same time, I am grateful for health, food and shelter, as I know so many people are suffering with this pandemic on many levels and in so many different ways. I don't take anything for granted.

On the upside, I get to be with my family and enjoy them. When this is all over and we go back to our busy routines, it's nice to look back and say we had invaluable time together.

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Team Canada wins world debating tourney
Debater Anzarouth individually third in world, first in Canada

Westmounter Matthew Anzarouth was part of the five-member Team Canada that beat out Sri Lanka in the finals of the first online World Schools Debating Championships. It marks Canada's third victory ever and first one since 2010.

LCC grade 12 student Anzarouth was one of three members who participated in all of the preliminary debates and, in individual standings, finished third overall of approximately 250 participants from 68 countries. He was also the top debater on the Canadian team.

Leading up to the event, which was originally to be held in Mexico but moved online due to the pandemic, Anzarouth spent every day over a five-week period practising with his teammates and coach.

The final round debate topic was about the merits of high-paying jobs with long hours versus less well paid, more fulfilling ones.

►Matthew Anzarouth after the Quebec Student Debating Association's provincial championships. He was the top speaker at the event, which was held in February.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOWER CANADA COLLEGE.



Perlman named Jewish Genealogical Societies' 'volunteer of the year'

Westmounter Gary Perlman was named the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies' "volunteer of the year" August 12 at its 40th international conference on Jewish genealogy, which was held virtually.

According to a press release, Perlman has submitted more than 60,000 records of Montreal-area gravestones to JOWBR (the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry), updated nearly 2,000 gravestone images from Montreal's Back River Cemetery and created nearly 7,000 records to better document broken, leaning, faded or Hebrew-only stones.

He has also made more than 10,000 additions and corrections to the Baron De



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDRA GOLDEN, PUBLICITY CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

Hirsch Cemetery's in-house database, and photographed Holocaust and war casualty memorials.

In addition, he has linked genealogical information directly from JOWBR to the Jewish Genealogical Society (JGS) of Montreal website and created the Jewish Genealogy Dashboard, a multi-source search engine publicly available on the JGS Montreal website, enabling users to run a search across some 50 databases.

He has done volunteer genealogy at the Donald Berman Maimonides Geriatric Centre for about five years, and has completed work on over 20 family trees for residents there.

Back to Bach

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter Dorothy Fraiberg has relaunched/re-opened Bach Before Bedtime, the *über*-popular musical series for children. Adults love it too!

In collaboration with the Conseil des Arts de Montreal, the opening Menagerie Musical Journey is organized by Fraiberg, artistic director and founder, Allegra Chamber Music and Bach Before Bedtime, along with her musical team and enthusiastic volunteers.

The first pop-up concert takes place on Vendôme Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve. (The exact address is a secret, but easy to find on the short street. Follow the chalk marks and look for the stage.)

Social distancing will be observed. Families can enjoy the fun standing/sitting on the sidewalk and neighbouring yards. Hand sanitizer will be available for those who need it.

"Due to COVID-19, we will not be handing out percussion instruments, but we will send out a craft next week to make your own that you can bring!" At the end of the concert, there will be a question period, usually eliciting excited queries from budding young music lovers. "Come and discover 'What will happen to the swan, elephant, doves and chickens when the rooster forgets to wake them up one morning?'"

BACH BEFORE BEDTIME/
BACH AVANT DODO

Tuesday, August 18, 3:30 pm

Vendôme Ave. between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke St. (You can't miss them: volunteers plan to welcome one and all)

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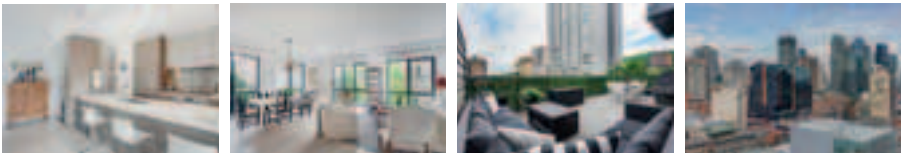
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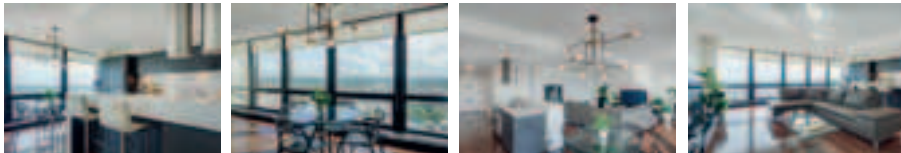


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