

Currently processing up to 500 book requests/day

## Library awaits results of back-to-school before going to 'stage 3'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As back-to-school timing has many families facing uncertainty, further steps in re-opening the Westmount Public Library are on hold pending concerns over a possible spike in new coronavirus cases, library director Julie-Anne Cardella said last week.

"The council wants us to take a cautionary approach," she said. This means waiting until numbers of new COVID cases are "under control" once the results of back-to-school are known before moving to a stage-3 step. This could involve opening up the library to members for browsing, at least on a limited, reservation basis.

While some libraries in the Montreal area have already taken this step, Cardella said it involves a number of procedures

that include placing any book or document touched in a 72-hour decontamination period and wiping down anything touched, including a chair or even its seat. This would require a cleaner.

As it is, the entrance to the library allows for members to pick up material they have reserved (see story July 14, p. 3). Some 300 to 500 reservations a day are being processed, Cardella said. For example, on Monday morning August 24, a total of 499 reservations had been received over the weekend.

### *Chairs must be fastened to floor*

While the Quebec government has allowed seated gatherings of up to 250 people, Cardella said this requires all seats to be fixed to the floor, ..... which in most cases can- *continued on p. 9*

## Family day in Westmount Park



Members of the Soarer, Bolton, Chiasson and Oliveira families have been getting together in Westmount Park for the past 10 weeks, including as seen here on August 28 at 4:30 pm. A formal "Family Day" has traditionally been hosted by the city in Westmount Park in the spring, but was not this year due to the COVID pandemic.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## Youth hockey instructional, adult play limited to pick-up

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Hockey at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) will take on a unique format this fall characterized by instructional hockey at the youth level, and pickup-type for adults, all based on Hockey Quebec's COVID guidelines, Sports and Recreation officials said last week.

No competitive games will take place at

any level, according to department director Dave Lapointe.

All in all, it will be a very different fall period and will depend on further directives from Quebec or possible outbreaks of COVID, he explained. Registration for all programs is being planned for September 8, online only, with registration for non-residents September ..... *continued on p. 10*



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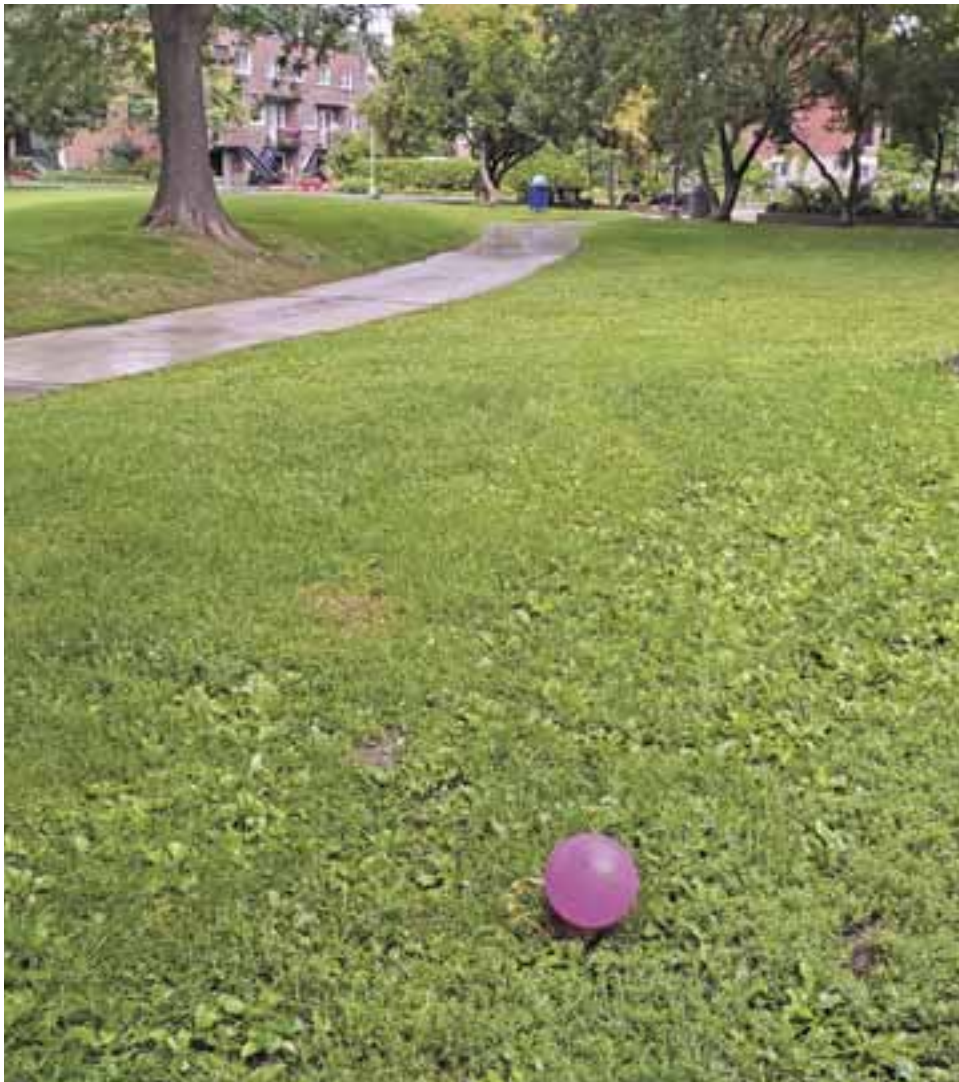


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## The last balloon



This balloon was photographed in Westmount Park August 21. Many would see it as ugly litter, but it also had a mournful quality. When did the party end? What was being celebrated?

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Letters, p. 20

9 Lives, p. 26

March real estate transfers, p. 17

Westmount Adoptions, p. 26

Dodge on March transfers, p. 24

Goode House at 178 Côte St. Antoine

## Virtual public consultation for heritage site set for Sept. 16

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting on the heritage house at 178 Côte St. Antoine will take place Wednesday, September 16. This will be presented at 7 pm as a virtual presentation by Urban Planning's Local Heritage Council using YouTube Live through the city's website.

This is a platform similar to the one

used to broadcast city's council meetings during the pandemic closures. The meeting will be followed by written comments over a 15-day period ending October 1.

The city is seeking provincial heritage protection for the site, including its landscaping and interior, under Quebec's cultural heritage act (see story July 7, p. 8).

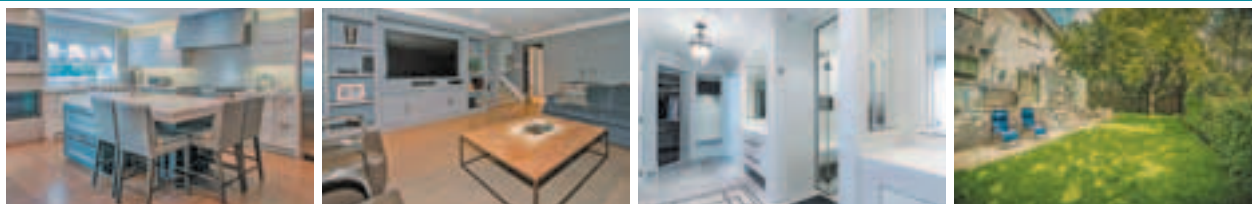
Though the exterior of ..... the Goode House, dating *continued on p. 19*



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Work to start at Westmount Park Church after 3-year battle

# Fun Academy renovation to allow for 60 at daycare

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After some three years of manoeuvring through the Quebec process for daycare operations, Garderie Fun Academy at Westmount Park Church was set to start extensive reconstruction work this week in its basement quarters to accommodate 60 kids starting in January.

“We’re expecting to be full,” said owner and operator Jacinthe Deschênes, who has

been operating a mini-version of the daycare for up to six children at the church.

“We’re very excited,” she added. “We’re starting with demolishing the basement space, re-doing and upgrading the electricity, air exchange and air conditioning systems, building eight classrooms modelled as a children’s museum and adding a second washroom.”

The work also includes building a staircase to a secondary exit/entrance into

Westmount Park through the east stone wall of the church, a Category I heritage building, for which the city had already approved permits (see story December 5, 2017, p. 1).

Red tape

This was just before the project became caught up in provincial government red tape: a change in the Quebec family ministry’s daycare regulations, the 2018 provincial election and legal action by Deschênes.

Until a legal ruling at the end of last year cleared the way for Fun Academy to operate a full-sized, private, non-subsidized daycare (see story November 19, 2019, p. 1), its mini-version for up to six children has been operating at the church but had to close down from March 13 to July 1 over the pandemic.

Since then, and during the renovation period, it will operate on the main floor of the church, which remains closed over COVID to other activities such as Contac-tivity.

While there were other daycare applica-tions left in limbo over similar challenges, “we’re the only one that went through the

battle and survived,” she said.

**A children’s museum**

The daycare is being modelled as a children’s museum. Themed classrooms are to include a science lab, space ship, forest, octopus’ garden under the sea, artist studio and farmers’ vegetable market. “There will be a lot of pretend play.”

These are being planned by an Alberta company that provides designs for children’s hospitals, Deschênes said. The daycare is also being modelled as an out-door one and has affiliated with the UK Forest School provider, she said.

“This is a program that creates outdoor education. It focusses on three hours a day outdoors “for which we will be using the whole park, not just the playground.” In addition to CEGEP certified daycare edu-cators, she said, there will be part-time specialists to teach piano, science and other areas.

Since daycare registration is now required through a government portal called “La Place 0-5,” Deschênes said, any-one needing information and a registration link for Fun Academy can contact her by email at [garderiefunacademy@gmail.com](mailto:garderiefunacademy@gmail.com).

# Tent ruled out for public attendance at council meeting Sept. 8

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A decision has been reached not to use the tent outside city hall as a venue for the city council meeting September 8, the *Independent* learned at press time August 31.

“We are still working out sound issues in the tent, so next week’s council meeting will be a virtual meeting, once again,” confirmed Anne Renaud, executive assistant to Mayor Christina Smith.

At the time of the tent’s installation, city director general Benoit Hurtubise had said the city would be testing out its suitability for public council meetings (see story August 25, p. 1). These have not been open to public attendance since the closure of city hall March 13 over the COVID-19 pandemic.

The upcoming meeting will be access-ible from the city website. Because of the holiday on Labour Day Monday, the meet-ing will be held on Tuesday.



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# A floor of roots



Have you ever noticed this solid “floor” of roots on the front lawn of Ascension of our Lord church at Clarke and Sherbrooke?

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## BUILDING PERMITS What’s permitted

### Council approves 15 permits, refuses none

The following 15 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration or renovation were approved at the August 17 meeting of the city council on the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). There were no refusals.

- 26 Melbourne:** landscaping work at the front, side and rear, including repaving the parking apron and building a new terrace and patio at the rear provided the parking apron is reduced to a maximum width of 17 feet which is the width protected by vested rights as per the city archives;
- 4260 Dorchester:** to build a back terrace in a new configuration provided a soffit in wood is installed below the terrace;
- 479 Strathcona:** to do landscaping work in the front yard, including repaving the driveway provided the retaining walls are made of, or faced in, natural stone;
- 344 Victoria:** to rebuild the storefront;
- 48 Aberdeen:** to replace windows provided the leading is applied on the interior and exterior of the exterior pane of glass;
- 430 Grosvenor:** to repair the rear balconies with conditions concerning the handrail

- and uprights and that a soffit in wood be installed under the balconies;
- 39 Côte St. Antoine:** at a Category I\* house, to do landscaping in the front and side yards;
- 317 Roslyn:** to rebuild the main entrance porch and stairs;
- 421 Victoria:** to replace the front second-storey door on conditions the proportions of the doors and the transom are revised so that the transom has the same height as the neighbour’s at 425-427 Victoria;
- 371 Grosvenor:** to replace the windows;
- 20 Sunnyside:** to replace some windows provided two designated windows are double-hung ones;
- 5 Côte St. Antoine:** at a Category I house to replace the front door provided the details in the transom are preserved or replicated to be identical to the existing;
- 655 Côte St. Antoine:** to repair the front stairs;
- 464 Elm:** at a Category I house, to replace the front stairs of wood by concrete;
- 4937 Sherbrooke:** at a Category I house, to install a sign for a new commercial tenant.

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## Moody turns 100



Manoir Westmount resident Yvonne Moody turned 100 on August 30. Moody was born in a log cabin in Errington, Vancouver Island built by her father before he went to World War I. The family later moved to London, England, where she spent her childhood. She lived through, and was wounded in, the London Blitz of World War II. She returned to Canada in 1987. She enjoys singing in the Manoir choir, acting and writing poetry. "Possessing a vast store of general knowledge, she has proved a formidable competitor in the [Manoir's] trivia contests," said daughter Elisabeth Gidengil. Among the birthday treats were greetings from her three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

PHOTO COURTESY OF E. GIDENGIL.

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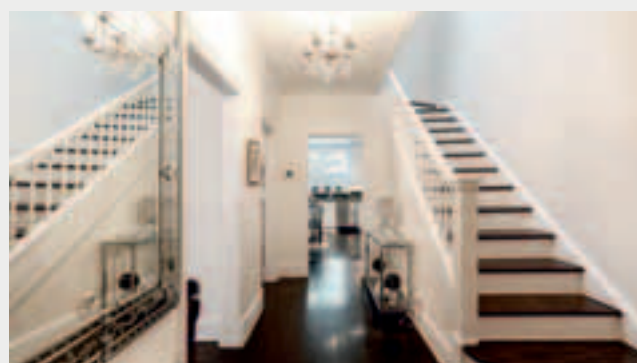
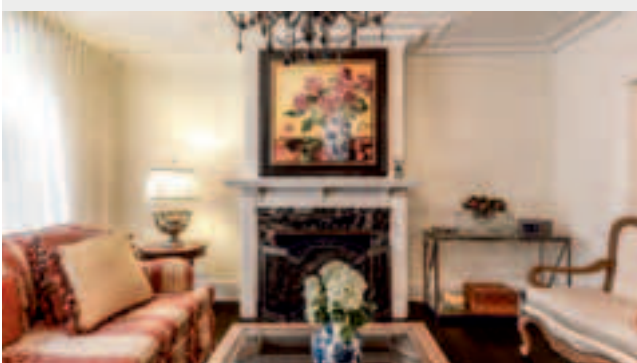
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## Police Report

# Police warn of school safety blitz until end of September – watch your driving

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With many school children back in class after summer vacation and following the COVID-19 hiatus, police at Station 12 are warning they will be watching extra closely for motorists who speed through school zones or fail to obey safety regulations when school buses are stopped for students.

### Closer scrutiny

According to Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, school zones will be under closer scrutiny by the police over the next few weeks.

“With the majority of schools opening, the police presence around schools in Westmount is going up,” said Laperrière, noting that the police will be conducting special operations near Westmount’s schools for about a month.

Among other things, he said officers

will be keeping an eye out for parents who fail to drop off or pick up children outside schools in an orderly way, or cause traffic jams by double-parking. He warned that tickets will be issued by the police if deemed necessary.

### Warnings – maybe

“Usually, the police officers will start off with warnings,” he said. “But if a warning is given out one day, it doesn’t mean there’ll be a second warning on day two. The police officers will be using their own judgement and will decide whether to give out a warning or a fine.”

Laperrière said motorists can expect to see police officers stationed near schools, especially during peak hours when students are arriving and leaving at the end of the school day, from August 31 until the end of September.



The entrance to the Westmount Public Library, and explanatory signage regarding COVID procedures, on August 27. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

### Library, cont'd. from p. 1

not be done in the library or Victoria Hall. The library is also closely following recommendations from the Quebec Library Association, she explained.

This also applies to Victoria Hall, which will only be used for now, at least, for some of the Sports and Recreation programs (see separate story p. 1).

To prepare for the eventual move to stage 3, the library is ordering wrap-around Plexiglas shields for the circulation, reference, children’s and A/V desks, according to Cardella.

These have an installation date of up to

five weeks away, which could be expected to coincide with at least the early results of the back-to-school process.

Another area of concern is use of the library computers and their related furniture, which also would require rigorous wiping down.

The library staff is operating on a two-team system with the teams rotating but never overlapping so that if one should be quarantined due to suspected COVID, it would not affect the entire staff. This is the same procedure being used by Public Works to prevent immobilizing the department.



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Sports and Rec reviews summer programs

# COVID-free and deemed a success, Lapointe says

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Sports and Recreation officials turn their sights to fall programs, a look at the summer activities featuring pool use, day camps and other activities reveals that all the pandemic social distancing, scaled-back capacities and other planning measures paid off.

“We’ve had no cases of COVID, knock on wood,” department director Dave Lapointe told the *Independent* last week as two weeks remained. No cases meant among users, lifeguards, counsellors or other workers, despite the experience of some other municipal pools forced to close

when staff were affected by cross-contamination.

So was the season a success? “Absolutely,” he replied. Users “were very compliant. We had a few phone calls of complaints regarding the pool reservation system, but the system is what it is.”

With pool capacity reduced to 75 from 350 for general swim, most of the spaces were filled, although there were some cases where people did not cancel and simply didn’t show up. The pool was able to maintain the lap and adult swim periods as well as aquafit. No lessons were provided.

Lapointe said he considered the day

camp to be a success. The four two-week sessions provided a total of 280 spots at the required half capacity. While most were filled, not all, which Lapointe did not find surprising. “A lot of parents were timid to [have their children] participate and, with so many people working from home, their kids were able to stay there.”

New activities introduced

And out of pandemic needs came the introduction of new activities in Westmount Park – fitness, yoga, tai chi and “groove dance.” They proved so successful that they were extended a couple of weeks and will likely be held again next summer, Lapointe said. “It’s something we had always intended to do.”

The opening of the arena July 13 for private evening hockey rental also was successful under reduced capacity while general skating and hockey were also introduced and the city’s own hockey camp took place last week.

Meanwhile finishing touches were being added to the arena’s fall program (see separate story, p. 1).



The Lansdowne entrance to the Westmount recreation centre, hand-sanitizer dispensers and explanatory signage regarding COVID procedures, on August 27. Top right: the closed Academy Rd. entrance.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Hockey, cont'd. from p.1

Fitness-type programs, some also live-streamed, and karate are expected to be the only other Sports and Recreation programs taking place at the WRC along with hockey and skating.

All others will be run at Victoria Hall, for which several changes were still taking place last week after some instructors decided to opt out, he said.

Hockey pods

“Youth hockey is just instructional and will be broken down into pods of 20 according to age and ability. All ice time will be divided into hourly periods allowing for 45 minutes between each for sanitizing

and cleaning up. Overall, we’ll be losing about 35 percent of usable ice time,” Lapointe estimated.

Adult hockey will resemble the Old Timers league organized as pick-up games. “Players will be divided into pods of 20 guys playing 4-on-4 (plus goalies) that will stay the same and play against each other with players bringing a light or dark coloured sweater” to differentiate the team they’ll play on.

Skating instruction

Skating instruction also will change with 20 participants reduced from the usual 60. Beginners will be organized in groups of five.

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## Lansdowne bollards installed



Bollards were being installed August 27 on the east side of Lansdowne between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve, seen looking north in this photo. A worker on site confirmed them as “bike path bollards,” but the *Independent*’s reporting suggests they are to widen the effective width of the sidewalk for pedestrians. Some residents have been asking for the parking to be moved from west to the east side in this stretch. Presumably, this change could still happen with bollards.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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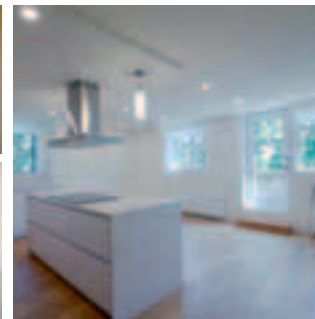
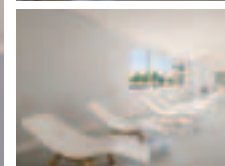


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Groupe Maurice project at foot of Claremont in NDG

# Excavation to start in October for new seniors' residence



All was quiet at the southwest intersection of St. Catherine, de Maisonneuve and Claremont on August 27.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Excavation and soil decontamination is now set to start in October followed about five months later by construction of the 10-storey Groupe Maurice seniors' residence on the vacant lot on de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine at the foot of Claremont in NDG. While soil testing had begun in January, with an aim to start the work in May, the updated schedule was reported last week by Sarah Ouellette, spokesperson for

Groupe Maurice, which is developing the complex called LIZ. It includes 336 apartments with services as well as 24 care-provided studio apartments. "Fortunately, COVID-19 has not caused any delays or changes to our project," she told the *Independent*. The call period for tenders and proposals of the bids, however, had been extended due to several sub-contractors not being available during May, she explained. "Financing authorizations were also longer

than forecasted." **Work at Westmount side?** Ouellette said it had not yet been decided whether any of the work would take place from the St. Catherine side of the property at the border of Westmount. "It will be coordinated with the contractor." The permit for the building had been received February 28 after several years in the approval process involving Montreal and the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG.

Previous plans in a joint venture with Proviso included a grocery store at ground level (see story March 3, 2015, p. 1). When the store was opposed by nearby residents concerned about added traffic, the vacant property was purchased from Proviso by Groupe Maurice to continue the development on its own (see story March 26, 2019, p. RE-3). A website of the project can be viewed at [www.legroupemaurice.com/residences-pour-personnes-agees/liz/](http://www.legroupemaurice.com/residences-pour-personnes-agees/liz/).



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337 Elm	Anthony Camus-Amiel	\$1,927,500	\$1,660,800	16.1%
426 Elm	Mathieu Boily & Alison Simioni	\$1,975,000	\$1,611,100	22.6%
24 Forden	John Hugh Labatt & Diane Desjardins	\$3,680,000	\$2,681,300	37.2%
59 Forden	Matthew Laurier Marchand	\$3,300,000	\$2,426,200	36.0%
659 Lansdowne	Prosanto Chaudhury & Deborah Stock	\$1,625,000	\$1,433,200	13.4%
26 Melbourne	Tomasz Nowicki & Clydie Decroix	\$2,140,000	\$2,156,600	-0.8%
4547 Sherbrooke	Eliazer Klein & Chaya Drummer	\$2,888,000	\$1,600,000	80.5%
12 Windsor	Many Saadi-Nejad & Richard Foltz	\$1,400,000	\$1,301,900	7.5%
DUPLEXES				
445-47 Victoria	4148819 Canada Inc.	\$2,140,000	\$1,750,700	22.2%
CONDOMINIUMS				
202 Côte St. Antoine	Chi Keung Hayden Jon & Shu Yi Liu	\$1,915,000	\$1,650,000	16.1%
482 Victoria	Damian Smektola & Megan Casinha	\$875,000	\$715,000	22.4%
SHARE TRANSFERS				
432-34 Prince Albert, 50.2%	James, Pascal & Mathieu Dessain	\$1,055,000	\$924,835 <sup>1</sup>	14.1%
OTHER				
37-39 Chesterfield	Raphael Assor & Chantal Benhamron	\$1,950,000	\$1,437,600	35.6%

<sup>1</sup>Valuation is 50.2% of \$1,842,300. Exclusive use of 434 Prince Albert.



**36 Summit Crescent (Westmount)**  
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Located on one of the most desirable streets in Hampstead directly across from Hampstead Park, this magnificent contemporary home boasts incredible vaulted ceilings, high-end finishings throughout and an idyllic outdoor oasis. Perfect for entertaining, this home exudes luxury living at its finest.



**83 Summit Crescent (Westmount)**  
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Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Westmount artist Jennifer Goddard knows a good thing when she sees it. Impressed by Marja Hogan's COVID-19 portraits of masked emergency-room staff at the MUHC Glen site, she submitted Hogan's series of paintings to the Royal Bank of Canada's "Random Acts of Canadian" website.

Much to her delight Goddard was notified of the project's acceptance on August 17.

Interviewed that same day, Hogan was elated. The series began last spring when a friend – an emergency-room doctor at the MUHC Glen site – requested a masked portrait of himself after viewing her work in the E.K. Voland Art Gallery's virtual exhibition.

Hogan said: "The portraits first started as a gift to a friend and one portrait led to another. I'm grateful for how hard our doctors, nurses and patient attendants work."

A resident of the Tradau area to Westmount's northeast, Hogan paints florals and landscapes as well as children's por-

# Hogan's masked portraits recognized by Royal Bank



Some of Marja Hogan's paintings of ER workers at the Glen hospital.

PHOTO COURTESY OF M. HOGAN.

traits at her studio in the Complexe du Canal Lachine. As to her masked subjects, she said "I was intrigued by their eyes. They are so expressive."

Hogan's COVID-19 portraits will appear on the Random Acts of Canadian website (randomactsofcanadian@rbc.com), created to encourage citizens to share "stories of inspiration and good deeds."

20 portraits

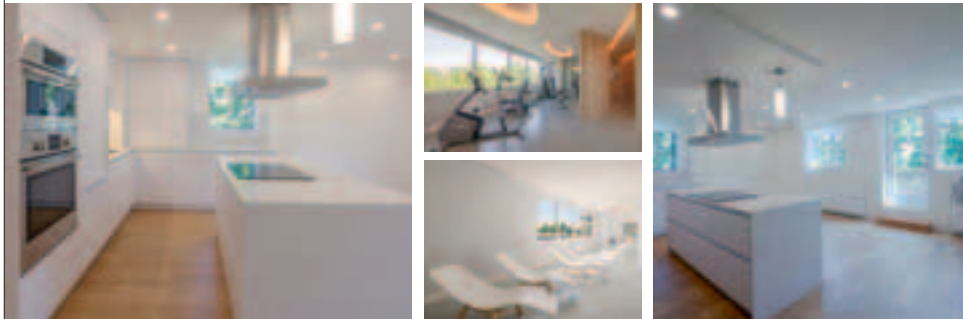
In addition to online publication, the artist will receive a \$500 cheque to put towards art supplies. Requests for the 8"x8" portraits continue and Hogan recently completed her 20th painting. However before each person receives their personal thank-you gift, the series will be displayed at the MUHC Glen site.

Goddard, who shares a studio with Hogan, said: "I was struck that this was something she wanted to do and was so pure in intention. It was literally straight from the heart and I wanted people to know about it."

RBC's letter of acceptance read: "Your submission exemplifies what it truly means to be Canadian, and everyday heroes like Marja are the heartbeat of our country!"

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# Women's Canadian Club to use 'Zoom' to deliver new lecture series

By MARTIN C. BARRY

In this post-COVID-19 world where many people and groups are still recovering from, or adjusting to, fallout from the pandemic, the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal is emerging from the decreed isolation with a new schedule of public lectures made possible through videoconferencing technology.

In March, when the pandemic brought the WCCM's gatherings at Victoria Hall to a halt, the group's leaders immediately leapt into action and found a solution to keep their members connected.

After examining various options available, they are now embarking on the delivery of the WCCM's programs using a webinar platform.

For the first WCCM online lecture, to be delivered on September 15 by McGill University faculty of management studies chair Henry Mintzberg, the Zoom video service will be used. Mintzberg will speak on the re-balancing of society in the post-COVID-19 era.

In preparation for the lectures, the WCCM is offering members Zoom training webinars, one of which will be taking place on Wednesday, September 9 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

"We are offering Zoom training and simulation sessions with a multi-media expert so that our members are comfortable navigating our new virtual platform to participate in the lectures," WCCM president Kim Cavener said in an interview with the



At Victoria Hall in the "before times." October 15, 2019: Patricia Roman, co-chair of education at the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, on the day of the "Inside Stories about Canadian Authors and Publishers" presentations of novelists Anna Porter and Sylvia Fraser.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM CAVENER.

*Independent.*

"Our virtual lectures will be key to keeping our members engaged with the club now during these uncertain times and in the future, when bad weather or poor health might not allow members or guests to attend in person at Victoria Hall.

"We continue to find our way to keep the mission of the club relevant, viable and

moving towards the future, with health and safety top of mind," she added.

Cavener said the WCCM webinars would be an excellent opportunity for professionals working at home, or anyone else who otherwise is unable to get out, to log on and enjoy stimulating presentations from the comfort of a home setting. She said the WCCM hopes to resume holding

## **Consultation, cont'd. from p. 3**

from the 1840s, is protected by the city's own 1\* heritage rating, the proposed provincial designation covering all aspects, including the interior, has been described as making it the first private residence in Quebec to be so protected.

The landmark stone house on the south side of the Côte road is located just west of

Forde Ave. and is characterized by its low pyramidal roof with large eaves and British garrison-like appearance. It is one of four that had been known as Metcalfe Terrace. While only two now exist, this one is reported to be relatively untouched.

Its preserved interior is attributed to the fact that it had been in the Goode family for more than 135 years.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## PUT HORRIBLE SHERBROOKE BIKE-PATH IDEA TO REST

In response to Dan Lambert [president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount] once again badgering city hall for a Sherbrooke bike lane, “Cyclists’ group: Add bike lanes on Sherbrooke, ‘fix’ Lansdowne” August 18, p. 7), let us permanently put to rest this horrible idea.

Sherbrooke is a main thoroughfare serving not only Westmounters, but all Montrealers, and handles tens of thousands of cars per day. Now, in an ideal world, Sherbrooke could be widened to accommodate a bike lane, but this is of course an impossibility. So, the other alternatives are, build a bike lane and remove parking (a non-starter) or transform one lane of traffic into a bike lane and displace thousands of cars. Good luck with that.

Lambert bemoans the fact that the city has not done enough to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs). The laughable notion that GHGs could be reduced with a bike lane should also be put to rest. Bikes and cars, for the majority of people, are not interchangeable.

It is beyond the power of a municipality to force people to give up their cars, and, as stated, Sherbrooke serves all Montrealers, not just Westmounters.

Lambert never acknowledges the drawbacks of placing bike lanes all over the place. One can only conclude he doesn’t care. However, if he believes so strongly in this ludicrous idea, let him run for mayor.

STEVE MYRO, WESTMOUNT SQUARE

## THANKS FOR QUICK CHANGE ON PARKING RULES

I live on Rosemount Ave. and my parking access/driveway is on Mount Pleasant. The city is in the process of re-doing all of the water entries on Mount Pleasant so access to driveway is challenging when I can access it.

Public Works was kind enough to supply us with temporary parking permits for the street. Having lived on Rosemount for the better part of 35 years, I parked on



Rosemount for the first time August 24 and worked from home the next day. In the afternoon when I went to my car, you can imagine my frustration in finding a ticket on the windshield. The ticket was for parking during street cleaning time. The signs were there, however not very visible. (See photo.)

You would think that some common sense would prevail, when residents can’t park in their driveways maybe the city or the departments that issue tickets would show some tolerance and understanding. When I called Public Security and tried to explain, I felt I had a very unsympathetic ear and I was advised I should pay better attention to the parking signs. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for parking during a cleaning time. I tried to explain my story but it fell on very deaf ears... no sympathy or compassion at all.

I decided to write to various parties at the city of Westmount to explain the situation and suggest that maybe a more compassionate and reasonable approach be adopted.

Kudos to Westmount Public Works. They responded first thing the next morning by advising the following: “I would like to inform you that the request was made yesterday to temporarily remove the maintenance period on Rosemount, Holton and Elm for the remainder of the project. You will not experience such issues again in the future. I regret the inconvenience this has caused. Have a great day.”

The quick response by Public Works deserves to be mentioned and goes a long way to restore my confidence that some people take their jobs seriously and to heart.

Congratulations and thanks.

RONY CUKIER, ROSEMOUNT AVE.

## DANGER IN THE POOL: SWIMMERS!

The opening of the Westmount pool has made the summer hugely enjoyable for many of us. The scheduling has worked well; the guards are attentive and polite, and there doesn’t seem to have been any COVID incidents. Unfortunately, the good news is marred by what appears to be an increasing number of selfish, dangerous swimmers.

Over the past few weeks, I have been struck eight times, mostly by swimmers who have no sense of courtesy. They behave as if they were alone in the pool. This is most evident when they swim backstroke and repeatedly collide with those around them – even in an adjacent lane. As well, there are those who use flippers and swim too fast to avoid collisions. Then

we have those who ignore the six-person limit and social distancing rules.

Often offenders are far heavier than most others – especially folks like me. Thus, when a collision occurs, the hurt inflicted can be severe. It is only a matter of time when someone will be concussed by colliding with a 200-pounder going full throttle. When reprimanded by the guards or by other swimmers, offenders are often aggressive and abusive.

I urge that, when the pool re-opens, serious consideration be given to separating those who insist on swimming in a socially irresponsible manner from the rest of us who simply want to be able to enjoy a pleasant, relaxing swim. It is not just COVID that poses a danger for the elderly.

PS – I also note that many fail to shower or insist that their kids do so.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## THANKS FOR THE BIKE PATH, PEDESTRIAN BOLLARDS ON LANSDOWNE

Our association wants to thank the city for adding some plastic posts (bollards) along the Lansdowne bike path between Westmount Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

Since the bike path was initially added a couple of years ago, it has proved very popular with commuters on their way to the de Maisonneuve or the Lachine canal bike paths and with families on their way to the Lachine canal bike path for an outing. The bike counter on the Lansdowne bike path in front of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) regularly records almost 1,500 cyclists per day on weekends.

Since the arrival of COVID, we have also noticed many more new cyclists around Westmount out for exercise or avoiding public transportation – so making bike paths safe for those new inexperienced cyclists is important.

The initial bike path design consisted of a painted line without any form of protection, so drivers would often drive, stop or park in the bike path, thereby compromising the safety of cyclists. The vehicle traffic also erased the painted line that identified the bike path. Since the bollards have been added, many more drivers are respecting the path and the safety of the cyclists using it. Unfortunately, due to the high number of driveways, the city was not able to install many bollards – but a few is much better than none!

We also want to thank the city for installing bollards beside the east sidewalk on Lansdowne between Sherbrooke St. and de Maisonneuve to make that narrow sidewalk safer for the many ..... pedestrians who use it *continued on p. 21*

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount*

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



**Letters, cont'd. from p. 20**

daily. Many seniors walk along that sidewalk for exercise or to go to Contactivity. Many families walk on that sidewalk to go to the WRC.

Because the driving lanes are not wide, when cars and trucks cross paths, the north-bound vehicles ended up driving right beside the narrow sidewalk, making the pedestrians feel unsafe. By adding the bollards, a couple of feet from the sidewalk, drivers are kept away from pedestrians on the sidewalk. Also, the bollards make the driving lane narrower, which helps slow down traffic thereby making pedestrians

safer.

We appreciate that the city is implementing these measures to make vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists safer.

PS – Also, thanks to the city for cutting the ragweed plants in lanes – a big relief for people with ragweed allergies!

DAN LAMBERT,  
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIANS  
AND CYCLISTS OF WESTMOUNT

**NO NEED FOR OUTDOOR MASKS**

Regarding Lynn Pecknold's letter "Masks outside, please" (August 25, p. 22), there are many risks to everyday life: being

struck by a bicycle at night piloted by someone wearing dark clothes and with no light, or tripping over someone's garbage left in a park. There is also the risk of attack from someone hiding his identity behind a mask. All these risks are many, many times greater than the one-in-ten-thousand risk of a tiny drop of SARS-COV-2 wafting all by itself along a Westmount street. If you are ill, or have been out of the country, or are in an enclosed space such as a store, by all means wear a mask. Otherwise, enjoy life and let everyone see that you are doing so.

(By the way, one of the pictures on p. 10

of the August 25 issue shows Melville, not Metcalfe.)\*

CHRISTOPHER WINN, METCALFE AVE.

\*Editor's reply: Yes, you are right. I am always getting those names mixed up. What genius put two "M-e" streets next to one another? The sad thing is that before 1912 Melville was called Elgin, which was much clearer. And don't even get me started on nearby Melbourne... The net effect of Westmount's street naming in this area is three streets that begin "M-e," including two that begin "M-e-l." The cherry on the sundae? From a bird's eye view, they actually form a lopsided "M." – DP.

## ETA: December this year de Maisonneuve opening at Atwater on schedule



The December 2020 re-opening of de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood "continues to be the plan," despite the COVID shutdown of March 24 to May 11 and problems discovered in the course of the work, Société de transport de Montréal (STM) spokesperson Amélie Régis told the *Independent* in a French-language email August 27. The STM is working on the roof of the Atwater Metro station, which is under the roadway.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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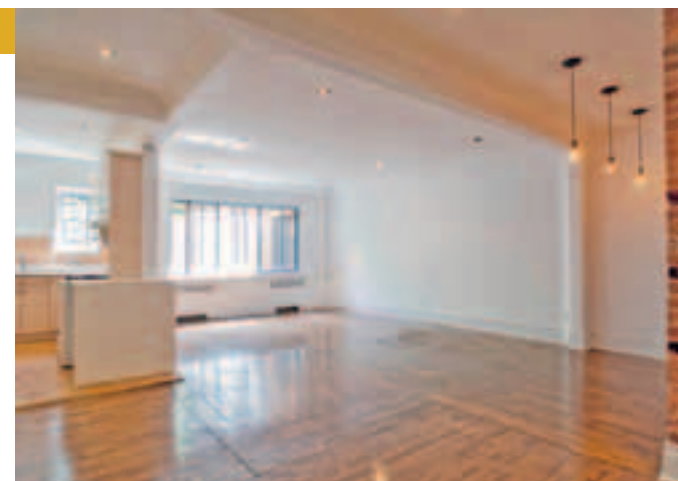
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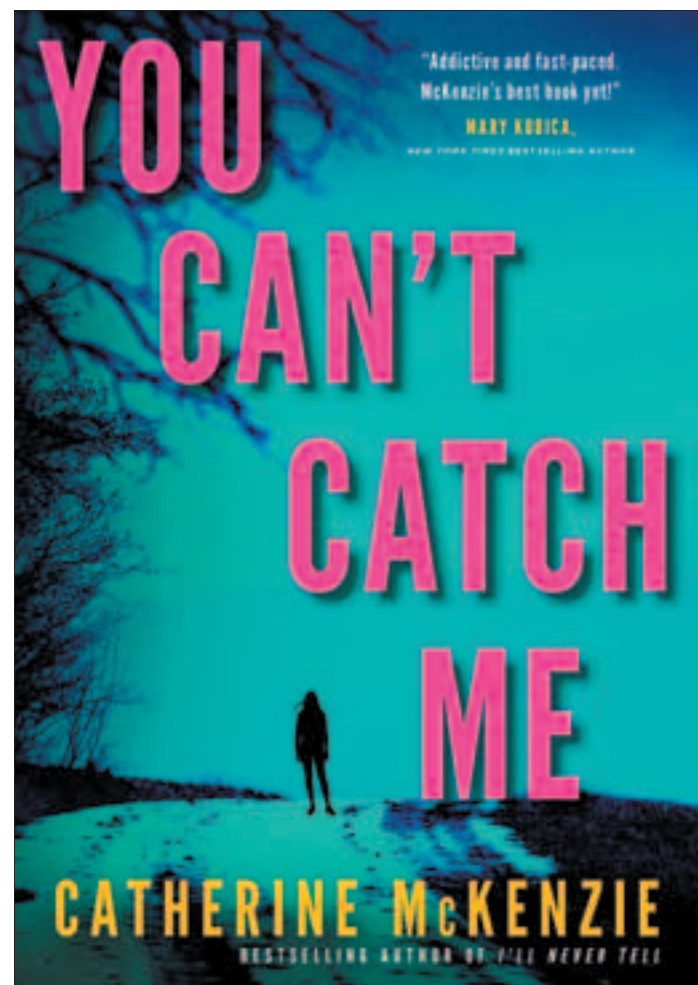
Claremont Ave. above Sherbrooke St.

August 21



August 27 – ongoing

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Natalie Domingue, our Financial Literacy Program Coordinator, is eager to tell you more.

**[natalie@atwaterlibrary.ca](mailto:natalie@atwaterlibrary.ca) or 514-935-7344**

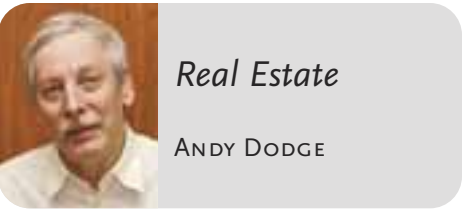
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

*Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2020, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.*

Two three-million-dollar sales on Forden Ave. in March highlighted that month's sales, in fact making them the two highest-priced sales up to that point in 2020, though high-priced houses in Westmount started moving in earnest later in the year.

The huge bungalow at 24 Forden Ave. changed hands for \$3,680,000 while a block away, the semi-detached 59 Forden Ave. sold for \$3,300,000, helping pull the average price of nine sales to \$2,341,722, the highest monthly average since September last year and the third-highest monthly average in Westmount's history.

The previous highs were boosted by single prices in the \$7 million to \$9 million range; this time five of the nine sales ranged between \$2 and \$4 million and the rest weren't far behind; the lowest price was \$1,400,000, for a semi-detached house

# March transfers: Two over \$3 million

at 12 Windsor Ave., just west of Victoria Ave.

A stately brick detached house on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Mount Stephen Ave. sold for 80 percent more than its municipal assessment, the highest mark-up in March, while 26 Melbourne Ave., corner Melville Ave., sold just under its tax value, for \$2,140,000. That house is now under complete renovation.

**Condos**

Only two condominiums sold in March, both in re-divided older (by Westmount standards) buildings, first a portion of the mansion at 202 Côte St. Antoine Rd., corner Mount Stephen Ave., which has been made into a townhouse-type condominium (sale price \$1,915,000); next, a portion of the duplex at 482 Victoria Ave. (\$875,000). Those two sales bring to nine the number transferred in the first quarter of 2020, ranging from \$599,000 for a flat at 350 Grosvenor Ave. in February to \$2,030,000 for a fifth-storey apartment at 1 Wood Ave in January.

The average mark-up of the March home sales – including the duplex at 445-47 Victoria Ave. – was 26.8 percent compared to the

*continued on p. 25*



24 Forden Ave. on August 26.



26 Melbourne Ave. on August 26.



VILLE DE | CITY OF  
WESTMOUNT



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. At its regular sitting held on Monday, July 6, 2020 as well as at its special sitting held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount gave notice of motion and amended notice of motion that it would adopt at a subsequent sitting of Council, the by-law entitled “*BY-LAW TO RECOGNIZE THE GOODE HOUSE AS A HERITAGE IMMOVABLE*”.
2. The Local Heritage Council will hold a public meeting broadcast via YouTube Live, accessible through the City of Westmount's website (westmount.org/), on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**
3. The purpose of this public meeting is to explain the draft by-law.
4. In accordance with Order 2020-049, the public consultation meeting is being replaced by a 15-day written consultation, **from September 16, 2020 to October 1, 2020**, during which comments from any interested person may be submitted in writing, **no later than October 1, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**, by email or mail as follows:  

**By email at the following address:**  
  
**legal@Westmount.org**

**By mail to the attention of:**  
**Andrew Brownstein**  
**City Clerk**  
**4333, Sherbrooke Street West**  
**Westmount (Quebec) H3Z 1E2**
5. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/.



## Colours, comics and bravery



### *Return to Retail*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Khaled Fattal opened Librairie Brave Comix “four years and four months ago this August.”

The word “*librairie*” is apt: the fun boutique is truly a library of comic books and graphic novels. When the shop opened, Fattal had a lot more action figures. After closing for three months due to the COVID lockdown, his collection is geared more to one the hottest genres on the planet right now: superhero stories.

“I still have action figures – in porcelain as well as plastic – and actually, when I reopened on May 25 some of the large ones sold right away.”

Fattal has an appreciative audience for

his weekly comic book series. During COVID-19, at the request of eager fans, some weekly publications he mailed and others he messengered.

He also carries T-shirts featuring superheroes.

The shop is really fun, even for a comics neophyte like myself. Colours leap off the shelves full of action just like, yes, Superman – and Superwoman! – as well as Hulk, Batman, Captain Marvel, Spiderman, Titan and many other swirling, avenging characters.

Fattal chose his location in Westmount on purpose “as it’s easily accessible. My customers come by Metro and bus from all over Montreal. And there’s lots of parking near me.”

He forgot to mention the store’s great feeling of adventure: a fun escape read whilst social distancing.

Librairie Brave Comix 4154-B St. Catherine St.



4547 Sherbrooke St. on August 26.

new 2020 valuation roll; the average climbed from minus-one percent in January to 18 percent in February, so it is clear the market is moving forward into the year, though it must be noted some of these sales were negotiated as early as September 2019.

The two condos sold for an average 18 percent above valuation, and for the first quarter, the average is 14.8 percent, a little

lower than for one- and two-family dwellings.

The three-storey stonefront building which is given two addresses of 37 and 39 Chesterfield Ave. is said by the city to include five dwellings, which sold for \$1,950,000. A share of the duplex at 432-34 Prince Albert Ave. cleared the \$1-million mark as well, providing the rights to 434 Prince Albert.



12 Windsor Ave. on August 26.





Animal Kingdom  
LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is Miss Chipie Bunny, a beautifully soft and silky white rabbit with Cleopatra-style khol-rimmed eyes and stunning grey-flecked ears. She is most adorable, bright, affectionate, and sporting with her little runs and games.

She is seven years young, as they live long lives.

She is very healthy, being up to date with her inoculations and spayed. Chipie Bunny is very neat, easily uses her litter box and always keeps her hutch clean.

Her food is available in pet food stores, the grass hay that she enjoys, and she is keen on prepared snacks as well. She chews to keep her teeth filed down and there are varieties of toys and chewsticks for her at the pet stores for that occupation as well. A precious Chipie Bunny, just waiting at the Montreal SPCA for her new family to cuddle with.

Her identification number is 45206805 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for her

Chipie Bunny



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



9 Lives  
LYSANNE FOWLER

As Alice looks up, you know that she wants her cuddles and a pick-up to ride on your shoulder. After a snack and a nap, she is ready for her playful moments.

You really can't deny her : she is so beautiful!

Alice is a long-haired grey-and-tan tabby with sparking green eyes, middle aged at nine years of age. Alice was used to a caring home life yet, for reasons beyond her control, she is now waiting at the Montreal SPCA cattery for a new family to give all her affection to.

Alice is healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She is de-clawed on all four paws, which makes her an indoor-only cat.

Alice's identification number is 45182072 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for 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.

Cuddling Alice



Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

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Westmount A-dog-tions  
LYSANNE FOWLER

Blue is a delightful puppy, only nine months young, a very handsome black sleek shorthair with huge inquisitive brown eyes. He is special, as his white shirt is matched with unique white markings on his feet!

Blue is not feeling blue, not at all. Happy, energetic, intelligent, affectionate as can be, a growing pup at his best.

Blue Puppy

Blue is at the Montreal SPCA kennel, and he is waiting, hoping for a family soon. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Blue's identification number is 45213124 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link.

Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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**514-592-3244**  
[RMARTIN@REMAX-QUEBEC.COM](mailto:RMARTIN@REMAX-QUEBEC.COM)  
**514-592-3244**

NEW LISTING



LIVING ROOM



CROSS HALL DINING



BACK YARD



NDG: Detached bungalow, corner property, first time on market in 34 years. 4 + 2 Bedrooms, 3½ bathrooms. Private entrance for in-law/teenager suite; private home office. Garage & parking. \$959,000

**MY #1 PRIORITY IS PROMOTING YOUR PROPERTY!**







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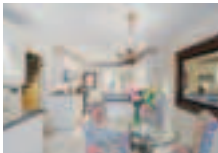


NEW



SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU | 111 BOISÉ-DE-L'ÎLE  
Unique waterfront property on Richelieu River. Only 25 min from Montreal.

\$2,750,000  
~~\$3,950,000~~



VILLE-MARIE | 2691 HILL PARK CIRCLE  
Beautiful 3 bdr townhouse near Beaver Lake + tandem garage

\$1,725,000



360°  
VIEWS

SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU \$3,195,000  
3bdr PH w/ 2 large decks + 3 garages, Facing canal



NEW

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE \$1,275,000  
Bright semi-detached w/ yard in ideal location



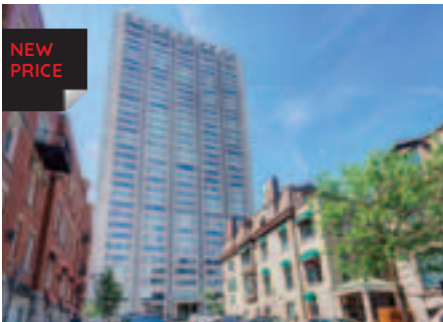
NEW

WESTMOUNT SQUARE \$1,050,000  
Spacious unit on the 19th floor w/ views + parking



LUXURY  
LIVING

LE CHÂTEAU | VILLE-MARIE \$995,000  
Elegant 2 bdr unit w/ Southern exposure + parking



NEW  
PRICE

LE PORT-ROYAL | VILLE-MARIE \$615,000  
Large 1bdr condo in the heart of Downtown



NEW  
RENTAL

NUNS' ISLAND \$3,100/MO  
Charming heritage home in choice location



SOLD

WESTMOUNT ADJ | 4800 AV. ROSLYN



SOLD

WESTMOUNT | 71 AV. ARLINGTON





VERY WELL SOLD IN 11 DAYS!  
3430 Peel (the Sir Robert Peel) #12B



VERY WELL SOLD IN 2 DAYS!  
65 Hallowell, Westmount \$875,000



VERY WELL SOLD IN 2 DAYS!  
2354 Ste. Cunegonde, Little Burgundy



JUST LISTED & SOLD BY BRIAN!  
4070 Trafalgar Av. Westmount adj.



VERY WELL SOLD BY BRIAN IN 47 DAYS!  
2319 des Éclusiers, Little Burgundy



EXCLUSIVE! Fab PH, STUNNING views!  
2400 Ste. Cunegonde \$975,000



VERY WELL SOLD IN 17 DAYS!  
485 Roslyn Av. Westmount



VERY WELL SOLD IN 44 DAYS!  
176 Lakeside Rd, Knowlton



VERY WELL SOLD IN 79 DAYS!  
1240 rang de la Montagne



26 Holton Av., Westmount  
\$2,025,000



3071 Av. Cedar, Westmount adj.  
\$1,899,000



FAB. 3,000 SF PH! \$1,995,000  
2380 av. Pierre Dupuy PH-1B

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