

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 14 No. 9b

We are Westmount

September 8, 2020

Sign-up goes on with new Vic Hall activities outlined

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Registration for the city's fall Sports and Recreation programs, which got under way September 8, features several new ones set to take place at Victoria Hall while a few others had to be adjusted or even abandoned due to pandemic restrictions.

Changes to some of the fitness-type activities scheduled for the Westmount recreation centre were featured in the previous week's *Independent* along with the hockey and skating programs (see story September 1, p. 1).

The new ones at Victoria Hall include

English as a second language at both youth and adult levels as well as Kidnastix for youth and, for adults, line dancing, musical theatre and Saturday yoga.

"We've already had a lot of inquiries from people worried about social distancing," said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator.

"We're putting every safety measure in place with cleaning and sanitizing after every session and reducing the number of some as a result. This enables us to schedule a half-hour cleaning of doorknobs, floors and other areas required for a safe pro- *continued on p. 6*

Late moving day?



Montreal's traditional moving day is July 1 and the usual method is motorized vehicle, but that did not deter this intrepid cyclist and mover, seen on Sherbrooke St. in front of the YMCA September 1.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Driven by uncertainty but 'resilient'

Contactivity seniors' centre develops full online program for fall

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As COVID-19 evolves this fall, back-to-school "unknowns" faced by many parents and students has also affected the Contactivity seniors' centre, which is still not holding meetings and activities at its base in Westmount Park Church. As a result, it has developed a full fall program online.

"Uncertainty' – that's the name of the

game," executive director Mary Stark said last week. "We're being careful and not going to open up group activities and logistics. We still have to be six feet apart from each other."

But benefitting from the experience during the lockdown of the last six months, the centre is embarking on a range of online "activities" that include internet assistance *continued on p. 10*

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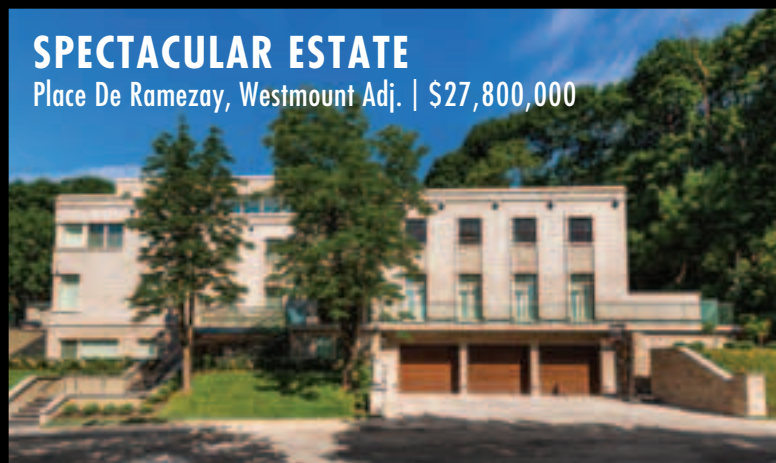
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Garrow, 5 others involved in local aspect

Island-wide food drive set for Sunday, September 13

“Make history: Join the Miracle Food Drive on September 13,” says the press release of miracle13septembre.org. The group is hoping to hold the largest food drive in Montreal’s history, continues the text, “It’s a massive undertaking and the Miracle Food Drive needs your help.”

The drive will take place on Sunday, September 13. According to group’s website, residents of the greater Montreal region, including the island and the North and South Shore suburbs, need only place a non-perishable



Stephanie Garrow on September 3 on Victoria Ave. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

food item by 12 noon on their front steps or building lobby where it will be clearly visible, “Volunteers are looking on every front step and porch in the entire Montreal and surrounding area. Just put the food on your front step or lobby of your apartment and we will be by to pick it up.”

“The concept is to recruit a volunteer team captain in your neighbourhood, rally your neighbours to put out food on the 13th, and then collect and contribute to the larger Montreal initiative where food will be redistributed to local food shelters,” said Westmount resident and neighbourhood captain Stephanie Garrow.

She is using Westmount’s District 8 municipal electoral division in the city’s southeast to delineate her target area. It extends roughly from Halliwell/Clarke to Atwater and the south side of de Maisonneuve (excluding Alexis Nihon) to St. Antoine St.

“Perhaps given that District 8 borders downtown and Atwater, we feel particularly compelled to get involved. We see the challenges of the homeless population, store closures on St. Catherine’s, and general isolation and food insecurity each and every day.”

The *Independent* was told by a reliable source that there are five other neighbourhood captains in Westmount, but was unable to confirm their names or target areas before its early Labour Day press

time on September 4.

Volunteers plan to collect items between noon and 4 pm.

Volunteers are also needed from every neighbourhood to perform the different tasks, stated the release, from collecting and sorting to bagging and delivering. The group plans to enforce all public health precautions and volunteers will only be asked to pick up food that residents have already left out for them.

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Art Scene

(Hardy, Knowles and Fowler), p. 14

Westmount Historical adapts to pandemic, p. 19

Return to Retail (Le Boudoir), p. 24

Return to Retail (Olives en Folie), p. 25

9 Lives, p. 26

Westmount Adoptions, p. 26

School heads appeal to city for help, p. SG-1, after p. 14

infoWestmount, p. 18

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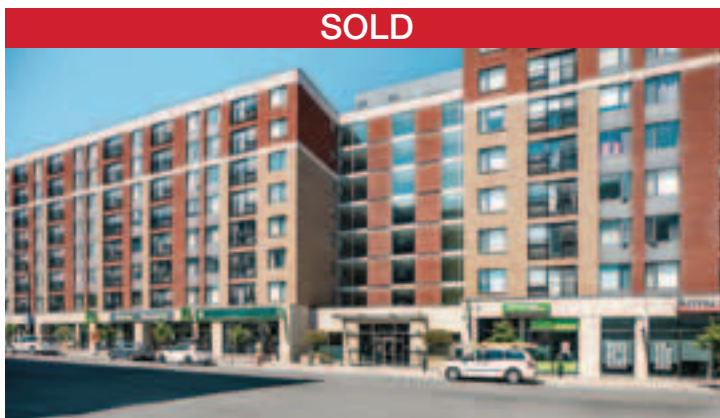
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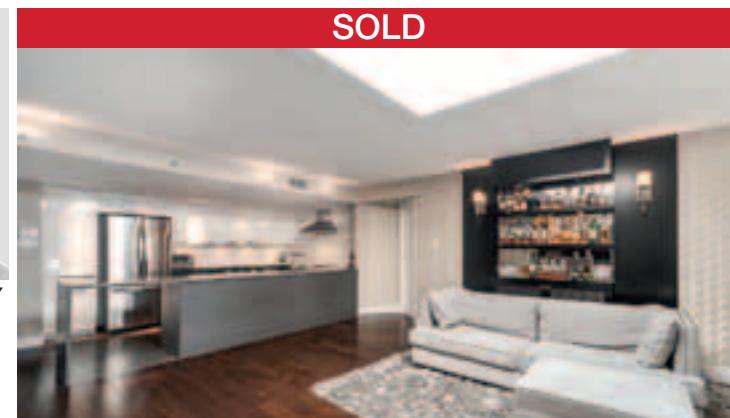
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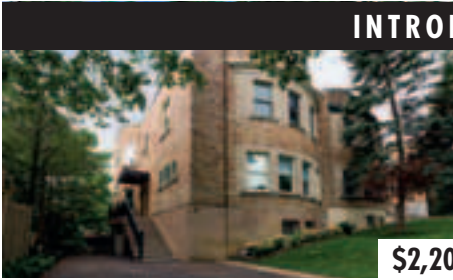
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THE GOLD SQUAD REPORT
PUTTING OUR SENIORS FIRST –
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By Heather Parnell

We’ve all been witness to how the pandemic affected those most vulnerable in our society: frontline workers, children... seniors – as well as their families.

Pre COVID, numerous seniors had made the choice to live in their own homes for as long as possible. During COVID, this decision became a necessity, and often felt like a trap. Even for seniors in residences, the measures taken to ensure safety required confinement. This lack of stimulation and isolation – while necessary – for many, led to both physical decline because of lack of exercise and psychological distress due to fear and loneliness.

Then, came article after article about neglect laid bare in certain homes for the elderly. Our collective shock and disgust spread through the province like... well... like COVID!

A lot of families managed to bring their parents to live with them in an attempt to wait it out. However, it’s clear that we are in a new normal with restrictions that will ease but with a certain measure of danger always lurking.

But seniors still need help and families still need respite. What is the happy and safe medium between isolation and residence? How can families care properly for their aging relatives without sacrificing their own immediate families? How do we make sure someone cares – today, tomorrow, forever?

Gold Squad is a family and friends run senior care and companionship service that truly puts seniors and their loved ones first. The main reason we remain a family and friends run business is so that we guarantee that everyone on our team

is not just professionally trained – but is also the type of person suited to this type of work; people who have heart and soul. For seniors requiring help for a few hours a day, several or most days of the week, one team member is dedicated to that person. For seniors requiring a larger volume of regular hours, a tight team is assigned. Our team members are mobile, so taking seniors out for appointments – or for fun – is also always on the agenda. We adjust our rates according to volume, so no one is told, “Take it or leave it”.

Seniors can still flourish while aging at home. Indeed, more may choose to do so as they become “gun shy” about residences. Family members can still feel good about their choices. No one should feel like they are merely making the best of a bad situation. Instead, they can be rest assured that their choices are right for them – and are working for them with the right support.

In an upcoming report, I’ll discuss why it’s so necessary for family members to have our support in the care for their elderly loved ones.

Heather Parnell is the owner of Gold Squad, a family and friends run team of professional caregivers. You can reach Heather by calling 514-967-8694 or visiting gold-squad.com



Recreation, cont'd. from p. 1

gram.”
One casualty is ballet for kids aged 3-4 years, who are deemed too young to social distance, she explained. As well, some ballet age groups are being combined to reduce the number of sessions and resulting cleaning.

In the case of the programs taking place in the concert hall, “we’ve limited the number of participants to a maximum of 16 or maybe up to 20. We also have one-way directional signs on the floors. Participants are to enter from the front and leave by the side.”

Among programs that had to be abandoned owing to COVID were bridge, because of the card touching, fencing and play-group where toys are exchanged, as well as one called “Kids kitchen,” a new one that had been scheduled in the spring

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

before all those had to be cancelled.
On the other hand, social dance for adults has been dropped, but because the instructor was injured.

New programs outlined

Discussing what’s new, Danis said the “Discovering English” program resulted from “many requests for teaching English as a second language from immigrants, many from our increasing Asian population who have been integrated automatically into French.”

For youth, ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 15, it is “an activity hour designed for children to learn English through fun games, conversations, stories and other activities.”

Kidnastix, for those aged 1-4 is similar to the previous Monkeynastix, a combination of gymnastics and fitness.

“Musical Theatre: song and dance,” is a new one for adults who want to sing and dance Broadway style; and Saturday yoga is for those wanting yoga on the weekend.

While Westmount residents are given the first chance to sign up for programs this week, they may still register if space allows once registration is opened up to non-residents who purchase facility cards.



The online registration page.

Online closing party: puppet show Sept. 17

94 kids log 1,100 hours in library's summer reading club

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The summer reading club for children that takes place every year at the Westmount Public Library adopted a new online way this year to encourage a love of books even though the young members were unable to browse through the shelves themselves due to the pandemic closure.

And as the library's local rendition of the Canada-wide TD Summer Reading Club wound down this week, results showed that 94 children had logged a total of 1,100 hours of reading and participating through 11 different challenges outlined weekly on the library website.

"Facing a challenging and unprecedented year, the library staff felt even more committed to providing a fun and engaging summer reading club for the children in the community," children's librarian Wendy Wayling said last week.

"The poor kids were locked out of so much this summer, we didn't want it to be boring for them. As a result, the children signed up through the library's website and worked on simple but fun challenges all summer."

The challenges included reading for at least 15 minutes under the stars with a flashlight from a pillow fort, reading to a favourite stuffed animal or pet, or taking the library's story walk in Westmount Park while reading all the panels along the path for *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* by Ashely Spires.

The usual closing party takes place Thursday, September 17 at 4 pm – also online this year featuring a puppet show by the Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre.

"Of course, nothing can take *continued on p. 24*



Owen, age 3, reads in his pillow tent.



Two-year-old Nina drinks from a reading club cup which she won.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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City, Dawson cut down trees



Top row, the city has been cutting trees in Westmount Park, as seen August 27 and September 2, as has Dawson College CEGEP, bottom left, as seen September 2.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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Thank you all for your support.
and remember. we are still here serving your community.

Please Stay safe! With all my respect, VANESSA VASSALOS

Contactivity, cont'd. from p.1

and even providing equipment to some members who may need it to participate, Stark said.

"We've switched to being online. Volunteers are tutoring some of our seniors in the use of Zoom presentations. Very fortunately, we had a (federal) Youth Horizons program that is loaning out tablets for some of our members. We also have student coaches to teach them in the use of the internet."

As well, the centre has arranged to obtain webcams for some members so they can join in the videoconferencing programs and has also worked out a package deal with Videotron for new internet users, she said. "It's very exciting."

Fall programs

Among these are fall prevention, nutrition, bird watching and storytelling. There will also be four concerts, laughter yoga, a Hallowe'en program, Death Café (an opportunity to talk about death), French conversation, stretch and movement fitness, a drawing course, Zumba, a weekly discussion group from the Thomas More Institute and many more.

Because of the new technologies, the usual April deadline for renewing memberships has been extended through September with payment online as an option, Stark said. It costs \$20 or \$30 for receipt of the newsletter by mail.

Right now, the centre has 346 memberships already renewed compared to last year's 590 and hopes the new deadline will generate more, though typically many don't renew until the fall. On the other hand, some sign up in order to participate in the lunches and excursions, which have had to be temporarily abandoned.

Reviewing the past 6 months

The pandemic "has been a steep learning curve but we've been impressed with the resilience of seniors and the resourcefulness of our staff in bringing people together and having to do it remotely," Stark said.

During the last six months, 1,348 calls were made to touch base to all members while some 90 outreach clients were connected to needed resources by outreach coordinator Fiona Smith who, on one occasion had taken her own bicycle pump to someone's home to pump up wheelchair tires.

Fifteen volunteers assisted 62 seniors with grocery shopping underlining the centre's need for volunteers with cars – one of its greatest needs – to enable delivery, sometimes for a two-week period.

While the centre provided these home support and outreach measures, it had to reduce or stop driving people to medical

appointments because most of the drivers were themselves in the "vulnerable" 70+ age bracket.

On the other hand, Stark said, there was not as much need since so many appointments were cancelled.

Angelina Hum, the centre's crafts coordinator, carried out one-on-one craft sessions at some people's homes.

Mask making

"In the early weeks of the pandemic," Stark said, "our crafts group – each working from home – made 213 handmade cloth face masks, which staff and volunteers then collected from them. These were made available to our own front-line volunteers and staff, and to some of our outreach clients."

Some were also donated to the Army of Masks citizens' movement to get scarce masks to essential service workers.

"As I say, the ingenuity and resilience of our members is inspiring."

And Stark's advice to all seniors during this deconfinement period: "Don't be paranoid but keep maintaining the precautions. The main thing is not to let down one's guard." In the meantime, she said, "we're looking forward to when we can get back to our regular activities."

Château
Maisonneuve on fire



There was a fire on or near the roof of the Château Maisonneuve office and apartment building at Claremont and de Maisonneuve, triggering an emergency evacuation, the *Independent* learned past press time, September 4 at 2 pm.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Vignal’s only house?



A squirrel seems to be using this box as a house, although to the best of our knowledge, no permit has been issued by the city. It is located on Vignal St., a very short street that starts on Sherbrooke between Wood and Atwater and goes north for one tiny block to Barat Rd. As far as the *Independent* knows, it is the only street in Westmount with no addresses on it. Perhaps that has changed?

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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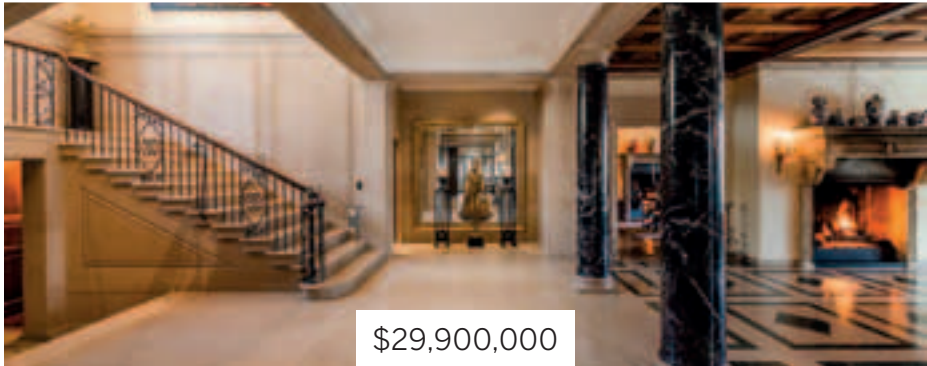
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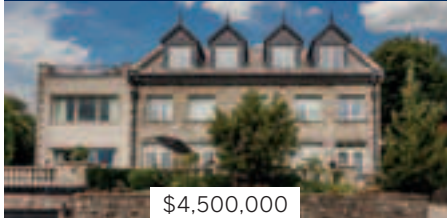


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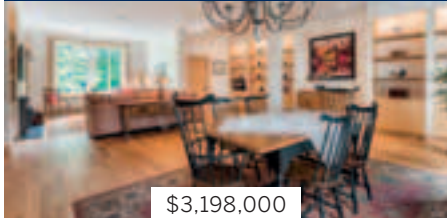


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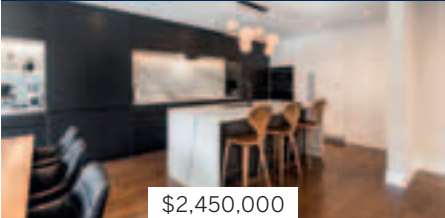


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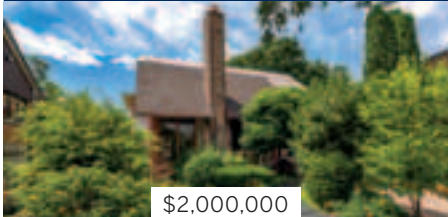


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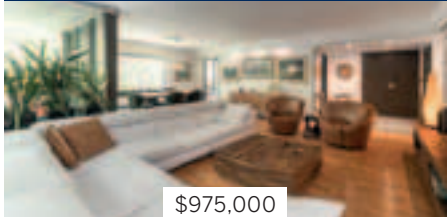


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Renovated semi-detached home with 1 car garage. MLS 12890027

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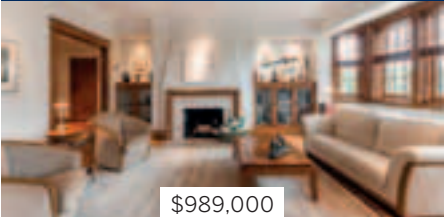


\$975,000

VILLE-MARIE

Impeccable 2 bdrms & 2 baths with generous windows that overlook the Sulpician gardens. MLS 12433664

INTRODUCING



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SOLD BY US**GOLDEN SQUARE MILE**

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

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WESTMOUNT

Architectural masterpiece - terrace with views, 3-car gar, & 6 parking. MLS 18613192

SOLD BY US**WESTMOUNT**

Masterfully designed residence near park with pool and a 2-car garage.

SOLD**WESTMOUNT**

Renovated townhouse in the heart of Victoria Village.

SOLD**WESTMOUNT**

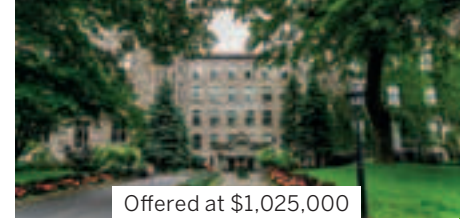
Pristine 5+1 bedroom home steps from Murray Hill Park.

SOLD**HAMPSTEAD**

Pristine family home situated on one of Hampstead's most sought after streets.

SOLD BY US**WESTMOUNT**

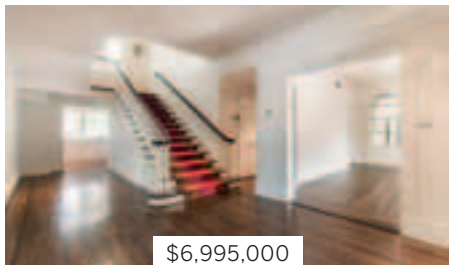
Sun-filled duplex also has the potential to be converted to a single family home.

ACCEPTED OFFER

Offered at \$1,025,000

MANOIR BELMONT - WESTMOUNT ADJ.

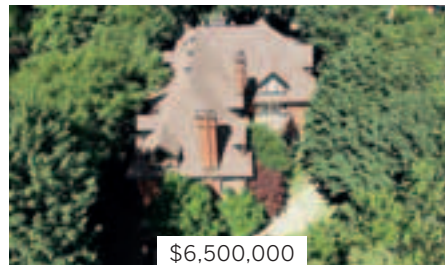
2 bedroom condo ideally located in luxury building. MLS 22069830



\$6,995,000

WESTMOUNT

Grand estate with pool and 6-car garage. MLS 24389400



\$6,500,000

WESTMOUNT

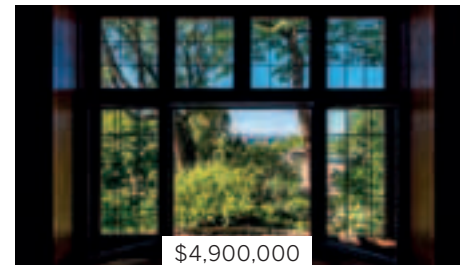
Turn of the century mansion sitting across Murray Hill Park. MLS 26590203



\$4,498,000

WESTMOUNT

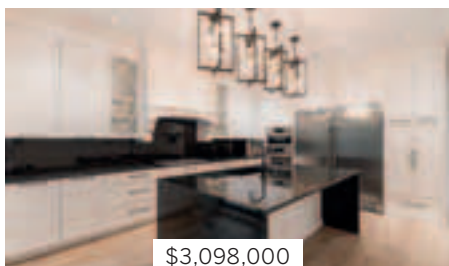
Nestled on a manicured 17,000 sq. ft. lot into the mountain on Belvedere. MLS 26337638



\$4,900,000

WESTMOUNT

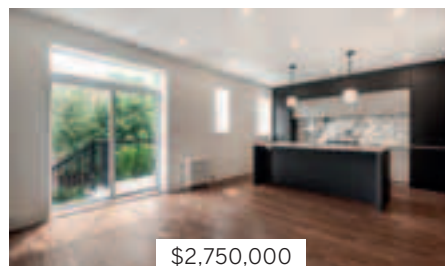
Detached home on 15,000 sq. ft. lot, 2-car garage and views. MLS 16295346



\$3,098,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ.

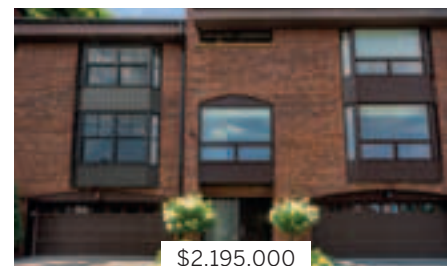
Magazine worthy home with 2-car garage, 3 terraces and spectacular views. MLS 23689520



\$2,750,000

WESTMOUNT

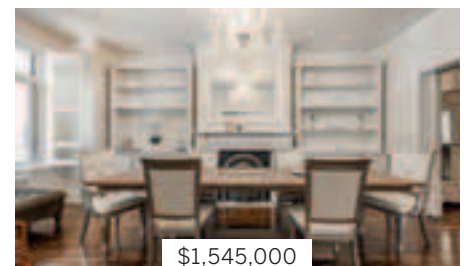
Renovated custom designed semi-detached family home with garden and garage. MLS 25069705



\$2,195,000

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Completely renovated townhouse with 2-car integrated garage. MLS 27695826



\$1,545,000

WESTMOUNT FLATS

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“Dark Sky Beyond The Slough” (2019) by Gregory Hardy.



“La Primavera I” (2019) by Andrew Lui.



Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Han Art’s current display of landscapes by prairie artists Hardy, Knowles and Fowler capture Canada’s vast expanses of sky, land, or water. But a sense of space – and placement of elements within a composition – is equally important in Lui’s figurative abstracts.

Prairie magic

A lake scene “Sky Structure, I could watch forever” (2019) by Gregory Hardy captures the power of a prairie storm. Painted in acrylic, swirls of coral, magenta and green billowing clouds rise dramatically against a dark grey background. Changes in colour and texture adds dimension – and grandeur – to the composition.

In “Dark Sky Beyond The Slough” (2019), a band of sunlight separates water

from sky. Small puffy clouds – painted with thick variegated strokes – are three-dimensional against a purple storm cloud.

Lined with red, clouds over gold prairie dotted with green trees define the composition “Road and Storm” (2019). In Hardy’s oeuvre, every colour has a place or position which adds to the sense of space.

Red and pink blossoms rhythmically set against green foliage are the subject of “East Garden” (1990) by Dorothy Knowles. Painted in oil on canvas, the arrangement of flowers – and the space between each – illustrates the artist’s strong sense of design.

Knowles’ technique of multiple brushstrokes within white space – her signature spatial treatment – creates the airy lightness of “Duck Pond” (1990).

Impressive nature

A cascading forest waterfall is recreated in the dramatic composition “Winter Water, the Torrent” (2018) by Graham

Fowler. Throughout the canvas, vivid blue and green brushstrokes reflect the play of light. Painted in a semi-pixelated style, lines or outlined shapes within the scene both add and compress dimension.

Fowler’s delicate, but complex, brush strokes also recreate movement. Yellow – adjacent to green or purple – vibrates throughout “Still Water Reflected Colour” (2007-16).

The artist Willem de Kooning said: “The idea of space is given to the artist to change if he can.” And, in these contemporary paintings, Fowler succeeds in creating movement which redefines space.

Spatial fusion

Artist and gallery owner Andrew Lui’s fusion of Western representation and Eastern calligraphy also enhances the perception of three-dimensional space. In “La Primavera I” (2019), fluid black brush strokes on rice paper define the structure of the composition. Splashes of blue, cyan and

red acrylic paint add to the restless energy of galloping horses.

Painted with lively lines and shapes within a bold yellow palette, “Viva Africana” (2014) conveys the imagery and rhythms of that region.

The addition of red and cyan adds a lyrical note to the semi-abstract painting. Lui’s skillful use of white space invites viewers to enter and explore dynamic and dramatic compositions.

The subject is space

Novelist John Updike once commented: “What art offers is space – a certain breathing room for the spirit.” In these works, a sense of space dominates subject choice as well as technique. Object placement, fluid brush strokes, or compositional white space defines an artist’s style and the unique quality of each painting.

Currently open with reduced hours or by appointment, Han Art is located at 4209 St. Catherine.



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LE SUD-OUEST | AV. ATWATER



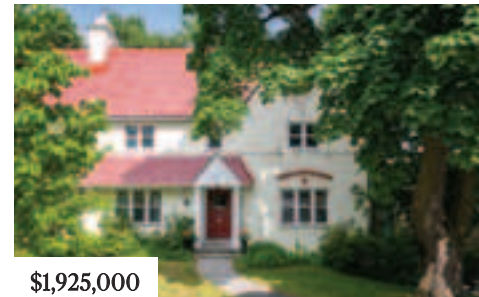
\$2,195,000

WESTMOUNT | AV. LANSDOWNE



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WESTMOUNT | AV. STRATHCONA



\$1,925,000

WESTMOUNT | AV. LANSDOWNE



\$1,565,000

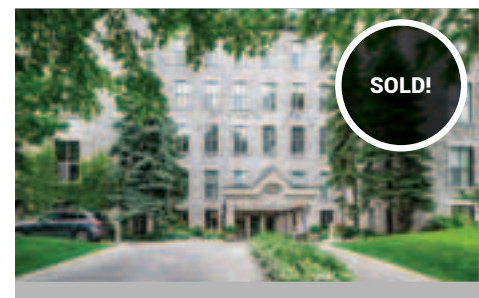
WESTMOUNT | AV. WOOD



WESTMOUNT | AV. UPPER-BELMONT



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Gone in two hours, 15 minutes



This dead tree on the east side of Prince Albert below de Maisonneuve was cut down, top right, and disposed of, bottom right, between 7 am and 9:15 am September 1. “They are all easy trees, if you know what you’re doing,” one worker was heard to say. It is located right next to the eight-unit townhouse development at 4898 de Maisonneuve, for which permits have been issued and the next stage of work is imminent (see August 18, p. 3). There was no agreement between the city and the developer as to who owned the tree, wrote Noam Schnitzer of Renwick Development in an email the same day, but “it was judged to have become dangerous” so he had it removed. Left, the tree on August 31. It had been dead for some time.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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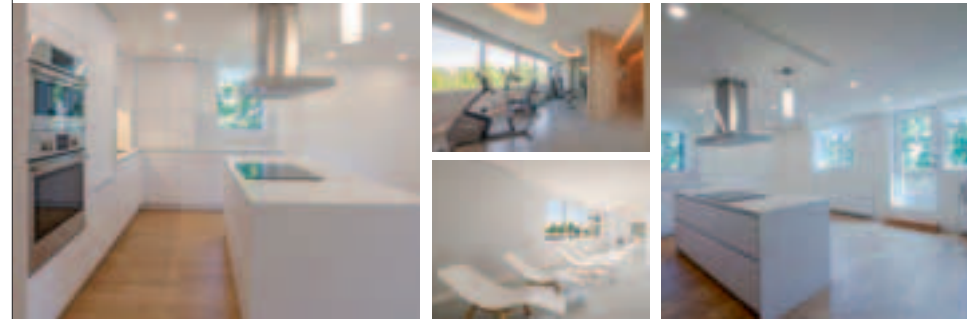


Westmounters are likely used to human- or gasoline-powered couriers. Alex Cloutier is seen here with an electric Triobike, corner Landsdowne and Sherbrooke August 26. Cloutier, who had just made a delivery to the dental building at 4695 Sherbrooke, is newly employed by SOS Courier, which provides a broad range of courier services from local urgent (less than two hours) to international delivery.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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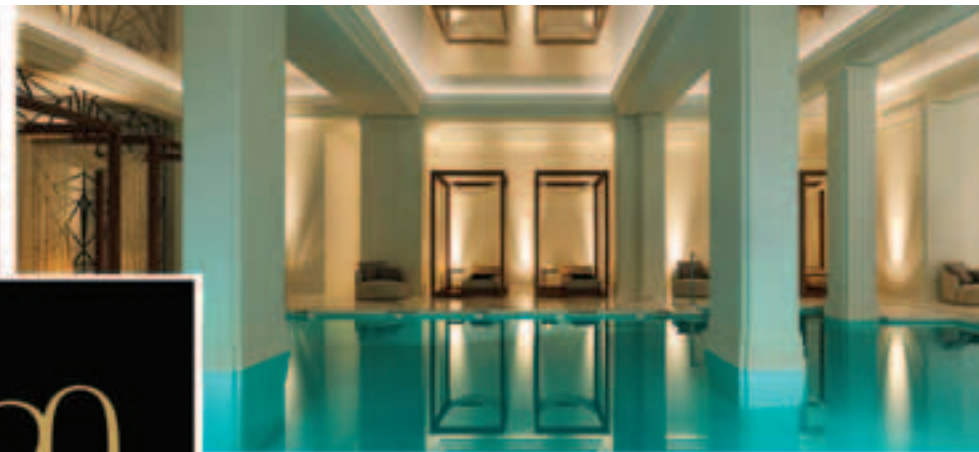
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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, October 5



Inscriptions pour les activités
d'automne dès le 8 septembre

La période d'inscription pour les activités de sports et loisirs a débuté ce matin. Les inscriptions se feront uniquement en ligne. Consultez le guide d'activités à westmount.org.



Registration for fall activities as
of September 8

The registration period for sports and recreation activities began this morning. Registration will take place online only. Consult the activities guide at westmount.org.

Édifices municipaux fermés au public
L'hôtel de ville et les bureaux administratifs demeurent fermés au public pour une période indéterminée. Les opérations municipales se poursuivent et la majorité des services sont offerts en ligne ou par téléphone. westmount.org

Couvre-visage obligatoire dans les lieux publics intérieurs
Par décret gouvernemental, le port du masque facial ou couvre-visage est obligatoire dans tous les lieux publics intérieurs.

Maison Goode : consultation publique
Le conseil local du patrimoine tiendra une séance publique diffusée sur YouTube en direct le **mercredi 16 septembre à 19 h**. Consultez l'avis public à westmount.org.

En marche ou en vélo vers l'école!
Afin de réduire le nombre de voitures dans les zones scolaires en cette période de rentrée scolaire, la Ville encourage ceux qui le peuvent à accompagner leurs enfants à l'école à pied ou en vélo. westmount.org

Rentrée scolaire : consignes sanitaires
Renseignez-vous sur les consignes sanitaires du Gouvernement du Québec, du Centre de services scolaire de Montréal et de la Commission scolaire English-Montréal. westmount.org

Carte d'accès aux installations sportives
Demandez votre carte en ligne. Deux preuves de résidence sont exigées. westmount.org/carte

Piscine extérieure fermée
La piscine du CLW est maintenant fermée pour la saison. À l'an prochain.

Municipal buildings closed to the public
City Hall and other administrative offices remain closed to the public for an undetermined period. Municipal operations continue and most services are available online or by phone. westmount.org

Face coverings mandatory in indoor public spaces
By government decree, the wearing of face masks or face coverings is mandatory in all indoor public spaces.

Goode House: public consultation
The Local Heritage Council will hold a public meeting broadcast via YouTube Live on **Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m.** Consult the public notice at westmount.org.

Walk or bike to school!
To reduce the number of cars in school zones during this back-to-school period, the City encourages those able to accompany their children to school to do so on foot or by bicycle. westmount.org

Back-to-school health guidelines
Stay informed of the health guidelines of the Gouvernement du Québec, the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal and the English Montreal School Board. westmount.org

Sports facility access card
Request your card online. Two proofs of residence are required. westmount.org/card

Outdoor pool closed
The WRC pool is now closed for the season. See you next year.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Service de cueillette sans contact
Notre service de cueillette s'effectue désormais à l'intérieur de la Bibliothèque. Réservez vos items et vous serez informé dès qu'ils soient prêts. Vous aurez ensuite deux jours pour les récupérer. westlib.org

Club de lecture d'été TD 2020
Es-tu membre du CLÉTD? Continue à lire et enregistre tes heures de lecture pour gagner des prix. L'ensemble des membres du club ont cumulé 1100 heures de lecture jusqu'à présent.

Joignez-vous à nous en ligne et en direct le jeudi 17 septembre à 16 h pour la fête de clôture du CLÉTD avec le Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre. Il y aura des prix! westlib.org

L'heure du conte d'été en ligne
Découvrez des contes en français et en anglais animés par le personnel de la Bibliothèque. westlib.org

Storywalk® au parc Westmount
Découvrez le Storywalk® et laissez-vous porter par le livre Les hauts et les bas d'Amanda, écrit et illustré par Ashley Spires.

Black Lives Matter : ressources
Téléchargez la liste de fictions et documentaires préparée par l'équipe de la Bibliothèque au sujet du racisme, des inégalités et des discriminations. westlib.org

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Déposez vos items à tout moment dans les chutes à livres situées près du Victoria Hall.

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Recherchez les icônes sur la page d'accueil à westlib.org.

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Contactless pickup service
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TD Summer Reading Club
Are you a member of the TDSRC? Keep reading, and make sure to log your hours for prizes! Together, club members have read for 1100 hours so far!

Join us live online Thursday, September 17th at 4 p.m. for the TDSRC closing party featuring Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre. There will be lots of prizes! westlib.org

Summer Storytime online
Join us for storyàin French and in English read by the Library staff. westlib.org

Storywalk® at Westmount Park
Discover the Storywalk® and enjoy The Thing that Lou Couldn't Do, written and illustrated by Ashley Spires.

Black Lives Matter reading list
Download a list of fiction and non-fiction resources curated by the Library team for anyone committed to exploring racism, inequity and injustice. westlib.org

Document returns 24/7
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Westmount
Then & Now

CAROLINE BRESLAW

New members welcome

Historical association adapts given pandemic



◀ The Goode house at 178 Côte St. Antoine.

When the coronavirus arrived in Montreal, we were all affected in different ways.

The Westmount Historical Association (WHA) had to postpone the last two talks of its winter 2020 lecture series. Our newsletter, normally based on the lecture series, required a different choice of content.

We had to decide – cancel all activities and hibernate until the situation was over or find a different way of functioning. The WHA board decided to change the focus of the newsletter to “Facing Adversity.”

Westmount has gone through other challenges in the past – the Spanish flu, world wars, rationing, the 1998 ice storm, the forced municipal merger, and so on.

We asked residents to write about times like those, and for the first time will be sending the newsletter digitally rather than mailing it to our members.

Part of the challenge for the WHA is that our office/archives, housed in Westmount Public Library, cannot be accessed at the moment. Instead of using images from our collection, we reached out to local

these to our members, so that they could learn more about our local history and architecture while enjoying the socially-distanced walks so many of us depend on during these months of shutdown. The inspiration for this came from Michael Kimmelman, the architecture critic for the *New York Times*, who has been offering virtual walking tours of New York since the beginning of the *continued on p. 20*

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photographers.

Doreen Lindsay, Brian Merrett, Lauren Sweeney, Gabor Szilasi, Ralph Thompson and Robert Zimmerman came to our rescue with photos from their own files.

We wanted to keep in touch with our members during the crisis and offer them an activity linked to heritage.

Walking tours

Over the years, the WHA has given many walking tours. This year we offered online self-guided versions of some of

◀ J. B. Goode with his daughter-in-law Marion Catherine Goode and her two oldest children, daughters Ella and Florence, in the garden at 178 Côte St. Antoine.



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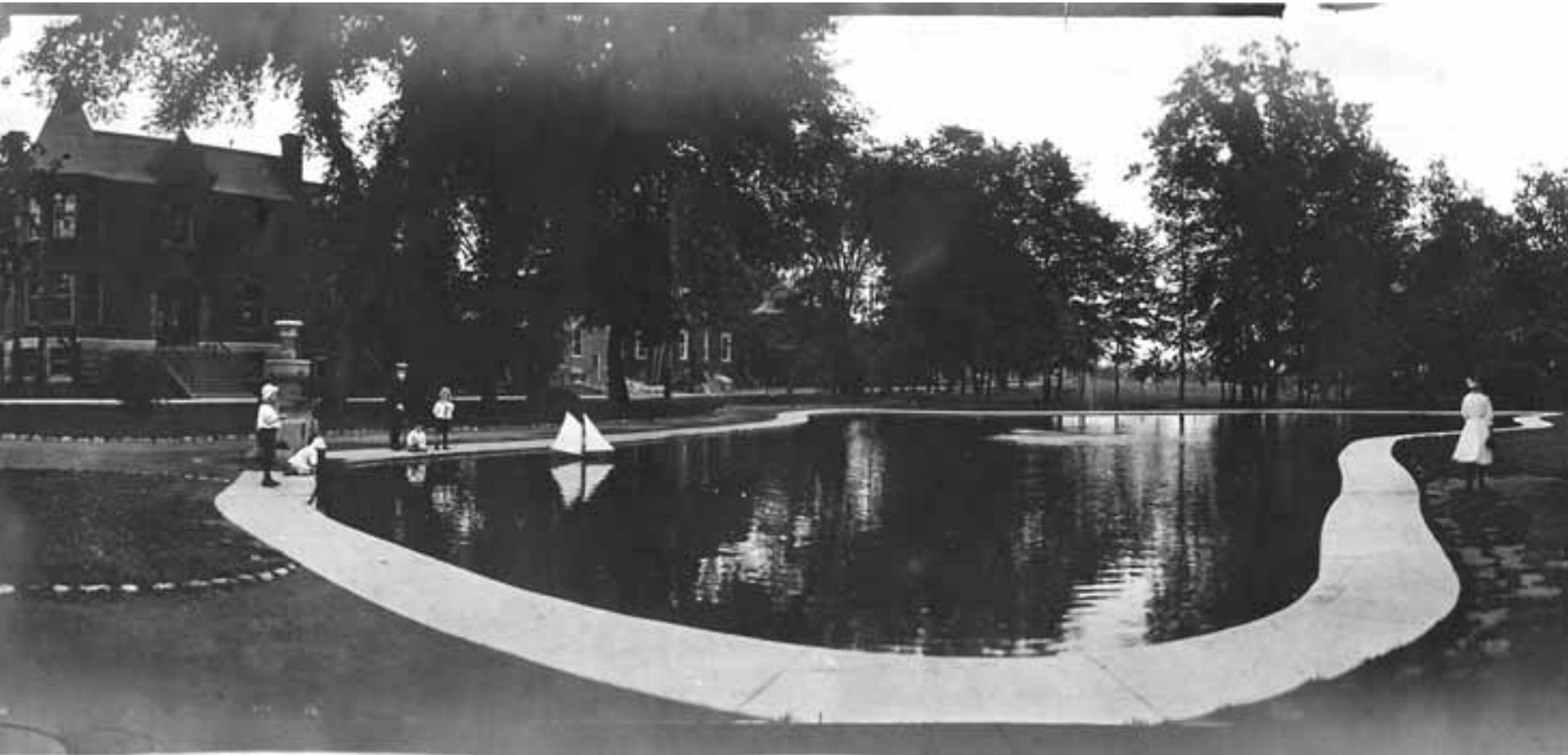


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J. B. Goode with his sons John Dudley and Thomas Gerald at the former sailing pond in Westmount Park, corner Sherbrooke and Melville. It is now a splash pad (when open).



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Historical Association, cont'd. from p. 19

We were extremely fortunate to recently receive a large donation to our archives from the Goode Estate. This consisted of hundreds of photographs and documents from the Goode family, which lived at 178 Côte St. Antoine Rd. for almost 140 years.

This is the 1840 home which is about to be given a special heritage designation by the city of Westmount. The many months of self-isolation have allowed us to begin the inventory, digitization, and conservation of this valuable collection. It has already been used by researchers studying

the home's architecture and grounds. We hope to make the Goode House the focus of our January 2021 newsletter.

The newsletters, self-guided walking tours, and lecture series (normally eight talks annually) are available to all WHA members. Our website www.wha.quebec, with a wealth of past newsletters, archival photos, articles about local history, and much more, is available to everyone.

If you're interested in becoming a member, you'll find information on the website's home page. We will be delighted to meet you when normal activities resume.



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Buy locally to sell locally

Ecologist Zimmermann: heartwood rot to blame

A mighty oak falls in Westmount Park, narrowly misses high schoolers

BY HEATHER BLACK

On September 3 at approximately 4:20 pm, a mature red oak between the two upper arms of the lagoon in Westmount Park collapsed, narrowly missing a group of students sitting at a picnic table several meters away.

Westmount resident Belinda Bowes was walking her two dogs in front of the comfort station when she heard a crack and turned to see it fall. She said: “At the time, there were four or five high school students at the picnic table and I went over to make

sure that they were okay.”

A close inspection of the broken oak – 60-70 cm in diameter at chest height – revealed reddish-black pulp as well as various larvae and burrowing insects.

Another Westmounter in the park when it fell, former forest ecologist Robert Zimmermann, said: “The tree was suffering from advanced heartwood rot throughout the length of its trunk and of the main branches. The rot is usually detected with an increment borer.”

Zimmermann explained that when heartwood decays, a tree can still survive



The oak on Sept. 4, with city crews already at work cutting it up.

Police Report

Store clerks waive charges against intoxicated aggressor

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A 30-year-old man who got into a physical altercation during the evening of August 27 with two attendants at a convenience store on Sherbrooke St. was lucky to be let go without being charged by the police.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, the attendants asked the man, who was heavily intoxicated and causing a disturbance in the store, to leave around 7:20 pm.

After he refused, “he got physical and aggressive with the two attendants at this store,” said Laperrière, and an altercation between the three ensued.

“There was a physical altercation because this person was too intoxicated in the store,” he added. “When he was asked to leave, he became physical with the two attendants.”

When officers from Station 12 arrived, they determined that one of the store at-

tendants had sustained a slight facial injury while defending himself during the fight, and that the suspect had also been hurt.

Although the officers finally expelled the man, who was an East End Montreal resident, and detained him briefly, the attendants declined to press charges, saying they only wanted him to leave.

“The suspect was identified and released some time later a short distance away, and then was told not to return to the same place,” Laperrière said.

While the suspect got off without being charged, the Station 12 officers recorded his name and other identifying information in a local database for possible future reference.

“His name is in our system now in case another police officer has to deal with him,” said Laperrière. “They will be able to know that this person was intoxicated on another occasion and became aggressive with other people.”

as the main water transmission and nutrient supply occur in the sapwood and other parts of the outer trunk. However the outer trunk then bears the weight of the upper branches. He said: “At some point, however, the tree collapses under its own weight.

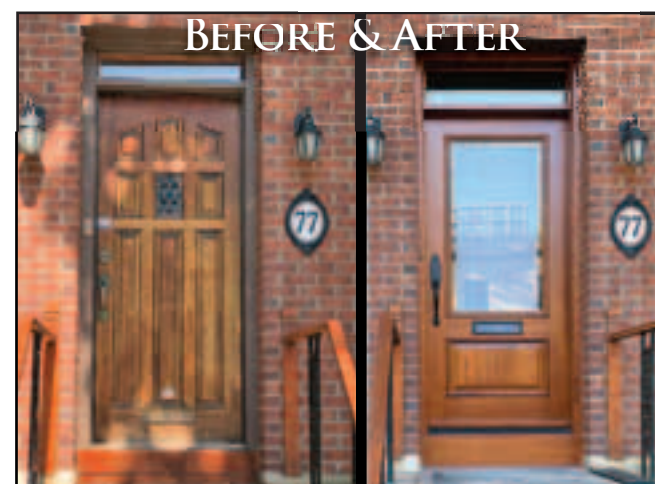
According to Zimmermann, the decay was probably caused by fungi, “Red oak is particularly prone to two fungal diseases of the *phytophthora* genus, which generally enter the trunk from cracks in the bark at the base of the tree. The fall of this red oak is similar to the collapse of many mature red oaks in Summit Woods observed in recent years.”

Many onlookers commented that the crown and the foliage of this particular tree was healthy

looking. It also lacked the dead leaves from leaf wilt observed this summer in other Westmount Park oaks. Zimmermann remarked: “There is often not much that can be done about heartwood rot, which is why commercial forestry avoid species prone to it.”



The oak on September 3, right after impact.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KUDOS TO PUBLIC SECURITY, PUBLIC WORKS

On August 29 at Kensington Ave. near St. Catherine, a huge section of a maple tree broke away and fell to the ground, blocking the street. Fortunately, no one was hurt and it narrowly missed a car parked across the street.

Public Security was alerted and showed up quickly. Despite the pouring rain, within minutes a Public Works crew arrived on the scene with equipment to unblock the street, then remove, mulch and clean up the debris. A follow-up truck passed by to sweep up and vacuum the remaining leaves.

Well coordinated, the entire process took no more than 40 minutes from start to finish and not a trace of the mishap remained.

Both Public Security and Public Works deserve to be commended for their immediate and efficient response.

ANDREA KLEIN, KENSINGTON AVE.

REFLECTIONS ON THE POND IN WESTMOUNT PARK

Strolling beside the pond in Westmount Park, reflecting on simpler times...

PAUL GRENIER & CHRISTIANE LOISELLE,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

FAILING INFRASTRUCTURE, FALLING CITY

A similar version of this letter has already been sent to the mayor of Westmount

On a recent evening walk, I flagged a passing Public Safety vehicle at the corner



of Montrose and Forden. A few days earlier, I wished they'd been there when I had nearly sprained or broken my ankle merely from trying to reach the sidewalk around a drain. I had recovered my stance, thankfully, and walked away injury free, but furious for fear of losing my mobility, and much more.

While talking with these officers, I mentioned that my mother had fallen on

Greene Ave. in late June. *En route* to the coffee shop donned in sneakers and cell phone duly in her purse, Mum had no distraction but navigating the exploding sidewalk and the mismatched, oversized street furniture. An able-bodied senior citizen, she fell forward on her mouth (yes, her mouth!) resulting in shattered front teeth, swollen inner lip and beaten chin.

She endured trauma to her face and morale whereupon it also caused her blood pressure to rise, needing close monitoring for many days thereafter. My mother has since recuperated from that fateful day. "God is kind," she says, her smile recovered after dental repair.

Still, my whole family was shook by this preventable event! The officers told me that Westmounters are entitled to file a claim, something I learned about that night. I was given the form that still sits on my desk.

However, mayor, you should be reminded that my neighbourhood has been falling apart for a long time now – and any so-called improvements in our community are not visible to my observant eye. Across all of Westmount, our streets, paths and circuits tell a different story: they are neglected, patchworked, ugly. Crucially, these same surfaces should be useful, safe, neat and accessible – at all times.

But, mayor, solutions guided by taste and rigour exist. They simply do. Yet care and leadership must also exist – in tandem.

What concrete measures are you taking to sustainably execute on this unacceptable state of affairs? And how much longer till

we can all walk about in safety and security?

NATASHA ARORA, WOOD AVE.

WRONG WAY ON CÔTE ST. ANTOINE

Some years ago, a one-way bike path from east to west [i.e. uphill] was constructed on Côte St Antoine Rd. I have driven on this road frequently and often noticed there is more bike traffic travelling in an easterly direction [i.e. downhill] contrary to the signage. I recall there was supposed to be a survey of the traffic on this bicycle path but I don't think it was ever done or publicized.* This is causing unnecessary danger to other cyclists, students and pedestrians. It is an accident waiting to happen.

TIM CARSLEY, BARAT RD.

Editor's note: I do find an article of ours describing feedback after the first year. Please see November 8, 2016, p. 1. – DP.

ONE INSTANCE OF OUTDOOR MASKS



Everybody is doing their part. Spotted in upper Westmount.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE

PLEASE REMOVE THE STUMPS

Thank you for publishing my letter in the June 16 edition (p. 6) about outstanding trees in Westmount.

I had given their precise locations, beginning with the one at the northeast corner of Lansdowne and Sherbrooke, moving on to those facing the Victoria Hall community centre and between the YMCA and the Public Library parking lot and others – ending with one near the gazebo beside the cycle path in Westmount Park.

Residents will be pleased to notice that many of those trees are now no longer standing out. They were "outstanding" because they were dead. As dead as can be. And for many years.

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We are Westmount

Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Aleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads

www.westendclassifieds.com

Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138
office@westmountindependent.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I hope that the city will overlook my ruse and be prompted to further action before winter sets in. Tree removal can be costly. Depending on its size, a removal can cost thousands of dollars. And for that price, could the stumps not be removed as well? There are numerous tree stumps in Westmount. Many. Too many to be counted.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

Editor's reply: In fairness to the city and as reported in our August 11 edition ("Dead trees? Gone-zo," p. 12), stumps were removed in the very part of Sherbrooke St. that you mention, at the same time as those dead trees. There may be other stumps elsewhere, of course, although recent ones might still be "works in progress." For instance, the ones photographed for this issue (p. 9, 21) were only very recently cut and not even all the branches have been cleaned up. – DP.

ENFORCE THE BY-LAWS, OR REPEAL THEM

Many readers will agree with former councillor Gary Ikeman's assessment of the unsatisfactory manner in which unwellcome activity in Westmount Park is being treated by Public Security this summer. ("Former councillor: Increase ticketers, add quotas, hand out leaflets, August 25, p. 6).

While recognizing that we are in difficult times and park use has increased because of the pandemic, this is not a good reason to ignore by-law infractions and problematic behaviour. In fact, it is perhaps even more necessary now to have good monitoring because so many more users are impacted by those flouting regulations.

The councillor currently responsible for Public Security has responded that tickets are only issued when "really needed." For the period of July 1 to August 16, a grand total of 50 tickets were issued in all of the city's parks. Let's do the math – that's ap-

proximately one ticket a day – among all the public security officers and the park cadets!

Since, as Mr. Ikeman has observed, patrollers are seldom seen, in fact they're invisible, why does it take so many PSOs and park cadets to issue a single ticket a day?

It is bad policy to enact by-laws that are not enforced. If we are not prepared to actually apply reasonable requirements for people to use park facilities in a respectful and considerate manner, perhaps we should just take the by-laws off the books.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

WHERE DOES THE RECYCLING GO?

The other day when I was putting out the recycling I was asking myself what exactly happens to our recycled material in Westmount.

There are so many news stories about how Canadian recycled waste is being shipped to countries overseas to be "dealt with"; how China no longer accepts our poor quality recycled waste; how countries are simply burning our recycled waste, and how ships have brought this waste back to Canada after years of sitting in their overseas ports.

Also, in January, it was reported that the local recycling plants are closing.

So, I would like to know where does our Westmount recycled material go? And first and foremost – is it really recycled?

MIRA KATNICK, ABBOTT AVE.

Editor's note: We are most open to the city's responses to these questions. – DP.

WAR ON CARS, INCLUDING ELECTRIC ONES?

This photograph shows an electric vehicle charging station outside the Westmount-adjacent Pharmaprix on Sherbrooke St. [at Grey Ave.]. Great, right?

Except it's been blocked off (as well as a whole bunch of parking spots) by those



green-and-white bollards to create a "corridor piéton." According to the sign, the idea is to provide social distancing. I did not see a single person using the corridor when I was at the pharmacy and the frozen yogurt place for a total of around 30 minutes at around 4 pm on August 28.

There really is a war on cars, and you can make a good case for it in the big picture, at least in the downtown core. But what works in Amsterdam doesn't work in Montreal. It's the lack of attention to detail and ham-fisted implementation that leads to this kind of nonsense. If one believes in greening the city, how does closing access to EVF charging stations help?

MATTHEW COPE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

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Back to the boudoir, return to *chic*



Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Brigitte Gasparyan is back and Le Boudoir, her Aladdin's cave of exceptional accessories, has re-opened.

How was your sheltering in place?

Actually, I worked! We were closed for 10 weeks, but I put photos on Instagram, and hand-delivered orders, carefully putting a bag at my customers' doors. I have two stores, and had orders both from my Laurier shop as well as Westmount. It seems that women still wanted to have that "extra" little something, as well as gifts.

How did you dress?

I always wore jewellery. It made me feel better.

What has changed with your customers now?

They are buying the same things, but actually now I am selling a huge number

of "fashion masks." I sell at least 20 a day and also for children. And it's interesting to see how clients are dressed. Early on, women wore black leggings and had a relaxed look. But now, I note that they are back to their former *chic*. One of my new lines, Coast from Copenhagen, is easy-elegant, so they love that. They are also buying statement pieces and handbag covers (Miss Plus from Italy) to protect their Birkin, Chanel and Prada bags – oh, and a lot of sparkly pieces. It makes everyone feel good!

How has the shopping experience changed at your boutique?

I offer "top-of-the-line" hand sanitizer at the door, and only allow two people in the store at a time. We offer clients masks and gloves. As jewellery is often touched, we sanitize everything with a professional sterilizer. There are no try-ons. If a customer brings a garment back, we put it away for 48 hours and then steam it. But, so far, we have had very few [returns].

LE BOUDOIR, 1228 Greene.
10 am to 6 pm.
Closed Sundays.

Library, cont'd. from p. 7

the place of meeting in person and discussing books one on one with the children," she said, "but we decided that we wanted to make sure the kids knew that we were there for them, thinking about them and really missing them, so we came up with our own online program to complement the fully online TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC)," Wayling explained.

Online log book

The children were also encouraged to sign up with the online TDSRC to receive an online logbook, create their own avatar and be part of a number of fun activities, including the Battle of the Books that ran all summer, and receive a number of weekly prizes.

For the Battle of the Books, the kids were asked to vote on their favourite book each week (out of two provided on the site) – the winner of the week battled the next book and so on until they had one winner at the end of August. The winner in English was: *Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls* by Dav Pilkey; for French, it was *Pars, Cours! Lenny* by Nadine Poirier.

While there were fewer participants than the usual more than 300, Wayling attributed the difference in large measure to the closure of schools through which came many of the participants. This year's overall theme from the TDSRC of "Game On!" had been set to reflect the Olympic games



Justin, 5, reads with his stuffed fox.

that ultimately were postponed for a year due to the pandemic.

Over the month of July, the regular story times from the children's department – which also took place online – recorded over 3,000 viewers, she said.

Running the summer reading club online along with other children's programs has been a major undertaking "under very challenging circumstances," Wayling explained. Dawna Hobbs and Faith Holness helped organize and film the story times. Lora Baiocco, online librarian, coordinated the entire online project while Molly Bower edited and did the design work.

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Return to Retail

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Olives en masse

garlic-cilantro, Persian lime and blood orange – a favourite used in their shop's free recipe of chocolate orange brownies.

The pomegranate vinegar was sold out, but others beckoned tastefully: honey & serrano chilli, fig, and blackberry ginger to name only a few.

The store is truly part of a community. Not only do they offer salad dressing classes using their own tasty products, but there is a weekly farmer's market, featuring organic fresh produce from La Ferme des Quatre-Temps.

Usually there is a delectable display of veggies for sale in front of the shop, but now clients go online for their order, which they then pick up at Olives en Folie later.

Kade Deline (right), Claire (left) and Roshi also showed me their beautiful gift selections.

OLIVES EN FOLIE, 386 Victoria.
Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm
Friday & Saturday 10 am to 5 pm
Closed: Sunday

PS – As I left the boutique, I noted that the once-fashionista-destination Pretty Balserina, at 392 Victoria, has closed.

PPS – Some Westmount places are staying open – quietly. The noise of local Lam-

As the persistent pandemic keeps many of us away from public places, cooking has become our new best friend. And, according to Claire Mullins Krut, many of us are paying more attention to fine ingredients.

The Westmounter is co-owner with Roshi Chadah of Olives en Folie, renowned to chefs, gourmands and budding kitchen experimenters for its unique olive oils and balsamic vinegars, as well as sensational seasoned salts.

Although their boutique could have stayed open during the lockdown, it was forced to close due to local construction. However, food aficionados kept them "busy," admits Claire. They took online and telephone orders and "delivered them ourselves, as employees couldn't come in."

Celebrating six successful years, the shop, is cheerfully delicious with bright Hermès orange and fuchsia colours acting as backdrop to the gleaming casks of specialty olive oils and vinegars.

And are they ever unique!

A few flavours I longingly noted were



orghini, Maserati and Ferrari engines is muffled by new tall walls sheltering foodies from at neighbouring Greene-area restaurants Gentile and Ryu. And West

Forno has an expansive white tent protecting customers from any inclement moments.

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Fehr pays it forward sewing masks for St. Mary's Hospital



City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

During these persistent pandemic moments, there are many heart-warming stories. People who give back.

Victoria village resident Don Fehr is one of those people.

During COVID 19, he has been sewing masks, not only for family and friends but for hundreds of St. Mary's front-line staff.

In 2017 as a patient at St. Mary's, Don began knitting beautiful caps for the hospital's oncology patients. Today, he has been donating countless hours to sew over

400 masks in various styles, colours and patterns.

His tireless – and creative! – efforts have benefitted St. Mary's staff in oncology, renal dialysis, emergency, as well as the nursing staff and those manning the coffee shop.

Don also made more than 1,500 “Ça va bien aller!” rainbow-coloured hair scrunchies for the participants in the upcoming St. Mary's Girls for Cure fundraiser.

“I started sewing masks right from the beginning of the pandemic to prevent myself from becoming bored while stuck at home! I'll keep at my sewing machine for a few hours every day, as long as the need continues.”

Cynda Heward, CEO of St. Mary's Foundation commented that his “heartfelt gesture that shows how the St. Mary's Community is very much a family.”



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Charlotte is ready



Miss Charlotte is a sweetheart, enjoying every cuddle and looking forward to opportunities for bonding and companionship. She is a beautiful grey-and-white tortie with goldtone eyes, very healthy at eight years of age.

She is spayed, innoculated and micro-

chipped, ready for adoption into a new family as soon as possible. Coming from a survival mode on the streets and taken in by the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, her foster family reports that she gets along well with all and is most affectionate.

Please contact Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at its email info@gerdysrescue.org or go to its website at www.gerdysrescue.org for more information on Charlotte and this grass-roots charitable volunteer based animal rescue.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Sibelle



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

We see many happy little beagle-type doggies with families on walks in the park and on Summit Woods. Sibelle is just like them, except that she has not had much luck and is waiting at the Montreal SPCA kennel for adoption. It would be wonderful if your family could make that difference for her and she would be riding home in the back seat of the car looking forward to a loving home life.

Sibelle is so pretty, a black-and-tan girlie with adorable hound ears and soft brown eyes.

She is a very healthy and active three-year-old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

Sibelle's identification number is 43894809 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 con-

tacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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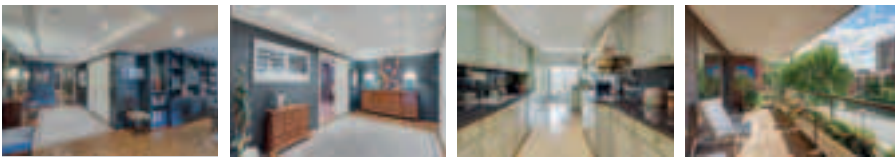
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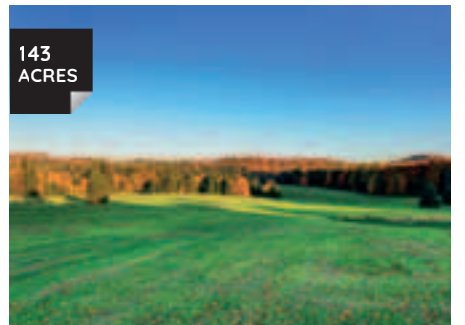
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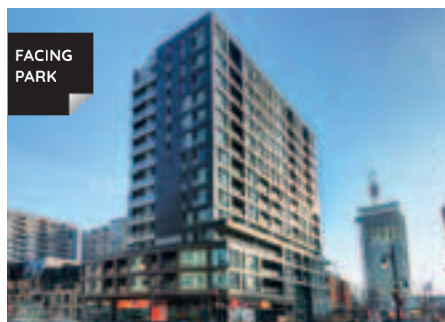
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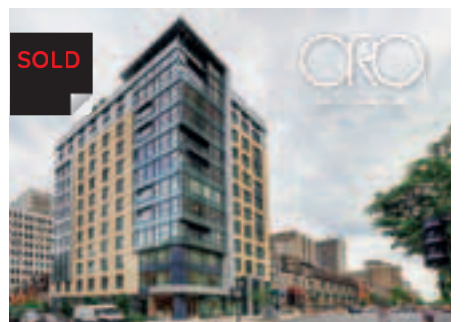
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