

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 14 No. 9d

We are Westmount

September 22, 2020

In the 'aftermath' of the pandemic

'Imagine 2040' webinar with urban planner Beasley planned for Oct. 1

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city is resuming its "Imagine Westmount 2040" project after a six-month pause over COVID-19 by holding a presentation by internationally known urban planner Larry Beasley.

It had been postponed from the original date of March 24 just after the city's public meetings were cancelled.

This means the meeting with Beasley that was to have been held at Victoria Hall

will now take place as a webinar October 1 from 12 noon to 1 pm.

To be accessed from the city's website on the Engage Westmount platform for the 2040 initiative, the event will focus on "sustainable planning in the aftermath of the pandemic," according to a press release.

Citizens will have the opportunity to interact with Beasley live following the presentation. An interview with Beasley from his base in Vancouver was published in the *Independent* of March 17 on p. 6.

Imagine Westmount is the city's project to revise its master urban plan created some 20 years ago. The start of the project had been officially launched at a public meeting in Victoria Hall January 29 (see story February 4, p. 8).

Don't Miss It

Household hazardous waste collection: **Saturday, October 3**
See p. 7 for story

Social distancing, park-style



Westmounter Amin Emad, professor of engineering at McGill University, was alone with his textbook in King George (Murray) Park September 17 at 9 am.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Back to normal? Normal-ish?

Pedestrian corridors to be removed before winter

The city will start gradually dismantling its pedestrian corridors before the end of October as requested by La Sécurité Civile de Montréal, which covers the island of Montreal, according to Westmount's director general Benoit Hurtubise.

"This is in preparation for the winter due to low usage and issues encountered with the passage of emergency vehicles." The additional pedestrian space on Greene

Ave. will remain in place until the end of October, he said.

Created during lockdown

The city created many such corridors throughout Westmount beginning in April during the COVID-19 lockdown. See "3 streets blocked to all but local traffic," April 7, p. 14, and "More asphalt transferred to pedestrians," April 14, p. 3.



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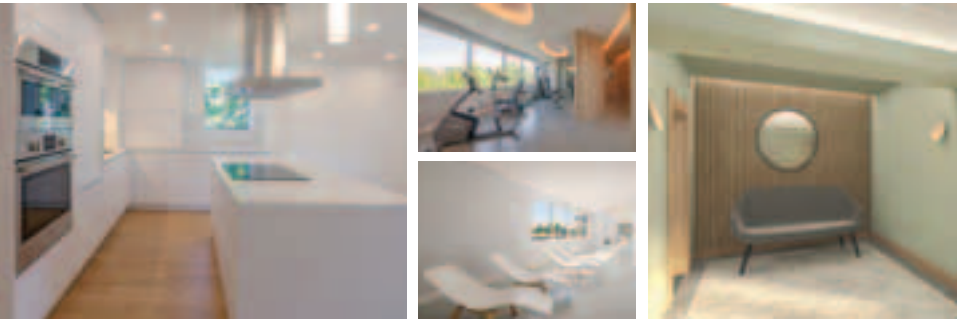
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Devon re-surfacing gets approved

Council rejects 2 tenders over pandemic, high price

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A tender bid for the structural lining of sewers on different streets was cancelled by city council September 8 because the timeline planned for this summer is being modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Councillor Philip Cutler stated in moving the cancellation.

The work had been announced for this summer as part of the city's capital works budget for 2020 for which four bids had been opened in May ranging from \$191,221 to \$223,802. The work "will be re-scheduled," he explained.

Other road projects, however, had been carried out on schedule which he called "quite remarkable" under pandemic circumstances.

Another tender was also rejected by the city. This one was the only submission received for the purchase of a new electrical panel for the mechanical room in Victoria Hall. It was cancelled following an analysis of the bid, which was deemed too high, Cutler said. It came from Lumen, a supplier of electrical equipment, at \$91,592.

"While other places might accept a price because it makes life simpler, we reject it if it is considered too high," he explained.

But from this lone bid, the city had a choice of 10 for the asphalt re-surfacing of Devon and council accepted without comment the lowest conforming quote of \$198,914 from Eurovia Quebec Construction. The highest came in at \$317,524 from Les pavages ultra.

See also snow removal contracts renewed, p. 3.

In the Spotlight (after p. 12)

Construction permits, including
for two new houses, p. RE-2

Goode house presented by
city for heritage status, p. RE-6

History by the House (4100
Dorchester, part II), p. RE-12

Retail Watch, p. RE-30



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CAIS



City asked to improve cleaning on major sidewalks

Snow contracts renewed for parking lots, lanes

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was as though the onset of cooler weather this month made the city council's approval September 8 of more snow contracts seem more in keeping than those already awarded over the summer to get "a head start" on the upcoming season, as Councillor Philip Cutler stated.

"The contracts we're awarding tonight are those from last winter that allowed for renewable options," he explained. One was for removing snow in various city parking lots; the other was for clearing of lanes.

Both were given again to Les Excavations Super: the cleaning of parking lots at a maximum of \$71,957, including taxes

though a second firm, Ventec, had submitted a bid for \$108,077; the contract for lanes was renewed at a maximum amount of \$342,149.

In a submitted e-mail question to the virtual meeting, Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, asked: "Will the city continue to improve its efforts to improve cleaning of sidewalks on its busiest streets this winter to make it safe to walk all winter long?" (He had provided Public Works last year with 16 of the busiest sidewalks.)

'Absolutely committed'

"We absolutely are committed to it," replied Mayor Christina Smith, who added

the big challenge was the dumping of snow on city sidewalks by private contractors. She said an update on how Public Works is planning for the upcoming winter would be presented soon, probably at the October meeting.

Cutler, as commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, pointed out the city had purchased two new Bombardier sidewalk tractors that had helped last year.



Remember this kind of weather? Unless we have a very warm winter, similar scenes are coming soon to a street near you. This photo is from January 20, on Prince Albert at York.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Return to Retail
(Bella), p. 21

Return to Retail
(Solomon), p. 22

9 Lives, p. 19

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 18



Police Report, p. 18

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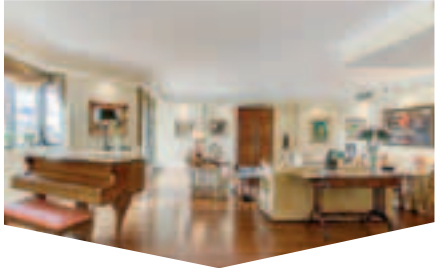
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EASTERN NDG POLICE STATION
COULD BENEFIT WESTMOUNT

Open letter to Mayor Christina Smith

I'm certain you've closely followed the saga of the police station closing in Notre Dame de Grâce (NDG) with interest as it does have an impact on part of Westmount's territory.

Unfortunately, it seems that NDG's Station 11 [on Somerled east of Cavendish] will die with a whimper. The closing will take place in the autumn, probably late October, as was originally announced by the police department.

As well, Montreal city council has approved a lease to enlarge the space rented where Station 9 is currently located on Westminster Ave. and Côte St. Luc Rd. in the city of Côte Saint Luc to accommodate the move of the Station 11 personnel. The motions to keep Station 11 open were all defeated by the Projet Montréal administration. The story no longer generates headlines.

The only silver lining that had come out of the city council debates was the possibility of the administration accepting to open a police mini-post in eastern NDG. That possibility was discussed at the April 20 city council meeting and a promise made to have a serious look at this proposal. Months later, there is absolutely no solid news on that. On July 3 and August 22, I spoke with Rosannie Filato, the executive committee member in charge of public security, and was told there would be news "soon."

Should that possibility come to fruition,

it would provide a point of service relatively easily accessible to residents of the western part of the city of Westmount, which could be an alternative to police Post 12 on Stanton St. in the eastern part of Westmount.

However, as I feel that the city administration has not fulfilled the promise it has made to NDG residents to assess this compromise, I have tabled the attached motion for the September 21 city council motion. It calls for the opening of such a police station that would allow at least a physical police presence to remain in NDG.

One thing is clear is that most residents think there was a complete lack of transparency in how this all came about. The process was characterized by a lack of any credible public consultation and treated residents to an information session that has been universally panned as inadequate.

My motion thus remains the last opportunity to re-discuss the station closing. I feel that the substation proposal would respond to many of the demands from citizens that we have heard since February when this matter became public. It would, as noted above, be able to service Westmount residents as well.

Should you agree that the substation proposal is in the public interest, your support would aid in strengthening the arguments for my motion's adoption. Should you provide a letter of support, I will alert the council members during the debate.

MARVIN ROTRAND, MONTREAL CITY AND
CÔTE DES NEIGES-NDG BOROUGH
COUNCILLOR (SNOWDON DISTRICT)

FIX THE PATHS,
TEST THE OAKS

Why do Westmount residents continue to face dangerously deteriorated pathways in our parks and crumbling sidewalks? Pedestrians, especially seniors, keep falling and injuring themselves (e.g. August 25 edition "Please fix the Brick Path," p. 22) and (September 8 edition "Failing Infrastructure, falling City," p. 22).

For years, residents have been specifically pointing out the dangerous holes in Westmount Park's brick paths. Some paths in King George (Murray) Park also remain atrocious, a challenge even for goats. Yet nothing happens. Our mayor and council are deaf to this neglect.

I would therefore ask our mayor, council and the city admin to re-acquaint themselves with the implications of the social contract that governs the relationship between residents and the city. An effective social contract, understood and endorsed by all parties, is central to a functioning, healthy city. At its very core, residents agree to follow the laws and regulations and pay taxes. In return, they expect the city to first provide them with safety and security, then to run the city well and work to improve the quality of life in their community. Is this too much to ask?

While the city has done a superb job with respect to COVID, considerable work still remains to make our public pathways and sidewalks safer.

Furthermore, we don't need any more red oaks collapsing as reported in the September 8 issue of the *Independent* (p. 21). We were lucky. It was far too close to being immensely tragic. In that article, Mr. Robert Zimmermann, a retired forest ecologist and Westmouter, suggested incremental boring as a way to test the health of these trees. The city knows how many red oaks it has and precisely where each one is located. Test every one. It's not a big thing.

Make our city safer for everyone. Let's get going on this.

DENIS BIRO,
BURTON AVE.

Editor's note: In fairness to the city, it was re-paving the brick path near the lagoon in Westmount Park as this issue was being prepared. See p. RE-30. –DP

SAVE THE MONEY,
PLANT MEMORIAL TREES

Instead of paying private contractors to plant and maintain trees in Westmount, I am sure there are many people who would step up in a flash and even pay to plant a tree in the name of a loved one departed.

A lovely memorial for 20 or even 30 years.

NICK BARKER, SHERBROOKE ST.

Editor's note: The city used to offer memorial trees but no longer does so. In our June 18, 2019 article "City launches memorial bench program for four parks" (p. 7), Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained that "one of the problems with the memorial trees was that 'everyone' wanted decorative species that tend to be susceptible to disease, and wanted them planted in Westmount Park." Another point that I think is worth making is that trees with a private origin that are placed on public land effectively privatize that piece of land. What if future voters want a playing field there? Or a bike path? There is no such issue with memorial benches (the city's current practice), which can be moved. – DP

VANDALS AREN'T ARTISTS

Re: your police report of September 15: "Graffiti artists leave tell-tale tags after breaking into store."

I'm shocked and dismayed that after years of outright vandalism by graffiti taggers, you still refer to such destroyers of the human landscape as "artists." They are not. They are vandals.

As Webster's definition reminds us, a vandal is "one who willfully and ignorantly destroys, damages, or defaces property belonging to another or the public."

As a letter in the same issue on this same subject ("What a shame!" p. 6) suggests, every citizen can do something to protect our quality of life by immediately reporting such incidents of tagging to Public Security, or online at Westmount.org (click on "Graffiti and Vandalism," where you can also provide a photo of the tag or tags).

RICHARD ORLANDO,
SHERBROOKE ST.

Westmount Square
Royal Bank closes
'for COVID reasons'

Royal Bank spokesman Denis Dubé confirmed to the *Independent* by phone September 18 that the bank's branch in Westmount Square had closed September 15 "for COVID reasons." After a deep cleaning, the bank hopes to re-open the branch Monday, September 28, "if everything is fine."

"The security of our employees and client is the priority," he affirmed several times.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Hazardous waste collection Oct. 3

The fall collection of household hazardous waste (HHW) will take place Saturday, October 3 from 9 am to 5 pm in the parking lot outside Westmount Public Library, Councillor Marina Brzeski announced at the city council meeting.

Residents can drop off electronic equipment as well as the regular “hazardous”

items such as paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides and batteries. “If anyone has been doing renovations, now is the time to get things together” to drop off, she said. Among refused items are medicines, electric appliances and tires. A full list is on the city’s website.



The hazardous waste collection on October 5 of last year.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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Heritage Montreal unveils 'Memento'

Heritage Montreal has launched Memento (memento.heritagemontreal.org), a new version of its existing H-MTL website.

The application is in the form of a map to which anyone can add "citizen alerts" on places of heritage interest that they deem endangered. The platform also highlights the properties currently being monitored by Heritage Montreal and offers citizens "information and tools" to support them in their mobilization efforts, according to a September 15 press release, as well as presenting cases of re-classification to shine a spotlight on "victories and successes."

"By bringing [to] one place all this information on Montreal's heritage, Heritage Montreal pursues its dual vocation: to raise awareness and to mobilize citizens. The government of Quebec is proud to support the realization of Memento, a project that contributes to the enhancement and the protection of built heritage of the metropolis and greater Montreal area," Chantal Rouleau, provincial minister for Transport and minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montreal Region is quoted as saying.

"Memento is the fruit of our efforts to reach even more citizens and local organizations in the vast metropolitan area," said Robert Turgeon, executive director of Heri-

tage Montreal.

"We hope that citizens will make this platform their own so that Memento can become a catalyst for them to mobilize

around projects to preserve and re-classify heritage buildings in their neighbourhoods. With Memento, we're giving citizens a chance to be part of the solution."



Locally, the former train station at the foot of Victoria, seen September 17, is a heritage site that has attracted comment over the years, including an exchange between resident Brian Merrett and the *Independent's* editor in our January 7 and 14 editions (p. 7 and p. 6 respectively). Briefly summarized, Merrett wants the building used. Our editor favours preserving the building, but leaving it unused – and cheap.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Five years since Sept. 20, 2015 closure

Pandemic adds three months to greenhouse project

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Five years after the city greenhouses were closed to the public for safety reasons September 20, it now appears that restoration of the heritage conservatory and frog pond may not be completed until October 2021, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

“The pandemic situation has delayed our architects by approximately three months in their deliverables,” he explained.



The entrance to the greenhouse on September 21.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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“When confinement directives were issued by the government (around mid-March), our professional services team (of outside architects) were continuing their work on the drawings and tender documents,” he explained. “These documents are now completed and are being revised and checked by our internal (city) team.”

If all goes to plan, the city expects to go out to public tender during the first week of October for a contractor, he said.


While projected costs remain unchanged at around \$4.3 million, he confirmed, the city’s 2020 capital works budget set aside a total of \$5.1 million to include “budgetary assets” that might be needed to get the building up and running.

Affleck de la Riva architects were hired

October 7, 2019 at a maximum of \$591,603 to develop an interior design option as well as the tender specifications so a contractor could be hired this past spring to start work over the summer (see story October 15, 2019, p. 11).

Plans have not yet been announced regarding the future of the grow houses, which are not considered to have heritage value. They are located south and west of the main structure and its entrance, which face Sherbrooke St. between the library and Victoria Hall. Minutes of the general committee meeting of August 3 reported that it was agreed that a call for tenders be issued to obtain professional services to generate an estimate of the cost for a workshop and a grow room.

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A flower for someone?



This flower was seen on Gladstone at St. Catherine September 14.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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An approach adapted to the different regions to limit transmission of the virus

It is now more important than ever that we follow health measures to limit the spread of the virus. It is essential that each of us remains vigilant and adopts good habits. Since the virus is not spreading everywhere at the same rate, a new tool has been implemented to show how the situation is evolving in each Quebec region. This four-level alert system will make it easier for you to keep track of the government's interventions.

We must contain the spread of the virus throughout Quebec. This is how we can retain some level of normalcy over the next few months. Each region can make a big difference in limiting the spread of the virus. Let's continue to protect each other.

Progressive regional alert and intervention system

The Progressive regional alert and intervention system specifies which additional measures each health region must take to slow the transmission of the virus. These depend on the alert level reached and are intended to limit the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, protect those who are most at risk and avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

The alert levels are established based on the recommendations of public health authorities who regularly review the situation, taking into account the epidemiological situation, transmission control and the capacity of the healthcare system.

Don't forget that everyone must adopt behaviours that limit transmission of the virus. We do it to ensure that our children can keep going to school, to protect our seniors, to ensure the safety of our healthcare workers and to revive our economy. **Follow the basic measures at all times:**



- › Keep your distance
- › Wear a face covering
- › Cough into your elbow
- › Wash your hands
- › Adapt your greetings

FOUR ALERT AND INTERVENTION LEVELS

LEVEL 1
Vigilance

Level 1 requires constant attention amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It corresponds to a low level of transmission in the community. It requires that **the basic measures established be followed** in all settings (physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, hand washing, etc.). Special measures may also apply to certain activities or settings.

LEVEL 2
Early Warning

This level is imposed when the level of transmission starts to increase. The **basic measures are reinforced** and further actions are taken to promote and encourage compliance. For example, there might be more inspections and crowd control in some settings to facilitate physical distancing.

LEVEL 3
Alert

Level 3 introduces additional measures that target specific areas of activity and settings where the risk of transmission is deemed higher. These areas are subject to **selective restrictions, prohibitions and closures**.

LEVEL 4
Maximum Alert

Level 4 selectively applies more restrictive measures up to and including **ceasing non-essential activities** for which the risk cannot be sufficiently controlled, while avoiding the generalized confinement that was experienced during the first wave of the pandemic as much as possible.

To find out the alert level in your region, consult the Map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at [Québec.ca/alertlevels](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels).

[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

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Users respected social distancing: Warren Duncan

Pool’s challenges as viewed by veteran lifeguard/manager



Warren Duncan in the staff room at the Westmount recreation centre.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 11 years as a Westmount lifeguard, during six of which he has also been pool manager, lifelong Lansdowne resident Warren Duncan has had a very different experience this summer.

It was characterized right from the start by helping to prepare new procedural and organizational changes over COVID and continued through the swim season to making “on the fly” scheduling changes, adapting to new needs as they arose and managing the health and safety of users as well as all the 23 lifeguards, punctuated by 40-degree days.

These are some of his takeaways, he said last week as he returned to his undergraduate studies at Concordia in kinesiology in the hopes of one day setting up his own physiotherapy clinic.

“My big take-home on the social side,” he explained, “was seeing how resilient people can be through a difficult time, people trying to work together, families so pleased to be out at the pool after the long confinement period while being respectful of each other’s social distancing in the water.”

“We were fortunate that Warren knew the job, the environment and the swimmers,” Bruce Stacey, Sports and Recreation’s division head for facilities, explained. “Given all the uncertainty of COVID, the lifeguards had to put themselves at risk, so hats off to them for allowing themselves to be in that situation.”

Once the initial planning had taken place, lifeguards trained in the use of personal protective equipment and swimmers became familiar with the new ways, “everything went smoothly,” he said (see also story September 1, p. 10).

“The pool’s reduced capacity also made it much more manageable for the lifeguards this year.”

Navigating through the Quebec government and Lifesaving Society’s pandemic protocols to set up procedures and then convey them to the rest of the staff was one of the main learning experiences that Duncan said he experienced along with the two assistant pool managers, Daniel Iarrera and Sydney Joy.

Low turnover

“Thankfully, our turnover of lifeguards had been low this year with only four new hires,” he said. While none of the usual youth lessons was provided, a new seniors’ swim time was implemented part way through, as requested.

“We also had to look for ways to keep ourselves safe from each other and from being affected by this summer’s very hot temperatures,” Duncan said. After every hour-long time slot, a period of wipe-down had to take place. Even the lifeguard chairs had to be wiped after each person’s use.

While some swimmers had experienced issues over the contracted-out reservation system as well as the time slots, Duncan said, most were concerned about safety. “They just wanted to be sure they didn’t have their space in the water invaded by others.”

Now 26, Duncan learned to swim at the



Warren Duncan on the lifeguard chair with Daniel Iarrera, one of the assistant pool managers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF W. DUNCAN.

old Westmount pool and began lifeguarding there at age 16.

He and the other 22 lifeguards have been receiving repeated thanks at the virtual city council meetings from Mayor Christina Smith for their efforts “in sometimes challenging circumstances,” she reiterated September 8 after the pool’s Labour Day closure.

She pointed out that hundreds of people had come through the pool every day without any cases of COVID being reported. She also thanked “all the lifeguards” for turning out to work instead of staying home and collecting the government’s Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

“The community is very grateful.”



The Westmount pool on September 21. Already getting ready for next year.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Mystery car, mystery ticket



This car on Claremont had no licence plate – or temporary paper licence that the *Independent* could see September 3. Another mystery: despite the absence of a plate, it had still received a parking ticket. How? To what owner did the officer address it?

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 5 octobre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, October 5



Collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux le 3 octobre

La collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux aura lieu le samedi 3 octobre entre 9 h et 17 h dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount. westmount.org.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection - October 3

The household hazardous waste collection will take place on Saturday, October 3rd between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Westmount Public Library parking lot. westmount.org.

Patinage et bâton-rondelle : réservation

Les réservations en ligne pour les activités de patinage libre, patinage artistique et de bâton-rondelle devront être effectuées les lundis, à partir de midi, pour la même semaine. westmount.org

Comité consultatif sur l'accessibilité

La sélection des candidats qui siègeront au Comité consultatif sur l'accessibilité est en cours. Les personnes sélectionnées seront contactées pour une entrevue au cours des deux prochaines semaines. westmount.org

Incroyables comestibles

Les résidents qui le souhaitent peuvent récolter les légumes et les plantes comestibles des plates-bandes ornementales de la Ville jusqu'au 30 septembre. westmount.org

Hydro Westmount : frais de service

La période de suspension des frais de service appliqués au solde impayé qui a été mise en place le 22 mars dernier prendra fin le 30 septembre 2020. westmount.org

Imagine Westmount 2040 : le processus continue

La démarche participative Imagine Westmount 2040, visant à une révision complète du Plan d'urbanisme reprend ses activités le jeudi 1er octobre 2020, de 12 h à 13 h, avec une vidéoconférence mettant en vedette l'urbaniste de renommée Larry Beasley. westmount.org

Herbes à poux

Plusieurs personnes souffrent de symptômes allergiques propagés par le pollen de l'herbe à poux. Pour les éviter, coupez-la au niveau du sol. westmount.org

Shinny Hockey and Skating: reservation

Online reservation for general skating, figure skating and shinny hockey can be made every Monday after 12 p.m. for the same week. westmount.org

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The selection of candidates to join the Accessibility Advisory Committee is underway. The selected candidates will be contacted for interviews over the next two weeks. westmount.org

Incredible Edibles

Westmount residents can pick up vegetables and edible plants from the City's ornamental flower beds until September 30. westmount.org

Hydro Westmount: service charges

The suspension of service charges applied to the outstanding balance put in place on March 22 will end on September 30, 2020. westmount.org

Imagine Westmount 2040: the process continues

The participative process which aims to produce a new urban master plan for the City resumes on Thursday, October 1 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. with a videoconference featuring internationally renowned urban planner Larry Beasley. westmount.org

Ragweed

Many people suffer from allergic symptoms caused by ragweed pollen. To avoid them, cut it at ground level. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

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

Retour de documents 24 h sur 24


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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

LIBRARY

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

Bring your items to the book drops located near the side door of Victoria Hall at any time.

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Our pickup service now takes place inside the Library. Place a hold and you will be informed when your items are ready. You will have 2 days to pick them up. westlib.org

Métaphore/Métamorphose opens McClure Gallery's fall season

Art Scene

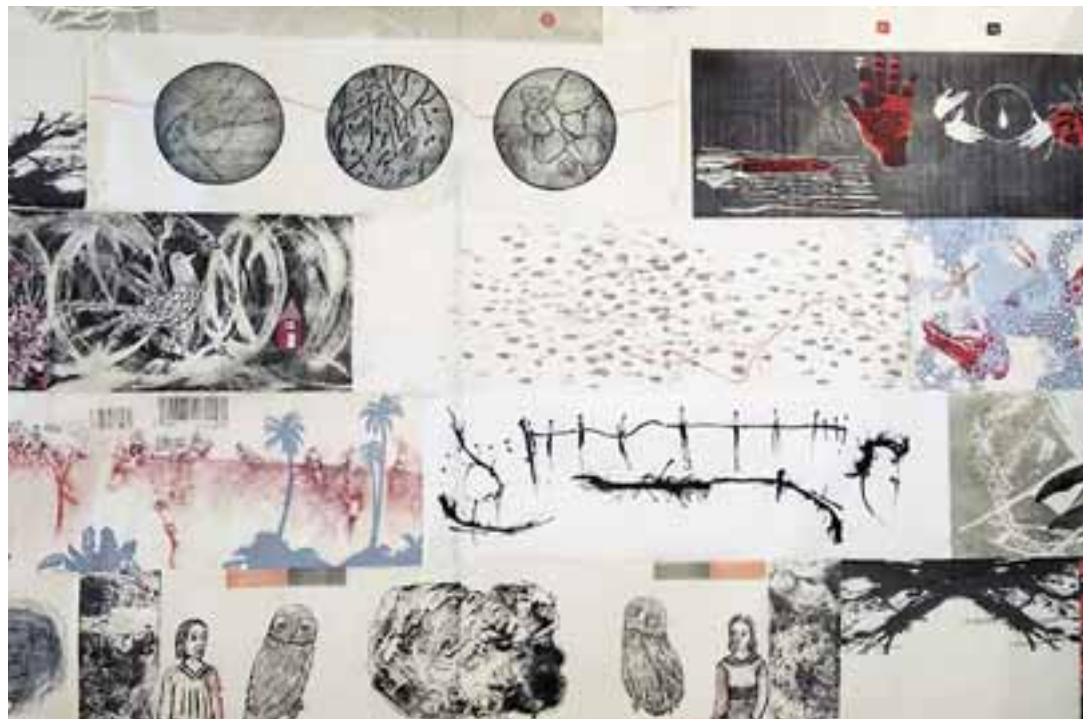
HEATHER BLACK

The Visual Arts Centre's first exhibition of the season opened at the McClure Gallery on September 4.

Entitled *Métaphore/Métamorphose*, the exhibition included installations of assembled prints by 23 artists as well as five separate works. A commentary on contemporary issues – and environmental, social or spiritual change – the project was conceived and curated by Louise Bloom of the Atelier de l'île printmakers in Val David.

For the exhibition, artists were invited to create new metaphors using a print medium and a colour palette of red, grey and black on various lengths of *baika* (shoji natural paper).

Inspiration for the project included by 6th-century Japanese *emaki* handscrolls – a storytelling medium and forerunner of printmaking – as well as contemporary media posters. The result was a series of individual artist narratives on transformation in uncertain times.



A detail of the assembled prints.

Imagery by Suzanne Jean depicts geological evolution within a timeline created with red crochet thread. Another by Germain Locas includes a feathery red swirl surrounded by a child's handprints

or footprints and adult footprints on soil or brick. Assembled within a repetitive and site-specific pattern, the collective work – with multiple perspectives – creates a dramatic and engaging dialogue.

Although the rhythm of the pattern is calming, Bloom said, “the subject is change. The exhibition is a protest, although it is a quiet protest.” Among the individual prints, Adeline Rognon's “Connections” concerns the metamorphosis of an agrarian to a digital culture. On the left side a man's head merges with a tree while, on the right, a second head with computer circuitry extends to telephone wires. Both are mirrored below in reverse.

A travelling installation, *Métaphore/Métamorphose* continues until September 26 at the Visual Arts Centre.

With the capacity to expand and more exhibitions planned, Bloom is extending an invitation to all printmakers throughout Quebec to submit work. Executive director Natasha Reid said: “It's wonderful to have the centre open again. This exhibition is particularly timely with important issues that we are dealing with in our society.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF MÉTAPHORE/MÉTAMORPHOSE, 2019.



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Police Report

No recent crime incidents, say police, but plenty of minor collisions

By Martin C. Barry

While police at Station 12 on Stanton St. say there were no criminal incidents in Westmount over the past two weeks, a spate of minor car collisions kept some of officers busy filing accident reports.

On September 11 around 4:50 pm, driver inattention was said to be a factor that led to a collision between a taxi and an electric scooter driven by a 34-year-old man near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Roslyn Ave.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the taxi had come to a halt on de Maisonneuve between Roslyn and Grosvenor Ave.

“The cab driver was entering a driveway,” said Pimentel, noting that neither the cabbie nor the scooter driver were Westmount residents. “The taxi was stopped and the electric scooter hit one of the front fenders of the cab.”

The electric scooter’s driver fell to the pavement, where he struck his head. Urgences Santé was summoned and he was transported to the Montreal General Hospital, where he was treated and kept under observation for a while.

“The cause of the accident was inattention,” said Pimentel, adding that the report blamed the taxi driver for making an unexpected maneuver at the last moment, which confused the other driver.

Pimentel said that if there is a lesson to be learned about safe driving from this incident, it is to never take for granted what another driver is planning.

Collision on Claremont

On September 12 around 2:50 pm at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Claremont Ave., two cars had a minor collision as both were trying to execute turns onto Claremont.

While one of the drivers was headed west on Sherbrooke and planned to turn south onto Claremont, the other was going east and was turning northward.

“Both vehicles were making a left at the same time, but came too close to each other, and one of them touched the other one while turning,” said Pimentel.

“There was nothing much to it – minor damage,” he added, noting that there were no injuries, but that a police officer responded to the scene after one of the drivers called 9-1-1 to report the accident.

Collision on The Boulevard

On September 14 around 5:50 pm, a Chevrolet taxi and a Volvo were involved in a minor collision near the corner of Lansdowne Ave. and The Boulevard, resulting again in minor damage.

“When the cab was arriving, the other vehicle was leaving a private driveway and they struck,” Pimentel said, while noting that inattention by both drivers was again

probably a factor.

While suggesting that most drivers backing out of a driveway are usually doing it slowly, he said some are probably not paying enough attention to what’s happening on the street, as they fiddle with the radio or plug in their cell phone.

“Some people have that bad habit because they don’t want to lose an extra 10 seconds,” said Pimentel.

Natas and his toy



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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Natas’ identification number is 44168048 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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'Senior Staff' charm Place Kensington residents with folk performance

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A large and happy group of socially-distanced Place Kensington seniors enjoyed a relaxing outdoor concert last September 16 by Senior Staff, a band led by Westmount attorney Stephen Weinstein, on the Place Kensington terrace behind the residence.

With four voices, two guitars and a bass, Senior Staff took popular folk and folk-rock tunes from the 1960s and 1970s to fresh new heights, with an emphasis on strong and tight harmony.

The quartet led a good old-fashioned hootenanny, with songs the Place Kensington residents all seemed to enjoy. It was a

heart-warming hour that probably took many back in time.

In the group, Helen Binik performed vocals and percussion. She has been singing in classical choirs from an early age in the UK, and has continued in several Montreal choral groups since coming here when she was in her twenties.

Helen and Stephen met in 2012 in another group which performed at seniors' residences and charity events. Stephen once played keyboard in a high-school rock band, but learned to play guitar with his now teen-aged daughter – although he stuck with it, while she did not.

After their initial musical partnership, Helen and Stephen formed a trio with



Seen here on the Place Kensington rear terrace are, from left, Phil Jones, Stephen Weinstein, Helen Binik and Brian Nicholson, who perform as Senior Staff.

Brian, whom they found through the on-line Meetup group Musicians and Friends, now defunct. Brian has been singing and playing since his teens and was performing alone in cafés and bars around town. The three hit it off immediately with similar interests and tastes in music, and they began performing together in 2017.

Phil, who has been playing and singing folk, rock and jazz since he was a kid in the UK, was a member for a long time of the Yellow Door Tabernacle Choir and more recently of Mouth Music Celtic Choir. Helen and Phil met through the choral octet Burton Street Singers, and Phil joined Senior Staff in May 2018.

Since then, the group has performed in seniors' residences, at charity events, for street and office parties and at the NDG Porchfest. In June last year, they were invited to lead the Saturday afternoon Hootenanny at the Montreal Folkfest on the Canal. They were preparing for a repeat engagement this year when the pandemic closed the festival down.

In addition to last week's Place Kensington performance, Senior Staff performed at the seniors' residence last year. They said it was a real pleasure to be invited back to bring music into the lives of the residents.

The Place Kensington set list included such classics as "With A Little Help from My Friends," "Fire and Rain," "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Teach Your Children," as well as a couple of original songs by Stephen and Brian. The show ended with a rousing rendition of "Wagon Wheel," to the obvious delight of the audience.

"Seeing the smiles in the audience makes the hours of practice worthwhile," said Brian. "Such a treat to be able to share the joy of music again," said Helen, who added, "I have the feeling that our audience enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed them."

Said Stephen, "What a joy to play for such an appreciative audience in such a lovely space. The way things were going we thought it would be a long time before Senior Staff played before a live audience again."

Sweet-smelling Skunky



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



neutered and microchipped. He is in need of cuddles and playtime, which all happy cats thrive on.

Skunky's identification number is 45520129 and you can refer to it when you go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted within 24 hours for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

What a name!

Well, Skunky is adorable and sweet, smelling perfectly fine. This cute-as-can-be white-and-blond domestic shorthair is waiting patiently at the Montreal SPCA cattery for a loving family and most probably a name change...

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Lost Cat

Black & white tuxedo shorthaired male; ear tattoos; no collar; last seen Kensington/Maisonnette September 12. Please contact Jessica (514) 213-9270.

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Rafael Gutierrez Özdemir inspecting some of the goods.

PHOTO COURTESY OF E. ÖZDEMİR GUTIERREZ.

Westmounters Stephanie Garrow, Stephanie Little and Elif Özdemir Gutierrez were three of six local “captains” helping to organize the Westmount aspect of a pan-Montreal food drive September 13.

The drive “was a *huge* success,” Garrow told the *Independent* by email the next day. “We had approximately 25 to 30 volunteers who covered all of Westmount ... and collected between 150 to 175 bags and boxes of food.

“Westmount residents were extremely generous ... We delivered all the food in the pouring rain to Chez Doris, Resilience Montreal and the Montreal Diet Dispensary (on Lincoln Ave. downtown), which provides social nutrition to vulnerable pregnant women. ... Resilience Montreal prepares about 250 meals a day for the downtown homeless population and they also prepare food packages for those transitioning into apartments and residences.

“It was a fantastic demonstration of community spirit: neighbours all supporting each other on their streets to donate, and different districts of Westmount working together for a common cause in their local neighbourhood.”

Among the local volunteer drivers and sorters were Gael Fraser-Tytler, Warren Garfield, Saloua Benkhrouya, former city councillor Theodora Samiotis, Karina Gehrig and family, Stephanie Gliksmann, Michelle Rosenhek Zelermyer and Max, Delia and Hentie Dirker and family, Alicen Willis, Donna-Lynn Kovic, Jennifer Baldeo Liszkowski, Joanne Gibbs, Diana Clément, Simal Erkan, Gaelle Cerf, Alexandra Robb and Anita Chandan and family.



Stephanie Gliksmann, Warren Garfield and son Ty Garfield, with Stephanie and Ty sans masks in inset.

According to a press release from the umbrella organization, in the whole greater Montreal area, 2,000 volunteers picked up from over 35,000 doorways, porches, lobbies, steps and driveways.

Some 25,000 kilograms of donations were collected and re-distributed to the 200 families who had registered a need and to nearly 100 food banks, social service organizations and other partners.



Michelle and Zach Zelermyer.



Karina Gehrig, and David, Tessa, and Koby O'Flaherty.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF S. GARROW.

Cinderella dresses are waiting



Return to Retail

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Annually, social seasons throughout the world take place each spring and fall. Now, the black-tie balls where gowns are gorgeous and glamour reigns supreme are on hold. Everywhere, Cinderella frocks hang forlornly. One of the best spots in Montreal for divine dresses is Bella on Greene Ave., where the gowns range in all the glorious colours of the rainbow.

Owner Laura Iannizzi explained that “normally the boutique has fitting requests months in advance, as my clients plan for the Museum of Fine Arts and McCord balls – among others.”

Accompanied by her little Yorkshire terrier Louis, she showed me a trend-driven collection of long, sweeping gowns: White with subtle beading; black backless; red (“the” colour this year); sparkly sequin short cocktail dresses, and my favourite on a dark and cloudy day: those flattering filmy colours of a perfect dawn.

There is also a range of pretty garden

party dresses; bright florals crying out for an Ascot fascinator – and a place to be worn.

But Iannizzi hasn’t given up. Not only is she open every day – “yes, even Sunday!” – she has quickly supplemented her shop with a fabulous fall item: a warmly lined cape with fur accents, “fake, of course!”

A *chic* and cozy pick-me-up (\$110) to twirl over my new no-black-tie-events-to-cover-wardrobe of LBL (little black leisure-wear).

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As one is reduced to walking everywhere, whether random walks or determined destinations, why not take the Parisian attitude and be a *flâneur*? Not a “loafer” as the French-English dictionary might suggest but a “stroller” or “saunterer.”

Take time to look and admire Westmount shops. One of my favourites is a bit of a hideaway, but that’s part of the fun of discovery. And discover you will.

Solomon Antiques carries a range of memorabilia.

Beau (“only one name”) explained that Westmounters (and Montrealers) bring in pieces on consignment.

And what pieces they are! Antique Asian statement necklaces, vintage clothing, fun/fabulous 1920s to 1940s jewellery, a shining Danish tea set, and Persian rugs – to name but a few.

From the packed jewellery counter, Beau showed me a fascinating object: A money bracelet from Africa. “These were used instead of coins, 100 years ago.” One was heavy bronze (a perfect paperweight!)

Mementos, mori and Beau-ty



and others silver.

Another fun piece was a charming antique ivory cherub: a *memento mori*.

Beau also showed me amazing sculptural necklaces made of amber. I learnt there is a cherry amber, and their top quality meant that the amber was not transparent.

But my eye was riveted by a gorgeous over-the-top 19th century French clock. Bronze and porcelain, it would add a Baroque beauty to any décor.

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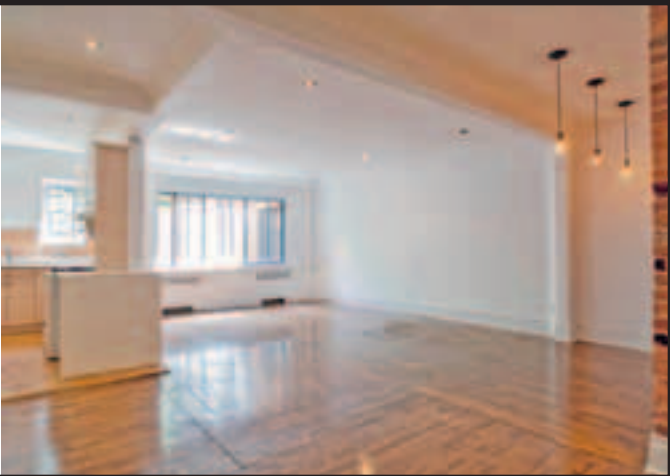
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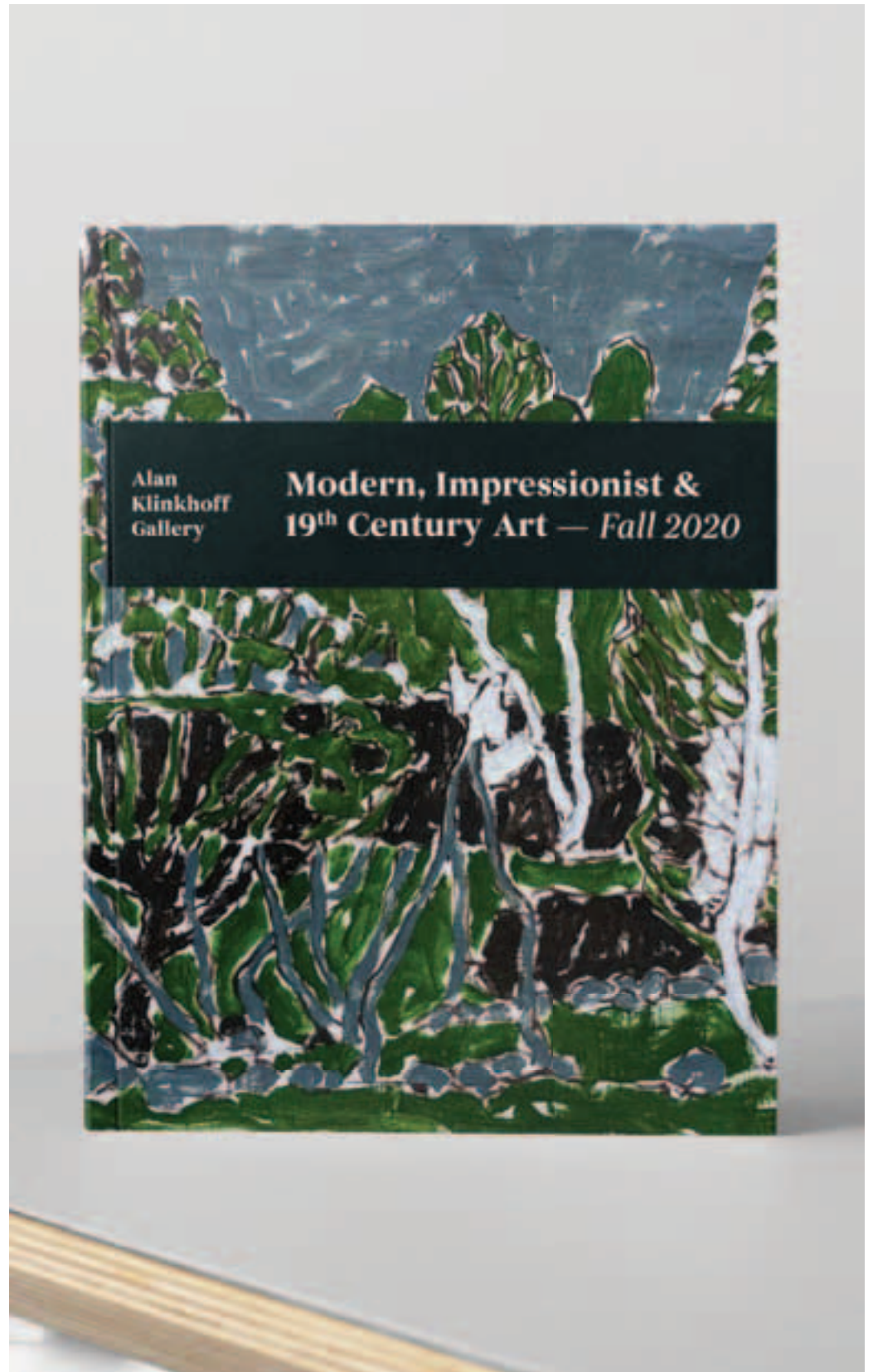
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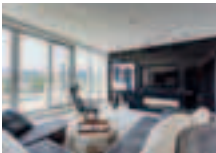
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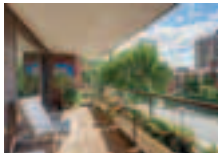
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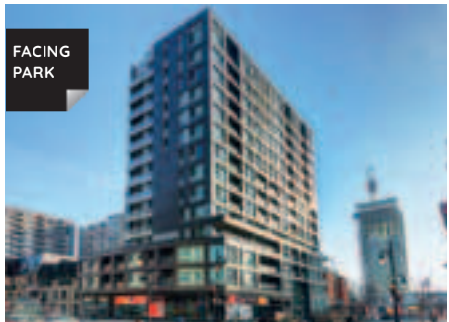
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