WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 15 No. 10b

We are Westmount

October 12, 2021

Completion target pushed from December to March Greenhouse cost goes to \$6M for more 'unforeseen' work

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Restoration of the city's heritage greenhouses has undergone another "unforeseen" delay and cost overrun of \$227,512. This was approved by the outgoing council at the last regular meeting of its mandate October 4.

The latest increase brings the estimated

Interview with foreign affairs minister and MP Marc Garneau in wake of release of the 'Two Michaels,' p. 7 total cost of the contract to St-Denis Thompson to some \$6.09 million, according to the approved resolution. It had been modified and increased in June to \$5.85 million (see story June 15, p. 2) when unexpected work was required to the drainage system.

The recent cost hike was required when some of the wood frames were discovered during the installation of the glass to have rotted, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

This was "unforeseen" until the glass work was undertaken, she explained in moving the resolution approved unanimously.

"The good news is that the work should be completed by March," Lulham said. It was previously December 16 (see September 7, p. 11).





Elisabeth Roux enters District 2 race To 'bring people together,' address Murray Park, traffic

By Laureen Sweeney

For Elisabeth Roux, joining the race to represent District 2 on city council November 7 might be considered the next and logical step for the resident who grew up and raised her own family in the same house next to King George (Murray) Park. "I know the district like the back of my hand," she told the *Independent* last week. "I have time to give to this council position. Residents will easily be able to contact me and they will see me walking my dog along the streets of District 2, keeping an eye out for what needs to be attended to."

District 2 stretches from the western limits of the city at Claremont to just south of The Boulevard, east to Aberdeen and Montrose, then south to Church Hill and west to *continued on p. 10*

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Another incident at overpass on Greene!

A truck hit the railway overpass on Greene Ave. October 6 and a second one was stopped just in in time, Public Security officials said. This was the latest in a string of recent similar incidents, possibly related to the construction work on St. Antoine St., officials said. (See October 5, p. 17 for last week's coverage.)

At 9:36 am, just after the roof of a southbound truck was reported to have been ripped open from hitting the overpass, the driver – while talking to a public safety officer – pointed out a northbound truck "creeping" up the hill. It was stopped and helped to back up. Police attended and CP inspectors were called to check out the condition of the overpass.

Roofer gets \$1,300 ticket

A roofer was found working at 42 Devon October 5 using two vehicles, including a crane, that were occupying the public domain without a city permit, according to Public Security officials. The work was discovered at 3:35 pm and due to its proximity to a school, Villa Ste. Marcelline, and the fact that the company had received a previous warning, a ticket for \$1,300 was issued.

Woman in 'bad shape' taken to hospital

When Public Security received a call October 2 at 10:18 pm for a woman who had been standing at the corner of Metcalfe and Hillside for about an hour, officers found her with cane in hand, holding onto a pole for support and described as visibly "in bad shape."

Reported to be dizzy and having trouble breathing, the resident of Hillside in her 80s was attended to and Urgences Santè was called.

She was taken to the Montreal General Hospital.

Public Security called for woman unable to get up from fall

Public safety officers answered a call for assistance October 3 when a woman fell in an apartment at 250 Clarke and was unable to get up. Public Security officials said they were summoned through the Lifeline medical alert system to which the woman subscribed.

Officers attended, taking with them an emergency key from the lockbox left at the station by the woman, who participates in the department's Bonjour Westmount check-in service. In the end, the key was not needed when one was supplied by the building. The woman was described as conscious but unable to get up. She was transported to hospital by Urgences Santé.



Wet leaves contribute to rear-end collision

Two cars were found to have collided at Thornhill and Argyle October 2 when a Public Security patroller was flagged down by a driver at 9:49 pm. Two passengers in the back seat of one complained of pain in the back and neck but initially did not want Urgences Santé to be called. They subsequently agreed and both police and the paramedics were summoned. Public Security officials said it appeared that one of the cars had slid on wet leaves, hitting the rear of the other. Letters, p. 6

Retail Review: Refill & Co., p. 17

Police Report, p. 19

Pet Page, p. 20

Social Notes: Au Contraire Film Festival, p. 24





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INFORMATION SESSION

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New city structure creates 2 senior roles Council appoints Larue, Mandeville as assistant DGs

By Laureen Sweeney

One of the city council's last items of business October 4 in its current mandate was to appoint two assistant directors-general as part of a new administrative structure. They are Michel Larue and Julie Mandeville. It is the first time in some 30 years that the city has had two assistant DGs.

"Both have shown exceptional leadership," Mayor Christina Smith said. "They will have department directors reporting directly to them."

This change, she said, had been proposed by Duncan Campbell and Bruce St. Louis after their return to Westmount in February in interim capacities as DG and assistant DG respectively before the appointment of Hadi Hakim to head the administration as permanent DG.

Mandeville, who has been finance director for eight years, becomes "assistant director general and treasurer – corporate and proximity services." She will oversee



Michel Larue with his lawn bowling ball in front of city hall from the verandah of the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club September 22, 2020, weeks before his start of work at the city.

Finance, Communications, Information Technology, the Library and Community Events, and Sports and Recreation.

Larue becomes "assistant director general for sustainable development of the territory and living environment" overseeing Public Works, Engineering, Hydro Westmount, Urban Planning and Public Security. He joined the city a year ago as director of Urban Planning, a position now vacant following his appointment.

Continuing to report directly to director general Hakim are the directors of Human Resources as well as Legal Affairs & City Clerk's Office. The city is currently recruiting a director for the latter position.

The need for two assistant directors general results from the amount of work faced by the city, Mayor Smith said. The city has been without any ADG for two years.

In a related appointment, Claude Ladouceur was named assistant director – budget and finance.



Finance department director Julie Mandeville on October 24, 2019. PHOTO: HEATHER BLACK.

Dr. Kris Jardon

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNFAIR REPORTING

I'm not in District 8, however I must object to the perhaps inadvertent advantage that you gave to the incumbent, Kathleen Kez, in your October 5 paper (p. 1).

Kathleen Kez was featured on the front page with a charming photo of her with her dog on p. 12. For the other candidate, Michael Mossop, you wrote "see story June 8, p. 1."

Candidates in the same district should be placed side by side, as was the case with Anitra Bostock and Liz McCallum in your September 21 edition (p. 1).

SUE BELL, VICTORIA AVE. Editor's reply: Media outlets are not courts and they are under no obligation to provide exactly, or even roughly, equal time or space to candidates. Nevertheless, for the profile stories of municipal candidates, we work to provide roughly equivalent coverage of opposing candidates - out of choice. In the case of the two District 8 candidates, both stories started on p. 1 below the fold and turned to an inside black-and-white page. I am happy. We have never tried to synchronize candidate profiles by district. It is not practical for a number of reasons, including the timing of entry announcements (in Michael Mossop's case, June), our reporting resources, the final "deadline" that is the election date, and the existence of other news. - DP.

QUESTIONS FOR DISTRICT 7'S ARONSON, HOPLEY

Because I am significantly immunocompromised, I will not be able to attend any in-person candidate debates or town halls. But and I am eager to learn the viewpoints and policies of the candidates in my district (7) – Matt Aronson and Neil Hopley – regarding two issues that are of critical importance:

1. COVID-19 management, particularly as it relates to vaccination, masking, and other public health measures.

2. Climate change.

Would these candidates be kind enough to share their views here in writing?

INGRID KOVITCH, METCALFE AVE. *Editor's invitation:* These candidates are welcome to write to the paper for publication (300 words maximum) on these issues. – DP.

Where's the English at the Royal Bank?

Since last spring, I have watched with interest the transformation and re-decoration of the RBC branch in Westmount Square. When it was completed, I was surprised to see that all of the publicity was exclusively in French! The main decorative panel facing the entrance, all pamphlets, and the continuous video behind the tellers. Following my complaint to the manager, all in French, the pamphlets were supplemented by 50-percent English pamphlets, and the continuous video film was changed into approximately 8-to-1 Frenchto-English content. Make no mistake, I am totally fluent in French for public speaking, court appearances, general conversation while shopping *et cetera*, so, the reason I objected to his elimination of English publicity is that it is legal as long as size and prominence rules are observed.

But some RBC clients are too young or too old to know enough French, or are from out of province or abroad, and never had a chance to learn French, and they should not be discriminated against.

The manager said (or maybe was told to say) it was all a mistake, perhaps an oversight, soon to be corrected, but not so far, three months later.

All evidence would indicate that it was quite deliberate and planned. And no, the answer is not to say there is always an employee around to translate. You try that at lunchtime, or at closing hour.

Last time I was in, a teller came to the front to tell me that nothing could (would) be done, that the manager was out to lunch, literally (not figuratively), as was everyone in higher management at that moment.

I have been a client of RBC for over 60 years and this is simply not acceptable! C. W. HERTEN-GREAVEN,

de Maisonneuve Blvd.

DISGUSTED BY CBC'S CUPIDITY, PM'S INSENSITIVITY

I'm so disgusted I hardly know where to begin.

That the CBC and its advertisers, some of them household names like Nespresso, Tim Horton's, Subaru, Intact Insurance, The Bay and IGA, to name but a few, could not restrain themselves from inserting commercials during the recent moving

Editor's note Letters to the editor policy for end of election period

In keeping with our practice during the previous three municipal election campaigns, letters to the editor published in our last issue (November 2) before the November 7 election that mention a candidate *will be shown* to that candidate for possible rebuttal in the same issue. There will be no second "right of reply" to this possible reply. – DP program is a disgrace.

Their answer to the question posed by the title of the program "What Does It Mean To You"? can be summed up in a single word: NOTHING.

Interjecting the heart-wrenching reminiscences and reports of the indignities suffered by the survivors and relatives of residential schools' abuses with commercial messages for irrelevant products and services only demonstrates the opportunism and cupidity of our national broadcaster.

Add to this the prime minister's incredible insensitivity in deciding to go on holiday on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, when he should have been the lead participant, only shows how little it really means to him.

For all his fine words about the importance of reconciliation with indigenous peoples, we can only deduce that the entire matter is to him just a charade.

Wilfrid M. de Freitas, Kitchener Ave.

CITY NO LONGER EVEN REPLIES

In the past when I was critical about something in Westmount and sent an email to that effect to the Westmount administration, I would receive an acknowledgement and a reply. Now, when I send an email critical of an item to the Westmount administration, it is not even worthy of an acknowledgement, never mind a reply.

Alfred Edel, Victoria Ave.

WHERE ARE THE BUYERS' NAMES?

In addition to all that has been said to date [about the real estate transfers being published in the *Independent*], I would appreciate having the names of the purchasers also printed...including names of

Corrections

Wrong officer

The photo on p. 26 of last week's issue showed the police officer who had been injured in the arm, not the one who had been accidentally pepper sprayed.

Kez clarity

A story October 5 (p. 1) on Councillor Kathleen Kez as a District 2 election candidate should have listed her as holding a diploma in accountancy (along with her B.Comm.) rather than a chartered professional accountant and that new basketball "structures" rather than a basketball court had been provided in Stayner Park and the Westmount Athletic Grounds. – DP.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT We are Westmount

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

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

14,500+ physical copies DW, plus low-resolution email and web versions (13,500+ in COVID times due to closed municipal buildings) Distribution: Tuesday to Friday (longer when interrupted by postal holidays)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

individuals who "hide" behind a numbered company. What is the real reason *why* those names cannot appear?

BARBARA WINN, METCALFE AVE. *Editor's reply:* I choose not to. When we did so, we were getting into almost monthly pre-publication fights with recent buyers not wanting their names in. I was not convinced that I was being told the truth by some of these people, which I tired of, and any set of facts could be the subject of litigation, putting the whole dispute into the unsteady hands of a judge. On the web, it takes anyone less than a minute to find the current owners of a property on the *rôle foncier* for the island of Montreal. – DP

NEED OUR AGE-FRIENDLY INDEPENDENT

With the newspaper biz as fragile as it is, and the week of September 14 report from editor David Price (p. 1) who said that there was a reckless rumour about the pending sale of the *Independent* (which I am quite glad is not happening in the near future), it is quite something to learn the week of September 21 (p. 1) about more pressure on this little community newspaper from the city of Westmount.

There is no reason in the world for a city to withhold information from this newspaper and in particular the real estate transfers that we all enjoy reading. They give us a good indication on many levels and tell us the state of the economy.

Of course, there is also gossip about our neighbours down the street, but the grapevine is much quicker than the publication of the transfers. I am worried, as the editor is, this could reduce real estate advertising, which is so important to keeping this publication alive.

Not only is there a possible advertising loss from the information denial, but I understand from the September 21 editorial that the city has cut back on its ad budget for some reason. This is about transparency from city hall and my wish is the current ownership will endure and never sell the newspaper, as wrongly rumoured.

We need our age-friendly *Westmount Independent* because many of us are up in our years and our most comfortable holding paper in our hands!

Hugh Graham, Sherbrooke St.

Thoughts on Westmount Park

I would like to comment on some of the proposed changes in Westmount Park, of which we have been adequately informed by your paper as well as various notices posted in the park. The re-surfacing of the pond with natural, sustainable materials creating shoreline strips around the perimeter is obviously a necessity. I do question the suggestion to use rainwater to feed the pond after August's dearth of rain – a large threat to our beloved influx of ducks and ducklings.

Building a direct, pedestrian pathway beside the bicycle path seems completely superfluous, the present one is not only adequate but enjoyable. To create a whole new pathway running beside the bike path in order to save five or 10 minutes is debatable.

With regard to icy, winter sidewalks in lower lying areas, as we are not blessed like Norway with an abundance of hydroelectric power, where their sidewalks are heated in winter, we must rely on better maintenance in severe weather to keep vulnerable sections cleared and sanded.

Some repairs to the gazebo are evidently required. [I am against] the suggestion that it also be enlarged, foregoing its present intimacy, and losing the present structure. Perhaps a second gazebo, of similar size and design, built in suitable location for summer concert-goers or against the threat of showers might be considered.

I also question the widening of sidewalks, for what purpose? Their widths are completely satisfactory for all pedestrians, and would only invoke more expense and cement, to the detriment of that natural environment.

GRETA STETHEM, GROSVENOR AVE.

Some more park questions

#1. Why have we not received the results of the mini questionnaire about the proposed "enhancement" of Westmount Park that was due on September 3 and widely promoted throughout the park? It would take a computer about 10 minutes to tabulate these results.

#2. Why did the city choose to hire Stantec – a vast international enterprise much more involved with building bridges and buildings than neighbourhood parks – for a proposal?

#3. Are we to understand that the proposal for a "bridge" over the playground has now been dropped?

#4. Shouldn't the renovation of the park be presented as an election issue?

#5. Is there to be *any* maintenance of the paths, sidewalks, etc. in the park before winter?

All the neglect of Prince Albert Park outlined in this week's letter from Betsy Mitchell (p. 8) applies equally to Westmount Park.

JO LAPIERRE, METCALFE AVE.

Interview with Marc Garneau, minister of foreign affairs On China, where does Canada go from here?

By David Price

Like most Canadians, I was pleased at the news of the release of the "Two Michaels" (Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor) on September 24, but I also wondered how Canada's federal government would work to avoid this situation happening again and where it left Canada's relationship with China.

Through its member of parliament Marc Garneau, Westmount has a window into the federal Liberal government. Due to the Westminster parliamentary system, we also have a window into "Global Affairs Canada" (the former federal department of Foreign Affairs) since Garneau is the minister of foreign affairs.

I sent him these questions last week and received the answers by email on October 8.

Given that any citizen of China can have ties to its single, ruling party, that any visiting citizen of China can be arrested in Canada for any number of reasons (including extradition requests from other countries) and that this situation could precipitate another hostage incident at any moment, how can Canada safely host citizens of China? Shouldn't it not issue any visas to citizens of China at all?

I would say that people-to-people ties between Canada and China remain strong. In fact, they are an important part of our communities and Canada's multicultural fabric. The recent rise in anti-Asian hate is concerning. It simply has no place in Canada. Canada is a rule of law country. We believe that the rule of law is not a choice: it is the bedrock of democracy. Canada will never compromise nor politicize the rule of law and due process.

Given that any Canadian visiting China can be taken • hostage for just about any reason at any time, shouldn't the Canadian government advise all Canadian citizens to avoid China?

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hours/day, seven days/week, by using a wide array of information sources.

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3 Given that China regularly threatens Taiwan (including last week), that its ally North Korea regularly threatens South Korea and that China regularly inflames other disputes (territorial and otherwise), isn't there in fact another cold war already under way, whether we like it or not?

Our government believes that dialogue and diplomacy represent the best path to security, stability and economic prosperity, and we will continue to work in that direction. We are following the situation in the region very closely and as we have said many times in the past, we urge restraint from actions that undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and continue to support constructive efforts that will contribute to peace, stability and peaceful dialogue.

If Cold War II is under way, shouldn't Canada be cutting economic ties with China, at least gradually over time? Even if the "Economics 101" logic of international trade (absolute advantage, comparative advantage) means we get richer from trade, isn't it foolish to have a dependence on a cold war adversary?

As a Government, we are committed to diversifying trade and investment with key markets around the world in support of an effective, open, inclusive, and rules-based global trading system.

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Council's last regular meeting Tributes and flurry of business wind up current session

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The last regular meeting for this council - its "swansong" - before the November 7 election began with tributes to three departing councillors: Cynthia Lulham after seven council terms, Philip Cutler after two and Marina Brzeski after her first term.

The rest of the two-hour session was dedicated to a number of contracts dealing with snow clearing and unfinished business required before the end of this council's mandate.

The impact of Lulham's 26 years of experience was described by Mayor Christina

Smith as "legendary." It included help to newly elected council members, as well as a "passion" for the city parks, local merchants and her vision for Prince Albert square.

New ideas

Cutler, whose work over eight years brought new, innovative ideas to the city such as pay-by-plate parking, the new bike paths on Côte St. Antoine, Westmount Ave. and smaller streets, was also singled out for his passion to update the city's roads, water, sewer and other infrastructure networks and projects for which "we can't take our foot off the brake," Mayor Smith said.

And Brezski was again thanked following the September 20 meeting for her determination and contribution to universal accessibility and sustainability (see story October 5, p. 25).

Recollections

As one by one, the three reviewed their recollections of their council terms, Lulham's passionate review touched on personal recollections that brought her close to tears when she spoke of how some of the city employees over the years had become part of her "extended" family.

"I was first elected on building commu-

nity," which included initiating the city community events department, she recalled, followed by working through three major events: the ice storm of 1998, the merger with Montreal (2002-2005) and latterly, the pandemic (see also story November 10, 2020, p. 26).

Cutler in his turn recalled how he had become the youngest councillor ever to sit on the council and was the grandson of the late former mayor May Cutler (1987-1990), in whose term he was born. Until his election, he said, residents under age 40 had had no representation." His role on council has been a whole new dimension ending in being "a wartime leader."

Some opposed vaccination proof at first Library's gradual re-opening attracts fewer than expected

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Fewer than expected members of the Westmount Public Library are taking advantage of the continued gradual re-opening of the city's best-used facility, which entered a new phase September 20.

Library director Julie-Anne Cardella said last week she was surprised to notice this trend and attributed it to the possible ongoing curbside service that was created to keep the circulation of library material flowing during the pandemic.

"I think people have gotten into the habit of using 'curbside,'" she said. As well, the library is still limiting its recent reopening phase to members only so it is not experiencing the same traffic flow as it did when users included non-members (see story September 14, p. 9).

As well, some people may still be reluctant to circulate with others though the library is following the same policies as the city's other municipal buildings such as the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), which requires proof of vaccination, she said. The decision has come from the city council, which has taken a cautious approach.

While the library's vaccination passport condition has been widely publicized, she said, some people at the door have been upset about it since the Quebec government does not require proof of vaccination for library use.

Westmount's approach, however, is the same entry requirement also used by the Côte St. Luc library and the Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

"We've been getting pushback at the door," Cardella said. "Some people have been very aggressive though most are getThe Westmount Public Library on October 8.

ting used to it now." It has helped having a uniformed Public Security cadet at the

entry, she said. She expects the next step in the library's

gradual re-opening to be announced in a week or two.





City asked for 'pilot' test to limit traffic on de Mais.



A view of de Maisonneuve from Clarke looking west on October 8.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council was asked September 20 to hold a pilot test limiting traffic on de Maisonneuve to residents only between Melville and Olivier.

This would "re-establish" the parkway design to walk in the street "to social distance and relax," said Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount.

He explained that over the summer, traffic was reduced during pipe replacement work on de Maisonneuve. But now

that this work is over, drivers from Greene and Clarke have returned, making it unsafe to walk in the street. He also suggested making the street one-way east between Kitchener and Clarke, for example.

"I know the city's traffic committee is also looking at ways to reduce the traffic," replied Mayor Christina Smith. "So if there are ways by changing directions for certain blocks, that is something they will be looking at."

She agreed with Lambert that with Sherbrooke and St. Catherine as through eastwest streets, the city did not need another.

Roux, cont'd from p. 1

Côte St. Antoine.

One of her main concerns is King George (Murray) Park "the gem of District 2," whose paths are in bad shape, whose pond leaks and whose hedges and vegetation require better maintenance, she maintains.

"It's a very important gathering spot for residents and contributes greatly to our sense of community."

Her concerns were also later expressed to the Independent by former mayor Peter Trent, whose house backs onto Murray Park and who had signed her nomination papers as a District 2 resident. "It's a precious park but hasn't had any care for years," he said.

Traffic consultation

Another issue for Roux is traffic and a need for consultation with residents before traffic changes are made. She referred to a lack of consultation in many recent changes on Forden and residents' ongoing complaints of speeding. It is the process she questions.

"No one wants to hear what we have to say. I would like to say 'I'll be here.' People have valuable information. It's why I want to stress I'm getting into this with an open mind, knowing it's important to find solutions. I want to bring people together."

She is also concerned about traffic safety concerning students at Grosvenor and Westmount Ave., as well as "way too much traffic on Montrose."

Encouraged to run

Roux has served as a board member of the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf in Westmount and sits on the foundation board of Collège Jean-de Brébeuf. She also sits on the board of the Westmount-St. Louis provincial Liberal riding association along with former mayor Karin Marks, who told the Independent she had encouraged Roux to run for the new council.

Roux attended Villa Maria, holds a de-



Elisabeth Roux on October 7. Photo: Independent

gree in political science from the University of Montreal and a master's degree in communication management from the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California. She has worked at Gervais Gagnon Frenette and Maxwell Communications Canada among others before becoming a full-time caregiver to many family members.

Roux grew up with an understanding of public service as the daughter of the late Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, who served as Quebec minister of health and social services in the cabinet of the late premier Robert Bourassa before being appointed to the senate by then prime minister Brian Mulroney.

Paola Samuel has also filed the required papers as a District 2 candidate (see story September 21, p. 1).



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Rajasingam already knows Westmount New Metro franchise owner 'moves over' from 5 Saisons

By Martin C. Barry

If Gajan Rajasingam, the new franchise owner at Metro Westmount on Victoria Ave., looks a little familiar to some, this could be because he already knows Westmount quite well, having previously been the manager at the 5 Saisons gourmet supermarket on Greene Ave.

"I fell in love with Westmount – the clientele, the city. Westmount is a very special place," said Rajasingam, who took over operations at Metro Westmount around six weeks ago after being at 5 Saisons for the past year.

He said he was grateful to Metro Inc. for allowing him to continue working in Westmount, where he has come to know a good number of residents who are regular 5 Saisons and Metro Westmount customers.

"Easily, 80 to 85 per cent of the clients who were at 5 Saisons on Greene also come here," he said.

"My goal is to make everything we've been doing even better, so that our customers have an even more enjoyable food shopping experience, and they feel welcome and comfortable, with the best possible service that can be offered."



Seen here on Oct. 7, Gajan Rajasingam, the new franchise owner at Metro Westmount on Victoria Ave., was the manager at the 5 Saisons food store (also owned by Metro Inc.) for a year.



· Alarm/cameras

25 years in business

Overheard

"[Canadians] are so busy being bad at dealing with COVID-19 that we are forgetting to do all the other things that we are bad at."

– one man to another, Prospect St., October 7, about 8:15 am

- "... Jamaica, where you've been 500 times. What do I care about your stupid photo?"
 - Woman into her phone, Sherbrooke near Clarke, October 4, about 8:30 am
- "We are both wearing our leather!"
- "Our badass leathers!!"

 leather-clad women to one another, Sherbrooke at Claremont, October 7, about 11:30 am.









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Retail Review

Veronica Readgrave

There's a new place to shop in Westmount. Refill & Co. is an eco-friendly grocery store featuring a wide range of organic products.

Noted were dried fruits, herbs and spices, teas, soaps and candles, and healthy (and delicious!) kombucha drinks (from Montreal-based Gutsy).

In their fridge section, meats, brunchworthy smoked bacon, cheese, butter and eggs are offered.

Co-owners are Pénélope Desjardins and Martin Haines.

"Our products are locally sourced. For example, coffee choices are from Virgin Hill, Brome Lake. Refill & Co's mission is to promote ecological and efficient products to encourage the adoption of an ecoresponsible lifestyle," explained Jade Charette-Côté.

Products are offered in bulk and sold in recyclable containers. (Customers can also bring their own.) When the bottle is returned, a new one is issued and the old one sterilized for re-use.

Refill-ing on Sherbrooke at Grosvenor



From left, Jade Charette-Côté and Pénélope Desjardins.

The day I visited many things caught my eye. Honeys, fun kids' picnic sets, candles, chocolates (!), proteins for shakes and a delicious range of oils and vinegars.

Pénélope has also created an eponymous bio beauty line, which includes skin cleansers, exfoliants, make-up and creams, many in re-fillable containers.

The boutique's merchandise is elegantly presented on units crafted by Pénélope's brother, Benoît-Étienne Desjardins.

Refill & Co. is doing something right, touching today's zeitgeist. Only one year ago, they opened their first shop in La Prairie.

Already, the Westmount branch promises to please after only a few months in its new premises beside Flore. Products are also sold online at refilleco.ca, which will soon be translated in English.

Refill & Co.

4820 Sherbrooke St. 514.419.1601

Monday to Friday: 10 am to 6 pm Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm Closed: Sunday



Renaud aims for 50,000 'burpees' by age 50 for UN refugees

By Martin C. Barry

In the realm of fitness training, the burpee is one of the most detested, albeit revered, of exercises.

Invented around the beginning of World War II by American physiologist Royal H. Burpee as an overall test of physical fitness, a version of the burpee was adopted by the United States' armed forces as one of the principal ways to assess the fitness of recruits.

Now, a Westmount resident is hoping





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Maxence Renaud has set out to complete 50,000 burpees for refugees and in time for his 50th birthday in August next year.

to set a personal fitness record by performing 50,000 burpees by his 50th birthday in August next year, instead of throwing himself a mid-life crisis party.

At the same time, he is conducting a fundraiser for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), hoping to raise \$5,000 for the cause. He is currently doing 137 burpees every day, often in the adult fitness area in

Westmount Park, and will continue until the goal is accomplished.

"In the fitness world, the burpee is dreaded – nobody likes burpees – they're tough," said Maxence Renaud. While there are different versions, burpees in general are regarded as a "compound movement" type of exercise that take place in several steps.

Tabagie Westmount Square International news agent

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Westmount Square

At foot of escalator leading from/to Greene Ave. entrance (514) 935-7727 In one variation, a standing position is followed by a hands-on-ground squat, the feet are kicked back with arms extended, then there is a return to the squat, and finally the standing position again.

"I turned 49 on August 27," he continued. "At the time, I had a week off at the cottage. And with time to think, I decided I'd like to do something for my 50th birthday. I didn't want to get an expensive watch or anything like that. I'm really into fitness. I train six or seven days a week. So, I thought maybe I should do a fundraiser."

Regarding the cause, Renaud said he is trying to get maximum exposure in order to raise awareness of the worldwide refugee situation, while inspiring others to take actions similar to his own.

"You know, we're not really paying too much attention to all the people in the world who are being displaced because of political, economic and even climate problems," he said.

To keep track of all the burpees, Renaud is conducting his almost-daily fitness sessions live on Instagram. The sessions last anywhere from 10 to 25 minutes. All the posted sessions are dated and the number of burpees completed are included.

As of October 1, his burpee count was up to 4,658 after nearly 35 days of workouts, and the UNHCR fundraising had reached \$1,237 on October 7.

Maxence Renaud's Instagram handle is @50kforfifty. His UNHCR fundraising campaign can by followed at amplify.eactivist.com.

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Police Report Knife-wielding suspect arrested after shoplifting on Greene

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police officers from Station 12 were answering a routine call on Greene Ave. near de Maisonneuve Blvd. on October 3 when they were called upon to arrest a shoplifter who had threatened a security guard with a knife.

Around 6:15 pm, the guard came out onto Greene and informed the officers that the store where he worked had just been robbed by a shoplifter.

He told the police that the suspect had taken merchandise items and had hidden them in his pants.

When the guard tried to stop him and told the suspect he would have to wait for the arrival of the police, the suspect objected loudly with insults, showed the guard a knife, and walked off quickly with the stolen items.

After he was seen making his way south

Who doesn't like old cars?



This Bentley was seen on Prince Albert below de Maisonneuve on October 8.

Gold Buyers

on way to LCC

Photo: Independent.

Private music

lessons

on Greene, police officers who had been called in as back-up caught up to and arrested him on St. Catherine St. a short distance from Wood Ave.

While the suspect was said to have been cooperative with the officers who arrested him, he was charged with armed robbery since he used a knife while committing the shoplifting offence.

Attempted home invasion

Around 3:30 am on October 3, an Irvine Ave. home owner called 9-1-1 to report that someone was trying to break into his house by shattering a pane of glass on the main front door entrance.

"The plaintiff was in the house when they heard the noise," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "They heard a window being shattered. The plaintiff went to see what was going on, but didn't see anything."

Although the perpetrator succeeded in unlocking the door after reaching through the broken pane and turning the handle, blood was later found on the steps outside near the doorway, indicating the suspect had been injured while reaching through the shattered glass pane.

Looking outside, the owner saw two individuals boarding a vehicle. After the vehicle had driven off, the owner called 9-1-1 to report the incident, and a radio bulletin was issued to nearby Montreal police cars to be on the lookout for it.

According to Pimentel, the suspect vehicle was intercepted a short time later by police from downtown Station 15. However, while the plaintiff reported seeing two suspects, only one ended up being arrested.

Later, the investigators obtained a warrant to take a blood sample from the suspect to see through DNA testing whether it matches the blood found at the crime scene.





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(at Claremont Ave.)

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Westmount A-dog-tions

Lysanne Fowler

It's all in her eyes, such a sweet soul. Jane is adorable and affectionate, a petite black shorthair mix that is still quite thin from her previous life before being placed for adoption at the Montreal SPCA.

Yes, it would be best for Jane to go to a home as soon as possible to bask in the warmth and safety of a family of her own. Like many dogs in a new environment, she will be nervous and vocal before she settles in, so best to be in a home where she has company at the beginning of her adoption.

Jane is an active five-year-old, social with other dogs, a bright and cuddly companion. She is up to date with her inoculations, and is spayed and microchipped.

Please refer to her identification number A48740244 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com and fill out the adoption application for her on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,

Little Jane



Maxime in carrier at SPCA



This photograph is a thousand words ... Here is precious Maxime, arriving at the Montreal SPCA cattery, in a carrier, placing himself in the back as he stays away from the door. These were important moments in his young cat life, unbeknownst to him in a transition towards a happy and caring home life to come.

Please be the family to open its arms to young Maxime. As you can see, he is still a juvenile and will adapt swiftly to a new routine. Maxime is a very healthy whiteand-caramel domestic shorthair, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Please refer to his identification number 48763714 when you visit 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 for a telephone interview, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.









Alexis Nihon October 4, someone was even using them in the air, for no obvious reason. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT



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October 23, 7:30pm at the Rialto Theatre Tickets available on Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/169872538335







WESTMOUNT

ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE MUNICIPALE MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION LE 7 NOVEMBRE 2021 - NOVEMBER 7, 2021



AVIS PUBLIC DE RÉVISION DE LA LISTE ÉLECTORALE

Par cet AVIS PUBLIC, Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard, président d'élection, annonce les éléments suivants aux électrices et aux électeurs de la municipalité.

- 1. La liste électorale municipale a été déposée au bureau de la municipalité le 8 octobre 2021. Elle fait maintenant l'objet d'une révision.
- 2. Pour voter, vous devez être inscrite ou inscrit sur cette liste.
- 3. Vous avez le droit d'être inscrite ou inscrit sur la liste électorale si :
 - Le jour du scrutin, vous aurez 18 ans accomplis;
 - Le 1er septembre 2021 :
 - vous aviez la citoyenneté canadienne;
 - vous n'étiez pas en curatelle;
 - vous n'aviez pas été déclaré(e) coupable d'une manœuvre électorale frauduleuse au cours des cinq dernières années.
 - De plus, vous deviez, le 1er septembre 2021, remplir l'une des deux conditions suivantes :
 - Avoir votre domicile sur le territoire de la municipalité et, depuis au moins 6 (six) mois, au Québec;
 - Depuis au moins douze (12) mois, être propriétaire d'un immeuble ou occuper un établissement d'entreprise situé sur le territoire de la municipalité.
 NOTE : Si votre domicile n'est pas dans la municipalité et que vous souhaitez exercer votre droit de vote, vous devrez transmettre une demande d'inscription ou une procuration, selon le cas, au président d'élection.
- 4. Vous pourrez consulter la liste électorale et, si vous êtes une électrice ou un électeur domicilié dans la municipalité, présenter une demande d'inscription, de radiation ou de correction devant la commission de révision à l'endroit, aux jours et aux heures indiqués ci-dessous.

Adresse : Hôtel de ville de Westmount, au 4333, rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount, QC H3Z 1E2

Jours et heures : Jeudi 21 octobre 2021 de 14 h 30 à 22 h Lundi 25 octobre 2021 de 10 h à 17 h 30

- 5. Toute personne qui souhaite demander l'inscription d'une personne domiciliée sur le territoire de la municipalité doit indiquer l'adresse précédente du domicile de cette personne et présenter deux documents : un qui indique le nom et la date de naissance de la personne et l'autre, son nom et l'adresse de son domicile.
- 6. Vous pourrez transmettre par écrit (courriel ou poste) une demande d'inscription, de correction ou de radiation de la liste électorale au président d'élection si vous êtes domicilié(e) dans la municipalité et dans l'une des situations suivantes :
 - Vous êtes domicilié(e) ou hébergé(e) au CHSLD St. Margaret (50, av Hillside), à la Place Kensington (4430, rue Sainte-Catherine O), au Manoir Westmount (4646, rue Sherbrooke O) ou au Chateau Westmount (4860, boul de Maisonneuve O);
 - Vous êtes incapable de vous déplacer pour des raisons de santé ou vous êtes un(e) proche aidant(e) d'une telle personne et êtes domicilié(e) à la même adresse;
 - Vous aurez 70 ans ou plus le jour du scrutin;
 - Entre le dimanche 17 octobre 2021 et le mercredi 27 octobre 2021, vous devez respecter une ordonnance ou une recommandation d'isolement des autorités de santé publique, car vous : – êtes de retour d'un voyage à l'étranger depuis moins de 14 jours:
 - avez reçu un diagnostic de COVID-19 et êtes toujours considéré(e) comme porteur(-teuse) de la maladie;
 - présentez des symptômes de COVID-19;
 - avez été en contact avec un cas soupconné, probable ou confirmé de COVID-19 depuis moins de 14 jours;
 - êtes en attente d'un résultat au test de COVID-19.

Cette demande doit être accompagnée de la copie de deux documents : un qui indique votre nom et votre date de naissance et l'autre, votre nom et l'adresse de votre domicile. Si vous êtes domicilié(e) ou hébergé(e) dans un des établissements de santé admissibles énumérés ci-haut, ces documents peuvent être remplacés par une attestation d'un membre du personnel confirmant votre identité et votre lieu de résidence.

Vous pouvez communiquer avec le président d'élection pour obtenir les formulaires nécessaires. Il devra ensuite les avoir reçus au plus tard le lundi 25 octobre 2021 à 17 h 30.

7. Si vous êtes dans l'une des situations décrites plus haut, et que vous êtes inscrite ou inscrit à la liste électorale, vous pourrez également voter par correspondance. Pour ce faire, vous devez faire une demande verbale ou écrite en communiquant avec le président d'élection **au plus tard le mercredi 27 octobre 2021 à 16 h 30**.

Si vous demandez de voter par correspondance, car vous devez respecter une ordonnance ou une recommandation d'isolement des autorités de santé publique, votre demande sera valide uniquement pour le scrutin en cours. Si vous êtes dans une autre des situations présentées ci-haut, votre demande sera valide pour le scrutin en cours et pour les recommencements qui pourraient en découler.

8. Si vous êtes une électrice ou un électeur non domicilié(e) inscrit(e) sur la liste électorale, vous pouvez également voter par correspondance. Pour ce faire, vous devez transmettre une demande écrite (poste ou courriel) au président d'élection au plus tard le mercredi 27 octobre 2021 à 16 h 30 (vous pouvez remplir la section appropriée du formulaire vous permettant d'être inscrite ou inscrit sur la liste électorale). Votre demande sera conservée pour toutes les élections et les référendums suivant la réception de la demande jusqu'à ce qu'elle soit remplacée ou retirée.

Bureau du président d'élection

4333, rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount QC H3Z 1E2 Téléphone : 514 989-5280 • Courriel : elections@westmount.org

Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard Président d'élection

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 12 octobre 2021.

Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités, articles 47, 54, 125 et 133 En vertu du Règlement visant à fixer les modalités de publication de certains avis publics, la date de publication du présent avis sur le site Internet de la Ville a préséance sur toute autre date de publication subséquente sur un autre support.



ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE MUNICIPALE **MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION**

LE 7 NOVEMBRE 2021 - NOVEMBER 7, 2021



PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF ELECTORS

By this PUBLIC NOTICE, Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard, returning officer, announces the following to the electors of the municipality.

- The municipal list of electors was filed with the office of the municipality on October 8, 2021. It is currently under review. 1.
- 2. In order to vote, you must be entered on the list of electors.
- 3. You have the right to be entered on the list of electors if:
 - You will be 18 years of age on polling day;
 - On September 1, 2021:
 - you had the Canadian citizenship;
 - you were not under curatorship;
 - you had not been convicted of a corrupt electoral practice in the previous five (5) years.
 - In addition, you must meet one of the following two conditions on September 1, 2021:
 - Be domiciled on the territory of the municipality and for at least six (6) months in Québec.
 - For at least twelve (12) months, own a building or occupy a business establishment located on the territory of the municipality; NOTE: If you are not domiciled in the municipality and want to exercise your voting right, you will need to send an application for entry or a power of attorney, as the case may be,
 - to the returning officer.
- You will be able to consult the list of electors and, if you are an elector domiciled in the municipality, submit an application for entry, striking or correction before the board of revisors at the following location, on the days and during the hours indicated.

Address: Westmount City Hall, at 4333 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount, QC H3Z 1E2 Days and times: Thursday October 21, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

- Monday October 25, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- For any application for entry of a person domiciled in the territory of the municipality, the person who applies must indicate the previous address of the person's domicile and present two 5. documents: one indicating the name and date of birth of the person and the other, his or her name and domicile address.
- You may submit a written (email or mail) application for entry on, correction of or striking off from the list of electors to the returning officer if you are domiciled in the municipality and you are in 6. one of the following situations:
 - You are domiciled or lodged in CHSLD St. Margaret (50 Hillside Ave), in Place Kensington (4430 Sainte-Catherine St. W), in Manoir Westmount (4646 Sherbrooke St. W) or in Chateau Westmount (4860 Maisonneuve Blvd. W);
 - You are unable to move about for health reasons or you are a caregiver to such a person and are domiciled at the same address;
 - You will be 70 years of age or older on polling day;
 - Between Sunday, October 17, 2021, and Wednesday, October 27, 2021, you must comply with an order or recommendation to isolate from public health authorities because you:
 - returned from a trip abroad within the last fourteen (14) days;
 - were diagnosed with COVID-19 and you are still considered a carrier of the disease;
 - are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; _
 - have been in contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days;
 - _ are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

This application must be accompanied by a copy of two documents: one showing your name and date of birth and the other showing your name and domiciliary address. If you are domiciled or lodged in an eligible health establishment (listed above), these documents may be replaced by an attestation from a staff member confirming your identity and place of residence.

To obtain the required forms, contact the returning officer. He must then have received them not later than Monday October 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

If you are in one of the above-described situations, and you are entered on the list of electors, you can also vote by mail. To do this, you must make a verbal or written request to the returning 7 officer not later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 27, 2021.

If you are requesting to vote by mail because you must comply with an order or a recommendation from public health authorities to isolate, your request will be valid for the current poll only. If you are in a situation other than those above, your application will be valid for the current poll and any recommenced proceedings arising from this election.

8 If you are not domiciled in the municipality and you are registered on the list of electors, you can also vote by mail. To do so, you must make a written request (post or mail) to the returning officer not later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 27, 2021 (you can complete the appropriate section of the form allowing you to be registered on the list of electors). Your request will be kept for all elections and referendums following receipt of the request until it is replaced or withdrawn.

Office of the returning officer 4333 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount QC H3Z 1E2 Phone: 514 989-5280 • Email: elections@westmount.org

Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard Returning officer

ISSUED in Westmount on October 12, 2021.

Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, sections 47, 54, 125 and 133

Pursuant to the By-law to establish the conditions for the publication of certain public notices, the date of publication of this notice on the City's website takes precedence over any subsequent date of publication on any other platform.

westmount_org/vote



Social Notes

Veronica Readgrave

The philanthropic Au Contraire Film Festival, which took place August 16 at the Jardin Royalmount, presented films and performances aimed to break the stigma

Sun, moon shine light on mental issues

of mental illness.

Award-winning performer Nikki Lynette, suicide survivor and ambassador for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), travelled from Chicago to speak and sing.

The evening's proceeds supported Donald Berman UP House, the community centre in Montreal where adults with mental illness rebuild their confidence and purpose through a psychosocial rehabilitation model unique in Quebec, featuring a community kitchen and programs that include tech/data skills, language, mindfulness, podcasting, volunteering and art.

Partnerships include The Museum of Fine Arts, McGill University, Vanier College and The Jewish General Hospital. The non-profit organization was founded by local res Barbara and Phil Silverberg.

Not only was the weather cooperative for the fundraiser but the moonlight was a spotlight on picnic tables as night fell. The fun event featured special films shining their light on mental issues.

Films screened were *My Layers*, directed by Susanne Serres, a short film that shares



Enjoying the evening's food

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Barbara Silverberg and Marcel Pinchevsky.

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the internal struggle of psychosis, and the healing power of expression through dance; *Parlour Palm*, directed by Rebeccah Love, a short fiction about one woman's bipolar episode and how it affects those most loyal and loving to those who struggle; *Scars*, directed by Alex Anna, the auto-bio graphical short film is an intimate and poetic portrait of recovery from self-harm; and *David*, directed by Zach Woods, a comedic fiction short, starred Will Ferrell as a beleaguered therapist.

Dr. Laurence Kirmayer, professor and director of social and transcultural psychiatry at McGill University, was awarded La Coupe Lumière for his innovative research.

The pastoral al fresco scene was enhanced by perfect summer food: burgers and fries; lobster and chips or a veggie bowl were the delicious choices catered by the venue. Westmounters in attendance included Margaret and Ian MacLaren, Barbara and Doug Pascal, Pnina and Marcel Pinchevsky, Naomi Sharpe and Izak Rubin, Elaine and Avrum Stark, Barbara Stutman, Paula Pedicelli, and Joan Vogelesang and Fred Heese.

One in five people in Quebec struggles with mental health. The event, celebrating its ninth year as an important annual fundraiser, is directed by Marcel Pinchevsky. Sponsors were Eric & Sheri Kimmel Family Foundation, Bell Let's Talk, The Rossy Foundation, Lundbeck, Scotiabank and Moore Portfolio Management Scotia Wealth Management.

The Au Contraire Film Festival will stream online in October, to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Month. Visit acff.ca to learn more.



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Photographers 'swarm' Westmount Park's new butterfly garden



BY HEATHER BLACK

Photographers from the Montreal Camera Club descended on Westmount Park September 4 in search of bees, beetles and butterflies.

One of the last scheduled events of the 2020-21 program, the Macro Photography -Insects outing offered members an opportunity to refine their photographic skills. Organized by Phil Shapiro and Lyne Brissette, Shapiro first provided tips on macro and close-up photography at the Westmount Park Church entrance.

From left, Jean-Louis Coté, Judy Yelon and Diana Bruno.

Near the library, the new butterfly-shaped flower bed was buzzing with bees and other insects. Planted in mid-summer, the garden contains native plants, bee baum and coneflowers as well as milkweed - the larva host of the monarch butterfly. Diana Bruno said: "Most of the 11 photographers spent almost all of their time there as the garden was such a rich source of insects."

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of urban planning for zoning, economic development and parks, announced the new "Commitment by the city of Westmount to protect monarch butterflies" at the August 2 council meeting (see August 17, p. 1).

The statement includes the signing of the mayor's monarch pledge, a request by resident Penny Arsenault, a member of the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project.

City council also calls on citizens to improve the monarch's habitat and North American population, which has declined 90 percent in the past 20 years.

Photos taken at the event will be posted in the "Outings" section of the Montreal Camera Club's website.



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