

No residents object to 'demo' at 4898 de Maisonneuve

Council grants request for demolition permit at hearing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition hearing regarding the former office building at 4898 de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert October 7 concluded with the city's Demolition Committee approving a permit request. This came after exterior walls and roof had already been torn down in June.

The decision, presented in a lengthy resolution after a 30-minute deliberation process by the council, was based in part on "the public interest" and that the nature of the demolition, though "illegal," was not expected to change the final outcome of

the condo project that was already approved and is already sold out.

As well, the hearing heard that only one letter had been received by the city during a 10-day written consultation process and this was favourable to the awarding of a demolition permit.

The council decision was based on criteria in the city's demolition by-law, whereas a recommended "refusal" from the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was based on the architectural value of the Category II building typified primarily by the exterior walls, which were to disappear in any event *continued on p. 6*

Inter-city hockey returns to WRC!



Members of the M11/U11 AA Westmount Wings celebrate on the ice at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) following the team's second-period goal October 16 against the Pierrefonds Barracudas, which put the Wings on the scoreboard. It was the first inter-city hockey game at the WRC since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. See story, p. 21.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

Profiles of two more candidates for District 1, p. 7

Marcy Katz

Jane Silverstone Segal

District 7 contested by Neil Hopley

Calls for preserving park, fixing lanes & sound barrier

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Neil Hopley's bid for the District 7 council seat is based on preserving Westmount Park, repairing patched-up lanes, greening the graffiti-laced sound barrier at the end of Abbott (his street), and a commitment to work with and for his constituents.

"In no way do I want to be considered a politician, nor do I intend to be a politi-

cian," he told the *Independent* last week. "I'm not going to speak in carefully defined legal words that may come across as robotic and without emotion."

As a 3D designer, his own broadcast design company has allowed him to travel to many countries, experiencing other cultures and ways of life, he said.

"This experience gave me a stronger appreci- *continued on p. 10*



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Woman assisted with ailing dog at the WAG

Public Security was called October 13 for assistance with a dog that seemed suddenly sick at the Westmount Athletic Grounds, department officials said.

When officers arrived at 3:44 pm, they learned from dog's owner that it had lain down, was unable to get up and were asked for permission for the woman to bring her car into the park to take the dog to a vet. Instead, officers came to the rescue by lifting it into their patrol car and driving the dog and owner to her home nearby so she could take it for medical care.

Confused person found, helped by Public Security

A confused person at the 5 Saisons store on Greene Ave. October 13 at 12:39 pm was tracked down by a city parking inspector as she sat at a picnic table outside the Bank of Montreal across the intersection. Public Security officials said officers who responded questioned her about her medical condition, was told she was taking antidepressants and was hungry.

She had gone to get food but found she had no money to pay for it. Described as over 80 years of age, she was left in the care of police.

Loud noise traced, fixed by officers

A woman living on de Maisonneuve called Public Security October 12 at 6:59 pm asking for help unplugging her stove, which appeared to be making a loud noise. When patrollers arrived, they found the noise coming from a fan over the stove. Officials said they were able to bend back the metal blade that had been rubbing against the grate and the noise ceased. The woman was described as "very grateful."

Overpass hit by 'yet another' truck!

A truck on Greene Ave. was reported to have hit the railway overpass, this time October 13 at 8:43 am, Public Security officials said. It was another in a long string of such incidents attributed recently to work being done on St. Antoine St., which has been closed to traffic (see story October 12, p. 3). *See more coverage on p. 18-19 of this edition.*

Naked man tracked down in Summit Woods

Summit Woods was searched by public safety officers and police October 12 after a woman who had seen a naked man reported the incident at 7:47 pm, Public Security officials said.

Not giving up after a "complete" search ended with no one being found, public safety officers contacted the complainant, who accompanied them back to the area where she had seen the man.

They located him completely naked and very cold. He was described as having been diagnosed with schizophrenia, had consumed a large amount of cannabis and feared he was having a panic attack.

He was taken to the patrol vehicle to await police, who were called back and were reported to be taking him to the Jewish General Hospital. It was not known where he lived.

Letters, p. 8

Art Scene: Schweitzer donates to VAC, p. 12

Police Report, p. 21

Pet Page, p. 24

Retail Review: S16 gallery, p. 28



infoWestmount, p. 20

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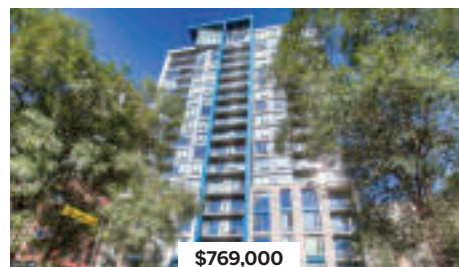
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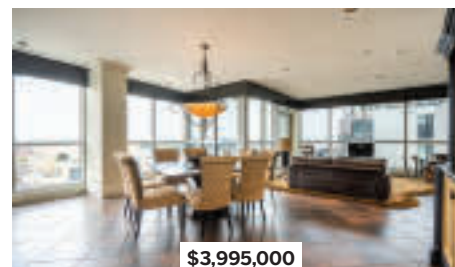
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Preparing to not be snowed in

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Getting out the snow shovel may not be on most people's "to do" list right now, but the city wasn't taking any chances at the council's last regular meeting of its mandate October 4.

That's when tender bids were approved for the winter of 2021-2022 for towing services as well as removing snow in lanes and municipal parking lots.

The bid from Dave's Towing was approved at a maximum amount of \$95,695 including taxes, of which \$21,837 is for the 2021 fiscal year.

The renewal option of a contract for

snow clearing in lanes was authorized for the winter season at a minimum guaranteed amount of \$210,000 and a maximum of \$349,843 including taxes. It went to Les Excavations Super Inc.

The same contractor received the okay for removing snow in various parking lots at a maximum amount of \$86,461 for the season. An amount of \$19,822 including taxes applies to this fiscal year and the bid was the lower of two.

At the council meeting September 9, the city also purchased three snow plows as well as approving tenders for the installation of a refrigerated rink and a formal toboggan run (see story September 28, p. 1).



City hall on January 22, covered in snow. Fast forward: Personnel there have been preparing several months for this coming winter.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

DEMONSTRATION – WE REJECT BILL 96

Girouard (NDG) Park

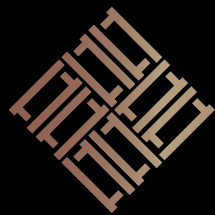
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City of Montreal lawyers to be consulted
Penalty for ‘illegal’ 4898 demolition in \$5,000-\$50,000 range: assistant DG Larue

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the fine for removing more than 50 percent of 4898 de Maisonneuve was still under review last week, according to

Michel Larue, assistant city director general, he provided insight into how the amount may be determined.

Article 35 of Westmount’s By-law 1317 concerning demolition will he used, he

said. “Therefore the offender is liable to a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000.”

In the current case, because the city council had not decided on an amount, it also stated in the council resolution that the offender must be “sanctioned.” The resolution also proposed that “fines related to illegal demolition work be substantially increased as a result of powers recently

granted to Quebec municipalities under the Act respecting land use planning and development.”

In this case, however, Westmount will discuss the matter with city of Montreal attorneys, as it has since the demergers with statements of offence of similar degree of importance, because it is they who are assigned to treat Westmount’s court cases at the municipal level, Larue explained.



The site on October 18. Nothing happening yet.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Demolition, cont’d from p. 1

in the final project.

While the council “will never tolerate illegal demolition work,” the resolution stated “it is proposed that fines be substantially increased,” Councillor Conrad Peart stated in reading the decision.

In this case, “a penalty will indeed be assessed,” Peart told the *Independent* as urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture. “The scope of the penalty will be assessed by the Urban Planning department,” he explained (see separate story, above).

How the meeting unfolded

The Zoom meeting began with a presentation from Youki Chopras, of the Urban Planning department, including the proposed development that had already been approved two years ago.

Developer Noam Schnitzer followed. He explained that once the exterior brick had been removed during the recent work, it was discovered on site by his engineer that exposed terracotta blocks and aerated concrete panels comprising the roof slab endangered public safety and had to be removed.

This resulted from the poor condition of these components, as noted at the work site and in the engineer’s report, and their removal pushed the allowable demolition without a demolition permit over the 50-percent amount and caused the city to

close down the work June 18.

“Everything happened very quickly,” Schnitzer said.

Councillor Marina Brzeski of District 5, where the project is located, said she felt “uncertain” about the project’s continued work given the proximity of the bike path, and a dense population. “What will you do to clean up your act and ensure less disruption of residents?” she asked.

Not one complaint

Schnitzer quickly objected to her remark, saying that the work done by his crew had not generated a single complaint and that public safety was his prime concern.

Brzeski then said, “I can retract ‘clean up your act.’”

Among many standard conditions included in the council decision is that a mandatory monetary guarantee be provided before the issuance of a demolition permit – in this case for \$444,635 – to be released on substantial completion of the project. Construction work must also be started within 12 months of the issuance of the permit.

Because the Demolition Committee consists of the entire city council, the decision rendered October 7 formed a special sitting and a final decision of the council before its dissolution the next day for the municipal election November 7.

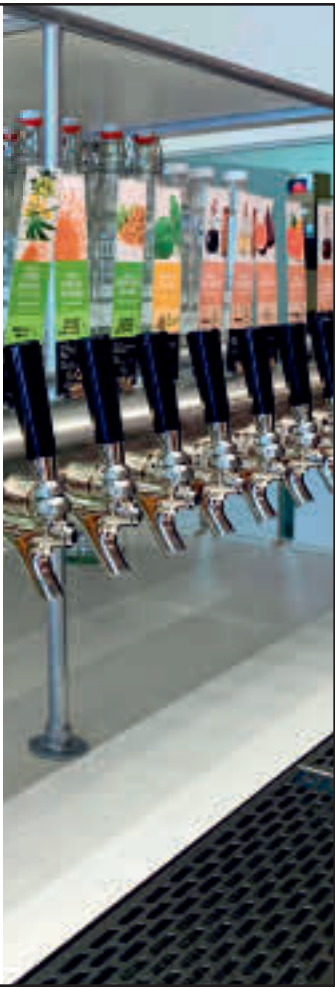


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Marcy Katz runs for District 1

Seeking timely solutions part of her career work in retail



Marcy Katz on October 14.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In her professional retail experience as a buyer and sales manager over the last 20 years, Marcy Katz says that listening to customers and responding quickly to changing needs are strengths she hopes to bring to city council in her bid to represent District 1.

“Being in retail my whole life, responsiveness is part of being a good buyer and I feel this can be translated into the political environment,” she told the *Independent* last week. “Priority spending is important to me, such as the repairs to the summit lookout. Or having a plan of action to curb speeding.”

Part of what she hopes to do is getting ahead with needed work such as streets and sidewalks that “have to be made safe and secure” and investigate new ways of balancing the budget to make it happen in a timely manner. “People’s needs have to be addressed.”

She said this means speeding up the time it takes for study-based decisions such as what is taking place in the lingering disrepair of summit lookout’s broken concrete structure.

Many of the electoral platform items that she lists for District 1 also apply throughout the city, she said: increased street and infrastructure work, its financing, and finding responses to citizens’ needs and questions.

The Blvd. is a paramount concern

Curbing speeding on The Boulevard, in particular, is one of her platform priorities.

“If the city has to depend on scarce [Montreal] police resources,” then ways have to be found to do it locally, she contends. As a District 1 resident of The Boulevard, she said, its upcoming proposed reconstruction is a paramount concern.

On many streets throughout the city, she advocates for the installation of speed “cushions,” a softer type of deterrent than speed humps/bumps, and more raised intersections and bump-outs. She also wants street work to be undertaken at one time, rather than spaced over two years when some underground sewer and water projects are completed in one year followed by road reconstruction the next.

If finding the money for infrastructure is an issue, she said, then she suggests borrowing at current low interest rates, a possibility also proposed by Mayor Christina Smith after her acclamation (see story October 5, p. 6).

Katz, who grew up in Côte St. Luc, graduated from McGill in commerce and proceeded into a retail career at Caplan Duval and then at the Linen Chest for 10 years. There, she worked as director of corporate sales and buyer until starting up and running her own retail enterprise called Galerie M for another 10 years. “It was my baby,” she said (see story on its 10th anniversary, September 25, 2018, p. 15). It closed in 2019.

Now, she added, she has the time and expertise to translate this experience to city services. “I feel I have a lot to contribute.”

Also running in District 1 are Antonio D’Amico (see story October 5, p. 12) and Jane Silverstone Segal (profile at right).

Please see paper archive and note that the interviewee has run a correction in our July 5, 2022 issue (p. 25).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHY NARROW GREENE?

In reference to the story “Kez runs on record” (October 5, p. 1), conveniently omitted from the story was any reference to Kez’s* “improvements” on Greene Ave. I’ve lived in Westmount for 20 years and never have I seen this kind of traffic congestion on Greene, due of course to Kez’s and the council’s decision to reduce traffic to one lane.

How is this acceptable? Are 40+ picnic tables and benches, with a seating capacity of over 200, really necessary? Traffic is backed up dozens of times a day, parking is much more difficult because there’s less room to maneuver, and the lack of pedestrian visibility by the crosswalks is in violation of the highway code.

All this is of course completely unnecessary, as there are never more than 10 to 15 people total using the tables, negating the need for placing 40+ tables/benches. In fact, there are always more people making use of the wonderful public square by 5 Saisons than sitting at the picnic tables.

Both the Public Works department and traffic enforcement officers receive constant complaints about the state of affairs on Greene, despite council’s insistence that feedback has been positive. As the election approaches, I sincerely hope Kez will explain why the city opted for the most disruptive option in trying to add seating capacity to the street and why it’s so necessary

to have eliminated a traffic lane given all the issues that have resulted.

ANIL SINGH, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.
***Editor’s note:** For clarity, councillors do not control every city action that happens in their respective districts. Indeed, in our main story on this year’s Greene Ave. plan (April 13, p. 1) and the main one from last year (June 16, 2020, p. 1), I do not see any mention of Councillor Kathleen Kez. In addition, Greene Ave. above de Maisonneuve is not even in her district. On the other hand, I don’t remember her *opposing* these projects and she is a part of the council that implemented them. She is welcome to write to explain her involvement in these decisions and view of them (maximum 300 words). – DP.

ARTIFICIAL TURF?

I can’t believe there is still an argument for artificial turf. Nor can I believe a paediatrician (September 21, p. 27) would want us to rip out grass to install a product with roughly the same thermal effect as asphalt. Our children’s future is already too hot.

If a child needs more exercise, we can walk up to the summit and along the cool shady paths. Let them run around and get to see nature. There are many exercise options for kids.

Chasing a ball on a hot plastic surface on a hot summer day is not something any of us need. Thank you to Westmount for holding out for a more natural surface.

For those reading online: <https://wateruseitwisely.com/saving-water-outdoors/grass-artificial-turf/10-reasons-why-artificial-turf-may-not-be-what-youre-looking-for/> or go to wateruseitwisely.com and look up artificial turf.

You can also search scholarly articles on the thermal effects of artificial turf. It’s not the solution you think it is.

PENNY ARSENAULT, ST. CATHERINE ST.

PAC SUPPORTS, THEN OPPOSES, DEVELOPMENT – WHY WORK THIS WAY?

There is serious dysfunction in the city’s policies and practices regarding its relationship with developers and their projects. Missed opportunities and delayed development are often the outcome, with Albert Square at 4898 de Maisonneuve the latest example. This costs everyone money. Westmount’s tax base is restricted and tax revenues are deferred or completely lost. Developers face expensive delays with high carrying costs and increased construction bills.

Nobody wins.

The October 7 demolition hearing on 4898 de Maisonneuve highlights the problem. At this hearing, council overruled our Planning and Advisory Committee’s recommendation to deny the demolition of the brick exterior. In support of its proposed refusal, PAC highlighted “the loss of unique architectural character including the modernist addition and the loss of character-defining elements.”

Yet two years ago, PAC supported this identical project, with the same character losses deemed acceptable at that time. Then, the developer was limited to a 50-percent demolition. On October 7, full demolition was requested, albeit after the fact. The net difference between the two different permit requests was an extra pile of bricks from the office building coupled with bad feeling, recrimination, construc-

tion delays and disappointed buyers.

The frustration among council members during the hearing was palpable. One councillor was reduced to disparaging the architects, describing their design as “mediocre.” In fact, the project was entirely pre-sold. Apparently, all the buyers were happy with the design.

According to Larry Beasley, the eminent Vancouver urban planner, a community is best served by having all participants in development align their self-interests and reconcile any differences. Participants include the city administration, developers, design architects, community organizations and residents. They all work together, build mutual trust and collaborate. Clearly, this is absent in Westmount. The critical south-east project, back on the table again, will be a major test of our competence.

Vancouver went through the same difficulties but is now renowned for urban excellence, notably in design. Mr. Beasley and his team played an instrumental role in revamping the process of development. Westmount knows him well. Let’s invite him back to guide us to better outcomes.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

FIX WESTMOUNT PARK’S EAST-WEST PATH, DON’T BUILD PEDESTRIAN ‘SPEEDWAY’

Just a note to say that I am in complete agreement with the view of Marjorie Griffin (letter to the editor, September 28, p. 10) that the current east-west pathway that travels past the gazebo and the Shakespeare in the Park area westward from Melville Ave across the park to Lansdowne Ave. should be upgraded and improved rather than be removed in favour of a proposed pedestrian pathway to be built parallel to the existing bike path.

In her letter she states: “If there are pedestrians who might be upset about taking two and a half minutes longer to get from Melville to Lansdowne, I suggest that there is something wrong with the pedestrians, not something wrong with the park.”

Actually, I have timed myself several times crossing the park from Melville to Lansdowne walking along both the existing pathway and the bike path and the transit times for each were essentially identical, roughly 3 minutes and 50 seconds (see letter to the *Independent*, August 24, p. 9). See also the letter by Francisco Gonzalez in the August 10 issue (p. 10), who came up with a virtually identical transit time.

The major complaint about the existing path is that in winter the lowered stretch of the path as it passes the grassy Shakespeare in the Park area accumulates water and slush because of inadequate drainage

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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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and footing becomes treacherous. It is difficult to believe that this problem could not be rectified and at a cost far less than installing the proposed pathway along the bike path.

It would be very useful to have a professional assessment done by a civil engineer qualified to evaluate such issues. To my knowledge, no such study has been undertaken by the city.

Another issue described in detail by Jo LaPierre (August 17, p. 16) is the considerable damage to the surroundings incurred by forcing a bike/pedestrian corridor of approximately seven meters in width along the tennis courts, soccer fields, the gazebo area and the dog run. As she points out, this will necessitate cutting down mature trees, moving street lamps and possibly having to move portions of the tennis courts, the soccer field fences and the dog run.

All of this is necessary to provide a pedestrian “speedway” which in fact will not really improve pedestrian transit times across the park? Beats me.

PETER WELDON, ACADEMY RD.

NO TO STANTEC'S WESTMOUNT PARK REVAMP

I am writing today to register my objection to the proposed overhaul of Westmount Park. I have viewed Stantec's presentation many times via YouTube and walked the beautiful paths of the park, copies of artist's renderings and engineering drawings in hand, trying to understand the rationale behind the radical changes proposed. Aside from the urgent and necessary repairs, and the painfully lacking remedial maintenance, the park in its present incarnation is just as it should be. It's perfect.

I cannot find a single good reason to go ahead with any of the fanciful and costly exercise that is before the new council for consideration.

By far the worst element is the so-called naturalization of the pond, designed to distance park-goers as much as possible from it, a rather jarring concept in itself when you consider how much enjoyment park-goers derive from being close to the lagoon and its charming byways.

Gone [in the proposal] is the well-loved path that runs southwest of the bridge and parallels the shoreline, a great loss for safe observation of the pond's aquatic life at close view. This would be missed in particular by the parents, grandparents and their youngsters who flock to that spot on weekend outings for a sight of the park's beloved ducks.

Gone as well is the idyllic view of the peninsula, with its beautiful trees and

alluring serenity, evoking in my romantic mind a mysterious island just across the water. It should be noted that, contrary to the proposal's statement, the existing shoreline path is neither dangerous nor in poor condition – there is a safety railing, the original brick has been resurfaced in asphalt following complaints about loose bricks, and the southern margin is bordered by a solid shelf of granite blocks.

Finally, of particular concern to me is the pedestrian crossing of the cyclist path leading to the tennis courts and exiting the park at Academy Rd., where I happen to live. I have waited, a visibly senior gray-haired lady, to get across that path more times than I can remember.

With the rare exception, cyclists speed on by, at times directing a rueful smile my way, with others brandishing their third finger at the utter nerve of a pedestrian attempting to interrupt their flow. I'm afraid the present solution as proposed is a fantasy. It will take compelling signage or physical intervention a couple of hundred feet east and west of the crossing to assure compliance.

On a positive note, the park's horticulturalists and gardeners deserve the highest marks for the gorgeous vegetation and plantings that grace the park in all seasons. We are truly blessed to have these talented people add such beauty to our all-too-often mundane lives.

JANE MCGARRIGLE, ACADEMY RD.

PEOPLE, NOT GREENHOUSES

\$6 million more to repair greenhouse? Outrageous, disgusting, unacceptable. Save lives: repair the roads and sidewalks. Where are your priorities?

TRUDY ASCH, LANSDOWNE AVE.

KEEP ON WITH REAL ESTATE COLUMN

I'm with you [re: September 21 editorial, p. 8]. Please keep publishing a local real estate insightful column.

SÉBASTIEN DINCAU, GROSVENOR AVE.

Bentley dated!



The owner of the Bentley photographed for last week's paper (p. 19) contacted us and told us it was made in 1937. He has owned it since 2006.

CANDIDATE REPLIES

ARONSON REPLIES TO RESIDENT KOVITCH

Thank you, Ingrid, for raising these important issues (letter, October 12, p. 6).

COVID-19 has cost us all dearly – in terms of our physical and mental health, our livelihoods and our social cohesion. In the recovery, there are opportunities to address systemic issues in numerous areas and build a new course for the society we wish to foster for our collective future. I know we are up to the challenge.

The hard work of our health care workers has sustained us. I'm grateful for them, and the highly trained, dedicated scientists who produced a safe, reliable vaccine in record time. I was so relieved when I got vaccinated, I admit I shed a few tears knowing I'd done my part.

With close to 85 percent of Quebecers over 12 fully vaccinated, we're winning the battle – but this war isn't over yet. We must remain vigilant, continue to follow public health measures and encourage the remaining vaccine-hesitant hold-outs to get the best medical advice possible. Until our children are vaccinated, the risk of variants remains, and we must work together to protect those who cannot be inoculated.

I know we are all concerned about the climate crisis: It is real, it is here, and we must address it as a community-wide emergency. We are running out of time. We must take bold, decisive action at all levels of government to adopt measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions immediately and to plan for the challenges “baked-in” by decades of inaction.

There is a lot we can do locally: revising by-laws on zoning, land use, building and renovations, investing in infrastructure and incentivizing the use of alternative energy sources.

If you or any readers would like more information, please visit www.aronson.ca or email me at matt@aronson.ca

MATT ARONSON, MELVILLE AVE.
& CANDIDATE – DISTRICT 7

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.


email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com

21

ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES À WESTMOUNT

WESTMOUNT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



LE 7 NOVEMBRE 2021

RENCONTREZ LES CANDIDATS


5 DISTRICTS - 11 CANDIDATS

MERCREDI 27 OCTOBRE 2021 À 19H

Modérateur : Beryl Wajzman
Il y aura une période de questions.

VICTORIA HALL
4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Ouvert à tous

Présenté par / Presented by



Association municipale de Westmount
Westmount Municipal Association

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

MEET THE CANDIDATES

5 DISTRICTS - 11 CANDIDATES

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27, 2021 AT 7 PM

Moderator: Beryl Wajzman
There will be a question period.

VICTORIA HALL
4626 Sherbrooke Street West
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A Zoom link will be made available.

Information: meet-candidates@wma-amw.org

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Neil Hopley on October 14. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Hopley, cont'd from p. 1

ation for Canada and our Western democracy that allows every one of us to have the rights and freedoms that it provides.”

This is one of his motivations for running for office, he explained.

His most important issue, he said, is the preservation of Westmount Park where “it would be a travesty to alter it any more.” Only repairs to the infrastructure such as updating and repairing worn material “would be appropriate in my view.”

Next on his list is turning the prototype sound barrier at the foot of Abbott into a green wall, for which he collected names on a petition to the city several years ago. This would hide the graffiti, most of which is painted on the other side of the transparent wall. He has also used his digital skills to depict how it would look covered with vines.

“We were told the sound barrier would be removed since the highway was going to be lowered,” he explained. “Nothing ever came of it and we’ve been living with it ever since.” (The city is in court against Transport Quebec seeking a permanent sound barrier on the highway between the rail line and the roadway.)

Over recent years, “neighbours and I have seen a gradual decline in the roads and laneways,” Hopley said. In a district of so many lanes, many have been patched so often that now water and melting snow collect and enter his own garage, for example. “I understand that snow removal

comes with a price, but our lanes haven’t been done for so long.”

Born and raised in NDG, Hopley went to Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Marymount Academy and graduated high school at Chateauguay’s Howard S. Billings. He attended Dawson College and completed formal 3D design training at College Inter-Dec.

“My family and I moved to Westmount in 2009, fully valuing the beautiful architectural heritage, beautiful parks and the coming recreational centre, where I have played in the Executive Hockey league for many years.

“We quickly felt the sense of community and connected with the families of Westmount.” His son now plays in the city’s competitive youth hockey.

Hoping to be accommodated

Asked if he was planning to explain his platform at the upcoming Meet the Candidates meeting October 27 at Victoria Hall, Hopley said he was uncertain about how he might be “accommodated to do this remotely since I’m not yet vaccinated.” Westmount requires this for access to all its facilities. Hopley said he is looking forward to the availability of a plant-based vaccine called Medicago that he hopes will come this winter.

Matt Aronson is also running for election to represent District 7 (see story May 25, p. 1).

Contactivity Centre for Seniors presents:

K.E.Y. (Keep Educating Yourself) live Zoom Lecture Series:

Register for presentations by suppliers of services and resources of interest to seniors and their families, neighbours, or caregivers. Free and open to all. More topics will be covered in the New Year.

☐ **N.O.V.A. Home Care 1:00 PM Thursday Oct. 28th, 2021?**

(Register by Monday October 25)

NOVA Home Care has been offering crucial support for over 120 years. Whether it’s palliative care (free of charge) or Home Care services on a sliding scale, this organization has important programs in place.

☐ **Tel-Aide 1:00 PM Thursday November 25, 2021**

(Register by Monday November 22)

Loneliness, emotional distress, strained relationships, addiction, stress at work. These are few of the instances when a person in distress may need an active listener. Learn about the bilingual helpline that has been serving Montrealers for 50 years.

Register online at **www.contactivitycentre.org**

No internet? Lectures can also be accessed with a basic landline phone. Call Contactivity Centre’s Outreach worker Fiona Smith for details: **438-920-3460**.

Funded by the Ministry of Health and Social Services under the I.T.M.A.V. program.

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We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

Rage or garage?



This sign is in NDG on Claremont Ave. below Sherbrooke, but visible from Westmount. It is not known if the covering-up of the “gar” is intentional.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Hallowe'en is less than two weeks away!



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Westmount
Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Artist John Schweitzer recently donated a collage, “VAC : LXXV [MMXXI],” to the Visual Arts Centre on Victoria Ave. Shown at the *Clay Roots* exhibition at the McClure Gallery in September, the gift was made in honour of outgoing executive director Natasha Reid.

Anniversary collage

Composed of VAC ephemera – letterhead, envelope and invitation – within an antique frame, the colourful collage was appraised at \$70,000. Created for the centre’s 75th anniversary, Schweitzer commented: “In this post-COVID world, supporting our arts communities and institutions is more important than ever. I hope to inspire others to do the same.”

Schweitzer, who maintains a studio in Westmount Square, is no stranger to the Visual Arts Centre.

In 2001, a solo retrospective of his work, *The Shapes of Time: 1991-2001*, was held at the McClure Gallery.

Appreciative of recent and past VAC collaborations, Schweitzer praised Reid, say-

Schweitzer donates 75th anniversary collage to Visual Arts



Natasha Reid and John Schweitzer on October 14.

ing “I was impressed by Natasha’s grace and consummate professionalism.”

Reid said: “We are thrilled to have an original John Schweitzer collage. It’s a wonderful marker of our celebratory year and I feel privileged that the work is donated in my honour.”

Appointed in 2017, Reid will leave the Visual Arts Centre in November to join the faculty of education at the University of Victoria.

Earlier this year, Schweitzer was presented with an RBC Artist Response to COVID award at the Royal Bank in Westmount Square by the new branch manager Hanane El-Makhad, one of several artist awards.

Former branch manager Hatice Sagirdak said: “We love supporting artists in our community. It’s part of the RBC vision.”

The award was presented June 10 for Schweitzer’s sunflower collage “Rainbow Rebus” (see October 20, 2020, p. 21) – now in the lobby of the Delrose Retirement Residence in Delhi, Ontario.

A collective project, each resident – including the artist’s mother – pasted paper petals or leaves to create a colourful design.

Schweitzer is also well-known as a philanthropist. Commissioned for theme-based collages by Sunnybrook and Mount Sinai hospitals in Toronto, the artist subsequently donated both works. Another recent gift was to his alma mater, Western University – evaluated at \$4 million – which included his six-panel narration, *The Erehwön Cycle*, as well as work by international artists Henry Moore and Robert Mapplethorpe from his private collection.

Schweitzer is currently working on a new series entitled *Nero*. Described by the artist as an exploration of “the metaphorical properties of the colour black with allusions to the notion of evil,” this theme deviates from earlier utopian or Arcadian subjects. With 15 series to his credit, Schweitzer is recognized for his artistic ability as well as generosity.



John Schweitzer, Hanane El-Makhad and Hatice Sagirdak at RBC Westmount Square on June 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT POIRIER.



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\$1,299,000

Modern smart home, Estérel
BED: 4 BATH: 2 MLS 19958244
Melanie Clarke* **450.694.0678**



\$749,000

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Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
BED: 2 BATH: 1 MLS 24637007
Louise Jackson* Susanne Stelmashuk Chernin*
Diane Stelmashuk* 514.944.6066



RECENTLY REDUCED

\$6,400,000

Design Marvel, Westmount
BED: 6 BATH: 4 MLS 28201966
Kaufman Group† 514.379.1333



\$1,198,000

Waterfront residence,
Mont-Tremblant
BED: 3 BATH: 1 MLS 28960941
Pina Pizzi* 514.781.4826



\$1,550,000

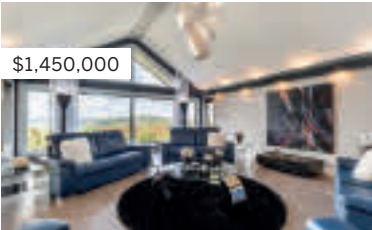
Exceptional residence, Batiscan
BED: 3 BATH: 2+1 MLS 16092370
Esther Mercier 819.357.5839**

« EXCEPTIONAL HOMES »



SOLD

Custom all brick home, Saint-Lazare
BED: 4 BATH: 3
Linda Noseworthy* 514.830.2288



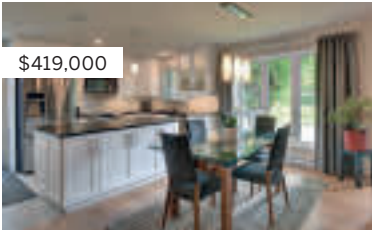
\$1,450,000

Spectacular architectural home,
Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs
BED: 4 BATH: 3+1 MLS 24723879
Jill Shpritsner 514.691.0800**



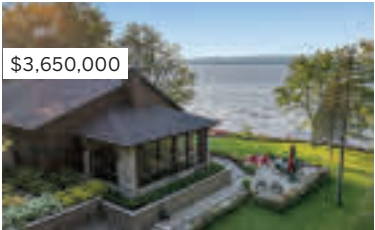
\$755,000

Waterfront oasis,
Pierrefonds-Roxboro
BED: 2 BATH: 1 MLS 20341865
Jessica Lombard* 514.476.9700



\$419,000

Beautifully renovated,
Mont-Tremblant
BED: 3 BATH: 2 MLS 19902847
Cody Ratcliffe^ 819.429.1834



\$3,650,000

Amazing waterfront home,
L'Île-Cadieux
BED: 3 BATH: 2+1 GAR: 2 MLS 23650260
Monique Assouline* 514.219.5897

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\$3,500,000

Important waterfront, Dorval
BED: 5 BATH: 4
Barbara Baudinet 514.825.9890**



\$1,950,000

Luxurious residence, Beaconsfield
BED: 4 BATH: 4+1 MLS 17792435
Cassandra Aurora 514.293.2277**



\$2,798,000

Waterfront wonder, Laval-sur-le-lac
BED: 5 BATH: 5+2 MLS 23104370
Brigitte Cohen^ 514.963.5324
Susan Lloyd (Leduc)* 438.882.8088



\$1,895,000

Renovated home, Mont-Royal
BED: 4 BATH: 2+1 MLS 20083932
Vincent Chaput* 514.264.3555



\$1,150,000

Contemporary cottage, Lac-Brome
BED: 3 BATH: 2 MLS 23901653
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Johanne Meunier* 514.926.5626


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Architectural marvel, Westmount
BED: 4 BATH: 3
Saguy Elbaz* **514.892.7653**

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Unique penthouse, Ville-Marie
BED: 3 BATH: 3 GAR: 2 MLS 25573952
Patricia Lallier** **514.239.1898**

INTRODUCING

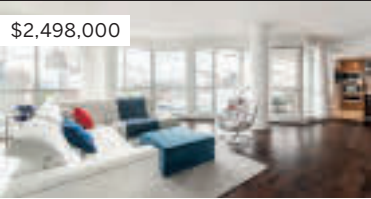
\$1,385,000



Manoir de Belmont, Adj. Westmount
BED: 2 BATH: 2 GAR: 2 MLS 11970047
Karen Karpman* **514.497.8218**

INTRODUCING

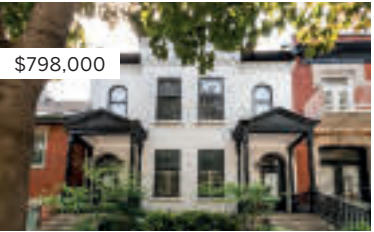
\$2,498,000



Home at the Crystal, Ville-Marie
BED: 4 BATH: 3 GAR: 3 MLS 10101407
Louise Latreille* **514.577.2009**

INTRODUCING


\$798,000



Prime location, Westmount
BED: 2 BATH: 1 MLS 18829137
Cassian Bopp^ **514.952.9115**

RECENTLY REDUCED

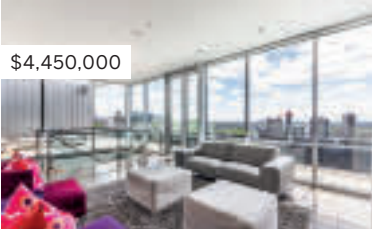
\$1,160,000



Tour Des Canadiens 3, Ville-Marie
BED: 2 BATH: 2 MLS 19635121
Géraldine Libraty* **514.962.5563**

INTRODUCING


\$4,450,000



Magnificent penthouse, Ville-Marie
BED: 2 BATH: 2 GAR: 3 MLS 14755917
Anne Ben-Ami (Madar)* **514.726.3037**

INTRODUCING


\$3,989,000 + txs



Designer Penthouse, Ville-Marie
BED: 3 BATH: 3 GAR: 2 MLS 24391034
Stefano Bizzotto^ **514.962.3539**

INTRODUCING


\$2,463,500 - \$15,024,600 (+ txs)



1111 Atwater, Westmount
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Cyrille Girard* **514.582.2810**

NEW PRICE


\$1,775/mo



Waterfront Jardin 3, Verdun / Île-des-Soeurs
BED: 0 BATH: 1 GAR: 1 MLS 19769322
Christiane Savaria** **514.830.6415**

NEW PRICE

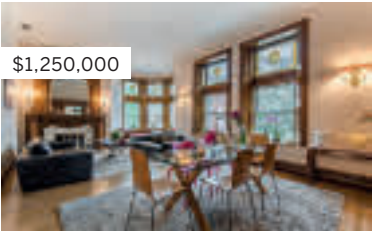
\$889,000



2 levels & terrasses, Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
BED: 4 BATH: 2 GAR: 1 MLS 25851246
Marie-Josée Rouleau* **514.660.6682**

INTRODUCING


\$1,250,000



Spectacular corner residence, Golden Square Mile
BED: 3 BATH: 2 MLS 14260387
Gabriel Pliva^ **514.923.5383**

INTRODUCING


\$1,650,000



Cachet and Style, Ville-Marie
BED: 4 BATH: 2 MLS 10234309
Monica Genest* **Victoria Marinacci*** **514.400.0280**

INTRODUCING


\$4,500/mo



Golden Square Mile, Ville-Marie
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SOLD

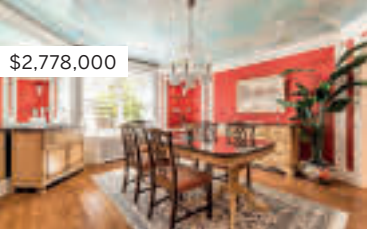
\$1,817,702



Exceptional condo, Westmount
BED: 3 BATH: 2+2
JJ Jacobs** **514.817.7020**

INTRODUCING


\$2,778,000



Impeccably renovated, Ville-Marie
BED: 4 BATH: 3+2 MLS 24443579
David Wilkes* **514.947.5152**

INTRODUCING

\$1,200,000



Superior custom-built home, Côte-des-Neiges / Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
BED: 4 BATH: 2 MLS 25227454
Navid Changizi^ **514.632.6912**

INTRODUCING

\$480,000



Exceptional condo at Le Central, Ville-Marie
BED: 2 BATH: 2 MLS 10836554
Jiesi Zhou **514.262.7709**

INTRODUCING

\$830,000



Turnkey 2 Bedroom condo, Côte Saint-Luc
BED: 2 BATH: 2 MLS 14319288
Laurie Tenebaum* **514.248.7272**

INTRODUCING

\$685,000



Splendid 2,185 ft² unit, Saint-Lambert
BED: 3 BATH: 2 MLS 13674014
Anne Marineau^ **Zoë Vennes**** **514.400.0280**



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Rare corner Old Port, Ville-Marie
MLS 19958315

Randy Naami 514.743.5000**



\$3,995,000

14-plex property, Côte-des-Neiges Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
BED: 2 BATH: 1 MLS 11110086

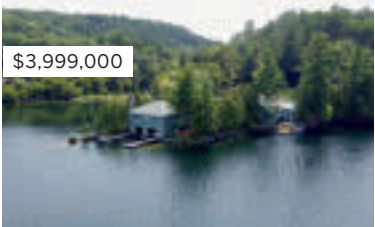
Danny Naami* 514.629.1000



\$1,950,000

Waterfront estate, Estérel
BED: 4 BATH: 3 MLS 11187089

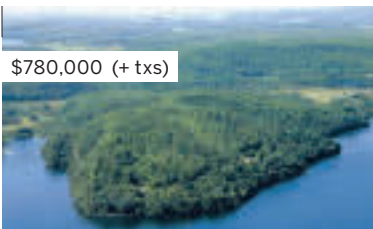
Jennifer Vienneau* 514.265.3669



\$3,999,000

Waterfront estate at 31 Mile lake, Gracefield
BED: 5 BATH: 4+2 MLS 10977723

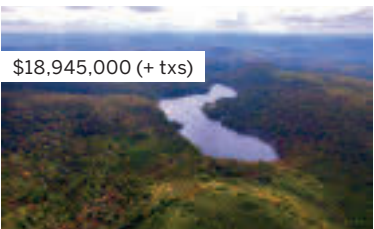
Marsha Hanna* 819.425.0619



\$780,000 (+ txs)

Waterfront, Ferme-Neuve
LOT: 31 ACRES MLS 11448407

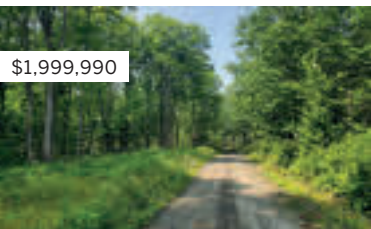
Lynne Leclair⁴ 514.570.8998



\$18,945,000 (+ txs)

Private estate of 2,639 acres with private lake, Amherst
LOT: 2,639 acres MLS 27238269

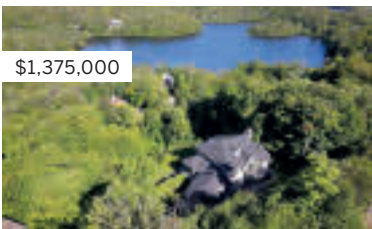
Herbert Ratsch^{††} 514.884.8269



\$1,999,990

550 Acres, Saint-Herménégilde
MLS 20568979

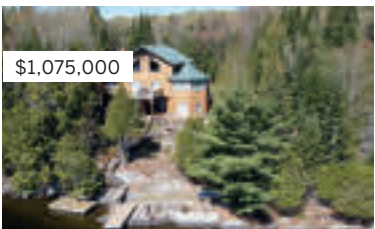
Pierre Brunet 514.248.8032**
Nanyunzi Zheng* 514.886.8377



\$1,375,000

Breathtaking view, Saint-Sauveur
BED: 3 BATH: 3 MLS 23598380

Stephane Larrivée* 514.809.8466



\$1,075,000

Spacious lakefront, La Minerve
LAC LABELLE MLS 24123688

Raymond Dalbec 819.425.4568**

« COUNTRY PROPRIETIES/LAND »

5 Advantages
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Cough



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or taste

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guidelines and get tested.

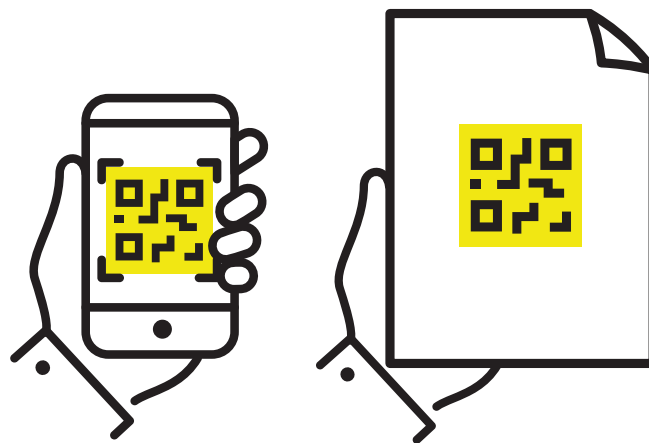
Let’s continue to protect ourselves.

[Québec.ca/testCOVID19](https://quebec.ca/testCOVID19)



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‘Fifth’ truck strikes Greene rail bridge

By DAVID PRICE

A northbound truck struck the Greene Ave. rail bridge south of Dorchester the morning of October 13 (see also p. 3). It is the fifth known strike since August 1 (see list at right).

The *Independent* has previously reported that the warning “boom” or panel that northbound trucks used to hit before reaching the rail bridge was gone (August 24, p. 21). It was attached to the underside of Highway 136/720 and was still gone on October 15 (see photo on p. 19).

The city of Westmount and Canadian Pacific Rail (CP) both say that it did not belong to them.

Stacy Patenaude, manager of government affairs and communications at CP, which owns the bridge, explained to the *Independent* by email October 15, “Road authorities are responsible for road signage.”

Quebec’s provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ) had not replied to questions about the boom by press time.

To the best of the *Independent*’s knowledge, there has never been a boom for southbound traffic.

Westmount director general Hadi Hakim, answering via an October 15 email from executive assistant Catherine Skinner, told the *Independent* that the city is responsible for the maximum “3.5 m” signs, five of which were clearly visible when the *Independent* went by the same day (see photos on p. 19).

He also communicated that the city had put up “No truck/Local delivery only” signs at St. Antoine and at Dorchester – meaning that the truck drivers striking this bridge are most likely already disregarding signage when they choose to use this section of Greene Ave. When the *Independent* checked on October 18, there were a variety of such signs in place at St. Antoine and Greene for northbound traffic, and ones in place at Greene at Dorchester for southbound traffic (see photos on p. 19).

When asked about the integrity of the bridge after all these events, Patenaude went on to say, “Whenever CP is made

Non-exhaustive list of Greene rail bridge strikes

- October 13 northbound truck
- October 6 southbound truck (see Oct. 12, p. 3)
- September 29 southbound truck (Oct. 5, p. 17)
- September 23 northbound truck (Sept. 28, p. 23)
- August 12 northbound truck (Aug. 24, p. 21)
- November 5, 2020 northbound truck (Nov. 24, 2020, p. 4)

Unofficial record for shortest time:
6 days between strikes

aware of a motor vehicle making contact with one of our bridges, we halt rail traffic and dispatch a railroad bridge inspector to conduct a thorough inspection. Only when the bridge is verified safe do we resume rail traffic.”



The October 13 bridge strike and aftermath.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARJORY GRIFFIN (LEFT) AND WILLEM WESTENBERG (RIGHT AND BOTTOM).



Top row: northbound Greene from St. Antoine; middle left: The entrance to northbound Greene from St. Antoine: orange and white, permanent and temporary, no-truck signs – with permanent white ones at Dorchester (inset); right: where the boom was under Highway 136/720 (the mounting bracket is circled), and bottom row: southbound Greene from Dorchester. All photos October 15, except middle left, October 18.





infoWESTMOUNT

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 15 novembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, November 15th



Réouverture de la Galerie du Victoria Hall

Le Service de la Bibliothèque et des événements communautaires est heureux d'annoncer la réouverture de la Galerie du Victoria Hall avec une nouvelle exposition d'œuvres des artistes Anabel Burin, Shahrzad Ghaffari et Arnaud Hug.



Reopening of the Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Library and Community Events Department is pleased to announce the reopening of the Gallery at Victoria Hall with a new exhibition featuring artists Anabel Burin, Shahrzad Ghaffari and Arnaud Hug.

Élections municipales à Westmount

L'élection des conseiller.es pour les districts 1, 2, 5, 7 et 8 aura lieu le **dimanche 7 novembre**. Pour voter, votre nom doit paraître sur la liste électorale. Lisez attentivement l'avis qui vous a été expédié par la poste. Si les informations sont incomplètes ou inexactes, vous devez vous présenter devant la commission de révision au 4333, rue Sherbrooke O., le **jeudi 21 octobre** de 14 h 30 à 22 h ou le **lundi 25 octobre** de 10 h à 17 h 30. Plus de détails à westmount.org/vote.

Passeport vaccinal COVID-19

Vous devez présenter une preuve de vaccination contre la COVID-19 pour avoir accès à certaines activités au Centre des loisirs de Westmount, à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount et au centre Victoria Hall. westmount.org.

Dépôt pour résidus de jardin du ch. Belvédère ouvert aux entrepreneurs

Le dépôt du ch. Belvédère sera ouvert aux entrepreneurs détenant un permis de la Ville **jusqu'au vendredi 19 novembre**. Horaire : 7 h à 16 h, tous les jours. Consultez la liste de matières acceptées à westmount.org.

Fermeture de l'eau dans les parcs

À partir du 14 octobre, la Ville procède à la fermeture des fontaines à eau et des jeux d'eau dans les parcs. L'approvisionnement en eau des jardins communautaires sera fermé également pour la saison.

Abonnez-vous au bulletin E-Westmount

Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org pour recevoir les nouvelles municipales par courriel.

Westmount municipal election

The election of councillors for Districts 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 will be held on **Sunday, November 7th**. To be able to vote, your name must appear on the voter list. Read the notice that was sent to you by mail. If the details on the notice are incomplete or inaccurate, you should appear before the Board of revisors at 4333 Sherbrooke St. W. on **Thursday, October 21st**, 2:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., or **Monday, October 25th**, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. More details at westmount.org/vote.

COVID-19 vaccination passport

You must present proof of vaccination against COVID-19 to have access to some activities at the Westmount Recreation Centre, the Westmount Public Library, and Victoria Hall. westmount.org.

Belvedere Rd. garden waste depot open to contractors

The Belvedere depot will be open to landscaping contractors with a City permit **until Friday, November 19th**. Hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Consult the list of accepted materials at westmount.org.

Closure of the water supply in parks

Beginning October 14th, the City is shutting off the water for fountains and splash pads in the parks. The water supply for the community gardens will also be turned off for the season.

Sign up for the E-Westmount newsletter

Sign up at westmount.org to receive City news and announcements by email.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Nouvelle phase de réouverture

Les documents suivants sont requis pour entrer à la Bibliothèque :

- carte de membre valide
- passeport vaccinal (13 ans et +)
- pièce d'identité avec photo (13 ans et +)

Vous devez accepter les exigences et conditions avant de vous présenter. westlib.org

Besoin d'aide pour votre preuve de vaccination COVID-19?

Les abonnés peuvent recevoir de l'aide pour télécharger l'appli VaxiCode ou imprimer leur preuve de vaccination. Utilisez le formulaire à westlib.org ou appelez au 514 989-5355.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Jusqu'au 8 novembre. Œuvres d'Anabel Burin, Sharzad Ghaffari et Arnaud Hug. Horaire : lundi à vendredi, 10 h à 19 h; samedi, 9 h à 17 h. Passeport vaccinal requis.

Concours de décoration de citrouilles

Fais preuve de créativité! Décore une citrouille chez toi (la sculpture est autorisée cette année), mets ton costume d'Halloween, prends une photo avec ta citrouille et envoie-la à wwayling@westmount.org. Nous afficherons vos photos sur notre page Instagram.

Soirée pub quiz : édition Halloween

Samedi 30 octobre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Venez en équipe participer à une soirée effrayante de jeux-questionnaires sur le thème de l'Halloween! Entrée gratuite; prix à gagner. Inscription et passeport vaccinal requis. westmount.org.

Concert : Univers Enchantés

Mercredi 3 novembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Chloé Dominguez (violoncelle) et Janelle Fung (piano) présentent des œuvres de Stravinsky, Mozart et Chopin. En collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Inscription et passeport vaccinal obligatoires. westmount.org

Artisans Westmount 2021

Samedi et dimanche 13 et 14 novembre, Victoria Hall. Réservez la date.

LIBRARY

Next phase of Library reopening

The following documents are required to enter the Library:

- valid membership card
- vaccine passport (ages 13+)
- photo ID (ages 13+)

You must agree to the requirements and conditions prior to your arrival. westlib.org

Do you need help with your COVID-19 proof of vaccination?

Library members can phone 514 989-5355 or use the form at westlib.org to obtain assistance downloading the VaxiCode app or printing their proof of vaccination.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition

Until November 8th. Works by artists Anabel Burin, Sharzad Ghaffari and Arnaud Hug. Open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vaccination passport required.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Get creative! Decorate a pumpkin at home (carving allowed this year), put your Halloween costume on, take a photo with your pumpkin and send it to wwayling@westmount.org. We'll post your photos on our Instagram page.

Pub Quiz: Halloween Edition

Saturday, October 30th, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Join others for a spooky night testing your Halloween trivia skills! Free admission; prizes; registration and vaccination passport required. westmount.org.

Concert: Univers Enchantés

Wednesday, November 3rd, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Chloé Dominguez, cello et Janelle Fung, piano, present works by Stravinsky, Mozart and Chopin. In collaboration with the Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Registration and vaccination passport required. westmount.org.

Artisans Westmount 2021

Saturday and Sunday, November 13th & 14th, Victoria Hall. Save the date.

Police Report

Honda SUV stolen from Melville/ St. Catherine parking spot

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Sometime between early afternoon on October 11 to 8 am on October 12, a black Honda SUV parked near the corner St. Catherine St. and Melville Ave. was stolen from its on-street parking spot.

According to a police incident report filed by investigators at Station 12 on Stanton St., the late model car's owner had parked at 2 pm on October 11 on the street

near his home address.

"In the morning when the plaintiff woke up, the car was gone," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

The vehicle was not equipped with a GPS tracking system, which could have helped locate it. No broken glass was found on the ground around the spot where the car had been parked, suggesting it was not broken into before being driven off.

3-2 loss to Pierrefonds

Westmount Wings play first hockey game since pandemic's beginning

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Atom AA Westmount Wings fell to the Pierrefonds Barracudas by a score of 3-2 on October 16 during the hockey team's first inter-city hockey match of the 2021-22 season.

For the nine and 10-year-old players, it was also the first game since the beginning of the COVID pandemic more than a year-and-a-half ago. Still, they played well and almost matched the Barracudas, who hadn't been out of action nearly as long.

"We only had three weeks of practice," head coach Shayne Jackson said in an interview with the *Independent* following the game, adding that the Wings "were grinding them hard" while out on the ice with the opponents.

Jackson said the Wings all performed exceptionally well. "They will literally run through a wall for me and I am really proud of every single one of them. They played really hard."

According to the coach, the Barracudas had played in several tournaments since the beginning of last year, providing them with an edge against the Wings.

It was also the first inter-city hockey game held at the Westmount recreation centre since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

See photo on p. 1.

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

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Demyttenaere named Warriors’ player of the month

Westmounter Juliette Demyttenaere, 13, was chosen as September’s player of month by the Warriors hockey organization. It is composed of three competitive girls’ teams (U13, U15 and U18) coming from a large area covering Valleyfield to Outremont.

In the past, Westmount has not had a competitive girls’ team because there were “not enough girls,” proud mum Audrey Lovett told the *Independent* by phone October 13. For this reason, Demyttenaere played Westmount boys’ Pee wee BB hockey in 2019-2020, and then tried out for the War-

riors and succeeded in the last two years. (Last year’s season was almost non-existent due to the pandemic.) Eighteen of about 50 candidates made the Warriors’ U15 AAA squad this year, including Demyttenaere and her fellow Westmounter and longtime friend Olivia Lee.



SCREEN GRAB COURTESY OF A. LOVETT.



From left, Juliette Demyttenaere and Olivia Lee in 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT’S SPORTS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Autumn beauty



Left, this photo was taken near Summit Woods October 14. Right, leaves photographed October 10 on Sherbrooke St. outside the YMCA. PHOTO COURTESY OF NIGEL GODDARD (LEFT) AND PHOTO BY RALPH THOMPSON (RIGHT).

Community foundations offer tax breaks, philanthropy expert tells Rotarians

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

At age 84, John Gallop's experience in philanthropy in Montreal goes way back. At the same time, the retired Westmounter, who was a financial services advisor, remains an ardent believer in community foundations.

Gallop, who was associated for many years with Red Feather social services and now works closely on philanthropic causes with the Foundation of Greater Montreal, retired eight years ago following a career in the management of investment portfolios.

In a webcast talk on community foundations to the Rotary Club of Westmount on October 13, he explained some of the differences between community foundations, which pool together donated money into a coordinated fund dedicated to social improvements, and private foundations, which are endowed for the same purpose, but by families or individuals.

"It works like a mutual fund," he said of the former. "Each of the donors puts capital in, but retains control on how the



John Gallop, a retired investment advisor and community foundations expert, is seen here during the Rotary Club of Westmount's October 13 webcast.

funds in each part of the pool are used."

Although the donor receives a tax receipt and the funds belong to the community foundation, the donor controls how the money is spent because it is a "donor-advised fund," he added.

While Canada's first community foundation was established in Winnipeg in the early 1920s, Gallop said Montreal was much slower to get off the mark. It was only in relatively recent years that organizers finally decided to create a community foundation here.

Although Centraide was created in 1975 to bring together several fund-raising federations in the Montreal region (including Red Feather), Gallop said, "The focus of Centraide was social affairs, and there are lots of other parts of the charity community that are not directly touched."

These, he said, include arts and culture, sports and the environment, "and a community foundation could wrap all of those things up. But there was no comparable city-wide organization that was prepared to do that."

According to Gallop, it took efforts starting in the mid-1990s by two of the largest private foundations in Montreal at the time (the McConnell Foundation and the Chagnon Foundation) to create the Foundation of Greater Montreal.

Elaborating on the differences between community and private foundations, he described the latter as "really a vehicle that is only accessible to the very wealthy," adding that typically at least a few million dollars are needed going in to justify the legal set-up and annual operating costs.

He said this contrasts with setting up a community foundation endowment fund, which "you literally could do in a day or a week," while potentially generating significant tax savings in a short period of time.

"There is no cost to set it up. There is no cost to operate it, other than a management fee based on the value of the assets in your endowment fund. So, it's readily accessible. A practical minimum to set up an endowment fund is \$25,000, but you can actually start even smaller than that with the expectation of building it up."

While some people make a one-time contribution to their endowment fund, Gallop said others, like himself, start small and use the fund to support a variety of causes, adding a little every year.

"The concept is so good that the financial industry jumped on it," he said, noting that Fidelity Investments set up a special division to assure they would not lose assets to community foundations. As such, they offer clients the ability to transfer a portion of personal investment funds into a Fidelity Foundation account.

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*Westmount
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

At eight months of puppyhood, Billie is so charming! A darling black-and-white Aussie doodle with huge brown eyes, he melts hearts and makes everyone laugh.

Billie is presently in foster care for the grassroots volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. He is so smart, a fast learner and an active companion.

As a working and herding dog type, Billie is keen on everything an active family with older children can share with him: agility training, frisbee, hiking, running and horsing around in the back yard.

Adorable Billie

Another young active doggie buddy would be a welcome playmate also.

Billie is a cuddly pup, looking forward to affection and attention as a loyal friend to all. As part of socialization in his age group, leash walk training is ongoing, as he is exuberant in greeting everyone and everything.

Billie is very healthy, up to date with his vaccinations, neutered and microchipped. He is a fast learner, and he is house-trained and very good at play in a home backyard.

You can find out more about Billie and have a peek at the photograph album of him by referring to the rescue's information page for his adoption on their website www.gerdysrescue.org and contacting them at their email info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Hugging each other, playing, grooming – there is so much to this precious duo of sibling kittens. We have blond brother Cookie to the left and grey sister Camelia to the right.

So young, yet so bonded. Cookie and Camelia are in foster care for the volunteer animal rescue group SPCA Montréal. Cookie is a quiet little lion with white slippers, enjoying big snoozes on the cat tree in their foster home while Camelia is an energetic and playful pearl-grey and white cuddler, jostling her brother for a spot of their cat tree as well.

They are both very healthy, up to date with their inoculation and treatment programs for their young age, and sterilized. Their favourite toys are balls with bells and softies to chase and hide, purring and watching everything that moves.

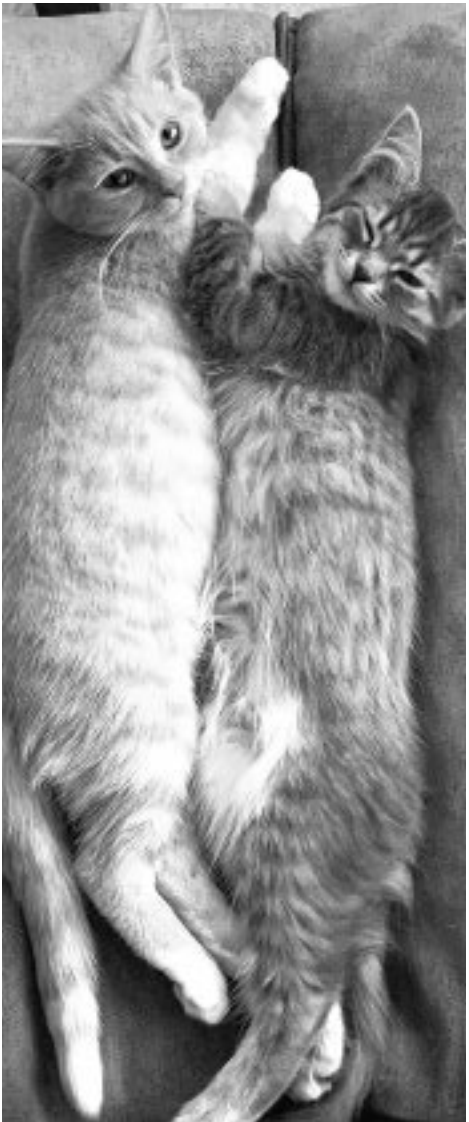
Please refer to the SPCA Montréal website for more information on Cookie and Camelia, then do not hesitate to write to them at adoptionpcamontreal@gmail.com, presenting your thoughts on how they would fit in so beautifully in your family and home life.

Since they are in foster care because of their young age, they are not at the SPCA Montréal cattery at its 178 chemin du Vide shelter location in St. Angèle de Monnoir at the moment so best to write to make arrangements for visits.

2022 SPCA calendars are out

I was at Little Bear this week and, yes, the 2022 SPCA Montréal colourful pet photograph calendars are available for our new year's planning and holiday gifting. They are \$10 each as a donation to the shelter for their rescue animal care fund. Please drop by Little Bear as I did at 4152

Brother Cookie and sister Camelia kittens



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WESTMOUNT

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



AVIS PUBLIC DU SCRUTIN

Par cet **AVIS PUBLIC**, Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard, président d'élection, annonce les éléments suivants aux électrices et aux électeurs inscrits sur la liste électorale municipale que :

- Un scrutin sera tenu;
- Les personnes candidates pour les postes ci-après mentionnés sont :
Poste de conseillère ou de conseiller – District 1
 - Antonio D'AMICO, résidant au 18, ch Edgehill
 - Marcy KATZ, résidant au 3737, The Boulevard
 - Jane SILVERSTONE SEGAL, résidant au 5, av Murray**Poste de conseillère ou de conseiller – District 2**
 - Elisabeth ROUX, résidant au 62, Forden Crescent
 - Paola SAMUEL, résidant au 239, av Clarke**Poste de conseillère ou de conseiller – District 5**
 - Anitra BOSTOCK, résidant au 488, av Victoria
 - Liz McCALLUM, résidant au 4864, rue Sainte-Catherine O**Poste de conseillère ou de conseiller – District 7**
 - Matt ARONSON, résidant au 231, av Melville
 - Neil HOPLEY, résidant au 112, av Abbott**Poste de conseillère ou de conseiller – District 8**
 - Kathleen KEZ, résidant au 4144, boul Dorchester
 - Michael MOSSOP, résidant au 55, av Columbia
- Vous pourrez exercer votre droit de vote en vous présentant au bureau de vote qui vous sera assigné, entre 9 h 30 et 20 h, aux dates, aux lieux et en vertu des districts suivants :

JOUR DU SCRUTIN : **DIMANCHE 7 NOVEMBRE 2021**

District	Lieu de votation	Adresse
1 et 2	École primaire Roslyn	4699, av Westmount, Westmount, QC H3Y 1X5
5	Centre communautaire Victoria Hall	4626, rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount, QC H3Z 1G1
7 et 8	Centre communautaire de l'avenue Greene	1090, av Greene, Westmount, QC H3Z 1Z9

JOURS DE VOTE PAR ANTICIPATION : **DIMANCHE 31 OCTOBRE 2021 et
LUNDI 1ER NOVEMBRE 2021**

District	Lieu de votation	Adresse
1	Centre des loisirs de Westmount (entrée par le stationnement)	4675, rue Sainte-Catherine O, Westmount, QC H3Z 1S4
2 et 5	Centre communautaire Victoria Hall	4626, rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount, QC H3Z 1G1
7 et 8	Centre communautaire de l'avenue Greene	1090, av Greene, Westmount, QC H3Z 1Z9

- Vous devrez porter un couvre-visage à l'intérieur des lieux de vote;
- Vous pouvez apporter un crayon de plomb ou un stylo à l'encre bleu ou noir pour marquer votre bulletin de vote;
- Si vous êtes inscrite ou inscrit au vote par correspondance :
 - Le président d'élection doit avoir reçu vos bulletins de vote au plus tard le vendredi 5 novembre à 16 h 30;
 - Si vous n'avez pas reçu vos bulletins de vote quelques jours après votre demande, vous pourrez communiquer avec le président d'élection pour en recevoir de nouveaux.
- Vous pouvez assister au recensement des votes qui sera effectué le 7 novembre 2021 à 21 h 30 au Centre communautaire Victoria Hall, au 4626 rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1G1. Suite au recensement, les résultats de l'élection seront mis en ligne à westmount.org/resultatselection

Bureau du président d'élection
4333, rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount, QC H3Z 1E2
514 989-5280 • elections@westmount.org

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 19 octobre 2021.

*Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités, art. 171; Règlement sur le vote par correspondance, art. 6.
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.*

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE POLL

By this **PUBLIC NOTICE**, Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard, returning officer, announces the following to electors entered on the municipal list of electors that:

- A poll will be held.
- The candidates for the seats listed below are:
Councillor seat – District 1
 - Antonio D'AMICO, residing at 18 Edgehill Rd.
 - Marcy KATZ, residing at 3737 The Boulevard
 - Jane SILVERSTONE SEGAL, residing at 5 Murray Ave.**Councillor seat – District 2**
 - Elisabeth ROUX, residing at 62 Forden Crescent
 - Paola SAMUEL, residing at 239 Clarke Ave.**Councillor seat – District 5**
 - Anitra BOSTOCK, residing at 488 Victoria Ave.
 - Liz McCALLUM, residing at 4864 Sainte-Catherine St. W**Councillor seat – District 7**
 - Matt ARONSON, residing at 231 Melville Ave.
 - Neil HOPLEY, residing at 112 Abbott Ave.**Councillor seat – District 8**
 - Kathleen KEZ, residing at 4144 Dorchester Blvd.
 - Michael MOSSOP, residing at 55 Columbia Ave.
- You may exercise your voting right by presenting yourself to your assigned polling station between 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the dates, locations, and under the following districts:

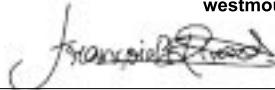
POLLING DAY: **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

District	Polling place	Adresse
1 and 2	Roslyn Elementary School	4699 Westmount Ave., Westmount, QC H3Y 1X5
5	Victoria Hall Community Centre	4626 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount, QC H3Z 1G1
7 and 8	Greene Avenue Community Centre	1090 Greene Ave., Westmount, QC H3Z 1Z9

ADVANCE POLL DAYS: **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021, and
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

District	Polling place	Address
1	Westmount Recreation Centre (entry through the parking lot)	4675 Sainte-Catherine St. W, Westmount, QC H3Z 1S4
2 and 5	Victoria Hall Community Centre	4626 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount, QC H3Z 1G1
7 and 8	Greene Avenue Community Centre	1090 Greene Ave., Westmount, QC H3Z 1Z9

- You will be required to wear a face covering inside the polling places;
- You may bring a pencil or pen with blue or black ink to mark your ballot paper;
- If you are registered to vote by mail:
 - The returning officer must have received your ballot papers not later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021;
 - If you have not received your ballot papers a few days after you made the request, you can contact the returning officer to obtain new ones.
- You may attend the addition of the votes, which will be held on November 7, 2021, at 9:30 p.m., at Victoria Hall Community Centre, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W, Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1G1. Following the addition, the results of the election will be posted online at westmount.org/electionresults


Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard
Président d'élection | Returning officer

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

ISSUED in Westmount on October 19, 2021.

*Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, s. 171; Regulation respecting voting by mail, s. 6.
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.*



The homeless encampment under Highway 136/720 is back, as seen October 15 from Atwater. It was gone when the *Independent* checked in June of last year (see July 7, 2020, p. 30) and occupied two years ago (see June 18, 2019, p. 15).

Vaccine passports not a problem for the homeless, say shelter operators

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While some homeless shelter operators were initially concerned about the impact that vaccine passports would have on the homeless, the directors of two Montreal shelters agree that most issues regarding the homeless and vaccine passports have been worked out.

Early last month as the Quebec government was launching its vaccine passport program, the Old Brewery Mission issued a statement expressing concern that the homeless could find themselves facing restrictions because of the passports.

Although the government decided to exempt the homeless from having to show a passport for many non-essential services, Old Brewery Mission CEO James Hughes noted that the difference between “essential” and “non-essential” was not clearly defined.

In an interview with the *Independent*, Hughes said the exemption question was one of several issues the mission was initially concerned about. “Our business at Old Brewery Mission is to solve homelessness and we do that by helping people get housing,” he said.

“The last thing we wanted to see was a landlord saying you can’t see the dwelling, you can’t rent an apartment, without showing your passport. So, we clarified that with the provincial government and they have made very clear that housing of all kinds – including temporary housing, transitional housing and permanent housing – are essential services, so the passport is not required.”

The Quebec health ministry also confirmed that homeless people are not required to present a vaccine passport at non-essential services such as restaurants, film theatres, food courts and other ser-

vices.

“We’ve heard no complaints so far,” said Hughes, adding that the food and beverage sectors appear to have been receptive to the ruling.

Hughes said teams at the Old Brewery Mission have been printing out vaccine passports at two points of service for individuals without a cell phone or phone plan, while also accompanying people to CLSCs to help them obtain proof of vaccination.

‘So far so good’

Sam Watts, CEO of the Welcome Hall Mission, agreed that vaccine passports have not developed into an issue for Montreal’s homeless population. “In most cases, the services that are needed by people experiencing homelessness do not require a passport,” he said in an e-mail response to questions from the *Independent*.

“This has been raised as a ‘concern’ in

the past, but we have not yet encountered any verifiable occasions where service was denied to a person experiencing homelessness by virtue of the absence of documentation or a passport ... If there is an incident where service is refused, I suspect we would hear about it. In other words, so far so good.”

According to Watts, the Welcome Hall Mission has been supplying laminated cards to vaccinated clients, offering a proof of vaccination for them. He said the mission is currently advocating strongly for the establishment of recurring funding to address the needs of people.

“We adhere to the 24/7 principle – services need to be available 365 days a year and 24/7 to be effective,” he continued. “A ‘day centre’ that closes at 3 pm can create instability rather than resolve needs for those living precariously. There are better ways to serve people in need.”



The homeless encampment under Highway 136/720 stretches all the way to the Greene Ave. overpasses, as seen from Selby Park on October 18. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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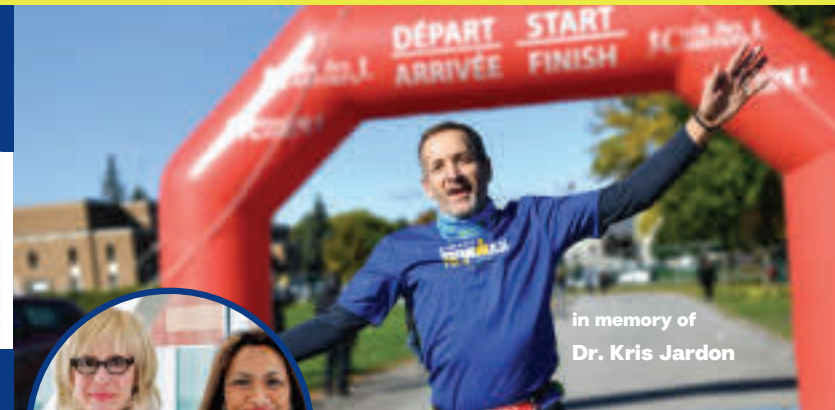


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Retail Review

VERONICA READGRAVE

Greene Ave. is changing. Rapidly.

Now supplementing last year's opening of a pretty ice-cream parlour are a just-opened contemporary art gallery and a wonderful luxury emporium. Gallery S16 and Maison Westmount actually have the same owner. Smart.

Not only can the sites cross-promote but they are complementary. Let's start with Gallery S16. As I admired the marble counter espresso bar – cool! – Mike Bukacheski gave me a tour.

"We were formerly Station 16 on St. Laurent. The building sold but we have continued with a gallery on St. Paul in Old Montreal and now Greene."

The exhibits are still rooted in street art, so the work is dynamic, witty and brilliant – in more ways than one.

There are riffs on shiny Jeff Koons balloon dogs by Joe Suzuki, whose vivid enamel paint streaks add a new look and feel to the recognizable shapes. Lyle Owerko's boom boxes fill the frame with their happy hues.

Other artists include Mr. Brainwash,

Gallery S16 takes over Bistro's former space



Mike Bukacheski.

Stikki Peaches, Damien Hirst and KAWS – the artist whose appropriation of pop culture icons made him an international star.

A tiny bit of the fun visiting this great new space is its site: the former site of Bistro on the Avenue. Although the S16 team has transformed the space into a wonderful white cube, beckoning from a back corridor are tiny black-and-white floor tiles that recall a bygone era.

Indeed, times have changed. S16 adds energy and excitement. "We plan to have a new show every two months. Our official launch in November will be curated by sales director Grégory Cancé."

Already part of the neighbourhood vibe, S16 will offer coffee and pastries: tasteful bites as one takes in food for the soul.

The link with its "sister store" just down the street is subtle, but clever. Perhaps you like the cups from which you sipped your coffee at S16? They are available at Maison Westmount, which will – of course – show the art of S16. Read about it next week.

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Remembering Andrew Lui, artist & gallerist

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

Often noted strolling on Greene Ave., Andrew Lui struck a dapper figure. Eccentrically elegant and elegantly eccentric, he often wore a bowler hat and was always smiling. Sadly, Andrew has just passed away.

The local res was owner of Westmount's Gallery Han as well as a renowned artist. Often, I was invited to his studio, where I revelled in the pleasure of watching him create with *sprezzatura*. This Italian description of making difficult things look effortless was apt: Lui was classically trained in Florence.

"He was such a gentle man and a gentleman," shared long time Westmount resident Howard Hoppenheim upon hearing the news. "We met in 2008 and occupied [commercial] space in the same building at Greene and St. Catherine. He would always want me to share his wine with him and could not believe that I was a non drinker!"

Lui's eloquent calligraphic works are in international museums as well as corporate and private collections. With gestural brushstrokes evocative of his Chinese heritage, his colourful art sold out in galleries around the world. Some collectors saw rearing horses; many simply loved the joy.

We miss your joy already.

Andrew Lui with his "The Arrival of The Queen of Sheba II" in early 2011. PHOTO: HEATHER BLACK.



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Cooke edits McGill’s bicentenary A–Z pop-up book

By JENNIFER BALL

McGill University in Montreal has the enviable international moniker “Harvard of the North.” Included among the famous “McGillians” are James Naismith (BA 1887), Burt Bacharach (AMus’48, DMus’72) and Leonard Cohen (BA’55, DLitt’92).

This year marks McGill’s bicentennial anniversary and to observe the occasion, its Rare Books & Special Collections division has published *Amaze – A McGill A to Z Experience*. With design by Greg Houston and Sam Smyth, the book offers wonders that inspire readers to interact with McGill’s remarkable collections.

26 curios

The editors have brought 26 curios and affixed them to a letter from the alphabet that can pop up or wheel whimsically, thanks to the artistry of paper engineers.

“We were thinking about an alphabet book as something that would be fun and playful, and we had the ambition that we could do a pop-up book,” Nathalie Cooke, the project’s executive editor and long-time Westmount resident, advised.

“It’s difficult to do a pop-up book. It adds the element that we needed a paper engineer. We wanted to make a playful



Nathalie Cooke, *Amaze – A McGill A to Z Experience* and the letter J.

book, most of all.”

It took the project team three months of looking at different paper engineers and pop-up artists until they settled on Paper-smyths of the UK. Very few of Paper-smyths’ competitors were willing to take the book from start to finish and to see it through to printing.

A husband-and-wife team, Alison and Iain Smyth also had a trusted associate who was brought in to design the book’s cover. He was introduced as just “Sam,” Cooke said, “and when we realized that his last name was Smyth, it became clear that we were dealing with a very talented son.”

Assemblages amassed over two centuries do result in quite the trove. There

are more than 250,000 artifacts in the McGill collections and so the editors chose milestone moments in the evolution of the university to help with the contraction.

While images of convocations, the evolution of the martlet emblem, a 200-year-old Columbian printing press and yearbooks curve majestically through the pages, the sporting life graduates *summa cum laude*.

James Naismith played rugby-football and took over as director of physical training at McGill in 1889, before inventing a diversion in 1891 that is now known as basketball. “McGill is very proud of its role in the development of sports. There is a little debate around this because basketball may not have been invented at McGill, but

McGill had an important role to play.”

“What learning can happen when libraries play” is the book’s bold conceit.

McGill students would surely agree that clichés of libraries as musty, austere spaces, where owl ladies tut-tut at the slightest sound, needs to be retired. When the new McGill library opens – the plans will be unveiled soon – it will be a transformative place. Light, airy and welcoming. Where podcasts are just as likely to be recorded and Zoom meetings transpire as the probing of a book’s pages would.

The book can be purchased for \$49.99 directly from ROAAr, by emailing rare books.library@mcgill.ca, or through Le James, the McGill university bookstore.

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