

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 15 No. 10d

We are Westmount

October 26, 2021

Feature in Westmount Park open until October 31

Hallowe'en mystery walk through 'enchanted' forest

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Something new for families this Hallowe'en is an interactive Enchanted Forest Mystery Walk similar to a scavenger hunt in which participants move to 11 clue loca-

Reminder

Municipal election early polling
Sunday, October 31 & Monday,
November 1 – 9:30 am to 8 pm

District 1: Westmount recreation centre

District 2 & 5: Victoria Hall

District 7 & 8: Centre Greene

tions in Westmount Park.

Planned by Westmount Public Library, it takes place between October 20 and 31.

While anyone can do the walk and play the game following instructions on the library's website, those with membership cards will be eligible to enter it officially and win a prize by picking up a loot bag at the children's department.

The bags contain treats, a "spooky" craft and a mini-flashlight to guide children and those accompanying them through the "enchanted" forest as darkness sets in – even though the park is lighted, according to children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

continued on p. 19

St. Matthias' first post-COVID Christening

Proud parents Stephen Pym and Laura McIernon sitting on the front steps of their home on Mountain Ave. October 23, as dog Archie looks at the newcomer to the family, Lilah Pym, who had just been baptized at St. Matthias' Anglican Church, the first Christening there since the start of COVID.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Newest phase of re-opening starts November 1

Library replaces curbside service with inside self-service

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Self-service is to be launched November 1 for picking up reserved material at the Westmount Public Library. This replaces the COVID curbside service in the most recent step in the library's gradual re-opening.

As a result, when reservations are placed, the material will be set aside across

from the main (circulation) desk on shelves and designated by the first three letters of a member's family name, followed by the last four digits of their library card, library director Julie-Anne Cardella said last week.

The material can then be taken to a service counter to be checked out. An express check-out station will be staffed "if it gets very *continued on p. 4*



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CONDOS & TOWNHOMES

PRESTI



Pandemic causes haunted house to stay 'closed'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the second consecutive Halloween of pandemic safe distancing, the city's traditional haunted house at the Lawn Bowling Club's clubhouse will remain without ghouls and goblins on October 31.

"The line-ups and the space inside are too tight," explained Greg McBain, director of Public Security, which typically plans, creates and manages the attraction that has had different themes for each of some 15 years.

"We'll be out with extra patrols on Halloween night to ensure safety," he said, adding that trick-or-treaters should use flashlights, stay on sidewalks and cross streets at intersections. Younger ones should always be accompanied by a grown-up and wear costumes that do not inhibit their visibility or cause them to trip on steps.

Gas leak on Mount Stephen hits during school rush-hour

A gas leak October 19 on Mount Stephen caused the block south of Côte St. Antoine to be closed to traffic, Public Security officials said. Officers received a call from police at 2:49 pm to assist in blocking streets just as students from

Akiva and Selwyn House schools were starting to leave for the day. The incident was caused by a city contractor doing excavation on Mount Stephen.

Dog walker ticketed after previous warnings

A woman playing ball with her dog in Westmount Park October 17 was ticketed \$225 for allowing the dog to go off leash, Public Security officials said. Spotted at 9:14 am, she was reported to have been warned about violating the dog by-law on previous occasions over the last three months as well as last year.



Mt. Stephen on October 22. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Passer-by stops to help person passed out

A cyclist stopped to help someone lying on the ground outside the Hydro Westmount station on Glen Rd. October 17, according to Public Security. The two were spotted at 6:10 am by a patroller. The victim, described only as a "girl," appeared to have passed out and did not respond to voice or touch.

The passer-by had already used her phone to contact her home and a person there arrived on the scene. The victim was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé and no other details were available.

DON'T MISS OUR PULL-OUT

Spotlight

real estate section after p. 12

September real estate by Andy Dodge, p. SL-3

Permits, p. SL-10

Retail Watch, p. SL-16

House History by Andy Dodge: Weredale House, p. SL-20

Westmount



8 Belvedere: Back on the market! Detached, views, three stories, large lot.
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Letters, p. 6

Police Report, p. 12

EcoWatch: Questions for candidates, p. 17

Pet Page, p. 18

Retail Review: Maison Westmount, p. 21



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NDG – 6535 Duncan

Library, cont'd from p. 1

busy.”

The need for the curbside pick-up is no longer needed, she contended, now that the library is fully accessible by mask-wearing members able to show up-to-date membership cards, vaccination passports and identification cards (see story October 12, p. 9).

As well, in order to observe safe-distancing requirements, staff at the circulation desk have been reduced and will likely not be available to hand over the reserved material directly, Cardella said.

The library is also hoping to have “its own” uniformed public safety officer checking out entrance requirements. This is required since some members are still opposing the need to show vaccination passports or wear masks as required, she explained.

More people coming

“I’m happy to report that we are starting to have more people coming into the library than initially during our gradual reopening.

“The library has proceeded cautiously. The big thing was that we didn’t want to

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Polling Day / Jour du vote :
7 Nov
Victoria Hall

anitrabostock@gmail.com  Anita Bostock - District 5
Authorised by Kathleen Roger official agent / Autorisé par Kathleen Roger agent officiel

The self-service counter. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

take two steps forward and then one step back” as various stages of the pandemic unfolded.

To respect social distancing, the library now has five of its 15 computers in use. As previously announced, some services are still not available such as puzzles, photocopying, study rooms, walk-in use of the Westmount Room and various other services.

“Instead of receiving your reserved items from our welcome attendant at the door, they can now be picked up at any time during your visit,” once a notice of their availability has been received by email or phone, Cardella said.

Metro permit decision expected in December

Process under way to remedy noisy ventilation units: city DG Hakim

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents near the Metro grocery store at Sherbrooke and Victoria may expect news at the December council meeting leading to the elimination of noise emanating from one or more ventilation units installed some six months ago on the roof during renovations.

That’s the timeline expected for a permit to be approved for construction of an enclosure of the units, said city director general Hadi Hakim at the October 4 council meeting. He was responding to a question from Conor Sampson of Grosvenor just south of Sherbrooke, one of the residents affected.

The “invasive noise” from the collection of mechanical units, Sampson stated, has been voiced to the city for more than six months, including sound readings taken by Public Security after complaints. These registered above the limit allowed by the city’s noise by-law.

While the city is very quick to act regarding noisy leaf blowers, Samson said, Hakim explained that this situation involves a construction permit for which the

city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is involved.

“You’ve been so patient,” District 5 councillor Marina Brzeski told Sampson. “What this raises is the duration of time it takes to turn around something like this,” she said.

In reviewing this case, Hakim said, “One of the things we realized,” is the noise by-law dates from 11 years ago and requires review. As well, the PAC process also needs to be looked at.

Given that the next PAC meeting won’t take place until November 16, the earliest the permit could be recommended for approval by the newly elected council is at its meeting in December.

Process too lengthy

“The point is that there has been a noise violation identified six months ago and the process has taken too long,” Brzeski told the *Independent* last week. She said that she is advocating for a standardized process with clearly documented requirements for approving such a permit.

Sampson also told the *Independent* last week he understands an application for a permit had been submitted some time ago

but needed additional documentation. “I’m delighted the project is moving forward. I just hope the work can get done before the snow.”

Among residents most affected are those closest to the Metro including the houses that back onto it as well as those across the street on Grosvenor and in the apartment building at the southwest corner at Sherbrooke.

Robert Dorey, whose home backs onto the Metro building, asked for a clearer ex-

planation, saying “we’re coming up to six months,” to which Brzeski said the delay was “not (Metro’s) unwillingness to comply” but was more the process of putting documentation together that in future may have to go through the administration rather than the PAC.

When asked about possible penalties for the noise, Mayor Christina Smith replied that in this case it was about a mechanical unit “atop a building providing an essential service.”



The roof of the Metro supermarket on October 24.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNDER-40 COUNCILLOR CHAMPIONED STAYNER PARK'S CREATION

As a point of trivia, Philip Cutler may be the youngest person to serve on council, but he is not correct in his statement of no Westmount councillors ever being under the age of 40 (October 12, p. 9).

My husband, Douglas Robertson, was elected to council in 1969 at the age of 31 and served two terms. His lasting legacy is Stayner Park – in 1969, an abandoned lot where a school had once been – built largely and designed by the community (District 8), for which we received a Governor General's prize, which has since been lost.

HONOR ROBERTSON, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

MOW LESS, MORE BUTTERFLIES

I was delighted to learn in the October 12 issue of the *Independent* (p. 26) that the city of Westmount has recently committed to "protect monarch butterflies" at its August 2 council meeting.

This symbolic step reflects at a local level our national consensus on climate change. And if anyone has a responsibility to act on climate change, we Westmounters do. To paraphrase Spider-Man: "With great privilege comes great responsibility."

Oftentimes, public discourse on climate action is limited to dreaded figures. They



lead us to forget that planet-saving and cost-cutting actions are in our grasp. We need only think outside of the box.

I, for one, am a big fan of the creative actions taken by our neighbours in Montreal's South-West borough. Moving beyond traditional green lawns, the borough has acted by letting beautiful wildflowers grow instead of grass, as seen in this picture.

How do they do this? It's simple and cost saving: they simply refrain from cutting the grass except for once every year in public spaces not used for play.

This approach not only beautifies the city, it also increases biodiversity and reduces the borough's greenhouse-gas footprint (no lawn-mowing). This fallow ground is exactly what monarchs need to reproduce, as their favourite plant – milkweed – grows in uncut lawns.

So what's the catch? We, all of us Westmounters, and our brave leaders must make an uncomfortable leap toward ac-

cepting wildflowers (think asters, goldenrod, milkweed and so many more) as beautiful additions to our landscapes rather than as weeds. Or we can continue to bury our heads in the grass.

Are you really, truly ready to stop and smell the milkweed with our monarch friends? What do our candidates think: Mow and fewer butterflies, or less mowing and more butterflies?

DAVID SEARLE, KENSINGTON AVE.

REFILL & CO CAN LOWER CITY'S RECYCLING/GARBAGE VOLUME

I thank you for your article on October 12 (p. 17) about the new Refill & Co store in Victoria village. While the article gave a good overview of the store, it omitted the incredible value a store like this brings to the city of Westmount. Ask a city official if they would like to reduce the amount of waste/recycling that goes into the bins to understand my point.

Oil bottles are notoriously difficult to recycle because they have to be squeaky clean from all the oil residue. You can either spend 20 minutes and liters of water washing and rinsing out your oil containers or toss them into the trash.

No longer. You can refill them.

To make our lives a little easier, we keep a separate bag for the Refill store, so when we run out of something – whether it's olive oil, chocolate, nuts, shampoo, conditioner or kombucha – we put the bottle or jar into the bag and about once every week to two weeks, we go to the store to exchange or refill the containers. The staff is really helpful in both finding and refilling products, in French or English.

Organic, local and sustainable olive, canola, camelina oils are all available for refill, along with vinegars and multiple flavours of kombucha. They also have a laundry detergent that's so concentrated you only need one tablespoon per load. I have children, so you know it's been well tested!

Now we're trying the face creams (hand-made and available in returnable containers), almond butter and maple syrup.

The store is not just a beautiful new addition to Westmount, it also serves an essential service to the city in helping us reduce our impact on the environment around us and the city budget.

DARIA MARK, REDFERN AVE.

IS BILL 96 ALREADY THE LAW OF THE PROVINCE?

French is already the predominate language and, sometimes, the only language spoken!

On October 15 after an appointment at Cardiogenix, I wanted to take the Metro

from de la Savane to Vendôme. The time was 12:35 pm.

I asked the man in the Metro kiosk, who had a mask on and was enclosed in plastic, which direction to take to get to Vendôme. I spoke English.

Well, he just looked at me and replied in rapid French. I did not understand a word! (The mask and the plastic enclosure did not help, and my French is not good.)

I showed him my Opus card, thinking that is what he wanted to see. Not so.

He spoke more French. I asked again for directions. He got cross. So did I. He slammed his plastic door down and glared at me.

I was frustrated! There was no one else to ask, as the de la Savane station was empty at the time.

I asked him for "*un morceau du papier, s.v.p.*" He gave me a piece and I wrote, "*A quelle direction est Vendôme?*"

The Metro employee then waved his hand in the direction and demanded payment (I thought I had already paid), and once again slammed his small door down.

I was on my way to Vendôme to connect with a bus, either 24 or 90.

Here, I encountered a very polite lady bus driver. She answered my query – "Did Bus 90 stop at Redfern?" – with a "yes."

The bus stopped at Hillside, and the lady bus driver was kind enough to call out, "Hillside, Redfern!"

I quickly thanked her, and exited the bus.

Many people work for our STM. Some are very helpful and polite. Others are in need of understanding the elderly, most especially the English!

This perhaps explains why more people do not use public transportation.

It seems Bill 96 is already in practice, passed or not by the Quebec assembly!

Thank you for listening to me.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON,
KITCHENER AVE.

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

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Distribution: Tuesday to Friday (longer when interrupted by postal holidays)

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LET'S GET SOME FACTS ON ARTIFICIAL TURF

Parents, grandparents and families in the vicinity of the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) need to have fact-based information on artificial turf.

Those running for council in the area seem* to have taken opposing sides. Kathleen Kez is against: adamantly so.

Allegedly Selwyn House has offered to pay the replacement costs.**

Would it not be a good idea to have a public forum where the artificial turf proponents can present facts on the turf offered today? Researching on the internet (fake news anyone?), I did come across an EPA (US Environmental Protection Agency) acknowledgement that synthetic turf contains toxic chemicals, and needs replacing every 8 to 10 years. Furthermore, I read that the turf contains toxic fluorinated chemicals known as PFAs – microscopic carbon-black particles that children (and actually all of us) can inhale over time.

Obviously, the web is not the best source of scientific facts. And perhaps what I read is already out of date.

All the more reason to have a public meeting where pros and cons can be discussed. Some queries I have, for example, are what happens to “things” dogs leave behind? Seagull droppings?

[Consider] just the joy of children running and feeling real grass; many little ones not only live nearby but also visit the field with their daycare. Or the Westmount High students themselves who have access to this real green haven. I often note them simply sitting there in peaceful groups.

We all already have enough plastic in our homes. Can someone please explain why we need to extend this outdoors to nature?

VERONICA REDGRAVE, HALLOWELL AVE.***

Editor's notes: *I emailed the candidates on October 21 and received replies. In fact,

both District 8 candidates are against artificial turf at the WAG.

**I spoke to Selwyn House School headmaster Mike Downey on October 21 by telephone and this rumour is *not true*. The school did contribute money to re-do the field (in grass) eight years ago (see October 15, 2013, p. 1) and maintained it for a short while afterwards, but its current involvement consists of renting it for about 10 hours per week, plus maintenance of the score board.

During the tenure of previous headmaster Hal Hannaford (2009-2020), the school did offer to artificially turf the field, but the city was “not interested” at that time, said Downey. At present, the school has not re-offered to do so and is “not interested,” he said. “Why spend \$1 to \$1.5 million on something that we do not own?”

***Veronica is also a columnist at the *Independent*. – DP

MORE CHEVRONS, BIKE ICONS, PLEASE

The chevron-style of bike icons act like sergeants' stripes. People take notice. They alert motorists to share the road with cyclists. They appear on Lansdowne Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve, and link to the Lansdowne bike path going south.

Riddle: why not an uninterrupted bike path along this stretch?

While bike icons don't replace the safety of a real bike path, they are better than no designation at all.

Last March, a request was made at a council meeting for bike icons to be painted on Sherbrooke as it crosses Victoria village. This congested stretch is harrowing for cyclists. Speeding motorists rarely accord cyclists the mandatory one-meter safety margin. Truck mirrors whizz by our bike helmets.

Sherbrooke St. is also Highway 138. But a city has risen around this once quieter

route. Safety measures are required. Last winter's request was repeated at the July 5 council, and a promise was made to submit the bike icon proposal to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

TAC is composed of traffic experts, a Public Works engineer, the local police and some councillors. TAC carries a lot of weight. Three months of TAC meetings followed, but the item was never placed on the agenda.

After eight months, at the October 4 council, the mayor wasn't willing to pursue the request. She had heard that painting bike icons on arterial roads is not recommended.

By whom or by what authority? And under what circumstances?

The mayor did not elaborate: could the proscription be appealed when a safety issue is involved?

The councillor representing Public Security reported that a “bigger conversation” was a pre-requisite. What happens in the interval?

Next spring will see a cavalcade of electric gizmos and cyclists on the street. It is unconscionable to not take action to prevent an inevitable accident.

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS HELPED, TWICE

I read your plea in the *Independent* a few weeks ago (September 21, p. 8).

Please feel free to add my name to your list of Westmount residents who benefit from having house transfer reports easily accessible and available in the local newspaper. The information helped with my research when selling my home on Belmont Ave.

I referred to the statistics just recently, when purchasing a home for my daughter.

Thank you for undertaking this endeavour. Good luck!

ROZLYN DRUCKMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

WHY NARROW GREENE? TO CREATE A WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE

I was saddened to read the assessment of Greene Ave. in the letter “Why narrow Greene?” by Anil Singh (October 19, p. 8) after the overwhelming feedback I have received this summer.

As a business owner and resident of Greene, I can assure the writer that the summer *continued on p. 8*

In Loving Memory of Andrew Lui August 4, 1951 - October 6, 2021



It is with deep sadness that we announce that Andrew Lui passed away on October 6, 2021. He will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, Chloe Ng, his children Olympia and Milton Lui, and his many friends and extended family.

Andrew Lui was a brilliant Renaissance man in every sense of the word. An artist, an intellectual, an art dealer, a master calligrapher, an architect, a poet, a businessman, a philosopher – no single qualifier has ever been sufficient to encapsulate his exceptionally multifaceted spirit. A complex man of many names, flitting like a bird between East and West, he embraced his liminal position and fused both cultures in his art, as well as in his life.

A long-awaited monograph celebrating Andrew's life and art will soon be published. The complete obituary can be found at: <http://hanartgallery.com/>.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

configuration of Greene has revitalized the street, and the multi-use tables and benches have been in constant use well into the evening. This brings foot traffic to our businesses and helps to keep people on the street in a safe and inviting manner.

It is true that traffic has been an issue on the street at peak times, but this is nothing new and much of the congestion is not due to the one lane of through traffic, rather it is a result of the temporary closure of Clarke this summer and the two-year closure of de Maisonneuve from Atwater to Wood. Both these projects are either finished or are near completion and will allow traffic to use alternate means than to come down Greene, which was never intended as a main artery.

One only has to look at other commercial areas in Montreal to realize more cars on the streets is not always the solution. Take the complete closures of Mount Royal, Wellington St. in Verdun and a portion of Bernard in Outremont and you will find vibrancy and an abundance of foot traffic.

This encourages visibility to business, offers a safe environment for pedestrians into the evening when the cars have long gone. I have witnessed first-hand people

strolling on Greene, taking the time to look into store windows and use our businesses repeatedly.

I, for one, applaud the efforts of the city of Westmount to animate our two commercial sectors and am overjoyed at the response I have had for the public-use space on Greene.

How wonderful it has been to have the extra space while not losing *one single* parking spot. This is a win-win for both cars and pedestrians, and perhaps a minor inconvenience at peak hours for drivers who will now have many more options once de Maisonneuve re-opens.

I can with all certainty say that this is what Greene has needed for decades.

ROB CALLARD

PRESIDENT – QUARTIER GREENE
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION & OWNER –
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CANDIDATE REPLIES

KEZ REPLIES TO RESIDENT SINGH

Thank you, Anil, for sharing your concern over the narrowing of Greene Ave. to make the street more pedestrian friendly (October 19, p. 8).

For clarification, Greene Ave. above de Maisonneuve is in District 6 and, below de Maisonneuve, it is District 8. Also, decisions are not made unilaterally [by me] but rather collectively [by council].

Given that the pilot project from last year received a lot of positive feedback from merchants as well as the general population, as it brought back life, foot traffic and an invigorating spirit to the commercial district, council (myself included) collectively decided to animate the street once again this year.

In an effort to help the struggling businesses in our sector (District 8), all of council (myself included) felt that extending the project to St. Catherine St. was well worth a try.

I agree with you that the public space on Greene Ave. beside 5 Saisons is wonderful and very well used. I am happy that I managed to ensure that formal signage

was installed indicating that it is a public space for everyone to use.

Regarding the traffic issue, I agree there is a fair amount of congestion at certain times of the day, which can be an inconvenience for many. Perhaps what works above de Maisonneuve is not necessarily conducive to the area below de Maisonneuve. After receiving some feedback from merchants and residents, it became clear to me that the needs in the section of Greene below de Maisonneuve (District 8) may be different from those above de Maisonneuve (District 6).

As a result, in early August, I let council know that I was in favour of removing the picnic tables in this area, however, collectively council felt they should remain for the remainder of the season. Moving forward, the placement of the picnic tables in this section of Greene Ave. will have to be re-examined by the next council.

If you would like to further discuss this issue, please feel free to contact me. And for more information about me and my platform I invite you to visit my website, www.Kathleenkez.ca

KATHEEN KEZ, INCUMBENT COUNCILLOR
& CANDIDATE – DISTRICT 8

Meet the Candidates October 27

Victoria Hall to hold 120 under city's pandemic policy

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the Meet the Candidates meeting for the municipal election is set to take place this Wednesday, October 27, at Victoria Hall at 7 pm, Westmount Municipal Association organizers are hoping a Zoom option will be available to handle numbers in case some residents might not be able to attend in person.

"We'll post the Zoom link on the WMA's Facebook page late that afternoon," said Nigel Goddard, interim WMA treasurer. It is hoped that the livestreaming option will hold up as it is being tested by the WMA, but it will not allow for participation in questions.

"The concert hall does not currently have special equipment for livestreaming events," confirmed Anne-Marie Lacombe, assistant director of the library and community events, which manages Victoria Hall.

The number the city has set for the room is 120 participants in order to keep a minimum physical distance of one meter between each household. A vaccine passport is required for entry and masks must be worn until participants are seated.

"For events like a talk/conference, the concert hall has a regular capacity of 200 on the floor, and 130 upstairs, which totals 330 seats," she said.

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We welcome your letters

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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

Please vote, and ask candidates questions

Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

On November 7, Westmounters are going to the polls to elect our next municipal administration. I, along with councillors Shamie, Peart and Gallery, have been acclaimed, and we thank you for your confidence in our continued leadership.

Contested elections are taking place in districts 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8. Running for office takes both courage and a “thick skin,” and I wish to thank all candidates for putting their names forward and for their commitment to our community. At the same time, I urge all residents of these districts to take the time to meet the candidates, read their platforms and, most importantly, to vote.

Voter turn-out in municipal elections tends to be lower than in federal and provincial ones. This is not only disappointing but also surprising since decisions made at city hall have a direct impact on the daily lives of Westmounters.

City councillors oversee investments in our aging infrastructure (roads, sidewalks,

sewers, water networks, hydro), our parks and our city buildings, such as Victoria Hall and the library.

We are responsible, for example, for keeping our streets safe, our sports and recreation programs, snow clearing and garbage collection. By taking part in the democratic process and voting, you are ensuring that your voice is heard.

As your mayor, I also wish to share my priorities for my next mandate with you.

The past two years have been incredibly challenging, and I wish to thank our staff for their professionalism and support, and Westmounters for their community spirit throughout the pandemic.

Record capital works

While some of our major projects were sidetracked, we nonetheless invested a record amount (\$27 million) in infrastructure. In looking ahead, we will need to maintain a comparable level of investment as we address the aging state of our water network, roads and sidewalks and buildings. We will be presenting our 2022 budget to council shortly after the election, and it will include a significant infrastructure investment.

We are also aware that COVID-19 changed how Westmounters experienced their city. We estimate that on a typical day

in the summer, there were four times as many people in our larger parks than in pre-pandemic times. As a result of spending more time at home, we now view our streets and public spaces differently, and we gained a new appreciation for our local commercial sectors. We need to build on this foundation, and create an even stronger sense of community.

I expect that relations with the agglomeration of Montreal will be challenging, but I will continue to work with the leadership of the demerged cities in order to secure a more equitable agreement with the city of Montreal.

In my experience, the best city councillors are those who believe in this community and its potential for improvement. They value our heritage, and bring passion and leadership skills to the council along with a vision for the city as a whole.

As the election campaign heads into the home stretch, I encourage you to reach out to your local candidates, raise your issues of concern and to ask them their views on the significant challenges we face as a community.

And most importantly, please vote, either on election day, November 7, 2021 or at the advance polls on October 31 and November 1, 2021.

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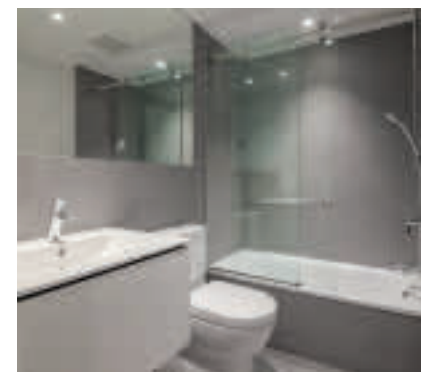
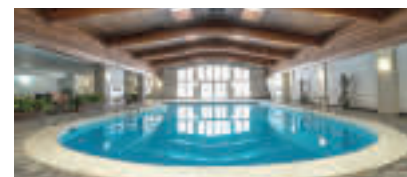
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Hallowe'en is this Sunday!



MTQ: New Greene 'boom' coming soon



The mounting bracket on October 25.

Gilles Payer, spokesman for Quebec's provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ), told the *Independent* via an email in French October 22 that a new "boom" was coming this week to warn of the Greene rail bridge's height.

He wrote that the MTQ was putting up the boom as a "courtesy" because, he contends, this section of Greene is under the jurisdiction of the city of Montreal, which will be responsible for maintaining the boom, according to him. He also wrote that it had originally been put up by the KPH Turcot construction consortium when it

built the Highway 136/720 bridge over Greene.

The boom or panel used to hang from the highway bridge over northbound Greene Ave., but was noticed to be gone by the time of an August 12 strike of the bridge. There have been two more known northbound truck strikes since then, plus two southbound ones (see October 19, p. 18).

The MTQ was unaware of the boom's absence until the *Independent's* questions of two weeks ago.


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It is recommended to get vaccinated against the flu if you are aged 75 and over or if you live with a chronic illness such as diabetes, an immune disorder or a cardiovascular, respiratory or kidney disease.



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Pink today, gone tomorrow

O’Way’s Soussana dyes, shaves Dr. Meterissian’s hair for cancer funds



BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

In spite of the rain, October 19 was a rose-coloured day.

Dr. Sarkis Meterissian, surgical oncologist and director MUHC Breast Clinic, came to Westmount to dye his hair pink.

With the goal of raising funds for the clinic, the doctor had grown his hair for a year. “My aim was to raise \$50,000, but we are now at \$200,000,” he happily explained.

Patricia Soussana, a breast cancer survivor and owner of local salon O’Way, volunteered her services to apply fuchsia to his locks.

“We first discussed the effect of hair col-

ouring on the scalp and hair, and he was glad that our products are from a biodynamic farm in Italy where PhD scientists are on top of their craft.”

Then, at the MUHC the next day, Patricia shaved off her colourful work.

“All monies raised go to the Breast Clinic’s Wellness Program at the MUHC,” added the newly-shorn Meterissian. “It was created to ensure every breast cancer patient receives the care they need – from nutrition advice to counseling – to return to happy, healthy lives following treatment. But the Wellness Program is not supported by the government: it is completely donor funded.”

Police Report

Break-ins and suspicious activities keep Station 12 police busy

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Reports of a suspicious individual seen lurking outside two houses in Westmount, as well as break-in attempts and burglaries at local homes and businesses, kept police at Station 12 on Stanton St. busy in recent weeks.

In the first incident, a home owner working in his garage near the corner of Chesterfield and Prince Albert avenues around 5 pm on October 15 saw a young man on a bicycle in a neighbour’s backyard approaching the home’s patio and back door.

When he asked the seeming intruder what he was doing, the young man replied he was looking for a friend, then turned and left the property.

Although there was no evidence that a break-in took place at the address, Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel said the incident is considered “suspicious” and it is being treated as an open file.

Lurking outside Grosvenor house

In a similar incident, also around 5 pm on October 15, a man riding a bicycle and fitting the same description was seen by a witness lurking outside a home on Grosvenor Ave. between de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Sherbrooke St.

According to a description in the police report, the suspect entered the witness’s neighbour’s backyard while the neighbour was away.

Again, when the suspect was questioned as to his purpose for being there, he replied that he wanted to speak to a friend.

After being told he probably had the wrong address, the suspect left.

Attempted break-in

Again on October 15, sometime between 3 pm and 9:30 pm, an unknown perpetrator attempted to break into a home near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Roslyn Ave. through a back door.

Although the door locks were found to have been forced, the perpetrator was unable to get in.

“The door locks were damaged, but they were unable to open the door and it was still secure,” said Pimentel. However, the suspect then proceeded to a nearby outdoor shed, which was unlocked, and stole a bicycle from within.

Attempted burglary

In addition to the one domestic break-in and two suspected attempts, there was at least one similar incident at a Westmount business in recent weeks.

On October 14 around 5:50 pm, the alarm system at a business near the corner of Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St. went off.

Although the front and rear doors were checked and found to be locked, when the owner turned up in the morning, he noticed there were signs that an intruder had been in.

After looking at a video recorded by the alarm system, which had recently been upgraded, he recognized the suspect as the same person who had broken in during a previous robbery incident in September.

“No objects were stolen, the cash register was empty [as a precaution by the owner] and there was no damage,” Pimentel said, noting that evidence showed that the suspect got in through the rear door.

“We have a good description of the suspect and there is an active investigation on this,” he said.



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 Race:
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 • Marcy Katz
 • Jane Silverstone Segal

Ward 2 (Blue):
 Race:
 • Elisabeth Roux
 • Paola Samuel

Ward 3 (Grey):
 Acclaimed: Jeff Shamie*

Ward 4 (Light Grey):
 Acclaimed: Conrad Peart*

Ward 5 (Green):
 Race:
 • Outgoing District 1 councillor Anitra Bostock
 • Liz McCallum

Ward 6 (Pink):
 Acclaimed: Mary Gallery*

Ward 7 (Light Blue):
 Race:
 • Matt Aronson
 • Neil Hopley

Ward 8 (Magenta):
 Race:
 • Kathleen Kez*
 • Michael Mossop

***Incumbent**

Basic image courtesy of the city of Westmount;
candidate information: **Westmount Independent**.

Municipal election 2021

Guide to *Independent's* candidate profiles

DISTRICT 1

Antonio D'Amico, October 5, p. 12

Marcy Katz, October 19, p. 7

Jane Silverstone Segal, October 19, p. 7

DISTRICT 2

Elisabeth Roux, October 12, p. 1

Paola Samuel, September 21, p. 1

DISTRICT 5

Outgoing District 1 councillor Anitra Bostock,
September 21, p. 1

Liz McCallum, September 21, p. 1

DISTRICT 7

Matt Aronson, May 25, p. 1

Neil Hopley, October 19, p. 1

DISTRICT 8

Incumbent Kathleen Kez, October 5, p. 1

Michael Mossop, June 8, p. 1

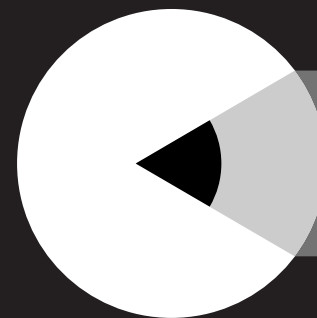
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Municipal elections 2021

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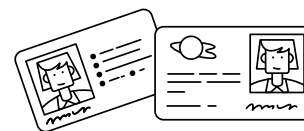
- Be entered on the list of electors.
- Be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- Have obtained Canadian citizenship no later than September 1, 2021.
- Not be under curatorship nor have lost your electoral rights.

**Meet one of the two sets of
conditions below as of
September 1, 2021:**

- > If your domicile is located in the municipality, you must have been living in Québec for at least six months.
- > If your domicile is not located in the municipality, you must have been the owner of a building (cottage, apartment building, etc.) or have occupied a business establishment located in the territory of the municipality for at least 12 months and must have sent the municipality either an application for entry on the list of electors or a power of attorney, in writing and within the timeframes set forth.

**Where to vote?**

Pay particular attention to the notices sent by your municipality; they will inform you of where you need to go to vote. Do not hesitate to contact your returning officer for full details.

**What you need
to bring to vote**

At the polling station, you must establish your identity by showing one of the following documents:

- Your health insurance card
- Your driver's license
- Your Canadian passport
- Your Certificate of Indian Status
- Your Canadian Forces identification card



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Guest column – One Sandra reminisces, extends birthday wishes

By SANDRA HENDLISZ

Dearest Sandra Feldman,
In November, you're turning 80 – been there; seen it; done it.
It's a time to reflect, and allows us to look back, because at 80, we have history. I feel very fortunate to have our adolescent friendship extend to our old age.
For those of you who have seen our writing in the *Westmount Independent*, I am one of the two Sandras who has been given the

opportunity to share our thoughts with the readership of the newspaper (see February 16, p. 22, June 15, p. 18).
My dear friend Sandra, when we were 13 years old in 1954, the population of Montreal was 1.5 million.
A big treat for us was going to Belmont Park in Cartierville, which seemed like the end of the world.
We took two street cars to get there. We dreamed of our sweet sixteens at Miss Montreal or Ruby Foos.

We were 21 at the time of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and I was married. We experienced the impact of the war in Vietnam and the fall of the Berlin Wall. We witnessed the murders of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.
We saw the birth of Medicare. We lived through the Quiet Revolution, René Lévesque, the creation of the Metro, Expo 67 and the Montreal Olympics. These were historic events that changed people's lives,

and their understanding of the world and how it works.
I marvel how our friendship and caring has endured in spite of the changing background of time.
Sandra, I look forward to our ongoing friendship, through many more years of developing history. I wish you good health, great love from family and friends, and many joyful times.
Happy, happy birthday.



From left, Sandra Feldman and Sandra Hendlisz.



Sandra Hendlisz and Sandra Feldman.

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ECOWatch

HEATHER BLACK

As municipal elections – with candidate meetings and solicitations – approach, global warming and lost habitats are common concerns. Although much can be done at the municipal level – from city fleet electrification to re-wilding – citizens must first choose the best candidate.

How to do that? Ask questions!

Support for expertise and proven solutions

Westmount – a member of the Montreal agglomeration (which controls police, fire and public transit on the island) – has a responsibility to lower carbon-emissions.

First, ask candidates how they would tackle climate change. And find out their timeline for solutions such as purchasing electric vehicles, whether snow plows or patrol cars.

To reduce emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, alternative energy sources are important. Ask candidates when residences with solar panels – and surplus

Questions for candidates

electricity – will be connected to the Hydro Westmount grid. As many carbon-neutral solutions require technical expertise, ask candidates to support the hire of an environmental engineer as sustainability director to oversee the greening of all departments.

Also ask candidates if they would follow the lead of Beaconsfield and support community input and an environmental advisory committee (EAC). As knowledgeable volunteers would help set city goals or targets from recycling to energy saving, motion-sensor lights, inquire whether candidates would be willing to chair such a group. And ask why Westmount has so few recycling bins.

Support for community greening initiatives and nature education

Ask candidates to legislate multiple greening options for homeowners. This would encourage residents to implement nature-enhancing initiatives from water features, to bird houses, to gardens or vegetable plots. Inquire as to whether they support drought-resistant, native plants to attract pollinators – birds, bees and but-



October 12 in Westmount Park: thinking about the future.

terflies – and slow-growth, eco-lawns in parks and on city properties.

Also inquire as to how candidates would improve the messaging of sustainable solutions to citizens. Recommend that the city's website include information such as which trees and shrubs reduce both winter heating and summer air-conditioning costs.

And could Westmount – like Beaconsfield – hire students to serve as neighbourhood green ambassadors to encourage recycling and other environmental solutions?

As nature studies improve attention and creativity – important for school success and the new economy – ask your candidate to support a nature-program at Westmount Park's summer day camp. Children taught to observe, bond and nurture wildlife are our future generation of environmental citizens. And ask how parks can be improved to facilitate time spent in nature for all citizens.

Leadership required

As Westmount has lost its lead in both implementing and communicating envi-

ronmental policies – and successes – electing eco-friendly councillors can create a new impetus.

An ideal moment for candidates to put forward their own environmental priorities, it is also an opportunity for those acclaimed – and the new council – to advance post-election a green agenda. When it comes to sustainability – and our future – time is of the essence.



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Smiling Laela & Maxi



Westmount
A-dog-tions
LYSANNE FOWLER

A happy bonded pair of Samoyed mixes, mostly Samoyed to me! Looking at this dynamic smiling duo with their huge dark eyes against their long white fur, they make us all want to smile as well. Laela (left) and Maxi (right) are presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, where everyone admires



them and knows that they will be the best active family companions and affectionate lovebugs.

Laela is a bit over five years old and Maxi is also five. They are both very healthy, up to date with their inoculations, sterilized, and microchipped.

Please refer to their identification numbers, for Laela A43355126 and Maxi 43355129, when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for them 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, Lysanne

Cosmo the cat



9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Quite the handsome hunk, this Cosmo. With his gorgeous green eyes and loving personality, this exquisite grey-and-caramel tabby will be the king in a family's heart.

Cosmo is magnificent, yes, but he is also adorable and cuddly. He is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, hoping to be taken to his forever home soon. Cosmo is three years old, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations and microchipped.

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Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Hallowe'en, cont'd from p. 1

"It's a kind of a scavenger hunt with each clue coming from a book that features an enchanted forest such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty*," said Wayling, who was inspired by the city's mystery walk during the summer. Participants will walk about one kilometer in a loop around the park using an access QR code.

Prizes will be awarded October 31 even though it's likely that the mystery walk may be extended for a week or more into November, Wayling said.

Pumpkin decorating, new StoryWalk

The library's annual pumpkin-decorating contest will feature photos of carved or painted pumpkins along with their creator in Hallowe'en costumes.

The photos are to be posted on the library's Instagram page once submitted to the library at www.wwaylingwestmount.org.

In keeping with the enchanted forest theme, but separate from the mystery walk, is a new StoryWalk along the pathway starting at the library. Panels will illustrate scenes from different stories that have magical forests such as in the Harry Potter books.

The outdoor Hallowe'en activities are a way to keep participants socially distanced,

Wayling said. It's the second pandemic year after the library's previous Hallowe'en extravaganza that attracted some 500 at Victoria Hall in 2019. Last year's attraction was a Zoom show performed by librarians.



Pippa and Beckham on Arlington Ave. were already mingling with skulls, a black rat and amputated limbs at 5:30 pm October 31 last year, ready to trick the trick-or-treaters at their start of a two-hour vigil. The *Independent* published this photo last year under the headline "Hallowe'en happened!" given all the COVID-caused uncertainty last year.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

The mystery walk has been created by Sarah Lolley, an NDG-based kids' book author and creator of code-breaking games, who designed the city's summer mystery walk.

Coiffure Jean John

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All seniors are invited to our online event to discuss seniors' concerns in general with the two candidates.

(You don't have to live in District 5 to attend.)

November 2, 2021, 3:00-4:00 on Zoom

Hosted by Contactivity Centre. Register by visiting our website at
www.contactivitycentre.org

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Les élections de la Ville de Westmount

City of Westmount Elections

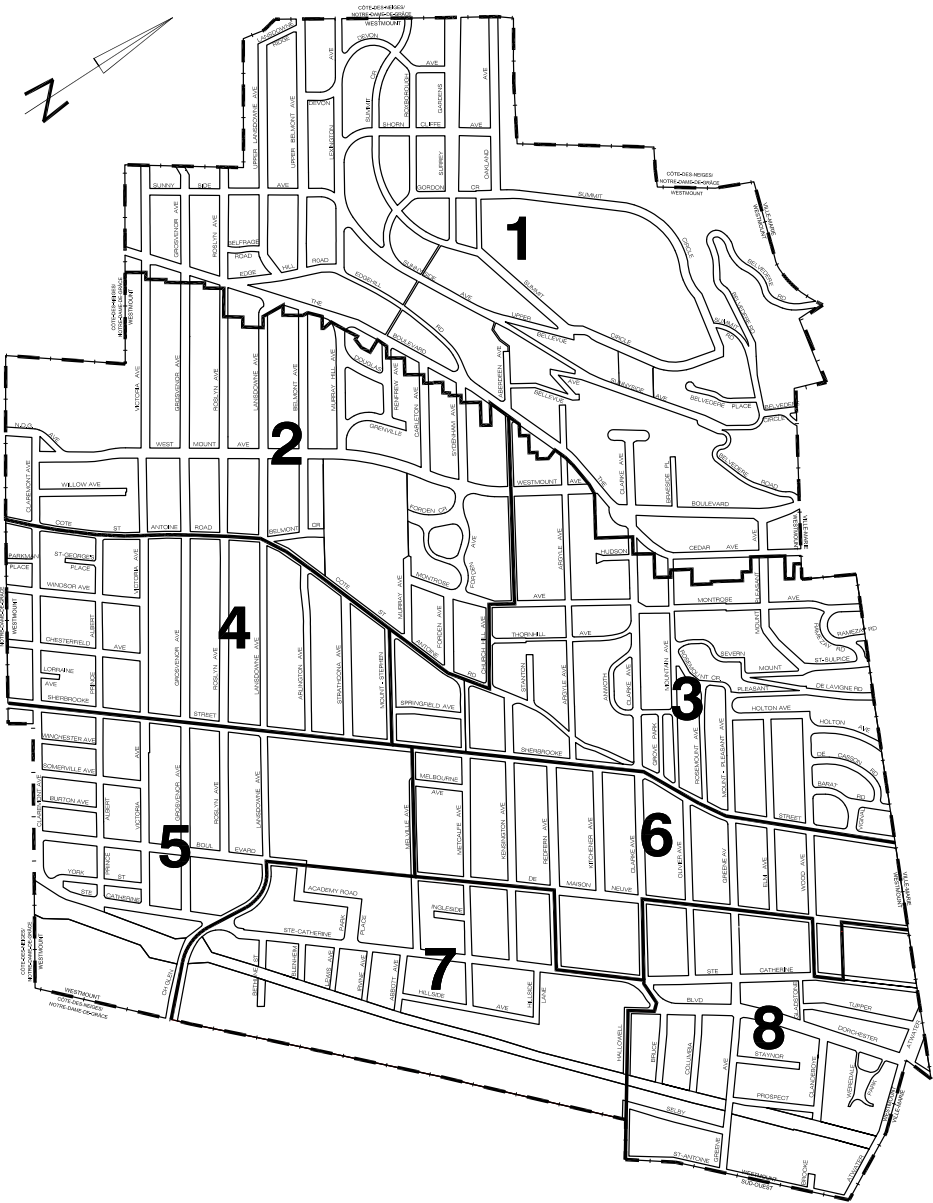
En date du vendredi 1er octobre 2021 à 16 h 31, le poste de maire et trois postes de conseillers ont été élus sans opposition, soit la mairesse Christina M. Smith et les conseillers Jeff. J. Shamie (district 3), M. Conrad Peart (district 4) et Mme Mary Gallery (district 6). **Seuls les districts 1, 2, 5, 7 et 8 restent en concurrence** pour les élections municipales de Westmount du 7 novembre 2021. Le vote par anticipation sera tenu le 31 octobre et le 1er novembre. Vous trouverez ci-dessous les noms des candidats pour votre district. Pour plus d'informations, visitez westmount.org/vote.

As of Friday, October 1, 2021 at 4:31 p.m., the position of Mayor and three Councillor positions were acclaimed: Mayor Christina M. Smith and Councillors Jeff. J. Shamie (District 3), Mr. Conrad Peart (District 4) and Ms. Mary Gallery (District 6). **Only Districts 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 remain in contention** for Westmount's municipal elections on November 7, 2021. Advance polling will be held on October 31 and November 1. Below you will find the names of the candidates for your district. For more information, visit westmount.org/vote.

POSTE DE MAIRE(SSE) POSITION OF MAYOR	
Christina M. Smith (Sortant(e) de ce poste) (Outgoing from this position)	Élue sans opposition Elected by acclamation
DISTRICT 1 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> Antonio D'Amico <input type="checkbox"/> Marcy Katz <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Silverstone	
DISTRICT 2 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> Elisabeth Roux <input type="checkbox"/> Paola Samuel	
DISTRICT 3 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
Jeff J. Shamie (Sortant(e) de ce poste) (Outgoing from this position)	Élu sans opposition Elected by acclamation
DISTRICT 4 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
Conrad Peart (Sortant(e) de ce poste) (Outgoing from this position)	Élu sans opposition Elected by acclamation
DISTRICT 5 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> Anitra Bostock (Sortant(e) de ce poste) (Outgoing from this position) <input type="checkbox"/> Liz McCallum	
DISTRICT 6 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
Mary Gallery (Sortant(e) de ce poste) (Outgoing from this position)	Élue sans opposition Elected by acclamation
DISTRICT 7 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Aronson <input type="checkbox"/> Neil Hopley	
DISTRICT 8 - POSTE DE CONSEILLER(-ÈRE) MUNICIPAL(E) POSITION OF COUNCILLOR	
CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Kez (Sortant(e) de ce poste) (Outgoing from this position) <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Mossop	

Districts électoraux

Electoral Districts



RÈGLEMENT NO 1429 CONCERNANT LA DIVISION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA VILLE EN DISTRICTS ÉLECTORAUX.
BY-LAW No. 1429 TO DIVIDE THE TERRITORY OF THE CITY INTO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.
DATE : 7 MAY 2012 / MAY 7 2012
RECONDUCTION DE LA DIVISION, LE 1ER FÉVRIER 2016 / RENEWAL OF THE BOUNDARIES, FEBRUARY 1, 2016

westmount.org/vote



Retail Review

VERONICA READGRAVE

Maison Westmount, the new Greene Ave. boutique with European-style bay windows, is causing heads to turn.

Italian pastas in the window? Gorgeous Taschen books? Extra-virgin olive oil in the emblematic “Chanel-style” bottle? (Already sold out.) All amidst quintessential designer home ware and fine foods.

Noted were pieces by such internationally renowned brands as Loro Piano, Missoni Home and Versace.

Jon Bucci, president Dahlgren Duck Canada, happened to be in the shop when I passed. He showed me his special pop-up where Dahlgren Duck displays renowned iconic names such as Hermès.

Although most of his line is available only to corporations and designers, with a minimum order, some pieces can be ordered.

The elegant emporium is an Aladdin’s cave of items: Lalique vases; beautifully packaged aged Acetaia San Giacomo; a massive Egon Schiele book; Château d’Estoublon sparkling rosé or white with no sugar and zero percent alcohol, and Oribe

Maison Westmount arrives in Westmount



Joelle Sarkis.

head and body care – to name but a few.

Store manager Joelle Sarkis pointed out a superb green “malachite” platter from L’Objet and explained that the shop will soon carry the entire Tom Dixon collection. Custom-made furniture sits invitingly, luring customers to yearn for a new décor.

There are also fun items, such as elegant disposable napkins (cocktail and lunch sizes) with matching tablemats. Available in white or black, they withstand five washings.

Overall, the shop is alluring and takes time to peruse: Everything is outstanding. With the season’s chill suggesting upcoming holidays, gift baskets including classic Italian panettone will soon be offered.

And of course the art on display – curated monthly – can be viewed just up the street at sister shop Gallery 16. Greene Ave. may have a few “For Rent” signs and buildings for sale, but these two noteworthy shops, evocative of Paris/Milano style, promise to nudge the street into a new era.

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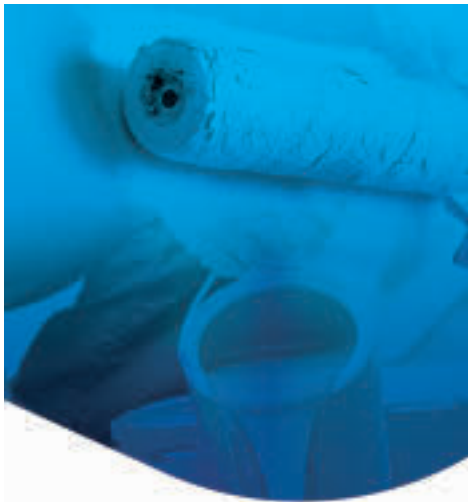
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RBC Westmount Square restores English on signs after complaint

By MARTIN C. BARRY

An RBC Westmount Square client says that following a complaint, English-language signage that had been removed from the branch has been restored.

Still, Christopher Herten-Greaven says he remains disappointed that the bank so easily stopped using one of Canada's official languages in a largely English-speaking area of Montreal.



"They've done pretty much what should have been done in the first place," he told the *Westmount Independent*. Management at the branch or at RBC's head office apparently took action after he drew their attention to unilingual signage that went up around three months ago.

"I think they got the drift of what was coming down the pipe – in other words that they were being unjustifiably selective in their language usage in French," he added. "They put their skates on and corrected it."

The complaint's resolution came about just as Herten-Greaven's letter to the *Independent* on the topic (October 12, p. 6) was being published.

This past summer when Herten-Greaven first noticed the signage had become unilingual, he talked to the manager about it several times.

Spoke in French

"I spoke to her totally in French as I am fluent in French," he said. "Which may seem a bit of an inconsistency. But I wanted her to understand clearly that I was not doing it because I didn't speak French or didn't speak it well."

He said he was quite surprised when he later received a call from an RBC corporate official in New Brunswick, who spoke apologetically and suggested there had been an oversight.

Herten-Greaven, who has lived in Montreal for 60 years, said he felt he had no choice but to speak out to the bank's management about the lack of English signage, if only for the clients who aren't fluent in French.

"There are some old-timers who never got a chance to learn French properly – never mind people from out of province or from abroad – and they may be at a loss or at a disadvantage.

"And it's not always true to say that



Christopher Herten-Greaven and bilingual RBC signage at its Westmount Square branch on October 22.

there's always somebody there to help and translate. As you or I or anyone else may know, this isn't always the case – especially at lunch time."

In response to e-mails from the *Independent*, RBC's director of corporate communications for Quebec, Jessica Assaf, said RBC is "committed to complying with the requirements of the laws and regulations applicable to us.

"Where we have an appreciable number of English-speaking customers in certain areas in Quebec, we make every effort to, and take great pride in, accommodating our valued clients in their preferred language, whether that is English or French," she added.

"Wherever there is a need for bilingualism, specifically in branches located in areas with significant anglophone populations, we have signs, information, brochures and advertising in both languages, as well as staff who speak English."

Regarding the language of signs, Assaf said RBC is "confronted by limitations such as our merchandising rules, the size of our information material, available space and the configuration of the premises."

She said "paper" signs placed on the external windows or external doors of branches "may pose a challenge, due to the limited space available to display them," but that these types of signs are usually temporary in nature and content.

She acknowledged that if there are space constraints, "it is possible that these signs will be in French only. However, if space allows, we would usually try to display these signs in both French and English."

While saying RBC is "happy to address your concerns and hope these explanations were helpful," Assaf closed by saying that "with the above details please note that we have no further comments to make on this file."

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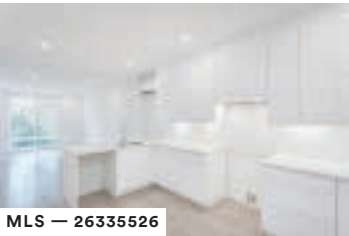
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