

## 28% turnout 'discouraging': Mayor Smith Voters choose remainder of new city council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When election results were tabulated in Westmount November 7, three new councillors were voted in to join two victorious incumbents and three already acclaimed along with the mayor.

**New: D'Amico, Roux, Aronson**

The new faces are Antonio D'Amico in District 1, Elisabeth Roux in District 2 and Matt Aronson in District 7.

**Re-elected: Bostock, Kez**

Their campaigns were contested along with those of incumbents Anitra Bostock, previously elected in District 1, now in District 5, as well as Kathleen Kez who won decisively in District 8 (see table of results at right).

"I'm excited to work *continued on p. 12*

### Vote count in contested districts\*

District 1	No.	%
Antonio D'Amico	223	65.40
Marcy Katz	82	24.05
Jane Silverstone Segal	36	10.56
District 2		
Elisabeth Roux	385	78.25
Paola Samuel	107	21.75
District 5		
Anitra Bostock	296	56.49
Liz McCallum	228	43.51
District 7		
Matt Aronson	366	80.26
Neil Hopley	90	19.74
District 8		
Kathleen Kez	340	65.51
Michael Mossop	179	34.49

\*As reported by the city's returning officer

## Mary Stark to retire from Contactivity



After 25 years at the Contactivity seniors' centre, executive director Mary Stark, standing, will retire November 15. She is pictured at the group's 2016 Winter Carnival luncheon with, from left, Betty Shannon, and Patty and Christopher Clark. See p. 18 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

### Least favoured: aerial bridge, fountain

## Water-recycling pond, WRC rooftop square rate highest in park survey

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Results from the third and latest city survey on eight proposals for revitalizing Westmount Park show that of 1,192 respondents, the highest approval ratings – in the 60-percent range – went to the repair and re-design of the pond along with the creation of an "ecological and accessible" public square on the roof the Westmount

recreation centre (WRC).

These were based on responses based on a choice between "excellent," "good," "neutral," "bad" or "worse" – with "excellent" and "good" considered together as favourable.

An introductory summary of the results listed three "highlights" leading off with the survey's higher participation rate than a previous *continued on p. 19*

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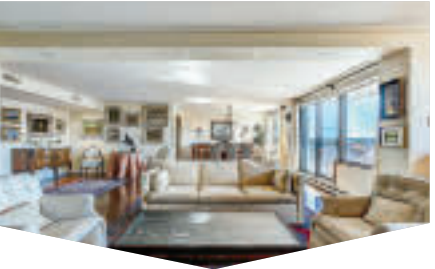
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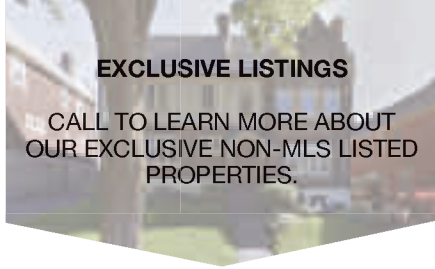
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## Tree falls from RCMP HQ to St. Catherine

A tree behind the RCMP's Dorchester Blvd. Quebec divisional headquarters fell "three quarters" of the way onto St. Catherine west of Greene the evening of October 31.

Howard Hoppenheim, whose office is across the street, heard the crack. "I advised Public Security," he told the *Independent* by email the same day, "who arrived minutes later with three patrol cars!"

Traffic had to be diverted, Public Security officials said, while a city loader arrived and pushed the debris to the side of the street by 10 pm.

No damage was reported.

"[The tree removal firm working on site the next day] stated the tree was diseased at its roots," continued Hoppenheim, "and it cracked from there, toppling the tree onto St. Catherine.

"There are five other similar-sized trees on the RCMP property between Greene and Olivier, which will have to be inspected to ensure they do not fall on vehicles or people."

## Hallowe'en brings rain, noise complaints

Despite the rainy night on Hallowe'en October 31, there were still trick-or-treaters out on Westmount streets, according to Public Security officials. Patrollers handed out reflective tape for costumes and reported that the rain didn't seem to spoil the annual tradition "too much."

Two noisy Hallowe'en parties overnight October 30-31, however, were reported to have brought public safety officers to an apartment complex on Mount Stephen. One was reported October 30 at 11:36 pm, the other October 31 at 12:08 am. Neither generated a callback complaint and no tickets were issued.

A third get-together was also discovered at the same building but did not cause reports of disturbance.

## Loud talking from party on Claremont toned down

Guests were taken inside by a "cooperative" host October 30 following a noise complaint at 2:42 am, Public Security officials said. When patrollers answered the call, they reported hearing loud voices coming from a backyard on Claremont and asked residents at the home to bring guests inside.

## Confused driver turned over to his family

An 83-year-old man who parked his car in a bus zone outside 4643 Sherbrooke on October 31 at 6:41 pm was described as confused and unaware of where he was when questioned by public safety officers, department officials said. They reported him to be very pleasant and talkative as they engaged him in conversation while awaiting police. He had already identified himself using his driver's permit that had expired in 2019 and officers retrieved his keys from the car. He was turned over to a family member.

## Inebriated man mistakes patrol car for Uber

A man who generated two noise complaints to Public Security in the early hours of the morning October 30 was described as having woken up residents of an apartment at 222 Redfern by buzzing their various apartments to gain entry to the building, which he eventually did.

When officers responded to the initial call at 3:25 am, they did not see anyone or hear anything from outside when it appeared someone had already let him inside. But on the second call at 5:43 am, the man approached officers outside and tried to get into their patrol car, mistaking it for an Uber taxi. Police were called and took the man into custody to sober up. He did not live in Westmount but no other details were available.

## It's not like being pregnant

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# Jour du Souvenir Remembrance Day

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**Jennifer MACCARONE**  
Députée de | MNA for Westmount–Saint-Louis

1134, Ste-Catherine W.,  
8th Floor, Office 801  
Montreal (Quebec) H3B 1H4  
Phone : 514 395-2929  
jennifer.maccarone.WSL@asnat.qc.ca

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The refrigerated skating rink in Westmount Park was re-emerging November 1, starting with a thin coating of ice, in spite of the 9°C temperatures and bright sunshine. It is set to open November 10.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Ils ne vieilliront pas comme nous, qui leur avons survécu.  
Ils ne connaîtront jamais l'outrage ni le poids des années.  
Quand viendra l'heure du crépuscule et celle de l'aurore,  
*Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.  
Nous nous souviendrons d'eux.*

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
*We will remember them.  
We will remember them.*



Breaks into Eastern Hockey League play

# City’s new all-girls hockey team becomes first at Novice level

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was a first for the city when it gave out brightly coloured pink hockey uniforms October 30 to 11 girls under age 9, forming the first all-girls hockey team at the Novice level in both the Westmount Minor Hockey Association and the Eastern Hockey League.

To be known in league designation as the (Westmount) Wings F (for female) M9/U9 (Novice) team, the girls have been practising since September. Most come from the city’s pre-Novice introductory hockey program and will start to play inter-city games in December against all boys’ and co-ed teams.

One new girls’ team/year

“Our aim is to add one all-girls team every year,” said operations manager Andrew Maislin of Westmount Sports and Recreation.

Demographics have changed in Westmount, he explained. In the past few years, the city’s hockey program has been losing participants at various levels to school and other teams.

“Recruiting girls starting at the grass-roots level is one way to build up the numbers and is long overdue.

“The whole aim,” he adds, “is to get children exercising and into sports.”

Novice team is a leader

“Unfortunately, over the years, girls’ hockey wasn’t given the same respect and ice time as boys,” he pointed out. “So in this respect, Westmount is trying to be a leader – at this age level.”

On the other hand, the Mount Royal-Outremont minor hockey association, which also plays in the Eastern Hockey League, has girls’ teams at older levels, he said. “So we’re a little late at the party.”

In fielding the younger team, a number



From left, top: coaches MJ Blais, Caroline Parent Harvey, Chris Clark and Stephen Morganstein; middle: Abigail Waters, Sophie Mantha, Eva Clark, Sophie Frenkiel, Raegan Piccioni and Romy Garshagen; bottom: Emmanuelle Ghattas, Chloe Veronneau, Caroline San Gregorio, Mikki Morganstein and Emma Veronneau.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

of details and scheduling of games has yet to be worked out.

Westmount’s new team will play against other teams – co-ed or all-boys teams – in the same age group.

The interest in putting together an all-girls team is also about “camaraderie in the (changing) room,” Maislin said. “This is an important aspect in the sport.”

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MOW FOR THE ALLERGY SUFFERERS, PLEASE – PLANTS CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH

There is additional, critical information related to David Searle's comments in his letter "Mow less, more butterflies" (October 26, p. 6) regarding the benefits to monarch butterflies of allowing goldenrod, milkweed, etc. to flourish.

The three warm seasons in Quebec are difficult for allergy/asthma sufferers. Ever since pesticides were banned, goldenrod and ragweed, amongst others, are prolific and dangerous to our health.

I have suffered from asthma and hay fever all my life. Both goldenrod and ragweed are allergens, and I must avoid both. Both are toxic to many adults and children.

Would we expose a person allergic to peanuts to peanut butter?

I cherish Westmount Park. I meet friends for lunch or coffee outside at Le Mouton Noir. I will not be able to enjoy the park and its facilities if grass is permitted to go wild, and wildflowers and weeds are rampant.

Surely there must be a better way to help monarch butterflies without compromising human health.

I hope this will be considered, when the decision is made to mow or not to mow.

BONNIE LEVINSON,  
LANSDOWNE AVE.

## FINE THE LATE PROJECTS – PAY THE NEIGHBOURS

My family and our close neighbours have been suffering from the drawn-out construction on our street.

The city provided a permit for a major renovation ("re-building" is more appropriate) of a private house that began in April 2019 and will likely take another year or more to complete. It allowed for major excavation that required drilling, blasting, and chipping, which took almost two years and required the installation of seismic meters and carbon monoxide sensors in nearby homes. As construction continues, we are inconvenienced by constant noise, construction vehicles and dumping of gravel and other materials onto the street.

I sent letters to Mayor Christina Smith and Councillor Anitra Bostock to express my concern after construction was started without prior notification. Unfortunately, neither had the courtesy to reply.

Now, two and a half years later, we are still inconvenienced by the city's decision to allow such a significant project to take place.

In light of this, I'd like to propose that the city set maximum timelines depending on the project type. In the case of new home construction or major renovation, it should be, in my opinion, somewhere between 12 and 18 months.

Building permits provided by the city

should have an end date and after that, financial penalties be assessed for every day of delay. Those fines should then be transferred from the city to the neighbours directly impacted by the delays.

Doing so will create accountability and in the event of a delay, those directly impacted should be compensated for their loss of peace and quiet.

Hopefully this idea resonates with some of your readers and a way is found to move this forward.

DAVID NATHANIEL, BELLEVUE AVE.

## HONOUR GARNEAU

Marc Garneau is an exemplary Canadian and we believe Westmounters should be appreciative of his service in public office, his military career and his years devoted to the space shuttle program and his service as president of the Canadian Space Agency.

And now one of the most capable ministers has been left out of cabinet, almost incomprehensibly, if it weren't for a readily apparent preference for style over substance at the top of the federal government. No justification needed.

In the world of investing, it is said, "Buy the steak, not the sizzle." In the world of politics, Marc Garneau is the steak. Most Westmounters can guess who the sizzle is.

We think the city of Westmount should honour one of its very best citizens with a fitting tribute. Parc Marc-Garneau in the heart of Westmount is one thought, but then The Garneau Outlook has a nice ring to it too. We hope Westmount treats him better than our prime minister has.

Thank you, Marc Garneau.

MARK LALONDE & VALERIE SCHWARTZ,  
MOUNT PLEASANT AVE.

## LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE, PLEASE

In 2019, I wrote to the *Independent* (October 22, p. 8) complaining of the unannounced closure of Grosvenor Ave. to accommodate a contractor's crane. On October 25, Hydro Westmount arrived



without warning with a giant crane to install a new transmission pole. The work was efficiently and speedily performed, aside from some tree bashing by the crane.

While the need to maintain the hydro infrastructure is recognized as necessary, it would be nice if residents on the portion of the street involved could be warned in advance.

So, as before, my complaint is the lack of such a courtesy.

P. FITZ GERALD, GROSVENOR AVE.

## THANK YOU HERTEN-GREAVEN, SHAME ON RBC

With reference to the story "RBC Westmount Square restores English on signs after complaint" (October 26, p. 22), I would like to thank Christopher Herten-Greaven for taking the Royal Bank to task regarding its signage.

As to the comments of Jessica Arraf, RBC's director of corporate communications for Quebec, regarding space constraints re: signage, I have yet to see any bank branch where that might be a problem and it certainly is not the case with its Westmount Square one.

While on this topic, RBC is a federally regulated institution and as such is not required to follow the Quebec provincial government's questionable signage laws that English be half the size of French as currently displayed in this branch.

Shame on you, Royal Bank of Canada. Perhaps its time to correct this situation.

In addition, I feel that Ms. Assaf's closing remark "with the above details please note that we have no further comments to make on this file" somewhat dismissive for a "director of communications."

NEIL M. WILSON, OLIVIER AVE.

## FIND ROOM FOR ENGLISH, WITHOUT BEING ASKED

I read Martin Barry's article in the *Independent* of October 26 (p. 22). The message that I got from it was that Ms. Assaf was clearly miffed that anyone should have picked up on the RBC signage "oversight" and then gone to the media about it.

## Corrections: Loro Piana & Caroline Jondahl

The name of clothing-and-fabrics company Loro Piana was misspelled in our piece about the new Maison Westmount store on Greene (October 26, p. 21).

Caroline Jondahl was identified with the wrong last name in our article on the meet-the-candidates debate (November 2, p. 7, column 2). – DP

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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### Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537  
editor@westmountindependent.com

### Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

### Graphics

Ted Sancton

### Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Had someone not spoken up, the signage would have remained in French only, tacit acceptance would have occurred, establishing an undesirable precedent... Consider French-only signage at other RBC branches, other banks, and, in fact, all institutions that have a significant anglophone clientele.

Ms. Assaf stated what most of us already know is in the signage protocol, but was dismissive of the incident above. She quoted lack of space, configuration of the premises and merchandising (?) rules.

Not true!

Re-design the signs if necessary, to accommodate all of the above. The changes that were made required just the inclusion of the English version within the confines of the original space and an increase in the number of English “flashes” on the continuous videos.

The final paragraph really took the biscuit: “with the above details please note that we have no further comments to make on this file.”

Nor do I – provided that signage protocol is adhered to for future interior remodelling or retrofitting in other RBC branches.

In closing, I would like to invite Ms. Assaf, and any or all, members of the RBC corporate communications committee for Quebec to meet with me in person. Just leave me a phone number or email address where I can reach her/them, and we’ll set it up.

C.W. HERTEN-GREAVEN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ON THE DAY, PLEASE

Here we go again. At the risk of repeating what I wrote three years ago, in 2018 when November 11 actually fell on a Sunday, The city of Westmount chose to mark Remembrance Day a week *earlier*, on November 4.

This year it falls on a Thursday so we’re observing it on the previous Saturday: November 6th.

Why?

My guess is it’s probably because it’s more convenient. If the observance of Remembrance Day is to mean anything at all, shouldn’t we observe it on the actual day, convenience be hanged? In fact, the more inconvenient the better; at least this might bring home the whole point of the exercise. I’m sure it wasn’t convenient for those who gave their lives in the first place.

Can we resolve, once and for all, that starting next year, we will observe Remembrance Day *on* Remembrance Day?

WILFRID DE FREITAS, KITCHENER AVE.

## OPEN CITY HALL, OR CLOSE IT COMPLETELY

I am writing to the residents of Westmount with a question that has been on our collective minds recently. I read the letter to the editor from Diana Hernandez (November 2, p. 8) where she shared her frustration of no responses from our elected city officials in Westmount. Without mentioning names, since it is a general state of affairs, my experience has been quite the same as Ms. Hernandez’s.

If and when I do get a response, it is generally a “political” one advising me that any of my issues are out of their jurisdiction and the case is thus closed in their books and minds.

In addition, I am curious to know *why* city hall has been closed and its doors locked (they claim it is because of COVID but the *whole* province is open again so that is not an excuse that I would readily accept).

It is also very interesting to learn that the city property did open for a “meet the candidates” session with some candidates who made themselves available for *this*.\*

All this leads to the question: Do we really need to elect any councillors to a city hall that is closed off to the residents? It seems that the kind folks in various departments in Westmount are keeping the city running and doing fine online.

Do we really need elections? Perhaps we should take a break from voting anyone in until Westmount city hall is open again ...open again, that is, to receiving and serving its citizens in *person*. This way we may save on money, frustrations, and everyone’s time.

ALDO MAZZA, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

\**Editor’s note:* For clarity, many city buildings apart from city hall (e.g. the library, the recreation centre) are open in some way to members of the public with a vaccine passport. The candidates’ debate was not a one-off. – DP.

## SHOW THE DATA!

When it comes to numbers, the data will always win. There is not an alternative and there is no place to hide, unless people find a parallel universe where there are “alternative facts.”

No data, no proof of: “I respond ‘to all communication,’” reply letter by Anitra Bostock, November 2, p. 8. And unless Ms. Bostock has a time-travel machine to rewrite the past, her claim is, in her words, “unsubstantiated and erroneous.”

Even a pen and a notebook would suffice to keep a record of this data to show that every single email is answered, every concern is addressed and every problem is solved.

In fact, Ms. Bostock conveniently avoided to mention that she has already admitted, during her door-to-door campaign, she doesn’t answer all her emails.

“It is believed that officials should answer their email, or at least acknowledge that a message has arrived. If nothing else, it builds relationships with voters. And it makes sense. Politicians are in the relationship business,” according to Dave Lieber, an American writer. Maintaining high standards in e-mail communication is a sign of professionalism. The question is:

are the Westmount council members above the social norms and the professional standards?

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## DISAPPOINTED WITH SAMIOTIS

Having attended the municipal candidates’ debate at Vic Hall October 27, I felt it incumbent to register my total disappointment with the behaviour of District 8 ex-councillor Theodora Samiotis.

She used valuable time during the Q&A to berate our present councillor, Kathleen Kez, implying that Kez was taking credit for the last 12 years of the district’s progress. Fortunately, Councillor Kez’s swift response was to negate the vindictive accusation with a reiteration from her website, pamphlet and campaign speech.

During the Samiotis vs. Kez campaign [in 2017], Mme. Samiotis continually pushed for a southeast project [for Dorchester and the Tupper parking lots owned by the city]. This project would have resulted in huge road reconstruction (apart from the pipe installation we endure presently). It would have considerably altered Clarke Ave.’s design where it turns into Dorchester.\*

I campaigned for Mme. *continued on p. 17*

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**Cllr. Peart acclaimed in District 4 – seeks better information from city employees**

# Looking ahead to desires of district, city, council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Acclaimed councillor Conrad Peart last week proposed many areas to address in his District 4 and in the city as a whole. These include speeding and traffic flow by way of road design as well as the viability of Victoria village, reduced construction nuisances – and for the council to receive improved quality of information from the administration for its decision-making process.

“With a few years under my belt, the workings of municipal government and of our city’s administrative procedures are in clearer focus,” he explained last week after his first term on city council and role as urban planning commissioner.

“District 4 is doing well and the city of Westmount is doing well,” he told the *Independent*. “We can do better still, working along the complementary threads of public safety, quality of life, limited environmental impact and financial soundness.”

The district stretches from the west city limits to Mount Stephen and from Côte St. Antoine to Sherbrooke.

At the decision-making level of council, he said, “We are constrained by a general

dearth of reliable and current data” from the city administration. “Most modern organizations rely upon key metrics to inform the decision-making and to assess its impact over time. We should expect the same from our operations and I will endeavour to encourage a new culture of information processing across all departments.”

## District 4 attention

Issues to be addressed for the residents of his fully built-up and densely populated district include the volume and safety of through traffic, the health of the Victoria village commercial district and additional work in “our cherished Prince Albert Park.”

While the park has seen a new, inclusive play structure installed, its landscaping and comfort station demand attention, he said.

For the commercial strip along Sherbrooke, Peart said he “strongly” endorses an initiative to establish an SDC (*Société de développement commercial*) so more structured and strategic support can be received by the city.

An SDC is a business development company created in accordance with provincial requirements outlined in Quebec’s Cities and Towns Act, article 458. As explained by Peart, it is “the next step for the typically voluntary” existing merchant associations and is financed by a compulsory fee paid by the member companies of the territory (see also story March 13, 2018, p. 2).

“The proximity services offered to our residents are unrivalled, appreciated, and essential – as the pandemic has made all too obvious.”

On the dormant construction site at 500 Claremont, Peart pointed out that “the permits are approved and I look forward to seeing it finally come to life.”

That said, “I freely acknowledge that there is much more to do in the next

session – at the district level, across the territory and within city hall itself.”

Since councillors are “answerable to the city in its whole, my scope of interest extends across the entire territory.”

Sidewalks serve all and require focused attention, he explained, “not simple patch-and-repair fixes.”

Along with the planned zoning and architectural integration updates, he said, demolition and property maintenance by-laws call for review and bolstering. (He struck a similar note in his column in the *Independent* of August 31, p. 17.)

“The impact of private construction projects on neighbours and the public domain should be more tightly constrained and mitigated such that nuisances don’t continue for years unending.”

He also said he would be proposing that all major projects be eligible for a design competition. “This includes buildings or infrastructure projects such as an indoor pool, the re-building of The Boulevard, or other significant projects across our public spaces.”

## Second year of program

# RMR returns ‘Poppies by Mail’ in Westmount

Branch 14 Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) Association, a Royal Canadian Legion branch based in Westmount, announced November 2 its second annual Poppy by Mail ([poppybymail.ca](http://poppybymail.ca)) campaign. It allows Canadians to receive Remembrance Day poppies courtesy of Canada Post.

“Poppy by Mail” is entirely run by volunteers with all proceeds going directly to the local RMR Legion branch, which pledges to mail poppies on the same day that donations are received.

“This is our second Remembrance Day since the COVID-19 pandemic hit,” said



Conrad Peart on November 3. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

This would be to solicit talent and elevate achievement with a wider net. As examples, he cites the website: [www.design-montreal.com/en/competitions](http://www.design-montreal.com/en/competitions).

“I look forward to the challenge ahead,” he said, and thanked his constituents “for the trust placed in me.”

## Remembrance Day is November 11

Three years ago, in 2018, when November 11th fell on a Sunday, Westmount chose to mark Remembrance Day a week earlier, on November 4th. This year it falls on a Thursday so we observed it on the previous Saturday, November 6th. Why? My guess is it’s probably because it was more convenient. If Remembrance Day is to mean anything at all, shouldn’t we observe it on the actual day, convenience be hanged? In fact, the more inconvenient the better; at least it might bring home the whole point of the exercise. I’m sure it wasn’t convenient for those who gave their lives in the first place.

Can we resolve, once and for all, that starting next year, we will observe Remembrance Day on the actual day? This year, I for one will be at the Westmount Cenotaph at 11 o’clock on Thursday November 11th

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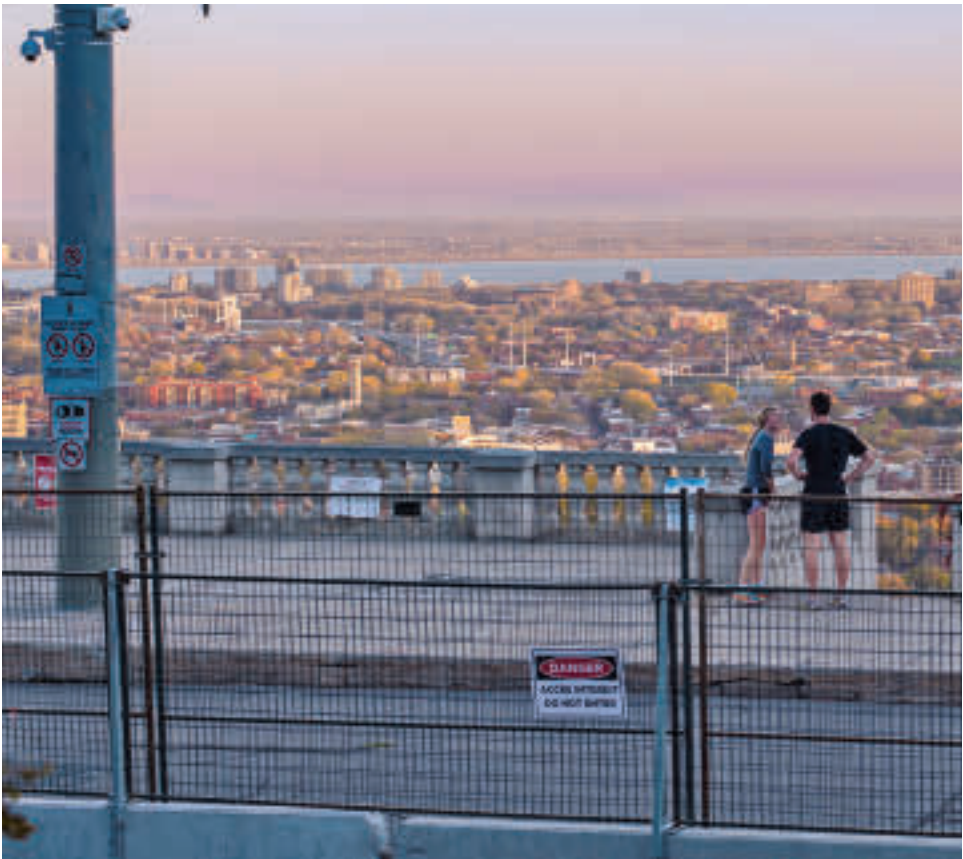
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Two joggers managed to circumvent the barriers at the summit lookout October 29. It was a spectacular sunset with a purple haze on the horizon.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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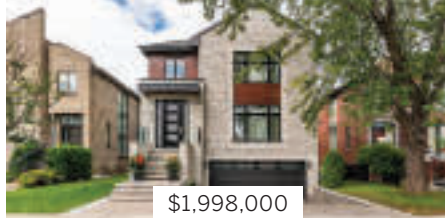
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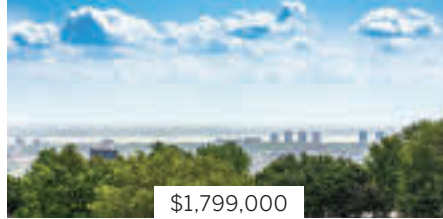


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**CÔTE-SAINT-LUC**

Beautiful renovated detached family home  
Hampstead adjacent. MLS 17382224

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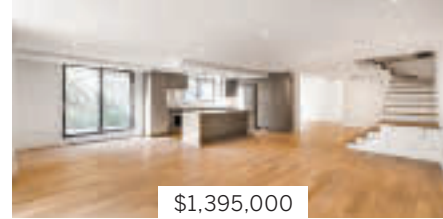


\$1,799,000

**VILLE-MARIE**

Located steps from Beaver Lake, this corner  
townhouse has been fully renovated to today's modern  
luxury standards. 2 car garage. MLS 26793876

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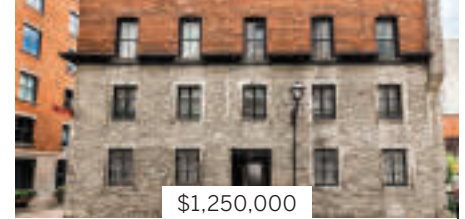


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This beautiful 2 storey, 2 bedroom, 2 plus 1  
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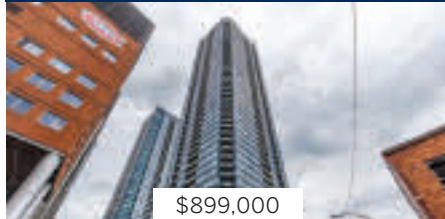


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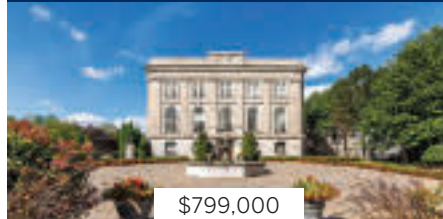


\$899,000

**VILLE-MARIE**

Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom luxury condo with a  
large private patio in Tour des Canadiens, Phase 3.  
MLS 20401004

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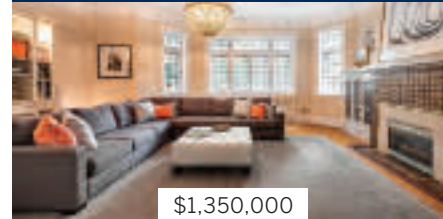


\$799,000

**NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE**

2 Bedroom condo with an open concept living  
space and large Western facing windows in award-  
winning Villa Veritas. 2 garages. MLS 11422973

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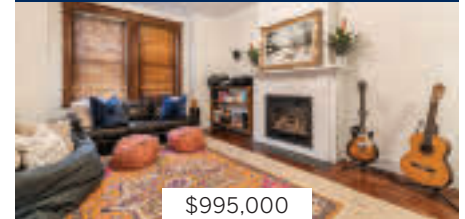


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**WESTMOUNT**

Charming and large lower duplex located in the  
heart of mid-level Westmount. Garage.  
MLS 15398393

## PRICE REDUCTION

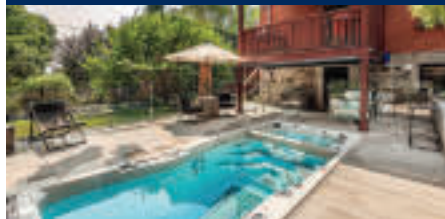


\$995,000

**NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE**

Ideally located on a desirable Westmount adjacent  
street, this spacious upper unit  
has it all. MLS 23701051

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## RECENTLY PURCHASED

**WESTMOUNT ADJ**

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## RECENTLY PURCHASED

**WESTMOUNT**

Charming and large upper duplex located in the heart  
of mid-level Westmount.

## RECENTLY PURCHASED

**NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE**

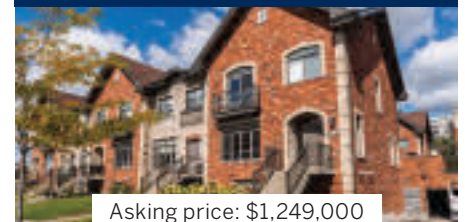
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Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

## RECENTLY PURCHASED

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**Election, cont'd from p. 1**

with Antonio, Elisabeth and Matt, who all bring different experiences to the table,” Mayor Christina Smith said of the newcomers. They join those acclaimed: Jeff Shamie in District 3, Conrad Peart, District 4, and Mary Gallery, District 5.

But Mayor Smith, herself acclaimed, told the *Independent* she was “appalled that some campaigns got nasty” and was “discouraged” with the 28-percent turnout – under 30 percent – in electing the level of government that is “closest to the people” and provides local services.

Turnout, however, is typically highest when voters from all districts are eligible to vote for a mayor.

**Voter participation rates\***

	Voted	Eligible	%
District 1	345	1,489	23.17
District 2	495	1,583	31.27
District 5	526	1,706	30.83
District 7	459	1,836	25.00
District 8	521	1,704	30.58
Total	2,346	8,318	28.20

\*Numbers in all districts may differ slightly from totals attributed to candidate results due to “spoiled” ballots or those incorrectly marked, according to the returning officer

# First one since March 2020 Public meeting to be held in council chamber Nov. 15

The new council will be sworn in at a private ceremony by invitation only November 15 at 11 am to be basically attended by five family members of each member to adhere to safe distancing capacities.

This will be followed by the (private) first meeting of the general committee of council, when the draft 2022 budgets for capital works and the overall operations will be discussed.

The public meeting of the new council takes place soon after at 7:30 pm, this time in public in the council chamber for the first time since the outbreak of COVID in

March 2020 as well as being live streamed on Zoom. Both will be open to questions, according to Mayor Christina Smith.

This meeting is expected to have a long business agenda as the first regular monthly session to take place since October 4. As with all municipal buildings, it is expected that a vaccination passport will be required to enter for the safety purposes of residents, Mayor Smith said. There will be a maximum capacity to be determined.


**Almost 10 percent  
of voters voted early**

Advance polls in Westmount October 31 and November 1 generated a total of 819 votes, or 9.84 percent of the eligible electors in the five voting districts. Figures also released by returning officer François Peter-Edmond Rivard November 2 showed that 83 persons had registered to vote by mail.

**de Mais. closed  
as of Nov. 8**

Contrary to a forecast (Nov. 3, p. 3) by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM), de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood was not open the morning of November 8. The “Projet Atwater” signage of its Metro station roof repair remained in place. To the layperson’s eye, the roadway looked ready for use by vehicles. It is not clear what Westmount will do once the STM opens the road (Oct. 26, p. SL-14).

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 6:30 p.m.



**Public information meeting**

Presentation of CIUSSS West-Central Montreal's highlights, financial statements, information on our general services and question period for the public.

To get the Zoom link for this meeting:  
[annemarie.belanger.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:annemarie.belanger.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

For more information:  
[ciusswestcentral.ca/public-information-meeting-2021](http://ciusswestcentral.ca/public-information-meeting-2021)



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Second storey proposed

# Demolition hearing set for Dec. 9 on 45 Summit Cresc.



45 Summit Crescent with city's notice of demolition work, as seen November 3.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A demolition hearing is set to take place December 9 at 4 pm for proposed work on a house at 45 Summit Crescent. This is a single-storey detached stone dwelling at the corner of Gordon Cresc, in front of which a city notice announcing the meeting was posted last week.

A rendering of what is proposed shows a two-storey house with a note stating that site plans remain unchanged.

The house next door to the east also has two storeys.

Anyone wanting to submit written opposition has 10 days after the public announcement to do so, bringing the deadline to November 12. This enables the



A rendering of the proposed dwelling.

DRAWING COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT'S WEBSITE.

writer to have intervenor status at the hearing.

A presentation of what was called demolition “work” on the city’s website last week showed views of the current house, a Category II heritage rated building, along with certificates of location and an architectural rendering of the plan though these do not appear on the notice board outside.

The certificates of the existing house and what is proposed state their site plans are unchanged.

Neither are there explanatory details of the type of work anticipated or whether the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and Urban Planning department recommend whatever type of demolition might be required.

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### 10 Rosemount Avenue non-renovated apartments

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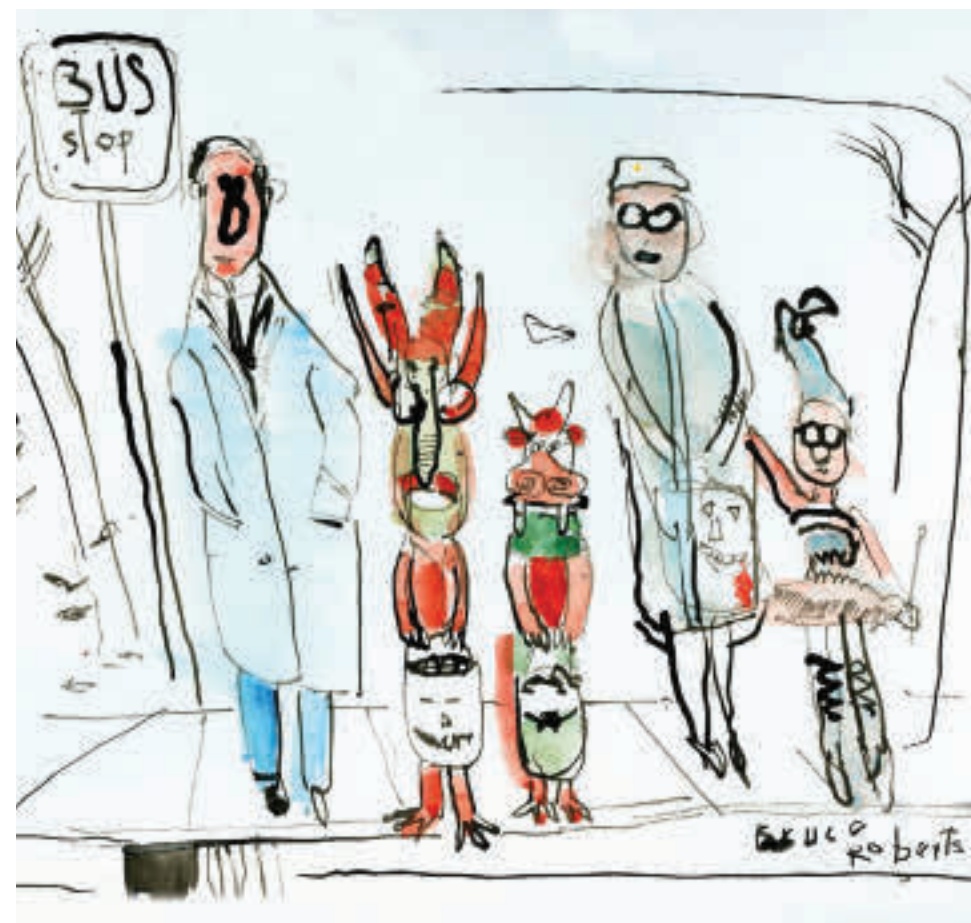
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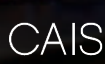
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# Penthouses at 1111 Atwater are 25% sold

By JENNIFER BALL

In the late afternoon of November 4, a team of Sotheby's International real estate brokers, a representative from RE/MAX Quebec and the *Independent* ascended in a service elevator to the top of Tower 1 at 1111 Atwater. While some previous viewings had to be cancelled due to windy conditions, we enjoyed a cloudless blue sky with sunshine both beaming off the river and back-lighting the Mount Royal autumn foliage.

This is indeed "life at the top" (to quote the development's marketing material) – with the full curve of the island viewable as a panoramic skyline between the 30th and 38th floors of the Eleve project for five home-owners who have already purchased their units out of the 22 to 25 penthouse residences in construction.

"We usually say '22,' in case owners decide to combine units," Cyrille Girard, a real estate broker of Sotheby's International Realty Quebec, said. "These are buyers looking for a really exclusive niche because they do not want to be exposed to other people in a huge complex."

The grand entrance is at 1111 Atwater Ave. and a southwest part of the building is in Westmount (see October, 26, p. SL-4



A view of the construction, and the mountain.

and June 11, 2019, p. 20). The entrance will feature two well-appointed spaces on either side of the reception area.

One is a reception hall to socialize with neighbours and guests or to tickle the ivories on the grand piano while sipping flutes of chilled champagne. The second is the lobby located in front of the elevators. The opulence was fabricated by the renowned interior designer Andres Escobar, of the New York-based company Lemay and Escobar.

"We are talking about something contemporary, very New York-ish, very classic even though it is contemporary," Girard said. "When somebody likes contemporary, they are usually entrepreneurs. They are very active. They are really visionary. The ones who will purchase contemporary will be the one who travel, have their own business and are very successful."

Delivery is set for next summer and at the beginning of December, owners will have the advantage of customizing their units."



"Christening the project," from left, Anne Ben-Ami (Mader), Cyrille Girard, Daniel Dagenais and JJ Jacobs of the Sotheby's International Realty Quebec team.

Services include a workout room, pool, conference room and guest loft that can be reserved by owners on a first come, first serve basis.

Residences start at one bedroom, 1,170 sq. ft, for \$2 million with combined condo fees and municipal taxes adding up to some \$36,000 yearly. Penthouse Collection (PH01) is five bedrooms, 6,770 sq. ft plus the loggia at 345 sq. ft and the terrace at 2,040 sq. ft for \$17.2 million with combined yearly costs of \$261,000. ("Loggia" is an architectural term for a covered, outdoor gallery that allows air to circulate within the dwelling.)

The residences will be managed by the developer EMD-Batimo and all include high performance glazed curtain walls and heated floors in *en suite* master bathrooms. Superior quality appliances, Italian cabinetry and stone island counter tops are kitchen staples.



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2021



## Fun and funny Theo

### Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Theo was found abandoned as a youngster and brought to the SPCA Montérégie shelter. How long he was out there is not



easy to think about. It is certainly best to just focus on ensuring his future in a caring family in our neighbourhood, which is for the better.

Theo is about two years old, the classic beagle-mix type with the adorable white, tan and black markings. He has extra cuteness as he has sweet freckles, huge soulful beagle eyes and soft velveteen ears.

Theo is a happy, affectionate, attentive, active young fellow. He is a good companion to people and other dogs. As he is young, he has not yet gotten to know cats or children, but he is a beagle and they usually fit in very well with all family members.

Theo is healthy, up to date with his inoculations and neutered. During his veterinary examination at the shelter, they felt he had a food allergy so they asked that he be on the allergy food for a time before reassessing.

At the moment, the grass-roots volunteer based SPCA Montérégie is accepting adoption applications online at their website [www.spcamonteregie.com](http://www.spcamonteregie.com), where you will find Theo's profile and be able to write to them at their email [adoptionpcamonteregie@gmail.com](mailto:adoptionpcamonteregie@gmail.com) for further communication. He is presently in foster care, so once the initial steps are completed, visits can be planned at their location which is 178 Chemin du Vide in scenic St. Angèle de Monnoir.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

### Letters, cont'd from p. 7

Samiotis on her first run for office in 2009. I underlined then that District 8 was desperate for a *sound barrier*.

Whilst accompanying her on the many individual District 8 house visits, she would confirm that was definitely her focus...not so much!

B. MANTEL, BRUCE AVE.

**\*Editor's note:** The background of the city's four-years-dormant southeast project is very complicated. The past discussion may become relevant (or not). For those who are interested, here is some reading:

### 2016

"Citizens weigh in on SE development – Make it 'green,' safe & low-rise, vision workshop hears," January 26, 2016, p. 1

"Narrowing of Dorchester, building heights proposed – minus bike path," June 21, 2016, p. 1

### 2017

"Update on Dorchester vision expected in June," May 16, 2017, p. 1

"Draft Dorchester vision sent back, May 30, 2017, p. 1

"Preliminary redesign of Dorchester had already been rejected," June 20, 2017, p. 4

"Planning vision deferred to incoming council," September 12, 2017, p. 4

### 2018

"Mayor: AGIL report a consultant's 'opinion' – City to prioritize St. Catherine before Dorchester, Tupper lots," October 30, 2018, p. 1

### 2019

Letter "City's Dorchester proposals better than empty lots," January 22, 2019, p. 7

"AGIL report [on the city's south-east revitalization] now translated into English," February 12, 2019, p. 5

Letter: "Southeast petitioners against tall, out-of-tune buildings, not development," February 12, 2019, p. 9.

## 'Majestic' says it all



### 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, should we mention that Majestic is affectionate and looks forward to belly rubs?

A big classic grey-and-white tabbie, Majestic is friendly and smart, loving all people and play. He is five years old and is presently in a foster care family for the SPCA Montérégie.

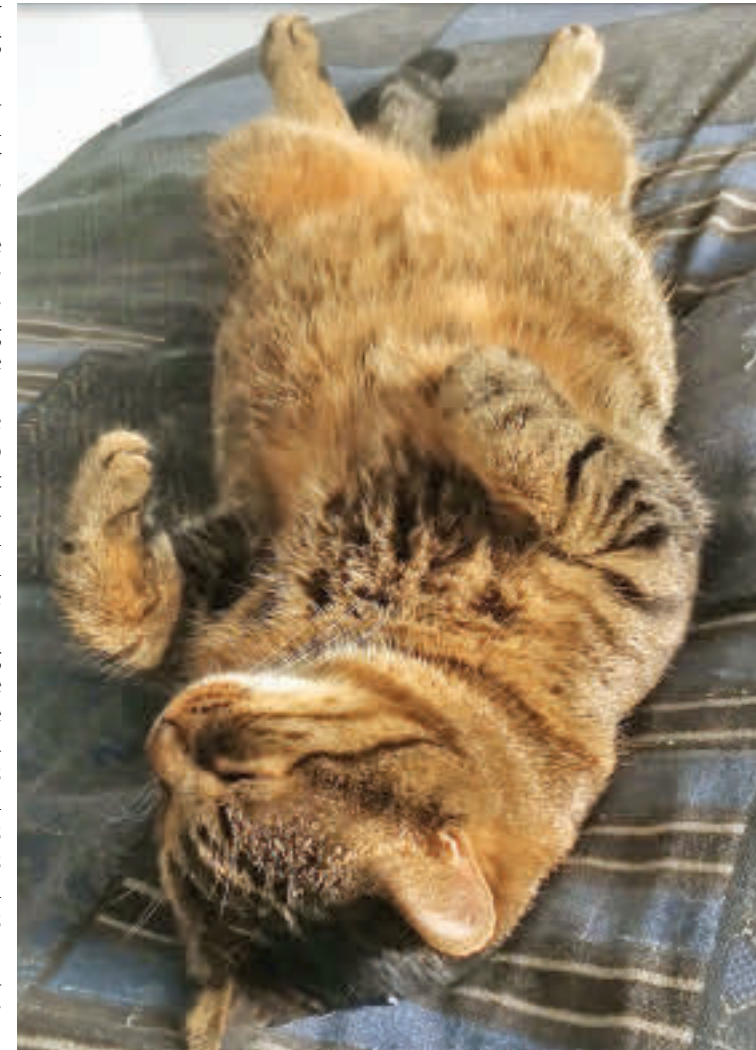
He is up to date with his vaccinations and neutered. While being vetted at the shelter on arrival, he tested positive for feline FIV so he would be best in a home as a single cat or with another cat with the same positive test.

He is doing quite well but he tends to have rhino once in a while and requires antibiotics when this flares up. His food sensitivity is presently very well dealt with by his special diet.

If you would like more information on Majestic,

the grass-roots volunteer based SPCA Montérégie is accepting adoption applications online at their website [www.spcamonteregie.com](http://www.spcamonteregie.com), where you will find Majestic's profile and be able to write to them at their email [adoptionpcamonteregie@gmail.com](mailto:adoptionpcamonteregie@gmail.com) for further communication. As he is presently in foster care, once the initial steps are completed, visits can be planned.

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# Contactivity Centre's Mary Stark retiring after 25 years

By MARTIN C. BARRY

After a quarter-century as the Contactivity Centre's executive director, Mary Stark will be retiring on November 15.

Prior to joining the centre in 1996, Stark had been director of volunteer and pastoral services for around 17 years at the former Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Marlowe Ave. in NDG.

"Mary has been an incredible leader and has successfully expanded the centre's programs and services during her tenure," Contactivity Centre board president John Bailey said in a statement.

"The board wishes to thank Mary for her exceptional contributions. These contributions have been vital to our mission of helping seniors stay connected and stay active."

At the same time, Bailey said the board had chosen Benita Goldin to be the next executive director. In addition to a master of science degree, Goldin has a professional background in managing community-based programs and services, as well as extensive experience with senior citizens.

In an interview with the *Independent*, Stark said she will still be involved on a

part-time basis in work at Contactivity Centre.

"I am delighted that Benita Goldin will be taking the reins as executive director, as she brings with her the right four e's – energy, enthusiasm, experience and education," Stark said.

### *Proud of team's pandemic work*

She said she felt especially proud of how the Contactivity Centre team had been able "to pivot our activities and services during the pandemic. With their ingenuity, we have been able offer such a variety of courses, speakers, virtual tours and concerts online," while tutoring seniors not familiar with the internet so they could still interact in the community.

Asked to share some of her fondest recollections, she said the "little moments" were as precious as the highlights, including "the countless instances of seniors having a chance to make new friends, to learn new skills, to reach out to one another and to make a difference to one another and to their community."

She said the past 10 years saw the Contactivity Centre involved in everything from balcony gardening at the Hillside Residence for seniors on Hillside Ave., to in-

ternet instruction and a digital photography course.

"We have been doing intergenerational work the entire 25 years that I have been at Contactivity – from our sponsoring of what was called the InterLink Choir, pairing members with students from Westmount Park School, to inter-generational art programs in conjunction with the Teen Zone of the YMCA, inter-generational creative arts classes, along with the Garderie Fun Academy, and most recently a highly successful and wide-ranging project with seniors and students at Selwyn House School, funded by Canadian Heritage."

### *1997: Pioneering internet learning*

Among the important milestones, she noted Contactivity Centre's being able to offer seniors some of the first free internet tutoring as early as 1997. This was done in cooperation with the Westmount Public Library, which allowed its computer terminals in the reference desk area to be used for that purpose.

Then in 1999, which was the U.N.'s International Year of the Older Person, Contactivity Centre made a poster presentation at the Fourth Global Conference on Aging held in Montreal.

## Police Report

# Station 12 reports first local catalytic converter theft

By Martin C. Barry

What is believed to be the first recorded incident in Westmount of an increasingly common type of theft took place during the night of Oct. 1-2 when a catalytic converter was stolen from the undercarriage of a car parked near the corner of St. Catherine St. and Park Place.

According to a complaint filed by the owner at Station 12 on Stanton St., he had started up his car after parking overnight, when the engine let out a very loud and uncharacteristic noise.

Driving the car to a garage to consult a mechanic, he was informed that the catalytic converter was no longer attached to the vehicle and had probably been stolen.

According to news reports over the summer, catalytic converter thefts doubled since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in early 2020. Police say the increase is probably due to the rise in the price of precious metals found inside the devices.

Catalytic converters transform pollutants to less toxic materials before air exits an exhaust pipe. Inside converters are three precious metals: platinum, palladium and rhodium. Last Friday, platinum

was selling for \$1,048.07 per ounce, palladium was at \$1,997, and rhodium was available for \$11,000.

Companies and government agencies that operate large fleets of vehicles have reported being especially targeted by catalytic converter thieves, sometimes with dozens of vehicles parked in outdoor lots being hit.

While thieves can typically make \$150 to \$200 from unscrupulous scrap metal dealers to whom they sell stolen converters, a new replacement can cost up to \$2,000.

To protect against catalytic converter theft, insurers advise that vehicles should be parked in locked and well-lit areas, or in such a way (against a wall or front facing outward) to make it inconvenient for thieves to gain access.

### *Second break-in for Subaru*

Sometime between October 30 and November 2, a Subaru parked in a driveway outside an upper Westmount home was broken into through a smashed side window and searched.

However, nothing was stolen, according to the owner who reported the incident to police afterwards.

What made the incident stand out in Station 12's recent crime reports was that six weeks prior, the same car was broken into around the same spot and some loose change was stolen, said community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

### *Victim of car break-in does not press charges*

The owner of a car that was broken into while parked around midnight on November 4 in a private driveway near the corner of Metcalfe and Côte St. Antoine refused to press charges against the female suspect, even though she was known to police from similar previous incidents.

When the woman was seen by a witness opening and entering the vehicle, the witness detained her and called the police.

However, when the owner was informed and was asked whether he wanted to press charges, he declined. "There were no charges laid," said Pimentel, noting that the suspect was taken into custody but was freed afterwards.

However, added Pimentel, quoting from the police report, the suspect "was known for having committed several thefts in vehicles across Montreal."

In 2003, the centre hosted a resource website and free workshop series for adult children of aging parents, along with a phone-in TV program by the same name that was organized with Mountain Lake PBS.

In 2004, the centre became the first seniors' organization to offer an innovative program in English on fall prevention (called P.I.E.D.). According to Stark, that program continues to this day, in partnership with CLSC Metro (although it has been temporarily halted due to the pandemic).

In 2005, the centre became involved in Concertation Inter-quartiers, a groundbreaking coalition of community groups in neighbourhoods bordering on what would be territory for the new MUHC hospital.

### *Fair & flash mob*

In 2006, Contactivity Centre partnered with the Westmount Healthy City Project (of which the centre was a member) for a day-long Seniors' Health and Happiness Fair at Victoria Hall. In 2008, the centre participated in the Quebec Consultation on the Living Conditions of Seniors.

And in 2016, together with an elders' forum theatre group called RECAA, Contactivity Centre held a "flash mob" performance at Alexis Nihon Plaza in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

*See photo on p. 1.*

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# In-person Treats & Treasures returns to Centre Greene

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Centre Greene's Treats & Treasures Craft Sale & Bazaar event is back in person this year, although with some restrictions because of the ongoing COVID pandemic.

"We're back and this is our first in-person Treats & Treasures since 2019," said Heather Hodges, Centre Greene's head of programs and special events.

While the 2021 Treats & Treasures will mark more than 20 years since Centre Greene board member Erica Bloom started the event, last year's could only be conducted as an online event, losing some of the spontaneous community spirit.

Bloom started Treats & Treasures as a pre-holiday season neighbourhood and garage sale event that included local crafters and artisans, turning it eventually into an annual gathering taking place each November in several rooms at Centre Greene.

In addition to being an important fundraiser for community programs at Centre Greene, Treats & Treasures is an open house that everyone in the surrounding community is invited to attend, while getting some holiday season gift shopping done.



Seen here on November 4, Centre Greene board member Erica Bloom (right), the driving force for more than 20 years behind Treats & Treasures, and Heather Hodges, Centre Greene's head of programs and special events.

"It's evolved over the years with the help of lots of volunteers," said Bloom, noting

that it wouldn't be possible to resume holding the in-person Treats & Treasures with-

out the support of Centre Greene's staff and many volunteers.

"Although we have to abide by all the rules, we are trying to keep the focus on the warm welcome people have come to expect when they come to Centre Greene," added Bloom.

"Many of the crafters have become part of our family and a lot of them have been coming back for years. Every year, we all look forward to the day and there is a big turnout."

Although efforts have been made to keep it as similar to regular Treats & Treasures events as possible, there will be some restrictions for sanitary reasons.

While there are normally 30 crafters on hand, there will be just over 20 this year. As well, there will not be a bake sale, a lunch room area or a raffle draw. However, there will be an Empty Bowls food security fundraiser, with proceeds going towards Centre Greene's seniors' lunch program.

*Treats & Treasures Craft Sale & Bazaar, Saturday, November 20 from 10 am to 4 pm. The address is 1090 Greene Ave. Phone: 514.931.6202. Entry is free, masks and proof of vaccination are required.*

*Park, cont'd from p. 1*

online survey that generated some 100 responses. It also singled out "a favourable appreciation of most of the project proposals" as well as "rejection" of building a wooden walkway over the playground.

While this walkway brought in a favourable rating of only 34 percent, a proposal to replace the wading pool at Melville and Sherbrooke with a fountain commemorating its previous use as a sailboat pond was not far behind, favoured only by 37 percent.

The latest results, which many residents have been seeking before and during the election period, went unannounced on the

city's website under the engage.westmount portal though city officials told the *Independent* the findings had in fact been posted October 22.

## Top rating

Leading off the two top favourable ratings at 69 percent was re-designing the pond with natural berms and replenishing it with rainwater. This was followed closely at 64 percent approval by creating an ecological and accessible public square on the roof of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

The addition of a pedestrian path along the bike path for pedestrian and cyclist safety garnered 55 percent.

An almost similar response at 54 percent favourable rating came for expanding the main pedestrian pathways to improve accessibility and maintenance of the park as did installing a new splash pad near the children's playground.

## Lower support

Installing a new, larger gazebo that would be better suited for events won only 46 percent support.

Replacing the wading pool at Melville with a fountain commemorating the sailboat pond was favoured by only 37 percent followed closely at 34 percent by the wooden aerial walkway over the playground to connect the main pathways.

The various ratings can be found on the engage.westmount site.

Almost 70 percent of respondents were aged 65 and over while another 26 percent were aged 45 to 54.

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# Remembering in Westmount



Station 12 police escorted a parade including the Royal Montreal Regiment and mounted police along Sherbrooke St. to the cenotaph on Côte Saint Antoine Rd. at Argyle for the city's Remembrance Day observance on November 7 (inset).

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Local jeweller Zakia opens store on Greene

dal pieces. “We hold one-on-one meetings and all the rings are made to order.”

Sofia’s story is that of an entrepreneur. A graduate of Westmount’s ECS, she started creating “in my parents’ basement.” In 2015, her designs were first sold online.

As the business quickly grew, she added

products – and opened her eponymous boutique last July. Creating in wax, she then works with a local casting firm for the final piece. That each is personal goes beyond birthstones.

The day I visited, the Hallowe’en Tarot card readings offered were so successful

that customers bought pendants inspired by the cards. There are also Tarot cards for sale, unique sets beautifully designed by artists.

A fun corner sports a fringed Victorian-style lamp shining its light on the display of Blind Date with a Book, a range of brown-paper bag packaged books (\$5 to \$10) whose subject matter is lightly described on the front. Fun!

Even more fun is out of sight in one corner. An old typewriter (ask your parents what that is!) can be used to “write an anonymous note or confession, which we then put up on an out-of-the-way wall, but anyone can go round and read them.”

Here is the other side of the selfie approach to, well, the self. Many notes have no signature. Secret selfies: A welcome oxymoron in today’s relentless instant onslaught. Hidden identities in this unusual boutique where customers can “wear their soul”: their bespoke pieces’ spirituality reflects their anima but only the owner knows.

It’s up to them to show and tell – or not.

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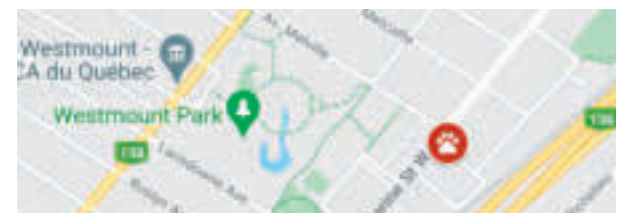
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## Guest column

## Searching for sanctuary in Westmount

The headline for this column has a double meaning: it refers to the history of people searching for sanctuary and refuge as well as the historian's search for records of this history. Both can be rather elusive.

For the past five years, I have been tracing the history of sanctuary in Canada. “Sanctuary” in this case refers to the protection of a wanted individual. In recent times, this has often involved the protection of refugee claimants facing deportation by various religious communities, where customary law deters federal authorities from encroaching on a sacred space. Although law enforcement has only violated church sanctuary once in recent memory, in the case of Mohammed Cherfi, who was sheltered in a church in Quebec City in 2004, modern sanctuary is a fragile enterprise and congregations regularly debate the pros and cons of assisting someone facing deportation.

The result is that sanctuary is often offered very quietly, with little publicity about who is involved. For a historian such as myself, this makes researching the history of sanctuary both fascinating and challenging, for there exists very little in the way of formal archival records.

### Accused in Lincoln assassination

For example, when I was researching the history of John Surratt, accused as an accomplice in the assassination of US president Abraham Lincoln in 1865, I found no mention of his whereabouts in the archives of the Catholic diocese of Montreal (the correspondence from the period was focused on Easter season and heavy flooding).

I did, however, find references in private correspondence to his whereabouts in Montreal. (He eventually took a ship to England and was later apprehended in Italy. He faced two trials but was never convicted.)

The nature of sanctuary means that the process of documenting past events becomes a question of looking for traces in private correspondence, relying heavily on local histories and, where possible, undertaking original oral history research.

I have recently begun this process with regard to a very complicated sanctuary event that unfolded over the course of 1998 and 1999, involving various groups of Chilean refugees in Montreal and Westmount.

As context, the federal government in Canada first addressed the question of refugees from Chile in a significant way in the aftermath of the 1973 coup by Augusto

of turning a blind eye to human rights violations in Latin America in the pursuit of its economic goals.

In official circles, however, there was a sense that things had improved since Pinochet stepped down in 1990 (he would be arrested and tried for war crimes eight years later).

Refugee claimants from Chile were often denied on the basis that they were economic migrants as opposed to persecuted refugees (the basis of the definition of a "refugee" in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and in Canadian law).

Do you have information about  
Chilean sanctuary seekers at the  
Church of the Advent in 1999?

Pinochet – which saw the overthrow of democratically elected Salvador Allende (a story recently evoked in a heartbreaking manner by Chilean author Isabel Allende in *A Long Petal of the Sea*).

The government's initial response was quite slow, raising the ire of churches that became quite vocal in their public criticism of the government's efforts. The fact that refugees were seeking sanctuary in the embassies and consulates of foreign countries in Santiago also forced governments to act and Canada eventually admitted 7,000 refugees.

The situation was somewhat different in the late 1990s. At the time, Canada and Chile had just negotiated a bilateral free trade agreement and although concerns about human rights violations were regularly raised in certain quarters, they were dismissed with equanimity in others.

Critics, including many churches, accused the federal government in Canada

Rather than leave Canada after their claims were denied by the Immigration and Refugee Board, a group of Chilean refugees took sanctuary in the St. Jean de la Croix Catholic Church in Petite Patrie in the fall of 1998.

They were eventually asked to leave over their political activities, which violated the terms of sanctuary in the church.

*Church of the Advent was a refuge*

One of the families, the Mondacas (including their three daughters) and their friend Francisco Munoz then took sanctuary in the Church of the Advent in Westmount in the spring of 1999.

In both instances, the French and English media coverage at the time used the term “occupied” to describe the situation, suggesting that the sanctuary provided by these two churches was contested and likely the source of much debate.

As in previous cases I have explored, there is very little in the official archival record of the Catholic or Anglican dioceses about these events and 20 years on, memories of this period may have faded.

Still, the history of Chilean refugees in Canada, and the history of activism around human rights violations in Central America suggests that there is much to be learned from these events, both in terms of local history and the history of sanctuary more broadly. The search for sanctuary continues.

On that note, I would love to hear from you if you have any information or insights about any of these events.

Laura Madokoro of Carleton University can be reached at [laura.madokoro@carleton.ca](mailto:laura.madokoro@carleton.ca).



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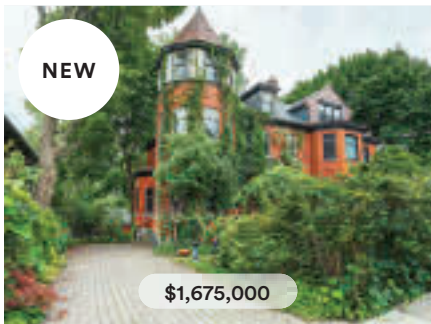




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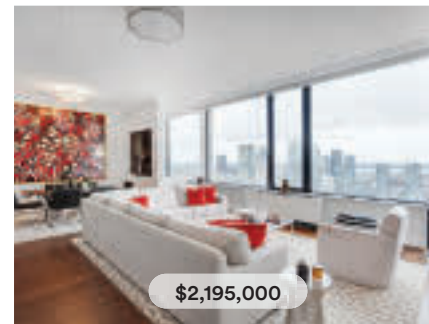
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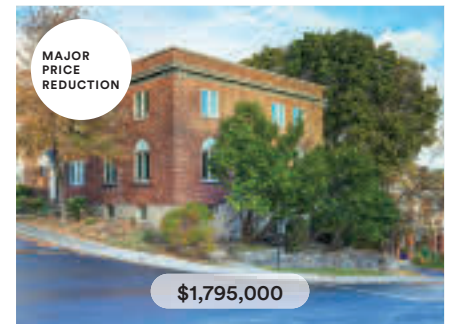
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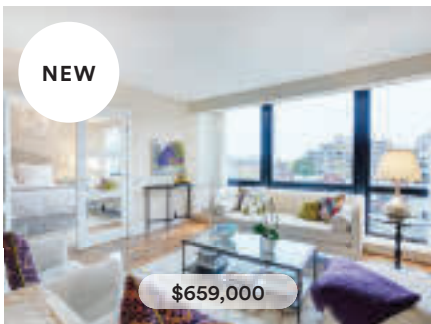
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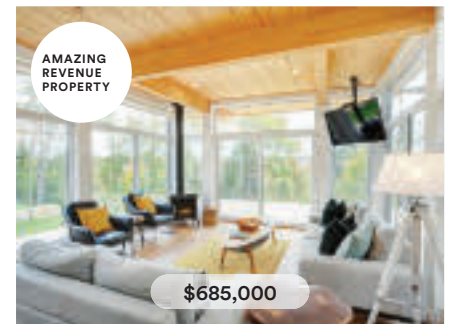
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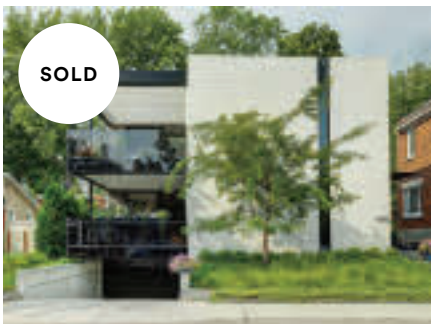
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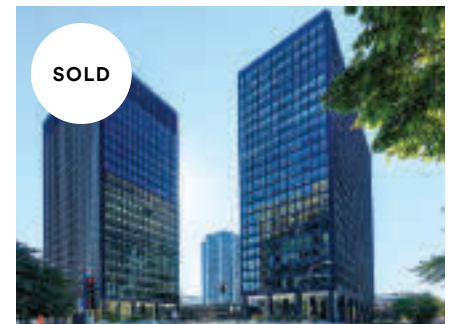
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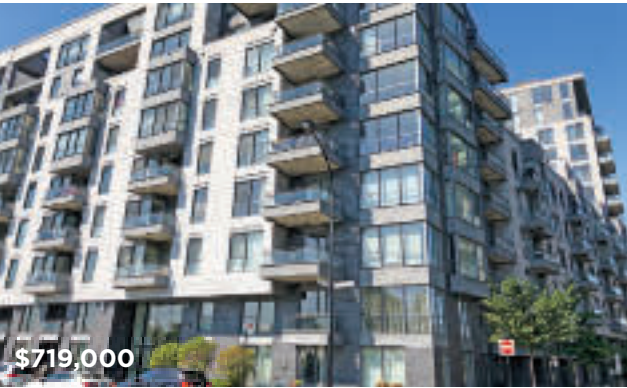
\$3,300,000

**2333 Sherbrooke Street W #805** One of the most spacious and beautiful apartments at Manoir Belmont with rooms of generous proportions offering an ideal layout for entertaining, family gatherings and comfortable living.



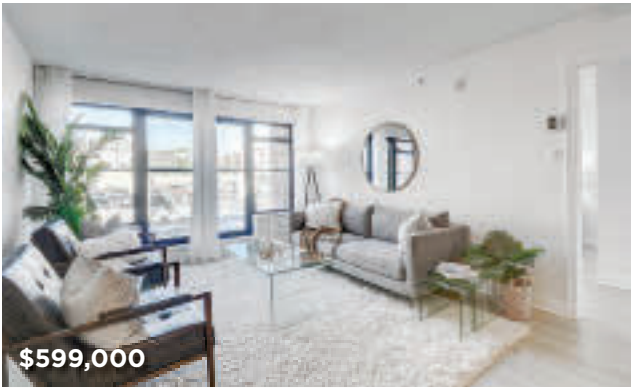
\$719,000

**1455 Sherbrooke #512** Great opportunity to live in a most prestigious Golden Square Mile location, the Port Royal! Unrivalled concierge services. Affordably priced for a quick transaction.



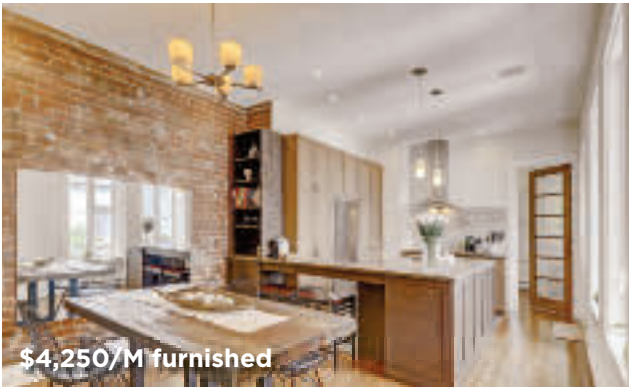
\$719,000

**OLD MONTRÉAL • 859 DE LA COMMUNE E #104**



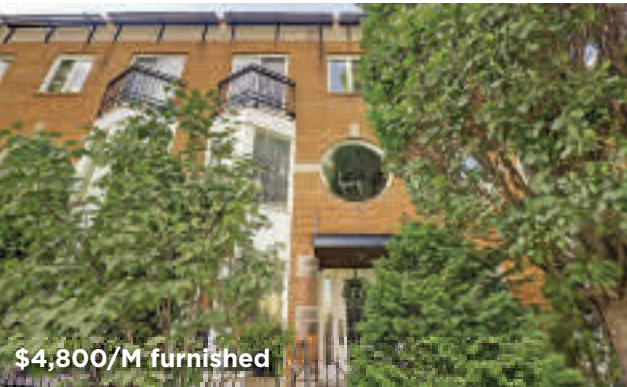
\$599,000

**OLD MONTREAL • 450 ST ANTOINE E #201**



\$4,250/M furnished

**PLATEAU • 73 ST CUTHBERT**



\$4,800/M furnished

**ST HENRI • 2237 STE CUNEGONDE**



\$3,800/M furnished

**WESTMOUNT • 318 GROSVENOR**



\$5,000/M furnished

**WESTMOUNT • 294 GROSVENOR**