

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 15 No. 11d

We are Westmount

November 23, 2021

Only one questioner in attendance

## In-person council is back! Hybrid meeting includes Zoom

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After a period of some six weeks without a city council meeting during the municipal election period, the first one took place November 15 after the successful candidates were sworn in earlier that morning.

All thanked their electors while Mayor Christina Smith also thanked all candidates, including those who were not voted in but had “put their name forward” to stand for office to try to “improve your city.”

Commissionerships will not be an-

nounced until probably December 6.

The new city councillors were also introduced to the types of closed-door general committee sessions they face when an important discussion took place later that evening as to whether a recent province of Quebec ministerial decree affected the city’s current policy of preventing unvaccinated citizens from attending certain functions.

These included public council meetings and entry to the library, Victoria Hall and changing rooms at the Westmount recreation centre, Mayor Smith later told the *Independent*. continued on p. 5

## Somerville Ave. takedown



Police took a suspect into custody November 16 on Somerville near Prince Albert. He had been in the courtyard of the former Darro automobile garage behind the Visual Arts Centre. Six police cars and a canine unit were on scene. See p. 8 for story.

PHOTO: BETH HUDSON.

## Council asked for new consultation process

## Proposed changes in park need ‘reset,’ resident contends

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Results from the third and latest survey on the revitalization of Westmount Park were questioned at the November 15 council meeting by one resident challenging the process used by the city’s consultant on the subject.

This was the first council session since the findings were made public in late Oc-

tober.

“Westmount residents are clearly divided on the proposed park design,” Denis Biro of Burton Ave. stated, adding that “we can’t just move on to the final design.”

In fact, he contended, the process handled by the city’s supplier had been “muddled and lacking in transparency,” and he doubted residents saw it as being “fair and continued on p. 9

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# 3 tickets issued at St. Catherine site after safety complaints

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three tickets were issued at the construction site of a five-storey apartment building on St. Catherine St. at Metcalfe just west of the K.I.D.S. daycare building, Public Security officials said. This is the property that stood vacant for many years

after a fire at the Westmount BBQ in 1991. One ticket bearing a fine of \$1,000 plus \$300 administrative costs was given for several violations of a permit involving security fencing, occupation of a certain amount of the parking lane and ways to provide pedestrian safety.

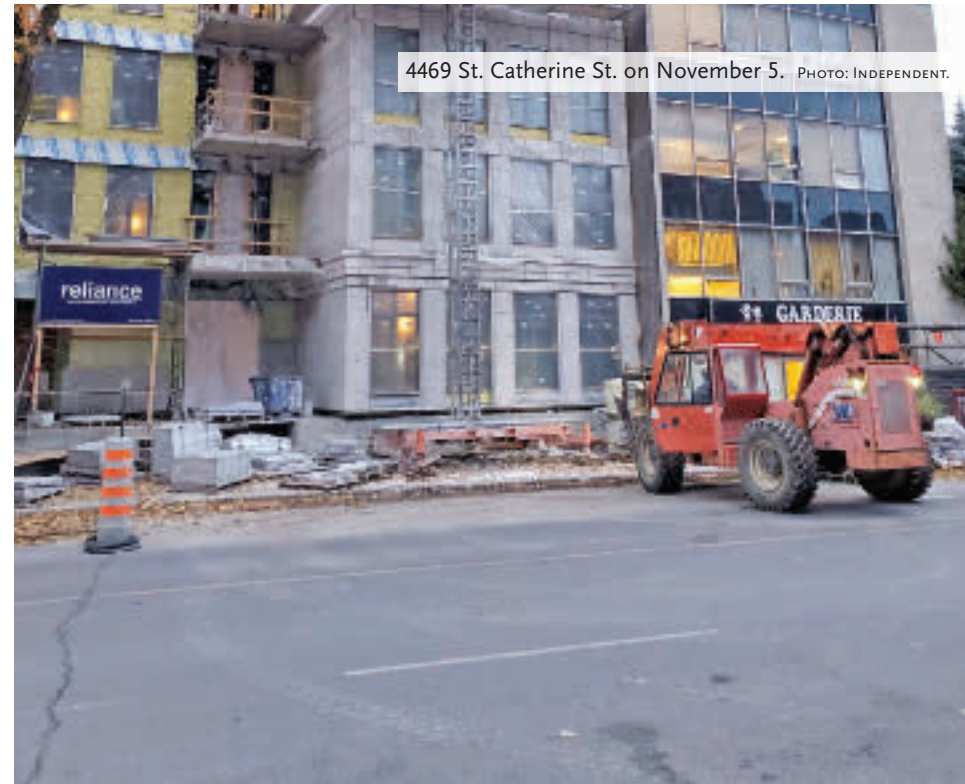
Another ticket in the same amount was

issued for extended occupation of the public domain to the east and west as had been requested in a separate permit but not yet given.

A third ticket was issued to a truck parked in a handicap zone.

Public safety officers noted the conditions after being called November 18 at 9:05 am by a neighbour complaining about safety. The site is in a congested area described as requiring particular adherence to safety given its proximity to the daycare as well as loading and handicap parking zones in front of a pharmacy.

4469 St. Catherine St. on November 5. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



## Public Security helps injured pickleball player

Public safety officers answered a call November 11 at 2:03 pm for help with a man who had fallen in Westmount Park playing pickleball and had trouble getting up. They found that the man, accompanied by his daughter, had hurt his arm, and could not walk on his own. He did not want Urgences Santé called, so officers got a wheelchair and wheeled him to a car.

## 'Fallen' container causes rush-hour commotion

A construction container that fell as it was being loaded onto a truck at Victoria and Windsor November 15 was described by Public Security officials as creating "quite a commotion" in traffic at 8:13 am. As a result, southbound traffic was blocked at Côte St. Antoine and deviated while additional help was obtained to help get the container onto the truck's rails.

## Gift Guide

after p. 12

Letters, p. 10

T's Takes: Politics, p. 16

Art Scene:  
Vic Hall's first post-pandemic exhibition, p. 20

City Views: Gauthier,  
Kulish, Bontemps, p. 21

Pet Page, p. 16

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**'Giving Tuesday' collections Nov. 28 and 30**

# Public Security food drive kicks off with \$2,190 and more

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security's annual holiday food drive got off to a start at the Artisans Westmount fair November 13-14 when a total of \$2,190 and a large amount of non-perishable food was collected at the door as the price of admission.

The food filled about 10 blue recycling boxes, said assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun, who coordinates the food basket project.

Donation boxes for non-perishables were also to have been placed in municipal buildings Monday, November 22. Gift cards can be placed in the mail slot at city hall with envelopes marked for the food basket drive, she said.

The traditional Giving Tuesday collec-

tion on November 30 will be preceded this year by a "pre-Giving Tuesday" collection outside Les 5 Saisons at the start of Hanukkah on Saturday, November 28 from 10 am to 6 pm.

On Giving Tuesday itself, a patrol vehicle will be parked outside the Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave. to accept donations. This is part of the city's involvement in what has become "a global day of giving" established by the United Nations in 2012, and adopted annually by a resolution at the city council meeting, this year at the November 15 meeting.

Also, starting November 30, there will be a link on the city website for online monetary donations.

**Physical council attended by one,**  
cont'd from p. 1

It was referred for a legal opinion, she said.

This first meeting of the new council was also "very exciting" being the first in-person one since the outbreak of pandemic closures March 13, 2020, she said. While attended by only one resident, Caroline Jondahl, the meeting was also livestreamed on Zoom, becoming a hybrid model with a few noticeable changes in seating and council chamber arrangement.

Among these was relocating the questioners' mic further back near the entrance to the council chamber and relocating the three flags – of Canada, Quebec and Westmount – from their traditional position behind the mayor's chair to behind the desk occupied by the director general.

They had been temporarily moved for the inauguration of the election winners, Mayor Smith later explained.

**Noise pollution, BC floods cited**

## Jondahl asks city for comprehensive plan to 'go green'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The only resident attending the city council's in-person public meeting November 15 voiced concern over noise pollution from certain city vehicles and expressed environmental concerns that included a wide range of waste management and carbon emissions issues.

"Will this city council begin tonight to have a compassionate and comprehensive green strategy?" Caroline Jondahl finally asked following a lengthy preamble on the city's need to go green and several requests from Mayor Christina Smith to state her question.

The mayor thanked Jondahl for her

**Doorstep collection**

Following this, donations of non-perishable items will be picked up on Saturday, December 4 from doorsteps where residents have arranged a time with Public Security at 514.989.5222 or Colquhoun at 514.989.5367. Among her suggestions are Metro or pharmacy gift cards, gluten-free items and new still-packaged toys.

Details about all these events are to be posted on social media and Westmount.org.

Baskets are usually delivered to local families the third week of December on recommended needs provided by the local Guy-Metro CLSC. Last year's collection involved 35 families (see story January 19, 2021, p. 3).

commitment to sustainability and raising good points about climate change including the recent floods in BC, noise and other issues.

She said the council's sustainability commissioner, once named, will have an opportunity to work with many city departments.

She also pointed out how the city tried to ban gasoline-fired leaf blowers but wanted this to take place more effectively in conjunction with the entire island of Montreal (see story March 6, 2018, p. 1).

The city was also trying to move toward acquiring electric vehicles and to increasing composting in large apartment buildings.



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# Artist donates painting from unicorn book to library

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Public Library has received the donation of an original painting by children's book illustrator Susan Mitchell, which was hung recently in the children's library. It is an illustration from the book *Claire and the Unicorn Happy Ever After* by Barbara G. Hennessy.

"We have this book and others illustrated by Susan Mitchell in our collection," said Wendy Wayling, children's librarian. The current painting, which came professionally framed, is a watercolour with some white acrylic used on the unicorn, she said.

"Susan has also animated a number of popular art workshops at the library over the years. She is moving back to Scotland and wanted to find a good home for this painting. It's a whimsical scene of a woodland library – a perfect addition to our library."

While in-person users of the library are still fewer than in pre-pandemic days, Wayling told the *Independent* that users are welcome to reach out to her by email at [wwayling@westmount.org](mailto:wwayling@westmount.org) for help in choosing books that can be reserved for them.



Children's book illustrator Susan Mitchell, right, with her painting November 11 and children's librarian Wendy Wayling at left.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.



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# Artisans Westmount 2021 – A look at three artisans



Claire Papillon.



Katy Lemay.



Cécile Côté.

BY JENNIFER BALL

With the holidays only six weeks away, business was brisk at Victoria Hall over the weekend where Artisans Westmount 2021 was held November 13-14. Admission was a non-perishable food item or \$2 and all for a good cause: to support Westmount Public Safety department's annual holiday food drive.

Hand-crafted soap, silver jewellery, mittens, leather bags, knapsacks and pottery earned the interest of many shoppers.

### *Papillon's scarves*

For winter warmth or just flair, multi-disciplinary artist Claire Papillon – who weaves graphics and illustration in her textiles – displayed her latest creations that are a valentine to the city of Montreal.

"The inspiration for the scarves was the 375th birthday of our city (in 2017) for which I produced an entire collection", Papillon said.

"They include Centreville, the biosphere and the fireworks at Park Jean Drapeau, during the celebration of St. Jean Baptiste day." The cost is \$214 for the large silk scarf and \$70 for the small.

### *Lemay's 'tablewear'*

In the vein of gastronomy, the illustrator and designer Katy Lemay – the creative director of TableWear – contrives a fresh contemplation of Victorian yuletide. Discarded vintage photographs, cloth, beads and thread are given a new purpose in her collection.

"I had a bursary from the Conseil des arts et lettres to attend an arts residency

program, so I explored the archives of the Monastère des Augustines in Quebec City. I worked with these old pictures and used them to print over the old fabric that used to belong to the congregation of the nuns of the monastery," Lemay said, in reflecting on her muse.

Original illustrative collages by Lemay are printed on table cloths (\$150) and linen napkins (\$50), that will ensure your holiday table is unlike any other. She also sells aprons (\$95) and bespoke cufflinks for \$45.

### *Books by Côté*

"For letter press, I print cards and ex libris book plates sold in boxes or in envelopes of 15," the bookbinder Cécile Côté said, who helmed a stall intended for the book lover on your holiday shopping list.

"For the bookbinding, there are journals, boxes with a book inside called 'inspirations' so people can fill in with what inspires them."

It was clear that what boosts Côté is the reaction her students have to books, given our digital epoch. "I give a lot of workshops in schools. Strangely, for the past few years, I bring 19th century books to class and that is where I catch them. They have never seen a real book, ever. They have seen paperbacks but when I show them 19th century books, they want to touch it, they want to look at the paper, they want to see how it is printed."

While Artisans Westmount 2021 wrapped up last Sunday, shopping can continue online: [www.clairepapillon.com](http://www.clairepapillon.com) & [katylamay@gmail.com](mailto:katylamay@gmail.com) and [atelierpapierplomb.blogspot.com](http://atelierpapierplomb.blogspot.com) for Cécile Côté's products.

## Police Report

# Police capture armed robbery suspect on Somerville Ave.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A suspect who fled the scene of an armed robbery in eastern NDG last week after threatening and assaulting a store owner was arrested by police less than a half-hour later near the corner of Somerville and Prince Albert avenues in Westmount.

At least nine officers from Station 9 in NDG and Station 12 in Westmount and four police vehicles – including a canine squad truck – took part in the intervention on Somerville on the morning of Novem-

ber 16 around 9:30 am.

At 9:10 am that morning, the owner of a store on Sherbrooke St. near Grey Ave. had called 9-1-1 to report he had been robbed by a known shoplifter who threatened him with a baseball bat and struck him with it.

"The suspect was known to do thefts, shoplifting – he was known for that," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, while adding that the store owner had been victimized by the suspect on a number of occasions previously.

According to an account furnished to the police, the owner ejected the suspect from the store, although the suspect came back. Witnesses say the suspect returned with a baseball bat, which he used to break the store's front window.

After this, he also threatened to use it against the owner. Afterwards, the owner told the police that the suspect struck him with the bat on an arm he'd raised to protect himself, and that several people also witnessed this.

After fleeing the scene, the suspect made his way three blocks east into West-

mount, where he was reported to have taken refuge in a courtyard behind a building on Somerville Ave.

There he was finally located by the police, who ordered him to lie on the ground so his hands could be handcuffed and he could be arrested. According to Pimentel, a staff sergeant from Station 12 single-handedly carried out the arrest.

"She was on her own," he said. "She saw the suspect running, caught the suspect, detained him on the ground, handcuffed him, then called another car to pick him up." See photo on p. 1.



# Artisans fair attracts 1,132 in post-pandemic year

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Artisans Westmount fair took place in person this year at Victoria Hall November 13-14 after its cancellation last year over

## Good advice



Seen November 17 at the Westmount Park lagoon. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

COVID restrictions. It was the first time it was fully organized by the city's Community Events division.

In the past, while overseen by the department, there had been a small committee of volunteers involved "who told us they were ready for a break," said library assistant director Donna Lach, who is in charge of Community Events.

The reorganization of this year's event came at "a difficult time period" because of the uncertainty of in-person events when it came time for the selection of this year's 34 vendors, according to Emily Gamble,

Community Events and Logistics agent.

All came from Quebec with their hand-made items that included jewellery, ceramics, fashion accessories, wooden household products and leather goods. A count of 1,132 people attended the event over its two days, which "we were so very happy about since our average turnout was about 1,100 pre-COVID," Gamble said. "It went over without a hitch including the mandatory check of vaccination passports."

The event required entry contribution of \$2 or a donation of non-perishable food (see separate story, p. 5).

## Park, cont'd from p. 1

competent." It is time for a reset, he said. Residents should be satisfied that their voices were heard and that their opinion and needs would be factored into the final design.

"We need more consultation," Mayor Christina Smith said, acknowledging "there was no overwhelming consensus." She also said that the survey results were not a "resounding No." (See story on results November 9, p. 1).

## Mayor questions three items

Saying she had walked the park with

some residents, she did not like the idea of an aerial bridge over the playground, and found a proposed fountain and splash pad to be "redundant." On the other hand, some of the park's infrastructure and features such as the jungle gym in the playground had reached the end of their lifespans.

But there was "a common goal: we love the park's connection with the library, Victoria Hall and the WRC."

Westmount Park was one of the issues raised in the election campaign by a number of electors and those seeking council seats.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CITY’S REMEMBRANCE TIMED FOR MILITARY’S PARTICIPATION

In his letter to the *Indie* of November 9 (p. 7), Mr. de Freitas asked why Westmount’s Remembrance ceremony is not held on November 11 [as did Catherine Duff-Caron in her letter of November 16, p. 8].

The answer is that the military would not be available in Westmount as they are ordered to participate in the Montreal ceremony downtown.

Westmount therefore traditionally holds its ceremony on the Sunday immediately prior to the 11th. This year, since the Sunday was election day, it was shifted to Saturday.

PATRICK MARTIN, THE BOULEVARD

WESTMOUNT VOTED FOR GARNEAU, NOT PAPER-DOLL TRUDEAU

We totally support the sentiments of Mark Lalonde and Valerie Schwartz, “appreciating his many years of service in public office and devotion to Canada in the Space Program” (November 9, p. 6). Marc Garneau is a Canadian icon.

The fact that Peter Trent, our highly respected former mayor, has deplored his removal from the Liberal minority cabinet is a testimony to his worth. Ian Macdonald, the well-known journalist, also takes issue with his shabby treatment.

For my part, Garneau is too young to be

put out to pasture as ambassador to France, or have schools, parks or monuments named after him. This political “plum” should go to a francophone elder statesman, from whom there are plenty to choose.

Konrad Adenauer, the revered German chancellor who helped rebuild Germany after World War II, was 88 years old when in office. Winston Churchill was no spring chicken either. Marc Garneau was elected to the Canadian house of commons, where he can contribute in his diplomatic and forceful way. His expertise and statesmanship would be sorely missed in our parliament, plus his personal example of courage and integrity.

John F. Kennedy said it clearly, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” That is what Marc Garneau has been doing all along. That is what Tommy Douglas did for Saskatchewan and Canada when he instigated the first single-payer universal health care program in North America in 1961. He faced intense opposition from the medical profession.

Our current prime minister, Justin Trudeau, is a handsome paper-doll politician interested only in the issues that will bring him votes for the next election. Our big Canadian corporations that financially support the Liberal Party are heavily invested in China. Are they intimidated by Xi Jinping and his punishing tactics with canola

oil, pork and the imprisonment of the two Michaels?

Would Marc Garneau have taken a stand as the newly appointed minister of Foreign Affairs and joined the world’s liberal democracies, keeping Huawei away from Canada’s core 5G internet infrastructure?

Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and the US already have.

We have just celebrated Remembrance Day, November 11. As usual, we have recited John McCrae’s poem “In Flanders Fields.” “The torch be yours to hold it high.” Marc Garneau, we voted for you, not Justin Trudeau. May your next move be a blessing for Canada.

SHIRLEY NEWELL, SHERBROOKE ST.

THANK YOU, PUBLIC WORKS, FOR SUNNYSIDE

The six-month Sunnyside road project is over; and, my wife, Marilyn, and I wish to praise the city of Westmount’s department of Public Works, the engineering division head, Shawn Aloysius, and, especially, the project manager, Michel Gagné, for a demanding job well done.

M. Gagné is an engineer who displays acute attention to detail and a search for excellence. We are particularly suited to make this appraisal because we reside in a house on Sunnyside where there is no sidewalk and the building is right up to the street, so that it was easy for us to see and hear and smell (and, sometimes taste) what was going on.

And, being in self-imposed isolation due to the COVID pandemic, we were on the scene practically all day, every day.

We were right there to witness the myriad of things that went wrong and how alert M. Gagné was to ensure an immediate and appropriate fix. He achieved a result that we believe is as good as one could get.

Civil engineering deals with the design and execution of structural works. But, ultimately, its aim is to make life somewhat better. Our sincere congratulations to Michel Gagné. He fulfills this role.

NORMAN NADLER, SUNNYSIDE AVE.

BEWARE OF SCAMS, KUDOS TO JEAN COUTU

I was almost scammed. I am writing to alert readers of a Google Play gift cards scam.

I recently received e-mails from an acquaintance whom I admire and respect. The first e-mail asked if I could render a favour. (This is the first red flag because my acquaintance has family and friends. I haven’t spoken to my acquaintance since

the pandemic. We don’t e-mail or telephone each other – it’s a only short conversation when we meet on the street.)

The second e-mail gave further details – to get Google Play gift cards for a friend (with cancer)’s birthday. My acquaintance wrote she was on a short trip and not close to any store. The second red flag was cancer spelled with a capital “C.” My acquaintance has a master’s in art history and is very refined/polite.

I did go to Jean Coutu on Greene where I found the Google Play gift cards. I replied there were cards at four different prices and which one did she want? The answer was three \$100 ones. This is the third red flag – my acquaintance does careful shopping and I suspect one card would have been her choice.

What saved me was a Jean Coutu employee who said, “You know there is a scam about Google Play gift cards.” He also showed me a bilingual notice from the Jean Coutu administration warning of this scam. I told him I would telephone my acquaintance. I am most grateful to the Jean Coutu employee.

My acquaintance lives nearby in an apartment block. I rang her intercom. She answered. (So much for being out of town.)

She told me that her e-mail had been hacked and that is why I received an e-mail posing as her. Looking over the e-mails, I noticed two different e-mail addresses for my acquaintance (red flag number 4).

That evening, I attended a class where I shared the above. One participant said, “Scammers target women 65 years and over.” Even this morning I received an e-mail from the hacker.

It’s holiday time and I feel we all need to be cautious. I hope the above information will be helpful to you. Happy holidays to all.

ANGIE CANERS, KENSINGTON AVE.

REDUCING MOWING WOULD ALSO REDUCE ALLERGENS

I would like to thank Bonnie Levinson for the good points she brought up in her November 9 letter to the editor (p. 6). Upon further investigation, I am thrilled to report to her and other allergy sufferers that they are likely to benefit from reduced lawn-mowing.

In December 2019, a meta-analysis was conducted of studies completed over the past 15 years of urban-lawn management in North America and Europe by a research team at UQTR. They shared their results in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, where they state that “intensive mowing [...] increases the occurrence of ..... pest species (e.g. herbivor- continued on p. 14

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# Contactivity Centre set to re-open after pandemic, new director Goldin says

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A wind of change is blowing at the Contactivity Centre for retired seniors with the arrival of a new executive director this month.

Benita Goldin is stepping into the position held by Mary Stark, who retired recently after 25 years of service to the centre located on de Maisonneuve Blvd. in Westmount Park United Church (see November 9, p. 1).

A Westmount resident, Goldin has a master of science degree, professional expertise in managing community-based programs and services, and an extensive history of community involvement in issues involving senior citizens.

“She brings with her the talent and experience needed to successfully continue our mission,” John Bailey, president of the Contactivity Centre board, said in a statement announcing Goldin’s appointment.

Most recently employed as a management consultant for non-profit organizations that provide programs and services to seniors, while also sitting on the boards at several other groups, Goldin worked for 20 years at the Cummings Centre for seniors, where she was the coordinator of community relations.



Seen here on November 18 outside the Contactivity Centre on de Maisonneuve Blvd., Westmount resident Benita Goldin became the centre’s new executive director earlier this month.

“We want to increase our membership,” she continued. “And we want to make sure everybody in Westmount knows we are here, so that hopefully they will and take advantage of the programs, services and activities that we offer.”

In addition to the online emphasis during the pandemic, Contactivity Centre staff and volunteers have been busy behind the scenes helping seniors get to appointments for COVID vaccines, and more recently for influenza shots.

“When boosters become available, we’ll help people get to their booster shot appointments,” she said. “We also helped with grocery shopping and we are still doing that with those who need it. And I want to re-start our medical accompaniment service, hopefully soon.”

According to Goldin, the centre has expanded in Westmount Park United Church. “We have more office space, more program space now,” she said, while noting that the centre is overdue for a clean-up after being mostly empty during the pandemic.

She acknowledged that the physical expansion will allow Contactivity to accommodate a greater number of members for in-person activities, although the centre also wants to continue making programs available to online participants.

“Our plan is to offer a hybrid model of online and in-person,” she said. “Because we know that especially in the winter, it can be difficult to get out. So, this way people can still maintain their exercise with us, along with our other programming, which they’ll do virtually. And those who are able to come in will come in.”

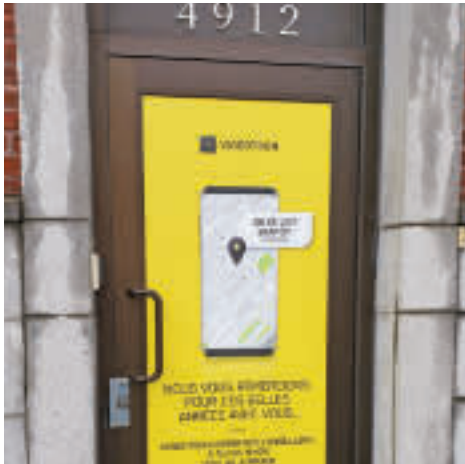
She said in-person activities should be resuming at the centre towards the end of January, following which “we’ll gradually ramp up until we’re back to full operations.”

Her arrival coincides with the gradual resumption of normal life at Contactivity Centre following the more than year-and-a-half-long suspension of on-site activities during the COVID pandemic. “We’re going to re-open gradually, because everything we have now is online,” she said.

### ‘Slowly re-open’

“Starting in the new year, we plan to slowly re-open as long as it’s safe and public health directives allow it. We’re going to offer what we normally offer, but we’re always looking into new programming, new services and expanding what we offer at the same time.

## Videotron moves



Seen November 22 on Sherbrooke near Prince Albert: Videotron has moved to Alexis Nihon.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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*Pull-out section*

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# The origin of tree lights



The tree on the front lawn of city hall on November 25, 2020. There was no formal tree lighting last year due to the pandemic.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Lights on a Christmas tree may seem like a relatively recent phenomenon, but people who can't wait to deck the halls each December may be surprised to learn that this beloved tradition dates all the way back to the late nineteenth century.

Edward Johnson, a friend and colleague of Thomas Edison, introduced holiday light bulbs in 1882. Prior to that, candles were lit on trees and families would briefly gaze at this awe-inspiring bit of holiday decor before the candles were quickly ex-

tinguished. Johnson is credited with being the first to suggest light bulbs, which were invented by his friend Edison, be used to light trees in place of candles.

While many were impressed by Johnson's eight-bulb holiday display, it remained a novelty until the 1920s, when pre-assembled lights became more accessible. Since then, Christmas tree lights have taken hold as a must-have piece of holiday decor in households across the globe.

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# The meaning of the menorah



Menorahs are a prominent symbol of Hanukkah. Menorahs are seven-branched candelabras that have been used in Jewish worship since ancient times. The seven branches refer to the seven days of creation. The menorah is the traditional symbol of Judaism and the emblem of the state of Israel. For Hanukkah, a nine-branched candelabra called a hanukkiah is used, but the word “menorah” has become interchangeable.

The Hanukkah menorah consists of nine

candles. The center and ninth candle are referred to as the Shamash. It is used to light all the other candles. The Shamash is raised above the other candles to make it kosher. The lighting of the menorah over the eight days of Hanukkah symbolizes the miracle that occurred during the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean revolt. The sacred oil, of which there was only enough for one day's lighting, miraculously lasted for eight days.

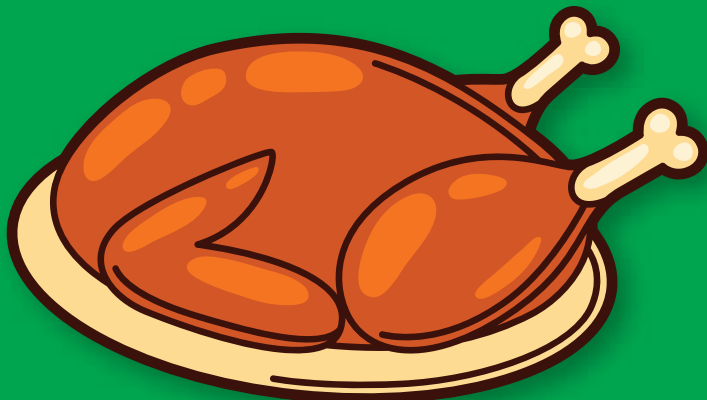
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# A guide to picking the perfect fresh Christmas tree

Come the holiday season, perhaps no tradition evokes the warm and fuzzy “feels” more than a family outing to pick a Christmas tree. Whether it’s a trek to a live Christmas tree farm or a short drive to the nearest pre-cut tree lot, the process of selecting a tree that will serve as the crown jewel of the entire season is a great way to make lasting memories.

Selecting a tree is a yearly ritual and

ments to hang straight.

### Measure your space

Trees in the field or in a lot may look much smaller than they do when brought into the living room. Don’t make the mistake of selecting a tree that is too large for your home. The agricultural firm Ragan & Masey says to measure the room from floor to ceiling and subtract the height of



each person has his or her set of criteria for what makes the ideal Christmas tree. These tips can help families find the right tree.

### Choose your species

Do some homework on the type of tree you want prior to buying the tree. Balsam fir and Fraser fir are popular Christmas tree varieties, but there are many others, such as noble fir and Norway spruce. Balsams are known for having the most fragrant smell, but Frasers tend to keep their needles the longest. For those who prefer a Douglas fir, keep in mind that they sometimes drop their needles prematurely due to foliar diseases like needle-cast fungus.

### Space for ornaments

In addition to aroma and needle longevity, look for trees that have a desirable shape and allow for adequate space between branches, advises the home and garden resource The Spruce. Trees groomed to be lush and full will look beautiful unadorned, but once ornaments are added, full branches may cause those ornaments to hang low or even fall off. Trees with sparse branches allow for orna-

the tree stand and tree topper. It’s equally important to measure the width of the area where the tree will stand and allow for ample space for foot traffic around the tree.

### Perform a needle check

Every tree will drop some needles, and most evergreens hold their foliage. Modest needle loss is not an indicator of a poor tree.

However, Decker’s Nursery in Greenlawn, NY says if 50 percent of the needles are lost when you swipe your hand down three to five different branches around the tree, the tree likely is not a good choice. In addition, avoid a tree that has glaring defects in the trunk as it can impede water flow through the tree.

### Heavier is better

A heavy pre-cut tree means it is full of water and has been cut more recently. A healthy, fresh tree is going to require an effort to lift. Older, dried out trees will not be heavy.

Upon arriving home, make a fresh cut off the tree trunk and get it in water as soon as possible – even if that’s a bucket until the tree stand can be set up.



## Beginning to look...a little like Christmas (2)



Victoria Ave. on November 17, with street decorations starting to appear.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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# Westmount Soccer's Hamilton named volunteer of the year



From left, Dave Lapointe, Doug Hamilton and Andrew Maislin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. RODRIGUEZ

Westmount Soccer Club president Doug Hamilton has won the Volunteer-of-the-Year Award from the city of Westmount.

"The volunteers' event did not take place due to COVID, but [city of Westmount director of Sports and Recreation] Dave Lapointe and [operations manager] Andrew Maislin managed to surprise Doug," club manager Alejandra Rodríguez told the *Independent* by email November 19.

The club is a separate organization from the city's own sports programs.

## Brierley, CAMO looking for waterpolo gold in Calgary

Westmounter Kai Brierley will be flying to Calgary for the national U15 waterpolo championships in early December. He will be playing with the waterpolo team of CAMO (Club Aquatique Water-polo Montreal), which trains at the Claude Robillard sports complex in Ahuntsic. It is the oldest waterpolo club in the city, founded in 1966, and is sponsored by the city of Montreal.

(Brierley's previous team, the Montreal Machine, had great success in 2019, winning both the eastern nationals gold and the Quebec championship gold. Its 2020 season was cut short by pandemic restrictions.)

Machine and CAMO players "have formed a new 'super-team' that will take on the country's other top teams out west," father Tim told the *Independent* by email November 18.

There are 14 teams in the tournament. "Most of these players, including Kai, only first got back in the pool this July and August, when they were invited to join Team Quebec's summer training camp and tryouts at Park Jean Drapeau."



PHOTO: MONIQUE DYKSTRA.

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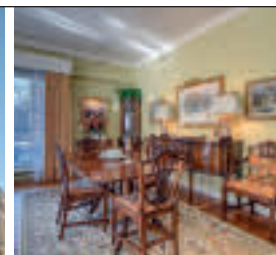
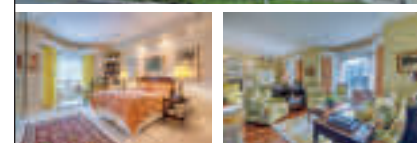
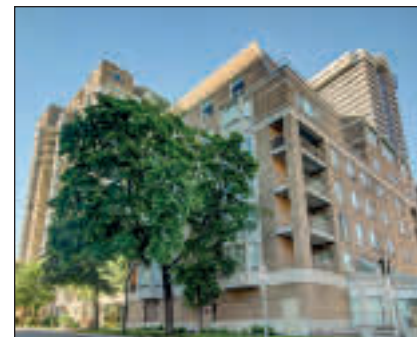
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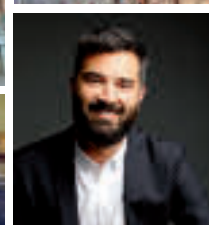
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# Developer reveals more details on 1111's rental portion

By JENNIFER BALL

Developer Francis Charron, president of Batimo, sat down with the *Independent* at the opening of the rental office for the Eleva and Stella residences at 1111 Atwater.

A total of 208 residences will be available to rent. A south-west part of the building, reaching up nine floors, is in Westmount. Eleva is for tenants in the target age group of 65 years old and up, while Stella is assisted living and memory care units.

"When we started the project, we did a focus group," Francis Charron said. "We asked the question: 'What do you want as a Baby Boomer?' They said 'We really like our grandkids but we really like it when they leave at night. We want to live with the same crowd.'"

"They could be 72 to 75 years old but they feel like a 50-year-old," he added. "They work really hard. They really are in shape. They have the money and they want to spend the money – but they want to ensure that they have all the services."

"Don't even think that I will live in seniors' housing because I am too young. Give me all the amazing amenities but I do not need any staff, I can take care of myself,"

Charron said to summarize the trajectory of the focus-group findings.

At the beginning of the project, the developers envisioned their seniors' services would be offered in partnership with Chartwell. Headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario, Chartwell has the experience, with over 200 locations and 16,000 staff.

With COVID hitting, the negotiations stalled and with the meta-data from the focus group codified, builder and operator EMD-Batimo flipped to their own concept.

With Stella, the developers wanted to offer customized assisted living care. "You are in your apartment and you need a nurse for an injection. We will have a lot of technology that will support you. Our product is more: 'What do you need?'" Charron said.

"Probably they have condos in Florida or a country house in Sherbrooke or Magog. 'When we come back can you make sure that we have bread, eggs...' Yes! They will be willing to pay for it. They want technology, amazing amenities and you will have all the seniors' housing services but *à la carte*."

Trained medical staff reside on the four floors dedicated to Stella but in a different unit and are on 24-hour call for tenants.

The specialists trained in the specificity of memory care for dementia and Alzheimer's patients is a work in progress and EMD-Batimo had little details to share during our meeting.

*Letters, cont'd from p. 10*

ous beetle larvae and allergenic plants)", namely ragweed. The article may be read in full here: [besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.13542](https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.13542)

But that doesn't mean we should throw out all the city mowers. Westmount Park, among others, must remain in large part a place for human beings like us to romp around in and play... and that involves cutting the grass!

In less frequently used sectors of the city, monarchs and humans could happily co-exist on land that has not been mowed, should our new city council so choose. With the objective of having more wildflowers and pollinators, less ragweed and allergies, I hope we will all feel compelled to emulate our neighbouring city of Montreal and take this easy and bold landscaping step for our planet.

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# Lady Bella



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LYSANNE FOWLER

Bella is a delicate and delightful companion, generous in her affection and attention. A lovely caramel, white and black chihuahua type with huge brown eyes, she is at the Montreal SPCA kennel and she is ready for the warmth and comfort of a forever home right now.

Please don't keep her waiting. She could be cuddling on the sofa and wearing an adorable coat on fall walks with you and your family soon.

Bella is a very healthy seven year old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

The SPCA protocol for adoptions has changed a bit, we must now go to its website [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then go to Bella's adoption information page, use her identification number 48844212 and apply in the online form, which will lead to booking an appointment.

You will only be introduced to an ani-



mal awaiting adoption at the time of your visit and when well matched to your profile. There is no reservation process, so it is most important to apply swiftly.

Your neighbour,

Lysanne

# Kinsy in her quiet world



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

She is the most beautiful silky-white princess with stunning blue eyes and precious pink nose. Like some other white cats with blue eyes, though, there is a genetic issue with hearing and Kinsy has a loss that makes her almost deaf.

She is so young, at only two years of age, that it won't be a major problem when she is adopted in a forever family from the Montreal SPCA cattery.

Most cats say so much by facial expressions, vocal tones and body language, we certainly know what they need and want! Her sweet nature and playfulness are always at the forefront, so a routine in a calm home environment with older children and possibly no other pets would make her transition from the shelter easier.

Kinsy is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She is available now at the Montreal SPCA

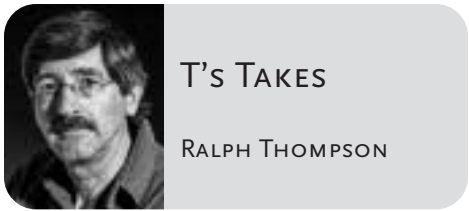


cattery and it is important to note the new adoption procedure. To enquire for Kinsy's adoption, we must now refer to its website [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then go to her adoption information page and use her identification number 49024427, and then apply in the online form which will lead to booking an appointment.

You will only be introduced to an animal awaiting adoption at the time of your visit and when well matched to your profile. There is no reservation process, so it is most important to apply for Kinsy's adoption swiftly.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

# Thank the politicians – and hold them to account



T'S TAKES

RALPH THOMPSON

Where does our resentment of our public servants come from? The anger and vitriol?

Many of us – I'm one of you – compile a compendium of questionable facts, suspicions, conjecture, beliefs and points of view, plus have an inkling – *maybe* – that there is a better way to do it. (I haven't done a survey, or even quizzed people on the street. This is just T's Take.)

To support our case, we add a smidgen of exaggeration and *peut-être*. We can reference the details that emerged from the Charbonneau Commission or the Lavalin affair as examples of how bad things can get.

We know how close it got when former mayor Peter Trent walked away from Quebec's Union of Municipalities, citing several examples of inappropriate behaviour on the committee (see November 23, 2010, p. 3). All this adds fuel to a good fireside conversational jousting match or morning

coffee chin-wag with friends and family, and provides a segue into "Well, Councillor So-and-so is only in it for themselves!"

Note the angry edge for effect.

**Politics is everywhere**

And then off you go: blah, blah, blah. I know, I've been there. Politics are part of life. Everything we do has an element of politics in it. Give a little (buy them some candy), take a little (a glass of wine to relax), compromise (with a shrug), agree (with a gentle smile) and get on with the next issue.

This column would read a little differently if we were living in Russia, Belarus, Hong Kong or one of 14 dictatorships in Africa (according to World Population Review) – or the USA, for that matter.

But we don't. We live in Westmount.

Now here's the twist. In our own lives, we work out our issues around the table and move on. But when it comes to municipal, provincial or federal politics, we get bogged down in self-righteousness.

I have *so much* experience working in government, in the unscientific nature of governing and in managing diverse points of view (don't believe the consultants: there's no easy technique to managing people); of weighing the balance and of

shrugging of the nauseating remarks of not-so-social media.

Here's the punchline, a simple solution – *drum roll* – if you know so much, you run for office. Silence.

**Why the indifference at election time?**

In the recent Westmount municipal elections, four of nine positions were uncontested. Only one seat (District 1's) had more than two contenders.

Seems a bit odd. What happened to all the armchair referees?

"The Westmount Park plan is a mess," "We don't salt the pavements (or sidewalks) enough," "We need another indoor pool (in addition to the Y)," "Don't touch that derelict eyesore" or "We do need (or don't want) fake grass in the park" – and on it goes.

But only nine people in a population of over 20,000 were prepared to step forward and hold the councillors to account.

(Err, um, like, I didn't run either.)

To quote Peter Trent in his book *The Merger Delusion*, "Politicians should be held to a very high standard – not in their peccadilloes, in their personal life, or even in their propensity for little white lies, but in their solemn public commitments."

Thank you, Westmount, for the wisdom

not to create or conform to the party system. Sheep should be left to graze on the moors, not manage our taxes.

Just look south of the border to see how parties can disappear down rabbit holes in a desperate effort to cling to power, or to Montreal in 2007 (remember the water meter scandal? Was Zampino the only one who didn't think \$355 million was a little steep before the contract was signed?).

In 1796, George Washington (according to *Knowledge Magazine*, June 2021) lambasted political parties for allowing "cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men" to "subvert the power of the people."

Westmount has retained the wisdom of allowing any councillor to say their piece without being whipped into line. I think we should thank and respect our public figures for standing up, running for office (whether they won or lost), managing our city and stick handling the day-to-day affairs, a thankless task in a business that is an inexact science.

If you meet councillors in the street, thank them for their courage and hard work. Don't erect barriers and hide behind faceless messaging. Then, go the council meetings and give them hell.

That's just my take on things.



# Coley re-launches book, supports Douglas



From left, Westmounters Diana Smith and Mary Brun, Audley Coley, Westmounters Alaka McConnell and Lorraine Deley, and Paula Brodeur.

PHOTO CREDIT COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA KAVOUKIS.

Over 70 supporters of motivational speaker and mental health advocate Audley Coley were present November 18 at the Atwater Club, located just east of Westmount, for the launch of the second edition of *Audley Enough: A portrait of triumph and recovery in the face of mania and depression*.

The event was hosted by club member and former Westmounter John Archer.

Over 80 books were sold, with the night's book sales donated to the Douglas Foundation by Coley.

Speakers included one of the book's co-authors, Patricia Lavoie, as well as Marjolaine Lachance of Bell Let's Talk. Coley has been one of the mental health ambassadors of the Bell Let's Talk campaign since 2018.



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Application to open a registry in view of approval by way of referendum – Second draft of By-law 1578

1. Following the consultation period held between September 22, 2021 to October 6, 2021, on the first draft of By-law 1578, the Municipal Council adopted the second draft of by-law 1578 entitled “BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND ZONING BY-LAW 1303 - CREATION OF COMMERCIAL ZONES ON SAINTE-CATHERINE STREET WEST” by resolution at its regular meeting held on November 15, 2021.
2. This second draft by-law contains provisions that may be requested by interested persons in order that a by-law containing them be submitted for their approval in accordance with the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* (CQLR, chapter E-2.2).
3. Interested persons may submit to the City Clerk's Office, no later than Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., an application to open a registry in view of submitting the provisions of the second draft of by-law 1578 to the approval of certain qualified voters.
4. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

[www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org)



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## AVIS PUBLIC DU RÉSULTAT DE L'ÉLECTION PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION RESULTS

Après avoir pris connaissance des résultats complets de l'élection, Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard, président d'élection, annonce, par cet avis public, que les personnes suivantes ont été proclamées élues aux postes mentionnés ci-dessous.

After having been informed of the complete results of the election, Me François Peter-Edmond Rivard, returning officer, indicate, by this public notice, that the following persons have been declared elected to the positions mentioned below.

Poste / Position	District	Nom de la personne proclamée élue / Name of the person declared elected
Mairesse / Mayor		Christina M. Smith
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	1	Antonio D'Amico
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	2	Elisabeth Roux
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	3	Jeff J. Shamie
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	4	Conrad Peart
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	5	Anitra Bostock
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	6	Mary Gallery
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	7	Matt Aronson
Conseiller(ère) / Councillor	8	Kathleen Kez

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

**Bureau du président d'élection | Office of the returning officer**  
4333, rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount, QC H3Z 1E2  
514 989-5280 • [elections@westmount.org](mailto:elections@westmount.org)

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 19 novembre 2021.  
ISSUED in Westmount on November 19, 2021.

Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités, art. 260.  
En vertu du Règlement visant à fixer les modalités de publication de certains avis publics, la date de publication du présent avis sur le site Internet de la Ville a préséance sur toute autre date de publication subséquente sur un autre support.  
Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, s. 260.  
Pursuant to the By-law to establish the conditions for the publication of certain public notices, the date of publication of this notice on the City's website takes precedence over any subsequent date of publication on any other platform.

[westmount.org/vote](http://westmount.org/vote)



# Remembering Elisapee Pootoogook at Cabot Square

By JENNIFER BALL

A memorial service was to be held on November 22, after press time, in Cabot Square for Elisapee Pootoogook, who died November 13 between the under-construction 1111 Atwater building and the former nurses' pavilion (now a sales office for the development) on the corner of Rene Levesque and Atwater. Both buildings have portions in Westmount.

Pootoogook, 61, from Salluit in northern Quebec, was a regular at the non-profit



Daniel Kasudluak, David Chapman and the late Elisapee Pootoogook. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGO BUCHANAN.

but also collective responsibility!"

Until that time, the homeless come up with their own solutions and it is one of the reasons there is such a large population sleeping under Highway 136/720, including in Westmount (see October 19, p. 26). The nature of groupings like that is that there is not a daily taking of attendance to know the true scope of the populace, but it is crowded and below-zero temperatures are inevitable.

"Often people will be there for a time and then move into an apartment. It is not that people under the bridge want to sleep in a tent – they would love to have housing – but the problem is, is that you have to pay for housing. A welfare cheque, if you look at the Montreal housing market, is not going to get it done."

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wet shelter Resilience, located on St. Catherine St. at Atwater, in close proximity to where she perished.

The coroner's report will work to reveal the cause of death, but foul play and overdose have been ruled out.

"She would be in the Metro and she would be looking for some warmth because often she would be 'wet,'" David Chapman, the director of Resilience, said, and indeed it had been raining that day with single-digit temperatures.

"She would see [the police] coming and she would go into the park for a while. When they would leave, she would go back into the Metro. What appears to have happened this time is that she went a little further than the park, and she did not make it any further."

"Here is a woman. She is frail. Even in the last few weeks, seeing her try to walk took a long time and the place where she ends up perishing happens to be this opulent development in process. Unfortunately, it is a reflection of local priorities and she does not seem to be one of them!"

Pootoogook came to Montreal for medical services.

"The problem is, no one wants it in their backyard," Chapman said, referring to the wet-shelter concept. "People love the idea of services for the homeless right up until the point where you talk about where they may put these services. 'Why don't you put it in an area where there are lots of factories? Way out of town.' People have to get there – it does not work! There needs to be a balance between individual rights

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# Westmount Park Elementary 'opens' after \$20-million makeover

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A ribbon cutting was held at Westmount Park Elementary School on November 15 to mark the return of staff and students following the completion of a \$20-million makeover over the past two academic years. The students have been back in the building since September.

Built in 1913 when the city of Westmount was regarded as a suburb of Montreal and was expanding quickly, the building on Park Place facing Westmount Park underwent additions in 1919 and 1921, as well as renovations over the following decades.

During the two years Westmount Park students were unable to access the building, they were based at the former St. John Bosco Elementary School in Ville Émard (which became known as the Westmount Park South Campus) and Marymount Academy International on Côte St. Luc Rd. in NDG (Westmount Park North Campus).

"On the council of commissioners, we're proud to support this major renovation project," said EMSB chairman Joe Ortona. "And while we know work is not yet 100-percent complete, I think we all love

what we see so far and it's just terrific to have everyone back."

According to the EMSB, the refurbished school now has modernized classrooms,

including interactive SMART boards. There are also flexible seating options, several learning spaces, dedicated music and science rooms, and a new elevator and ex-

terior ramp to make the building more accessible to persons with mobility issues.

However, guests taking part in the ribbon cutting last week were unable to tour the refurbished building because of restrictions still in place for the COVID pandemic.

In an effort to maintain some of the building's heritage, the auditorium was restored (including its elegant woodwork). The sprinkler system and emergency exits in the auditorium were also brought up to date. The paint was refreshed, the benches repaired and new heating cabinets installed.

Westmount Park students will now also have access to "energy stations" set up throughout the building. The stations will include stationary bikes, rowing machines and sensory paths.

According to the EMSB, students will be able to leave class for a motion and/or brain break when needed.

Other refurbishments included work on the roof, interior finishes, the installation of an elevator, mechanical systems (plumbing and sprinklers), electrical (wiring, lights, telecom, fire alarm) and exterior (drainage system and foundation waterproofing).



Seen here on November 15 during the ribbon cutting in a corridor at Westmount Park Elementary School are, from left, librarian Yvette Bailey, EMSB sector director Jimmy Giannacopoulos, principal Marco Gagliardi, assistant director general Pela Nickoletopoulos, EMSB chairman Joe Ortona, director general Nick Katalifos, interim principal Giovanni Iammarrone, vice principal Holly Kusiewicz and EMSB board commissioner for Ward 3 Julien Feldman.

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# Two exhibitions: A question of culture



Westmount  
Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

The first exhibition of the season – and the first since the pandemic – was held at the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Works by Anabel Burin, Shahrzad Ghafari and Arnaud Hug convey culture from day-to-day activities to art traditions. At the Visual Arts Centre, works by Jazz Keillor and Stella Pace also evoke notions of home and cultural heritage.

**Artistic traditions**

At Victoria Hall, Hug’s landscape series “Paysages blues” of textured tree-lined lakes is both dynamic and impressionistic. Another, an abstract composition painted with smooth, neutral washes, suggests “Derrière la neige.” Ghafari’s black-and-white photographic series “L’hiver, sous le charme de la Serre” – of frosted greenhouse windows or tree trunks – also reveals the winter beauty of our built heritage and nature.

“Présence” – Ghafari’s series of abstracted colours and textures – also reveals nature’s rich complexity. A gold maple leaf glistens with raindrops in one composition while another captures a reflected sky in a

pond dotted with autumn leaves.

In contrast, Burin’s photo documentary series “Single Motherhood” captures the daily activities of her subjects, from reading bedtime stories to feeding or dressing children.

In the bathtub scene, “Anouk, Rémi, Milo – Lachine 6pm”, a woman tenderly washes one son’s face as another looks on. In “Melissa & Harvey – Verdun 7am”, a mother and son grapple with overcoats at the front door. This interesting exhibition – a mix of documentary photography, and painting or photo impressionism or ab-

cessive consumerism.

However in the detailed drawing, “Traveller I”, of two conversing women – each carrying a stack of objects and a child – accumulation is also associated with memories.

In contrast, Pace’s exhibition – *Collage et assemblage* – features the bold graphic style of Art Brut or Outsider Art.

Fluid, black lines and shapes create a dynamic pattern in “Natura” while bold human shapes cut from paper or jute and outlined in black define Pace’s collage series on paper. An installation of whim-



Shahrzad Ghaffari’s photograph from the “Présence” series.

straction – ran from October 4 to November 8 at Victoria Hall.

**Dual dynamic**

At the McClure Gallery, Keillor’s exhibition – *Stuff* – highlights home. Painted meticulously in acrylic, “Home” depicts a house – with key in the lock – clad with mmmm.

In another, entitled “Haul,” a young woman pulls a sofa where cats, dogs and musical instruments are stacked on multiple chairs and tables. Both convey the preciousness of possessions as well as a culture of accumulation.

Keillor’s painting “Floorplan for Adorable Bungalow 6752MG” – with trees on stands and walls defined by rocks – suggests ecological degradation from ex-

sical sculptures, “Assemblage,” constructed from cut and rolled, corrugated cardboard – perhaps flowers, birds or inventions – are open to viewer interpretation.

Both Pace’s and Keillor’s exhibitions run from November 5 to 27 at the Visual Arts Centre.

**Rich associations**

These recent exhibitions reflect culture – our day-to-day experience in nature, at home or in the community. Some works speak to visual culture – continuity and originality – within art traditions, while others impart a social message or commentary. However, each of these artists brings to our collective attention not only what is seen, but also, what is often overlooked.



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## City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Gauthier, Kulish, Bontemps at Avenue G

Celebrating 30 years of painting “with acrylic,” Gauthier’s vibrant works add a charming feel to the room. The day we met, it was a Three Musketeers moment.



John Kanellias, Johanne Gauthier, Honey Drescher, Taras Kulish and David Bontemps.

Did you know that a favourite Greene Ave. destination stayed open during lockdowns? Café Avenue G welcomed one and all with its handy take-out service. Today, this welcoming space is as popular as ever. With the experience and expertise of 26 years in the “coffee business,” John Kanellias started up Avenue G in December 2018.

In the very early days of the lockdown, he was one of the only businesses open in the Greene area for takeout orders. He followed strict lockdown protocols like masking and distancing, and kept the front door open all the time. He recently explained that during recent radiant Indian summer days, his outdoor terrace has had many early arrivals – just to ensure a seat.

Customers love to watch the world go by in that inimitable European manner. Local res Honey Drescher, cultural consultant and producer, contacted John for a delightful project. She suggested that he feature artist Johanne Gauthier, whose colourful ladies are now exhibited along the café walls.

(Apologies to Alexandre Dumas.)

Honey had brought together other talent. Joining Gauthier were Taras Kulish, executive director of the Orchestre Classique de Montréal (OCM) and David Bontemps, composer and musician.

Taras proudly discussed the OCM’s 82nd season – “Women of Distinction” – for which Boris Brott, artistic director, has chosen to honour his mother, Lotte Brott and her 100th anniversary.

The series of concerts pays tribute to Marie Houzeau, Joséphine Bacon, Suzanne Fortier, Marlene Jennings, Danièle Henkel, Monique Bégin and Pauline Marois.

And there was an OCM link with David Bontemps. Leader of the Creole-jazz quintet Makaya, nominated for the TD Grand Jazz Award, the composer and pianist studied music in Haiti.

In 2007, he recorded the *Offrandes Vodouesques* with soprano Chantal Lavigne. Bontemps has penned *La Flambeau*, an opera, and is collaborating with the OCM and the Brott Opera in Hamilton to produce and record this work, whose world premiere is planned for the 2022-23 season.

Discussions of art and music over cups of tea and pastries. What a magic moment!

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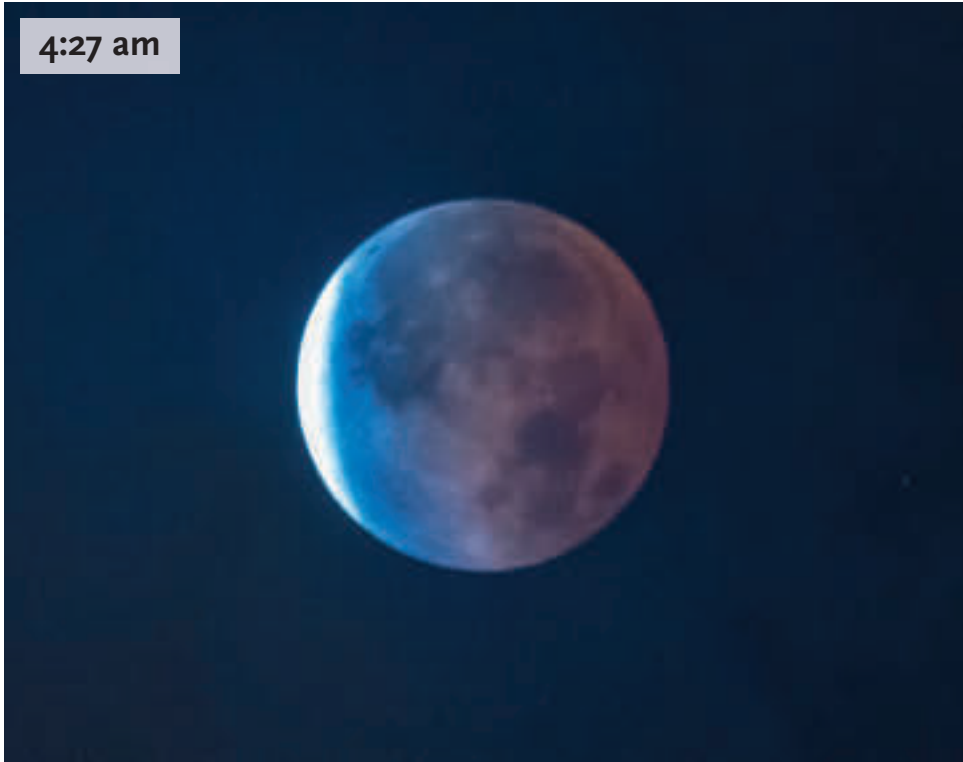
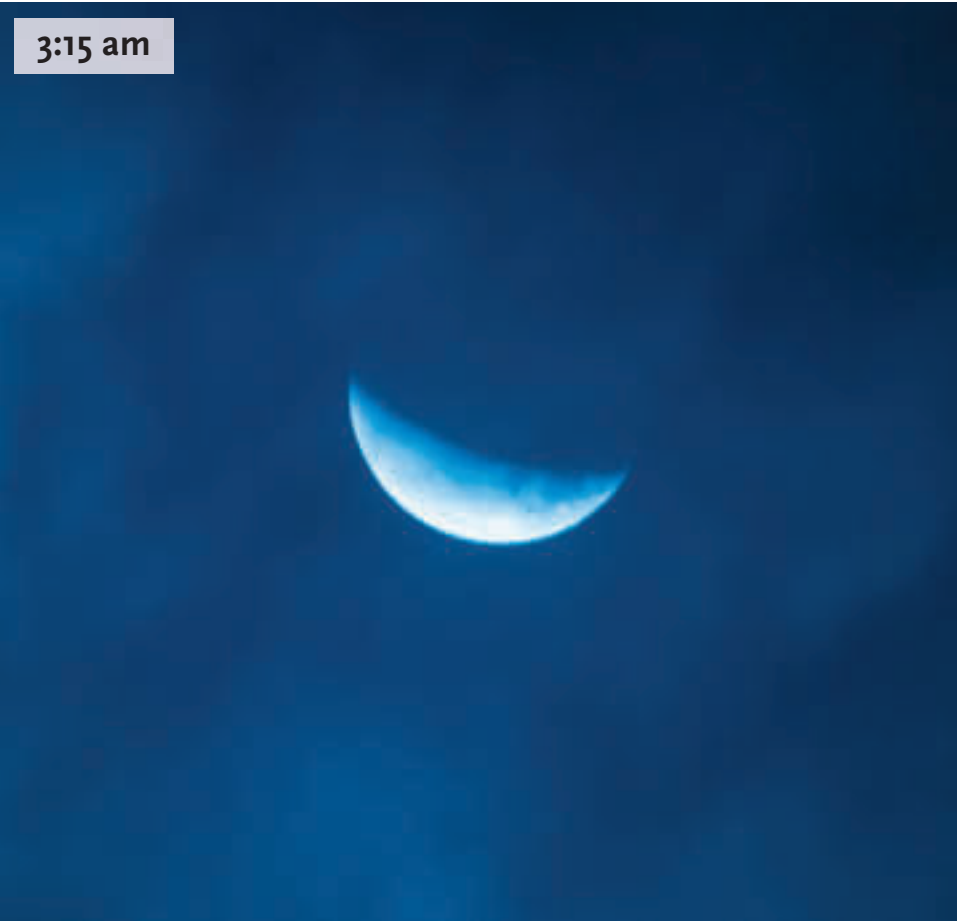


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# Another dark side of the moon (as a matter of fact, it was all dark)



Westmounters were cheated of the decisive moment of the partial lunar eclipse at 4:02 am on November 19. It appeared to be a perfect night for eclipse watching at 1 am with clear skies and a beautiful full moon, but as 2:30 am crept on to 3 am, a thin layer of cloud swept up the St. Lawrence valley and shrouded Westmount. By 4 am, the skies were completely overcast and the maximum eclipse was not visible.

But patience had its rewards and by 4:20, a few gaps appeared in the cloud

cover. At 3:15 am, the moon disappeared as a solid layer of cloud crept over Westmount. At 4:27 am, the clouds thinned enough to see the moon. At 4:28 am, a small hole in the clouds revealed the eclipsed moon above Westmount.

The latter two photos show what is known as a Japanese lantern, during which one sees bands of red, yellow, purple and blue. This is best seen five minutes after the maximum eclipse.



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# Alan Klinkhoff Gallery



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[info@klinkhoff.ca](mailto:info@klinkhoff.ca)





# sicotte & co

Marie Sicotte  
Real Estate Broker

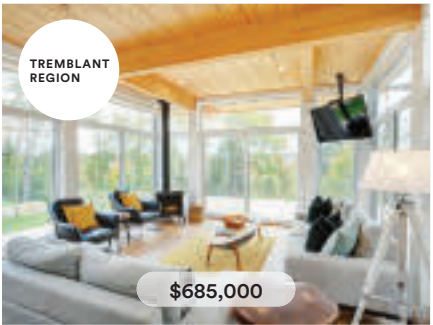
+1 514 953 9808  
marie@mariesicotte.com  
mariesicotte.com



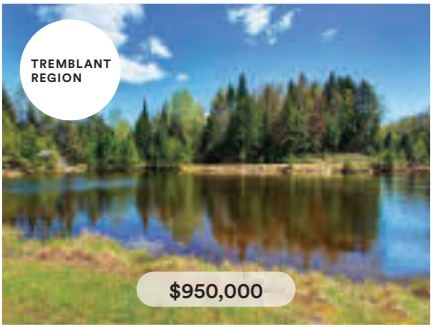
**Arundel**  
21 CH. DEER HAVEN



**Mont Tremblant**  
105 CH. DE LA GROSSE-ROCHE



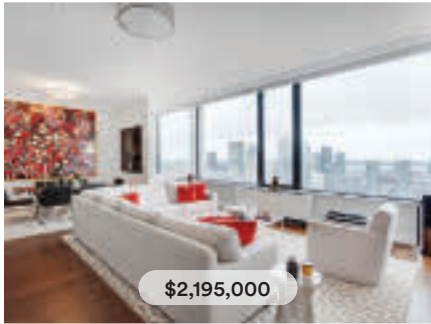
**La Conception**  
220 CH. DES EXPLORATEURS



**La Conception**  
ROUTE DES ÉRABLES



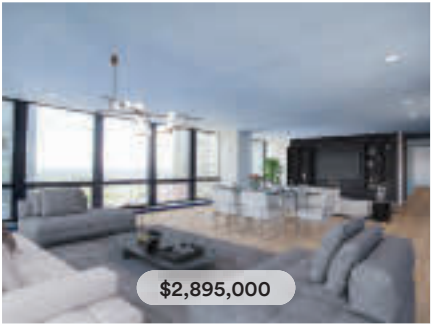
**Ville-Marie**  
5 PLACE ONTARIO



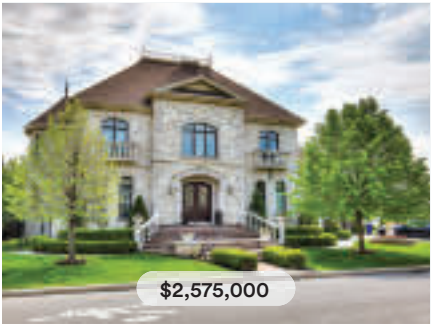
**Ville-Marie**  
PORT ROYAL, PH9



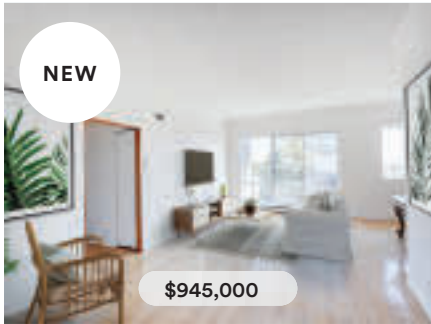
**Westmount**  
491 ARGYLE AV.



**Westmount**  
2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT 1404



**Sainte-Dorothée**  
331 RUE DES ROSEAUX



**Westmount**  
4855 DE MAISONNEUVE W. BLVD., APT 604



**Westmount ADJ**  
3078 DE TRAFALGAR AV.



**Westmount**  
2/3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE