

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 15 No. 12a

We are Westmount

November 30, 2021

Still looking for 22 more: Cllr. Peart

## Council hires 18 trucks & drivers for snow removal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just in time for the snow, city council November 15 approved an agreement for 18 of the 40 trucks it requires for snow removal every winter.

"We're still looking for the remaining 22," said Councillor Conrad Peart, who moved the resolution.

This issue is the third-to-last one before our usual Christmas break.

The contract for this winter season of 2021-2022 was awarded under a new business item to Transvac Montreal-Laval Inc., holder of a brokerage permit, under the same minimum guarantee of \$9,500 per truck with driver as last winter. This is based on the hourly rate fixed by the Quebec Transport ministry.

"We had tendered out for 40 but this supplier was only able to commit to 18," Peart told the *Independent*. "The remaining trucks are now out for a second tender."

The winter contract for the previous 2020-21 season was awarded September 26, 2020 for

continued on p. 6



## Hanukkah begins

Chabad of Westmount brought cheer, merriment, lights, latkes, live music (The Hora Boys), a balloon artist, a caricature artist (Ferg), and much more to the forecourt of Les Cinq Saisons on Greene Ave. November 28, the beginning of Hanukkah. "It's about spreading the light, the joy, friendship and happiness to everyone" said a very enthusiastic Rabbi Ariel Stern, outreach director, who was quick to point out the many people involved, including Rabbi Yossi Shanowitz (executive director), Mushkey Stern (director, Westmount Hebrew School), Devorah Shanowitz (women's programs) and the city of Westmount, in particular Councillor Jeff Shamie. Well over one hundred people attended.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Tree lighting on December 1, but no lights for city hall

## City returns to holiday events – with some pandemic style

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's December 1 tree-lighting event outside city hall returns in person this year after last year's cancellation of public events over the pandemic.

The 2021 lighting takes place outside city hall at 6 pm, but will be limited to those who can show vaccination passports, according to Donna Lach, assistant library

director in charge of community events. This will be controlled using barricades that will be set up, she explained.

The event includes carols, cookies and cocoa as the tree is illuminated. This year, following the repainting of the masonry on city hall, the festive lights that previously outlined the building will not be replaced to prevent new damage.

continued on p. 10



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# Winter parking kicks in December 1

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents are reminded of the winter parking restrictions that come in force December 1 involving some streets where this is limited to one side. Public Security officials also said it was especially important to be on the lookout for additional orange and yellow signs indicating snow removal. These are sometimes placed on snowbanks.

Among some of the streets where parking is limited to one side during the winter are Irvine, Lewis, Blenheim and Argyle north of Côte St. Antoine.

Other winter parking tips include being vigilant for accesses to driveways that might have not been cleared of snow and for taking care not to park wheels on the sidewalk where a build-up of snow makes the curb difficult to see.

All of the above are "ticketable offences," department director Greg McBain said.

## Woman falls, taken to hospital with grandson

Public Security was dispatched to St. Catherine and Metcalfe November 19 for a report from a city Urban Planning worker of a woman lying face down on the sidewalk

at 10:30 am.

On arrival, officers found a "very young" boy with the victim, who was reported to have fallen while running to catch a bus that was starting to pull away. She struck the side of her head causing pain to the head and neck. Officers provided medical assistance and 9-1-1 was contacted.

The woman lost consciousness while awaiting an ambulance as police started efforts to contact the boy's parents. Meanwhile, Urgences Santé took both the woman and her grandson to the hospital where it was reported the boy would be cared for.

## Driver arrested while asleep behind the wheel

Public safety officers were called to Claremont Ave. November 18 at 5:51 am after a taxi driver noticed a car parked in a handicap zone facing civic number 451 where the driver appeared to be sleeping behind the wheel.

Public Security officials described the woman as possibly drunk and positioned a patrol vehicle in front of her Nissan to block her departure until police arrived to take over. The woman was still asleep when they arrived and was arrested on suspicion of driving while impaired.

## Man tries to enter wrong house at 4:41 am

A 24-year-old man described as heavily intoxicated was intercepted November 19 trying to enter "the wrong address" on Greene Ave. at 4:41 am, Public Security officials said. Without hesitation, he provided identification showing an address in St. Laurent though he explained it was his former one that he had not yet changed since a recent move to Sherbrooke St. Police took him into custody given his state of intoxication but he was described as having no prior convictions.

## Gift Guide

after p. 18

Letters, p. 14

Dodge on June  
real estate transfers, p. 22

Pet Page, p. 29

Social Notes:  
Parachute at McCord, p. 32

 Social Notes: Toy Tea, p. 33  
InfoWestmount, p. 12



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## VACATION REMINDER!

Snowbirds are leaving and vacations have begun.

Getting home to a break-in is never any fun.

Leave lights on timers, windows + doors locked tight.

Make sure to leave your valuables out of sight!

**Remember to tell your neighbours when you're away so they can keep an eye out. If they can't, a video doorbell can be a great pair of eyes!**

**Have fun. Be safe. Keep exploring.**

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# Treats & Treasures back on track after one-year absence



Seen in the photo at a table featuring fashion accessories are, from left, Treats & Treasures organizing committee chair Erica Bloom, Sarah Fellerath and Gail Fellerath, former co-owner of the Folklore I boutique on Sherbrooke St.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The annual Treats & Treasures event was back on track at Centre Greene on Saturday Nov. 20 after a one-year hiatus – albeit with restrictions because of the ongoing COVID pandemic.

While there were fewer crafters and artisans’ booths, and attendance was thinner because of a limit on the number of people

that could be admitted, the spirit was still there, as was the enthusiasm of the organizers and all the volunteers.

“We have a limited amount of people coming in and we have door people checking everyone before they can get in,” said Heather Hodges, Centre Greene’s head of programs and special events, noting that vaccination passports were being carefully verified at the entrance.

**Snow removal,** *cont’d from p. 1*

a full 40 trucks (see story October 6, 2020, p. 6). At that time, a minimum amount of \$380,000 plus taxes was authorized for the entire season and a maximum of \$1,171,500 plus taxes.

Under the recent agreement, council authorized a minimum of \$171,000 plus taxes for the current fiscal year of 2021 and a maximum of \$563,407 plus taxes.

Other winter preparations included contracts at the council meeting October 4 for the clearing of snow from lanes and parking lots as well as towing services (see story October 19, 2021, p. 4). It also purchased three new snow plows at the meeting September 9 for \$64,717, including tax credits, from Entreprises Desjardins & Fontaine Ltée.

## Update & retrospective on:

Turcot expropriations of city land, p. 20

Water contamination on city/STM land, p. 21

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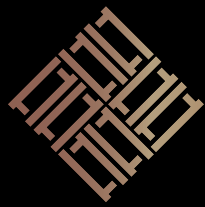
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## San Gregorio wins a ‘Robert Aiken’



Franco San Gregorio, centre, was a co-winner of the 2020 Robert Aiken Volunteer of the Year Award from the city's Sports and Recreation department. He coaches both hockey and soccer for the city. "His attitude and smile always bring cheer to his players," said Andrew Maislin, the department's operations manager, shown at right. "I am proud to work with him." With San Gregorio is Carolyn, his daughter. The other winner was Doug Hamilton (see story November 23, p. 13). The awards are usually presented at the city's annual banquet for volunteers, which was not held for the second year because of the pandemic.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS AND RECREATION.



## Demonstrators support Wet'suwet'en protestors

Demonstrators gathered near the RCMP headquarters at Greene and Dorchester November 27 in support of Wet'suwet'en protestors in British Columbia who oppose the Coastal GasLink pipeline and against the tactics used by the RCMP in that dispute, especially arrests, including of journalists, on November 19.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF M. RAHIMI.



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Somerville tot lot coming along



Looking south on November 25.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN LEWKIN.

City seasonal events, cont'd from p. 1

The city's festive season was kicked off  
last week with three events. These began  
with the lighting of the tree in Prince Al-  
bert square November 26 (see p. 13).

This was followed on November 28 by  
celebrating the start of Hanukkah in con-  
junction with Chabad Westmount and  
called "Greene Avenue Chanukah Happen-  
ing" (see p. xx).

It was also open to all without restric-  
tions. This was planned to be "a family  
friendly event on the first night of Hanu-  
kah full of festivities, food and fun," Lach  
said.

It was also to be followed November 29,  
after press time, by a second Hanukah  
event, a community celebration in con-  
junction with Congregation Shaar Hasho-  
mayim and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sho-  
lom taking place outside city hall. This year  
it was to include a special visit from Law-  
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national to share the flame as it travels  
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# infoWESTMOUNT

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DU CONSEIL

Lundi 6 décembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, December 6



### Collecte des fêtes : cueillette d'aliments sur les galeries

Le samedi 4 décembre, les agents de la Sécurité publique iront chercher vos dons d'aliments chez vous dans le cadre de la campagne annuelle des fêtes. Téléphonez au 514 989-5367 d'ici vendredi pour ajouter votre adresse. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)



### Holiday Food Drive: porch pickup

On Saturday, December 4, Public Safety officers will pick up your food donations at your home as part of its annual holiday campaign. Phone 514 989-5367 by this Friday to add your address to the list. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

#### Collecte de résidus de jardin

Faites preuve de patience pour la collecte de résidus de jardin pendant ce pic de la tombée des feuilles; nos équipes travaillent très fort. Utilisez toujours des sacs en papier ou des contenants ouverts. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

#### Inscription pour activités d'hiver en cours

Inscription en ligne seulement. Consultez le guide des activités à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

#### Cours d'entraînement sur Zoom

L'option Zoom est disponible pour les cours d'entraînement les lundis et mercredis avec Katalin Papp. Inscrivez-vous : [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

#### Fermeture du belvédère Summit prolongée

Le Belvédère Summit demeurera fermée jusqu'à nouvel ordre pour des raisons de sécurité et à cause d'une pénurie de main d'oeuvre et de matériaux. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

#### Patinoire du parc Westmount ouverte

La patinoire est ouverte tous les jours entre 8 h et 22 h. Le port de masques est recommandé.

#### Passeport vaccinal COVID-19

La preuve de vaccination contre la COVID-19 est requise pour certaines activités au CLW, à la Bibliothèque et au Victoria Hall.

#### Ambassadrice du compostage

Kelsey Guo, étudiante de secondaire 2, a parcouru son quartier pour encourager ses voisins à utiliser le bac vert. Grâce à ses efforts, trois familles ont été ajoutées à la collecte de Westmount. Merci, Kelsey!

#### Rappel : stationnement en hiver

Des restrictions de stationnement seront en vigueur dans certaines rues étroites du 1er décembre au 31 mars. Faites attention à la signalisation lorsque vous garez votre véhicule.

#### Garden waste collection

Please be patient with the garden waste collection as our teams do their best to deal with this peak period for leaves. Always use paper bags or open containers. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

#### Winter activity registration underway

Online registration only. Consult the activities guide at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

#### Total Body Workout classes on Zoom

A Zoom option is now available for the Monday and Wednesday classes with Katalin Papp. Visit [westmount.org](http://westmount.org) to register.

#### Summit Lookout closure extended

The Summit Lookout will remain closed until further notice for safety reasons as well as a shortage of labour and materials. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

#### Westmount Park skating rink open

The ice rink is open daily between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Face masks are recommended.

#### COVID-19 vaccination passport

Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is required for some activities at the WRC, the Library and Victoria Hall.

#### Compost Ambassador

Secondary 2 student Kelsey Guo visited her neighbourhood to encourage participation in the green bin programme. Thanks to her efforts, three families have been added to the Westmount collection. Thank you, Kelsey!

#### Reminder: winter parking

Some parking restrictions will be in effect on certain narrow streets between December 1st and March 31st. Please pay attention to the signage when parking your vehicle.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Visiter la Bibliothèque

Pour entrer, vous devez montrer :

- une carte de membre valide
- un passeport vaccinal (13 ans et +)
- une pièce d'identité avec photo (13 ans et +) [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Système de réservations libre-service

Un nouveau système de réservation et de cueillette est en place. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Jusqu'au 14 décembre. Œuvres de Mary Lou Freel. Passeport vaccinal requis.

### Souvenirs du parc Westmount

Tout l'hiver au parc Westmount. Parcourez la promenade StoryWalk® et découvrez plus d'un siècle de vie dans le parc Westmount à travers des images d'antan de l'Association historique de Westmount et des archives de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount.

### Illumination du sapin de Noël

**Mercredi 1er décembre, 18 h**, hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux à cette occasion. Musique et chocolat chaud au menu. Passeport vaccinal obligatoire.

### Atelier d'écriture (9 à 12 ans)

**Jeudi 2 décembre, 16 h 30 à 17 h 30** sur Zoom. Inscription requise. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Mandalas sur le thème de flocons de neige (8 à 12 ans)

**Jeudi 9 décembre, 16 h 30** sur Zoom. Transformez des flocons de neige en papier en mini œuvres d'art. Inscription requise. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Concert : Salsa Baroque

**Jeudi 16 décembre, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Un Noël sudaméricain avec Ensemble Caprice. Inscription et passeport vaccinal obligatoires. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

## LIBRARY

### Visiting the Library

To enter, you must provide:

- a valid membership card
- a vaccine passport (ages 13+)
- photo ID (ages 13+) [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Self-Serve Pickup System

A new self-serve reservation and pickup system is now in place. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition

**Until December 14.** Works by Mary Lou Freel. Vaccination passport required.

### Westmount Park Memories

**All winter**, Westmount Park. Enjoy the new StoryWalk® and discover a century of life in Westmount Park through historic images provided by the Westmount Historical Association and the Westmount Public Library Archives.

### Christmas Tree Lighting

**Wednesday, December 1st, 6 p.m.**, City Hall. Join City Council members for this holiday occasion. Enjoy music and hot chocolate. Vaccination passport required.

### Writing Workshop (9 to 12 year olds)

**Thursday, December 2, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** on Zoom. Registration required. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Snowflake Mandalas (8 to 12 year olds)

**Thursday, December 9, 4:30 p.m.** on Zoom. Turn paper snowflakes into mini-works of art. Registration required. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

### Concert: Salsa Baroque

**Thursday, December 16, 7 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. A South American Christmas with Ensemble Caprice. Registration and vaccination passport required. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)



## Christmas season begins at Prince Albert square



The city organized its first holiday period gathering in Prince Albert square November 25. The tree lighting event, titled a “Holiday Happening,” included Mayor Christina Smith, second from left, and, from left, councillors Mary Gallery, Jeff Shamie and Antonio D’Amico. There was hot chocolate, sugar cookies and Christmas music served up by Emily Gamble, Anne-Marie Lacombe and Ashley Baker from the Community Events office. Dozens turned up for the ceremony, which took place between 5 pm and 7 pm.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

## COVID-19 Testing for travel

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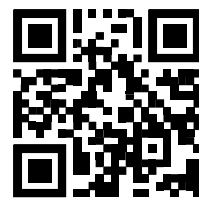
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**Ville Saint-Laurent** - 2071 Saint-Louis, H4M 1P1

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAVE CITY ALONE – CO<sub>2</sub> ISN'T ALL BAD

I was taken aback by the apocalyptic stance on the subject of a climate crisis taken by one of the questioners during question period at the city council meeting November 15 (see November 23, p. 5).

It seems that many people are on the verge of insanity when it comes to climate change. The resident mentioned that she was shaken by the mere sight of a Westmount truck cleaning the streets with its toxic, CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting, gasoline-powered engine. She went on to describe her interaction with a Westmount employee for simply doing his job.

People need to settle down and try to look at the grand picture before demanding Westmount make unreasonable changes, or they need to come up with viable solutions before demanding that we reduce our already small carbon footprint to nearly zero, while the major polluters like east Asia and India go unchecked.

It's important to note that through most history, the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has been much greater than it is now and its optimum level for plant life is actually four to five times greater than now.

High CO<sub>2</sub> levels in our atmosphere have had some positive effects like contributing to having the greenest vegetation ever in North America over the last 100 years. That growth in vegetation can help

to feed the billions of mal-nourished women and children still suffering and dying daily.

The one constant on this planet is that the climate changes, mainly based on the sun cycle. Our sun is by far the number one cause for our weather patterns.

Does human activity change it to the point of it being a doomsday scenario? I think not. But that doesn't mean we stop trying to make our energy cleaner and safer, but let's do it with intelligent design and sensible solutions.

Westmount, in my opinion, already does a fantastic job in the area of promoting and implementing lower carbon emissions, but I feel that pandering to such utter nonsensical ideals isn't helping us move forward in a positive way in society.

Additionally, the use of electric vehicles as a way to somehow greatly reduce our carbon footprint is yet another ridiculous idea since an electric car takes up to five times as much CO<sub>2</sub> to produce as a regular gasoline-powered vehicle due to the lithium and cobalt needed to create the battery pack. You would need to drive the electric car for many years to even see a noticeable CO<sub>2</sub> reduction compared to an internal-combustion vehicle but then usually people change their vehicles in three to five years 'cause, hey... this is Westmount!

Also mining for EV minerals is not environmentally friendly. All this mining and environmental destruction when sales of

EVs only amount to one percent of global sales or one million EVs per year. Can you imagine the mining catastrophe when EV sales numbers hit 100 million a year?

I haven't even brought up the laborious method of recycling electric car batteries.

Westmount, you're doing a great job lowering your carbon footprint, and I commend you for that.

NEIL HOPLEY, ABBOTT AVE.

ELISAPEE POOTOGOOK – LOOK BACK IN GENTLE ANGER

Memorial services are by their nature poignant: tears of grief for the deceased flow, hearts heavy with loss. In my work as a lay chaplain, I have had the privilege to assist families in their grief, and to prepare and deliver memorials – the most memorable passage in our lives, and endings.

This one honouring Elisapee Pootogook and her tragic death, stands out in its heart-felt difference. Not only was there personal loss, her intimates whose love and sadness is immense, the collective loss felt by *her* community – and *ours*.

To be clear, Elisapee belonged not just to Quebec, but also to Westmount and Montreal – she walked amongst us on the streets, streets in the Atwater area and Cabot Square, near where she was found lifeless on the ground on November 13.

We failed her – because it simply should not have happened as it did, tragically, and predictably given what is known.

The coroner's report, as pointed out in Ms. Ball's article (November 23, p. 18), "ruled out" both foul play and overdose. Neglect, however, was not.

Neglect by whom and how, we ask? This elderly Innu woman, in poor health and living rough, presumably for more reasons than one, was caught in a perpetual and unresolved conundrum: lack of adequate shelter, stop-gap measures and the most egregious, the lack of will to address the issue – effectively and compassionately.

Yes, our community should feel remorse – and more: A determination to seek bold approaches (with others, in office or not) that will adequately address the challenges inherent in complex social realities. And, perhaps become *gently angry people* – to use the words spoken by Rev. Shawn Newton, Unitarian minister, in his 2014 address, *The Question of Belonging*. If we wish to ensure that her death was not for nothing, we must reflect on what that means in to us, and to *our* community.

Whether we reason that homelessness and (permanent) shelters are beyond the powers and boundaries of Westmount – because of jurisdictional divides, permits, financial priorities – or not in the interests

of developers (whose paltry fine for failing to respect their legal agreement with respect to a percentage of social housing be dedicated on the site), we must re-frame, advocate for more humane conditions.

Beyond "good" intentions means real commitment, meaningful collaboration. It means the right to live and die with respect, with dignity – and laughter, as Elisapee Pootogook was known for, and denied.

CAROLINE JONDAHL, ST. CATHERINE ST.

THANK COUNCIL, AND MAKE POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS

Pursuant to Mr. Thompson's column (November 23, p. 16), here are my observations.

It's true that three councillors and the mayor were acclaimed, and there were relatively few contenders for the other seats. Perhaps the residents were sufficiently satisfied with the performance of the other council members. Or COVID played a part.

Additionally, not showing up to vote may be a sign of relative satisfaction, as much as a sign of disinterest.

As far as meeting councillors on the street and "thanking them for their courage and hard work ... then go to the council meetings and give them hell," I say: go to the council meetings and *thank them* for their hard work.

Those who disagree with plans can certainly make *positive practical suggestions* to improve things. Simply criticizing the council is the lazy way.

The mayor and councillors do what they think is best for the city as a whole.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

**Editor's note:** Gary Ikeman was the city councillor for District 5 (Victoria village) from 2009 to 2013. – DP.

CORRECTIONS RE: WESTMOUNT PARK SCHOOL ADDITIONS

On behalf of the Westmount Historical Association: In the November 23 issue, p. 19, there is a typo or error. The dates given should read 1929 and 1931 [for Westmount Park School additions]. These are the dates given in a booklet issued by the school on its 100th anniversary.

JANE MARTIN, WHA ARCHIVIST

WRONG WAY ON SUNNYSIDE ONE-WAY

After consulting only the 10 residents of Sunnyside between Upper Bellevue and Bellevue, and after too many months of repaving work, the city engineers have made the decision without proper consultation or explanation to make ..... this stretch of Sunnyside *continued on p. 16*

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## Guest column

# Prime Minister Justin Trudeau must disallow province's Bill 96

Unfortunately, Bill 96, an act to strengthen Bill 101, the Charter of the French Language, will be ratified by the National Assembly and most likely supported by the Quebec Liberal Party.

The legislation attacks the individual rights and freedoms of all Quebecers – English, French, cultural communities, and the First Nations and Inuit peoples. It is also a direct assault on the English and cultural communities and their institutions.

Let's not mince words – Bill 96 is designed to create another exodus, which has already started, and to make life more difficult for those who remain, with the goal of persuading these people to leave. That we have a provincial government with such an agenda is tragic, but Premier Legault, a self-described nationalist, embraces his mission and will not be deterred.

Many communities and individuals will face disasters due to Bill 96, but we can fight back. Of course, there will be immediate legal challenges to many elements of the legislation and we should support those efforts with donations. We should implore lawyers to work together *pro bono* on behalf of the citizens of this province. The federal government can also refer Bill 96 directly to the Supreme Court as a reference case.

## Federal disallowance

However, all residents of Quebec and Canada can act to have Bill 96 quashed immediately by insisting that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau disallow the law the moment it receives royal assent.

Section 90 of the British North America Act gives the federal government the authority to block any provincial legislation within one year.

Disallowance was last invoked in 1943 when the government of Alberta passed a law preventing members of the Hutterite

community from purchasing land. The law violated the rights of individuals and targeted a religious minority.

Quebec's Bill 21 should also have been disallowed immediately as it violates freedom of expression and religion guarantees.

Disallowance is one of the four protections provided to the English community in the BNA Act. The others are Section 93 to protect our school boards, Section 133 to ensure bilingualism in the Quebec and federal legislatures and in the courts, and a clause that protected the boundaries of 10 provincial ridings in the Eastern Townships with English majorities.

This was the *quid pro quo* of Quebec becoming a province with a French Canadian majority and the English community becoming a minority – which was the result of the Confederation debates of 1865.

Disallowance also protects the French minority community in Ontario and it has been extended to those in other provinces. (Prior to Confederation in 1867, Quebec and Ontario were part of the United Province of Canada.)

## Bills 22 & 101 should have been disallowed

When Bills 22 and 101 were passed in 1974 and 1977, hundreds of thousands signed petitions demanding that these language laws be disallowed, and they attended rallies and demonstrations to back up the petitions.

Alas, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau refused the requests and we now live with the daily impacts of these laws. They violate rights and freedoms, and are direct attacks on the English and cultural communities. Not only have we lost over 500,000 people from the English community, but many institutions have been demolished and a great many rural communities have been either lost or weakened. We have also witnessed enrolment in English public schools plummet from 250,000 plus in

1973/74 to less than 100,000 today. This is a disaster with many ramifications. And we cannot forget that at least half of all immigrants to Quebec leave for other provinces.

## The Committee to Disallow Bill 96

We must insist that the federal government disallow Bill 96. This effort has led to the creation of The Committee to Disallow Bill 96 on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/groups/246296065508834](https://www.facebook.com/groups/246296065508834). Please join us and demand that Justin Trudeau fulfill his constitutional duty and obligation to protect the rights of all Quebecers and the English community.

It is unlikely that Trudeau will disallow Bill 96, but we must insist. If we do not formally request its use, we are giving our consent and saying "We don't care."

The committee has secured the help of an MP to authorize a petition on the house of commons web page – a petition will be placed days after Bill 96 is passed. The goal is to secure several hundred thousand signatures via a nation-wide campaign based on people signing and sharing the petition and a positive media campaign that will reach out to newspapers, human rights

groups, and elected officials. No stone will be left unturned.

**Come to the demonstration! Sunday,  
December 5 at 1 pm  
Girouard (NDG) Park in NDG**

The campaign also includes rallies and demonstrations. On Sunday, December 5 at Girouard Park in NDG at 1 pm, we will be gathering at the cenotaph. We plan to hold demonstrations throughout Quebec and Canada, including outside the National Assembly and at Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

The situation may look bleak, but we cannot go gentle into that good night. We must resist and fight back. We may not win, but history will record that we fought back. Our motto is simple – "Never give up, never surrender."

Together we can make a difference. Please join us.

IRWIN RAPOPORT & HUGO SHEBBEARE

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Police Report

# St. Stephen's Church owner tightens security following break-in

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount Public Safety says it will be keeping a closer eye on the former St. Stephen's Church on Dorchester at the corner of Atwater, while the building's owner has pledged to keep it secured tightly, after a recent break-in followed by the arrest of a trespasser.

Around 6:08 pm on November 18, a witness called 9-1-1 to report seeing a male suspect entering the abandoned building and former Open Door homeless people's shelter at 4006 Dorchester through the front door, which had been forced open.

According to the incident report, Montreal police officers who arrived on the scene determined that the suspect was still

inside the building.

After entering and identifying themselves, they found the intruder on the second storey. Although he obeyed their commands and was said to be cooperative, he was placed under arrest.

The suspect told the officers that he had very little difficulty getting in because the front door was already damaged. He also claimed to have been told by friends that they believed they were allowed to enter and sleep in the vacant church building.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the police contacted the owner of the property, but he declined to press charges. As a result, the suspect was released without being charged. However, he was referred by the police to social services interventionists. Pimentel said that following break-in incidents like this, building owners are always advised by the police to secure their property more effectively.

He also acknowledged that with the cold of winter setting in, the chances of a fire breaking out in an abandoned building are greater if trespassers decide to try to take measures to stay warm.

At Westmount Public Safety, depart-

ment director Gregory McBain told the *Independent* they've been keeping a close watch on the church since it became vacant three years ago.

"Ever since it's been vacant, we've been paying special attention while passing through the area since it's been closed," he said. "We do regular special checks around the building and the property."

Fabio Marchesan, a property manager with Stanford Properties, which owns the building, said the company was aware of the incident, and that he had been out to conduct an inspection afterwards.

He said the front entrance has been firmly secured so as to make it virtually impossible for intruders to enter.

## de Maisonneuve finished – sort of

The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) has finished its work on the roof of the Atwater Metro station and the roadway of de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood, confirmed spokesperson Amélie Régis November 26. Work began in April 2019. Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* the same day that the city is "working with Montreal to figure out a way to reduce volume of traffic on de Maisonneuve. [This discussion] was put on hold by Montreal until after the election." She did not share a timetable for re-opening.

.....  
*Letters, cont'd from p. 14*

one-way eastbound, i.e. downwards. Our new councillor, Antonio D'Amico, has kindly provided me with an explanation from the city engineers that is mostly based on government norms requiring wider sidewalks.

If they would have polled the 150+ residents of Surrey Gardens, Oakland, Lexington, Roxborough and Summit Crescent, they would almost certainly have voted differently – that, if it had to be one way, the direction should be westward, i.e. upwards. Why? Because that's our favourite way to drive home from our downtown offices, avoiding evening traffic and the multiple red lights and two school zones on The Boulevard; or the messy traffic light at Belvedere and Côte des Neiges (another incomprehensible waste of money!).

I urge city council to hold a full poll of the affected residents. We give notices and hold votes for almost everything, please let us consult on this one-way decision (pun intended).

HARRY BLOOMFIELD, SURREY GARDENS

## SWAT tourney happening, fundraising online

After a hiatus last year due to the pandemic, the Westmount Old Timers Hockey Tournament will go ahead this year December 3 to 5, with the fundraising responsibility to be borne by each player and team by way of the MCH Foundation website, [fondationduchildren.com/en/fundraising](http://fondationduchildren.com/en/fundraising). Income tax receipts will be issued.

More than 50 Westmount players will be participating under team captains Fred Greenberg (SWAT), David Stenason (Wanderers), Christian Matossian (SWATOO) and Dr. Ken Shaw (MCH).

The tournament was initiated in 1991 by the Senior Westmount Allstar Team ("SWAT"), who were inspired by the late

Nicolas W. Matossian, a young patient at the Montreal Children's Hospital diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. With his friends, he organized two golf tournaments that in his remaining lifetime raised over \$50,000. The hockey tournament has since raised over \$440,000.

"Cancer does not await the resolution of a pandemic," co-founder Howard Hoppenheim wrote to the *Independent*. "To win the battle, we must redouble our efforts, make a difference, unite and give in the knowledge that the care given through our donations will bring greater comfort to afflicted children, will reassure their parents and will bring us ever closer to a cure."

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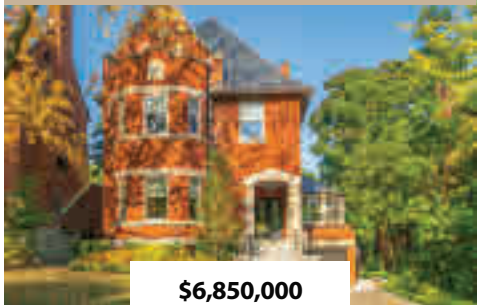
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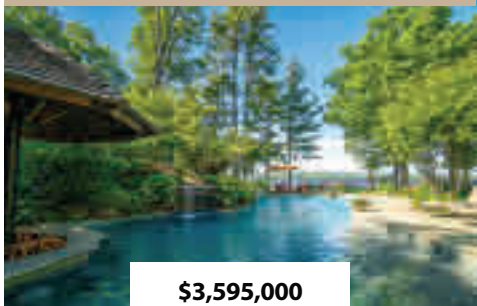
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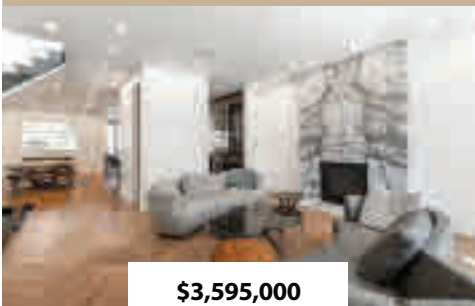
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# The 12 days of Christmas

“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree.” The familiar lyrics of this tune are sung as part of Christmas caroling and holiday celebrations, reaching a crescendo each time singers belt out “five golden rings.” The song is an English Christmas carol that was written in 1720. While it references plenty of gift-giving, it’s easy to assume the song is about giving Christmas gifts. However, the 12 days in the song actually refer to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The 12 days of Christmas, also known as the Twelvetide, refers to the festive Christian season that celebrates the nativity of Jesus. In fact, the start of these days occurs on December 25 and extends until the evening of January 5th, the day before the Epiphany, known as Twelfth Night, when the three wise men arrived. Each day corresponds to a remembrance of different religious events or people. Christmas celebrants can celebrate well into the new year. Commemorating the 12 days of Christmas can include small festivities from December 25 to



January 5. On Twelfth Night, historically known for parties, modern-day fanfare can mark the culmination of the Christmas season – with the last of gift-giving occurring on the Epiphany. Gifting, hosting friends and family, attending religious services, participating in charitable events, or opening one’s home to neighbours and those who can use some companionship are all ways to make the 12 days of Christmas more special.

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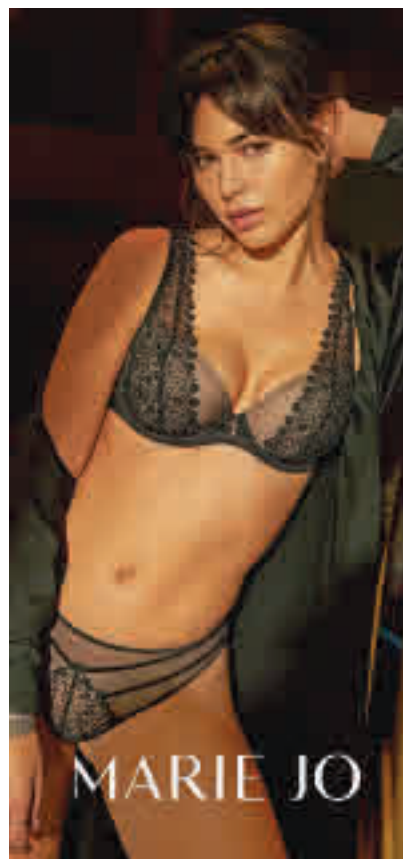
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# How to create a durable gingerbread house



- Gingerbread cookies and houses are one of the many symbols of the holiday season, alongside Christmas trees and twinkling lights. In fact, few confections symbolize the holidays more so than gingerbread.
- Many a child (or a child at heart) has spent hours carefully trying to create decorative gingerbread houses. Although gingerbread recipes span various cultures, gingerbread houses originated in 16th century Germany. The fairy tale “Hansel and Gretel” helped solidify the popularity of gingerbread, which became part of Christmas traditions.
- Even though gingerbread houses can be fun to make, there’s no denying it can be exacting work – especially for those who strive for perfection. Prepackaged kits attempt to take some of the guesswork out of the equation, but those who are crafting from scratch can employ these tips as they build their gingerbread houses.
- Go for form and not flavour. Few gingerbread houses ever get eaten, so focus on finding a dough that will bake up rock hard as opposed to one that tastes good.
  - Get the right icing texture. Pastry artist Catherine Beddall says royal icing is the preferred “glue” to adhere gingerbread pieces. Beddall says icing should be thick like peanut butter and not runny.
  - Mind the dough. Do not roll out the gingerbread dough too thin or it may become brittle after being cooked. Always cut out shapes before the gingerbread is baked. Let the baked pieces sit overnight to cool completely before using them to build.
  - Patience is key. Allow the icing to dry for at least a couple of hours after adhering each piece and before moving and handling the house, says Beddall. Work in stages so that individual items can be decorated and allowed to dry. Then the walls can be put together, followed by the roof pieces.
  - Kids likely will need help. Children may not have the patience or steadiness to handle complete gingerbread construction. They can decorate the separate pieces of the house while the components are laying flat, which is easier for kids. Adults can do the main assembly later on.
  - Utilize a template. Free-handing may not be easy. Cut out templates using cardboard or posterboard for various gingerbread pieces.
- One of the most important tips is to have fun. Don’t take gingerbread house making too seriously as a novice. Rather, enjoy the experience and the centuries-old tradition.



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*A view from above*



The artificial rink in Westmount Park on November 24.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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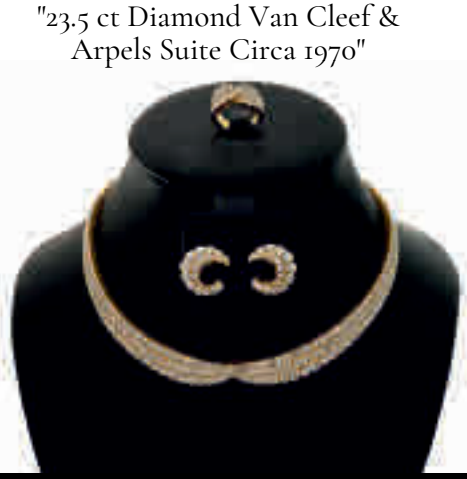
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## Simple ways to prolong the life of poinsettias



The red foliage on poinsettias are actually modified leaves called bracts. The flowers are the small, yellow buds in the center of the plant.

Poinsettias and their rich red, white or variegated colour schemes are the ideal backdrop for Christmas celebrations. In fact, poinsettias are among the most popular decorative flowers during the holiday season.

According to the 2013 USDA Floriculture Statistics report, poinsettias accounted for about one-quarter (23 percent) of all flowering potted plant sales that year. Roughly 34 million poinsettia plants are sold in a given season. Indigenous to Central America, the plant was introduced to North America in the 1820s when Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States minister to Mexico, brought the red-and-green plant back with him from a trip abroad.

While millions of poinsettias will be purchased for the holiday season, many mistakenly think their utility ends once New Year's Day has come and gone. But with proper care poinsettia plants can continue to thrive, and bring warmth and beauty to a home long after the holiday decorations have been tucked away.

- Choose a hearty plant. Experts with the University of Vermont Extension Department of Plant and Soil Science say that many people mistake the plant's leaves for its flowers. The red, white or pink bracts are actually modified leaves. The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the center called "cyathia." Choose poinsettia plants that have buds

which are, ideally, not yet open.

- Keep the temperature consistent. Poinsettias prefer a room temperature between 60 and 68°F during the day and 10 degrees cooler at night. Humidity levels between 20 and 50 percent are ideal. Group plants on water-filled trays full of pebbles to help increase humidity levels.
- Place near sunlight. The United Kingdom-based Perrywood floral company advises placing poinsettia plants near a bright windowsill but not in direct sunlight. Do not let a poinsettia touch cold window panes.
- Avoid drafts. The plants are sensitive to drafts and changes in temperature. So it's best to keep poinsettias away from drafty doors, windows, radiators, or fireplaces.
- Don't drown the roots. Wait until the surface of the compost dries out before watering the plant anew. Also, the decorative foil wrapper that covers pots can trap water and lead to root rot. Remove it or poke holes in the bottom to allow for drainage.
- Cut back plants. Come mid-March, cut back the plant by half to encourage new shoots, suggests the University of Illinois Extension.

The plants also can be placed outside in the spring after the risk of frost has passed. Bring poinsettias back in around mid-September to early October to force them to bloom again.



# Tips to keep your tree fresh this holiday season

Christmas trees are often the *pièce de résistance* of holiday decor. Few things draw the attention of holiday guests quite like an awe-inspiring Christmas tree, especially when that tree maintains its fresh, healthy sheen throughout December.

Many families purchase fresh trees over Thanksgiving weekend or during the first weekend of December. Though the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day may seem like a long time to keep a tree looking great, there are a handful of ways for holiday celebrants to help their trees maintain that undeniable appeal for the long haul.

- Pick the right tree. Choosing the right tree is one of the simplest ways to keep a tree looking good throughout the holiday season. A freshly cut tree that buyers choose and cut down themselves or have cut down can reassure them that the tree is likely to stay strong throughout December.
- Cut an inch off the base of any tree that is not freshly cut. MSU Extension at Michigan State University notes that this approach should be taken with any tree that was not cut within six to eight hours of

being put in a stand.

- Replenish the water supply every day. Fresh tree veterans recognize that Christmas trees can be very thirsty, especially within the first week or so of being cut and brought home. Fill the stand with water each morning and, if necessary, refill it each night before going to bed. The more water a tree gets and drinks, the more likely it is that the tree will look healthy all the way to Christmas Day. MSU Extension notes that many decorative or antique tree stands do not hold much water, so anyone with such a stand may need to replenish the water supply more than once or twice per day.
- Keep the tree away from a heat source. For safety's sake, trees should be kept away from heating vents, fireplaces and space heaters. But keeping trees away from such heat sources, and ensuring they are not spending the daytime in direct sunlight, also decreases the chances they will dry out before Christmas Day.

A handful of simple strategies can help holiday celebrants keep their Christmas trees looking good throughout the month of December.

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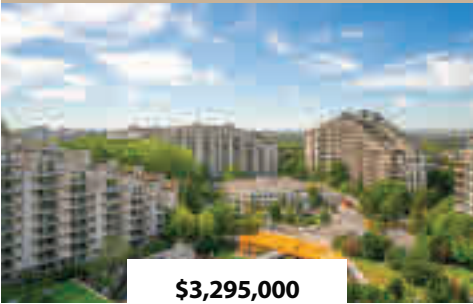
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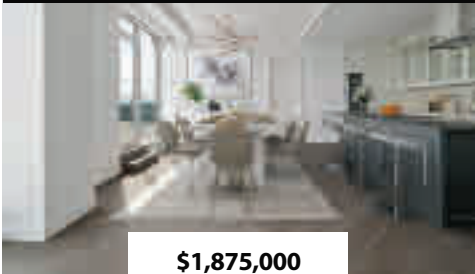
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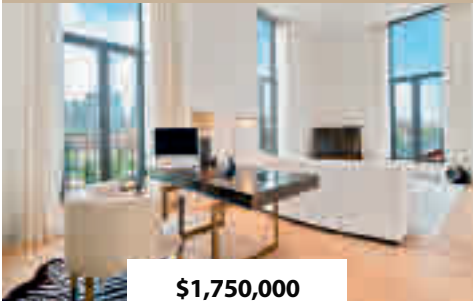
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Land taken from Public Works, Hydro

# Council approves ‘partial’ agreement on Turcot expropriations

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

How much is prime city land worth?

That is a question that has been in legal dispute since the Quebec Transport ministry (MTQ) expropriated a portion of Westmount territory on the south border for the Turcot project’s lowering of the Ville Marie expressway/Autoroute 720, now called route 136.

A “partial” agreement to pay the city \$183,245 “plus legal interest” was ratified by the city’s new council November 15 as compensation for the portion of land that includes a strip from Hydro Westmount’s Glen power station, the Public Works yard at the foot of Bethune St., a portion of Bethune St. itself and some of Hallowell.

It also states that an agreement totalling \$44,853 plus legal interest was reached with respect to the city’s claim to costs related to lost parking and the re-location some seven years ago of Hydro Westmount transformers stored under the Ville Marie.

These were temporarily moved to MTQ land west of Glen Rd. at Pullman, which led to access and travel costs (see story April 22, 2014, p. 25).

The agreement excludes “reimbursement of expert fees” and partial damages by groundwater contamination “if any,” the resolution states, and other elements in a legal claim by the city.

Other exclusions

Also excluded are the expropriation of lots on Selby St. (see story February 3, 2015, p. 1) and land on Lenoir. The Lenoir land is believed to relate to properties in Westmount’s industrial park south of the Ville Marie and north of Richelieu St. (see story April 22, 2014, p. 1).

Access to this area would have been by Lenoir, Duncan Campbell told the *Independent* last week. Campbell, at that time the city’s director general, had been authorized by the city council February 17, 2014, to negotiate with the MTQ (see story February 25, 2014, p. 5).

“I also indicated to my successors that Westmount should get right of first refusal on any other MTQ land that would be declared surplus such as around Greene and Selby for future uses,” he added. “We had initially thought that Selby St. belonged to us as we were maintaining it all these years but it had already been expropriated back when the Ville Marie was first conceived!”

That was in the 1960s.

Selby was the street that went west from Greene below the tracks in front of the previous greystone triplexes owned by long-time city councillor John de Castel that were subsequently demolished (see story February, 2015, p. 7).

Related pumping issue

A second council item adopted November 15 authorizes Westmount’s contribu-

tion to expertise on the “characterization of soils” in a separate but related issue regarding contaminated soils (see separate story on hydrocarbon pumping p. 21).

Campbell said that much of the “output” for November’s recent meeting had been done over the past few years and the City Clerk’s office was managing most, if not all, of the negotiations primarily through the law firm of IMK. As such, he was not involved in his recent stint as interim director general, he said.

“It was my understanding that we needed to reach an agreement with the MTQ on the sale of lands, fixing up of Hydro’s entranceway and storage facilities or we would lose out since we had been arguing, in court, over the compensation that was being offered to us and the court had given everyone a deadline to settle.”

The related issues of expropriation and hydrocarbon pumping have been before the courts for many years.



A pre-1980 firefighters’ diagram of part of Westmount south of the Ville Marie expressway. The industrial buildings (shaded) that were demolished for the Turcot/720/136 rebuild were behind houses on Richelieu, which are in St. Henri.



178-188 Selby, looking east before its demolition. The exposed side wall adjoined the rest of the row of buildings demolished after a major fire in 1981.



The former Canadian Foundry Supplies building/plant at 4295 Richelieu still housed a cement transforming business in 2014, Duchesne Refractaire, as seen on April 8 of that year. This building was demolished soon after.



## 30-year dispute goes on over hydrocarbon pumping

# City agrees to share cost on soil contamination study

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 15 agreed to pay half the cost of a study on soil contamination that had involved joint pumping by Westmount and the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) of hydrocarbons found in the water table of the STM's bus depot and garages dating back to 1992.

This area is now the site of Home Depot just south of where the Quebec Transport ministry (MTQ) in 2015 expropriated an east-west strip of Westmount land from the city's Glen power station and Public Works yard in exchange for the STM taking over the pumping (see story p. 20). This had been required by the Quebec Environment ministry.

Under the soil study agreement ratified by the council, Westmount will pay a maximum amount of \$122,302 plus net taxes as the city's 50-percent contribution to a study being undertaken by the STM to "characterize" the soil contamination.

"It was agreed that the STM would hire one outfit that would do the work for both organizations and we would split the cost and be kept abreast of the developments," retired director general Duncan Campbell told the *Independent* after moderating the council meeting's question period.

### On-going dispute

This is part of an ongoing dispute over the source of the fuels resulting in the STM launching a \$5-million lawsuit against

Westmount in 2016 to recover what it claimed was its cost of the hydrocarbon pumping over the years (see story May 10, 2016, p. 1) in "provisional" cost-sharing agreements "until the source of contamination would be determined." (See story May 10, 2016).

### Where did the fuels originate?

While the STM contends the fuels came from Westmount's old snow-melting plant, petroleum products and equipment, it claimed consultants noted the fuels were of the type used by the CP's old Glen rail yard that had had to be decontaminated before the building of the MUHC superhospital.

The case is still before the courts.

In 2014, Campbell had begun negotiations on the land expropriations and hydrocarbon pumping, which had cost Westmount some \$200,000 a year with total costs estimated at \$4 million to \$5 million (see story February 25, 2014, p. 1).

At that time, it was estimated that over the years hundreds of thousands of litres of oil would have been removed, according to Bruce St. Louis, who was director general during much of the pumping process.

"It's been a very slow process in order to prevent the removal of too much water from the ground at one time."



The hydrocarbons were discovered in May 1992 when residents of St. Henri reported sewer odours (see story May 10, 2016, p. 16).



A portion of Hydro Westmount's former land, looking south to Home Depot under the Ville Marie expressway on February 21, 2014.




The now-gone pumphouse cabane in the northwest corner of the Home Depot parking lot on February 21, 2014.

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*Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in June 2021, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 23.*

Westmount homebuyers spent more money buying real estate last June than ever before in the city's history, as 28 single-family dwellings sold for \$59,981,236.

**High unit volume**

Volume was the highest since July 2012, when 30 sales were registered. The average price of \$2,142,187 wrapped up a full year (July 2020 through June 2021) in which the monthly average was always over \$2 million, though there were plenty of other months where the average was higher. The average mark-up over municipal valuation in June closings was 27.3 percent, lower than in either April or May, but higher than the six-month average so far in 2021.

**High and low**

The highest price was \$5,450,000 for 88 Summit Crescent, a house that had been



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# June transfers: Highest total spent – ever – in one month



28 Burton, seen November 26, had the lowest price of the month: \$1,055,000.

purchased in July 2020, for exactly \$5,000,000, then put back on the market in March this year asking \$5,500,000.

The lowest price in June was \$1,055,000 for 28 Burton Ave., the second-lowest price so far this year, only higher than the \$985,000 paid out for 4927 de Maisonneuve Blvd. in March.

The house on Burton is now undergoing substantial renovation.

The tiny house at 536 Lansdowne Ave. changed hands for more than double its municipal valuation, at 118.3 percent the highest mark-up so far this year and only the second to have passed the 100-percent mark.

Only one June sale sold for less than tax value, as 44 Sunnyside Ave. went for \$4,000,000 while evaluated at \$4,750,000. It was one of three sales to have cleared the \$3-million mark in June; of the 28 sales, 18 were for less than \$2 million; the other seven were between \$2 and \$3 million.

**No million-dollar condos**

While all of the houses sold in June cleared the \$1-million mark, none of the six June condominium sales cleared that level.

Four apartments and two converted duplexes/triplexes ranged in price from \$550,000 (175 Metcalfe, #304) to \$984,000 (200 Lansdowne, #507), the latter being the lowest mark-up over valuation for the entire quarter.

The second quarter of 2021 saw 14 condominiums – 11 in apartment buildings, only three in converted duplexes/triplexes – selling for \$14,667,600 or just over \$1 million per unit, though only four of the 14 sold over \$1 million.

The others ranged from \$400,000 to \$984,000.

Overall in the second quarter the average mark-up over valuation was 22.5 percent, well below the quarter's average for one- and two-family dwellings, which was 31.1 percent.



# Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2021

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
16 Arlington	Lorraine Raby	\$1,430,000	\$995,800	43.6%
5 Belfrage	Brookhaven Enterprises Ltd. (Gary Oberman, pres.)	\$1,760,000	\$1,318,600	33.5%
656 Belmont	Margrit Meyer	\$2,020,000	\$1,682,400	20.1%
28 Burton	Valorie Irene Kew	\$1,055,000	\$891,600	18.3%
3241 Cedar	Yuan Wang	\$2,280,000	\$1,722,400	32.4%
604 Clarke	Caroline Michel & Daniel Obrand	\$3,550,000	\$3,263,600	8.8%
4024 Dorchester	Scott Jones & Shanly Dixon	\$1,642,236	\$1,320,300	24.4%
18 Grenville	Joanna Bernstein & Brian Becker	\$1,975,000	\$1,749,900	12.9%
363 Kitchener	Heather Holt	\$1,400,000	\$1,379,300	1.5%
380 Lansdowne	Gem Jibodh	\$1,810,000	\$1,374,000	31.7%
428 Lansdowne	Michel Gélinas	\$2,500,000	\$1,602,500	56.0%
536 Lansdowne	Leonides Aubert-Agelakos	\$1,649,000	\$755,300	118.3%
657 Lansdowne	George Vouloumanos	\$1,800,000	\$1,532,300	17.5%
8 Lorraine	Jana Lermusiaux & Jean-Christophe Lermusiaux	\$1,585,000	\$1,128,000	40.5%
218 Metcalfe	Lara Crokaert	\$1,995,000	\$1,410,000	41.5%
663 Murray Hill	Groupe Trifman Westmount Inc. (Annie Harroch, repr.)	\$2,485,000	\$1,783,300	39.3%
2 Prospect	Caroline Losson	\$1,540,000	\$1,270,000	21.3%

continued on p. 26

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*Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in June 2021 continued from page 23*

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
33 Renfrew	Lloyd P. Cooper & Maria Feldman	\$1,990,000	\$1,463,300	36.0%
4464 Sherbrooke	Placements François Naud Ltée.	\$1,525,000	\$1,350,000	13.0%
88 Summit Crescent	Joseph Antebi	\$5,450,000	\$3,240,000	68.2%
44 Sunnyside	Hong Liu	\$4,000,000	\$4,750,000	-15.8%
31 Thornhill	Michael Quigley	\$1,970,000	\$1,550,000	27.1%
774 Upper Belmont	Zijing Li	\$2,240,000	\$1,850,000	21.1%
779 Upper Belmont	Louis Ludwick & Erika Flores	\$2,550,000	\$2,064,900	23.5%
712 Upper Roslyn	Michel Bernier & Edith Luc	\$1,910,000	\$1,533,500	24.6%
613 Victoria	Randa Klein	\$1,845,000	\$1,467,000	25.8%
4698 Westmount Ave	Didier Toussaint & Lisa Lipari	\$2,450,000	\$1,762,300	39.0%
16 Windsor	Théodore Suss	\$1,575,000	\$902,800	74.5%
CONDOMINIUMS				
200 Lansdowne #507	Bernard Stern	\$984,000	\$969,500	1.5%
175 Metcalfe #101	Edward Ierfino & Catherine Collins	\$808,000	\$727,600	11.1%
175 Metcalfe #304	Isabelle Séguin	\$550,000	\$539,100	2.0%
510 Prince Albert	Junwei Su & Ying Gao	\$855,000	\$790,500	8.2%
4700 St. Catherine #507	estate Cynthia Brown	\$780,000	\$647,500	20.5%
472 Wood	Julien Bruneau & Nathalie Nasri	\$920,000	\$730,200	26.0%

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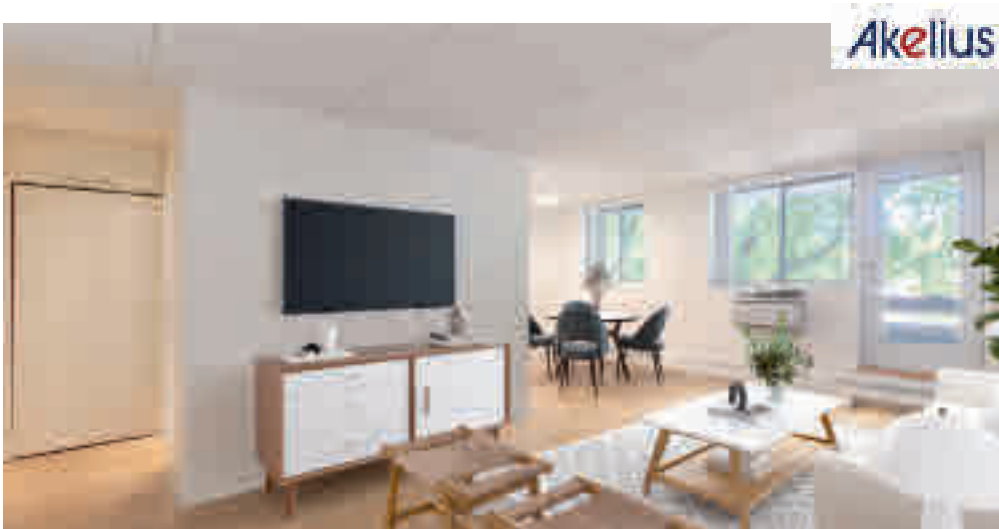
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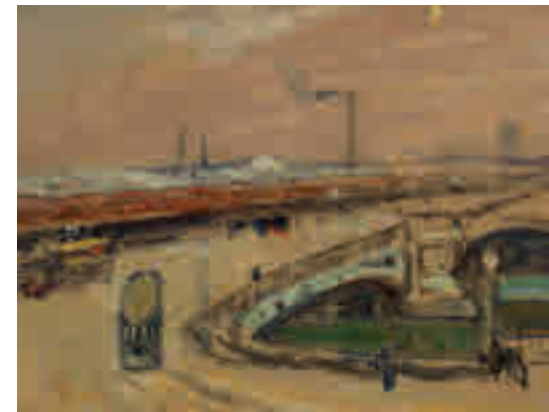


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44 Sunnyside, seen November 26, was the month's only mark-down, at -15.8 percent.



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BY JENNIFER BALL

Hassan Elshafei’s lecture “The Dawn of Egyptian Civilization: Egypt’s First Pharaoh” took place in Victoria Hall on November 18.

For anyone in the audience expecting tales of a mummy’s curse from the 1922 Valley of the Kings’ excavation, this was not that talk.

“A lot of fuss has been made about the Pharaonic period, the pyramids, the discoveries, the treasure, but nobody tends to talk much about how it all got started,” Elshafei said.

“This huge dynasty did not start from scratch. There was not a foreign influence either. It was a natural progression over the millennia and that even before the pharaohs, there was art and civilization.”

Elshafei’s talk centred on three tangents: firstly, the Nile – the ancient heart of Egypt’s civilization and how hunter-gatherers became resident-farmers by prospering from it.

Secondly, how the pharaohs developed commerce and writing, and, thirdly a personal rumination by Elshafei.

Elshafei – who worked in IT as a project manager and consultant – was born in Egypt but emigrated to Canada in 1961. Before emigrating, he had joined an expedi-



A hippo and the Narmer palette.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HASSAN ELSHAFEI.

tion to excavate the site of Nekhen in Upper Egypt, the capital city of the founder of Egypt’s first dynasty, c. 3500 BC.

The identity of the titular first pharaoh is at the centre of a heated scholarly debate among Egyptologists.

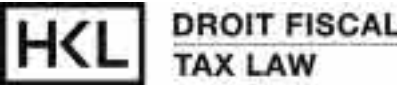
They narrowed it down to two or three major historical figures and the name that keeps surfacing is Narmer. “He is supposed to be the one whose capital we were digging,” Elshafei said. “There was history that reflects his presence both in upper and lower Egypt, and the thesis is that Narmer either unified the country by force, by persuasion or by pulling in various power brokers under his tent.”



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## Meeting Bunny

*Westmount  
A-dog-tions*

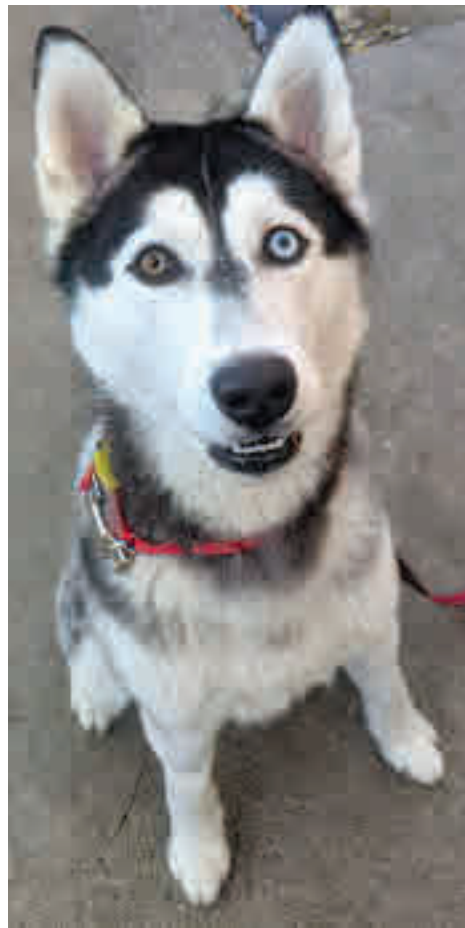
LYSANNE FOWLER

Bunny is a perfectly unique white, black and grey husky type with the striking warm brown eye-ice blue eye combination that makes us look twice to be sure we saw him right while we reach out to pet his fluffy head!

A young fellow, only a year old, hoping every day for a warm and fun-loving family to put a leash on him and move on from the Montreal SPCA kennel.

Still playing puppy games and keen on interaction and socialization, he is ready to settle in and take on an energetic life-style with new loved ones. He is good with older children and has not met a cat yet, so all best friends lie ahead for him in his new environment.

Bunny is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. As I mentioned in my last few columns, please



refer to the new SPCA instructions for adoption applications, as it is important to note the updated procedure.

To apply for Bunny's adoption, we must now refer to its website [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then go to his adoption information page where we refer to his identification number 49103411, and 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 Jonathan's adoption as soon as possible.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

## Magnificent Jonathan



*9 Lives*

LYSANNE FOWLER

A stunning and majestic black longhair, Jonathan slowly lifts his head, and sweetly gifts you with the stunning contrast of his golden eyes above his sculpted nose and longest whiskers.

His presence and warmth ensure that he is memorable. A delightful and playful companion, Jonathan is waiting ever so patiently at the Montreal SPCA cattery for a forever family in our neighborhood.

He is five years young, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please follow the new SPCA adoption instructions for him, as it is important to note the updated procedure. To enquire for Jonathan's adoption, we must now

refer to its website [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), then go to his adoption information page where we refer to his identification number 49131404, and 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 Jonathan's adoption as soon as possible.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



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### House for Sale

Centris # 22603462 - Address: 4293 Boul. De Maisonneuve O  
Price: \$2,238,000 Justin Suh - Sutton Realty 514-244-0751.

### For Sale

Beautiful Murano mirror for sale 126cm X 84cm 438-885-2082.

### Gratitude

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## DEMONSTRATION - WE REJECT BILL 96

## Girouard (NDG) Park

(Cenotaph northwest of  
Girouard & Sherbrooke St. West in NDG)

## Sunday, December 5 at 1pm

The federal power of disallowance over any provincial law must be used against the province of Quebec's Bill 96. We – all Canadians – must insist upon its use.

We are asking people to join The Committee to Disallow Bill 96 on Facebook and to attend our anti-Bill 96 demonstration.

*There is plenty of parking and the park can easily be reached by public transit via getting off at the Vendôme Metro station and taking the 105 bus. We had 120-plus people on October 24 and we are hoping for a similar turnout, at a minimum. We – organizers Hugo Shebbeare and Irwin Rapoport – look forward to seeing you there.*



*History by  
the House*

ANDY DODGE

Two of Montreal's most powerful businessmen of their era, Sir Herbert Holt and Sir Charles Gordon, tried to imagine a summit area of Westmount that would become the beacon of wealth for the thriving Montreal community, and gave it the name "West Crescent Heights" to indicate its unique character.

They bought the land uphill from the estate of Captain Robert Raynes, son-in-law of Charles Bowman, who bought the strip of farmland at a Sheriff's sale in 1828.

Holt was president of Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co., was president and

# 45 Summit Crescent: Part of 'West Crescent Heights'

later chairman of the Royal Bank of Canada, co-founder of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and a director of numerous powerful Montreal companies.

Gordon built a shirt-making company into Dominion Textile after buying up several struggling textile companies in 1901.

**Holt, Gordon founded Hampstead**

The two combined to found Hampstead at about the same time, visualizing another "garden community," but hardly with the prestige (and views) of West Crescent Heights.

Thoughts of building mansions drew the attention of L. Henry Timmins, a native of Mattawa, Ontario, who with his son, Noah, had bought up a mining claim in northern Ontario and began digging for

gold, developing the Hollinger Mines in the appropriately-named Timmins, Ontario.

By 1912 Timmins had settled with his family in Montreal and he hired Edward and William Maxwell to design a mansion in West Crescent Heights. Holt and Gordon had laid out streets in the area including Summit Crescent, Gordon Crescent and Holt Crescent – though the latter name was changed to Park Crescent and then Surrey Gardens, after it became clear that Herbert Holt was one of the least popular capitalists in Montreal (see separate article p. 31).

Between those three streets, Holt and Gordon had laid out 10 building lots, though the Timmins mansion stretched through three of them, and the rest became vast lawns measuring 78,015 square feet. Eventually the mansion became 4 Surrey Gardens.

It is not clear what happened to the house, but Timmins sold it to Royal Trust Co. in 1949 for \$50,000. It appears this was when the mansion was torn down, because three years later the entire block, then va-

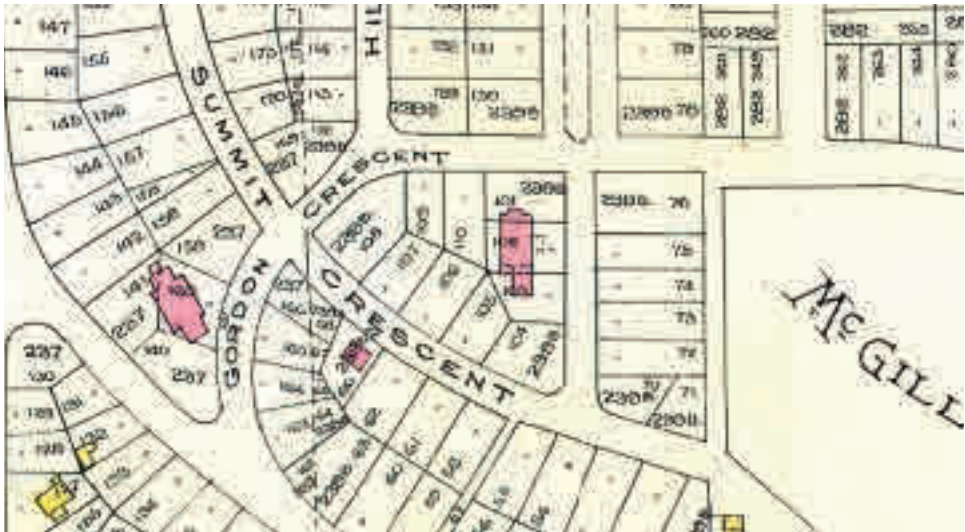
cant, sold to a lumber merchant, James B. Torphy who lived on Van Horne Ave., for \$70,000.

Torphy built his own house at 2 Surrey Gardens and re-divided the rest of the land, reducing the number of lots from 10 to eight. He then sold off the lots individually, including 10,880 square feet at the corner of Summit Crescent and Gordon Crescent to Dora Cohen, wife of Philip Grossman, a fur merchant, in 1953 for \$16,320, or exactly \$1.50 per square foot.

**The Grossmans build**

The Grossmans built 45 Summit Crescent in 1954 and lived there for 20 years before passing it on to Leo Paul Fournier, a chartered accountant, who stayed only three years before selling it to Brian Grant, who called himself a "merchant" in the title deed but became a Westmount real estate agent along with his wife, Vivian Blake. (Both on the way in and the way out, Fournier was able to hide the sale price in a "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations" price declaration, a procedure that

- 1874 –  
Village of Notre Dame de Grâce (area of current-day Westmount and NDG) incorporated
- 1876 –  
Village of Côte St. Antoine (area of current-day Westmount) breaks away. It becomes a town in 1890.
- 1888 –  
wooden railway bridge opens over Glen Rd., southwest of current-day Westmount recreation centre. It is replaced by the still-in-use stone bridge in 1892
- circa 1890 –  
Train station opens at the foot of Abbott Ave. It was moved to the foot of Victoria Ave. in 1907, where the building still stands.
- 1895 –  
Town of Côte St. Antoine changes its name to Westmount. It becomes a city in 1908.
- 1899 –  
Westmount Public Library opens in its current building (which has been added to).
- 1922 –  
Current city hall opens.
- 1925 –  
The current Victoria Hall opens. This building, still in use, replaced an 1899 version that burned down in 1924. Also, the St. Catherine St. armoury of the Royal Montreal regiment, located on city land, opens.
- 1958 –  
Westmount's previous arena opens as an open-sided venue. It was enclosed in 1963. The pool at this facility was added in 1962.
- 2002 to 2005 –  
The merged years. Westmount is merged January 1, 2002 with the city of Montreal and becomes one of its boroughs. It demerged on January 1, 2006.
- 2013 –  
Current Westmount recreation centre opens.



Goad's Atlas of 1912 showing lot 239B-108 at the intersection of Gordon and Summit crescents, where 45 Summit Crescent stands, and the now demolished Timmins house on Surrey Gardens to the east/right (in pink). Note the old name of Roxborough Ave. starting at top middle: Hillcrest Ave.



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45 Summit Crescent.

has become virtually impossible to use these days.)

The Grants stayed there for more than eight years until finally selling to a high-end Montreal retailer, Albert Bensoussan, in August 1984. Only four months later the

house was sold again, this time to Leonard Sheiner, who ran a real estate leasing company in Montreal.

Sheiner kept the property until 2002,

## Herbert Holt – the most-hated man in Quebec?

Herbert S. Holt is described in Wikipedia as one of the richest men in Canada, “but also one of the most reviled,” considering his uncanny manipulation of others to his advantage.

 In 1958, Peter C. Newman wrote the following tale in *MacLean's Magazine*:

“The bottom of the fifth inning during the Sept. 28, 1941 International League baseball game at Delorimier Stadium was interrupted by the rude spit of a loudspeaker announcing: ‘Sir Herbert Holt is dead.’”

“The crowd hushed, whispered, then cheered. This was the public elegy to the financial recluse who built up the greatest empire of ownership in Canadian business history...”

It was in this spirit that Westmount council decided in about 1914, having named two of the streets in the planned “West Crescent Heights” for the founders of that community, Gordon Crescent and Holt Crescent, that the latter should be renamed “Park Crescent” and then, two years later, “Surrey Gardens.”

Neither Holt nor Sir Charles Blair Gordon actually lived in Westmount. Holt lived in a three-story house on Stanley St., while Gordon’s house was called Terra Nova, 1018 Queen Mary Rd.

when he sold to Paul Cheong, an entrepreneur who is involved with Le Gourmet Hot &amp; Spicy, a restaurant that has had various locations over the years and is now located in Brossard.

The Cheong family stayed there for 10 years until the new buyer, a family trust involving three persons living at different addresses both locally and overseas, purchased the property in 2012.

The house was put on the market in early 2019 asking more than \$4 million, but never sold. A demolition notice, accompanied by a drawing of a new house to be built on the site, was issued by the city on November 2.

The house has a 2020 municipal valuation of \$2,929,900.

### HISTORY OF 45 SUMMIT CRESCENT (since construction)

DATE	BUYER	PRICE
09 Aug 1973	Leo Fournier	\$1.00
29 Jan 1976	Brian Grant	\$1.00
17 Aug 1984	Albert Bensoussan & Helene Corneer	\$290,000.00
30 Nov 1984	Leonard Sheiner	\$335,000.00
08 May 2002	Paul Cheong & Christina Chia	\$1,080,000.00
01 Jun 2012	Fiduce Famille MCR	\$2,300,000.00


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Social notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

“They had a very individual sense of style – not followers of fashion, but creators,” is how former Westmounters Nicola Pelly and Harry Parnass were described by Peter Gabriel.

The internationally-renowned rock star was not only a client but a personal friend of the creators and co-founders of the fashion line called Parachute.

Gabriel lent some of his vintage Parachute garments for the exhibition.

Among other celebrities wearing the brand were David Bowie, Mick Jagger and Madonna.

During the 1980s, Parachute’s Montreal shop on Crescent St. was a go-to destination. For their Canadian flagship in Les Cours Mont Royal, architect-urban planner-teacher-designer Parnass himself drew reproductions of historic cave paintings on the walls and floors.

Commodifying cool, at the height of its fame the Parachute phenomenon was a huge commercial success, selling in some 400 shops around the world. It closed in 1993.

# McCord celebrates Parachute clothing line



Nicola Pelly at the exhibit opening, November 18.

Today, the McCord Museum is celebrating the iconic collection, which prophetically foresaw the androgynous fashion looks of today.

“Parachute synthesized fashion from a wide range of sources, including ethnographic clothing and military uniforms, to create innovative and sometimes shocking silhouettes,” said Alexis Walker, assistant curator, dress, fashion and textiles, McCord Museum.

Nicola Pelly welcomed guests and commented on the clothing displayed. Full disclosure: Life comes full circle. When I was fashion editor at *Montreal Magazine*, I featured the Parachute children’s line on the cover and chose the McCord for the fashion shoot.

*Parachute: Subversive Fashion of the '80s*  
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Montreal Magazine, circa 1990.

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Social notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount’s *über*-popular annual holiday Toy Tea with its day-long events and delicious bites will be virtual this year due to COVID-19.

Everyone is invited to join virtually on December 8 at 6 pm.

The Toy Tea always relied on the participation of school choirs to perform during the event. This year, student musicians, singers and dancers were welcome to participate virtually by uploading a two-minute video to [www.toyteashowcase.com](http://www.toyteashowcase.com), by donating a new, non-violent toy, or by making a monetary donation.

The tea, a non-profit charitable organization run by volunteers, supports children living in Quebec battered women’s shelters, and has provided more than 5,000 youngsters with new, non-violent toys for the holidays.

You can help make this upcoming holiday season brighter for these children by participating in the following ways: Buying a new non-violent children’s toy or gift card for (children ages 12 to 18 years – e.g. Tim Horton’s, McDonald’s, retail store cards

# Toy Tea virtual this year



From left, back row: Maria Piscardelis, Vicki Ajmo, Michelle Morin, Emily Beckerleg, Caroline Fletcher, Catherine Turner, Stephanie Savard, Heather Monaghan, Sophie Palmer and Karen Moore; front row: Amanda Eaman, Paulina Flores-Rutenberg, Ginger Petty, Erika Ludwick, Hillary Caissie and Laurie Bucci Sandler.

etc.) and dropping them off at James Boutique (4910 Sherbrooke St.), Suetables (1314 Greene Ave.), Victoria Hall, The Studio Mtl (4924 Sherbrooke St.), or Zone

de Nutrition (4701-N St. Jean Boul. DDO). Donations are welcome at [toyteashowcase.com](http://toyteashowcase.com), or you could buy a toy from our Amazon wish list [www.amazon.com/toytea2021](http://www.amazon.com/toytea2021).

The co-chairs are local res Erika Ludwick and Paulina Flores Rutenberg.



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*Retail review*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

A mere week ago, the former Georges Rech boutique on Greene Ave. below de Maisonneuve had windows covered with paper.

Hidden behind was a surprise. Waiting to be unveiled was the magical presence of Surprise Enfants.

Now open since November 17, the shop is a magnet featuring adorable clothes (Elegant Baby); educational toys (this just in: an atlas that “talks” in the language of the country you point at, as well as describing the country’s capital city); colour books from Avenue Mandarin; classic rag dolls; “save-the-memory” frames and sunglasses (Izipizzi for Kids, \$47.)

I was shown around the luminous space by store manager and buyer Vicky Papazoglou assisted by the chic staff, who were busy gift wrapping, a store service.

Vicky explained that Boutique Surprise in Westmount Square, a go-to destination for gifts for over 30 years, has always carried children’s collections.

“It kept growing and growing, squeezed into a corner space. But now we can

# Surprise – ‘Enfants’ arrive on Greene Ave.



Vicky Papazoglou.

present a wider range.”

The day I passed by, avenue strollers were admiring the window display full of a sparkling carousel, Santa climbing a ladder, an alluring zebra waiting to be ridden by a toddler and a range of snow globes.

There are also knapsacks, plush toys and fun books “for ages baby-10.” Although most shoppers were gazing at shelves full of fun, I gazed higher, lured by the black-and-white walls of waving palms and friendly giraffes.

A celebratory chandelier shines down on a choice of dreidels, finger puppets and charming Hair Clipping barrettes.

Oh. And there is precious little piano with perfectly sized piano stool for budding musicians and a large kitchen unit for the next super chef.

And for parents and grandparents who may wish to recall – and pass on – their own memories, there is the classic Snakes and Ladders game.

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## In-Person Christmas Events 2021

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<b>Children's Christmas Pageant</b> Sunday, Dec. 5 at 5 pm (online version for unvaccinated children)	<b>Christmas Eve Family Service</b> Friday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm (online version for unvaccinated children)
<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 pm (free ticket required, see below)	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b> Friday, Dec. 24 at 11:00 pm (free ticket required, see below)

For information on how to order tickets & a list of online services,  
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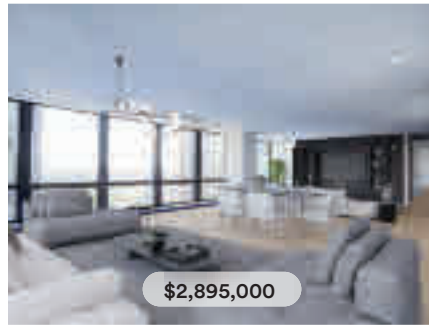
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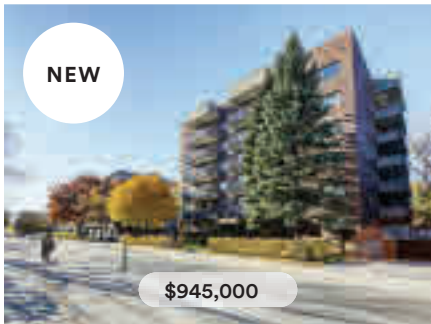
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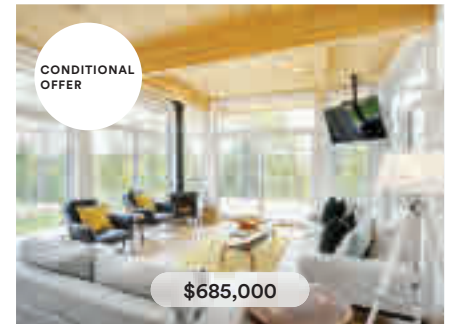
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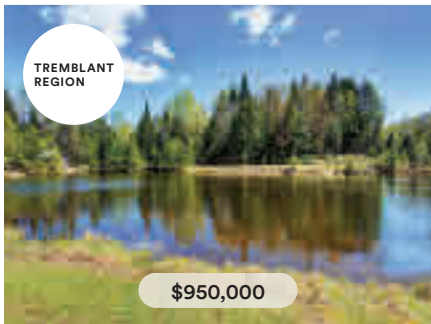
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OFFER

\$685,000

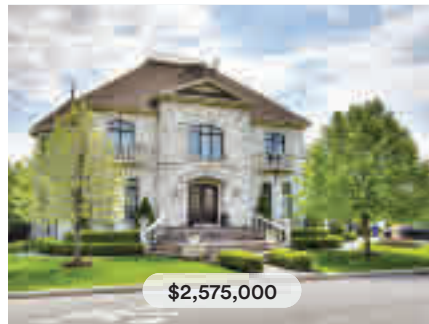
La Conception  
220 CH. DES EXPLORATEURS



TREMBLANT  
REGION

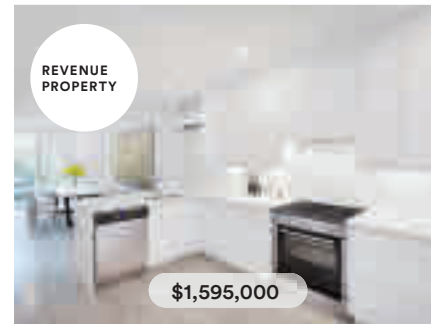
\$950,000

La Conception  
ROUTE DES ÉRABLES



\$2,575,000

Sainte-Dorothée  
331 RUE DES ROSEAUX



REVENUE  
PROPERTY

\$1,595,000

Côte-des-Neiges | NDG  
4917–4919 COOLBROOK AV.



CALL US FOR MORE UNITS

Westmount  
2/3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE

IT'S NOT JUST WHERE YOU'RE GOING,  
IT'S HOW YOU GET THERE



"YOUR ENTHUSIASM, PASSION AND TRUE PROFESSIONALISM IS WHAT SOLD THE HOUSE AND GAVE US COMFORT DOING SO."

CHRISTIE JAKUBIAK & BERNARD SANCHEZ

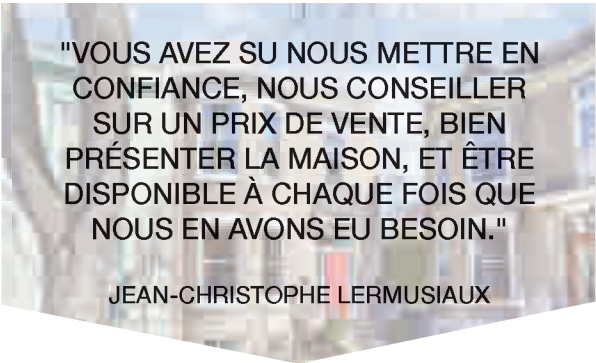
PROFESSIONALISM



"NOUS AVONS EFFECTUÉ AVEC VOTRE AIDE 3 TRANSACTIONS IMMOBILIÈRES, VENTES ET ACHAT, ET NOUS SOMMES TOUT SIMPLEMENT RAVIS À CHAQUE FOIS."

MICHÈLE BERGEVIN & ALAIN ROYER

RESULTS



"VOUS AVEZ SU NOUS METTRE EN CONFIANCE, NOUS CONSEILLER SUR UN PRIX DE VENTE, BIEN PRÉSENTER LA MAISON, ET ÊTRE DISPONIBLE À CHAQUE FOIS QUE NOUS EN AVONS EU BESOIN."

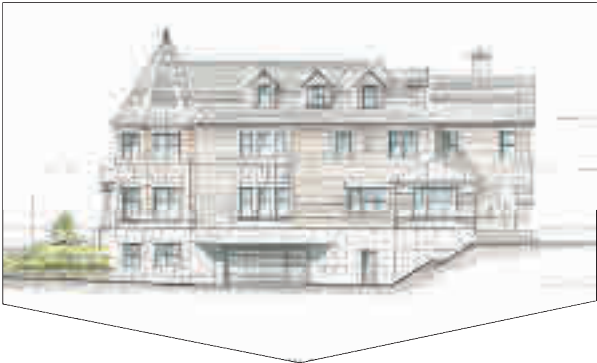
JEAN-CHRISTOPHE LERMUSIAUX

AVAILABILITY



ACCEPTED OFFER!

513 GROSVENOR AVE., WESTMOUNT

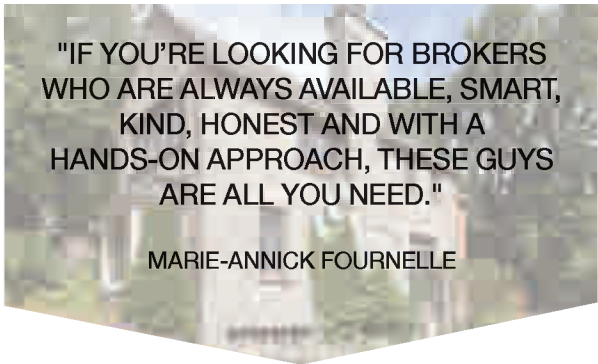


473 ROSLYN AVE., WESTMOUNT (LAND)  
\$2,995,000



OPTIMIZED PRICE! \$1,785,000

3617 MARLOWE AVE., CDN/NDG



"IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR BROKERS WHO ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE, SMART, KIND, HONEST AND WITH A HANDS-ON APPROACH, THESE GUYS ARE ALL YOU NEED."

MARIE-ANNICK FOURNELLE

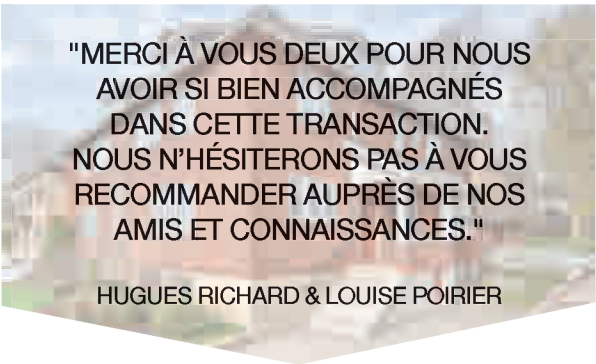
HONESTY



"WE ALWAYS FELT THAT YOU WERE LOOKING OUT FOR OUR BEST INTEREST, AND WHILE YOU DID NOT HESITATE TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS, YOU LEFT THE FINAL SAY IN OUR HANDS. "

CAROLINE NABOZNIAK & HARALD KALTZ

SINCERITY



"MERCI À VOUS DEUX POUR NOUS AVOIR SI BIEN ACCOMPAGNÉS DANS CETTE TRANSACTION. NOUS N'HÉSITERONS PAS À VOUS RECOMMANDER AUPRÈS DE NOS AMIS ET CONNAISSANCES."

HUGUES RICHARD & LOUISE POIRIER

RECOMMENDATIONS



**Brian Dutch**  
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