

As this issue was being prepared, the *Journal de Montréal*/TVA reported that 12-14 Sunnyside had sold for \$18.5 million. This transaction is now the most expensive ever in Westmount, according to *Independent* columnist Andy Dodge. See April 18, 2017, p.1 for his coverage of its previous sale for \$13.5 million, which was the previous record. According to the *Journal*, it is also the highest ever for a residence in Quebec.

Two snowmakers were busy in King George (Murray) Park creating snow for the toboggan run December 8. When asked, a worker said it would take a week to make sufficient snow for the run. Some snow was lost during the warm weather and rain of the December 11-12 weekend, undoubtedly setting back the schedule.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 15 No. 12c

We are Westmount

December 14, 2021

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## City supports grant application

# Dawson partnership approved for use of sports facilities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A partnership agreement between the city and Dawson College was adopted by city council December 6 in hopes the

CEGEP can obtain a Quebec government grant to renovate its sports facilities – namely its gymnasium – and, in turn, open them to Westmount residents.

For many years, the Dawson Blues intercollegiate hockey teams have used the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) rinks for practices and home games. By agreeing to sup-

continued on p. 25

This issue is the last before our usual Christmas break.



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**514.962.5527**  
Residential Real Estate Broker  
mcalabrese@sutton.com

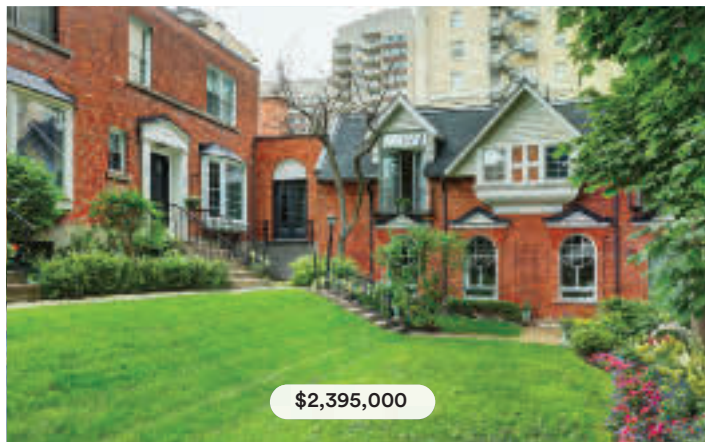


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Neighbours request more info, challenge the process

# Demo hearing approves request for 45 Summit Crescent

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A request to demolish more than 50 percent of the bungalow at 45 Summit Crescent to add a second storey was approved at a special hearing by council December 9.

The decision by the city council after 45 minutes of deliberation during the virtual hearing came despite a recommendation from the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and a lengthy plea from neighbours wanting to weigh in on plans for the addition.

Bobby Stoller, of Gordon Crescent, was told that the meeting was to consider only the demolition aspect. Details of the replacement project were a separate matter to be determined by the PAC according to zoning requirements as part of the normal permit review process in which neighbours are not customarily consulted.

Stoller asked how neighbours therefore had an opportunity to interact and express "the collective rights of the neighbourhood."

"One neighbour can't comment on the colour of a neighbour's door or types of windows," Mayor Christina Smith explained.

Nathalie Jodoin, assistant director of the Urban Planning department, further ex-

plained that a year ago when the proposal for a second storey was submitted for 45 Summit Crescent, it became apparent that once the roof was removed and some changes made to the windows, more than 50 percent of the house was affected, which would require a demolition permit even though it was "partial" demolition (see photos November 9, p. 14).

The PAC recommendation against the demolition was based in part on the house having a significant Category II rating for architectural heritage and integrity dating to 1954 and being in very good condition and well preserved.

Stoller was told, however, that the council was viewing it more "holistically," Councillor Conrad Peart explained as urban planning commissioner. This was based on 36 percent of the post-war bungalows in the sector having added a second storey or been demolished, and 41 percent of buildings built between 1945 and 1970 being two storeys in height.

Among the conditions imposed in approving a demolition permit was the requirement to recycle material that was removed, and protecting the mature trees and root systems. This followed concerns expressed during the meeting by Councillor Matt Aronson, whose responsibilities include the environment. He also raised the point of emissions involved in demolition.

The final decision by council members to allow the demolition request was unanimous.

The meeting concluded with Mayor Smith encouraging Stoller to talk to the neighbours at 45 Summit Crescent, to encourage them to be more disciplined and less disruptive in doing the work "than usual."

The 4 pm meeting ended at 5:47 pm.

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Pet Page, p. 25

Police Report, p. 14

Retail Review:

Gorski on Greene, p. 24



**Social Notes:**  
Ilios Soirée, p. 28

infoWestmount, p. 20

## MERRY EVERYTHING! FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS

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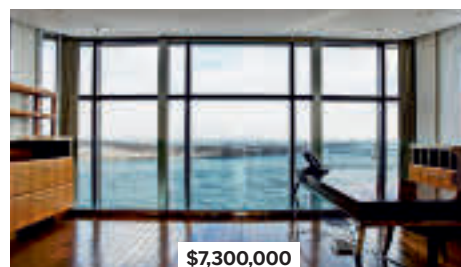
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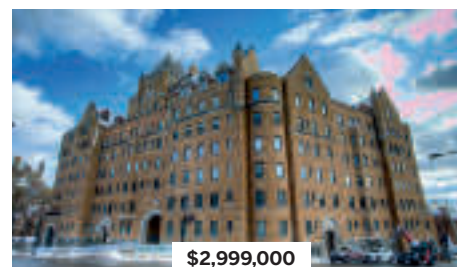
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# Goalie cited for ‘positive attitude’ Ellis is city’s Player of the Month for November

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s hockey player of the month for November is 12-year-old Zachary Ellis, the goalie for the U/M13 Westmount Wings A team.

This is his first year playing inter-city with the Wings after two years in the city’s house league, according to Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the city’s Sports and Recreation department.

“He has put in the work to improve his game to another level in the month of November,” Maislin explained.

“Zachary has put in a tremendous amount of time to improve his skills. He watches videos with practice movements and [practises] on his own whenever he has a chance on the ice. His positive attitude, ability to adapt and eagerness to learn has earned him the admiration of this fellow players and coaches.”

This last month, he has helped



Zachary Ellis.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

his team to five wins and two losses with a 1.85 goals-against average.

The player of the month program was launched two years ago by the Westmount Minor Hockey League to recognize players whose talents have had a positive influence on their teams and peers (see story November 19, 2019, p. 1).

“We believe it is important to acknowledge the opportunities and skills that minor hockey, and sports as a whole, can offer young people,” Maislin said. “Through hockey, children are able to develop sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which they can transfer to other areas of their lives, such as academics and community service.”

The program was suspended in March 2020 at the start of the COVID closures and started up again this October with the naming of Samuel McKenzie from the U/M18 (Midget) Wings team (see story November 16, p. 5).



*Warmest Holiday Greetings*

to all our clients, friends and family.

— Bunny Berke & Larry Lusco

## Library board appointed

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Council appointed two new volunteer members – trustees – to the Westmount Public Library Committee at the meeting December 6.

As well, Mitchell Joel Cohen, who has served two of a three-year-term, was named chair of the committee, while those appointed to new three-year terms were Nancy Essebaq-Christie and Fouad Bitar. As well, Kathleen Roger, like Cohen, will serve the third year of her term.

Special mention went to the four citizen volunteers, with Mayor Christina Smith saying: “I want to thank the volunteers for their time and passion.” She also thanked Mitch Cohen for assuming the role of chair, citing his incredible passion for the library and noted that this was “an incredibly important committee.”

Joining the trustees are the two council representatives: councillors Elisabeth Roux, the new library commissioner, and Mary Gallery, the previous one (see story December 7, p. 6).



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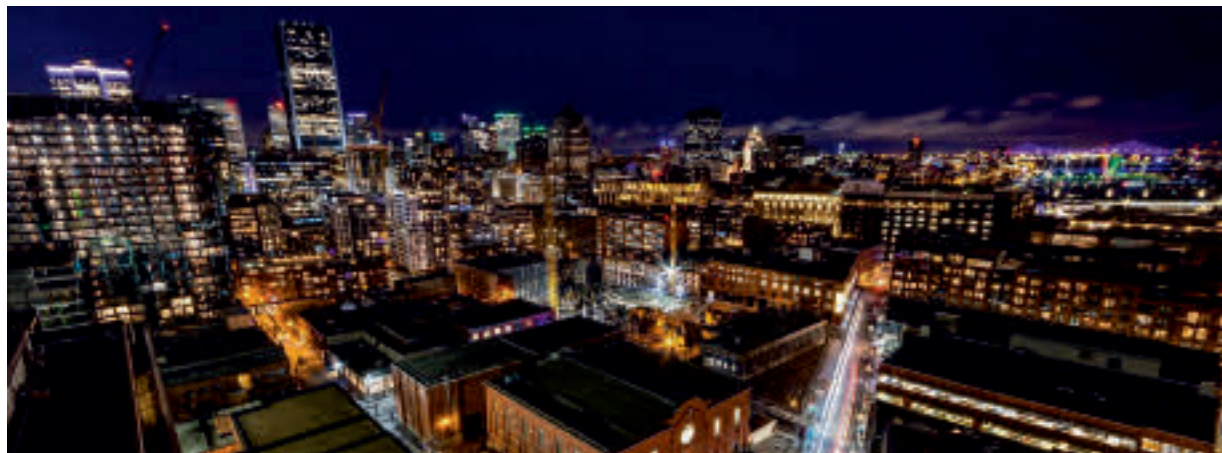
## SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing my clients, friends, and colleagues a wonderful holiday season and a home filled with laughter, happiness and health. Thank you to all of my valuable clients for your trust and support. All the best for the year 2022.



## MEILLEURS VOEUX ET JOYEUSES FÊTES

Je souhaite à mes clients, amis et collègues de très joyeuses fêtes et une demeure remplie de rires, de bonheur et de santé. Merci à tous mes précieux clients pour votre confiance et soutien. Que l'année 2022 soit riche en succès, en aspirations et en expériences inoubliables.



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# Public Security collects food from 30 front porches

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public safety officers collected food from more than 30 homes as part of their front porch collection of non-perishables on Saturday, December 4, according to assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun.

Adding to cash donations, as of December 8, was \$250 from a scones fundraiser held for city employees by Maureen Lafrenière of the city’s Communications department.

Regarding the front porch efforts, “many homes had multiple bags of groceries ready for officers to pick up,” Colquhoun said. Anyone who missed the collection can still call Public Security at 989.5222 or 989.5367 to arrange special pick-up if unable to take groceries to the food drive boxes in municipal buildings.

“2021 has been very difficult for those struggling with food insecurity,” she explained. “The price of groceries keeps rising and, for many, rent and bills come first. We hope to help these families this holiday season.”

To this end, the city is also donating to the project \$5 from every \$45 admission ticket to the four performances by “The 4 Anglos of the Apocalypse” at Victoria Hall December 17 to 19 (see story December 7,



A Westmount Public Security patrol car full of donations from doorstep pick-ups.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

p. 8).

“The former municipal courtroom is full of collected food donations and looks more like a small grocery store at the moment,” Councillor Anitra Bostock told the council meeting December 6 in reporting on the holiday drive. Donations are still being accepted online at Westmount.org.

Food baskets are to be delivered to 34 families from December 17 to 31.

A significant amount of food was collected December 11 for the food drive by members of the Westmount Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club (see p. 19). As well, \$295 in cash was to be added to the more than \$4,410 reported above.

Joyeuses fêtes et une douce année 2022 en bonne santé !



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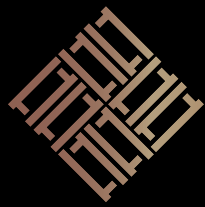
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# Montreal Transit Corp. contemplating west-end bus route changes

MARTIN C. BARRY

Bus service in Westmount was not on the list of topics discussed during an online public consultation of NDG/Montreal West/Côte St. Luc/Hampstead residents by the Montreal Transit Corp. last week.

Still, some who travel from these areas to Westmount on the MTC’s buses got in a word or two during the December 6 web-cast as to what they believe the transit agency could be doing to improve service.

The MTC says it is carrying out its “Bus network redesign” in view of some major development projects now under way in Montreal, including the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) light-rail commuter train network.

The transit agency has tabled three proposals it says would make the bus network “more attractive.”

The first, they say, would favour fast and more direct routes to the Metro. However, some barriers stand in the way, including railway and highway crossings, which could increase the distances and travel times of bus routes.

While noting that public transit can’t

hope to compete with private modes of transport if bus routes aren’t linear and can’t avoid traffic and congestion, the transit authority is proposing that Côte St. Luc Rd. be made into a core public transit corridor with a fast link to the Metro.

The question that remains undecided (but which was put to the consultation participants in an online vote) was whether the destination Metro station should be Snowdon or Villa Maria.

Some parts of the presentation suggested the MTC is weighing the possibility of rationalizing or changing some of the bus lines that currently serve NDG/Montreal West/Côte St. Luc/Hampstead.

“The current network includes some low-frequency bus lines with similar routes,” stated one of the presentation cards, suggesting the transit network may be “simplified” for maximum frequency.

But if the MTC is contemplating mergers on lines like the 104 Cavendish, 124 Victoria or 138 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, they are also looking at the possibility of creating new public transit links, so that parts of LaSalle, including Carrefour Angrignon and Angrignon Park, would be-

come more directly accessible, without the current and lengthy detours by Metro.

Among the online participants was Côte St. Luc city councillor Dida Berku. As a lawyer with an office on St. Catherine St. in Westmount, she expressed concerns about access to the 104 and 138 lines. “How would you merge those two lines, or the 103 or the 161 or the 162?” she asked.

An MTC official explained they are looking into the possibility of changing certain bus routes that overlap, thus reducing the redundancy of service. He said the ultimate goal would be to get bus passengers as quickly as possible to the Metro.

*Indie’s*  
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January 4 – no issues

January 11 & following –  
issues

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# Former Selby Condos becomes LABO Rental Housing project

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A multi-unit residential project in lower Westmount that has been dormant for nearly 25 years is expected by developers to be offering rental apartments by next summer.

Located on St. Antoine St. in buildings once occupied by the Charles E. Frosst pharmaceuticals company, followed by Dawson College until 1997, the LABO Rental Housing project was re-branded after being known as the Selby Condos.

“The site will finally undergo the rejuvenation it deserves and will come back to life in June 2022,” states a press release issued by PUR Immobilia and EMD-Batimo. The two companies acquired the project late last year from its previous owner, Roland Hakim, who remains involved as an associate.\*

PUR and EMD say the rejuvenated project will offer two phases of New York-inspired rental units with 12-foot ceilings and large windows, exploiting the building’s original industrial look, in conjunction with renovations that add a distinctive touch of modern.

The first phase, taking place in the original building dating from 1926, will have 126 rental units, spread over seven floors, and served by two elevators. All parking



Seen here looking eastward from the corner of St. Antoine and Rose de Lima streets in lower Westmount on December 9, the rejuvenated LABO Rental Housing project is expected by developers to offer rental apartments by next summer.

will be indoors, there will be charging stations for electric vehicles, and bicycle spaces will be available. As well, there will be storage spaces on each floor.

The developers say that “smart lockers” (made by the Quebec firm Expedibox) in a hall of the original building will facilitate the reception of deliveries, so that packages can be received securely at all times even if no one is home.

A second phase is expected to consist of 188 units over 18 floors. The developers

say that plans for phase two will soon be submitted for approval to the city.

Once this phase is completed, all tenants will have access to an indoor swimming pool, co-working spaces, a large lobby and green spaces on rooftop terraces. In all, \$120 million is expected to be spent redeveloping the older building while adding a new one.

*\*Editor’s note:* Roland is a distant relative of Hadi Hakim, Westmount’s director general, but the two are not acquainted. – DP

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# Police Report Three burglary and break-in suspects arrested

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Three suspects believed to be responsible for committing a string of break-ins and burglaries since last summer at homes in Westmount, Côte des Neiges and other Montreal neighbourhoods were arrested in LaSalle on December 2, according to a Montreal police department official in Westmount.

The suspects are alleged to have committed one of the break-ins in Westmount on August 26, said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

He said they are also accused of participating in six other break-ins in the city of Montreal.

While two of the suspects remained detained as of last Friday, Pimentel said a third was released with court-imposed conditions to follow.

The charges against the three include possession of burglary tools.

## Windshield wiper mischief

Investigators at Station 12 have no suspects to face a charge of “mischief” follow-

ing an act of windshield wiper vandalism committed on a white Hyundai parked near the corner of Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Arlington Ave.

The owner had parked on the afternoon of November 26 and extended the wipers outward to keep them from freezing to the windshield during freezing rain. When he returned the following morning, he found the wipers had been bent and twisted out of shape.

## Checking on capacity

While police incident reports at Station 12 indicate that the number of burglaries, break-ins and car thefts in Westmount dropped in recently weeks, some Montreal police officers have been busy overseeing the enforcement of restaurant occupancy regulations.

According to Pimentel, a police department special unit has been making the rounds of restaurants on Greene Ave. and other commercial streets in Westmount, checking on whether room occupancy rules are being followed in accordance with liquor permit requirements.

And with the COVID-19 pandemic still not over, another unit of the police force remains busy visiting the homes of recently-retuned travellers who are expected to remain in quarantine for a two-week period.

On one such recent inspection visit to a Westmount home, officers found that an individual who was supposed to be there was not present.


Pimentel said a report was forwarded to the Montreal department of public health and that “punitive actions” may be taken.

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# 2021



PETER HIGGINS, NATHALIE MAZLOUM, PASCAL COUILLARD, STEPHANIE MURRAY, CHRISTINA MILLER, JONATHAN MARTINET, KURT CARO, MARIE-ALICE COURET & JULIE LACROIX

**WINTER 2021  
HOLIDAY  
INSERT**

The **Christina Miller Real Estate Group** is a client-centered real estate team that consistently delivers the highest level of customer care, integrity and expertise. Our unparalleled global marketing affiliations, combined with our extensive local experience allows us to serve our clients better. Period. Our concierge-style service, paired with our friendly approach allows our clients to relax and enjoy their move.

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# THANK YOU

## CLASS OF 2021

### For Making This A Billion Dollar Year!

**SOLD** frequent flyers lys & dayan flee from lewis opting for freedom from the frey **SOLD** aicha laisse la location de lansdowne pour une construction en campagne **SOLD** alain & samantha fly in from france to make merry on madison **SOLD** alexandra & victor partent de leur paisible appartement pour profiter de leur précieuse nouvelle propriété **SOLD** alison delightfully downsizes from her delicious domain to a fabulous flat at the fort **SOLD** amélie & étienne courent vers une construction afin de commencer un nouveau chapitre **SOLD** andré kicks out of kitchener & lands a large lair in the linton **SOLD** andrea & mike exchange marvelous marlowe for a keeper on kitchener **SOLD** andrew & margaret slip out of sensational square-st-louis **SOLD** angelina & angelo make their mark on magical murray hill **SOLD** ann & bob groove on out of grosvenor making a getaway down the 401 **SOLD** annie & gunther leave apartment living for a lovely house in lachine **SOLD** aunt rosemary's fine family expertly executes her final exit **SOLD** awesome andrew approaches an amazing new address with amusement **SOLD** a fabulous family of four takes flight from their kensington casa **SOLD** bill & nat trade a tremendous trafalgar townhouse for a trendy new spot **SOLD** barbara & christian s'impliquent avec intention & trouvent l'immeuble idéal **SOLD** belinda & eric say bye-bye verdun & bonjour blenheim place **SOLD** benjamin & laurence make the march to magnificent madison **SOLD** beverly is ebullient when her beautiful bright victorian is bought **SOLD** bill & christy deftly depart delightful devon for new vistas in vancouver **SOLD** the bonds decide it's time to bolt from their lovely lansdowne abode **SOLD** businessman marc isn't singing the blues, sauntering from the city center to a spacious set-up on i-d-s **SOLD** camille & alex volent de verdun vers chambly contents d'avoir trouvé leur charmant condo **SOLD** camille & christian analysent leurs efforts, quittent cdn & chérissent leur nouveau cocon **SOLD** carmen sails from st-henri to get something gorgeous on grosbois **SOLD** caroline & julien come back restless & rebuild on a rare opportunity **SOLD** caroline & marc-andré quittent leur cocon à westmount pour contempler la campagne de blainville **SOLD** chantal & david move out of metcalfe to something magical over the mountain **SOLD** chris, elin & the kids exit edgehill making a momentary move to mt-pleasant **SOLD** daniel & rachel decide to depart their dazzling digs for an even dreamier destination **SOLD** chantal & roger laissent la banlieue & volent vers une longue vie de loisirs & de liberté **SOLD** danielle & kris capture a casa with cachet in the coolest westmount location **SOLD** david & mary will surely make magical memories moving only mere minutes away **SOLD** david keeps it interesting with an ideal find on irene **SOLD** domenic decides it's time to do the domestic downsize & sells on mt-stephen **SOLD** david & pam pick out the perfect place to make merry new memories **SOLD** d'un ancien domicile à une nouvelle demeure clément & audrey deviennent de vrais dornalois **SOLD** eb exits her home with elegance & magically makes her move to metcalfe **SOLD** elaine, elegant & eloquent, keeps it calm & converts to kensington place **SOLD** elan picks the perfect place on pretty prince-albert **SOLD** elisa & étienne laissent leur logis pour un luxueux lieu à lachine **SOLD** emerson feels sentimental when selling something special on summerhill **SOLD** eric & barbara bid a bittersweet bye-bye to their upper abode winding up with a wonderful new neighbour **SOLD** erika & xavier via une visite volent vers une nouvelle vie de volupté **SOLD** eugen & alexandra make their mark on magnificent melrose **SOLD** evan says so-long to his harvard homestead **SOLD** fabrice & marie-pier planifient la possession parfaite d'un placement bien pensé **SOLD** fantastic feingold finds his first flat with fabulous fleetness **SOLD** fauve, prise d'un premier coup-de-coeur, finalise son premier condo à anjou **SOLD** neil neatly nabs another nifty nest **SOLD** françois & samantha clear out of claremont & sail into ste-catherine **SOLD** friendly laurie & francis finally find the family flat they always fancied **SOLD** the gaos decide it's time to get going & sell in the summer **SOLD** gentle janice flees the fort for a fancy hilltop flat **SOLD** george & stephanie tie the knot & leap out of lansdowne into a higher level lair **SOLD** hallie & oliver quit toronto & close on a charming northcliffe cottage **SOLD** hayes & michelle perfectly punch out of percival & land in a lovely layout on lansdowne **SOLD** the heirs of a heritage home sell to a sweet new household **SOLD** h & m decide to depart downtown & pack up piles of parcels on pagnuelo **SOLD** hsiu-chin & christophe soar from scotland to sublime shaugnessy **SOLD** iain & renee nab a nifty nook on wonderful windsor **SOLD** jean & rick retire from their residence for something sweeter & further south **SOLD** jean-marc & becky bid bye-bye to blainville & groove on over to grosvenor **SOLD** jean sells a little something for her son in le sud-ouest **SOLD** jeff & julie kick out of candiac to be closer to schools for their kids **SOLD** joel & marie-claude get pampered with an upsize in the old port **SOLD** johanne & patrick sell their perfect pad in st-henri & take on a new task **SOLD** jolie & jeune émilie jouit d'un joli condo juste à côté du boulôt **SOLD** jonathan & carly bolt out of beaconsfield for an oasis on old orchard



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!



# LOOKING TO BE PART OF CLASS OF 2022? CALL US FOR AN APPRAISAL

**SOLD** jordan & sara upsize into something even more special **SOLD** julie, courtier courtisant montréal, arrive en plein pointe-st-charles **SOLD** justin finally finds his phenomenal new flat **SOLD** karoliina & michael trot out of thornhill & move their munchkins to massachussets **SOLD** katrina whispers a wish to sell in westmount & swiftly wanders her way west **SOLD** the kelly clan acquires the coolest cottage one can call for **SOLD** kenza & olivier find their fabulous 3-storey flat **SOLD** kim & fabrice find a phenomenal flat on majestic manoir **SOLD** kind mr. kerpely agrees to a quick closing & acquires a new abode **SOLD** laura & massimo pack up their top apartment & purchase the perfect place **SOLD** lauren & daniel uncover a treasure on terrebonne **SOLD** lilian & nigel hightail out of their home on holton heading west on the highway **SOLD** liz & stefan set sail out of lewis & secure a splendid st-sulpice set up **SOLD** loin du brésil, anna & ricardo perfectionnent la possession d'un pied à terre à l'i-d-s **SOLD** lori & john move to a marvelous maison on tip-top trafilgar **SOLD** lovely daniel & lorraine leave toronto for a new land & location **SOLD** the lis leave their lair on upper-belmont & make a bee line to bc **SOLD** lovely lauren legs it quickly to a cool condo on quesnel **SOLD** marie & louis leave their maison in montreal to pursue an opportunity in ottawa **SOLD** maggie says so long to st-ambroise **SOLD** the lazures, longing for more leisure time in lake land, leave their lair in mo-west **SOLD** mahmoud & sara cherchant sans cesse, cèdent sous le charme de chateauguay **SOLD** marie & mark, montréalais et nouveaux mariés, virent vers le meilleur du mont st-bruno **SOLD** marie-ève & dave partent pour un nouveau projet & y perçoivent un pur plaisir **SOLD** mr. macaulay trades his acadia accomodation travelling to a tiny town in thailand **SOLD** marie-ève & yvan préfèrent du piquant & partent profiter d'un paisible appartement **SOLD** marseille & todd land in a new luxury lodging downtown **SOLD** marvelous mrs. maalouf makes the move across montreal's map **SOLD** the mccoubreys cut loose from ste-cunégonde capturing more time in the country **SOLD** melanie & john pick the perfect pied-a-terre on sunny sherbrooke **SOLD** marvelous mimi, with help from her minions, merrily manages a monumental move **SOLD** mike & ang decide to retreat from their redpath residence in favour of something in the suburbs **SOLD** michou & bert en finissent avec la ville & foncent vers la vie de fiers fermiers **SOLD** the millers move out of st-sulpice to manage a monumental make-over on du musée **SOLD** michèle & pierre récoltent en quadruple sur du quartier **SOLD** mona & bogdan se méritent la plus mignonne maison de drummondville **SOLD** mme. robichaud se sépare de summit circle pour mieux silloner la campagne **SOLD** barry & monica part with the pom, making their move more manageable for the family **SOLD** mylène & alain reviennent à la vraie vie en ville **SOLD** on a home search streak, andrew quickly settles into a super stylish sanctuary on severn **SOLD** nadia leaves lansdowne & leaps to lovely lewis **SOLD** nadine & thierry make a major move to their magnificent de la montagne condo **SOLD** nancy & jean décident d'investir & se dénichent un duplex design au milieu du mile-end **SOLD** nick, needing a casa to call home, quickly closes on a cute condo **SOLD** nancy & phil, following their post-paris life & piles of propositions, manage a masterful move to marcil **SOLD** pat & dal bid good-bye to their beautiful boulevard abode & buy in manoir belmont **SOLD** paul & salah leap out of l'esplanade & grab a great one on grey **SOLD** paula & steve sweetly soar from st-laurent to superb st-robert **SOLD** philippe & nakin say goodbye to grosvenor & land in a marvel on metcalfe **SOLD** pierre & ilana let go of their heritage lodgings longing to live on one level **SOLD** pierrette & john, having made magical memories, opt to move the family out of the farm **SOLD** richard & cindy waltz their way along to wonderful windsor **SOLD** remarkable romain & émilie are revelling in their new romantic residence **SOLD** richard, clare & the kids capture a casa with cachet & get set to decamp from their cozy cocoon **SOLD** rishi swings a triple-hitter with three investments & wins all the way **SOLD** richard & denis decide to divest of their ndg dwelling **SOLD** robert & heather haul out of the homestead saying so-long to westmount **SOLD** richard & sylvie are soft-hearted when selling their sanctuary to land a luxurious linton loft **SOLD** sarah & jf wiggle out of windsor into something wonderful for their wee ones **SOLD** the seifeddines sell on sunset & settle into something just as spectacular **SOLD** sarah returns from london to find her dream dwelling in monkland's midpoint **SOLD** sophie & frank bid farewell to argyle flying off to where it's not freezing **SOLD** sophia & neal quickly come calling for a cabane on kensington **SOLD** steen & family feel wistful as they finalize never-to-be-forgotten normandie **SOLD** the dannenbaum siblings snatch a stunning & smart st-henri asset **SOLD** sweethearts bunny & heather call it quits on kitchener for simpler settings down the street **SOLD** sweet stephanie says so-long to le sud-ouest & masterfully moves into marlowe **SOLD** tanya & vikaas take their time 'til they run into resplendent redfern **SOLD** tariq & florianne take on a true task & turn towards town **SOLD** the tait's depart their substantial habitation trading it in for something tinier **SOLD** tim trots out of his west hill wonder taking time to reflect on his next step **SOLD** ulrich finally finds his fantastic new flat **SOLD** valeureux sandia & vincent voient grand & voguent vers une véritable villa **SOLD** vitomir & juan clear le concorde & complete a successful sale **SOLD** hearts are heavy as gilda's heirs close the high-rise home. **SOLD** charlotte is giddy when she gets a new dog named gordon

| **SPECIAL THANKS** to our buyers whose perfect places have yet to be picked, to our sellers whose homes are still to be **SOLD**, to our classy colleagues who offer consistent capable collaboration **AND** finally to our precious & growing group for being every year, the team that tames every tangle | **CONGRATULATIONS** to all our **KIND CLIENTS** for your continued confidence in our crew! | **TOGETHER** you have hoisted us in to the **BILLIONAIRE'S CLUB**, an honour bestowed on brokers who've **SOLD** over a **BILLION!**

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WESTMOUNT CONDOMINIUMS

	2019	2020	2021 YTD	% CHANGE 2019 TO 2021	% CHANGE 2020 TO 2021
MEDIAN SALE PRICE	\$709,000	\$881,875	\$920,000	↑ 29%	↑ 4%
DAYS ON MARKET (MEDIAN)	54	47	44	↓ 6%	↓ 19%
# OF LISTINGS SOLD	73	62	79	↑ 8%	↑ 27%
OVER \$1M	18	26	36	↑ 100%	↑ 38%
UNDER \$1M	55	36	43	↓ 22%	↑ 19%
# OF NEW LISTINGS	94	118	146	↑ 55%	↑ 24%
OVER \$1M	35	48	79	↑ 126%	↑ 65%
UNDER \$1M	59	70	67	↓ 4%	↑ 14%

WESTMOUNT SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

	2019	2020	2021 YTD	%CHANGE 2019 TO 2021	% CHANGE 2020 TO 2021
MEDIAN SALE PRICE	\$1,795,000	\$2,020,500	\$1,990,000	↑ 11%	↓ 2%
DAYS ON MARKET (MEDIAN)	59	64	28	↓ 53%	↓ 56%
# OF LISTINGS SOLD	130	148	141	↑ 8%	↓ 5%
OVER \$2M	51	79	67	↑ 31%	↓ 15%
UNDER \$2M	79	69	74	↓ 6%	↑ 7%
# OF NEW LISTINGS	243	209	213	↓ 12%	↑ 2%
OVER \$2M	130	121	132	↑ 2%	↑ 9%
UNDER \$2M	113	88	81	↓ 28%	↓ 8%

Source: Centris.ca and Christina Miller Group data @ December 8th, 2021

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## Surrey Gardens' Bloomfield challenges process

# More polling needed on Sunnyside's new 1-way direction?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Because the stretch of Sunnyside between Bellevue and Upper Bellevue is the route taken by many residents of the summit area on their way home from downtown offices at night, why since its recent reconstruction has this former two-way stretch been made one-way "down" (east) after a poll of its 10 residents?

This was the question asked at the council meeting December 6 by Harry Bloomfield, a resident of Surrey Gardens,

who referenced a letter he wrote in the *Independent* (see November, 30, p. 14).

At the time of Sunnyside's reconstruction over the summer and fall, "We were looking for a bad street getting fixed," and were surprised when one-way signs were installed, he explained. "It's our favourite way to get home," when traffic on The Boulevard "is a mess."

Had residents living on Surrey Gardens, Oakland, Lexington, Roxborough and Summit Cresc. been consulted the results would have been different, he contended.

Mayor Christina Smith said that the street was too narrow to provide two-way traffic along with a sidewalk and parking lane. She pointed out, however, that the street in front of residents' homes does not belong solely to them.

A meeting on Belvedere was to take place last week between the city's director general, Hadi Hakim, and newly elected District 1 councillor Antonio D'Amico, she said. D'Amico said he expected to have something to announce after that meeting.

## Metro rooftop units to get acoustic panels

Among permits approved by city council at a special meeting December 9 was one for the installation of acoustic panels around mechanical equipment on the Metro store at Sherbrooke and Victoria. It had been recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee November 16 on a request from nearby residents to reduce sound and vibration (see story October 26, p. 5).

## Pedestrians and Cyclists Ass'n: Construction signs pose safety issue for pedestrians

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Temporary signs to inform drivers about construction pose a safety issue to some pedestrians when placed on the sidewalk, Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists, told the council meeting December 6.

"Those signs become obstacles for pedestrians, especially for seniors, who must take care to not hit their head or trip," he explained. "Furthermore, these signs complicate COVID social distancing on our narrow sidewalks."

As a result, "we ask that all construction signs for drivers be installed either in parking lanes or the side of driving lanes, rather than on sidewalks."

"Very good question," said Mayor Christina Smith. The city's director general, Hadi Hakim, "will make sure our staff is aware these signs should not be installed on the sidewalk." She thanked Lambert "for being our eyes on the street."

## Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club collects for PSU food drive



Members of the Westmount Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club showed up Saturday, December 11 with groceries and toys, plus \$295 in cash. All were to be turned over to Westmount Public Security's food drive (see also story p. 8). "All of this would never have materialized without the initiative and determination of members Naomi Sharpe and Izak Rubin," said past president and former city director general Bruce St. Louis.

## Unusual Christmas Gifts?

For someone who has everything, consider an original historical document.

Perhaps a letter signed by the Duke of Wellington, or a military commission signed by Queen Victoria, or a document signed by King Charles II, or a letter signed by King Edward VIII.

If Shakespeare is more to your taste, how about an original page from the fourth folio. Or a signed first edition of a contemporary author.

*If any of these strike your fancy please contact*

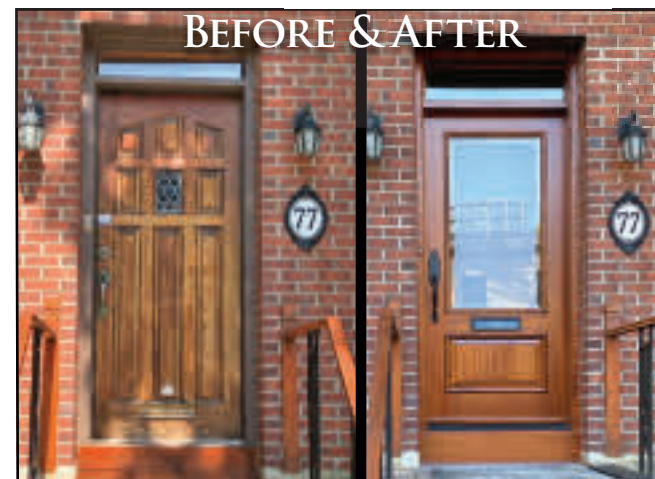
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2021.12.14 • Vol. 2/23  
Publié par la Ville de Westmount  
Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 20 décembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, December 20



**Bureaux municipaux fermés  
du 24 décembre au 4 janvier**  
Les bureaux administratifs de Ville et la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount seront fermés du 24 décembre au 4 janvier inclusivement. Nous souhaitons à tous de joyeuses fêtes en santé. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)



**Municipal offices closed  
December 24 to January 4**  
The City's administrative offices and Westmount Public Library will be closed December 24 to January 4 inclusively. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Séance extraordinaire du conseil  
le lundi 20 décembre à 17 h**  
Le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2022, 2023 et 2024 sera déposé pour adoption lors d'une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal qui se tiendra le 20 décembre à l'Hôtel de Ville de Westmount, 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Horaire des collectes inchangés**  
Pendant la période des fêtes, les collectes de résidus alimentaires, de matières recyclables et d'ordures auront lieu selon l'horaire habituel. La collecte de sapins est prévue à la mi-janvier.

**Bibliothèque fermée 24 déc. - 4 janv.**  
**Restez bien au chaud pendant les fêtes!**  
Réservez vos documents au plus tard le 20 décembre et ramassez-les avant le

24 décembre. Les chutes à livres seront également fermées et il n'y aura pas de frais de retard durant cette période. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Déneigement et stationnement de rue**  
Portez attention à la signalisation temporaire pour le stationnement avant les opérations de chargement de neige. Les voitures qui entravent les opérations seront remorquées. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Parc King George : piste de luge ouverte**  
La piste de luge est maintenant ouverte tous les jours de 5 h à minuit lorsque la température le permet. L'accès à la piste est près du Croissant Belmont. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Carte d'accès aux installations 2022**  
Faites votre demande en ligne avant le 23 décembre si vous avez besoin d'une carte pendant la période des fêtes. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Special sitting of Council  
Monday, December 20 at 5 p.m.**  
The three-year programme of capital expenditures for fiscal years 2022, 2023 and 2024 will be tabled for adoption at a special sitting of the Municipal Council on December 20 at Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**No change to collection schedule**  
During the holiday period, the kitchen waste, recycling and garbage collections will follow the regular schedule. The Christmas tree collection is planned for mid-January.


**Library closed from Dec. 24 - Jan 4**  
**Get ready to get cozy!** Reserve your items no later than December 20 and pick them up before December 24. The book return boxes

will also be closed and no fines will be applied during that period. [westlib.org](http://westlib.org)

**Snow clearing and street parking**  
Watch for the temporary parking restriction signage that precedes snow loading operations. Cars that hinder snow removal will be towed. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)











**King George Park toboggan run open**  
The toboggan run is now open daily during park hours and according to weather conditions. Access to the run is near Belmont Crescent. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**2022 Facility Membership Card**  
Apply online before December 23 if you need a card in time for the holiday period. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)



**Système d'alerte à la communauté : inscrivez-vous**  
Pannes d'électricité, fuites de gaz, avis d'ébullition d'eau : ne manquez pas les avertissements d'urgence de la Ville. Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant pour recevoir les alertes CodeRED de Westmount par téléphone, par courriel ou par texto. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

**Community Alert System: sign up now**  
Power outages, gas leaks, boil water advisories: don't miss important emergency notifications from the City. Sign up now to receive CodeRED alerts from Westmount by phone, email or text. [westmount.org](http://westmount.org)

HORAIRE DES FÊTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	MAR / TUE 21	MER / WED 22	JEU / THU 23	VEN / FRI 24	SAM / SAT 25	DIM / SUN 26	LUN / MON 27	MAR / TUE 28	MER / WED 29	JEU / THU 30	VEN / FRI 31	SAM / SAT 1	DIM / SUN 2	LUN / MON 3	MAR / TUE 4	MER / WED 5
BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	- - - -	- - - -	bureaux de la Ville fermés du 24 décembre au 4 janvier	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	City offices closed from December 24 to January 4	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	8 h 30 - 16 h 30
BIBLIOTHÈQUE - LIBRARY	13 h - 19 h	10 h - 17 h	13 h - 19 h	- -	- -	Bibliothèque et chutes à livres fermées du 24 décembre au 4 janvier	- - -	- -	- -	Library and book return boxes closed from December 24 to January 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	10 h - 17 h
VICTORIA HALL	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	fermé du 20 décembre au 4 janvier	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	closed from December 20 to January 4	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
CENTRE DES LOISIRS (GLACES) RECREATION CENTRE (RINKS)	7 h 30 - 23 h 30	7 h 30 - 23 h 30	7 h 30 - 23 h 30	11 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermé closed	12 h - 18 h 30	12 h - 22 h	9 h - 22 h	9 h - 22 h	9 h - 22 h	11 h 30 - 16 h 30	fermé closed	12 h - 18 h 30	12 h - 22 h	7 h 30 - 23 h 30	7 h 30 - 23 h 30
CONSERVATOIRE - CONSERVATORY	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	fermé en raison de travaux majeurs de restauration	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	closed for major restoration work	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
POLICE : PDQ 12 / STATION 12	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 16 h 30	9 h - 19 h	
SERVICES DE COLLECTE COLLECTION SERVICES					AUCUNE MODIFICATION NO CHANGE											



# Greening the holidays



ECOWatch

HEATHER BLACK

Recently Westmount eight-grader Kelsey Li encouraged several neighbours to compost food waste. A good news story – reported on the city’s website – Li’s initiative is a timely reminder to support environmental and community sustainability this holiday season.

### Green practices

In Westmount, over 585 tons of food waste were collected in 2020. Although citizens continue to sign on daily, Westmount Healthy City Project’s 2020 survey of five neighbourhoods found that approximately one-third of households composted. As food waste constitutes 25 percent of garbage deposited in landfills, Li’s concerns are warranted. Decomposing food not only contaminates groundwater, but also produces methane – a toxic greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

As Westmount staff are now targeting

buildings with 9 to 30 housing units – phase 2 of our composting program – please urge management to sign up. Another suggestion – add a backyard composter for your own gardening needs. Also to reduce food waste during the holidays, watch best-before dates and restrict purchases to quantities needed. And recycle food packaging when possible.

To cut down on waste destined for landfills, choose recyclable gift wrap and avoid metallic paper. Or make your own gift wrap with fabric or tea towels. And avoid packaging by shopping locally. Not only do you also decrease transportation emissions, you support Westmount businesses and contribute to community sustainability.

### Outside the box

Shops that line Greene, St-Catherine, Victoria and Sherbrooke provide many gift ideas. Some offer green solutions like Sharyn Scott’s new-to-you, recycled fashion boutique on Sherbrooke Street. Others such as Clara Kwan’s L’Autre Choix Mini Marché on Victoria Ave. sell local honey – a fabulous treat. And for those shopping for the person who has everything – or are rethinking gift-giving in general – consider purchasing experiences.

Think Westmount and *continued on p. 29*



## Joyeuses fêtes et bonne année 2022!

Que cette période vous apporte bonheur, santé et paix.

## Happy Holidays and Happy New Year 2022!

May this season bring you happiness, health and peace.

**Jennifer Maccarone**  
Députée de | MNA for Westmount-Saint-Louis

1114, Ste-Catherine St.  
Ottawa K1P 1G1  
Westmount (Quebec) H3B 1R6  
Phone: (514) 283-2013

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 jmaccarone  
 jmaccarone

[jennifer.maccarone@WSLWestmount.qc.ca](mailto:jennifer.maccarone@WSLWestmount.qc.ca)

Chers amis,

Permettez-moi de vous remercier du grand honneur que vous m’avez fait en m’accordant encore une fois votre confiance afin de vous représenter à Ottawa.

Mes amitiés et souhaits chaleureux pour la saison des fêtes!

Dear Friends,

Allow me to thank you for the great honor you have given me by once again trusting me to represent you in Ottawa.

My warmest wishes for the holiday season!



EDITORIAL

Free Jimmy Lai

“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

– JOHN 1: 5 (KING JAMES VERSION)

According to the BBC and The Guardian, Hong Kong billionaire Jimmy Lai was convicted December 9 for inciting and taking part in an unlawful assembly. He, Gwyneth Ho and Chow Hang Tung were sentenced on December 13, in his case to 13 months. Lai is an entrepreneur with many holdings, but is best known internationally for his now defunct newspaper *Apple Daily*. He is already serving a sentence related to pro-democracy protests in 2019 and this one will be served concurrently.

Here is a man who could have lived his life in relative obscurity and in incredible comfort, but who has chosen to fight – at age 74 – for democracy in his adopted city. (He was born in mainland China.) His “crime” this time? Commemorating the 1989 crackdown at Beijing’s Tiananmen Square, a permit for which was not issued due to alleged pandemic concerns.

He is a hero, and the *Independent* adds its small voice in support of his release.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

– JOHN 1: 5 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

David Price is the editor of the INDEPENDENT.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537  
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567  
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads

www.westendclassifieds.com

Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138  
office@westmountindependent.com

PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am  
(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A CLIMATE PSALM

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of the anthropocene, I will fear no climate crisis, for the wisdom of Neil Hopley will guide me past submerged island nations and dwindling Amazonian forests, and towards the sunny uplands of ever-increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

While I yield to no one in my gratitude to Mr. Hopley for setting us straight (in 510 eloquent words instead of the 300-word maximum stipulated by the editor), I entreat the city of Westmount not to heed his urging to act “with intelligent design,” as that is a pseudoscience related to creationism and not a sound basis for municipal policy.

JOAN MCCORDICK, ABBOTT AVE.

WESTMOUNT HAS ‘BENEFITTED’ FROM CO<sub>2</sub> – SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN COMBATING IT

I was impressed by the ability of one letter, “Leave city alone – CO<sub>2</sub> isn’t all bad” (November 30, p. 14) to be so dense with misinformation. The type of statistics bending should be as dead as the dinosaurs in any society with common sense, but evidently they are not.

For example, let’s look at the claim 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.”

The mental gymnastics this sentence performs qualify it for the Cirque du Soleil. The timescale that has to exist for this statement to be true is a geological one, not one anyone would consider historic as pertaining to humans. It purposefully makes any conclusion impossible to reach as to obstruct meaningful progress. And I hope I don’t have to explain why CO<sub>2</sub> being good for plants is not necessarily good for humans.

So how does Westmount fit in? Of course, compared to “major polluters like east Asia and India,” we are small potatoes (I will not comment on the conspicuous selection of characteristically non-white regions).

However, the top 5 percent of earners have contributed 37 percent of the growth of actual emissions between 1990 and 2015. So pretending that we in Westmount are above responsibility is foolish. We must take action to rectify a crisis we have all our lives benefited from.

This is a bitter pill to swallow, for many of us, but the sooner we do, the faster it will be fixed. What these steps look like are up for debate, that more steps must be taken and that climate change is a threat

to all human life on earth is not.

Compared to the rest of the world, climate change is not nearly as big a threat to Westmount thanks our immense and numerable privileges. This explains how such a calloused view of “the grand picture” can be sustained, and makes it critical we toss this view away, because someday our luck will run out.

MASSIMO LECALAVALIER,  
CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

THANK YOU FOR QUESTIONING EXTREME CLIMATE CLAIMS

I much appreciated Neil Hopley’s letter in your November 30 issue (p. 14) in which he had the courage to question some of the more extreme claims of the anti-fossil fuel crusade and point out the drawbacks of some of the proposed substitutes.

Let me make it clear that I agree that every reasonable effort should be made to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and we should all join enthusiastically in that effort however we can.

But if it were done overnight, we would all freeze and starve to death in the dark. Too rapid a reduction will lead to higher prices for everything (and other privations) as long as demand has not been attenuated by commensurate availability of suitable substitutes.

A nasty dilemma.

Global warming, from both natural (rarely discussed) and human causes, is inevitable to some degree and adaptation, which may be painful, will be necessary.

ROBERT COWLING, PARKMAN PLACE

GREENE AVE. PARKING WOES

I had an 8:45 am medical appointment in a building on Sherbrooke St. near Greene Ave. I parked my car at 8:45 am and tried to access the meter to pay for my parking, but it would not come on line. Rather than be late for my appointment, I left my car, hoping to get out in time to pay for my parking – and the doctor took me right away.

At 9:09 am by my watch, I went to my car but the ticket was already being printed for my infraction. \$54 for nine minutes comes out to \$6 per minute. This seems like a “catch 22.”

Please, tell me how I could have avoided the ticket.

If the city of Westmount would turn on the meters at 8:30, they would make up the lost ticket revenue by collecting for a half hour of legal parking and give peace of mind to a lot of drivers who would not be in jeopardy of being fined.

ROBERT SHUSTER,  
HAMPSTEAD



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### VICTORIA AVE. TRAFFIC/ PARKING WOES

Today, I noticed the city trucks that move snow did not clear Victoria to make it easy for cars to pass while others waited to go into the [Metro grocery store] parking lot. (See photo above.)

Why is that?

Instead, they end up restricting traffic flow.

Then, in addition, you have car drivers who try to jump the [Metro grocery store parking lot] line by coming south on Victoria [to go left into the lot] and so commit a number of simple traffic violations.

Can the new councillor and the rest of city hall explain?

Thank you.

LORNE WOODS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

### ENFORCE THE LAW — FOR THE PERMIT HOLDERS

Every entrance to the city of Westmount welcomes you with a “maximum 4-hour” parking sign. Residents who require longer stretches of street parking, as they do not have any on their property, must pay for a parking permit — and those of you that have them know the paperwork involved is lengthy and the permits costly.

But what’s the point if the city does not enforce the by-laws and leaves those who follow them hanging?

I’ve lived on the corner of Melville Ave. and St. Catherine for a little under seven months now. As a new resident to Westmount, I quickly got all the documents and IDs in order to obtain my 24-hour parking permit at a cost of \$200 for the first vehicle.

Over the summer, parking was never an issue. There was always one or two cars parked overnight without permits but due to the pandemic, the city was being more lenient. That leeway supposedly ended but that does not seem to be the case on Melville Ave.

Since the “*rentrée scolaire*,” parking on this street for residents has been a nightmare. The vast majority of the street parking is taken by what I’m assuming is staff from Westmount Park elementary. Some go out in pairs to rotate their vehicles with one another on their lunch hour and others just leave their cars parked in the same spot from early morning to late afternoon. This street seems to be favoured as it is right next to the school and is one of the only streets within the vicinity that you can park on without a special Zone A permit.

The city of Westmount seems to be catering to those working within its borders

and leaving those living within them — who are paying for permits and city taxes — to hunt for parking and end up blocks away from their homes.

The photo, below left, was taken December 7 at 12:39 pm. Three out of the 15 parked cars had permits.

Why pay for a permit when you clearly do not need one to park?

I’ve contacted the city via email and phone to have these questions answered, to which I have received zero reply.

MEL GORDON, MELVILLE AVE.

## iTutor

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# Gorski opens flagship on Greene: premieres first store in Canada



## Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

There's a new mood on Greene Ave. Formerly gloomy empty spaces are now filled with exciting, enticing shops. New and noteworthy is Gorski Montreal.

The flagship store is the first "Gorski" in Canada. The collection is already known in the US with Gorski shop-in-shops at Neiman Marcus throughout the country. Leonard Gorski, CEO of the Gorski Group, bought the former Mink's Haute Couture building last March and carefully renovated it to house his Italianate boutique: Gorski Montreal.

That it has an Italian feel is appropriate. Much of the outerwear – deftly designed by daughter Lauren Gorski – is made in Italy.

And it is great fun! To catch the eye at Gstaad or Tremblant, brightly coloured *après-ski* jackets reverse to classic black: two coats in one. Fur-trimmed hoods are detachable.

### 30-year history

Lauren uses *rex rabbit*. The plush fur with a wonderful velvety texture is knitted into scarves, used as trimming on patterned cashmere capes and is adorable in earmuffs: the perfect stocking stuffer. All natural materials are ethically sourced. The elegant space is called Gorski Montreal for a reason, explains founder Leonard, who has been involved in fashion for over 30 years.

"I am very active with the Canadian Apparel Federation and we would love to see Montreal positioned internationally as a fashion capital."

In his store window a video screen beams fashion 24/7, both onto the street and into the shop. Open seven days a week



Bryan Gorski.

there is also a second-floor showroom (complete with ping pong table!) for private customers and special appointments.

Although just opened, both men and women have quickly discovered the address, and, indeed, one menswear coat – made with cashmere from the renowned Loro Piana mill – has sold out.

Gorski Montreal excels in luxury outerwear: vests with detachable sleeves; primary colour capes (again in cozy cashmere – perfect for travel); form-fitting "puffer" jackets – stand-outs for the season – and wonderful accessories.

As fund-raisers are starting up again, the brand is supportive of the community. For the Cedars Cancer Foundation (headquartered just down the street), "we have donated a \$10,000 package, which includes

a Gorski Montreal garment and two first class tickets to Florida, where the winner can shop privately in our Bal Harbor boutique at Neiman Marcus. Last year, we sponsored this with a trip to New York and raised \$11,000."

Leonard Gorski speaks enthusiastically about his vision: a dream to revitalize Greene Ave., which he feels could become "like Milan's Via Monte Napoleone and New York's Madison Ave.: the place for up-scale shopping, art and restaurants."

Gorski Montreal is a family business with Leonard's children Sarah (digital marketing), Lauren (designer) and Bryan (director business development) adding different dimensions.

Bryan shows me around the marble-floored shop as I tried on the fur-topped

toques before venturing into the scrim of snowflakes. One item that caught my eye is "art in fashion" with Mondrian-inspired colours hand-stitched inside and out of the jacket. That art is part of the ambiance is a given. With constant travels to Italy, Leonard and his team soon plan to showcase Murano glass pieces and other inimitable items.

As I exited, a gaggle of tiny pre-schoolers clad in multi-coloured outerwear stopped to clap at the video. Their happy rainbow colours echoed the mood of the store. Gorski Montreal has just upped the ante in glamour on Greene.

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## Mr. Pickles comes home



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



I must say, if I could write this, my last adoption column of 2021, as a children's story, I could choose Mr. Pickles as my feline hero in adventures!

He has all the qualities: handsomeness in a rugged black-and-brown tabby way, hunkiness in a "love me, hug me, pick me up now" attention-grabbing way, intelligence in an interactive playful and hilarious way. By lack of luck in life or maybe the beginning of the best of luck in life, Mr. Pickles is at the Montreal SPCA cattery awaiting adoption.

He is only two years old, in young adulthood, whereby he was not brought up with kids in the past but good with another cat. He is up-to-date with his vaccinations, neutered and microchipped.

Please refer to the [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) web-

site and scroll to Mr. Pickles information page where his identification number is 49135672. From there, please follow the simple new SPCA procedure for his adoption application.

Please click on the red "Book a visit" square on his page to start the enquiry process. You will then proceed to schedule

an appointment online from availabilities to drop by the shelter. Once there, you will meet with an adoption counsellor to discuss your family's adoption interest. You will then proceed to meet available cats at that time and be matched as is best between your family members and the animals in need of a home.

Mr. Pickles is waiting for a family, as well as so many other cats in need at the cattery. Please make an appointment and bring a carrier or buy one at the SPCA boutique when you drop in

for your adoption meeting. What could be better than to plan to share the joy of family life with a loving cat in your home?

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

## Trema is a great buddy



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

At 11 months of age, this athletic and friendly young black Labrador type is ready for a forever family.

Yes, to be chosen at the Montreal SPCA kennel and taken home to join a family who will bring him into the fold of affection, laughter and play is his heart's desire.

Trema is so friendly, enjoying new people and new dogs. He doesn't know cats yet but, with his easygoing nature, a cat could get him to do as he pleases pretty easily.

Adorable Trema is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

If you would like more information on this sporty youngster, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and go to the information page for Trema's identification number 49127900.

There is a red "Book a visit" square on his page that starts the enquiry process with the Montreal SPCA, as things are a bit different now from the procedure during COVID.

You will then proceed to schedule an ap-



pointment online from availabilities to drop by the shelter. Once there, you will meet with an adoption counsellor as a family, with all people and dogs, and the candidates for adoption, to ensure that everyone gets along well from the onset.

You will meet available pets at that time and be matched as is best between your family members and the animals in need of a home. Please do not hesitate. A warm welcome to a new family member is the most wonderful way to start this new year, with so many joyous moments to come.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

*Dawson cont'd from p. 1*

port Dawson's renovation project, the city will be able to offer "its residents access to the Dawson complex on weekends and during the summer," according to the agreement.

A similar partnership between the city and Marianopolis is expected to be presented at the council meeting December 20, according to Mayor Christina Smith.

In this case, it is understood that the CEGEP would be seeking a similar grant

to renovate its soccer field, which Westmount could use in return for supporting the application.

"The important strategic partnerships with Dawson and Marianopolis are key to the city offering all the programs that people want," Mayor Smith told the meeting.

At Dawson, the city's principal need is the use of its gym facilities, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe told the *Independent*.

While it is not known what other facilities the city might be able to use, he said, the city currently wants more gym space in addition to what it uses at the Royal Montreal Regiment's armoury, Selwyn House and Westmount High.

The city supports Dawson's grant application for its facilities "in order to make them accessible to Westmount's general population," the recent resolution states, as moved by Councillor Mary Gallery as sports and recreation commissioner.

The grants are offered by Quebec's Programme de soutien aux infrastructures sportives et récréatives scolaires et d'enseignement supérieur.

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# Gutherz, Velans create book-centred gifts in time for Christmas

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For Christmas 2021, some Westmounters with a penchant for children’s literature have come up with gift ideas for kids that reflect not just the spirit of the season, but also the growing importance to many of buying local during the post-COVID recovery.

### ‘Annie’s Pajammies’

Annabel Gutherz was born and raised in Westmount.

The 23-year-old post-graduate music student is the founder of Annie’s Pajammies, a didactic children’s picture book series, the first volume of which was recently published by her.

The series follows young protagonist Annie as she achieves her dream of learning about the world by traveling to different

countries in the comfort of her magical “pajammies.”

While the premise of the stories is steeped in fantasy and fiction, facts per-



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE CREATORS.

taining to each location and culture are incorporated to teach young readers, while also providing an enriching reading and learning experience.

The book and pyjama sets are currently being sold in Westmount at Oink Oink, Boutique Marie Dumas, Westmount Stationery and Hogg Hardware.

Gutherz says a portion of the proceeds from every unit of the book with accompanying pyjama sets sold is being donated to an education-based charity.

### The Ice Queen

Tom and Dana Velan are also long-time Westmounters. And like Gutherz, they too enjoy creative projects conceived for children.

Their self-published book, *The Ice Queen*, was inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen tale of the same name, as well as a puppet show (Karkulka Puppet Theatre) they staged many years ago at

continued on p. 31

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*'Sigh. Winter again. I wish I were a dog'*



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## PÉRIODE DES FÊTES 2021-2022 : Modifications aux horaires et services

Les bureaux de la Ville, le service à la clientèle d'Hydro Westmount et la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount, incluant les chutes à livres, seront fermés du 24 décembre au 4 janvier inclusivement. Le Victoria Hall sera fermé du 20 décembre au 4 janvier inclusivement.

Le Centre des loisirs de Westmount fermera ses portes le 25 décembre et le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier et un horaire modifié sera en vigueur entre le 24 décembre et le 3 janvier. Le conservatoire de Westmount est fermé en raison de travaux de restauration.

Il n'y aura aucun changement à l'horaire des collectes de matières résiduelles. La collecte de sapins de Noël est prévue pour les semaines du 10 et du 17 janvier.

## 2021-2022 HOLIDAY PERIOD: Changes to schedules and services

The City's municipal offices, Hydro Westmount customer service office and the Westmount Public Library, including the book return boxes, will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup> inclusively. Victoria Hall will be closed from December 20<sup>th</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Westmount Recreation Centre will close on Saturday December 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> and a modified schedule will be in effect December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Westmount Conservatory is closed for restoration work.

There will not be any change to the waste collection schedule. The Christmas tree collection will take place during the weeks of January 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

**From all of us at Coiffure Jean John, we wish everyone all the best for the holiday season**



# Coiffure Jean John

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**HOLIDAY HOURS:** December 24: 9am-2pm – December 25-27 closed  
December 31: 9am-2pm – January 1-3 closed – reopening January 4

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Social notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Fundraising events are re-starting! Hooray!

On October 24, under the distinguished patronage of senators Leo Housakos and Tony Loffreda (event patron), the Hellenic Benevolent Society held its Ilios Soirée at the internationally-renowned Estiatorio Milos.

Ladies dressed up in glamorous cocktail attire to celebrate the occasion.

Society president Belle Grivakis was, well, elegantly *belle* in a chic couture ensemble. The local res attended with her husband Ernie Grivakis, and son Harry Grivakis with his wife Lea Girard Nadeau. Other Westmounters included media celeb Aphrodite Salas – who was MC, Senator Loffreda’s wife Angie, and Pota Nanji. Gala co-chairs were Eugenia Dourakis, Jennifer Katsaros and Nitza Melas, ably assisted by committee members Bernice Tzicas, Sandra Khoury, Anna Atsaidis, Dina Kefallinos, Maria Korogiannis, Christina Maroudas, Maggie Pagonis and Helen Tyros.

The annual event raises funds to send

’Tis the fundraising season...finally!



Mary Deros, Tony Loffreda, Ernie and Belle Grivakis, Aphrodite Salas and Angie Loffreda.



Jennifer Katsaros and Eugenia Dourakis.



Helen Tyros and Mary Kounadis.

Hope the Holidays Fill Your Home With Joy From Floor to Rafter!



It’s been a joy for us to help this community through the years, and we thank you for your continued trust in us.

To all of our customers, neighbours and friends, Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy year ahead.

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Julie Insley, Jean-François Prince, Nicola Merola, Norbert McMillan and Annie Baribeau.

underprivileged and special-needs children to summer camps. It also supports an educational assistance program for children's scholastic needs throughout the school year.

In addition, the soirée funds a bursary program and aids the local community in emergencies.

Park Extension (Montreal) city councillor Mary Deros addressed the sold-out house and stressed the importance of altruism for those in need, particularly after

the many months of the pandemic.

Guests enjoyed Milos' famed grilled octopus, oyster mushrooms and shrimp – and those were just a few of the entrées! Dessert was beyond-delicious baklava, and Greek yogurt for those feeling virtuous.

Raffle prizes, live and silent auctions help drive the \$70,000 raised. For the live auction, VIP tickets for Elton John's farewell tour with two business-class tickets from Montreal to Toronto courtesy of Via Rail were much sought after during ani-

mated live bidding won by Angie and Tony Loffreda.

Amid the silent auction items was a work by local artist Stikki Peaches as well as two luxurious fur jackets donated by Bill Kampouris & Élysée Furs and modelled by Mary Kounadis and Helen Tyros.

Guests noted included Tina Leber, Julie Insley, RBC's Jean-François Prince (regional vp business financial services, Quebec) and Annie Baribeau (senior account manager/media and entertainment); Alex Karambatsos (KRB Lawyers) and his wife Karima; George Kyres, Melpa and Paul

Kamateros, Mary and Denis Kounadis, Helen Tiritidis, Nicola Merola, Michael Vathilakis (Renno & Vathilakis), Maria Korigiannis, Anastasia Papadimitriou, Dominique Gauthier, and Norbert McMillan.

The evening's gala patrons were Sandra Dampolias – BMO; Pota Nanji, Ernie Gri-vakis – VVS Films; Nikolas Klimis – Scotia Wealth Management; Peter Mammias – Foodtastic; Jean-François Prince – RBC; Renno & Vathilakis Lawyers; Pat Savoia – RBC Dominion Securities, and Dimitrios & Maria Vounassis.

**ECOWatch**, cont'd from p. 21

purchase tickets to the "Comedy Show: Four Anglos Surviving the COVID Apocalypse" at Victoria Hall this weekend. Or give memberships to the Montreal Botanical Garden or – for kids – the Planetarium. And when you sponsor a bird at our local sanctuary, Le Nichoir, or donate to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, you protect wildlife or their habitats.

At the November 15 city council meeting, Mayor Christina Smith reiterated the importance of composting and recycling. And with the election of candidates in favour of green initiatives – an Environmental Advisory Committee, or permaculture and park sustainability – there is a new

commitment to solve environmental issues. That's good news for Westmount and for citizens young and old.

**Greener future**

The recent COP26 Climate Change Conference raised awareness of global warming and the need for immediate action, which is not only the responsibility of future generations. Li's good-will gesture is an example to us all and a timely reminder that sustainable solutions – and advocacy – matter. For more information on waste reduction or to join Westmount's composting program, visit: westmount.org/food-waste.



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Known for selling Christmas trees

# ‘Silver bells’ on Greene for passing of Boots MacLeod

By JENNIFER BALL



Boots MacLeod, in working attire.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB MACLEOD.

Boots MacLeod was known locally for selling balsam and Fraser fir Christmas trees outside the Westmount food emporium Les 5 Saisons – corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve – for decades.

“2012 was the last year at Greene, then we moved to Wood Ave., in front of Grace Montreal Church, for [our] last five years,” son and business partner Bob MacLeod told the *Independent*.

Boots started selling Christmas trees on the lots at age 50, and he worked until 85. “When he felt that he was finally allowed to retire.”

Born in Montreal, William Kenneth MacLeod Jr., known as Boots, was a long-time resident of Thetford Mines. He attended Stanstead College and Mount Allison University. He was a geologist and later president of Lynn MacLeod companies. He died on October 8.

“He had severe stenosis, which required a stent and a pacemaker, and then on top of that, he had a tumour on his right kidney,” explained Bob. “No morphine though: he was one tough guy!”

Bob also revealed that Boots’ long-time

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GP was always envious of him and how he was able to be outside spending time with his children and grand-children.

Indeed, Boots enjoyed much fresh air, sometimes in minus 20°C temperature from 9 am in the morning until 7 pm or later.

The nickname “Boots” latched on shortly after his birth in 1932. A Harvard-Yale football match was taking place, one his mum was keenly following, being from Boston.

The local newspaper published a photo of a stork flying with a baby and the caption read “Boot’s Day.” There was a player named Boots who had a clutch play in that match and henceforth the nickname was used for little William by his parents W.K. MacLeod and Marion Lamb Knight.

### Local Santa Claus

What also stuck was the enjoyment Boots took in playing Santa Claus to the children who came with their families to his tree lot.

“We could not keep him away. It was something he loved doing: seeing the families,” Bob said.

In the 1980s, Boots started a tradition of keeping one dollar from each tree sale to support missing children charities. “Of course, there were so many children coming by with their families to the lot and

### Gifts, cont'd from p. 26

schools and other venues (including the Westmount YMCA and Westmount Park).

Both have roots in Czechoslovakia, where marionettes and puppets have long been part of the cultural fabric.

Written by Tom and illustrated by Dana, the book combines aspects of the puppet show along with elements of Andersen’s story.

On the last two pages are cut-out puppet characters that can be used to enhance the story-telling experience, or which can be used by children to put together and perform their own version of the story in a puppet show.

The Velans are making the cutout pages available for download from danavelan.com. *The Ice Queen* is available online from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



it just seemed so appropriate. We did that for many, many years.”

In addition to being charitable, his son describes him as an indulgent business man.

Bob found an envelope with Boots’ handwriting on it that had 11 cents in it. After some digging, it turns out that it was given to him by a young girl who only had that small amount to put towards the purchase of a tree back in the 1980s (the going

rate at the time was \$18 to \$25).

“It was about giving and the spirit of it,” Bob said about his dad’s favourite activity.

Although Bob appreciates that his father had the smile and the gumption to do it into his senior years, he has no present ambitions to carry on Boots’ trade.

“It would not be the same! Plus, he had to have four hip surgeries. It is very physical labour putting trees on cars and tying them down!”

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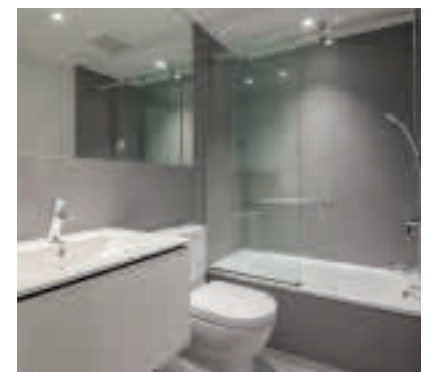
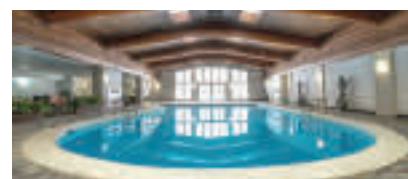
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## Dear Family, Friends, Colleagues & Clients

To my family and friends who are my rock and my tribe, **I THANK YOU!**

To my colleagues who helped get deals done, helped with visits when I couldn't walk and those who changed their schedules for my clients... **THANK YOU!**

**COLLABORATION WINS OVER COMPETITION ANY DAY!**

To my clients who fought the fight, shed tears of joy and sorrow and finally won the war....**YOU DID IT!**

To the clients still holding onto the hope that you'll find that perfect home, **HANG IN THERE!**

It was a year of **HIGHS** (Selling the 2nd most expensive condo in Westmount) and **LOWS** (showing houses with a herniated disk). **BUT**, what never changed was my commitment to my clients and my passion for helping people start a new chapter in their lives.

To all the readers of the Westmount Independent who reached out after reading my ads, **THANK YOU!**

I hope to change real estate advertising by giving you more value! Information to help you as homeowners protect your greatest asset – your home!

**I wish you all the happiest of holidays!**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sincerely, Jill'.

**P.S. Stay tuned for big changes for 2022!**



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