

City needs more time to consult: Mayor Smith Residents ask council to release results on Westmount Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Results of the city's survey on the revitalization of Westmount Park are still unknown, Mayor Christina Smith said in reply to two questions submitted online to the virtual council meeting February 15. The survey's original deadline for submissions from residents had been extended by a month to January 18.

When the results are known they will be made public, she said, adding that the city needed more time to consult users of all ages and connect with as many citizens as possible.

The survey, based on an online presentation of design concepts November 18, 2020 by Stantec consultants, was launched the next day with a deadline that was later extended to allow more time for people to

reply.

"Many residents are unaware of the project and proposed changes," stated Carol Holland of Melville Ave. in the first question. "And the views of those who are seem to be that the changes are neither necessary nor desirable." More information is needed, she said, asking "why have the project [survey] results not been released?"

Point heard

They aren't yet known, Mayor Smith emphasized, adding: "I hear your point."

Councillor Cynthia Lulham pointed out that following a well-attended public consultation meeting at Victoria Hall on November 13, 2019 the impact of COVID "definitely had some effect on the consultation process."

She said she was hop- *continued on p. 8*



Normand Bellemare was enjoying the beautiful morning sunshine, sitting on a bench in Westmount Park February 21. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Council okays bank of hours for project management Greenhouse work under way, workers already inside

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Contractors for the restoration of the heritage greenhouses are already working inside, Mayor Christina Smith told the city council meeting February 15. "The work has begun."

It's "an incredibly important project," she added as the council approved a bank of hours for professional services regard-

ing project management of the work. This is now in its final stage to re-build much of the conservatory and frog pond that have been closed to the public for safety reasons since September 15, 2015.

The project management contract was awarded to the sole bidder, C2V Architects, for a maximum amount of \$87,381 including taxes.

"We want to ensure *continued on p. 10*



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Library will remain closed, except for curb-side
**WRC rink to open on limited basis
 for March break**



The Lansdowne entrance to the WRC on February 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Looking for something new to do over the March break? Westmount's indoor rinks will open to a limited number of people for general skating as well as "Stick and Puck," for practising individual hockey skills. This will start Saturday, February 27.

"I'm glad we have this opportunity to open up," said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

The ice will be open to 15 general skaters at one time and to 12 for "Stick and Puck." People will be required to have a facility card and to register for available time slots on the city's website.

"It sure is a roller coaster ride," he said concerning the uncertainty and vagueness of provincial directives for opening up and closing interior rinks over the pandemic.

While Westmount has made the decision to open the WRC for at least the one

week of March break, he said, just to be able to open for such a short time will be difficult for some arenas considering the mobilization of staff, for example.

On the outdoor rinks, skaters will be limited to groups of eight rather than the current four, he said.

Library unchanged

Meanwhile, the current status will remain unchanged at the Westmount Public Library, where only contactless curbside and online services are open. The recent possibility of browsing in person as originally considered (see story February 9, p. 1) will not take place, library director Julie-Anne Cardella said last week.

Also, the program to provide WiFi service for students who hold membership cards has not yet started. This would allow access to the front Findlay Reading room by reservation (see story January 25, p. 5).

37 years!

On February 14, 1984, I left my position as Headmaster's Secretary at Selwyn House School and started my career as a real estate broker. I worked for my mom Isabelle Lafrenière Broker for the first 2 years and on March 1st, 1986, I joined RE/MAX Westmount, where I have been for nearly 35 years.

Over the past 37 years, I learned to be self-motivated, very patient, open-minded, creative and to over deliver, adding a subtle mix of my bubbly energetic personality intertwined with my sense of humour.

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Seeking 'good quality' annuals, tropical plants

Contracts awarded for plants, tree cutting, stump removal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the city was digging out from more snow last week, city council prepared for the supply in the spring of seeds, annual flowers and tropical plants for city parks and green spaces as well as the removal of stumps and dead trees.

In the first of the three contracts awarded, Les Serres Riel was given the one for the supply of seeds and plants at a maximum of \$86,641.

"We're trying something new from the traditional single contract that would have included the actual planting and maintenance," explained Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of parks. "This one will give us more quality and better selection, with a separate contract to follow for planting and maintenance."

'Incredible feedback'

Mayor Christina Smith said the city had received "incredible feedback" last summer from the city's plantings.

The first of two tree contracts went for the removal of dead trees in Summit Woods to Asplundh Canada at a maximum cost of \$198,180 including taxes. This was the lowest of three ranging in price to \$247,405.

These trees will not include invasive species, such as the Japanese knotweed, as resident John Fretz asked in a question on the tender.

In a separate one for tree work throughout the city, the cutting of 133 dead and se-



verely damaged trees and the removal of 179 stumps was awarded to Arbo-Design at a maximum of \$196,630 including taxes. This was the lowest of four bids ranging as high as \$322,620. The majority of the stumps are in city parks to make way for the planting of new trees, Lulham explained.

◀ Some of last summer's banana trees and flowers as seen along Côte St. Antoine at Stanton St.

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Correction

Our article "Demo requests received for ... Melville, 314-316 Lansdowne" (February 16, p. 1) mentioned two civic numbers for the Melville property. The correct one is 325 Melville. – DP.

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CHANGE BELMONT AVE. TO LEONARD COHEN AVE.

If Belmont Ave. is named after the American financier and horse breeder, it is time to rename it after Leonard Cohen. His childhood home is at 599, the first address on Belmont at the south-east corner just north of Belmont Crescent. The path leading down to Côte St. Antoine is the route he would have taken to get to Shaar Hashomayim, whose choir figures in his last record.

While it is great to live on Lansdowne Ave., a street – like so many in Westmount – named after a British governor-general, it is time to honour our own. Leonard Cohen is arguably the greatest Canadian poet of the 20th century. At a minimum, Belmont Crescent and the stretch of the street that runs up to Westmount Ave. should carry his name.

BRIAN CAMPBELL, LANSDOWNE AVE.
Editor's comments: Is Belmont named after August Belmont? I would be delighted to know.

I refer Leonard Cohen fans to our past coverage of him: “Classmate sees Leonard Cohen from a different angle,” (May 26, 2009, p. 20) and “Leonard Cohen’s boyhood Belmont home on the market” (May 4, 2010 issue, p. 27).

My two cents on this issue: why rename things? It creates confusion, work and bad feelings, and there are so many new things being built every year that can be named in honour of this or that person. Surely Leonard would have no issue with a horse racer? – DP.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE DID TRY TO REACH EVERYONE – IN THEIR LANGUAGE

Response to “Shouldn’t we reach *everyone* in emergencies” (February 9, p. 8)

On February 2, citizens of the riding of Westmount-St. Louis over the age of 70 with a registered telephone number received an automated call from me. The message stated that I was checking in on our citizens, ensuring that you have what you need, advising that my team and I are here to support you, and providing our contact information.

There were two separate messages – one in English, and one in French – however some English-speaking citizens received the French message.

Many people contacted our office following the call. Some asked for assistance, some wanted updated vaccination information, and some called to express their concern about the fact they received a French-only message. I am very grateful for every email and phone call, and I would like to explain why some people received the French voice message in lieu of the English.

This outreach initiative, recently sanctioned by the Québec Director General of Elections (DGEQ), provides limited permission to elected officials to contact specific segments of the population with the goal of supporting those who may be particularly vulnerable. However, there are

strict guidelines that need to be followed when contacting our citizens via electoral lists, which created a challenge for the sending of a bilingual message.

Guidelines included a time limit, the requirement of stating my name, title and contact information twice, and service options. Consequently, it was recommended we prepare separate English and French messages. Unfortunately, citizens not formally registered as English speakers on the electoral list automatically received the French message.

I realize this has created concern and I am genuinely sorry if anyone has been in any way offended. The objective of the call was altruistic and to help our seniors. We have made the necessary changes to the electoral list regarding language preference for those who have advised us. Your feedback is very important to me and I will do my best to improve any future communications.

This is a challenging time for all of us. To ensure the citizens of Westmount-St. Louis stay informed on the pandemic and vaccination campaign, my office has created an info-letter. We are also actively seeking volunteers who are available to drive our seniors to their vaccination appointments once the public campaign begins. Citizens from the riding who would like to add their names to the distribution list, or who would like to volunteer, can email or call us at: jennifer.maccarone.WSL@assnat.qc.ca or 514.395.2929. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Stay safe.

JENNIFER MACCARONE, MEMBER
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOR WESTMOUNT-ST. LOUIS

SENIORS NEED ACCESSIBLE VACCINATIONS

CIUSSS West Central will offer my wife and me, both seniors – I am 82 years old – three places to go for a COVID vaccination: the Bill Durnan Arena at 4988 Vezina and Victoria Ave., the Décarie Shopping Centre, and a building at 7101 Park Ave.

We live on de Maisonneuve and Wood. We don’t drive. None of those locations is at all readily accessible to us, no more in spring than in winter. Westmount mayor Christina Smith has offered M. Legault [the premier] the use of Victoria Hall, an offer he has – for reasons unclear – apparently refused. Am I correct in suspecting that M. Legault, who seems to regard pandemic Quebec as a political rather than a health issue, is unwilling to locate a COVID vaccination facility in an anglophone ‘hood?

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SAVE THE BUDGET, FORGET THE PROJECT

Having read Claire Holland’s letter in the *Independent* (February 9, p. 8) entitled “Westmount Park works well as is,” I was immediately gratified by the succinct manner in which she laid out her argument against the changes promoted by council as “a budget in search of a project.”

I concur. The unnecessary changes envisioned are a waste of money that will evolve into more crowding, which counters Olmsted’s original goal for Westmount’s park and NYC’s Central Park that they “keep nature at hand” within a formal setting. The winding paths and lagoon support that idea of being able to stroll quietly through nature.

However, like Ms. Holland, I support the wildflower garden on the arena roof as an exceptional idea for improvement and worthy of the expenditure.

B. MANTEL, BRUCE AVE.

FORGET THE PROJECT

Right on, Carol Holland, in the letter published February 9 (p. 8), about Westmount Park and the proposed renovations. Leave the park alone. It is fine the way it has been designed.

Of course, the city needs to maintain it, but I must repeat: leave it alone. It is great for meandering around, sitting under a tree, sitting at the gazebo, playing in the playground, and looking at the lovely lagoon with the ducks.

The gardens, come better weather, are always interesting, inspiring and lovely. Why must a make-work project be done at huge expense?

Now don’t get me started on the greenhouse [renovation], for that is insane.

LESLEY AITON SPEVACK, DE MAISONNEUVE

POSTPONE THE PROJECT

Westmount residents have historically depended on the public council meetings in order to question the city council, and to make their voices heard. This essential forum for public discussion has been minimized or lost due to COVID.

It is highly unfortunate that the current Westmount Park revitalization project is being promoted at this time, in the absence of the normally available public discourse. The result is that too many Westmounters may be completely unaware of this project.

We strongly suggest that any further city work on this project be delayed until the public council meetings are resumed. Only then will a more fulsome discussion take place and many more Westmounters will become aware of this project.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Editor's note: In fairness to the city council members, they have been having public online meetings. – DP.

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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
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Looking southeast at Westmount Park from Sherbrooke St. near Strathcona on February 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Westmount Park, cont'd. from p. 1

ing a meeting with the consultants would take place soon to deliver the survey results. Then, the city would know what areas need more consultation. “We realize some seniors don’t have computers or tech savvy and were unable to participate” in the online survey that followed the online presentation of design concepts (see story November 24, 2020, p. 1, 22).

“We’re not in a rush,” Lulham explained.

Mayor Smith said the city wanted to hear from as many residents as possible. “All feedback is important, negative and positive.”

How many responded?

In the second question addressed to the mayor, Maxine Cuttler said she presumed it was “in the interest of transparency and genuine democracy that you promised results of the survey. How many actually responded?”

She said the mayor must be aware that the project was “generally contentious and that the consultation to be meaningful and democratic” required that the results be made public.

The mayor reiterated that they did not have the results because of the extended deadline, but “when we do, we will make them public.”

Police Report, p. 14

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 15

9 Lives, p. 15

History by the House, p. 18

**Return to Retail:
Petros restaurant, p. 21**



infoWestmount, p. 16

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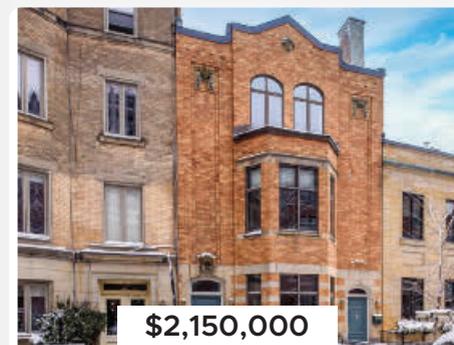
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Greenhouse, cont'd. from p. 1

that we have proper representation at the site,” explained Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who moved the resolution; and to ensure that the work “stays on track,” added Mayor Smith.

The need arose from the departure of two key city employees involved in the project: Kinan Khatib, division chief in the city’s Engineering department, and David Descôteaux, Public Works superintendent of municipal buildings.

The contract for the “restoration and execution of the work” had been awarded December 21 to St-Denis Thompson Inc. at a maximum cost of \$5.7 million including taxes (see story January 12, p. 1).

Above, workers in the conservatory and some of their equipment on February 19, as seen from the alley behind Victoria Hall and, below, the entrance from Sherbrooke St. the same day.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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— Brigitte C., Upper-Lansdowne, Westmount

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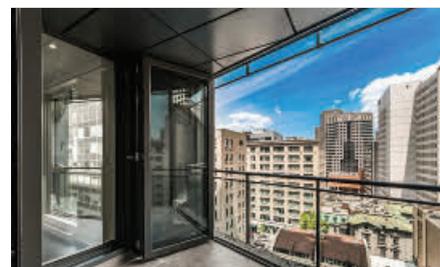
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We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 as part of a massive effort to prevent serious complications and deaths related to COVID-19, and stop the virus from spreading. Through vaccination, we hope to protect our healthcare system and allow things to return to normal.

A VACCINATION OVERVIEW

Why get vaccinated at all?

There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

How effective is vaccination?

Vaccination is one of medicine's greatest success stories and the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system. That said, as with any medication, no vaccine is 100% effective. The efficacy of a vaccine depends on several factors, including:

- The age of the person being vaccinated
- Their physical condition and/or state of health, such as a weakened immune system

THE IMPACT OF VACCINES AT A GLANCE



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- Since the introduction of vaccination programs in Canada in 1920, **polio has been wiped out** across the country and several other illnesses (such as **diphtheria, tetanus** and **rubella**) have virtually disappeared.
- **Smallpox** has been **eradicated** throughout the world.
- The main bacteria responsible for **bacterial meningitis** in children—*Haemophilus influenzae* type B—has become **much rarer**.
- **Hepatitis B** has for all intents and purposes **disappeared** in young people, due to their having been vaccinated in childhood.



COVID-19 VACCINES

Are the vaccines safe?

Definitely. COVID-19 vaccines have been tested for quality and efficacy on a large scale and passed all necessary analysis before being approved for public use.

All required steps in the vaccine approval process were stringently followed, some simultaneously, which explains why the process went so fast. Health Canada always conducts an extensive investigation of vaccines before approving and releasing them, paying particular attention to evaluating their safety and efficacy.

Who should be vaccinated against COVID-19?

We aim to vaccinate the entire population against COVID-19. However, stocks are limited for now, which is why people from groups with a higher risk of developing complications if they are infected will be vaccinated first.

Can we stop applying sanitary measures once the vaccine has been administered?

No. Several months will have to go by before a sufficient percentage of the population is vaccinated and protected. The beginning of the vaccination campaign does not signal the end of the need for health measures. Two-metre physical distancing, wearing a mask or face covering, and frequent hand-washing are all important habits to maintain until the public health authorities say otherwise.

On what basis are priority groups determined?

The vaccine will first be given to people who are at higher risk of developing complications or dying from COVID-19, in particular vulnerable individuals and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in a CHSLD, healthcare providers who work with them, people who live in private seniors' homes, and people 70 years of age and older.

As vaccine availability increases in Canada, more groups will be added to the list.

Order of priority for COVID-19 vaccination

- 1** Vulnerable people and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) or in intermediate and family-type resources (RI-RTFs).
- 2** Workers in the health and social services network who have contact with users.
- 3** Autonomous or semi-autonomous people who live in private seniors' homes (RPAs) or in certain closed residential facilities for older adults.
- 4** Isolated and remote communities.
- 5** Everyone at least 80 years of age.
- 6** People aged 70–79.
- 7** People aged 60–69.
- 8** Adults under the age of 60 with a chronic disease or health issue that increases the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- 9** Adults under the age of 60 with no chronic disease or healthcare issues that increase the risk of complications but who provide essential services and have contact with users.
- 10** Everyone else in the general population at least 16 years of age.

Can I catch COVID-19 even after I get vaccinated?

The vaccines used can't cause COVID-19 because they don't contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that's responsible for the disease. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or in the 14 days following it could still develop COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

No. Vaccination is not mandatory here in Québec. However, COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended.

Is vaccination free of charge?

The COVID-19 vaccine is **free**. It is only administered under the Québec Immunization Program and is not available from private sources.

Do I need to be vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

YES. Vaccination is indicated for everyone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to ensure their long-term protection. Nonetheless, given the current limited availability of the vaccine, people that contracted COVID-19 should wait 90 days from when they were diagnosed before being vaccinated.

[Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine](https://quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine)

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Québec 

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Police Report

St. Catherine St. break-in suspect arrested

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

During the late hours of February 13, police from Station 12 arrested a suspect who broke a window to get into a commercial outlet on St. Catherine St. near Gladstone, but left apparently without burglarizing the place.

According to community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, staff at the Stanton St. detachment received a call around 10:35 pm from a witness.

He had seen the suspect first trying the front entrance of an address next door only to find it locked.

"He went to a neighbouring address and he shattered the front door window," said Pimentel. "He put his arm through that window, then he unlocked it to gain access into the building. The suspect went inside but only stayed briefly. He left shortly after."

The suspect was last seen walking east along St. Catherine St. With a description supplied by the witness, police officers caught up and finally intercepted the suspect around 10:45 pm at the corner of Atwater Ave. St. Catherine St., said

Pimentel.

Interprovincial identity theft

A Westmount resident filed a criminal complaint at Station 12 recently regarding an identity theft committed by someone who successfully impersonated him at a branch of his bank in Ontario, after failing in an initial attempt to do so.

According to Pimentel, the suspect entered the first branch where he told the teller he wanted to confirm a recent deposit that had been made in Quebec.

"The suspect identified himself with a Quebec driver's licence," he said. "He then asked to withdraw a certain amount. However, he didn't have a banking card. The employee at the bank refused to do it because it seemed suspicious."

Undeterred, the suspect went to another branch of the bank and succeeded this time in withdrawing \$2,000. "It didn't work at one branch, but for whatever reason at the other branch it did," Pimentel said.

Pimentel suggests that anyone who suspects their identity has been stolen or compromised should immediately contact a credit reporting agency such as Equifax or TransUnion, and you will be notified if attempts are made to breach your accounts.

E-mail fraud

In a separate recent criminal incident also involving fraud, a Westmount woman told investigators at Station 12 that she recently received a message from an e-mail address similar to one belonging to her sister-in-law who lives overseas.

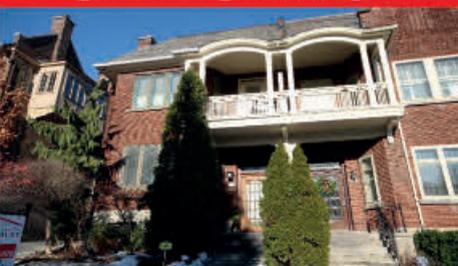
The sender was asking her as a favour to purchase and send a certain number of a type of gift card to a niece. In the e-mail, the sender maintained that this specific type of gift card was unavailable in the region where she lived and that the niece had

especially requested them.

Although the woman receiving the e-mail initially questioned what she was being told to do, she purchased several \$100 gift cards anyway and forwarded their code numbers to the e-mail sender as requested.

According to Pimentel, it was only when a clerk at the pharmacy where the cards were purchased voiced her suspicion that the woman decided not to make a second round of gift card purchases. He said she lost a few hundred dollars.

For situations like this, Pimentel recommends contacting the federally-operated Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (www.anti-fraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca), which collects information on fraud and identity theft. The centre provides information on past and current scams in Canada. If you think you've been a victim of fraud, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre is the place to report it.



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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Handsome Spencer



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He is a striking dogo-argentino mix, sociable with people and other dogs, affectionate and playful. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Spencer is in the care of Francine Roch in foster rescue at Chez Alex Auberge Canine. My own beloved Doberman Xena was fostered as a rescue with Francine and my heart is still with every one of the dogs that she loves and places with their new families.

Spencer would do well in Westmount as we have the best dog home life, the dog parks and the Summit for him to enjoy.

For more details on Spencer and to make plans, contact Francine at Chez Alex Auberge Canine, in scenic St. André d'Argenteuil, at 450.562.5325 or on her cellular at 514.404.8591.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Sage kitten

He is a loving kitten, climbing on to his foster mom's lap and accepting cuddles, then getting his favourite treats and purring loudly. Sage is in his kitten growth phase from nurturing to socializing, with a loving forever family he will also do very well. He is so healthy and active, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

For more information on him, please contact his foster mom Guylaine directly at guylaine.duquette@icloud.com.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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infoWESTMOUNT

2021.02.23 • Vol. 2/4

Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount**NOUVELLES**PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL**Lundi 1^{er} mars****NEWS**NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING**Monday, March 1st**


Bois Summit : élagage et abattage d'arbres

Pour des raisons de sécurité, la Ville entreprendra des travaux d'élagage et d'abattage d'arbres dans le boisé Summit à partir du 24 février. Ces travaux s'étaleront sur plusieurs semaines. westmount.org



Summit Woods: pruning and felling of trees

For safety reasons, the City will carry out pruning and felling in Summit Woods starting February 24th. The work will take place over several weeks. westmount.org

COVID-19 : mesures en vigueur

Visitez quebec.ca/sante pour connaître les plus récentes mesures du confinement annoncées par le gouvernement du Québec.

Collecte de résidus alimentaires

La phase 2 du programme de compostage est amorcée et les immeubles résidentiels de 9 à 30 unités sont invités à y participer. westmount.org

Pistes de ski de fond au PKG et au WAG

La Ville a aménagé des ovals de ski de fond au parc King George et au terrain d'athlétisme de Westmount. Apportez vos skis et respectez les mesures sanitaires. westmount.org

Travaux d'Hydro Québec au coin St-Antoine et Greene

En raison de travaux nécessaires d'Hydro Québec, des fermetures de voies de circulation sont à prévoir **entre le 8 février et le 16 avril**.

Activités de plein air en sécurité

Veillez continuer à respecter les consignes sanitaires affichées dans les parcs et autres lieux publics extérieurs. westmount.org

Système d'alerte à la communauté

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant pour recevoir les alertes de Westmount par téléphone, par courriel ou par texto. westmount.org

COVID-19: measures in effect

Visit the quebec.ca/sante website for details about the latest confinement measures announced by the Gouvernement du Québec.

Food waste collection

Phase 2 of the composting programme has begun and residential buildings of 9 to 30 units are invited to participate. westmount.org

Cross-country ski trails at KGP and WAG

The City has set up ski ovals at King George Park and at the Westmount Athletic Grounds. Bring your skis and follow the health guidelines. westmount.org

Hydro Québec work at the corner of Saint-Antoine and Greene

Due to necessary work by Hydro Québec, some traffic lane closures are to be expected **between February 8 and April 16**.

Safe outdoor activities

Please continue to follow all of the health guidelines posted in the City's parks and other outdoor areas. westmount.org

Community alert system

Sign up now to receive Westmount's alerts by phone, by email or by text. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE**Nouveau service de recommandations de livres personnalisés**

Remplissez le formulaire en ligne pour recevoir une liste de livres recommandés par courriel ou pour que nous mettions de côté pour vous une sélection de livres que vous pourrez récupérer. Un bibliothécaire vous contactera dans les 72 heures ouvrables. westlib.org

Service de cueillette sans contact

La Bibliothèque demeure fermée au public, mais vous pouvez réserver vos items en ligne ou par courriel. Vous aurez 3 jours pour les ramasser selon l'horaire suivant :

Lundi et mercredi : 13 h à 17 h
Mardi et jeudi : 13 h à 19 h
Vendredi : 10 h à 17 h.

Concours littéraire McEntyre

Thème : Vise haut, une marche à la fois.

Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire une histoire, un poème ou un essai décrivant comment une petite action peut faire une grande différence dans une communauté. Invitation aux élèves du primaire et du secondaire. westlib.org

Discussions au coin du feu avec Mitch Joel

Mercredi 24 février, 20 h en direct sur YouTube. En conversation avec Lori Schubert, directrice générale de la 'Quebec Writers' Federation. Diffusion en direct sur le compte youtube.com/bibliowestmount.

Conférence : A Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal
Jeudi 25 février, 19 h, sur Zoom. (En anglais.) Explorez l'architecture contemporaine dans 17 quartiers de Montréal avec Nancy Dunton et Helen Malkin. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite westlib.org

Sessions en studio au Victoria Hall
Samedi 27 février, 20 h sur YouTube. Urban Aria. Savourez nos concerts intimes en ligne. Vous aurez les meilleurs sièges! westlib.org

Atelier d'écriture pour les jeunes (9+)
Mardi 2 mars, 16 h 30 sur Zoom. Avec Andrew Katz. Inscription obligatoire. westlib.org

L'heure du conte en ligne
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Monday and Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 1-7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

McEntyre Literary Competition

Theme: Think Big! Start Small! This year, we would like you to write a creative story, poem or essay about how a small act can make a big difference in a community. Open to elementary and secondary students. westlib.org

Fireside Chats with Mitch Joel
Wednesday, February 24, 8 p.m. on YouTube.

In conversation with Lori Schubert, Director General of the Quebec Writers' Federation. Broadcast live on the account youtube.com/bibliowestmount.

Lecture: A Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal

Thursday, February 25, 7 p.m., on Zoom. Explore contemporary architecture in 17 Montreal neighbourhoods with Nancy Dunton and Helen Malkin. Register on Eventbrite. westlib.org

Victoria Hall Studio Sessions

Saturday, February 27, 8 p.m. on YouTube. Urban Aria. Enjoy our intimate concerts online from the best seats in the house! westlib.org

Writing workshop for tweens (9+)

Tuesday, March 2, 4:30 p.m. on Zoom. With Andrew Katz. Registration required. westlib.org

Storytime online

Discover our stories on YouTube. westlib.org





Give dogs the booty

treats. Some find them easy to slip on without assistance but people like me and many I've spoken to have difficulty getting the paw in the bootie. You feel as though you need a third hand.

The solution costs nothing. All you need is a discarded plastic bottle, appropriate to the size of your dog's paw. For a medium-sized dog, a large Costco-sized vitamin pill bottle is perfect.

1. In this example, I'm using a medium sized PawZ bootie for our "Wheaten terrorist."
2. Take a large plastic bottle, remove the cap and check that your dog's paw just fits comfortably through the neck of the bottle.
3. Cut off the top of the bottle with a sharp blade or hack saw to form a funnel. Careful of your fingers.
4. If the bottle and the rubber bootie are appropriately sized, you will be able to

easily pull the bootie over the neck of the bottle top with two hands while Pooch sits quietly confused, wondering what you're doing.

5. Hold the dog's leg and slide the bottle top over the paw as far up the leg as is possible.
6. Continue to hold the dog's leg but with the same hand reach out a finger to hold the bottle top. Push or roll the bootie off the bottle rim and onto its leg. You may find with experimentation that this is simplified by filing away some of the thread around the bottle top. It also helps if the bootie is dry.
7. Now the bootie is on the dog's paw, just slide the bottle top back over the bootied (Oxford English, you heard it here first) paw. Best to hold the top of the bootie with the hand holding the leg to prevent it from being pulled off the paw.
8. Unroll the top of the bootie and pull up

the bootie to secure it on the leg. I gently squeeze the bootie to ensure I haven't snagged the claws.

Quick, simple and painless for the pooch and the dog walker. Now the dog can walk through salt, slush, puddles and snow without a whimper.

GUEST COLUMN Dogs

RALPH THOMPSON

A recent letter to the editor (February 16, p. 6) was requesting that the city continue to salt and sand the sidewalks to avoid accidents despite the possible negative effect on dogs' feet. The author concluded, "Are dogs more important than humans?"

Well, we can have both safe sidewalks and happy pooches. No need to increase taxes or aggravate the puppies. Little rubber booties for the pooch are the solution but – witness many discussions I have had with dog walkers – some people find the booties are hard, if not impossible, to put on.

The booties are in fact very easy to put on if you know the trick, and no need for

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

email us at:

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History by
the House

ANDY DODGE

184 & 188 Côte St. Antoine: From Metcalfe Terrace to ‘Maxwell estate’



184 & 188 Côte St. Antoine on January 26.

In the early 1600s, Côte St. Antoine was the first public road leading through what is now Westmount, heading from the growing village of Montreal to Lachine, and eventually providing access to the “Monklands” estate, built in 1795 by Chief Justice James Monk.

This was the first of many mansions built by the gentry of Montreal: the establishment of McGill College at the foot of Mount Royal in 1821 attracted many wealthy anglophones to build their houses in the “Square Mile” just west of the McGill campus, then along Dorchester St. at the edge of the “falaise,” or steep slope, which afforded those mansions excellent views out over the river, and then on the hill leading up from Côte St. Antoine, again to take advantage of the views of the river.

Louis XIII and the Sulpicians

The island of Montreal had been granted to the Brotherhood of St. Sulpice by Louis XIII, king of France, and his foreign secretary, Cardinal Richelieu.

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With hopes of integrating the native community with the French settlers, the Sulpicians built a monastery on Sherbrooke St. – then considered the northern limits of the city – and developed a series of farms surrounding it, particularly their own “Priests’ Farm” in the area where Holtton Ave., de Casson Rd. and Barat Rd. are now laid out, then leading to strips of land further west that they granted to families like the Leducs, Hurtubises and Décaries.

In what is now Westmount, villas were built by John Young (“Rosemount,” now on Severn Ave.), Simon Clarke (his house at the corner of what is now Sherbrooke St. and Clarke Ave. has been demolished), Charles Bowman (“Forden,” now demolished) and William Murray (“WestMount,” now demolished).

Moses Hayes builds Metcalfe Terrace

Along came Moses Judah Hayes, born in 1799 to a merchant who had moved to Montreal from New York 36 years earlier. As a young man, Moses developed a great interest in civic affairs and community development, including the nascent Jewish community growing out of the Shearith Israel Synagogue congregation, and got heavily involved in such projects as the Montreal waterworks, a gas company and Montreal Provident and Savings Bank.

In about 1839 he, like many English-speaking Montrealers, noticed the west-

ward growth and envisioned what in those days would have been one of Montreal’s first housing developments, four houses on the south side of Côte St. Antoine, just below the “Forden” mansion, which became “Metcalfe Terrace.”

At about this time, expanding Montreal saw the extension of Western Ave. further west, and Metcalfe Ave. became one of the north/south streets connecting Western Ave. and “Sisson’s Lane” below it, to Côte St. Antoine.

Metcalfe Ave is named for Charles Metcalfe, who was governor general of the province of Canada from 1843 to 1845. An 1858 map shows the four houses along Côte St. Antoine opposite “Forden,” with no north-south street perpendicular to the road until the current-day Decarie Blvd. Thus, we might speculate that Hays’ choice of “Metcalfe” to name his housing project predated the naming of the street.

Hays died in 1852, leaving the four houses to his sister, Catherine Hays-Solomon, already a widow. The property was commuted by the Sulpicians in 1853, meaning Hays earned/purchased the right not to pay seigneurial taxes, at a time when this practice was being dispensed with all over the island. Considered as part of Lot 621A, with four houses on it, Hays had lived in one before his death, and there is rumour the others were leased out to aides-de- *continued on p. 19*

camp of the governor general, who resided at Monklands.

Division, fire & Maxwell père's 188

Very quickly Lot 621A was divided into four (appropriately, Lot Nos. 1 to 4) and Catherine was able to start selling off the houses, No. 3 to Andrew White in 1864, No. 2 to Robert Kerr in 1857, No. 1 to Alfred Evans in 1861. In 1855, No. 4 Metcalfe Terrace was sold to John Ponsonby Sexton, an advocate and Montreal's first city clerk, who had lost his wife in 1849. He married Lotitia Keys, herself a widow, in 1859.

In or circa 1866, it appears, No. 4 Metcalfe Terrace burned to the ground and the lot stood empty for about 20 years before Lotitia Keys-Sexton, John's widow, sold the land to Edward John Maxwell, a lumber merchant who built – possibly using the foundations of the old house – a lovely Tudor mansion.

By 1890, Lovell's Directory lists Maxwell as living at 138 Côte St. Antoine Rd. No longer did Metcalfe Terrace exist as an address, and by 1895 the house had been re-numbered as 188.

Architect Maxwell's 184

Maxwell may have been noteworthy for his own lumber business, but one of his proudest achievements (like all fathers) was his offspring, including his eldest son, Edward, who, when the Tudor mansion

184 Côte St. Antoine:		
DATE	BUYER	PRICE
27-Oct-1947	Claire Stedman	\$7,000
13-Jul-1960	Mary Marcia Taggart	\$20,750
1-Jun-1978	Martha Charlotte Fulford	\$69,500
14-Aug-2000	Christopher Dunkley & Alison Sorbie	\$390,000

188 Côte St. Antoine:		
DATE	BUYER	PRICE
13-Aug-1946	Alexandra Laurie	\$5,000 + consideration
19-Jun-1948	Frank J. Selke	\$20,000
14-Dec-1959	Michael J. McCormick	\$40,000
20-Jul-1973	Donald H. Wallace	\$78,000
27-May-1978	Gilbert Rosenberg	unknown

was planned in 1886, would have been a 19-year-old budding architect working with a firm in Boston that designed major projects all over the continent.

In 1891, he was asked to come to Montreal to oversee construction of the Montreal Board of Trade building, and young Maxwell never left.

Instead, he began designing and then building houses and commercial buildings all over Montreal, including his own house attached to his father's mansion, in a totally different style with Palladian windows and a Dutch gable roof.

He moved there in 1897, while his younger brother, William S. Maxwell, was

still living with Dad next door. As it turns out, Edward became one of Montreal's pre-eminent architects, designing the Birks jewelry store on Phillips Square, an extension to Windsor Station as well as other CP hotels and stations, and numerous mansions and houses throughout Westmount and the Square Mile, elsewhere on the island of Montreal and beyond.

By 1902, his brother joined him and the two apparently collaborated on most if not all of their projects after that.

The list of achievements in the Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada is voluminous, but does not include 184 Côte St. Antoine, which would have been built about five years into the start of his independent career.

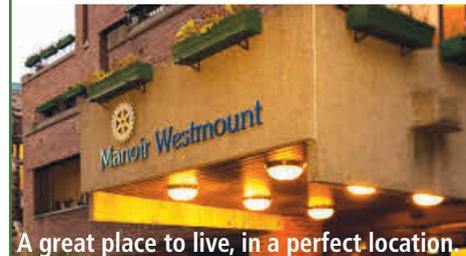
In 1904 Edward *filis* sold 184 to Mary Turner Chaplin, at the time a spinster; by the time she sold the property in 1911, she was married to P. Maitland Grover and was moving to a farm near Peterborough, Ontario, so Edward bought back the house and moved it into a trust with his father's house.

Father died in the same year and Edward died in November 1923, but the Maxwell estate was able to maintain both properties and rented them out to various tenants between then and 1945.

In August 1946, Alexandra Laurie, wife of James M. Bennett, purchased 188 Côte St. Anto- *continued on p. 20*

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Legge Orr, Orr give \$1 million for MUHC 'MI4' award

Former Westmounters Suzanne Legge Orr and Jeff Orr have given \$1 million to create the Legge Orr MI4 Leadership Award, which aims to "help solve humanity's deadliest puzzles with an important donation to the McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity (MI4)," said a press release February 18 from the McGill University Health Centre Foundation.

The donation supports MI4 director and award recipient Dr. Don Sheppard, "who created the initiative and is instrumental in its success. MI4 brings together over 250 researchers to find life-changing solutions

to some of the world's deadliest diseases including COVID-19, tuberculosis and hepatitis C. MI4 has more than 50 completed or ongoing projects related to understanding the coronavirus, halting transmission and developing vaccines," continued the release.

"I am both honoured and humbled to be the inaugural recipient of the Legge Orr MI4 Leadership Award. This transformative support will provide invaluable flexibility and resources to allow me to focus my energies on growing MI4's already impressive legacy," Dr. Sheppard is quoted as saying.

House history, cont'd. from p. 19

ine for an undisclosed price, but she sold the house for \$20,000 two years later to Frank J. Selke, general manager of the Montreal Canadiens, during their "glory years" of the 1950s.

At the end of that decade, after they had won five Stanley Cups (and were on their way to winning number 6), he sold the house to Michael J. McCormick, an investment manager with Cockfield Brown and CEMP Investments; he went on to become vice-president of marketing for the House of Seagram.

McCormick paid \$40,000 for the property, which included 23,400 square feet reaching down to the back yards of the houses fronting on Springfield Ave.

He then sold the property to Dr. Donald H. Wallace, an anaesthesiologist at McGill and the Montreal General Hospital, for \$78,000, in 1973. For whatever reason, the house was seized by the Quebec government in 1978 and sold to Gilbert "Gibby" Rosenberg, founder of the famous Gibby's Restaurant. Rosenberg died in 2018 and his wife, Soryl Shulman, still lives at the house.

Maxwell estate sells 184

Next door, at 184 Côte St. Antoine, the Maxwell estate sold the house with 2,029 square feet of land in October 1947 to Elsie Stedman, wife of Louis Marcel Lymburner, Jr., an industrial engineer and founder of Credit & Warehousing Corp., for \$7,000. They stayed there until 1960, when Mary Marcia Taggart, separated from John Gibb-Carsley, bought the house for \$20,750. She then married Hugh Balfour (Bunny) Glassford and they lived there until June 1978, when she sold to Martha Charlotte Fulford, divorced wife of Irwin Scott Disher.

The final buyers were Christopher Dunkley, an architect and artist, and his wife, Alison Sorbie, a student of Renaissance magic and astrology. They bought the house in August 2000, for \$390,000.

Four years later they gave a talk to the Westmount Historical Association about the life and times of Edward Maxwell, perhaps tying up the history of one of Westmount's most prominent architects.

The latest valuation roll shows a tax value for 184 Côte St. Antoine of \$1,148,000, while 188 Côte St. Antoine, with 2,156.6 square metres of land, is assessed at \$2,521,600.

No antiquarian book fair this year

"Another casualty of the coronavirus is this year's Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair, which has met its match in COVID-19," said a press release from organizers Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin February 19.

"Last year's fair, which took place on March 7, was, as far as we can tell, the last physical book fair to take place before the world as we bibliophiles know it shut down completely," he is quoted as saying.

The first Westmount fair was held in 1993 in Victoria Hall, and has moved a few times since, including several years at Selwyn House School, one year at Trinity Memorial Church in NDG and a few years at Dawson College, before settling in four years ago at the Centre Greene on Greene Ave.

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Return to Retail

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Petros – a Greek ‘rock’ in Westmount

has been more than faithful.

One menu – “small and simple, often offering the fresh fish of the day” – is offered weekly.

“As soon as it is ready, we quickly deliver it ourselves,” adds Gennaro. I chatted with Ted and Gennaro on a bitterly cold day with a Greek-blue sky.

*

Ted, how did you carry on during the lock-downs?

First and foremost, I would like to thank Westmounters for their support. As many times as we could, our way of showing appreciation was to include a little “thank-you” with the delivery, adding zucchini



Ted and Gennaro Dranias.

chips (a favourite, by the way!) or a dessert. During the lockdowns, obviously, we were open only for pick-up and delivery, which we did with staff – waiters and my son Gennaro. We take all orders by phone, so no one waits. Gennaro’s line is open 24/7.

(For those who passed by to pick up their order, in the pick-up area, formerly the large blue-and-white dining room, I noted tables featuring Petros’ olive oil – “often sold out!” – and other Greek delicious house specialties.)

What’s next?

We are very excited about the summer season! People from all over Montreal love our outdoor *terrace*. Sadly, we did have a noise complaint from a local person and had to pay \$1,500 in tickets last summer as we had entertainment for three to four hours outdoors.

(To me, “noise” is drilling cement, but our bouzouki music was becoming a big hit. Nearby neighbours actually started to party on their street! But I digress.)

We are already planning the front and side outdoor seating area as well as a private back *terrace*. Our decorative boxes of herbs –

rosemary, basil and mint – are constantly being pruned by our appreciative guests!

As I left the charming blue-and-white tiled entrance, I recalled my many dinners there. It is a BYOW (bring your own wine), so for those with their own wine cellars (you know who you are) or those who prefer to buy their wine, this is a much-loved part of Petros. Another? It is open seven days a week. And they also offer party platters. Indeed, what’s not to love?

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Westmount Lives

In memory of George Wall (1962-2020)

For over 30 years, George Wall enjoyed living, studying and working in Westmount. On November 9, 2020 George died, suddenly and totally unexpectedly.

George was both an English teacher and a jazz guitarist and so had many opportunities to make literary and musical contributions to the city's cultural life.

As a teacher, George gave lectures and courses in a wide variety of subjects, ranging from Shakespeare to the Beatles, from Puccini to Frank Sinatra. Attendees included members of both the Westmount Public and Atwater libraries, residents of Manoir Westmount and Place Kensington, as well as many life-long students at ENCORE.

As a jazz guitarist, sometimes partnering with Mark Reif on bass in Moondog Duo, sometimes performing solo, George entertained Westmounters on many occasions including Victoria village festivals, celebratory events at Victoria Hall, WCCM luncheons, jazz evenings at Scalini 11, his brother Wilder's photography vernissages, and, until recently, jazz afternoons every Wednesday at Leonidas chocolate shop on Victoria.

In 2018, George decided to take an early retirement from teaching high school to

have more time to focus on music – a luxury he had not had since studying at Concordia in the late 1990s. It seemed like a good idea.

As things turned out, it was much more than just a good idea. It was the absolute right thing to do and it could be, I think, described as a serendipitous decision, one that allowed George to spend the last two years of his life doing what he loved best.

In George's memory, the George L. B. Wall Prize in jazz guitar, which will be awarded annually, is being established at Concordia University. If you are interested in sharing a memory and/or if you would like further information on this award please contact dlbw2001@gmail.com.

Deanna Barwick Wall, mother of George
*

My name is Neil Smolar and for several years I was privileged to be George's private guitar teacher. I am broken-hearted about George's passing as I adored and respected him.

We had a very special relationship. He shared his passion for literature and gifted me one of his favourite books on William Blake. Though he studied music with me, I felt that I was on his journey.

I noticed that in all the heartfelt notices, his music and musicianship were always mentioned. A word about the music that George and I shared: I considered my years with George a privilege because he allowed me to teach him, he opened himself to the challenges set before him and granted me his trust.

Music and trust became our bond. Trust is essential because a musician that decides to study must leave the "old" behind, abandon previous knowledge and comfort zones and master new skills that seem for a long time unattainable. It's a perilous and frightening journey for all who enter. It's more than very hard work and practice – it's a hero's journey and takes courage. George succeeded and became, as friends and family noticed, a better musician and a beautiful guitar player. I am very proud of what he achieved and grateful to have been invited by him on his journey. He was a very special person. I am extremely sad at his passing.

My heartfelt condolences to his mother Deanna and his brother Wilder, his family and the friends who loved him.

With great affection for George,
Neil Smolar



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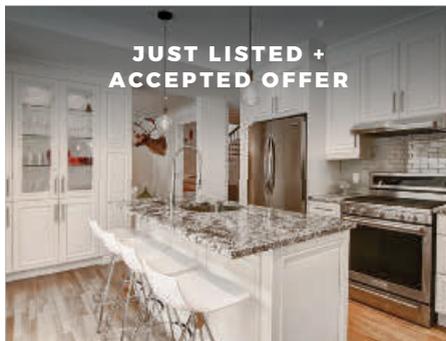
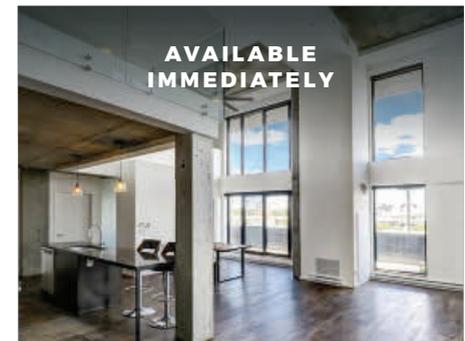
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