

## Public Security spots bat-swinging group

# Four receive 14 tickets for mayhem in Westmount Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public safety officer was patrolling by

## Remembering 1960s hockey

Westmounter Peter Molson recalls the era from 1964 to 1971 when he and his brothers owned the Canadiens.

See p. 15.



PHOTO: CRAIG CORMACK.

foot in Westmount Park at 1:05 am on May 9, when he heard four male voices coming from the centre of the park, according to Public Security officials.

On witnessing the four using a baseball bat to smash garbage and bottles, he called back-up officers as well as police.

### Tickets

Public Security issued three tickets each to all four for littering (leaving garbage in the public domain), possessing alcohol in a park and violating the city's parks curfew of midnight and 5 am, which has been in force for many years. Identified as all being in their 20s, two lived in Westmount; the others in Pierrefonds and Dollard des Ormeaux. When police arrived, they ticketed two of the four with breaking the COVID-19 curfew of 9:30 pm.

## The heat is on!



Westmounters were out enjoying 20-plus Celsius weather last weekend, including Anthea Dawson seen here jogging on May 15 at 8:20 on Sherbrooke near Melville, with her 10-month-old Havanese puppy Molly. Dawson aims for 5 km, four or five times a week.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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## Prohibits people from entering closed-off areas

# City adds COVID clause to nuisance by-law

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A draft by-law to amend the city's nuisance by-law received notice of motion at the city council meeting May 3 as a new business item added at the end of the agenda without details or comment. It was slated for adoption May 17 after press time.

The draft version, number 1572, modifies By-law 1475 on "Nuisances and Good Order" by adding to the listed nuisances: "to be present on city property that has been closed to public access and desig-

nated as such with a sign posted to this effect" (section 3.1.13).

The draft by-law is to prohibit people from going into public spaces that are closed off, according to Duncan Campbell, the city's interim director general.

"It is COVID-related, [such] as at Summit lookout where we have fenced off the area so there would be no one congregating. We did not have such authority to manage such situations under our current by-law so this provides us ..... the legal right to inter-

continued on p. 7



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# Groupe Maurice site expands westward



The contractors building the Groupe Maurice seniors' home at Claremont, St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve are renting part of the parking lot of the former Air Canada/Aeroplan building on de Maisonneuve from the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), which owns that building and lot. All three sites are in NDG, just west of its border with Westmount, and were photographed May 13. Looking southwest at the MUHC's Glen hospital from de Maisonneuve: the Groupe Maurice construction pit is in the foreground at left and the rented part of the parking lot is at right. The project is also renting a small piece of land nearby in Westmount on St. Catherine from CP.

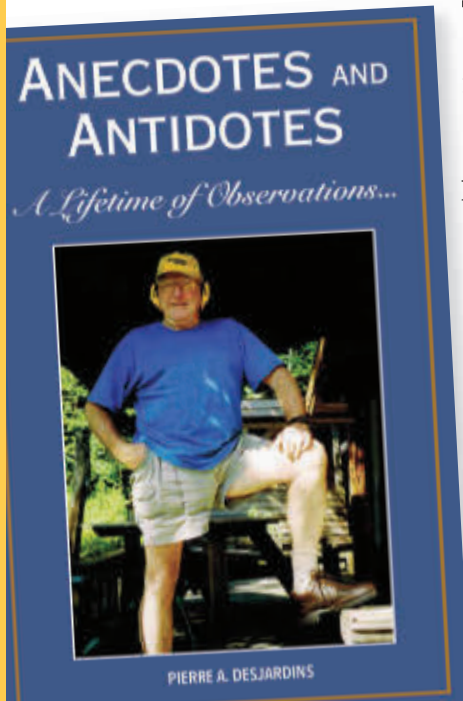
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

*Olympian, Atlantic sailor, businessman, Westmounter...*

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Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount et la Bibliothèque publique seront fermés **le lundi 24 mai 2021** en raison de la Journée nationale des patriotes.

**Il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures, qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.**

**VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY**

**Business Hours and Municipal Services**

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount and the Westmount Public Library will be closed **Monday, May 24, 2021**, for the Victoria Day holiday.

**The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.**

**westmount.org**



## Tickettee 'didn't care about the rules'

# Eight ticketed for climbing over Summit lookout fence



The fence cordoning off the Summit Lookout on May 14 at 3 pm.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Based on information received May 7 around 5:49 am by a Public Security dispatcher, patrollers found a man and three women had climbed the six-foot-high

## Work stopped when found not to be urgent

A passing patroller on Lansdowne May 11 spotted excavation material being loaded into a trailer and contacted the homeowner, Public Security officials said. When he was unable to produce a work permit, he stated the work was an emergency so could not be stopped.

Urban Planning dispatched an inspector, who reported the work was not on file and not urgent. It turned out the homeowner wanted to get a head start on proposed work, officials said.

metal fence closing off the Summit lookout at Summit Circle, a measure to prevent congregating during COVID.

The man was standing on the lookout's concrete wall, part of which is broken, said department officials in describing the incident.

When asked why he thought it was okay to climb the fence, the man reported he didn't care about the rules.

Each of the four was issued a \$78 ticket for climbing on a wall, tree, bench or other item in a park. This consists of a \$50 fine plus \$28 in administration fees. They lived in Côte St. Luc, Laval, Montreal and St. Leonard.

In an earlier incident April 27, four tickets for climbing the fence also were issued to four men at 4:08 pm. Another ticket was issued to one of them for smoking cannabis in the park.

The city's draft by-law prohibiting people from entering a closed-off area of public property was not in force at the time. It was tabled at the May 3 city council meeting (see separate story, p. 1).

## Homes checked, cleared for gas leak

Emergency crews were called to Metcalfe and Springfield May 11 at 10:34 am for a suspected natural gas leak. Fire crews stated that the odour came from a higher level than normal of sewer gas, Public Security officials said.

Homes in the area were checked but found without traces of gas. Public Works was called, checked out the situation and said they would attend to the sewer issue that night.

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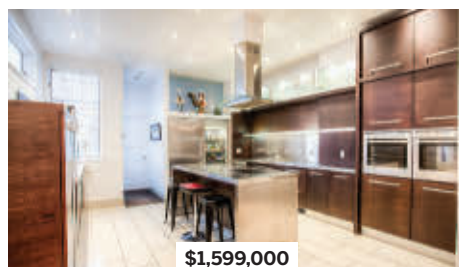
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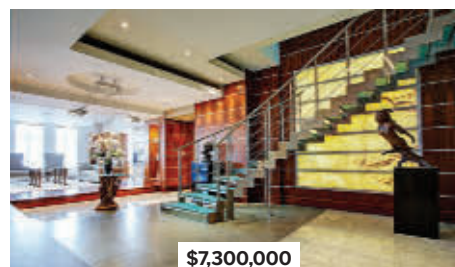
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Work to start May 27 on Mt. Stephen

## Mt. Stephen rebuild goes for \$2.9M to single bidder, which also wins Mt. Pleasant

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents of Mount Stephen are among those who'll be getting their street completely reconstructed this summer starting with the installation of a temporary water network this week.

The start of construction operations is to follow May 24.

### The work

The work includes replacement of the water main and public portion of water services to homes as well as reconstruction of Hydro Westmount's underground infrastructure, street lighting network and the installation of a bio-retention system for storm water management.

The work will be completed with the rebuilding of sidewalks and reconstruction of the roadway.

All is planned to take 22 weeks, lasting to October 15, according to Elisa Gaetano, Engineering director.

Information notices to residents dated May 7 include temporary parking permits for use should driveways become inaccessible.

ible.

Work on the street, which runs from Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine, was awarded by city council May 3 to Ventec Inc. at a maximum amount of \$2,853,669 including taxes. This was listed as the only conforming bidder.

"The street was first built in 1931" and last reconstructed in 1978 though the water main dates to 1904, said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, in announcing the contract. "This gives you an idea how overdue some of these projects are."

### Mt. Pleasant to start in August

Ventec was also awarded a contract May 3 for new sidewalks and asphalt resurfacing on Mount Pleasant between Severn and De Lavigne.

This time it was the lowest conforming bid of six, ranging from \$334,175 to \$677,651, including taxes. The street was built in 1913 and last reconstructed 25 years ago.

This project is not scheduled to start until August, Gaetano said.

## Essential workers – what would we do without them?



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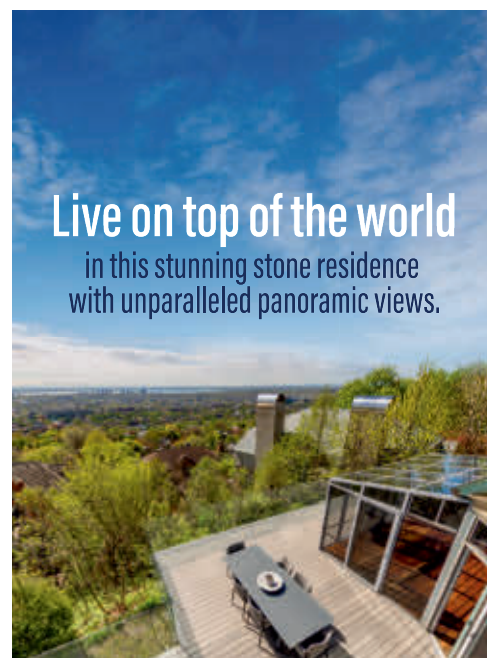
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WHY THE SQUIRREL HATRED?

Re: “Am I cute or what?” photo of squirrel (April 27, p. 3)

Westmount is in fact not a municipality that welcomes its squirrel population. See March 16, p. 19: “Squirrel feeding draws ire.”

It seems the only borough on the island without an anti-squirrel ordinance is Anjou. Why the squirrel hatred? Can anyone out there explain?

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

*Editor's reply:* Without endorsing or criticizing its content, I don't think Westmount's anti-squirrel-feeding by-law can accurately be described as anti-squirrel. The city's goal seems to be to keep the squirrel population from growing artificially (and perhaps from growing docile) as a result of human intervention, not to eradicate squirrels. In the lifespan of this newspaper, I have never heard of the city doing anything to even reduce their number, which might not be legal under provincial law anyway. It also wants to avoid, I suspect, food for squirrels attracting rats.— DP.

## PLEASE CONTINUE TO ALLOW WOOD FIRES

I would like to add my support to Westmount city council's decision permitting homeowners to use their wood-burning fireplaces, as well as to the excellent like-minded *Westmount Independent* editorial

on the same subject (April 20, p. 6). For 11 years while I owned a home with such a fireplace, I used it as frequently as I wished and over that duration only burned half of the cord of wood that I originally bought. I expect the small number of our local homeowners who enjoy their fireplaces also do not burn large quantities of wood. I never experienced the downdraft mentioned in an earlier letter to the editor, as the chimney drew strongly, and when there was no fire being burned (way over 99 percent of the time), the damper was shut and no drafts were perceived.

As council has observed, Westmount homes are not heated by wood. Occasional fireplace use is a treasured, aesthetic, soothing, cultural pleasure. Chestnuts on an open fire, anyone? Friends and family of mine have enjoyed wood fires well into their old age, with no evident health detriment.

Even those of us who are rightfully environmentally outspoken could perhaps lighten up on this infinitesimally small contribution to air pollution, in consideration of the happiness it brings.

DAVID FISH, METCALFE AVE.

## THE BOULEVARD IS OXYGEN FOR CITY'S TRAFFIC ISSUES

*Open letter to Mayor Christina Smith, Councillor Philip Cutler and four city officials*

Trucks are rolling through Westmount as we enter the beginning of the city-wide

heavy/intense construction season. These trucks are not solely destined for Westmount. They get on at Decarie and exit at Côte de Neiges.

I trust that you are going to do something to remedy this situation. How can you possibly say that you are taking traffic control and residents' quality of life seriously as this intolerable situation prevails for 10-plus years post-numerous traffic planning studies and forever-promises to address these issues?

The Boulevard is the oxygen that feeds traffic through Westmount and contributes to the intolerable volume of vehicles and danger on our roads, to say nothing of the air and noise pollution.

Does anyone at city hall realize that reducing and controlling the traffic on The Boulevard will go a long way to significantly improving the traffic volume in the entire neighborhood? That traffic was not addressed in the infamous Vision 2040 great urban update perhaps shows how disconnected the administration is from what truly concerns Westmount residents. It seems not a week goes by without someone writing a Letter to the Editor of the *Westmount Independent* to complain about the dangerous traffic and the state of our roads and sidewalks. Residents continue to write and the administration continues to ignore their concerns. Speeding cars, speeding Société de transport de Montréal (STM) buses and trucks, yet all we get is “people want us to invest in our parks” or “the roof is leaking at city hall” or “it's complicated.” Resources are dedicated to and available for the greenhouse, which few people use (we don't even grow Westmount's horticulture), exhaustive research for new windows at city hall, re-doing parks, which residents don't think is necessary – and the one issue that unites all residents, TRAFFIC, is given little attention and few resources.

A re-designed, traffic-constrained The Boulevard would significantly improve all residents' quality of life as well as their safety while simultaneously enhancing the beauty of a heritage neighbourhood. Now that would be visionary and truly transformational.

I will continue to write as it seems after a year and half of asking for some action the motto at city hall must be “Go slow, don't fix it.”

JANIS KRAUT, THE BOULEVARD

## CONTRA SOUFFLEUR À FEUILLES (3)

Quel plaisir de lire la lettre d'Elisabeth Robinson « contra leaf blowers (1) » (27 avril, p. 6) !

Car il n'y est pas seulement question du souffleur à feuilles, il est aussi question de la feuille elle-même. Une belle façon de nous questionner à son sujet: pourquoi est-elle si appréciée attachée à l'arbre et si déplaisante lorsque tombée au sol? Est-elle devenue inutile au pied de l'arbre?

Tout comme nous considérons maintenant notre compost comme une ressource et non plus comme un déchet, il conviendrait de faire évoluer nos mentalités. Avec un peu d'observation et d'anticonformisme, chacun peut trouver une façon de laisser des feuilles se composter « localement » et enrichir la terre de son jardin.

Avec l'amical soutien d'un collectif de vers de terre, d'insectes et d'oiseaux,

BARBARA ROUBERT, RUE METCALFE

## CONTRA LEAF BLOWERS (4)

What a relief to be joined by Elisabeth Robinson and Stephen Chin in my forever-battle against gasoline-powered leaf (and snow) blowers (April 27, p. 6 & 7 letters). It is good to have allies. My last public venting on this matter, tongue firmly in cheek, was in 2018 (March 20, p. 6).

I mostly agree with what my colleagues have written (except, perhaps, the supposed medical harms listed by Mr. Chin). Notwithstanding, the evidence is such that there can be no doubt these evil devices must be banned. Not after another year, but immediately.

The downside to banning these unnecessary gasoline-powered devices is the loss of income by contractors. However, if they were to use rakes and shovels, they could pass the added time on to their employers. I need caution Westmounters who resent the noise, fumes and other hazards generated by these machines not to expect a quick response unless they are prepared to speak more forcefully. I wrote about these three years ago. Subsequently, I suggested substituting electric units. This too fell on deaf ears (not helped, of course, by the sound from the gasoline engines).

Somehow Westmount still is unable to act on this problem. Yet, as Ms. Robinson points out, other municipalities have banned gasoline-powered units. And I add, some have even managed to enforce prohibitions forbidding contractors from distributing leaves and snow on the roadway where they pose dangers. In Westmount, unless these offenses are witnessed by Public Security officers, no action is taken. This issue is not a game: it is a significant health problem.

Here we are, three plus years and counting. Join the “contras” and make your voices heard.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

# 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

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### Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138  
office@westmountindependent.com

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONTRA LEAF BLOWERS (5)

I would like to add my voice to the many residents of Westmount who object to the noise pollution created by gasoline-powered leaf blowers. In the past, landscape gardeners have objected to this proposed action being taken, decrying the prohibitive cost of replacing their existing equipment. These complaints should not come before the growing complaints of residents. Electric blowers, which use rechargeable lithium batteries, are a do-able and affordable solution.

This problem is about so much more than noise pollution, and there are dramatic statistics to support this point. In fact, these leaf blowers create more air pollution than cars. Research shows that the two-stroke engines in gasoline leaf blowers release 300 times the levels of hydrocarbons as vehicles on the road. Running a blower for one hour is equivalent to the pollutants released by driving a car for 1,100 miles. If we multiply that by the thirty days currently permitted in the spring, the results are unacceptable.

According to a 2011 "Emissions Test" published on edmunds.com:

"The 2011 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor packs a 411-horsepower 6.2-liter V8, weighs more than 6,200 pounds and has the aerodynamics of Mount Rushmore.

"You'd have to drive a Raptor 235 miles – stopping every 505 seconds and doing cold re-starts – to emit the same level of hydrocarbons as simply idling the two-stroke leaf blower for less than 10 minutes.

"To equal the hydrocarbon emissions of about a half-hour of yard work with this two-stroke leaf blower, you'd have to drive a Raptor for 3,887 miles, or the distance from northern Texas to Anchorage, Alaska."

For Westmount to delay the banning of these machines any longer is an embarrassment.

CATHERINE HOWICK, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### PRO ATWATER LIBRARY (1)

Re: "Atwater Library continues to press city for added funding." April 27, p. 9.

I was one of three "representatives" requesting additional funding for the At-

*By-law, cont'd. from p. 1*

vene."

The city has asked Public Security to pay special attention to the summit area, which has been attracting many people (see separate stories, p. 3 and p. 19). While penalties for most offences under the existing By-law 1475 are for "at least \$100" plus applicable costs, the new draft by-law does not indicate any exception for the new offence.

water Library at city council on April 19. In fact, I am a supporter of the library and am not acting in an official capacity.

I was floored by the unfairness displayed by the mayor and council with regard to the library's annual subsidy – not overwhelming by any stretch of the imagination. The issue at stake is the drop by 28 percent compared to 2018 in allocating a supporting grant. The library is still providing the same services that Westmount does not provide, notably with regard to computer training courses for all ages. This protocol of the city funding the library for specific services has served very well.

The library has a very tight budget and so it is disconcerting to see its allocation reduced during COVID times. Councillor Jeff Shamie is opposed to handing out "municipal dollars to charitable organizations." Regrettably, Jeff doesn't parse the difference between a relief charity that operates with no strings attached versus a supporting grant provided in exchange for services to the community. Councillor Lulham is "disappointed by the library's com-

ments decrying the lack of support," when in fact, the issue is the cutback in support level at a critical juncture. It is not fair to skate past the real issue.

Mayor Smith "would encourage them [the library] to provide data on the number of [Westmount] users." How so? By having a checker count Westmounters attending lectures and meetings, taking courses (including those offered by the Quebec Writers' Federation), borrowing books, or simply going in to browse?

This ungenerous bean counting is couched in the coded phrase: "the library serves a large territory outside of Westmount." Yes, perhaps, but the library is a viable, historic institution situated within our community.

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### PRO ATWATER LIBRARY (2)

This is to support the request that the city of Westmount reconsider its current policy regarding financial aid to the Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

The library provides Westmounters

with much more than just computer courses. Having attended many of its weekly Lunchtime Sessions over the years, dealing with a great variety of subjects, I can attest that very many fellow-Westmounters regularly attend those weekly events, which are held at mid-day, a time more convenient to the seniors who comprise most the audience. In addition, the library's catalogue features books on subjects not available at other libraries.

Rather than seeking new organizations to fund, surely the city should give priority to an institution based here for a century, which continues to render such valuable service to the Westmount population.

At the very least, the city should consider increasing its 2021 grant to the library to an amount equal to the municipal tax increase that resulted from installing the elevator.

That long-awaited improvement makes the library's premises yet more accessible and inviting, especially to seniors, including so many Westmount residents.

MAURA McKEON, CLARKE AVE.

### Police Report

## Woman, 79, sent to hospital after falling while aboard bus

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A 79-year-old woman who was a passenger aboard a Société de transport de Montréal (STM) bus heading southward on Claremont Ave. last week had to be transported to hospital by paramedics after falling suddenly when the driver came to an abrupt stop.

According to an account of the incident at 12:35 pm on May 11 given to police by the driver of the bus, the vehicle was passing cautiously near the corner of Chesterfield Ave., as the street was partly obstructed because of construction taking place nearby.

When a car unexpectedly came through,



said the bus driver, he had no choice but to slam on the brakes, causing the elderly passenger, who was standing and about to get off at the next stop, to suddenly fall.

Since the woman was elderly, the police officers who responded to the scene decided it would be best to call Urgences Santé to transport her by ambulance to hospital to undergo an examination for possible injuries, said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

◀ A southbound STM bus navigates around a double-parked taxi on Claremont between Chesterfield and Sherbrooke on May 17, six days after an accident involving a passenger inside a similar bus.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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**Councillor's  
column**

**KATHLEEN KEZ  
DISTRICT 8**

*Editor's note: The second half of this column was omitted from last week's issue (p. 6) due to a "cut and paste" error by me. I apologize. Here is the whole column afresh. – DP.*

The city of Westmount's financial statements were once again audited by the firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and a "clear opinion" was given. There were no discrepancies found and the financial results present an accurate picture of the city's financial position as at December 31, 2020.

The firm evaluated fraud and risk, as well as reviewed internal controls in accordance with public sector accounting standards. Fortunately, the audit confirmed that we are in a very healthy financial position.

I am pleased to report that, as at December 31, 2020, Westmount was in a net financial asset position, meaning its financial assets were higher than its financial liabilities by \$31 million, an increase of \$7 million over the previous year. The total net worth of the city, if we include non-financial assets (buildings, sewers, machinery, equipment etc.) is \$218 million

# Financially where we stand

compared to \$205 million in 2019.

The audited statements confirmed an operating surplus of \$9.7 million, which is very close to what was originally projected last fall in the amount of \$8.5 million. The surplus was mainly the result of two extraordinary items that could not have been anticipated. The first being an unexpected increase of \$5.7 million in transfer duties (the sale of the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment complex alone amassed an amount of \$3.8 million) over budget and the second being a provincial grant amounting to \$4.2 million to help reduce the financial impact of the pandemic for 2020 and 2021.

Had it not been for these two revenue items, we would be finding ourselves in a deficit situation of roughly \$200,000. Regarding deficits, in general, as municipalities cannot carry a deficit from one year to the next, it would have to be made up the following year with a balanced budget by either increasing revenues or cutting expenses or a combination of both.

**Pandemic decreases some revenue items**

Aside from the revenue increases mentioned, there were some notable revenue decreases resulting from the pandemic. Pay-by-plate and parking permit revenues

decreased by \$978,000, ticket and fine revenues decreased by \$831,000 and recreational and library revenues decreased by \$1 million compared to budgeted amounts.

Total departmental expenditures came to a total of \$13.3 million whereas the budgeted amount was \$14.8 million. This favourable variance can be largely attributed to Public Works where spending was \$1.1 million less than budgeted.

Public Works expenditures were less because of lower spending on snow removal operations, less vehicle repair and maintenance, and lower-than-expected overall recycling and waste management costs.

Though there were favourable variances in other departments, they were offset somewhat by an increase in expenses related to Public Security, Engineering, Urban Planning and COVID-related costs (\$540,000).

Regarding Hydro Westmount, the decrease in gross revenue amounting to \$3.1 million was mainly a result of a decrease in consumption of electricity by commercial customers as their occupancy was relatively low due to the pandemic. This decrease was somewhat offset by a decrease in overall expenses amounting to \$2.6 million in large part due to less Hydro-Québec purchases (\$2.1 million).

The municipal pay-as-you-go was \$11 million lower than budgeted and the use of our appropriated surplus was \$8.9 million lower than originally planned as some of our capital works projects (road reconstruction on Sunnyside, green house, city hall exterior project, garage yards etc.) were postponed and will be completed over a two-year period for pandemic-related reasons.

As at December 31, 2020, the total accumulated surplus was \$37 million and, of this amount, \$27.6 million is appropriated for various projects.

The financial report and the auditor's report have been tabled by the treasurer and have been forwarded to the Ministère des affaires municipales et de l'habitation. The 2020 financial statement is available on the city's website for consultation.

Looking back at the past year with all the challenges the COVID pandemic has posed, Westmount remains in excellent financial health, however with the looming agglomeration budget for 2022, council will have to be judicious in its use of any surplus to weather future storms.

Moving forward, in addition to continuously evaluating the impact of COVID on our 2021 operating budget, we have begun the process of planning for the 2022 capital and operating budgets.

I look forward to sharing with you more information as it becomes available.

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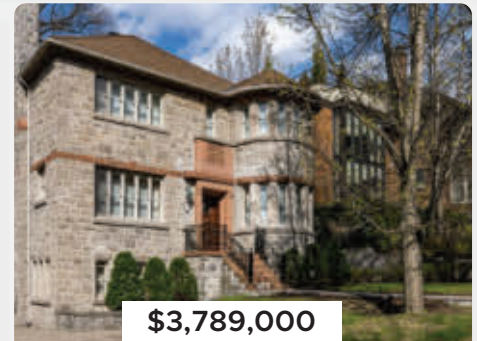
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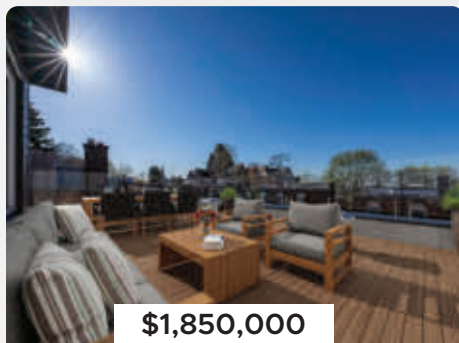
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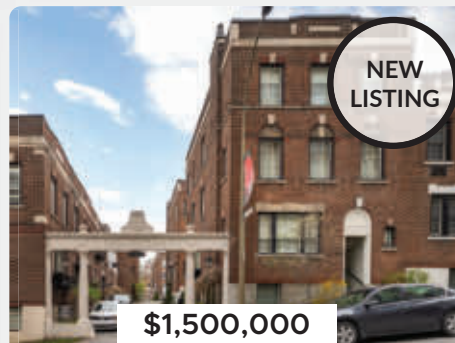
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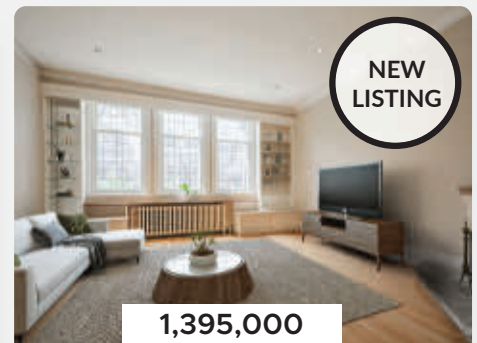
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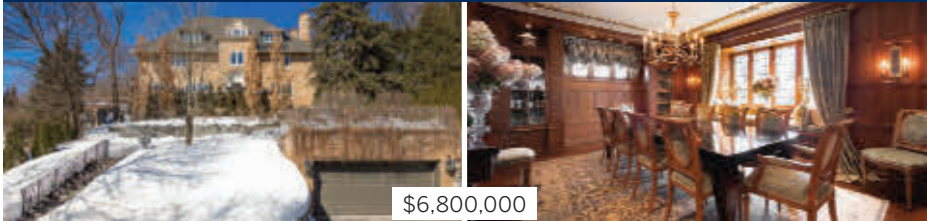


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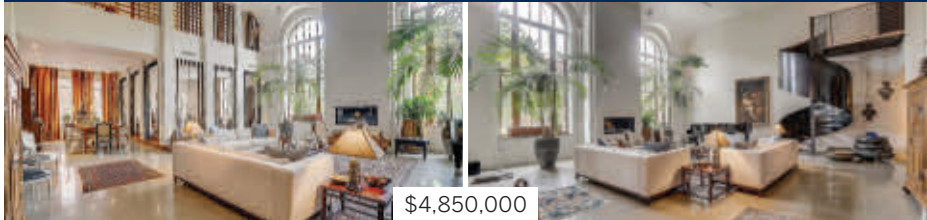


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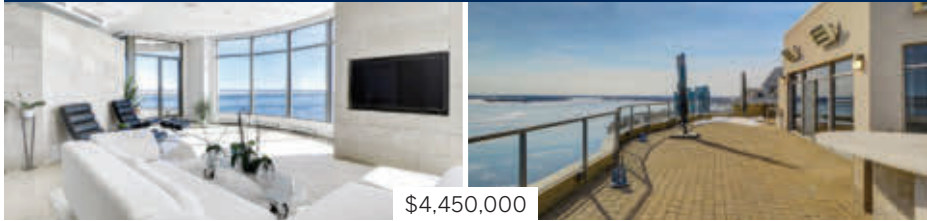


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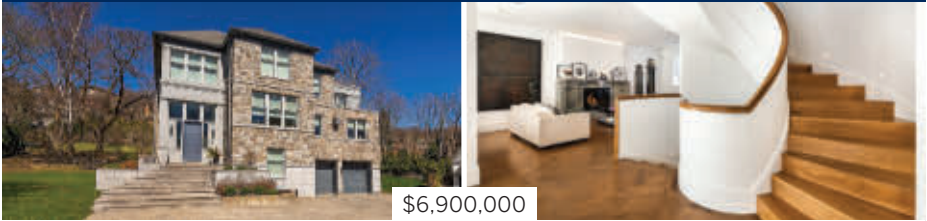


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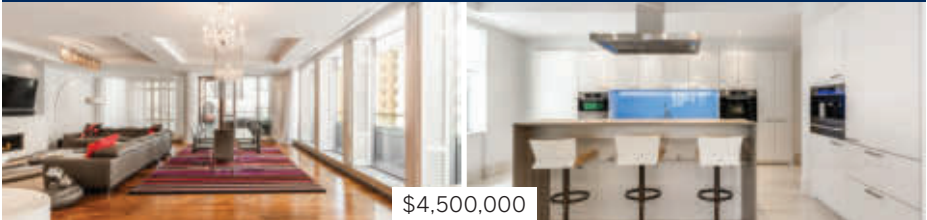


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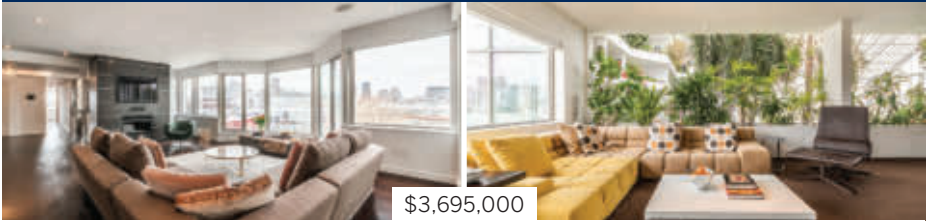


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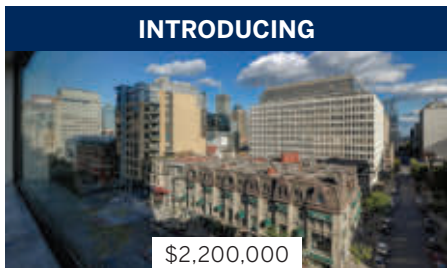


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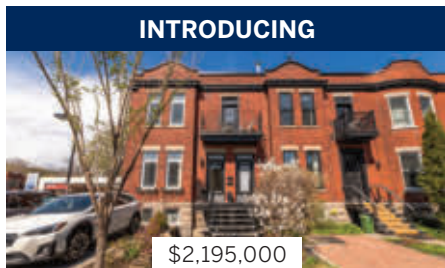


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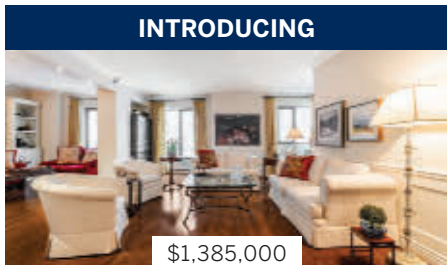


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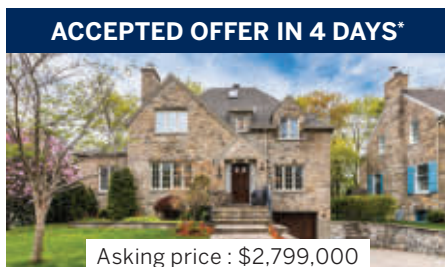


**PRICE REDUCTION**

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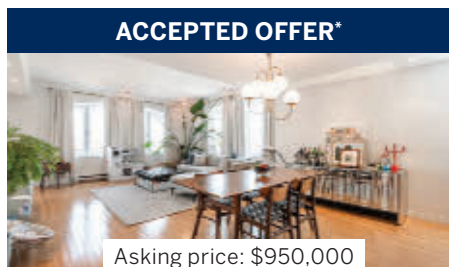


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## Cleghorn publishes Marjorie's Journey

# Marnoch took 10 children to South Africa to avoid World War II England

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Imagine shepherding 10 children under 7 on a dangerous journey through the waters of the Atlantic during World War II from Scotland to South Africa to set up a refuge for them until most could be reunited with their parents after the war.

Anyone who has travelled alone with two or three young children in tow might relate to what could appear to have been an impossible mission undertaken by Marjorie Marnoch, a Montessori-trained educator.

In her first "biographical memoir" – *Marjorie's Journey: On a Mission of Her Own* – Westmounter Ailie Cleghorn relates the challenges involved, starting with a train trip from the south of England to Glasgow. This was regarded in 1940 as a safer departure point for the group's ocean liner, the *Winchester Castle*.



Ailie Cleghorn in Pretoria, taken two years ago on one of her trips to South Africa, "when we could still travel." PHOTO COURTESY OF A. CLEGHORN.

The story tells of evening blackouts aboard the train and then how the ship zig-zagged its way south in hair-raising attempts to shake off German U-boats. It relates the challenges of setting up a home for the children, whose number grew to 18, settling them at a public school near Cape Town where the language of instruction was Afrikaans, and then returning to post-war England.

These were children of professionals working in the colonies at a time when it was customary for them to be left in the care of others during their parents' posting.

"This turned into one of the most interesting but challenging chapters in my own research history," explains Cleghorn, a comparative sociologist in education now retired from Concordia. "A bigger challenge for me was switching from academic writing to telling a story."

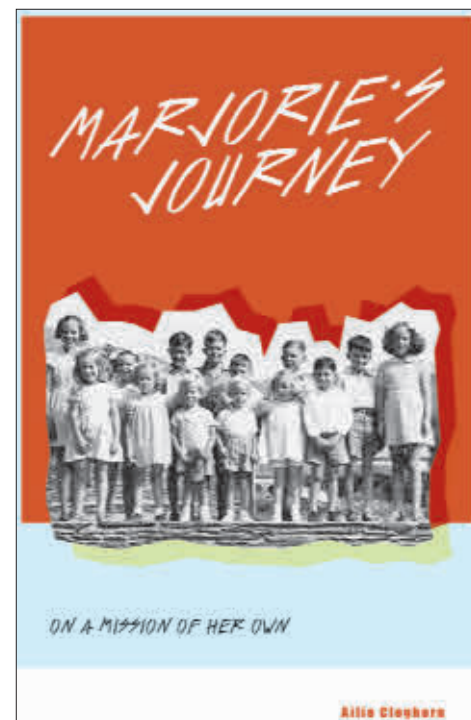
It involved tracking down missing pieces of the record, such as the name of the ocean liner they took.

### 28-page letter

It also led Cleghorn to various research sources, from the National Archives at Kew in England to information in Cape Town as well as handwritten letters, especially a 28-pager from Marjorie in 1980 to "Sandy" who had been a nine-month-old baby on the voyage.

She also managed to meet with some of the surviving children, now in their 80s, and collected many photos, some of which are reproduced in the book. Throughout the story she refers to the children, and even Marjorie, by first names only "to protect the privacy" of those she was unable to contact directly for permission.

The research coincided with some of Cleghorn's own academic work in parts of



Her book: *Marjorie's Journey: On a Mission of Her Own*.

Africa. It was also driven by a personal mission to find out more about Marnoch, who was her mother's cousin whom she met occasionally while visiting her grandmother in Aberdeen, Scotland.

As a fulltime faculty member at Concordia from 1989 until retirement in 2021, Cleghorn's focus was on African school studies, beginning in Kenya then moving on to Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia.

The book was launched in February by Scotland Street Press in Edinburgh and is available by reservation at Westmount Public Library and by order through Amazon and Indigo. Cleghorn, who grew up in Westmount, attended Roslyn and Westmount High and raised her own three children here.

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## Hockey Night in Montreal

# Interview with Peter Molson, Canadiens co-owner (1964-1971)

BY CRAIG CORMACK

Throughout the 1960s, the Montreal Canadiens were a red, white and blue juggernaut rolling over all opposition. They dominated the Big Six so much that Montreal's administration had a standing plan for a Stanley Cup parade and reception at the city hall.

When Montreal hosted Expo '67, a special stand was erected in anticipation of yet another Stanley Cup. Sadly, this was foiled by the Toronto Maple Leafs' victory, beating the Canadiens 3-2 in the final game of that series.

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Westmounter Peter Molson twice. He, along with his brothers William and David, took over the helm of the Canadiens as owners in 1964, and from then until 1971 presided over no fewer than five Stanley Cups, quite an accomplishment if not a team record. Here is what he had to say.

**Can you describe the feeling of what it was like to be with the organization at the time?**

There was a real sort of a family atmosphere and a buzz that was quite incredible, and the Forum in those days, I think we seated 16,000 at that time. We had restaurants there and the atmosphere was great. We also had the Alouette steakhouse right across the street, where a lot of the players liked to eat. I personally loved the Clover Café, where they served great oysters. This was also a fan favourite.

**Did you have fun travelling by train with the team in the pre-expansion years?**

Everybody was close because of travelling by train. The players got to know each other well. They passed the time playing cards – yeah, playing cards was the big thing in those days. We had all of the comforts, minus television and telephones, but we had radio.

I remember when we beat Detroit for the Stanley Cup in 1966, we had quite the celebration. We took a special train equipped with dining and sleeping cars from there to Montreal through Toronto, and there was a gang on the platform in Toronto. The fans knew it was our train and they came out to cheer, and then we arrived in Montreal to quite the celebration. It was really something. Then we all dispersed and went home, and the next night we had a team dinner at the Queen Elizabeth for the presentations of different cups.

**You mentioned about travelling by train to away games. Did you make many trips by train personally with**

**the team?**

Well, there were only six cities at that time. I accompanied the team a lot. We used to use the same train cars. My brothers and I did miss some games that were away, but we were always there for the important games and all the playoff games.

**Were they CN train cars?**

Yes.

**Did you have any practical jokes on the team?**

Sure, some of the guys would set newspapers and shoes up with matches. The newspapers would go up and we would have a laugh. Also, another prank included inserting matches between the shoe and the sole for a joke called "the hot foot"!

**What did the team do with down time?**

Between games, there would be the time you played and the time you were waiting to play. You had your steak dinner, but before, you're mostly sitting in the lobby reading. On the train, you couldn't really call anybody either because we didn't have cell phones in those days.

The guys could have anything they wanted to eat on the train between cities, but we didn't allow them to drink alcohol before games. After the games, some of the guys would enjoy a beer or two. Before games, we had a curfew and the boys would have to be in bed by a certain time. If they broke curfew, they would find themselves in trouble. If the guys were in another city, we would spend maybe a day and night in the city before playing a game, you know, so there was chance to relax a bit and then take a little tour.

**How was the transition from train travel to flying after the league expansion in 1967?**

I guess when the first expansion happened there were a couple of players who were afraid to fly but they flew because they had to, because that was the only way you could travel to far-away cities. They had to white-knuckle it a bit. And Sam Pollock, our general manager, hated flying and he hired a driver to drive him to far away games. Eventually he had to fly too.

**Who were some of the better-known players you had playing for the team in those days?**

Peter and Frank Mahovlich, Jean Béliveau, Yvon Cournoyer, John Ferguson, Henri Richard, Gump Worsley, Charlie Hodge, Terry Harper, and in the later years we brought up Guy Lafleur from Quebec. Gainey and Robinson came up after we sold the team.



Peter Molson at home on May 5.

**Did Doug Harvey play for you?**

No. Doug Harvey played in the 1950s before we took over the team. He was a great player.

**Who were some of the coaches that you worked with?**

For the first couple of years, we had Toe Blake, then Claude Ruel, and then Al MacNeil at the end.

**What do you think is the biggest difference between hockey players in those days and present time and today?**

Well, today it's the money. There seemed to be more loyalty in the teams in those days, in that players didn't jump around. They played with their hearts. Money wasn't everything. It was the pride of being a member of the Canadiens.

**Yes, I heard that players in those days had jobs in the off-season because they didn't have the salaries players have today. Was that the case?**

Some of the players worked in the brewery; some in public relations for us in the off-season. One of the players in public relations was Maurice Richard.

**What was Maurice Richard like? My grandfather told me he worked with him at the Angus Shops at the CPR back in the 1940s. My grandfather said he was a quiet and nice man.**

Maurice was very much contained. He was a loner, a lone wolf. He was a great guy, but he had a hell of temper. He was independent minded. I remember one time the Canadiens' office calling him because he hadn't reported in for work in public relations that day. We called him and he said he was busy cutting his grass! (*Laughter.*)

**What else was different about the players then from now?**

Well, the players were smaller in those days.

**What about the speed of the game?**

Well, the game was fast in those days too, but it is obviously faster today due to the training and the equipment being lighter as well.

**Do you think the game has changed in that the way it is played, more defensive, more offensive?**

I don't think so, I think it is pretty much the same. It hasn't changed much in that way.

**Do you think that there is less rough stuff and goonery today?**

There was a lot of that in the old days, fighting, of course, and the referees like Red Storey used to have real run-ins with the crowd that didn't always agree with his calls. He was a tough referee. He used to use his fingers and point .....  
at the players who were *continued on p. 17*





# infoWESTMOUNT

2021.05.18 • Vol. 2/10  
Publié par la Ville de Westmount  
Published by the City of Westmount

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DU CONSEIL

Lundi 7 juin



## Taxes foncières : premier versement exigible le 27 mai

Les dates limites pour les versements 2021 de l'impôt foncier ont été reportées au **27 mai** et au **26 août**. Veuillez noter que l'Hôtel de Ville demeure fermé au public. Visitez **westmount.org** pour connaître toutes les options de paiement.

**Bureaux municipaux fermés le 24 mai**  
Les bureaux de la Ville seront fermés le lundi 24 mai en raison de la Journée nationale des patriotes. Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures auront lieu selon l'horaire habituel.

**Retour des espaces publics éphémères**  
Après le succès de l'an dernier, les aménagements estivaux seront de retour dans le Village Victoria et le Quartier Greene. **westmount.org**

**Station de recharge d'eau dans le parc**  
La station d'eau en libre-service est de retour au parc Westmount. Remplissez vos bouteilles à l'aide du distributeur sans contact.

**Parc Prince-Albert : aire de jeux fermée**  
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**Bois Summit : chiens en laisse**  
**D'ici le 15 juin**, les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au bois Summit.

**Voie ferrée : remplacement de rails**  
Le Chemin de fer CP effectue des travaux de remplacement de vieux rails du lundi au jeudi, entre 9 h et 14 h 30. **westmount.org**

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>



## Property taxes : first installment due May 27

The 2021 deadlines for property taxes were postponed to **May 27** and **August 26**. Please note that City Hall remains closed to the public. Visit **westmount.org** for more information on all the payment options.

**Municipal offices closed May 24**  
The City's offices will be closed Monday, May 24 for the Victoria Day holiday. The food waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

**Temporary public spaces back**  
After the success of last year, the summer installations will return to Victoria Village and Quartier Greene. **westmount.org**

**Water station in the park**  
The self-serve water station is back in Westmount Park. Fill your water bottles using the contact-free dispenser.

**Prince Albert Park: play area closed**  
The new play area remains closed until after the required weather conditions occur that will ensure the proper installation and curing of the safety surface. Thank you for your understanding. **westmount.org**

**Summit Woods: dogs on leash**  
**Until June 15**, dogs in Summit Woods must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES. **westmount.org**

**Railway: replacement of rails**  
CP Rail is carrying out work to replace old rails Monday to Thursday between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. **westmount.org**

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

**Artisans Westmount : invitation**  
Les artisans sont invités à soumettre leur proposition pour l'édition 2021 du salon Artisans Westmount, prévu pour les 13 et 14 novembre. Visitez **westmount.org** pour plus d'informations et pour soumettre en ligne.

**Service de cueillette sans contact**  
Réservez vos items en ligne ou par courriel; vous aurez 3 jours pour les ramasser. Horaire :  
Lundi et mercredi : 13 h à 17 h  
Mardi et jeudi : 13 h à 19 h  
Vendredi : 10 h à 17 h.

**Service de recommandations de livres**  
Remplissez le formulaire en ligne pour recevoir une liste de livres recommandés. **westlib.org**

**Bibliothèque de semences**  
Faites une demande en ligne ou par téléphone et venez récupérer vos semences gratuites à la Bibliothèque. Plus de 50 variétés de plantes, dont des variétés patrimoniales. **westlib.org**

**L'heure du conte en ligne**  
Découvrez des contes racontés par notre personnel à **youtube.com/bibliowestmount**.

**Musique au gré des saisons (0-6 ans)**  
**Jeudi 20 mai**, sur YouTube. Avec Alison Notkin.

**STEAM challenge avec Dawn of imagination**  
**Jeudi 20 mai, 16 h 30 à 17 h 30**, sur Zoom. Les enfants, travaillant en équipe avec leurs familles, relèvent des défis qui nécessitent ingéniosité et connaissances scientifiques. Inscription requise. **westlib.org**

**Les marionnettes s'amuse**  
**Vendredi 21 mai**, sur YouTube. Créé et interprété par Jesse Stong. (En anglais).

**Summertime and the knitting is easy : Atelier de tricot virtuel**  
**Mercredi 26 mai, 13 h**, sur Zoom. Un atelier en compagnie d'Arlene Lund, qui présentera des projets de tricot adaptés à la saison estivale. (En anglais). Inscription requise. **westlib.org**

## LIBRARY

**Artisans Westmount: invitation**  
Artisans are invited to apply for the 2021 edition of Artisans Westmount, scheduled to take place November 13 & 14. For details and to apply online, visit **westmount.org**.

**Contactless pickup service**  
Reserve items online or by email; you will have 3 days to pick up your items. Pickup schedule:  
Monday and Wednesday: 1-5 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday: 1-7 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Book recommendation service**  
Fill out an online form to receive a list of recommended books. **westlib.org**

**Seed Library pickup service**  
Make a request online or by phone and pick up your free seeds at the Library. Choose from more than 50 varieties of plants, including heritage varieties. **westlib.org**

**Storytime online**  
Listen to stories read by Library personnel at **youtube.com/bibliowestmount**.

**Music by the season (0-6 yrs)**  
**Thursday, May 20**, on YouTube. With Alison Notkin.

**STEAM challenge with Dawn of imagination**  
**Thursday, May 20, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**, on Zoom. Children work with family members to solve a mystery challenge using their ingenuity and science knowledge. Registration required. **westlib.org**

**Silly Story Sammy Puppet Show**  
**Friday, May 21**, on YouTube. Created and performed by Jesse Stong.

**Summertime and the knitting is easy: virtual knitting workshop**  
**Wednesday, May 26, 1 p.m.**, on Zoom. Join Arlene Lund on an exploration of summer-friendly knitting ideas. Registration required. **westlib.org**



**Molson, cont'd. from p. 15**

going off for a penalty. Red knew how to control the game and to do this he had to be tough.

**Did you know Andy Van Hellemond?**

Yes, I met Andy. He came up as a ref in the late 1960s. He was good and tough too.

**Speaking of rough stuff, my dad witnessed the famous fight between John Ferguson and Eric Nesterenko in 1965. Did you see that fight and what is your comment on Fergie?**

Fergie was a very tough guy. He had hands the size of meat hooks. I'm telling you, man, they were huge and there was no fooling around with him. He didn't play around in a fight. He went right to business, dropped the gloves, and went for the knockout.

As far as the Nesterenko fight, I never saw anything quite like that! Nesterenko was a real antagonist and he met his match with Ferguson.

**What did Fergie say after the game?**

Not much, he wasn't a talker. He did his job and that was it!

**The same thing happened with Kent Douglas in Toronto?**

Oh yeah, he didn't fool around.

**I saw something in *Hockey Magazine* about Gordie Howe and Howe kind of challenged Fergie, and he stopped and sprayed Fergie with some snow, and Fergie didn't take the bait?**

Gordie was a tough guy too! But they never got together.

**Did you see Howe play a lot?**

For sure.

**Did you meet him too?**

I think I met him once or twice when he was coming into the Forum with the team.

**What was he like?**

He didn't talk much. But he was a nice guy. The same with Bobby Orr, he was a nice guy and quiet and he could handle himself if things got rough.

**What was your role with the Canadiens?**

Well, my role was to help my brother do his duties with things like public relations. My brother was president of the Canadiens, which involved all kinds of things.

**Did you divide up your roles with your brothers?**

Yes, we did.

**Are your brothers still around?**

No, they have both passed on. My brother David died about five to six years ago and Bill about 10 years ago. He was a lot older than we were. There was seven years difference between my brother David and me.

**Do you remember any of the players****having major injuries?**

We had a player [Lou Fontinato] who came up from the Rangers before we took over as owners. He went into the boards and he broke his neck. We saw all kinds of injuries with cuts and pucks hitting people.

**I guess some of the players lost their teeth?**

Most of the players didn't have any teeth.

**Do you remember when Guy Lafleur came up?**

He played for us. We drafted him. I remember him at the Queen Elizabeth, and they had the draft meetings and I remember when Sam Pollock picked Guy Lafleur and he was a nice fellow to talk to. I remember most of the guys wore pretty long hair in those days.

**What about Gainey and Robinson?**

They came up after we sold the team. We had excellent defencemen in our time in Serge Savard and Terry Harper who played defence together.

**I remember hearing that the Canadiens fans were hard on Terry Harper.**

It was very difficult. I mean how would you like to be playing and getting booed by our own fans and they had to put up with that because they were professionals.

**What are your memories of Jean Béliveau? I heard Mr. Béliveau was very generous with his autograph and he had a wonderful penmanship?**

Jean Béliveau, I knew very well. He was really looked up to by all of the players and he was such a gentleman and a nice person, and the players really respected him as the captain. He didn't have a temper, but if he was antagonized, he could handle himself. He was tough. He was a big guy.

Yes, and he worked for the brewery. He was a special representative for us. He went to functions for Molson and he represented for the Canadiens as well. They wanted him to be governor general at one time and he would have made a great one too. He was a brilliant hockey player to watch. He played one year for us.

We used to go to the Forum, my brothers and I, and we would have a little lunch, then we would go for a skate and play a little hockey, play a little shinny. Sometimes the boys would come out and play too. Béliveau being one of them.

**Here is a list of some of the players who played for you. Maybe you could share some memories.****Ralph Backstrom**

Ralph was a very good hockey player and a very nice guy, and he was fairly quiet and a nice guy.

**He just died this year at 81 and he****died from COVID-19?**

I am really sorry to hear that.

**I remember seeing Henri Richard playing with some old time NHL players at the Verdun Auditorium and they were playing some guys from the *Gazette* and it was fun to watch.**

It was very sad what happened to Henri with his developing Alzheimer's and all. He was a beautiful skater, very aggressive and he was a great defensive player as well.

**My dad told me that Maurice was a blue line in guy.**

Yeah, he was always cruising around looking for an opening, not doing a lot of work. But he could put the puck in the net, and he had a hell of a backhand shot.

Red Berenson was only with us a short time and then he went to St. Louis.

Dick Duff came from Toronto. Very nice guy and a good hockey player. Hard worker.

Terry Harper was a hard worker and a very good defensive player.

Ted Harris was a darn good defenceman.

Charlie Hodge was an older player. He backed up the Gumper [Gump Worsley].

Jacques Laperrière was a very good defenceman.

Claude Larose was a good defensive player.

**Did most of these guys come up from your farm clubs?**

We had the Voyageurs who played in the senior league. So, we had a lot of players come up from that league.

Noel Picard was a big tough defenceman. No one played around with those guys. They were tough.

**I guess the Gumper really had a great defence in front of him?**

Yes, that's for sure.

**In those days, would the defencemen take out players trying to hog the crease in front of the net?**

Oh yeah, no question about that. The game has toned down a lot. You don't see the fighting that you used to see.

Claude Provost was a great defensive player. He used to bug Bobby Hull. Toe Blake used to put him on Bobby Hull, and he would never leave him alone.

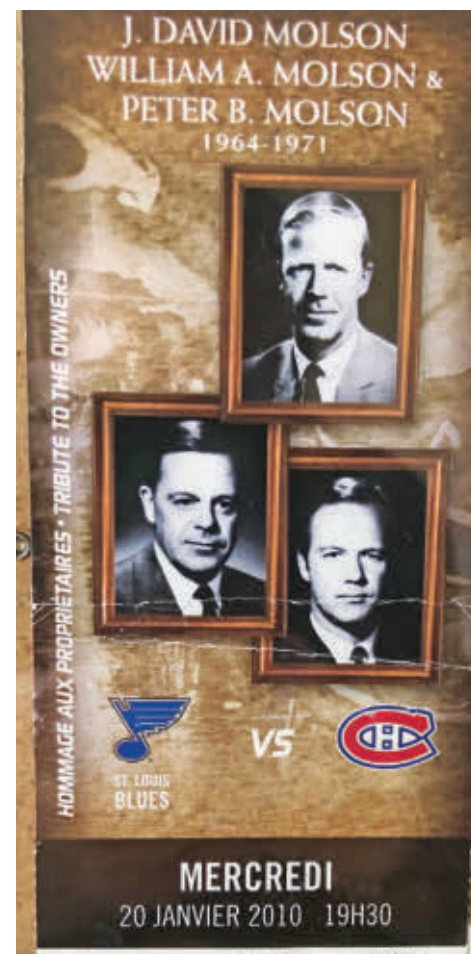
Henri Richard, fast skater.

Jimmy Roberts, great penalty killer.

Bobby Rousseau, he scored five goals in one game.

Jean Guy Talbot, great player.

Gump was Gump. He had a bar out in Pointe Claire. He liked his Seagram's VO. He was the only guy on the team we allowed to smoke. He was a nervous guy and sometimes he would take himself out of the game if his jitters got the better of him.



A "Tribute to the owners" on January 20, 2010.

**Was there still trading that went on?**

Much less trading than today. I remember drafts especially Guy Lafleur. It was a lot harder to make it because we had fewer teams. So, the talent was great. Sam Pollock had a lot of connections. He could get things done on the quiet and no one knew what was happening until it got done.

**What happened. Why did you guys get out of the business?**

My brothers and I decided to leave the hockey business behind because of two things. The WHA [World Hockey Association] had just started up and they poached many of the good players from the teams. Also, the political climate in Quebec in those days had become charged and we became uncomfortable so we decided to sell the team.

**What's your favourite memory of your time with the club? Do you have a specific one?**

They're all good memories. There is not one particular memory that stands out to me, but it was all just a great experience, something that very few people experience, you know, especially being on the train with the winning team. So, it is not the same at all today, nothing can compare to hockey in the 1960s.

*Remarks have been slightly edited for flow and clarity.*

# Classes + Workshops for the 60+

Check out our website at  
**www.contactivitycentre.org**  
for details about these online activities.

*Some courses have tiny fees or you need to be a member (\$20 a year). Many are free for all!*

## Young at Heart GROOVE:

Join a fun and empowering dance fitness class.

## Making Healthy Habits Inevitable

how to improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle

## Mindful Breathing Course:

ancient science of yogic “pranayama” to nourish body, mind and soul.

Free sample class June 1 at 9:30.

## The Environment, Climate Change and You:

4-part empowering series with Climate Justice Montreal. Starts this week!

## Birdwatching Workshops: workshop series

(back by popular demand).

## Workshop on Ageism

with Daphne Naimiash, McGill Centre for Studies on Aging

## A Musical Tour of Britain

complete with knowledgeable and engaging tour guide.

## “Craft and Chat” Virtual Get-Together:

Company while you’re crafting!

## Fraud Prevention Online Workshops:

with SPVM Community liaison Officer Adalbert Pimentel.

Register online at **www.contactivitycentre.org** or if you want to join in by phone, call our Outreach worker

Fiona Smith at 438-920-3460.

**In English: 1:00 PM Thursday May 27**

**In French: 11:00 AM Thursday June 17**

## Contactivity’s Westmount Seniors Resource Guide – COVID edition

Access this super useful guide on our website or by calling our Outreach worker **Fiona at 438-920-3460.**

And you can also call for referrals to local services.

**Volunteer Services** If you are a senior who is self-isolating and you need help with grocery shopping, call our grocery volunteer coordinator **Clare 438-699-9927.** Also, seniors who will need a lift for their vaccine booster shot can call that same number.

**CONTACTIVITY CENTRE**

**4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd W.**

Westmount, corner Lansdowne

**514 932-2326 | contactivitycentre.org**



Contactivity  
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Programmes et services pour les aînés  
Programs and services for seniors



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Onyx is a superstar! He is in a foster home for Gerdy’s Rescues & Adoptions at



## Onyx – game of fetch?

the moment and most often found with a ball in his mouth. He is playful, athletic, easy going, affectionate and smart.

Onyx is ready for a dynamic family that can keep him busy as well as schedule cuddle time with him on the sofa. Onyx would also be very happy if his new family had another young, active small dog to run zoomies with in a fenced backyard. Neighbourhood walks for sniffing and socializing are also high on his wish list. Treat-motivated, he is a quick learner and loves the stimulation of training time.

Onyx is just two years young and weighs 8.5 lbs. He is vaccinated, neutered and microchipped. He does well with most dogs that he meets, is too excited around cats to live with them and best with children who are a bit older. If you would enjoy bringing Onyx into your family, please do not hesitate to contact the dedicated volunteers at Gerdy’s Rescues & Adoptions at their email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Elegant, aqua Henri

followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

Monsieur Henri, so elegant yet adorable in his affectionate ways. An extraordinary Siamese, with the two tones of white and grey, which contrast with his huge aqua-blue eyes. Henri is a house cat as he is to be cuddled by his adoptive family!

He is healthy at four years young, but he has a heart murmur that makes him a candidate for a quieter lifestyle in an adult home environment. He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Henri is available for adoption now from the Montreal SPCA cattery and he would love to be placed with a loving family, which would receive a humanitarian, reduced adoption fee.

Please refer to his identification number 47649682 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and fill out the adoption application for him on the attached link. Once submitted, you will then be contacted for a telephone interview,





# Judge Davis tells Rotarians about his work on the Superior Court

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Family law is at times the most challenging part of a judge's work, Quebec Superior Court Justice Tom Davis told members of the Rotary Club of Westmount during their weekly online webcast on May 5.

"I think in family law, sometimes we see the best of people, but sometimes we see the worst as well," said the long-time Westmount resident.

"And that's understandable in a sense because people are going through a difficult time. But sometimes you wonder whether the resources that are being used in a family matter couldn't be better spent on the children, for example."

From 1983 to 2011, Davis was a lawyer with the Montreal law firm Borden Ladner Gervais.

He has also been a lecturer in employment law at the McGill University faculty of law and is the husband of former city councillor Rosalind Davis. He was appointed a judge of the Quebec Superior Court in 2011.

Davis said the court's jurisdictions include civil matters involving sums greater than \$85,000, family matters (except adoptions and youth protection), bankruptcies, injunctions and criminal jury trials.

He said he has over the years dealt with all of these, except for bankruptcy (which he is not interested in) and criminal jury trials (which require judges who are specialists).

Among the cases he was dealing with in April were a complex divorce, a lawsuit

by some sub-contracting suppliers against Bombardier and its Learjet subsidiary, and a lawsuit brought by a group of dentists against their insurer, which had declined to execute on a business interruption policy following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Davis' work also requires him to deal with cases in some regions outside Montreal, he has lately also been overseeing a legal matter involving a claim made by members of a Métis community, who maintain they have indigenous rights on some lake-side land in Labelle north of Montreal that the Quebec government is trying to evict them from.

"If I am sometimes in a place like, say, Sorel or Valleyfield, where the court doesn't sit every day like you do here, and I happen to be the senior judge, I may hear up to 20 cases in the same day," he said, while adding that more complex cases may require all his attention for weeks at a time.

He said that typically over a year, Superior Court judges sit in court 110 days, with the rest of their time taken up with deliberations, writing judgments and managing files.

Rotary of Westmount president Jim Fares asked Davis what led him to become a judge.

Davis suggested that after several decades of employment law practice, he needed a change. He closed with the following remarks.

"I think that the one thing that you have to try to remember as a judge, you know, is you're just a person like everybody else," he said.

"I mean, you're solving some problems that people have and you have a certain expertise that sometimes they don't have. But, you know, we're just citizens like everybody else. I think if we can remember that, we're probably better judges."



Thomas Davis of the Superior Court of Quebec, seen here on May 5, explained some of the aspects of his work to members of the Rotary Club of Westmount during their weekly webcast.

## Contractor issued \$1,300 fine

Public Security was called by city engineers on discovering a large amount of gravel had been dumped on the sidewalk on Belmont north of Westmount Ave. and was being moved by a small tractor across the street to where it was to be used.

Public Security officials said no permit was found to allow the contractor to occupy the public domain and a statement of offence for \$1,300 was reported sent to the company.

## Parks cadets covering Summit Woods

Additional weekend patrolling of Summit Woods is being provided by the city parks cadets who were switched from their original winter duties on the toboggan hill at King George (Murray) Park, Public Security director Greg McBain said. The cadets are police technology students who work Friday, Saturday and Sunday. "They're doing a great job enforcing dogs on leash and have been very visible," he explained.

## LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

### Help Wanted – Sales

Looking for a part-time sales associate. Must be bilingual with some experience in women's retail. Come to Collange with your C.V!

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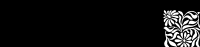
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ROSS BROWN,  
MARGARET GUNDARA,  
LAWRENCE MYSAK

The article “Reducing our carbon footprint: every action counts!” in the October 15, 2019 *Westmount Independent* (p. 9) laid out the consequences of each of our individual daily actions in reducing, or augmenting, our carbon footprint, and how these habits might be altered for the benefit of our planet.

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# Lack of urgency, quantification in city’s response to climate crisis

Now for the other half of this equation – the essential leadership and participation of governments at every level to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Recent scientific evidence indicates that global GHG emissions need to be cut by 7 to 8 percent per year over the next three decades to limit climate warming to below 1.5°C and the associated risks to the planet.

To put this in context, the annual emission reductions required are about the same magnitude as the decreases that occurred in response to the COVID pandemic.

(Incidentally, this decrease of about 7 percent in global emissions had little impact on the concentrations of GHG in the atmosphere because of the inertia in the earth system and the time it takes for the atmosphere, land and oceans to absorb carbon emissions. The latest data show atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, the main GHG, continuing its upward trend through 2020-2021.)

Westmounters clearly recognize the importance of the city playing its part in reducing emissions with 91 percent of respondents to the recent Imagine West-

mount 2040 survey indicating the city’s GHG reduction targets were important (35 percent) or very important (56 percent).

Following the September 2019 Climate Change March, Mayor Smith declared that Westmount would accelerate its efforts in areas where it can act as a municipality (*Independent*, October 8, 2019, p. 5).

So where are we now almost two years later?

Questioned about progress in reducing the city’s carbon footprint at the March 15 council meeting, the mayor responded that “we have many small initiatives that are adding up.”

### Where are we?

So what exactly are the many small initiatives and what do they add up to? Councillor Brzeski provided the following examples of ongoing city initiatives contributing to lower GHG emissions: LEED certification of buildings, a new electric boiler for the library, electrification of vehicles, installation of electric vehicle charging stations, tree planting, promotion of bicycle transportation, reduction of organic waste going to landfill, and the inclusion

of environmental sustainability considerations in the city’s contract management by-law.

However, there is no evidence the city has any carbon budgeting process in place to evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives, and to determine if Westmount is doing its part to meet the agglomeration emission reduction targets laid out in the *Montreal Climate Plan 2030*.

It is encouraging to see the city taking positive steps to reduce carbon emissions, and the “climate test” mechanism contained in the Montreal Climate Plan will provide a basis for evaluating the climate impact of decisions moving forward.

However, this will take several years to implement, and does not provide a comprehensive strategy for evaluating the city’s carbon budget. Westmount has an opportunity here to reiterate its environmental leadership by implementing a carbon-neutral certification process to provide a framework for assessing the city’s carbon budget and for determining the effectiveness of emission reduction actions.

It’s time for Westmount to act now – we owe it to future generations.

## YOUR JUNK CAN HELP OTHERS!

I can often find new users for household items, including furniture, clean beds, bedding, clothes, kitchenware and appliances. Please send a picture (due to the small size of the recipients’ apartments).

### Method 1 – If you can wait

Tell me about the items and hold on until I find a recipient and delivery method.

### Method 2 – Bring things to me

Tell me about the items and, if they suit, you can bring them to my Westmount apartment building for interim storage.

This is an individual initiative. No organization, no staff. A heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped.

**Viviane Agia • [agia@videotron.ca](mailto:agia@videotron.ca)**

## JOSEPH MAROVITCH

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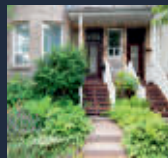


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## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Filion steps up for Right to Play

the house. Our goal is to raise \$1 for every kilometer taken.”

It’s not just Montreal involved in this fun project. There are virtual Sole to Soul walks throughout the world.

Evan Dunfee, Olympic race walker, is the Canadian ambassador, and gives registrants helpful tips and tricks on race walking. (Sounds good to me! That’s an exercise I need to help me move my feet in tennis!)

### Steps lead to stories

Madison explained that as participants reach milestones on their way to 100 km, the Sole to Soul Step-A-Thon will reveal remarkable stories about Right to Play children and kilometers they have to travel for simple, everyday tasks.

The fun stepping starts May 25 and runs (as it were!) until June 4.

But Madison pointed out that Early Bird (i.e. now!) registrations means participation in Early Bird Playtime with Evan Dunfee, as well as the possibility to win great prizes.

See [p2p.onecause.com/soletosoul](https://p2p.onecause.com/soletosoul) for information, email [playmakers@rightto play.com](mailto:playmakers@rightto play.com) or follow them on Instagram [@righttoplay.playmakers](https://www.instagram.com/righttoplay.playmakers).



Madison Brooke Filion on May 7 in Westmount Park.

### Right to Play

“This organization reaches over 11.2 million children in 15 countries. Play empowers children with confidence and knowledge they need to rise above adversity and become positive forces of change,” she explained as we chatted in Westmount Park.

The event is for all, kids and adults alike, and suggests stepping an average of 10 kilometers a day for 10 days.

“This can include biking, walking for pleasure, jogging, going shopping, walking to school or to the library, or simply around

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Images taken from the Montreal Camera Club's online invitation.



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*Art Scene*

HEATHER BLACK

On April 19, New York street photographer Phil Penman presented his work online to members of the Montreal Camera Club.

Initially known for celebrity portraits, Penman's more recent work captures New York's street theatre and pandemic reality. His striking images – primarily in black and white – reveal a mastery of technique and a strong sense of design.

**People watching**

The presentation – entitled *Street Photography: The man who shoots everything and anything* – include images of the rich and famous.

Paris Hilton is photographed from behind as she walks towards a line of photographers. Photographed through a car window, Ozzie Osborne is captured the moment a woman – also taking his photo – is reflected in the glass. These dynamic images reveal Penman's creative edge – interesting subjects taken from unusual angles.

His photographs also reveal New York City's street theatre. A woman wearing a

# Phil Penman: Drama and documentation

long dress and astronaut helmet is the subject of "Spacewoman NYC." Other images include dogs in costume or a mariachi band in Soho. In one street portrait, a grizzled New Yorker wears a straw hat covered with stars similar to those on the American flag.

Other images are elegant design compositions. In "Katz's Deli, Houston Street, New York," a woman and a man under umbrellas pass each other in the rain. Bold in black and white, dramatic lighting reveals Penman's signature style. An image of a pedestrian crossing a street lined with multiple red traffic lights, "Snow on Madison Avenue," captures – in colour – the scene's atmospheric beauty.

**Timely record**

Dramatic scenes of the September 11 collapse of the Twin Towers are also within Penman's oeuvre. Two figures – their faces marred by smoke and ash – struggle to walk along a debris-littered street. Another taken inside a shop captures the dazed and concerned expressions of those who made it to safety.

Recent images of New York during the pandemic reveal shuttered shops and 5th Avenue devoid of pedestrians. Another –

an interior view of an empty ferry with the Statue of Liberty framed in the window – signals both hope and helplessness. At a time where many lost jobs and homes, a portrait of a smiling man living under a bridge reveals a resilient – and proud – spirit.

Penman's gift is his ability to see past the story to the individual. His work frequently conveys a sense of humanity and, at times, humour. One subject – with amusing signs asking for a handout – appears in several photographs. Following the presentation, the photographer answered the members' many questions – from subject permission to techniques for shooting on cold, snowy days.

**Increased opportunity**

Penman's Webex presentation – a collaboration between the Montreal Camera Club (MCC) and the Lakeshore Camera Club – was organized by MCC program co-chair and Westmounter Diana Bruno. She commented: "The silver lining in the COVID cloud is that it got us to think outside the box and to team up with the other Montreal English-speaking camera club to share speakers and other online activities for 2020-2021."



**Charles Pearo**  
Ph.D.  
Real Estate Broker  
cpearo@yahoo.com

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