

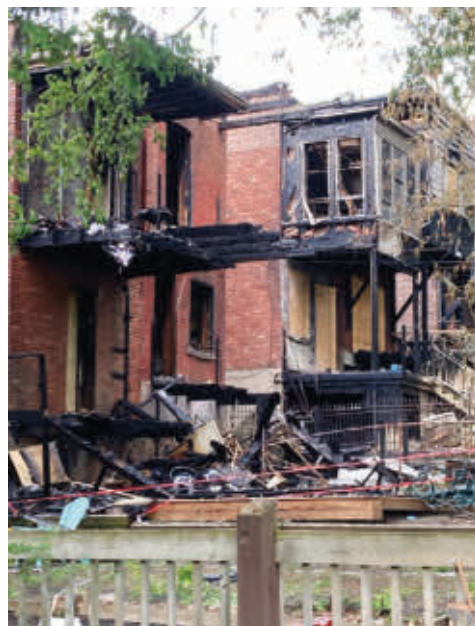
WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 15 No. 6a

We are Westmount

June 1, 2021

Two more fires break out in Westmount



Left, firefighters attacked this Highway 720 sweeper fire May 25 from Westmount's Public Works yard, which is accessed from Bethune St. south of the Westmount recreation centre. Right, on May 21, a fire broke out on Victoria. See stories on p. 10. Last week (p. 1), a vehicle caught fire and spread to a house on The Boulevard.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

Only Lulham a definitive 'no'

Mayor, four councillors express intent to run again

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Looking ahead to the November 7 election, Mayor Christina Smith and most of the current councillors appear ready to run again in their respective districts – as far as they know at this time.

Almost all told the *Independent* last week that it was too far ahead to officially declare their candidacies though District 7 councillor Cynthia Lulham has already announced she will not seek re-election after 25-plus years.

Yes – Mayor Christina Smith, who is serving her first four-year term as mayor, said her intention is to run again. “We have begun working on some significant initiatives in urban planning and infrastructure investment, both of which have been somewhat derailed by the pandemic. There are

still huge challenges ahead in roadwork and updating processes to be more responsive to residents. So there is a lot of work to be done.”

Yes – Anitra Bostock (District 1), commissioner of Public Security, said that it was “so early in the game. But I do plan on running though I won’t start campaigning yet.”

Maybe – Philip Cutler (District 2), commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, said: “I really enjoy serving Westmount, but I haven’t made a decision yet about this year’s election. I’m taking the next little while to consider options.” It would be his third term on council.

Yes – Jeff Shamie (District 3), commissioner of administration, said he was “very, very serious about seeking another term and I feel I continued on p. 9

Dolphins getting one hour for training

Pool readied to open June 14 under last year’s rules

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Until, and unless, the government lifts some of the current COVID restrictions for this summer, the city is focusing on opening the pool June 14 under the same procedures as last year, according to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

With repair work completed, and the pool now painted, “we’re planning on


maintaining last year’s status quo as long as the rules remain,” he said last week. This involves a reduced capacity of 75 users at a time and by reservation.


“This year, however, we’re offering an hour a day to the Dolphins swim team first thing in the morning for training, since there won’t be any competitions this year.”

Outdoor fitness in Westmount Park, like last year, is expected to start July 1.



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Woman builds shelter near Atwater



A woman has set up this home in the alley between the Atwater Library and St. Catherine St., as seen May 20.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

City renews partnership with WRC's teen centre

Teen Zone opens its COVID doors to limited numbers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council renewed its partnership agreement May 17 with the Westmount YMCA for operation of the Teen Zone at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) that re-opened the last week of March to limited numbers.

"It's been doing its best online during the pandemic," said Councillor Mary Gallery in presenting the resolution to provide for the city's 2021 financial contribution of \$53,773.

This is to be paid in two equal installments, the first payable June 15 followed

by the second on July 15.

Under the partnership agreement approved April 8, 2014, the centre is managed by the Y to combine city resources with the Y's expertise and track record of operating teen zones across Canada (see story February 11, 2014).

While it continues to provide online advice intervention during COVID, it is now allowed to accommodate by reservation up to four at a time on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 3 to 6 pm, according to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe. Numbers are expected to increase as government regulations are eased.

3 ticketed at lookout for jumping fence

When the city's security camera at Summit lookout captured three people climbing over the fence May 22 into the barred-off area at the wall, public safety officers were dispatched to the scene at 7 pm.

Three men in their 20s were issued \$78 tickets, Public Security officials said.

One was identified as living in Outremont; the other two in Montreal.

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Pet Page, p. 22

Dodge on November real estate transfers, p. 19

Rotary speaker: climate activist Lou Collin, p. 23

Social Notes: Silverstone-Segal goes blonde!, p. 25



infoWestmount, p. 21



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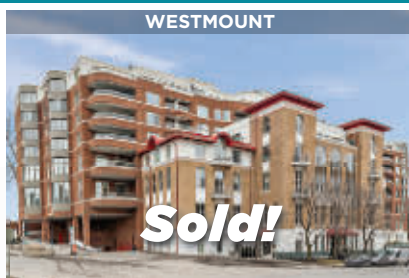
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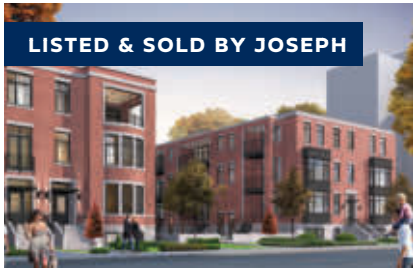
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EDITORIAL

Thank you, Lebeau

I would like to thank Paul at Lebeau Vitres d'autos NDG (6270 St. Jacques, at Madison, 514.489.8221) for some great, selfless follow-up. I was looking for a gizmo for my car and having a tough time finding any garage that had it.

Paul told me that he did not have it either, but said he would call me back if he found out who did. He did not know me and I have not (yet) been a client at Lebeau, but he called a few days later with the information anyway.

Thank you, Paul. You and Lebeau are assets to the West End.

Best wishes to new CHOM morning team

I would like to extend best wishes and good luck to the new CHOM morning team. If you can emulate the now-retired "Tootall," who introduced the music, but never himself, you may tap into new pools of listeners.

(If you can do anything about all the Rush, that would be appreciated too. Our content overlords in Ottawa want CanCon, we know, but there are other Canadian bands and not everyone likes to listen to songs that sound like a computer is singing them.) – DP

WHY WERE PROTEST PERMITS GRANTED? WHAT ABOUT AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR?

There were demonstrations outside the Israeli consulate in Westmount Square May 15, May 18, May 22, May 24 and May 29. Noisy crowds assembled on Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St., accompanied by a very large police presence from Station 12. Apparently, there was a fear of escalation. It was understood that these were not peaceful crowds and that the consulate needed to be protected. On May 15, a large glass window on a building facing Wood was cracked.

There are three synagogues in the area. The police have confirmed that they have observed a "wave of hatred towards the Jewish community in the metropolis."

A little difficult to know exactly why permits were granted for these demonstrations in a time of COVID. They attracted a large number of people who don't live here, and there was little masking or social distancing. The May 15 crowd was estimated at 2,000. For much of that afternoon, folks in cars drove aggressively around the area loudly honking car horns. This is a residential neighbourhood. A friend, neither a Jew nor a Zionist, who lives in a building on Sherbrooke St. found the honking upsetting and intimidating, and was afraid to leave her building for her daily walk in the nice weather. No police

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

response to the honking.

On May 22, men and women heading to the demonstration walking three and four abreast on Greene Ave. sidewalks, wouldn't allow anyone to pass. People didn't feel comfortable going out to stores.

Westmount mayor Christina Smith, concerned for the security of Westmount residents, was unable to secure the cooperation of Mayor Valerie Plante's police force.

Let us recall that Mayor Plante refused to follow through on her commitment to take concrete action in the fight against anti-Semitism by adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

THANK YOU, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WESTMOUNT HYDRO

On Friday night May 21, we were evacuated from our homes while a fire raged a few doors from us. The five-alarm fire pulled crews from other areas and their efforts saved many homes even though six were badly damaged.

We are all very grateful to them and to the fact that no one was harmed.

Power was shut off to Victoria and Grosvenor homes due to this, and even before the fire crews had finished collecting their gear, the Westmount Hydro crew was there assessing the situation and getting to work. They quickly disconnected the damaged lines and restored power to the rest of the homes. We rarely appreciate the dedication of the Hydro crews who work in difficult weather, conditions and hazards to keep us lit. A heartfelt thank-you.

RON BENVENISTE, VICTORIA AVE.

THANK YOU, FIRE DEPARTMENT, FOR VISIT

I wish to thank and acknowledge our wonderful [agglomeration of Montreal] fire department, whose firefighters continuously serve our residents with professionalism and courtesy.

They arrived at my door today, as they are in the process of verifying smoke detectors, in response to a recent fire on Vic-

toria. Thank you kindly!

Be well. Stay safe.

D. BACKMAN, WINDSOR AVE.

THANK YOU, PETER MOLSON, FOR CANADIENS' MEMORIES

Thank you, Peter Molson, for spinning the nostalgia dial and taking readers back to the halcyon era of the Canadiens hockey team in Montreal.

Craig Cormack's Q&A with Mr. Molson, (May 18, p. 15), a co-owner of the Habs with his brothers from 1964-71, was a singular treat to read; in the background, one could hear the legendary Danny Gallivan calling the play-by-play, a slapshot or a thrilling breakaway that swept in a winning goal. And it wasn't hard to summon the "happy motoring" ditty of *Hockey Night in Canada* sponsor Esso, the lyrics of which are likely tattooed on many a boomer's brain.

For a few minutes on a beautiful day in May, I got to return, if only in my head, to a time slipping farther away in the rear-view mirror.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

SECOND COVID VACCINE SHOT?

Open letter to provincial legislator

Jennifer Maccarone

How very discouraging! My second shot was due May 24 at 11:10 am. That was cancelled, and re-scheduled for June 24 at 11:10 am.

Now that too has been cancelled!

I and many other seniors may never receive our second shots.

Thank you for your concern.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

Reply from Jennifer Maccarone: Thank you for your correspondence and for sharing your concerns regarding your second dose vaccination appointment.

We understand your dismay and frustration with this situation. Your first dose appointment was initially rescheduled because the Government of Québec changed the protocol from a three-month to a four-month delay between first and second COVID-19 vaccine doses.

For your revised second dose appointment, unfortunately our CIUSSS-du-Centre-Ouest-de-l'île-de-Montréal confirmed they will no longer administer second doses at the CLSC Metro as originally anticipated. You may now call Service Québec at 514.644.4545 to modify your appointment time and vaccination location.

It was also announced yesterday that you may be able to make an earlier appointment than your current June 24 date. We will most certainly keep you updated on any information we receive on this matter.

continued on p. 7

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We hope this has answered your questions. If you have any issues rescheduling your appointment, please contact our office as it our pleasure to assist you.

YES, WE HATE SQUIRRELS!

The editor has denied David Levy's claim that Westmounters are anti-squirrel (May 18, p. 6). I can speak for no one but us, but we hate squirrels.

If we put out a bird feeder, they eat almost all of it. On good years, they eat only 90 percent of our cherries. In the fall, our garden is littered with apples with one or two bites. We no longer have tulips in our garden, since they ate the buds just before they opened. If we plant bulbs or transplant flowers, we have to protect them from being eaten for weeks afterwards.

Some years ago, we needed renovations when a family of squirrels gnawed a hole in the wood structure and nested in the ceiling.

We have no (printable) words to describe those whose violation of the anti-feeding by-law includes throwing peanuts into our garden.

ARTHUR YELON, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.



Love 'em or hate 'em, squirrels do amazing things, like balancing this apple on a telephone line between Victoria and Prince Albert in October 2009.

PHOTO: DAVID PRICE.

CONTRA LEAF BLOWERS (6)/ PRO COVID RULES

I was so pleased to read all the letters against the gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

I am a person who wakes up slowly. In the mornings, I take my dogs for a walk through Westmount Park and wake up to the sounds of the birds. The past couple of weekends, however, around 7 or 7:30 am, I awoke to the sound and smell of the leaf blower both Saturday and Sunday mornings. It was being used to move the sand off the concrete in the playground. Pre-

viously, the workers would use the wide brooms to do this.

Westmount Park used to be such a peaceful place to walk. Nowadays, time is spent dodging the bikes, scooters, skateboards and those Kubota utility vehicles [used by the city for gardening material *et cetera*]. Many times I have had to side-step with the dogs to dodge these. And they go through the park several times a day. They are both noisy and smelly.

Whatever happened to the wheel barrow that used to go around the park?

On another note, why is Public Security only doing rounds at night? I have yet to see anyone during the day. Over the weekend, the weather was beautiful. So, of course, the park was crowded. There were groups of about 20 people, no masks, no distancing. No security in sight. Has COVID disappeared and nobody told me about it?

I understand the need for getting together, but this is not helping. Even though Westmount's numbers are relatively smaller than many districts, they are still climbing. On May 3, there had been 695 cases since the beginning. On May 17, there had been 716 cases. These numbers are only for Westmount. cultmtl.com/2021/05/montreal-covid-19-numbers-cases-by-neighborhood/. Please follow the health guidelines, for everyone's sake.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

PRO ATWATER LIBRARY (3)

The *Westmount Independent* ran an article April 27 (p. 9) with the headline "Atwater Library continues to press city for added funding," the reality being that our annual supporting grant for 2021 was unexpectedly reduced by 30 percent, about \$12,000 from the 2020 level, an unexpected and serious loss to us. No prior warning for the cut was provided, other than Mayor Smith's observation that the city is not in the business of philanthropy. The city's generous financial support for well over 25 years is nonetheless recognition by previous councils and the current one that we are important to the city's residents.

The Atwater Library is a not-for-profit organization with its main business being the delivery of important services and programs to Westmounters (estimated in our 2021 grant application at 30 percent) as well as to the wider Montreal community. As did Contactivity during the pandemic, we pivoted quickly, as our grant application to the city outlined, and maintained in difficult circumstances almost 100 percent of our pre-pandemic offerings online, a boon and important cost-free support to our

many users in Westmount.

The article refers to the funding question asked by our board member Richard Conrad and related questions from two other concerned Westmounters – not "representatives of the Atwater Library and Computer Centre" – but gives scant coverage to why our support funding was reduced so dramatically in this pandemic time. We recognize the city must make choices in its funding, but in retrospect would have liked the city to be more transparent in its funding process and decisions, as they plan to do in the future.

The article noted we are on the border of Westmount, by implication somehow a fringe player, but we have been a Westmount institution in all senses of the word for over 100 years. Our services complement those of Westmount's excellent and fully-funded municipal library, and we thus remain worthy of the city's encouragement and financial support as we continue to provide important resources to Westmounters.

JOHN AYLEN, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ATWATER LIBRARY AND COMPUTER CENTRE

PRO WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a retired librarian but also as a very grateful Westmounter, may I add a few words of praise and appreciation for our Westmount Public Library, of which I am a proud member, that has helped me and others flourish despite the restrictions forced on us by the pandemic. From the library website's homepage, we can access for free, among other items, newspapers and magazines in full-text via pressreader, while another link offers us access to the daily and august *New York Times*.

But most valuable in my humble opinion is the access we are offered to the library's vast collection of books and audiovisual items in the flesh, by navigating the most user-friendly online catalogue I've ever had the pleasure of using.

Once you reserve an available item or are placed on a waiting list, a friendly voice on the telephone, and/or via email, will promptly notify you if your choices, books and/or audiovisual items, are ready for borrowing and pick-up.

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email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

From thereon, we become part of a face-to-face communal exchange that can offer us all a lift during these days of semi-lockdown. To participate, you must show up in person, within three working days of receiving your welcome notice, at the library's front door to claim your borrowed treasures. There, a friendly and helpful librarian will greet you and hand them over to you, or should I say entrust them to you, until which time you return them on the due date, also in person, so that they can be passed on to the next lucky user.

RICHARD ORLANDO, SHERBROOKE ST.

MAINTAIN, DON'T REDESIGN, WESTMOUNT PARK

I am writing in support of Maxine Cuttler's letter of May 25 (p. 6). It is indeed sad to see the deterioration of our favourite Westmount Park.

Why is it being ignored? It does not need thousands of dollars spent on planning and re-design. Just fix what needs to be done and properly maintain it.

BRIGITTA BRITTAIN, GROSVENOR AVE.

MUHC/Vendôme tunnel opens

The Vendôme tunnel to the McGill University Health Centre's Glen hospital opened May 31, right before the *Independent's* press time. The hospital can be accessed by pedestrians and wheelchair users from de Maisonneuve in NDG by a long, meandering tunnel that comes out just east of the adult emergency room. There are also additional entrances to the Vendôme Metro station and to the commuter train platforms in the new structure. The door in the hospital's underground parking lot that has allowed pedestrian access to the pre-existing commuter and Metro station areas since the hospital opened was open when the *Independent* visited.

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GUEST COLUMN

One day with Jennifer Maccarone

BY EMMA WESTENBERG

Other than watching the occasional press conference of François Legault on social media platforms, I had no idea what politicians did on a daily basis. However, on May 17, I had the opportunity to spend the day through her new bursary program with Jennifer Maccarone, MNA of Westmount-St. Louis at the Quebec National Assembly.

To receive such a privilege, I submitted an application form containing proof of my studying at Marianopolis College and a 500-word essay on plausible projects that could benefit the district. As a result, I was selected to conduct an internship at her office in downtown Montreal.

When I arrived at 9 am sharp (I certainly did not want to be late), I was introduced to two other members working with her on a daily basis. They were really open, friendly and made me feel comfortable. After high-five elbowing Jennifer, I sat down in her office and she showed me her busy – very busy – schedule. Not long after I was seated, she quickly began calling citizens. For all calls, she very politely informed the speaker that I was in the room, too.

Calls & issues

The first call was about forced evictions.

The second call revolved around an individual experiencing racism and discrimination due to skin colour in Montreal. Jennifer had warned me that it would be an emotionally difficult one, yet I still gasped

under my mask. Hearing the story was disturbing.

The third call addressed the topic of the new proposed Bill 96 at the Quebec National Assembly. The caller believed that it would not benefit English-speaking businesses. Since the person on the other line was very conversational, I was invited to give the opinion of the “youth.” Unsure and stressed, I replied that the future was multilingual as all my friends are mostly trilingual.

After these calls, I was invited to sit in a videoconference meeting with residents of the Chinatown community. They contacted Jennifer in order to avoid their neighbourhood being engulfed by condo buildings. It is the only French Chinatown in North America and it deserves to be made a heritage site, they argued. During the meeting, I just nodded and hoped that they would not ask for my input. I had not been previously informed about the issue; therefore, I did not feel adequately prepared to speak.

I did not eat lunch with Jennifer, as she was occupied with more back-to-back meetings. Instead, I spoke with her assistant, who was also doing a summer internship. He showed me their emailing and work-platform, called Asana.

Drafts & discussions

After lunch, I drafted a speech for Jennifer to say on video for the promotion of a new bursary program. Even though I was proud of my version, I was told that Jennifer often uses such drafts as reference.

Council, cont'd. from p. 1

can contribute. It's important to answer the call to duty.”

Maybe – Conrad Peart (District 4), urban plan commissioner for permits and architecture said: “It's a little early, isn't it? Although it's been a challenging time for all of us, council has managed to accomplish some important changes over the past few years. That said, there's still more to get done in the coming months and I'm fully focused and engaged in my current responsibilities.

“At this particular moment, though, I've not given decisive consideration to running again. I'm honoured to be of service and I anticipate that there will be an opportunity to continue the work that we've started.”

Maybe – Marina Brzeski (District 5), commissioner of sustainability and accessibility, said: “Definitely I am interested

but I would like to talk more with residents. I have not ruled out running again and am very passionate about my commissionership. There is so much more to do especially with climate change. I didn't expect it would take so long to get things done, such as creating the accessibility committee.”

Yes – Mary Gallery (District 6), commissioner of library and culture, sports and recreation, said “Yes. I'm very keen to run again. I feel I have a lot left to do.”

No – Cynthia Lulham (District 7), urban planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks, is vacating her seat but there is at least one declared candidate – Matt Aronson (see story May 25, p. 1).

Yes – Kathleen Kez (District 8), commissioner of finance, said without hesitation: “My intention is to run. It's been amazing.”



From left, provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone and one-day intern/bursary recipient Emma Westenber on May 17.

She then adds her own touch.

I was also asked to create a congratulatory letter to the recipients of the numerous Fondation Émergence prizes, since it was the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. All of my work was going to be double-checked by Jennifer and her team before having the final draft.

After typing my ideas on Google Docs, I was invited to be part of an end-of-day round-discussion with Jennifer and her other two team members.

Contrary to what I had thought, it was not intimidating at all. For 30 minutes, we discussed plans on how to engage teenage Montrealers in Quebec politics, even though they all seem to comment on in-

ternational politics on Instagram. We all had a good laugh, thus creating a good work environment conducive to innovative solutions.

The day ended at 4 pm, with a very mentally tired Emma. I was happy to have read the newspaper in the morning, as the topics dealt with resembled those in the headlines.

Although I thanked her in person for a wonderful learning experience, I would like to do so again through this newspaper. Even though I am currently not interested in pursuing a political career, I now understand the time, dedication and effort that go into making Westmount-St. Louis a more enjoyable area to live.

Public Security nabs woman for stealing tablet from car

When Public Security received a call around 6 pm May 22 for someone breaking into a car near 110 Columbia, a responding patroller was given a description of the suspect as a 60-year-old woman wearing a yellow and orange shirt.

When an officer spotted the suspect walking east along Sherbrooke, he recognized her from previous prowling on properties and stealing items from cars. On questioning her, she revealed a tablet, which she said belonged to a friend.

After a sticker on the back indicated the name of a company owning it, however, and the device was identified as having been in the car, it was seized. Police were called and reported that the woman would be charged with possession of stolen prop-

erty. She was also given a Public Security ticket for \$152 for prowling.

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Attached houses at 473-481 Victoria

Five families evacuated after BBQ fire spreads through back porches

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A five-alarm fire overnight Friday-Saturday, May 21-22, caused significant damage to the backs of at least five single-family row houses on Victoria between Chesterfield and Windsor, Public Security officials said.

It was reported to have started when a charcoal barbecue ignited a wooden porch at the rear of 475 Victoria and spread quickly to the wooden structures of upper and lower balconies on either side at numbers 473 and 477 as well as to 479 and 481.

“Residents heard and saw windows cracking and breaking from the heat,” said Public Security director Greg McBain, who attended the scene along with public safety officers detailed to traffic control and other assistance as well as police and some 150 firefighters.

All families were evacuated and only allowed back in after 3 am to collect personal items of immediate need. Another house in the row was later reported to have sustained some damage.

No injuries were reported and the victims were accommodated by family members or friends, except for one who

was put up at a hotel.

McBain said the location of the fire at the rear of the row houses provided a challenge to firefighters, who had to make their way around the row of houses despite the use of aerial apparatus on the street.

Electricity, which had to be cut as firefighters worked to bring the blaze under control, was restored around 3:30 am.

One dog was rescued by a firefighter who carried it out after giving it oxygen. Councillor Anitra Bostock, commissioner of public security, who lives on the street and was present during the fire, told the *Independent* the dog’s owner had been very distraught when the dog had not been brought out initially.

She said she spoke later to firefighters. “When they did find him, neighbours took him into their house and someone else drove the dog and his owner to the DMV emergency animal clinic.”

Bostock said a firefighter told her that he was so impressed with the community and how nice people were to each other.

“I was proud of our neighbours too,” she said. “People brought out lawn chairs to help. It was quite a community effort.”

See photo on p. 1.

Firefighters attack highway fire from Public Works

Thick black smoke billowing from a westbound sweeper vehicle on fire May 25 on Highway 720 generated numerous calls from Westmount residents, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

The smoke appeared to be coming from the city’s Public Works yard, which overlooks the location and the St. Jacques exit. The yard was used by firefighters to attack the fire, who also accessed it from the high-

way itself.

“The vehicle was completely engulfed in the black smoke,” McBain said.

The sweeper’s driver appeared to have escaped safely when the vehicle broke down, he said. She could be seen standing on the wall of the highway, which had become completely blocked by 1:50 pm, according to the time logged by Public Security. See photo on p. 1.

Hits Selwyn House as students getting out

Driver injured as car rolls backward across Stanton



The car hit the Stanton St. side of Selwyn House’s Macaulay building.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 50-year-old woman was taken to hospital May 26 when she was knocked to the street on Stanton as the car that she had just parked rolled backward. It turned and hit the Selwyn House annex known as the Macaulay building (the former St. Andrew’s church), Public Security officials said.

The bang from the impact at 3 pm was heard by public safety officers across the street in a briefing room above the fire station. This brought them out quickly to help the woman, who was lying in the street, her head and hand bleeding. After they applied disinfectant and rendered other medical assistance, Urgences Santé transported her to the Montreal General

Hospital.

The car had been parked in the handicap parking slot on the east side of Stanton.

While it’s not known exactly how it turned to cross the street, it hit the building at a gas entry, which had a protective cage.

Firefighters and gas crews were called but confirmed the cage had done its job and no problem was encountered.

The car also came to a stop near a bike stand, narrowly missing students, many of whom were just getting out of classes.

The latest incident of a parked car rolling down a hill illustrates the importance of parking a car with the wheels turned against the curb to help it from breaking away, said Public Security director Greg McBain.



Looking south towards city hall on Stanton St.: Public Security officers administering first aid to the driver.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

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There's a floor!



The rental apartment building being built at the former Perrette's/Westmount Bar B-Q site at 4469 St. Catherine near Metcalfe continues to be a busy place, as seen May 27. The workers appear to have finished the floor of the first floor.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Palestinian supporters gather for third, fourth, fifth protests



TOP AND LEFT: MARTIN C. BARRY; BOTTOM RIGHT: INDEPENDENT.
must be exercised safely.”



In spite of a cease-fire agreement that went into effect on May 21 in Gaza and Israel, up to 1,500 protesters gathered outside the Israeli consulate on St. Catherine St. a day later for a noisy but peaceful demonstration in support of the Palestinian cause. See photos above and below left.

While it was peaceful, there was chanting and drumming and a few loud firecrackers were set off before the demonstrators walked eastward along St. Catherine St. to continue the

protest downtown.

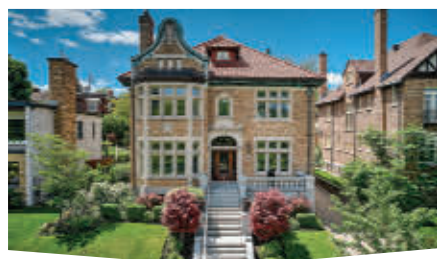
In a message reflecting the concerns of Westmounters alarmed by the protests, Mayor Christina Smith published a statement on the city of Westmount’s web page, with a link to her Twitter account.

She said many residents had contacted city officials to express concerns about the protests. While saying she recognized protesting as a guaranteed and fundamental right, she added that “this right to demonstrate

Noting that the Montreal police department, and not the city of Westmount, is responsible for issuing permits for demonstrations, Mayor Smith said she had asked the police to take into consideration when granting demonstration permits that the protests have been troubling Westmount residents.

Protestors also gathered on May 24 (not pictured) and May 29, below right. – MCB.





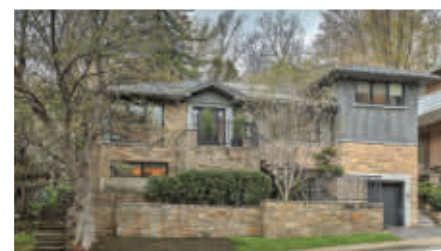
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680 Hartland, Outremont



SOLD
520 Av. Lansdowne, Westmount



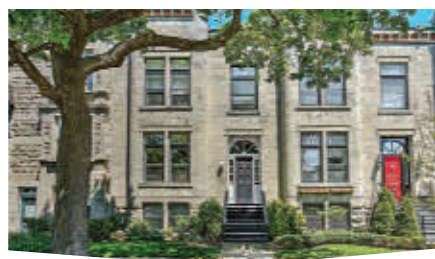
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3083 Av. de Trafalgar, Westmount Adj.



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PENTHOUSE - 65 Rue St-Paul O., PH601,
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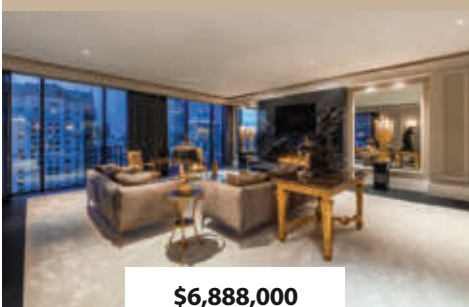
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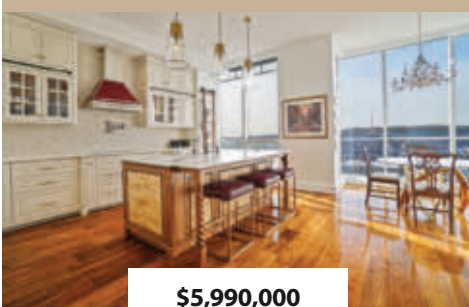
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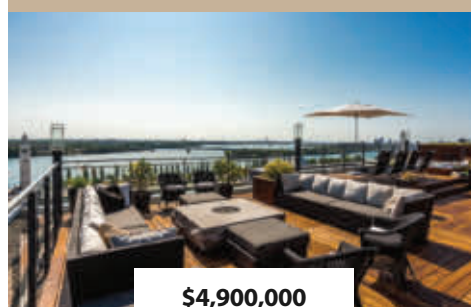
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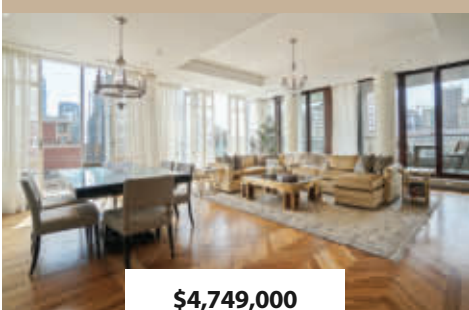
IMMENSE ROOFTOP TERRACE WITH WATER VIEWS



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"SOLANO", OLD PORT

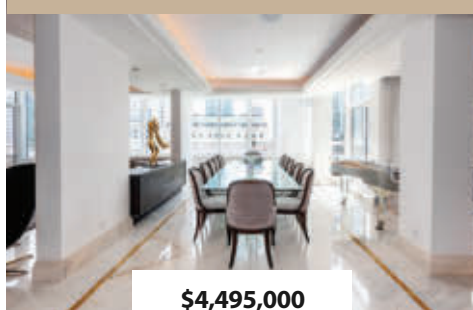
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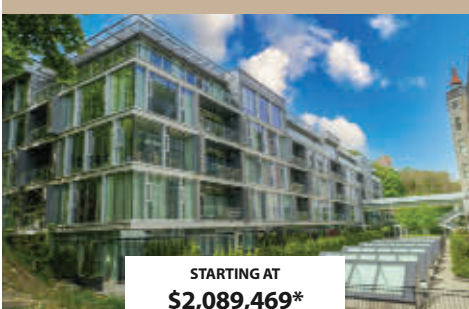
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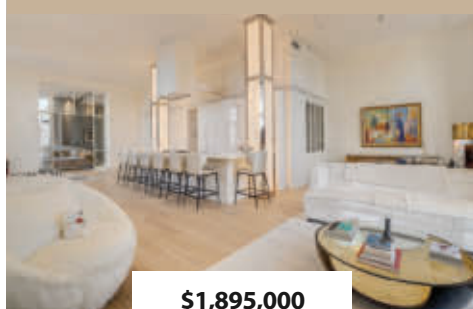


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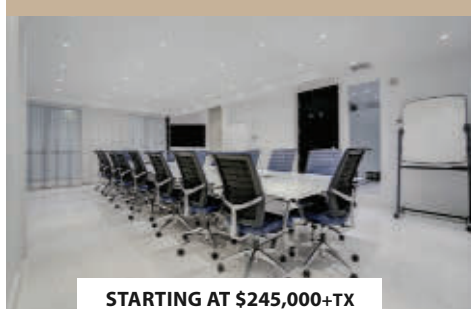
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in November 2020

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
135 Abbott	Donald Sedgwick	\$889,000	\$905,600	-1.8%
14 Anwoth	Andrew Arnovitz & Marie-Hélène Laramée	\$1,915,000	\$1,211,700	58.0%
481 Argyle	Stephanie Gougoux & Marc-Olivier McNulty	\$1,639,000	\$1,153,600	42.1%
25 Bellevue	Daniel Labrecque & Lise Laberge	\$2,775,000	\$2,475,400	12.1%
407 Clarke	Barry Cole & Sylvie Plouffe	\$1,800,000	\$1,995,900	-9.8%
4285 de Maisonneuve	Stephen Sztern & Esther Almela	\$2,475,000	\$2,149,400	15.1%
4947 de Maisonneuve	Roslyn Schwartz-Sayer	\$1,002,000	\$841,600	19.1%
14 Forden	Barry Pascal	\$2,800,000	\$2,075,600	34.9%
497 Grosvenor	Marc Lecavalier & Genevieve Brunet-Denis	\$1,885,000	\$1,359,700	38.6%
650 Grosvenor	Nanna Ingrid Siim	\$1,700,000	\$1,442,900	17.8%
427 Mount Stephen	Peter Riddell	\$2,065,000	\$1,639,000	26.0%
10 Parkman Place	William H. Daly	\$1,300,000	\$891,700	45.8%
9 St. George's Place	Dara Torgerson & Ryan Hernandez	\$1,655,000	\$1,556,000	6.4%
47 Stayner	Mitchell Goldberg	\$1,230,000	\$920,800	33.6%
57 Sunnyside	Patricia Lambutsky	\$3,300,000	\$2,712,200	21.7%
616 Sydenham	Sandrine Tibau & Daniel Boudet de Montplaisir	\$3,950,000	\$3,251,100	21.5%
3742 The Boulevard	Teodolinda Discepola	\$1,422,391	\$1,252,600	13.6%
725 Upper Lansdowne	Dorothée Colombier	\$2,875,000	\$3,824,700	-24.8%
728 Upper Roslyn	Jean-Louis Bourque & Chantal Maurus	\$2,200,000	\$2,126,800	3.4%
662-64 Victoria	Isabelle Bajoux Besnainou & Jacques Besnainou	\$3,040,000	\$2,785,000	9.2%
DUPLEXES				
4151 de Maisonneuve/310 Elm	Radu Olteanu & Ernesto Antonio Cisneros-Ortiz	\$3,850,000	\$2,412,600	59.6%
CONDOMINIUMS				
46 Academy #17	Madeleine J. Gohier	\$779,000	\$744,300	4.7%
39 Bruce	Antonio Moriello	\$728,000	\$626,500	16.2%
459 Grosvenor	Béatrice Martin	\$950,000	\$695,900	36.5%
348 Olivier	Ivana Belicova	\$754,000	\$690,900	9.1%
1 Wood #2103	Francine Côté	\$3,200,000	\$2,310,200	38.5%

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

November transfers: Highest volume of 2020

tober, which set the previous high monthly volume of the year. The 21 registrations in November isn't quite a record for the month, but is the highest volume since 1989, when 22 sales brought an average price of \$671,125.

This time, the average for 20 single-family dwellings and a duplex was almost \$2,180,000; the average has stayed around \$2.2 million for most of the year, but volume in November is virtually double what it was in the mid-summer months, which is when most people like to move into their new houses.

Of the 21 sales, four were over \$3 million, leading up to the month's high of \$3,950,000 paid out for 616 Sydenham Ave. Another six houses sold between \$2 million and \$3 million. Only one Westmount house, 135 Abbott Ave., brought less than \$1 mil- *continued on p. 20*

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November 2020, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 18.

The rapid rise in volume of Westmount real estate sales appears to have reached its peak in November last year, as the COVID-plagued market from the summer months turned into a COVID-inspired market, with more and more people working out of their houses and looking for more living space in a safer environment.

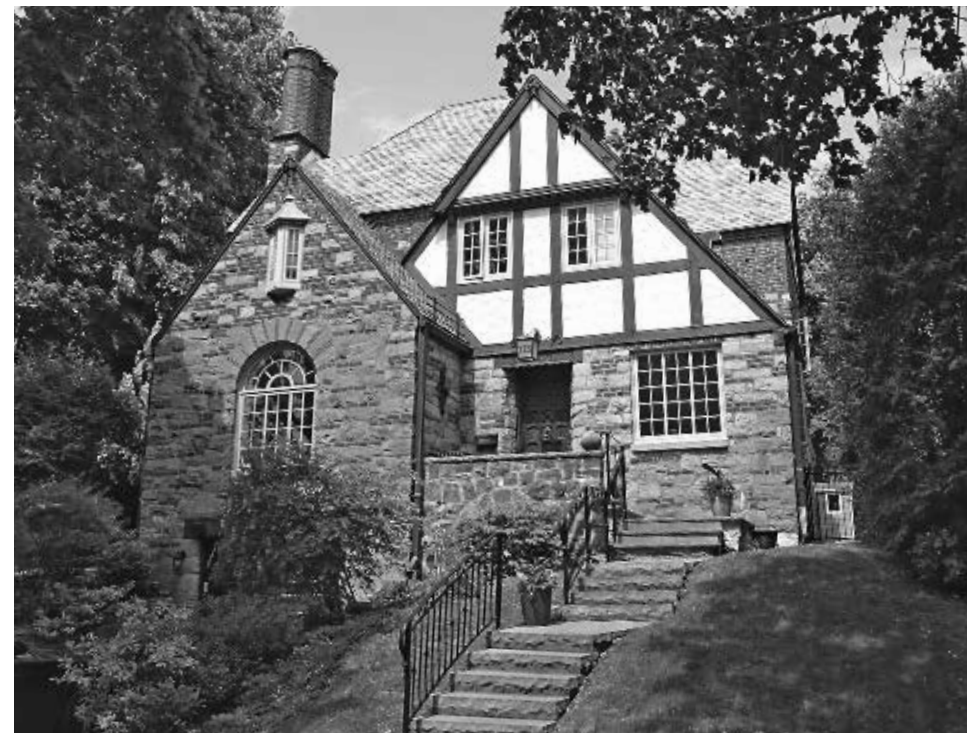
Some 21 homeowners bought into the Westmount market last November, surpassing the 18 signatures collected in Oc-



616 Sydenham on May 26



4151 de Maisonneuve Blvd. on May 26.



725 Lansdowne on May 26.

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WEread2U began as a COVID way to ‘connect’
William and Ella’s story time
reaches out to others



From left, William Ghattas and Ella Schnitzer at work.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new type of “book club” that began between two children reading to each other over video phone as an activity during the first pandemic lockdown was expanded in April. Now it is to provide the reading of books to those who are hospitalized, isolated or have other reading needs.

Called “WEread2U,” the initiative originated with Westmount resident Marie-Josée Blais of Lansdowne Ave. and Ashlee Wismach, a friend in Montreal West. It was a way for their children – friends since birth – to keep connected despite being in separate school “bubbles.”

“This is what sparked the idea of reading to other children,” Blais said last week.

Since April, her son William Ghattas, who is in grade 3 at St. George’s elementary, and Ella Schnitzer, a grade 3 student at JPPS-Bialik in Côte St. Luc, have been creating videos in which they read specially selected books in English or French to about 25 other kids for whom requests have been received, she explained.

Since they launched their website at WEread2U.org, William and Ella’s story-time has reached out to others, some through the Starlight Children’s Founda-

tion as well as the families or friends of isolated children. In some cases, they have received video thank-yous adding to the concept of connecting with others.

Reaching out

“It’s very, very hard to reach out directly to the hospitals,” Blais said. “We’re now in the process of getting in touch with other kids who may have long-term care needs.”

One way is through a request form on their website. This is for parents or friends to provide the ages and interests of those for whom the selection of books can be tailored to their needs, Blais explained.

Avid readers

Both avid readers, William and Ella have an array of books they can read and personalize to others depending on individual interests.

William who just turned 9, plays soccer – at present practice sessions only – as part of Westmount’s Sports and Recreation department, she said. Ella also is into sports.

With the approach of another uncertain summer for some, “we hope to be able to reach out further to other children with reading needs,” Blais said. “Who knows what this summer will bring.”



135 Abbott Ave. on May 26.

Transfers, cont’d. from p. 19

lion, and in fact the \$889,000 price was the lowest registered since the previous April.

The only duplex sale in the month, 4151 de Maisonneuve Blvd., corner Elm Ave., brought the highest mark-up over valuation in November, 59.6 percent. The biggest mark-down from municipal tax value was 24.8 percent for 725 Upper Lansdowne Ave., one of three mark-downs in the month.

The average mark-up was 17.4 percent, among the higher monthly averages last

year, which up to November had an average of 13.3 percent.

Condominiums were not ignored in November, either. Two apartment units and three shares of duplexes were purchased, including a \$3.2-million penthouse at 1 Wood Ave., the only condo sale in the month to clear \$1 million, so it seriously distorts the average price of the month. The price is the highest since a penthouse at 215 Redfern Ave. sold for \$3,499,999 in February 2018.

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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



infoWESTMOUNT

2021.06.01 • Vol. 2/11

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Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 7 juin

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETINGMonday, June 7th

Collecte d'encombrants le 2 juin

La deuxième de cinq collectes de gros items prévues en 2021 aura lieu le **mercredi 2 juin**. Placez vos items en bordure de rue avant 7 h le jour de la collecte. Visitez **westmount.org** pour consulter la liste d'items acceptés ou refusés.

Bulky item collection June 2nd

The second of five bulky item collections scheduled for 2021 will take place on **Wednesday, June 2nd**. Place items at the curbside by 7 a.m. on collection day. Visit **westmount.org** to consult the list of accepted and non-accepted items.

COVID-19 : mesures de déconfinement

La première étape des assouplissements des restrictions sanitaires est entrée en vigueur le 28 mai. Cette étape comprend :

- la levée du couvre-feu et la levée des interdictions de déplacements entre régions;
 - la réouverture de terrasses extérieures des restaurants (avec certaines restrictions);
 - la possibilité de tenir des rassemblements limités sur les terrains privés (avec certaines restrictions);
 - la réouverture limitée des grandes salles.
- Consultez **quebec.ca** pour plus de détails.
VACCINATION : Renseignements ou prise de rendez-vous : **quebec.ca** ou **santemontreal.ca**.

Propreté des parcs et espaces verts

Le fort achalandage dans les parcs a entraîné une augmentation du nombre de déchets. SVP, utilisez les poubelles et gardez nos espaces partagés propres. **westmount.org**

PKG : fermeture du terrain de basketball

Le terrain de basketball du parc King George est fermé jusqu'à nouvel ordre pour des raisons de sécurité. **westmount.org**

Horaire d'été en vigueur

Les bureaux de la Ville sont ouverts : du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30, et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h.

COVID-19: reopening measures

The first stage of the relaxation of health restrictions came into effect on May 28th, and it includes the following:

- the end of the curfew and the end of the ban on travel between regions;
- the reopening of outdoor restaurant terraces (with restrictions);
- the possibility of limited outdoor gatherings on private property (with restrictions);
- the limited reopening of large halls.

Consult **quebec.ca** for all the details.
VACCINATION: Information or appointments: visit **quebec.ca** or **santemontreal.ca**.

Cleanliness of parks and green spaces

The increased use of parks has brought an increase in the amount of garbage left behind. Please use the designated bins and help keep our shared spaces tidy. **westmount.org**

Closure of basketball court at KGP

The basketball court at King George Park is closed until further notice for safety reasons. **westmount.org**

Summer schedule in effect

The City's offices are open:
Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 récupérer. 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**.

Soirée de quiz virtuel

Samedi 12 juin, 19 h à 20 h, en ligne. Jouez sur votre ordinateur ou appareil mobile. Inscrivez-vous à **westmount.org**.

Trousses de bricolages pour les enfants

Lundi 14 juin : Fête des Pères. Inscris-toi pour participer à un atelier de bricolage à faire chez toi. Viens chercher la trousse à la Bibliothèque et suis les instructions sur Instagram. **westlib.org**

Les marionnettes s'amuse

Vendredi 18 juin sur la chaîne YouTube de la Bibliothèque. Silly Story Sammy : Sammy and the Summer Stay-cation. En anglais.

Food and Foodways in Timor Leste

Vendredi 18 juin, 19 h sur Zoom. Conférence par David Szanto, PhD, spécialiste de l'alimentation et artiste. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite. **westlib.org**

LIBRARY

ARTISANS
WESTMOUNT

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**.

Virtual Quiz Night

Saturday, June 12, 7 to 8 p.m., online. Play on your computer or mobile device. Register at **westmount.org**.

Take and Make Crafts for Kids

Monday, June 14: Father's Day. Sign up for a fun craft kit to do at home. Pick up the kit at the Library and follow the instructions on Instagram. **westlib.org**

Silly Story Sammy

Friday, June 18 on the Library's YouTube channel: Sammy and the Summer Stay-cation.

Food and Foodways in Timor Leste

Friday, June 18, 7 p.m. on Zoom. Lecture by David Szanto, PhD, food specialist and artist. Register on Eventbrite. **westlib.org**





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We are Westmount

PET PAGE

22— June 1, 2021

Benjamin: Abandoned – rescued – vetted – fostered a bit



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Young Benjamin was found in Westmount, behind Summit Woods, abandoned. He was vetted and boarded, slowly finding his footing after the terrible ordeal of being dumped as a juvenile, not knowing how to survive, doing without food and

water, and mostly hiding and running.

This is the fate of many an abandoned cat in Westmount, more than I care to remember over the years.

Benjamin is one of the lucky ones, taken in, vetted even through his extreme fear phase, and taken in by a veterinary technician where he is presently in temporary foster as she is leaving shortly to study veterinary medicine abroad.

Her kind heart has led to such a growth phase for him, from hiding under the bed on arrival, to coming out to the living room and kitchen during the day, to eating his

meals twice a day on a schedule and enjoying every bite, to playing a bit with a fishing pole but still afraid at the same time.

As there is a move coming up, we are looking for a foster family for him or a forever family to nurture him and have the joy and pride of seeing him integrate. Handsome Benjamin is a bit over two years old, up to date with his inoculations, and neutered. Please contact me directly at my email lysow@gmail.com to find out more about him and make arrangements for a visit.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Work begins on Mt. Stephen



Work has begun on the roadway of Mt. Stephen Ave., as seen May 27 from Sherbrooke St. See May 18, p. 5 for details.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



*Westmount
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is Bob, adorable in his juvenile caramel-and-white doggy fluffiness still, a little less than a year and a half old.

Bob is the best of husky and malamute, with incredible eyes, one soft brown and the other light blue. A dear fellow, waiting at the SPCA Monterege kennel for a loving and active family that will appreciate all the affection he has to give.

Bob is up to date with his inoculations and treatments, and neutered. He is available through the SPCA Monterege website, at www.spcamonteregie.com, that links to Petfinder where Bob's profile page appears with additional photographs and the adoption application section to fill out.

The visits for adoption are on Sundays now as they are open again, so arrangements are made for that day of the week. The SPCA Monterege is located in picturesque St. Angèle de Monnoir, at 178 chemin du Vide, and is a wonderful road trip on one of our sunny summer days now.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Young Bob



Rotarians hear activist Collin's warning of global warming's impact in Quebec

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Westmount Rotarians heard May 19 from a university student and climate change activist on how global warming is causing erosion along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, as well as on coastlines in Nunavik in the northern third of Quebec.

Lou Collin, a Concordia University student in human environment studies and spokesperson for the Climate Reality Project, addressed the service club members over the Microsoft Teams platform from Cyprus where she is currently based.

Founded by former US vice-president Al Gore, the Climate Reality Project is a non-profit organization involved in education and advocacy related to climate change.

While Collin suggested that most people see climate change as a phenomenon taking place somewhere far from home, she noted that the erosion of shorelines in Quebec is becoming a growing problem on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the Gaspé and in the Magdalen Islands.

As she pointed out, shoreline erosion in these areas has forced roads to be moved and protective structures to be built. In Nunavik, the same phenomenon may also soon be leading to the re-settlement of residents.

(Although Collin didn't mention it in her presentation, geologists have confirmed that a major landslide in April along the shores of the Great Whale River on the edge of Hudson Bay in western Nunavik was the largest recorded in Quebec in 127

years.)

While noting that wind and solar power now rank among the most effective alternatives to hydrocarbon energy sources, she suggested they remain underused because of technological limitations that restrict their widespread application.

Asked by a Rotarian whether she considered solar heating to be economically viable, Collin responded, "It is becoming cheaper every year. There was some concern about how it is produced. But these technologies are getting better and better every year. It just needs a little bit more research done."

"Because we have to understand that right now most of the research and money is going to the fossil fuels industry," she added. "And even if it seems that the renewable energy industry is a very growing sector, there is not that much money involved in it. It's a transition that is happening right now. But we need more money and energy invested in it."

Three \$275 tickets issued for 2 leaf blowers

A ticket for \$275 was given to a landscape gardener for operating a leaf blower May 24 after the May 1 seasonal deadline, Public Security officials said. The sound of the machine was heard by a patroller at 10:26 am in the area of Belvedere and was discovered at the rear of a house on Bellevue.

On May 22, two other statements of offence were sent to another contracting company for operating a blower on Windsor at 9:50 am. One was for the use after the May 1 deadline. The other was for using a non-conforming gasoline-fired blower generating a higher than allowed sound level.

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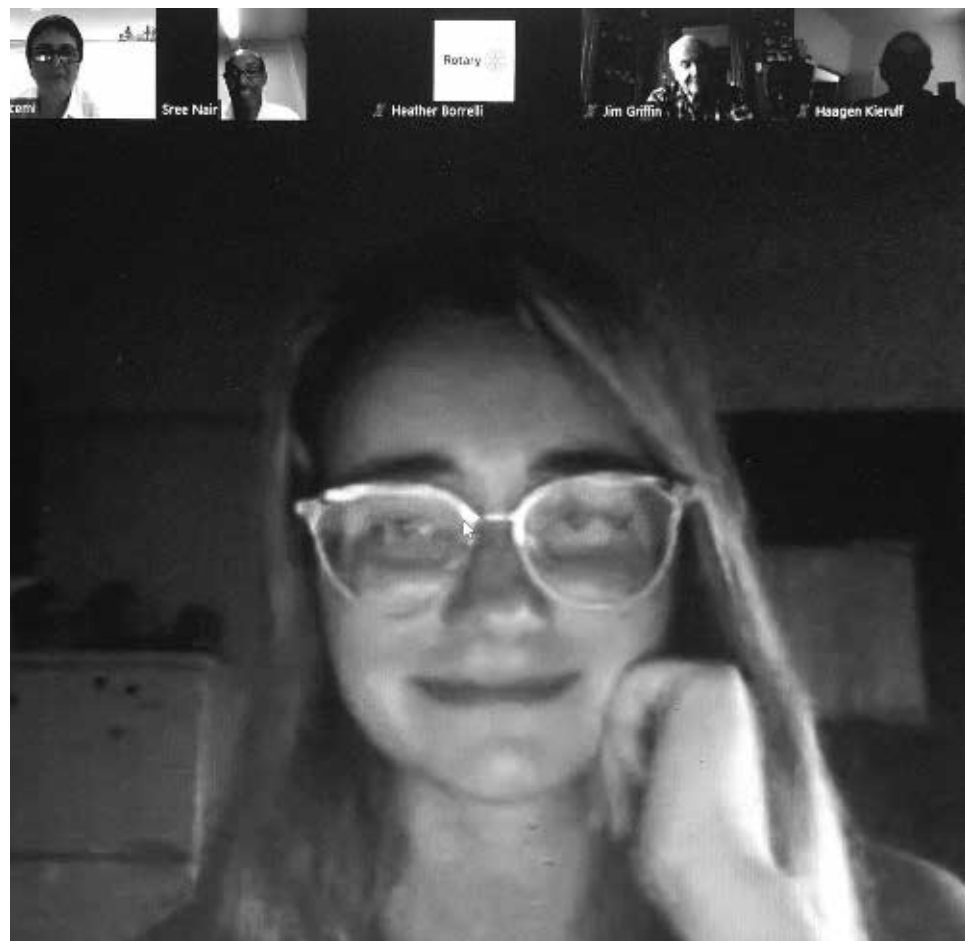
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Lou Collin addressed Rotarians on May 19.

Work begins on Stayner Park splash pad



Work has begun on the new Stayner Park splash pad, as seen May 27. See May 11, p. 5 for details.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Council approves 21 permits at May 3 meeting

The following 21 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the May 3 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

These permits approved by city council are those that have been recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), and apply to architecture and location. The issuance of the permit itself after this approval is not automatic or immediate.

Often, additional technical aspects must be checked, clarified and/or remedied as required by the city's Board of Inspections.

Approved

41 York: to modify the existing rear balcony and grade level in the rear yard to render the existing rear parking area accessible as a result of the neighbouring redevelopment at 4898 de Maisonneuve provided that a servitude of passage is established for the access to the proposed modified rear parking area at 41-43 York through the neighbouring redevelopment at 4898 de Maisonneuve (see story May 11, p. SL-3);

3778 The Boulevard: to replace two doors with proposed aluminum clad doors given that they are not on the principal façade of the Category II house and are set back from the street;

62 Belvedere Rd.: to landscape and rebuild the retaining wall in the front yard;

46 Windsor: to make modifications at the rear of the building, including building a rear addition and a new deck, creating a new basement access, modifying openings and doing landscaping work;

632 Clarke: at a Category I house, to build a swimming pool and do major landscaping work on the entire property;

3 Hudson: to modify existing openings on the rear façade in order to install new doors;

11 Braeside: to build a swimming pool and do landscaping work, including new retaining walls and fences, on the north side of the property;



1 Forden Ave. on May 20. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

476 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to rebuild the retaining walls and stairs in the rear yard and do landscaping work on the property;

657 Victoria: to build a new larger terrace at the back;

645 Victoria: to build a retaining wall along the driveway in order to level out its slope provided that the wall is clad in natural stone and is no higher than 19 inches at any point;

526 Clarke: to replace the railings of the rooftop terraces;

461 Elm: at a Category 1 house, to enlarge a rear balcony on the top floor to the same dimensions as the one below on condition the railing harmonizes with the lower one;

1 Forden Ave.: to rebuild and modify the

existing sunroom and balcony on the south-east side of the property and make repairs to the entrance stairs and canopy;

4333 St. Catherine: to install new signage;

596 Victoria: at a Category I house, to reconstruct the rear balcony;

511 Roslyn: to build a swimming pool and do landscaping work on the property;

235 Clarke: to replace front windows;

77 Somerville: to replace basement windows;

764 Upper Lansdowne: to replace a door on the side façade provided it is aluminum clad;

311 Melville: to replace windows on the rear façade;

3737 The Boulevard: to replace windows and doors.



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Silverstone-Segal on blondes, Le Château retrospective



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Before, with Claude Bohbot. After.



I have noted a fun reaction to the seemingly endless lock-downs.

What could be more of a sea change than changing one's look? Completely! I see lots of rainbow locks on local streets, usually on young Lulu-clad millennials.

Local res Emma Dora Silverstone-Segal decided to take that pretty path. She entrusted her black hair to Salon Mod's glamour guru Stéphane Laveur who gave her Hollywood highlights and more. Her beautiful now-blonde locks were then cropped by Claude, who, by the way, is celebrating 15 successful years with the salon.

A lot of people changed their look during COVID. You went from long glossy black to a cropped look with gorgeous blonde tones. Do you feel any different?

Yes, I have to say I love being a blonde! It does make me feel different. I feel lighter, brighter and more positive. And I can now tell

continued on p. 26



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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 25

you from personal experience: it's true what they say: Blondes do have more fun! My new colour took over four months of many hour-long appointments. But it was totally worth it. As Stéphane said to me, "Blonde un jour, blonde toujours!"

I hear you are composing a book. What is it about?

I haven't published a book yet. However, I have finished writing. Now I am in the final stages of editing a novel entitled *Miami Vices*. It is a compilation of short stories about being young and single and navigating the dating scene of present day [but] pre-COVID South Beach, Miami. It's a bit of a mix between *Sex in the City* and *Disco Bloodbath*, the memoir written by James St. James about his life as a Manhattan *celebutante* and club kid in New York during the late 1990s. I drew a lot of inspiration from Ernest Hemingway, Truman Capote and Harmony Korine. I have yet to muster up enough courage to try and get it published. Hopefully I will overcome the obstacle of my anxiety and find the strength to share my work with the world one day.

How did the lock-downs affect your lifestyle?

Being single and moving back to Montreal from Miami to be a primary caregiver to my 90-year-old father, I would have to say the lockdowns dramatically changed my life, as I'm sure it has for everyone. I had to move cities – Miami back to Westmount – and change careers from personal trainer to director of the environmental alliance Age of Union, a private conservation initiative set to launch in the fall of this year. I put my personal life on complete hold for almost a year and had to learn to live with the constant crippling concern and isolation in order to ensure my family stayed safe. The lockdowns changed every aspect of my life. However, I always like to look at the bright side of any situation, and this pause did give me the chance to strengthen and deepen my relationship

with my family and friends in Montreal. It gave me the necessary pause to re-evaluate what I truly want out of life and the precious time I have on this beautiful planet, as well as the ability to ground myself and establish what is truly important to me moving forward.

How have the lock-downs affected what you wore/wear?

Lockdowns definitely cramped my style. I miss bikinis, mini-skirts and high heels. Sweatpants are cute and comfy, but I like to dress up and stand out.

When we are free to go out again, what will be your typical dress? day? night? week-ends?

During the week, I like to dress in outfits that allow me to get it all done. I'm a big fan of the "athleisure" look, and I usually gravitate towards a sporty chic daytime style. My favourite combination of the moment would be my Balmain black leggings and a black cashmere turtleneck or black crop-top of some sort, paired with my white Nike sage Air Force 1's and my bright pink velour Gucci baguette bag.

At night and on the weekends, I'm all about looking sexy while being comfortable. My favourite going-out items at the moment would be my vintage Gianni Versace high-waisted, black leather pants with gold Medusa heads going down either side of the legs, and a black satin corset. Or my Jacquemuse white mini polo dress with matching sandals and micro-mini bag of the same brand. I'm also big on accessories: I have very intense relationship with clip-on statement earrings. Recently, I have been loving my Gold DG City clip-on earrings.

Are you cooking more? or ordering?

I love to cook. I'm all about elevating simple dishes by buying fresh and organic produce and letting the natural flavours take centre stage. I am predominately a vegan out of my love for our planet, so I frequent the Atwater Market to get seasonal fruits and vegetables. My must-have

kitchen staples are a very high quality bottle of extra virgin olive oil, and course kosher sea salt.

Tell me about the show you curated on Le Château, the famed fashion chain founded by your father Herschel Segal?

I curated a tribute exhibit on Le Château as a gift/surprise to my father and mother. I wanted to honour them and all their amazing accomplishments. They did so much for the fashion industry in Canada, as well as the LGBTQIA+ community throughout the years. They are my personal inspiration and mentors. The exhibit was a retrospective of fashion looks taken directly from the Le Château clothing archives, starting in the 1960s featuring the jumpsuits my father made for John Lennon and Yoko Ono for their bed-in for peace at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, all the way through to present day. The 1970s featured the iconic bell bottoms that my father was the first to bring to Canada. Unfortunately, the exhibit was planned for April 2020 and due to the pandemic did not gain the recognition I had hoped for. However, the Never Apart art gallery that featured the exhibition had a virtual tour available, and I was able to bring my mother and father in for a private tour, which was one of the most fulfilling and emotional moments of my life.

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WESTMOUNT

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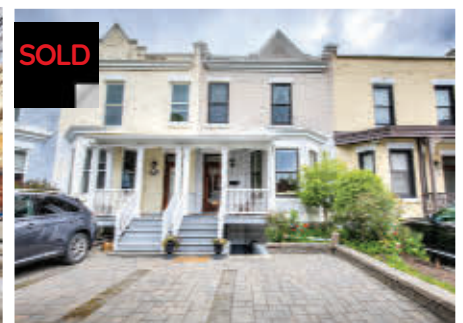
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