

City has received second replacement plan

Demolition hearing on 325 Melville to resume June 23

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The council's demolition hearing on 325 Melville that was adjourned without a decision March 15 will be resumed with another webinar hearing at 5:30 pm on June 23. While this is the eve of the annual St. Jean Baptiste holiday, "this was the date that best fit," to observe delays required by law, confirmed Duncan Campbell, the city's interim director general.

The Category III building under discussion, a four-unit rental property, is located just south of the Serbian Orthodox Church across from Westmount Park's

playing field.

While the city's recent website posting did not provide details on whether or not the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was recommending demolition based on the building's heritage or condition, it did present a newly submitted replacement plan showing two separate condo buildings connected through a basement garage.

Demolition of the existing building had raised considerable opposition at the March meeting by neighbours and tenants questioning why an affordable family building would be torn down to make space for a new one, the plan for which – they were told – was not to be discussed at the demolition stage even though it had been received.

Critics also asked why *continued on p. 4*

Warm weather = ice cream



Ruth Gray enjoyed a free ice cream cone June 2, which was provided to members of the Contactivity seniors' group by the Bilboquet ice cream parlour on Sherbrooke at Victoria and real estate company Cromwell Management.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL NOLAN/CONTACTIVITY

Vendôme tunnel opens, p. 24
McEntyre writing winners announced, p. 26

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HONESTY INTEGRITY RESULTS

District 8 becomes first contested council seat

Mossop wants to focus on families, safety & stakeholders

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For Michael Mossop, the time is right for a run at a council seat in the city's November 7 elections, he announced last week. Known for his advocacy on citizen committees for train and highway action, he plans to run in District 8, where he grew up volunteering for Sports and Recreation and is now raising his own family in the

house that he grew up in.

"This is very much a district that has many young families and kids on the street that need representation on council," he said.

His list of goals includes creating safer bike corridors by using alleys to access schools and parks, updating the timing of city activities to accommodate working parents as *continued on p. 10*

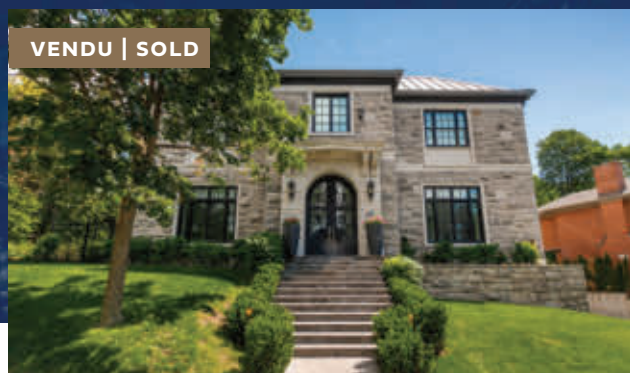
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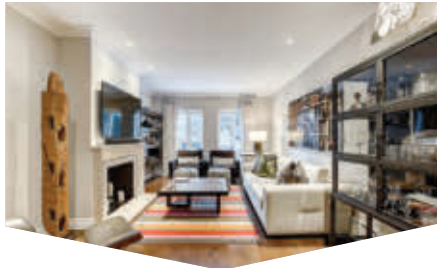
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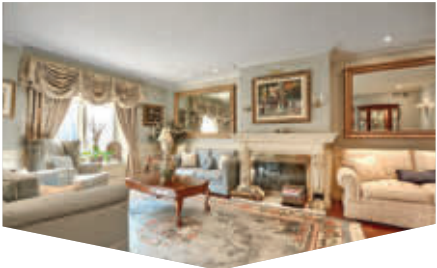
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White squirrel #2/white squirrel returns



This white squirrel was seen on Mount-Stephen June 1. This one, or another, was photographed late last year (see November 24, 2020, p. GG-4). Same animal, or is this a trend?

PHOTO COURTESY OF MC AU COIN.

Parents called for 3 youths in St. Léon worksite

Answering a call for youths inside the construction site at École St. Léon June 1

at 7:49 pm, public safety patrols reported finding three aged 11 to 14.

The three had managed to get through the construction fence around the worksite at 331 Clarke Ave. and were found in the middle of the site, according to Public Security officials. When called to come over to the officers, one complied while the others ran off but were quickly apprehended.

Two were identified as Westmount residents while the third lived in Montreal nearby. No tickets were issued due to their ages but parents were called to pick them up.

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Rotary speaker:
Peace fellow/journalist
Sarah Champagne, p. 27

Pet Page, p. 23

Social Notes:
Backyards 'open,' p. 29

Retail Review: Fanny
of Westmount 'returns,' p. 30



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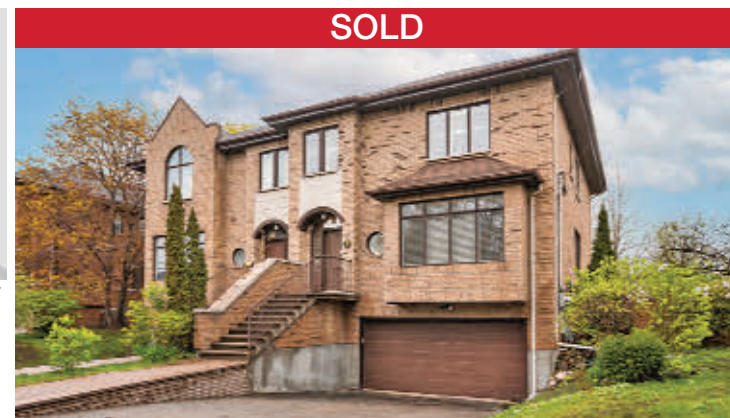


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325 Melville on June 7. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Melville, cont'd. from p. 1

an Urban Planning department change in what had been Westmount's long-standing procedure was being implemented to prevent discussion of a proposed replacement plan.

When the meeting was adjourned, however, it was announced that the developer

had since submitted a new plan, which is expected to be described at the resumption of the demolition hearing June 23.

No reason was given for yet another change in light of the city's argument that a demolition hearing be confined to the building to be demolished.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YES TO RE-PAVING
'DORCHESTER NORTH'

As much as I approve of Mr. Wilson's enthusiasm to have the south side of Dorchester paved first (letter in May 25 edition, p. 6), I live on the south side of Dorchester and will be working from home all summer, hopefully with my windows open. Considering the racket that we all had to deal with when the northeast side of Dorchester was re-done (nine hours a day of trucks backing up with beep-beep-beep), I would opt for the north side to be completed first, with the south side, which is all residential (as opposed to the north, which is RCMP with all their closed windows) to be attacked in the fall or preferably winter. Perhaps this is why the north side has been chosen to be completed first?

CONRAD BUCK, DORCHESTER BLVD.

Editor's note: You will have your wish, since that is what the city council voted for. I do not know, though, if winter work on a road like this is possible. Maybe when it is done in the future more people will be working from offices? – DP

WHERE'S THE COORDINATION?

A couple of weeks ago, a work crew was repaving the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Mount Stephen. As I cross there practically every day, I couldn't miss it and couldn't help watching the work and its progress on a daily basis. They dug up the

road, filled it with whatever was needed, covered it with earth or whatever (I am not a specialist nor did I watch that closely), ending with a mountain of pebbles. After that, the big rollers arrived to flatten the whole thing, followed by asphalt. It took about three to four days. Here was a needed road repair to make crossing safer. But, alas, by now, just a couple of days later, it is all gone! It has become a casualty to a much larger project, that of replacing a water main. Bull dozers and other huge machinery dug a large and deep hole in that swath of Mount Stephen and swallowed in the hole is the newly re-paved pedestrian crossing.

As I write, the work is still in progress and anyone can go and see. Is there no coordination at all?

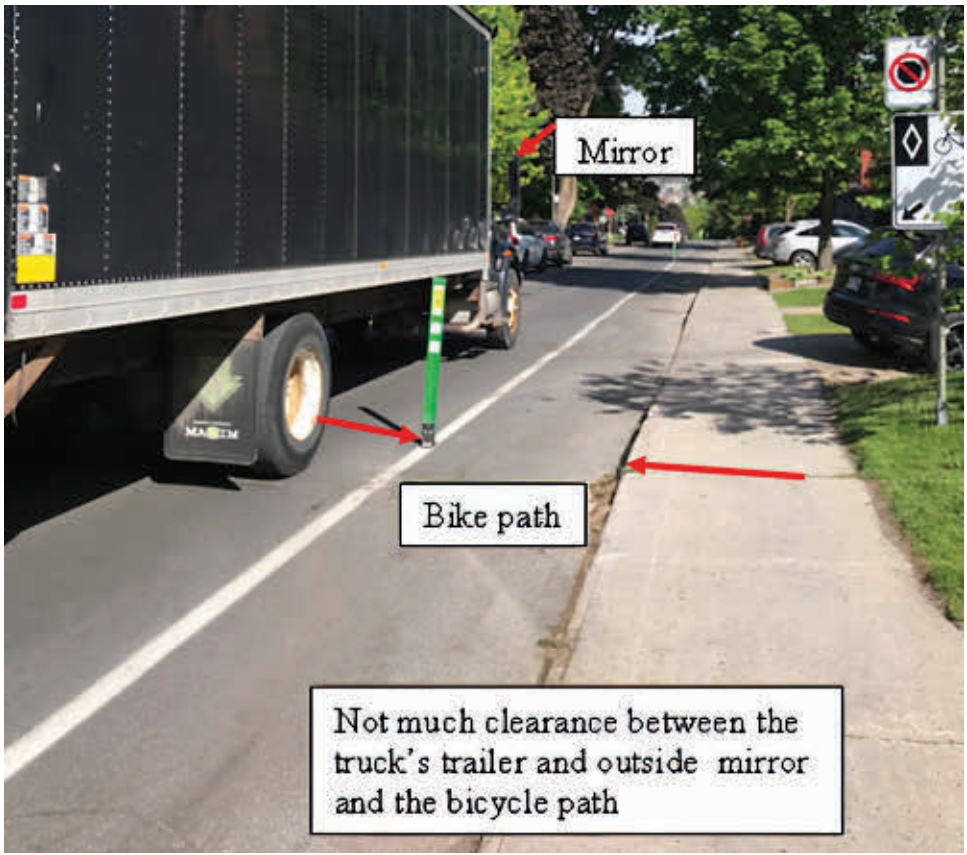
VERA BONDY, SHERBROOKE ST.

TIRED OF DEATH TRAPS/
BIKE PATHS

Re: "Resident calls for better signage on Lansdowne bike path" (May 25, p. 4)

Sorry, but I am getting tired of seeing instances of "death traps," which in the Montreal metropolis are called, euphemistically, "bike paths."

I mean, a narrow one-way street on a long steep hill, countless driveways with cars backing out or backing in directly across the bike path, speed bumps, occasional double-parked vehicles and just



enough room next to the bike path for a truck to pass, leaving inches between the truck's trailer and outside mirror and the bike path (see picture).

So it seems that so far we have had to witness two accidents that had the potential of killing the cyclists.

Do we really want to wait until someone does get killed?

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

FORGET THE PLAUDITS –
MAINTAIN THE PARK

I want to applaud the recent comments of both Maxine Cuttler (May 25, p. 6) and Brigitta Brittain (June 1, p. 7) concerning the sorry state of Westmount Park. Here is what I see each day on my daily walks from Metcalfe Ave. to the dog run: broken and missing bricks in the eastern entrance to the park, dangerously cracked sidewalks, broken wood on the platform of the gazebo,

a water leak across the path just west of the gazebo, random tire tracks across the grass, both the eastern gates to the dog run are broken (and have been for at least the last six weeks), the dogs' drinking fountain – which was first working at about half strength but now (at the time of a heat wave) is not working at all – and torn black plastic is poking up on the grounds of the dog run.

I am sure that similar lists of deficiencies can be made for other areas of the park. Meanwhile, we are subjected to crowing about a supposedly "positive" response to the planned overhaul of the park – certainly not what letters to the *Independent* have revealed.

One tiny spark of long overdue good news: a new council member will have responsibility for the park – but not until November!

JO LAPIERRE, METCALFE AVE.

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June 15 & 22 – issues
June 29 – no issue (Dominion Day observance)
July 6 & 13 – issues
July 20 & 27 and August 3 – no issues (regular summer break)
August 10 until Christmas – weekly issues

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Atwater Library and Computer Centre Ready to serve Westmounters for a second century

With deep roots in the community, today's Atwater Library and Computer Centre is focused on the future. By upgrading our building and expanding our array of services, we continue to serve the evolving needs of Westmounters and others in the region. Digital literacy figures prominently in our programming, for good reason. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have helped countless seniors master their devices, while delivering more than 150 educational events online, including digital literacy courses and financial literacy sessions tailored to the particular needs of older members of the community.

Once the pandemic is behind us, we look forward to reopening our physical doors and renewing our collaborations with other Westmount-based community organizations, such as the Contactivity Centre and Manoir Westmount, to deliver the sorts of innovative programs that have proven popular with their clientele.

Atwater Library users who favour rhyme over reason can indulge in our virtual poetry readings, while others enjoy creative arts activities, book discussions, musical performances and our acclaimed weekly Lunchtime Series online, all at no charge.

To learn more about our inspired virtual programming and onsite services, visit us at www.atwaterlibrary.ca

The makeover of a Westmount "crown jewel"

Founded in 1828 as a Mechanics' Institute, the Atwater Library has roots in Westmount that extend back 101 years to 1920, when we moved into our then-new home at Atwater Ave. and Tupper St. The brick Beaux-Arts style building on Westmount's eastern flank is a designated National Historic Site.

During the pandemic, we have been working away behind the scenes to complete a 10-year, \$5-million restoration and upgrading of one of the crown jewels of Westmount's built heritage – financed primarily by the proceeds of a capital campaign co-chaired by Richard Pound and David Angus, along with grants from the government of Canada. Improvements include the installation of an elevator and air conditioning. Our restored historic venue will enhance our love of learning and the arts in an even-more-comfortable environment.

"Over the past few decades, the Atwater Library and Computer Centre has become the hub of Quebec's Anglo literary community, while providing invaluable computer services. As writers, readers, and users of computing devices, we all need it to thrive. I urge the City of Westmount to support its work."

— **Linda Leith**, O.C., author, publisher, founder of Blue Metropolis and Westmount resident

"The Atwater Library is a hub of creativity, communal support, and learning (everything from writing novels to writing a last will and testament!). I can testify to the sense of welcome and refuge it offers the wide range of people frequenting it. A brand new elevator now allows wheelchair access to QWF workshops, public reading series, literary events, and courses in computer literacy, to name just a few. This gem of an institution offers consistently outstanding and unstinting service to the local community. It deserves civic recognition in kind."

— **Claire Holden Rothman**, writer and Westmount resident

"Cities are often judged by the quality of their libraries. Westmount has a fine Municipal Library, but the Atwater Library is also a priceless treasure – an older urban construct that serves as a cultural centre and helps maintain sophisticated literacy of a kind that is rather scarce today. Many of us have appreciated it over the years, and we ardently hope it can continue to prosper."

— **Julius Grey**, attorney, author and Westmount resident

"I've been a Westmount resident and member of the Atwater Library for many years. The computer centre is a uniquely valuable asset that fulfills the initiative of the library's founders—to provide knowledge and impart skills to working people, and all people. Even in the pandemic the library's multiple lecture and instructional series continued and were available online. The library is a treasure to be honoured and supported."

— **Gerald Wexler**, film and television screenwriter and Westmount resident

"Atwater Library is an essential cultural hub in our community. It helps connect all of us who value books and ideas, giving us access to the resources and tools to support our creative work and life-long learning."

— **Cora Siré**, novelist, poet and Westmount resident

"The Atwater Library has been providing specialized learning that is vital for our well-being, as it represents the most intimate socializing available to us these days. What's more, we are being asked to do everything on the internet, from shopping to worshipping, from playing with our grandchildren to keeping up with friends. I am grateful to the Atwater Library, the government and private donors for making your work possible. Thank you so much!"

— **Patricia Spensley**, Manoir Westmount

"I'm finding the Atwater Library online digital literacy sessions very helpful. Thanks to the enthusiastic instructors for their commitment, their patience, and their nurturing support. I like the weekly lunchtime lectures too."

— **Beverly Shaffer**, documentary film director and Westmount resident

"The Atwater Library has made it easy for me to come into the technology of the 21st century. Their courses and workshops are stress-free, fun, and confidence-building."

— **Maureen Coote**, Westmount resident

"I cherish the Atwater Library because of the appealing programming, the helpful staff, and the warm atmosphere. I've benefited in particular from the computer help and the enlightening Thursday lectures."

— **Brian Webb**, Westmount resident

"The Atwater Library is a wonderful historic venue and the Lunchtime Series is truly exceptional."

— **Nancy Waterston**, Westmount resident

"I am ever so grateful for the digital technology help that the Atwater Library's amazing staff delivered to me by phone and on-line. I'm looking forward to returning to the beautifully-restored heritage building; how great that it now boasts an elevator!"

— **Patricia Quill**, Westmount resident



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'Retired' DG adjusts to interim position

City faces some significant challenges, Campbell contends

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's been almost four months since Duncan Campbell assumed his current position as Westmount's interim director general after an absence of six years and it took "a little adjustment," he said last week.

This was primarily because of changes owing to the difference between the current COVID context and the "traditional way" that the city worked during his tenure (2008-2014), along with the loss of some key personnel and even Campbell's own remote working conditions.

On the other hand, he explained, the city has proven to be very resilient though it is facing "some significant challenges." These include the need to update by-laws to conform to changes in provincial legislation. Another is the increase in the cost of contracts and construction that have hit the city during this year's record-high budget for capital works (\$27.2 million).

Fortunately, he said, Bruce St. Louis, who retired as director general in 2008, has also returned with Campbell on an interim basis as assistant director general after the departure of Benoit Hurtubise

on medical leave. St. Louis is overseeing the capital works projects and budgets.

The city has taken "a very cautious approach" to re-opening over the gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions, Campbell said, and many people have stepped up to fill employment vacancies, but "what we're finding is a future shortage of key trained personnel who have chosen to work closer to home or move into the private sector."

Need to modernize

On another front, the city is going through a transition and needs to "modernize" and update some of its by-laws, especially dealing with urban planning and zoning. Some of these are at least 30 years old. This can involve acquiring legal opinions.

Among examples, he lists



Duncan Campbell on June 2.

the city's lack of a minor derogations by-law that is used by many municipalities as well as changes to demolition procedures to focus more on the demolition aspect initially rather than the replacement plan.

In some local by-laws, he said, the enforcement person is named as "the competent authority" by a title that is no longer in use.

Changes in purchasing

There are also changes required in purchasing that stem from the Charbonneau Commission, the inquiry into the awarding and management of construction contracts, and these "are constantly changing."

Some overdue improvements that have been implemented by the city through necessity due to COVID include the use of

the internet for residents to pay accounts and apply for permits. Other online additions include the greater use of social media. Zoom has also been found to be a useful tool for virtual city meetings.

As Westmount updates many of its by-laws as well as operations and hires new personnel, it has "a good name" and many meaningful traditions, Campbell said. But there is value in bringing in new ideas and challenging a lot of ways of operating. "New eyes bring new ideas."

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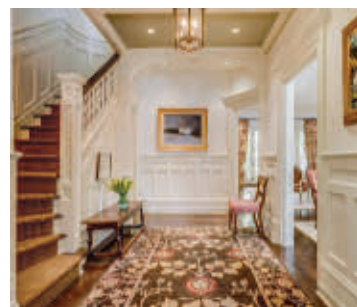
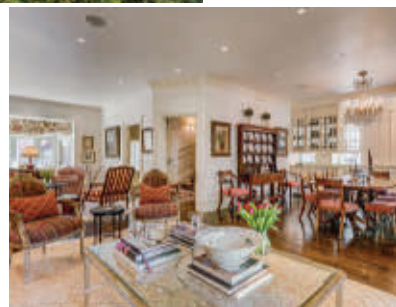
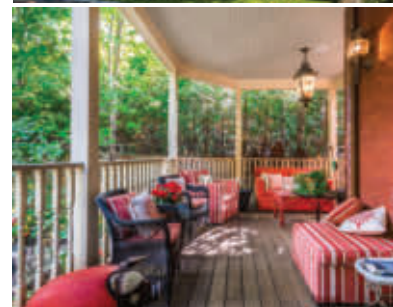
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Mossop, cont'd. from p. 1

well as a Bixi network for every one that allows for travel within Westmount rather than to and from downtown.

While Mossop said he was not running to oppose current councillor Kathleen Kez, he believes he has goals and ideas that need to be addressed in the district.

An engineer and professional project manager for close to 20 years, latterly with Bombardier, Mossop has served on the Westmount Train Action Group (WTAG) and the Turcot highway Bon Voisinage committee, both of which provided him with an insight into how infrastructure can impact the community, he explained.

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Mossop attended Roslyn School and was involved in soccer and track and field at Westmount High. During CEGEP and university, he worked as a lifeguard and instructor at the Westmount pool and coached the Dolphins swim team.

“We’re in a niche situation in District 8 that has a lot of traffic and that’s close to a busy commercial area but has many benefits that can attract people who work in the area.”

His training and work experience in project management are transferable assets to city council, he explained. This includes managing stakeholders and assessing the impact and consequences of “why you are doing things and what is the benefit? I think I have a different insight and critical thinking.”

Updating some of the city’s programming to meet changing needs is one of his aims. As an example, he cites the city’s summer day camps that run from 9 am to 4 pm. How can families with two parents working outside the home or a single parent meet those hours without a support system? he asks. “I would like to look into extended hours.”

Traffic reduction

Options regarding ways to improve traffic safety is another example of how his



Michael Mossop June 2 on Hallowell St.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

training and work in project management is transferable to the city, he said.

Mossop graduated in 2002 from McGill in mechanical engineering with an aeronautical option, and obtained a certificate in management two years later.

He has served as an executive of the Westmount Train Action Group when he undertook extensive research in the scheduling of commuter trains that could enable them to end in a terminus at Vendôme station. This could spare the residential district through south eastern Westmount from the noise and vibration

of the trains, a subject on which he was a fairly regular voice at council meetings.

At meetings of the Turcot Bon Voisinage project, he made representations on hours and sound levels of the work to ensure it remained accountable to established standards.

On a list of activities he enjoys are squash, SCUBA diving, beach volleyball, broomball and running. He volunteered at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia in 2006 and has travelled around the world extensively through work with SNC Lavalin.

2021 elections: ‘All in’ for District 4

Peart to run again for council

Councillor Conrad Peart told the *Independent* last week his decision to run again in the November 7 municipal elections is in fact a “Yes!”

“I’m all in,” he said June 3, in contrast to a poll in the June 1 *Independent* (see p. 1). For that story, his email reply to questions about running was quoted verbatim and seemed to indicate a need to consider his answer closer to the time. As a result, he was tagged as “maybe,” while Mayor Christina Smith and four councillors provided distinct “yes-es.”

These came from District 1’s Anitra Bostock, Jeff Shamie in District 3, Mary Gallery in District 6 and Kathleen Kez in number 8. Cynthia Lulham (District 7) has previously announced that she would not run after 25 year on the council.

Peart’s updated answer states that “Yes, I intend to run again. While we have made some headway through changes in urban planning and in other domains, there is still much left to do. Later in the year, I look forward to making a case for my contribution to the effort. I’m all in.”

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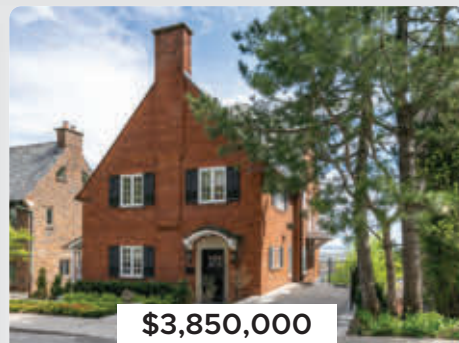
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Seniors/students team up intergenerationally

Contactivity & Selwyn wrap up year of connecting with each other

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A total of 70 members of the Contactivity Seniors' Centre and 110 students from Selwyn House School have been involved over this last school year in a joint program to exchange life skills and experiences by interacting with each other virtually on Zoom.

In the program – made possible by a Contactivity grant from Heritage Canada – one aspect paired seniors with tech-savvy students to improve their internet knowledge. Another consisted of the seniors – one a retired professional in early education – reading to some of the school's junior classes, while another involved classes on photography and digital literacy provided by the school.

As a result some of those who worked together forged intergenerational friendships that went beyond the skill-set level, according to Benita Goldin, director of planning and development for Contactivity.

Intergenerational tea

Some of the experiences were truly "heartwarming and inspiring" as expressed at the program's Intergenerational Tea May 25 to celebrate the end of the school year. Held live on Zoom, it is now available on YouTube on both the Contac-

tivity and Selwyn websites.

In some of the snippets, the program participants spoke about the bonds they had forged with their partner.

"We learned a lot from each other," one student said of his experiences in connecting with his senior partner. For another: "We've enjoyed having time together and caring about each other's lives."

Even though the school term comes to an end June 18, Goldin said that some of the partners have planned to "get together" over the summer before the program starts up again with the return to school under another similar grant from Canadian Heritage.

In the case of some students working on Duke of Edinburgh Awards, their hours of participation are being put toward their community service requirements, she said.

For the seniors, many gained new technical skills that enabled them to use the Zoom platform to participate in ongoing online courses and programs provided by Contactivity and to alleviate feelings of isolation. Other technical skills enabled them to order groceries and carry out other shopping online during the COVID lockdown.

Also under the program, the Contactivity Selwyn Intergenerational Choir presented two videos: Winter Wonderland and Valentine's Day L-O-V-E (see story February 2, 2021, p. 11).



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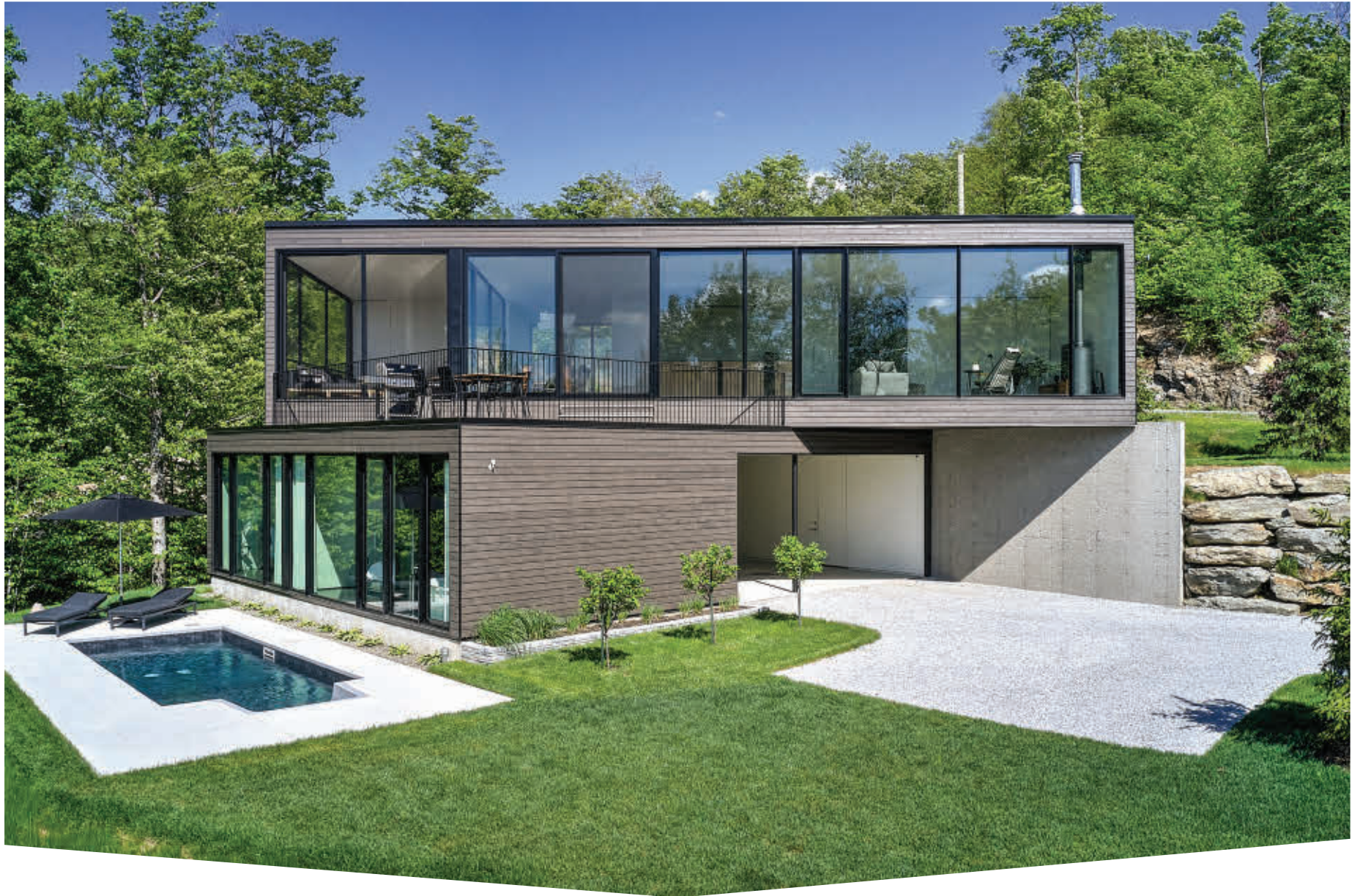
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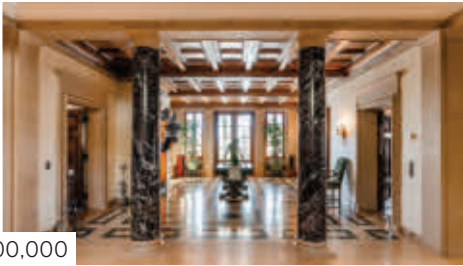
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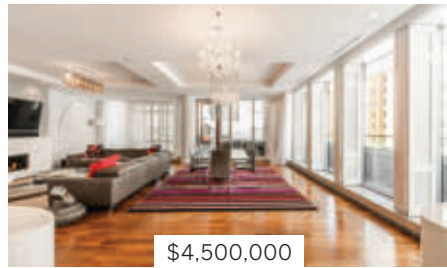
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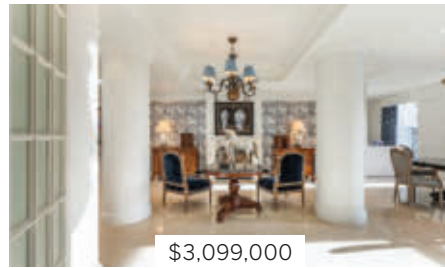
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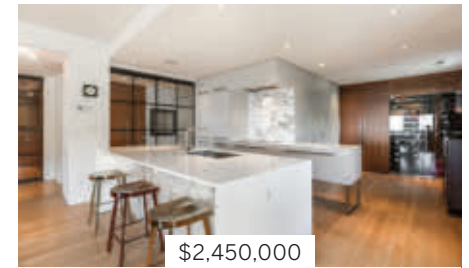
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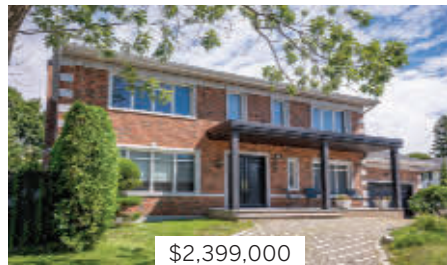
Victoria Village large duplex with garden. MLS 10528638



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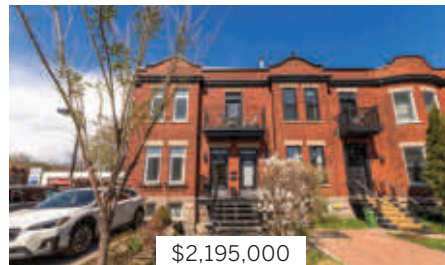
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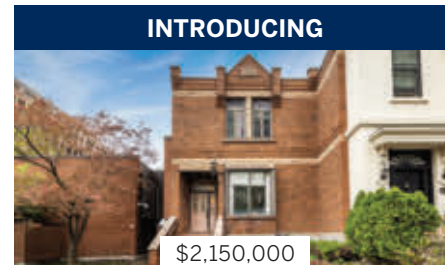
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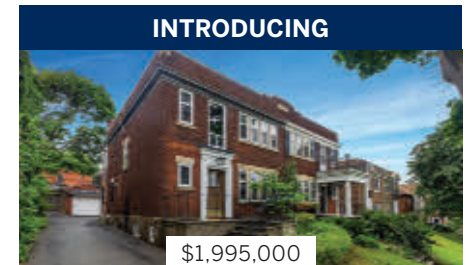
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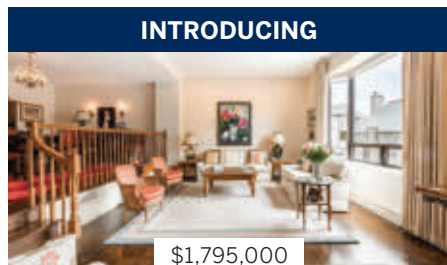
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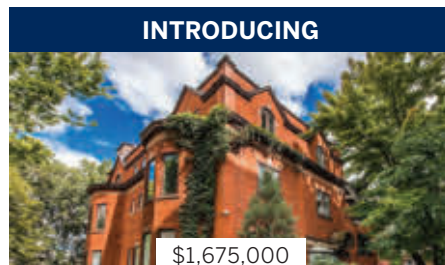
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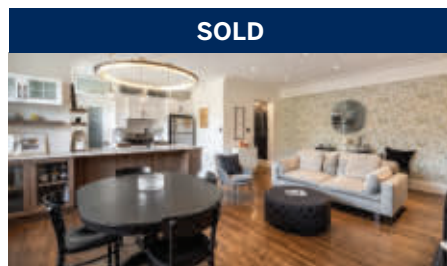
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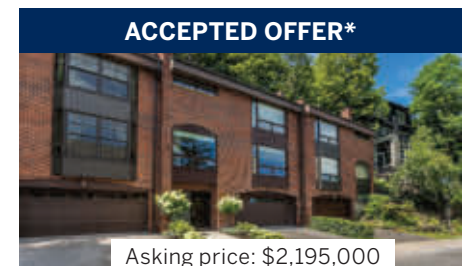
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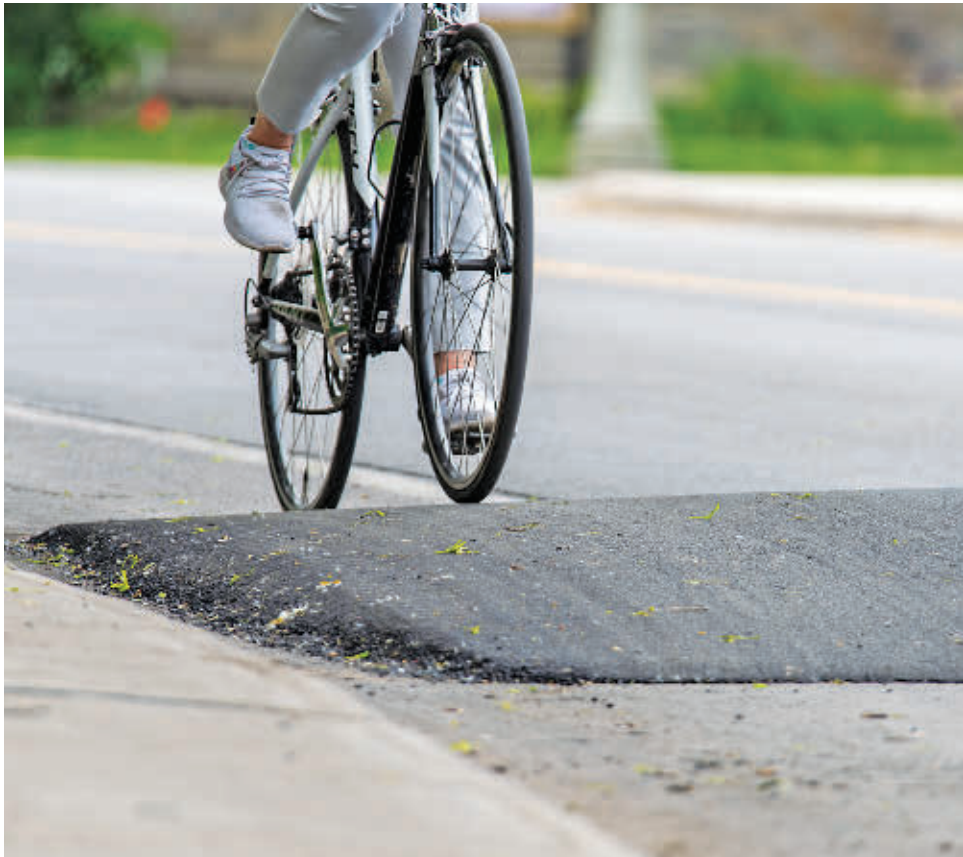


‘Car bumps’ in Lansdowne bike path



The *Independent* found the “raised edge” (circled) of the speed bump on Lansdowne south of C  te St. Antoine still in place May 31, above, after it was criticized at a city council meeting on May 17. Resident Maxine Cuttler contended that this edge bordering the bike path has caused two cycling accidents this year (see May 25, p. 4). A similar edge exists on the speed bump a quarter block further south. Meanwhile, on the same street below de Maisonneuve, the speed bump continues right into bike path, below, as seen May 20 in front of the Westmount recreation centre.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



When light changed at Lansdowne and Sherbrooke Cyclist injured in flip over handlebars at sudden stop

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 46-year old woman cycling down the hill on Lansdowne was treated at the scene for facial and hand injuries May 31 when flipping over her handlebars at Sherbrooke, Public Security officials said.

The incident occurred around 12:39 pm when public safety officers responded to a call for a bike accident and found the woman crouched over on the ground tended by a passer-by. Her helmet lay on the grass and her glasses were broken.

She told officers she had jammed on the

brakes suddenly and flipped over the handlebars head first when noticing the yellow light at Sherbrooke and decided not to go through the intersection. Officers applied first aid to injuries to the face and one hand. They called a friend of the cyclist, who arrived quickly and was to take the woman to the nearby hospital at the Glen site.

While it was not known whether she had removed the helmet herself after the fall, Public Security director Greg McBain said “the main point was that she had a helmet on.”



What the cyclist likely saw, as seen seven days later on June 7.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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A PERSONAL
VIEW
RALPH THOMPSON

In many cities across Canada, residents are asked to separate organic food waste for municipal composting.

In October 2019, Taylor Logan, a contributor to the CBC, stated “the majority of Canadian organic waste still ends up in the landfill.” Westmount took a lead with food waste collection in 2009, ahead of many municipalities in the Montreal area.

So, I was curious: how does Westmount’s city-wide composting process actually work?

If I drop an imaginary banana skin into a Westmount green bin, how long would it take to emerge as compost for use in a garden, in a farmer’s field or packaged for re-sale?

Starting point

Westmount’s Public Works department subcontracts food waste collection. The current contractor is Derichebourg, the lowest bidder selected for the period beginning May 2, 2019. Its contract runs until April 30, 2023 with renewal options, according to Patricia Racette, environment technician in Public Works.

To start the journey of the imaginary banana skin, I met up with the Derichebourg crew at the corner of Wood Ave. and Sherbrooke St. on May 17.

The large truck, with driver Jacques Dugas (substituting for the regular driver), was already waiting at 6:40 am and worker Stephen Moore arrived shortly before the 7 am start time.

(He had begun his day at 5 am to take his car to the garage before work. The effervescent Moore has worked in garbage col-

Where does our food waste go? We can’t find out

lection since 1982, but he has another life. As a multi-talented street performer, he has been entertaining Montrealers and visitors in places like Place Jacques Cartier with his fire juggling, unicycle performance and magic tricks for decades. He has seen his fair share of trouble as Montreal changed street performance laws. But that’s another story...)

Moore agreed to wear my Fitbit to track his steps. We would meet again seven and a half hours later at their last collection location for the day.

The city divides collection into two sections; the east on Mondays and the west on Tuesdays, and then the same crew also does the garbage pick-up Thursdays and Fridays. This reliable and effective service operates 52 weeks of the year.

Stating the route

It’s just after 7 am and the imaginary banana skin is now in the back of the refuse truck. The Freightliner behemoth roared off down the alleyway between Wood and Elm avenues, with Moore hanging on the back of the truck, standing with one foot on step, an iconic sight for many locals.

At 2:30 pm, in the hot sunshine, 26°C and humid, the heavily-laden, snarling white truck crawls around the corner of St. Antoine St. West and Brooke Ave. to complete its final run of the day along Selby Lane.

By then, Moore had completed 28,000 steps since 7 am, an estimated 13 miles and had climbed the equivalent of 222 floors (Fitbit combines altitude and step action), seemingly without a break, according to the heart rate monitor.

And he will repeat this every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the icy and treacherous

continued on p. 21



From left, Stephen Moore and Jacques Dugas of Derichebourg on May 17.



Stephen Moore at work.



An actual banana peel.
We followed an imaginary one.

Food waste, cont'd. from p.20

conditions of winter and the stifling heat of summer.

He effectively completes the equivalent of two marathons a week on the job. He is an extraordinary man. I offered to email him the story after publication.

“I don’t have any of that stuff: no email, no cell phone,” he replied.

But that’s no problem, I can easily meet up with him. His schedule is as reliable as a Swiss watch, come high winds, rain, sunshine or snow.

But now the banana skin is disappearing along St. Antoine St. along with kitchen waste from hundreds of Westmount homes, heading up the Décarie Expressway. Moore parts company with the truck at the last collection location.

The true mystery begins

Westmount is only the first part of the journey and, at this point, the plight of my banana skin becomes a little more mysterious. The trail of the compost goes cold as it wends its way between two contractors, the city of Westmount and the agglomeration of Montreal, to which Westmount is forced to belong.

(The agglomeration was born in 2006 when the provincial Liberal government under Jean Charest partially reversed the Parti Québécois’ 2002 merger of all the municipalities on the island of Montreal. It has many powers and responsibilities, most notably police, fire and public transit. Westmount and the 14 other demerged municipalities together have a minority of votes on its council. The city of Montreal’s mayor has the majority.)

According to Racette, the waste goes from Derichebourg’s truck to a “trans-shipment centre” run by Recyclage Notre-

Dame in Montreal East, which is a part of a large conglomerate called EBI or Les Entreprises Berthier Inc. (www.ebiqc.com/a-propos/entreprises/les-entreprises-berthier-inc/).

Numerous calls and emails to contacts on Recyclage Notre-Dame’s website, www.ebiqc.com/en/about/companies/recyclage-notre-dame, failed to garner replies.

Back at Westmount Public Works, Racette now advised me to contact Karla Duval at the city of Montreal, because the “food waste treatment is the agglomeration’s responsibility.” (The line between the city of Montreal and the agglomeration of Montreal is often invisible to the public, and the terms are used interchangeably at times.) Duval told me that food waste treatment for Westmount was not Montreal’s responsibility, only garden waste.

Back to Racette, where I was again told the opposite. Racette said she would talk to Duval to clarify, but Duval never called me back.

Racette then gave me the EBI corporate contact website (www.ebiqc.com/contact/coordonnees/). So again, I tried to contact EBI using several addresses and phone numbers, including those of the corporate marketing department (1.800.486.0225 and marketing@ebiqc.com). Again, no replies. Unfortunately, the coordinates used by Westmount’s own staff to reach people at EBI/Recyclage Notre-Dame are for employees’ use, not the public or press relations. The *Independent* also reached out to a member of Montreal’s ruling Projet Montréal party to get access to the facility, to no avail.

So what happens to the banana peel? We don’t know for sure.

With background and research from David Price.

Lansdowne parking shift in effect

Looking north, the shift of parking from the west to the east side of Lansdowne between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve took effect June 1, complete with new signs, left. Looking south, the city had also posted advance notice ones, right, which were still up when we visited June 2.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

*Reminder***Overnight parking reinstated for June 7**

With the recent end of the overnight curfew, Public Security officials said last week they wanted to remind people that the hiatus for overnight parking on the street was officially over as of June 7.

While residents themselves must apply for 24-hour parking permits for on-street parking, it was important for them to resume the practice of requesting special parking tolerance for visitors planning to stay overnight.

Anyone needing it is allowed a maximum of 30 requests a year applied to their vehicle licence plate. This also affects anyone who must work overnight in Westmount.



The EBI facility on Marien Ave. in Montreal East on June 2.

Prince Albert playground opens

By RALPH THOMPSON

The first week of June is Canada’s National Accessibility Week and Quebec’s Semaine québécoise des personnes handicapées. In keeping with this campaign, Westmount opened the new Prince Albert Park “inclusive” playground June 4. Mayor Christina Smith cut the ribbon to officially open the playground just after 12 noon, supported by councillors Conrad Peart, Cynthia Lulham and Marina Brzeski.

Smith and Lulham both showed a little emotion as they explained how the playground improvements had been con-

ceived. Westmounters Alana Geller and Aren Prupas had approached the city some years ago to request that play areas be made more inclusive to accommodate people with disabilities like their seven-year-old son Ari.

“It’s inclusive because the space is not only accessible but it’s inclusive.....the aim to have the same experience no matter what the person’s needs are.... old or young,” said Jayme Gerbrandt, horticulture and arboriculture inspector for the city of Westmount.

Gerbrandt explained that elements of the playground were located on the equip-



The newly open inclusive play area including the AeroGlider (left), the Cocoon, the sensory tunnel, the gently sloped access ramp and the monkey bars in the background.



Alana Geller, Ari, Aren and Solomon Prupas in the AeroGlider.

ment and on the ground so people of all ages and abilities can access them. The structure incorporates a large gondola called an AeroGlider that does swing slightly when everyone on board coordinates their actions. It’s accessible from a gentle ramp, incorporating handgrips, seats and a large space to allow wheelchairs to turn around and people with walkers to maneuver easily.

In contrast to the interactive play activity of the AeroGlider, the Cocoon is designed for a lack of activity, for those with stimulation sensitivities and neurological challenges. It provides a darker, quieter place for children to cool down when they get

over stimulated. There’s a sensory tunnel with textures, curves and ridges that helps with sensory development and, off to one side, a hand spinner that can be easily reached from a wheelchair. Taller individuals can do a few pull-ups on the monkey bars while baby can take a swing in the Mommy-and-Me swing.

All the ground around the play area is a porous “pour in place” rubber particle surface that is very soft but firm enough to allow a wheel chair to roll freely. Lulham explained that there weren’t any plans at this time to build other play areas like this and that most of the city’s play equipment has been upgraded in recent years.



Councillor Marina Brzeski (left), environment technician Patricia Racette, horticulture and arboriculture inspector Jayme Gerbrandt, Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Councillor Conrad Peart, Mayor Christina Smith, Aren and Ari Prupas, and Alana Geller.



Four-year-old Gloria Roberts with her 10-year-old sister takes a ride in the new Mommy-and-Me double-seated swing. It is designed this way because “babies like to look in the eyes of their mom,” said Jayme Gerbrandt but in this case, Gloria was sitting in for mom.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

Moose is a form of therapy cat: big, hunky, purring and most cuddly. He never tires of companionship, as you can see him here being helpful at the laptop on the desk. A very handsome fellow, longhaired white and black with huge gold eyes, he

knows he is gorgeous and looks forward to compliments.

Moose is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, looking forward to a loving family to care for throughout his days. He is four years young, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Moose has an underlying inflammatory bowel condition that flares up so he has a specific food that keeps it in check.

In view of this consideration, he is placed with the consideration of a humanitarian reduced adoption fee.

Please refer to big Moose's identification

number 46196845 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at 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, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



**Westmount
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LYSANNE FOWLER

Yes, a perfect summer-time buddy!

Titan is waiting patiently for a family at the Montreal SPCA kennel to take him into their hearts and arms, then to share a fun lifestyle for his active young personality. He is irresistible, so handsome with his long-haired black-and-white fur contrasting with his soft brown eyes, and a keen

Sporting Titan

look for things to do and games to play.

At five years of age, he is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please refer to Titan's identification number 47528217 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at 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, followed by a visit by appointment at the SPCA.

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Vendôme tunnel opens, at last

By Martin C. Barry

Three and a half years after Montreal’s transit authority began work on a pedestrian tunnel in NDG to connect the Vendôme Metro and Exo commuter rail stations to the McGill University Health Centre site, the underground passageway opened officially on May 31.

When the MUHC’s Glen campus first opened in 2015, a tunnel from the Vendôme multimodal transit site hadn’t yet

been built, forcing the hospital to open an alternate tunnel whose stairs and slope were obstacles to those with mobility challenges.

While construction of the new tunnel began in 2017, according to the MUHC, it’s been seven years since planning in conjunction with the Quebec ministry of Transport, the Société de transport de Montréal (STM), the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain (ARTM) and Exo began.

The tunnel will only be open during the Metro’s hours of operation.

“The opening of such an entrance ensures increasing autonomy for handicapped persons requiring medical care and is a major step forward towards creating a totally handicapped-accessible Montreal Metro,” former Westmounter Maureen Kiely, a member of the hospital patients’ committee, said in a statement issued by the MUHC.

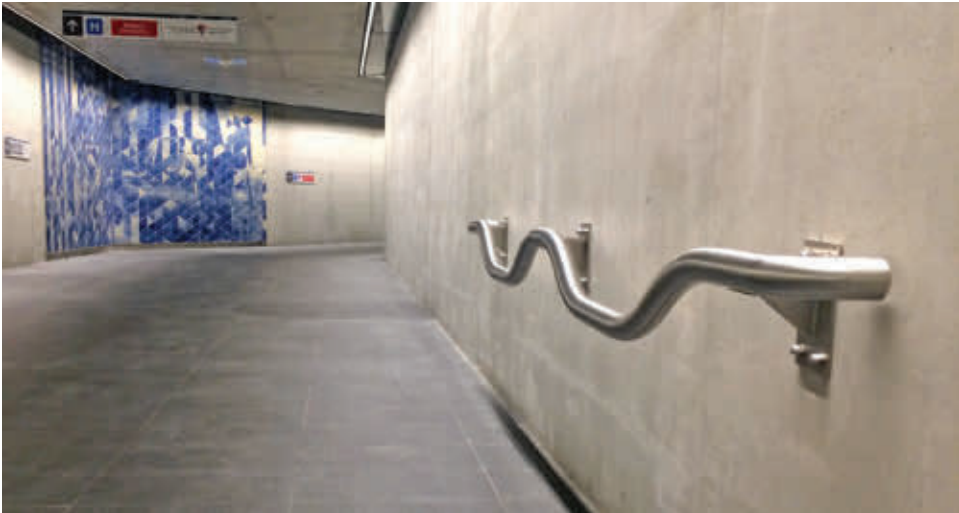
“We wish to thank the STM personnel for their professionalism and for all their efforts to include the MUHC patients’ committee in their deliberations,” she added.

The tunnel, equipped with elevators, hand sanitizing stations and appropriate signage, provides access to the MUHC’s COVID-19 screening clinic, located in the underground parking lot.

However, the MUHC noted that those coming to the Glen site for the vaccination clinic, lo-

continued on p. 26

Seen here on June 2, the new entrance pavilion to the Vendôme Metro and Exo train stations also has a tunnel that leads into the McGill University Health Centre site.



Above, approaching the entrance to the MUHC site, the tunnel has art work on the wall (left) and a rest stop (right). Below, the subterranean entrance to the tunnel leading from the Vendôme Metro and Exo stations into the MUHC’s Glen site.



This elevator on the pedestrian tunnel level provides access to the Vendôme Metro.

Police Report**Black SUV stolen near Wood and Barat**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. report there were almost no criminal incidents in Westmount in more than a week, except for an early morning car theft. According to a recent report, a black SUV Jeep parked near the corner of Wood Ave. and Barat Rd. was driven off by a car thief on May 30. “The plaintiff parked the day before,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. “When he went back,

the vehicle was gone and he verified that it hadn’t been towed.”

The investigators have little to follow up on, as they were unable to find any security cameras at nearby homes that might have captured images, nor did the perpetrator leave behind any clues.

There was no broken glass on the ground or other evidence of forced entry.

COVID checking

Working in conjunction with the

Canada Border Services Agency, police officers from Station 12 are continuing to conduct inspection visits at homes in Westmount where residents are required by pandemic-control regulations to stay in quarantine after returning from travel abroad.

According to Pimentel, officers conducted two inspections on May 29 to homes on Clarke and Victoria avenues. They found that all regulations were being followed.

Bicycles, jewellery stolen

On May 22 sometime between 11:30 am and 8 pm, an intruder broke into a house near the corner of Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Prince Albert Ave. through a basement door located under outdoor steps leading to the home’s front entrance.

According to the police incident report, the owners returned home after being out all day and noticed that the basement door had been forced open.

continued on p. 27

Turcot DiFruscia new deputy head at The Study

Kim Turcot DiFruscia will be joining The Study June 15 as its new deputy head of school, according to a May 31 press release.

She was previously the directrice adjointe des services pédagogiques at Collège Jean de Brébeuf, where she was also responsible for admissions.

For the past 12 years, Turcot DiFruscia has held various teaching positions at all school levels, including university, and spent four years teaching French at The Study between 2016-2020.

She has a PhD in anthropology from the University of Montreal, where she is also pursuing her administration of education degree. She is also continuing her studies in the teaching of reading at Columbia University’s teacher’s college.

“Her innate love of learning, passion for Quebec culture and warm personality, will be a great asset for the school,” according to the release.

Terminal patient returns to India Westmount trio donates cancer sufferer’s final flight home

Westmounters Mark Smith, France Chrétien and André Desmarais recently donated money for Kirandeep Kaur, 25, to return home to India after a terminal appendiceal cancer diagnosis at the McGill University Health Centre in December.

Kaur came to Montreal to study business in 2019. According to a June 1 press release from the hospital, “This strong and determined 25-year-old woman wanted to become a financial analyst.

“It was surgical oncologist Dr. Sinziana Dumitra who treated her, and who realized there was nothing more anyone could do to save her.

“‘It wasn’t just like the disease came back a little bit,’ said Dumitra. ‘It came back with a vengeance.’”

The release continued: the three Westmounters are “all loyal donors to the MUHC Foundation. When they heard Kirandeep’s heartbreaking story, they quickly took action, not only donating the funds for Kirandeep to return home, but organizing the entire journey.

“Kaur was flown to Toronto on a private jet, where she would board a flight to

Delhi. A rush visa was secured for the nurse who would accompany her. Four days after [MUHC Foundation CEO Julie] Quenneville received the call from Dr. Dumitra, Kaur was home in India,” where she was desperate to return.

“It was a miracle. I thank the people who helped us from the bottom of my heart,” husband Baljeet Singh Sidhu was quoted as saying.



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Winners of the McEntyre Writing Competition 2021

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Grade 2 Lapo Bogdaniers Kai Mendell Vela Iordanova HM Jiayi Zhang	Selwyn House School Selwyn House School The Study The Study	Grade 5 Sadie Victor Disha De Yangyuhe Yang HM Abigail Iny	St. George's School The Study The Study Akiva School	Grade 9 Eliot Fleming Rachel Korenblit Vivek Lee MacKinnon HM Valeria Villalpando	Westmount High School St. George's High School Westmount High School St. George's High School
Grade 3 Emily Chen Emily Karanofsky Theodora Molson HM Elhami	The Study Akiva School Villa Sainte-Marcelline William Shady Selwyn House School	Grade 6 Addison Keig Georgia Clark Isabelle Ong HM Ashley Guan HM Callie Gelber	Westmount Park School St. George's School Villa Sainte-Marcelline The Study Akiva School	Grade 10 Ruby Shae Picard Eden Black-Rotchin Mia Mercado-Shepherd HM Aaron Itovitch	Westmount High School Westmount High School Westmount High School Westmount High School
Grade 4 Emily Pearce Samuel Liberman Kiran Kennedy	The Study Akiva School The Study	Grade 7 Sophie Hunt Sydney Shapiro Talya Daras HM Lucca McDougall	The Study Villa Sainte-Marcelline Villa Sainte-Marcelline Westmount High School	Grade 11 Noe Yasko Tess Harty Gabriella Pinard HM Adam Stoljar Gold	Westmount High School Westmount High School Villa Sainte-Marcelline St. George's High School
			Grade 8 Anne-Saskia Zucker	HM = Honourable Mention	
			Villa Sainte-Marcelline		

McEntyre contest's 2021 results

The results of the city's McEntyre writing competition are in (see above). The yearly event is open to students from Westmount or at Westmount schools.



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This year, the contest received 1,195 entries from 10 schools. The required essay topic was “Think Big! Start Small! *Vise haut, une marche à la fois.*”

Seventy-eight volunteer judges, under the leadership of chief judge Rosalind Davis, read the stories, essays and poems and wrote a personal comment to every participant.

The online award ceremony is available to stream on the library's website at youtu.be/M2wT5QiFztl and a booklet with all the winning entries is available on the library's website: www.westlib.org.

3 tickets issued for leaf blower abuse

Three tickets were issued between May 27 and June 1 for garden workers caught using leaf blowers after the May 1 deadline, Public Security officials said.

The first one for \$152 was issued after two workers initially tried to hide when the blower was heard at a property on Côte St. Antoine near Roslyn. They were ultimately spotted through an opening in a gate. The same day at 10:55 am, another blower was heard by a patroller on Cedar, who advised the worker that a ticket would be sent to his employer. The fine for a company in this case is \$275.

On June 1 at 4:49 pm, a contractor was fined \$152 for operating a blower at a property on Prince Albert.


Vendôme tunnel, cont'd. from p. 24

cated in the atrium of the Research Institute at the MUHC, should continue to use the first tunnel. Signage will be in place to indicate the route to follow.


According to the STM, another reason for building the tunnel and its entrance pavilion on de Maisonneuve Blvd. was that the older Vendôme Metro station building was not accessible to persons with reduced mobility.

The STM says there are now five elevators in various places inside the intermodal complex, accessible from train platforms, as well as from the tunnel leading into the MUHC site.


Hospital-bound people exiting a Metro train must first ascend to ground level, by stair or elevator, and then descend again, by stair or elevator, to access the tunnel to the hospital, but they do not have to go outside.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE
Demolition Application
The City of Westmount has received an application for a demolition permit, and for a preliminary program for the building located at **1-3 Hillside Avenue**;
A public sitting of the Demolition Committee will take place on **July 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** and will be broadcasted live on the City's website. The link for the sitting will be available at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/demolition-demand/>
The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>
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Rotary Peace Fellow/journalist Champagne aims to dialogue

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

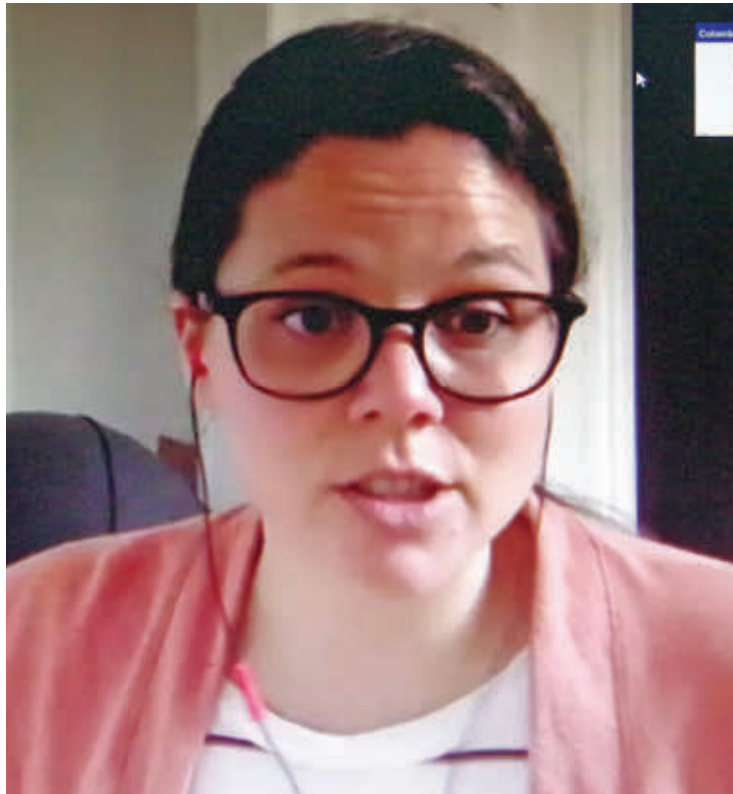
Last week, the Westmount Rotarians heard from a young Montreal-based journalist whose career has benefited from a program offered through Rotary's international network – the Rotary Peace Fellowship.

Studying as a Rotary Peace Fellow, Sarah Champagne completed a master's degree in journalism at the University of North Carolina School of Media and Journalism.

Every year, the Rotary Foundation awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships. Peace is one of six areas of focus.

The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, it has trained more than 1,400 fellows, who now work in more than 115 countries for non-governmental or-



Le Devoir journalist and Rotary Peace Fellow Sarah Champagne recounted her experience with the Rotary Peace Fellowship program to the Westmount Rotarians on May 26.

ganizations (NGOs), philanthropic groups, foundations and government agencies.

Now a journalist for *Le Devoir*, Champagne has also freelanced in 15 countries around the world, including Cameroon, Mexico, Guatemala, Nepal, Benin and Colombia.

"One of the very important aspects of the program is not only that we have classes about peace and development together with our cohorts," Champagne told the Rotarians during their May 26 online gathering, describing the impact.

"But it's also that you get to be in this network, you get to live with those people, to see the world through their eyes."

Champagne suggested that being a Rotary Peace Fellow had influenced her journalist's perspective to tell stories that promote dialogue, rather than conflict. She described her time spent studying in the US during President Donald Trump's term in office.

"In a very polarized time in the US, I was there staying with people from both sides, people who had very different opinions, but they had agreed to disagree," she said.

She said part of the experience "is to be in touch with people who don't think like you, who might disagree with you, and how can you still build that bridge? And as a journalist, I think it's one of the main lessons and one of the main takeaways that I got from this experience in North Carolina."

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Police, cont'd. from p.25

"The frame was actually damaged," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, adding that a tool was probably used. "That was the only damage – an open entrance – that's probably how they got in."

Because the house wasn't equipped with security cameras, the investigators have little evidence to help identify the perpetrators. The suspects stole two bicycles, a video game console and some jewellery.

Broken into, nothing taken

Long weekends when tenants, condo

owners and house dwellers tend to head off for two to three days away from home can substantially increase the risk of burglary.

Such was the case during the recent Victoria Day weekend.

The owners of a home on Belvedere Rd. in upper Westmount returned on May 24 from a three-day absence after receiving a call warning that the house had possibly been broken into. Although they found after returning that a glass patio door had been shattered, there was no evidence anything had been stolen, said Pimentel.

Police, no protestors

At least some residents of the area near Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. were expecting a pro-Palestinian protest June 5 to start between 12:30 and 1 pm, as were the police. The Israeli consulate is located in Westmount Square.

When the *Independent* went by, it counted six police cars, two police motorcycles and zero protestors. The streets were all open. When asked, a policeman speculated that the weather might be a factor. It had just rained a bit and more was forecast.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

(Some) restrictions end! People gather, legally



Westmounters Jordan Schacter, Linda Smith, Sascha Smith and Kristopher Russell-Murray up north.



Westmounter Bryan Beland, 8, and his new best friend Hank up north.



Terry Smith and Michael Page in a Westmount back yard.

Rumour has it that it's almost LBD (little black dress) time! Well, almost.

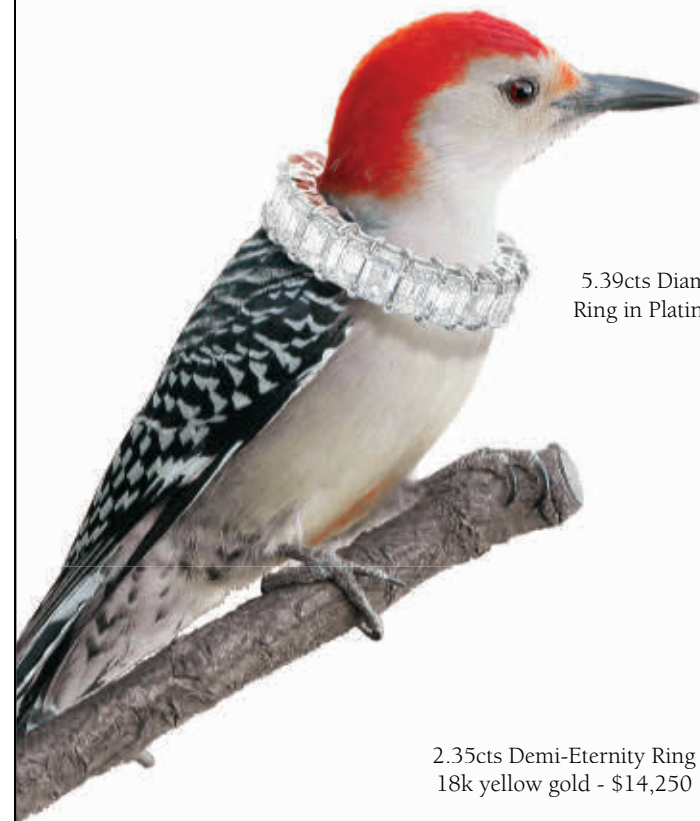
But after the recent strict COVID constraints, for now local res are just happy to sit back and enjoy long-missed companionship.

With the slight relaxing of rules, on May 28 friends eagerly got together and donned clothes other than sweatshirts.

Outdoor terraces of local restaurants were sold out. Under tents and warmed by heaters along St. Catherine St., Balos and Taverne on the Square served smartly dressed guests, most of whom were friends but still sat socially distanced. No jeans and hoodies for those ladies. Even with the chilly temperatures, chic stood out.

And the next day, Saturday, some groups gathered comfortably in the country, happy to widen their allowed friendship circle.

Even a young chap exuded exhilaration as he got to show affection for his new (canine) bestie.



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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Tired of your COVID cocoon? Become a butterfly!

Legendary stylist Fanny of Westmount is back. For 20 years, this glam gal directed the iconic Fanny of Westmount on Sherbrooke St. before moving to Old Montreal, where she enjoyed 11 successful years.

There, as well as managing her salon, she worked on films and with such celebrities as Nicole Kidman, Ben Affleck, Céline Dion and Angelina Jolie.

“And now I’m back!” she told me enthusiastically as she premiered her new light-filled space. “I’m still on Sherbrooke St., but now just west of Vendôme [in NDG]. In the 90s, I researched and imported organic products. Now, I have created my own organic hair-care brand.”

Fanny is used to creating metamorphoses. And now she offers this “to welcome ‘coming out of the cocoon’! Many of my clients are ready for a change. They want to celebrate. So I advise them ‘hair to toe.’”

Along with her team of hair stylists,

Fanny of Westmount returns, to Westmount adjacent



boasts shimmering French-style Venetian mirrors – “the better to reflect, my dear!”

The manicure station in one corner views vintage images of models and celebrities styled by Fanny, who is also a trained make-up artist.

“Today is a totally different world from the 90s. But whatever my clients’ agenda, my team and I create a chrysalis, and beauty emerges. I am fired up by the new-found freedom we are looking forward to – hopefully soon even black-tie galas.”

For this, too, Fanny has an answer. She offers a chic collection of costume jewelry, and great hairpieces and extensions.

“And even though COVID regulations have relaxed, I only book two clients at a time, although a client and family can book the entire salon.”

Along with helping to find “the new you” Fanny enthuses about offering “beautiful wedding services, from trial make-up to the Big Day.”

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Fanny’s aesthetician Sandra McIntyre works wonders in the private massage room, also used for pedicures, facials and waxing: “Brazilian, half and full leg.” The legendary master of “bringing out the best in people,” Fanny starts with an analysis of

one’s lifestyle. “For example, if my client plays tennis daily, I adjust. Now, as parties seem to be slowly returning, my customers are pleading ‘give me glamour!’”

Her minimal black-and-white tiled space, designed by Joseph Sasportas,

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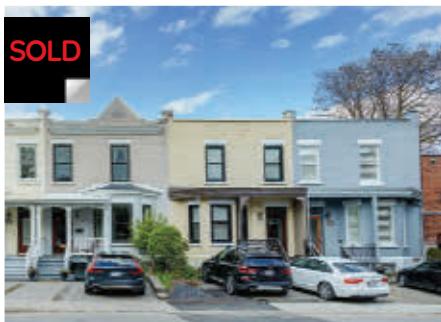
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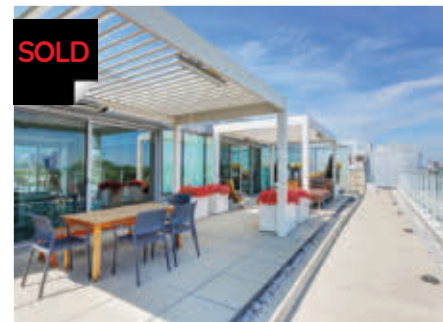
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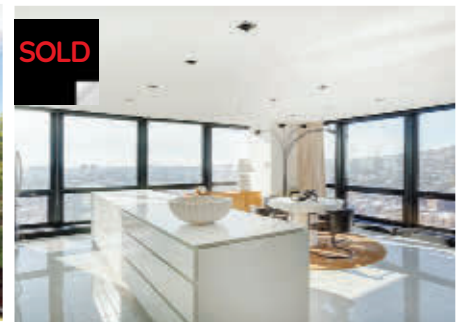
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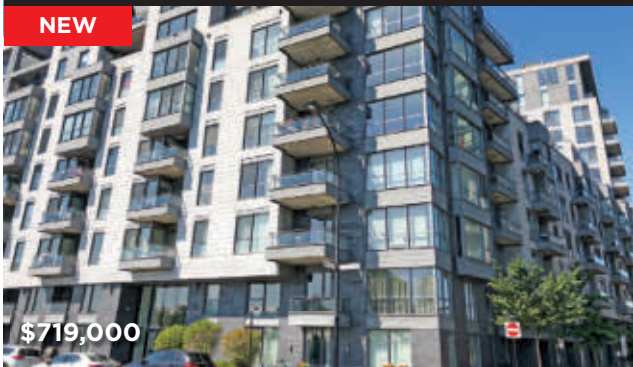
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