

Developer Reid challenges 'misconceptions'

Council refuses request to tear down 325 Melville

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council in its role as Demolition Committee has unanimously refused a developer's request to tear down the residential building at 325 Melville. The decision came June 23 when the hearing resumed after an initial portion had been adjourned March 15.

The decision was based on recommendations from both the city's Board of In-

spectations and the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) as well as some 55 letters of opposition and comments received during the prescription period, announced Councillor Conrad Peart after a deliberation break.

Peart, as urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture, said that the city's change in assessing demolition applications to focus first on the demolition aspect of a project before what would replace it "forced us" to take a greater look at the condition of the building.

As a result, it was found to be in "workable condition" and did not meet the threshold for it to be torn down. Peart said he believed the recent decision was the right one because the current building "provides continued on p. 14

More building news!

City to abolish Board of Inspections, p. 27

Hillside Demolition meeting postponed, p. 12

Canada Day still a COVID day



The Canada centennial monument in Westmount Park near Melville and Melbourne the morning of July 1. It was built by the 3rd Field Engineer Regiment and given to the city on October 17, 1967. It was recently refurbished by the city (see September 22, 2015, p. 3). There were no city gatherings July 1 due to ongoing COVID restrictions and concerns. For a retrospective on Westmount's pre-COVID Canada Day celebrations, see p. 30.

Photo: Independent.

Project warned in 2019: Cllr. Peart

City stops work over scale of demolition at 4898 de Mais.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

All is quiet at 4898 de Maisonneuve since the city served the worksite with a

This issue is our second-to-last one before our usual summer break

stop-work order when the four walls and roof were removed without a demolition permit, Urban Planning director Michel Larue confirmed last week.

"We had a talk with the person who had applied for the project and they are complying but will send us a letter which we will check out with lawyers."

The plan to convert the continued on p. 12

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FEATURED

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2 BEDROOM CONDO



NEW LISTING

Westmount | 11 Av. Hillside, app. 304
\$629,000

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NEW LISTING

Côte-Saint-Luc | 5618 Av. Blossom
\$1,575,000

DUPLEX WITH BACKYARD & GARAGE



NEW LISTING

Côte-des-Neiges
5391-5393 Av. Coolbrook | \$799,000

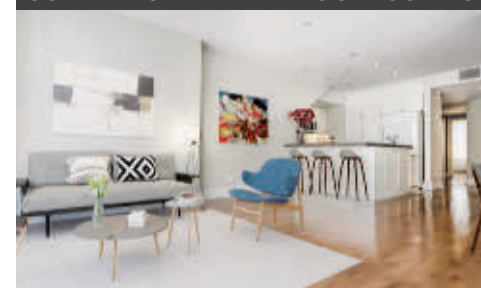
SEMI-DETACHED DUPLEX



NEW PRICE

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
4615-4617 Av. Marcil | \$995,000

CORNER UNIT 2 BEDROOM CONDO



FEATURED

Côte-des-Neige
6237 Ch. Hillsdale, apt. 208 | \$518,000

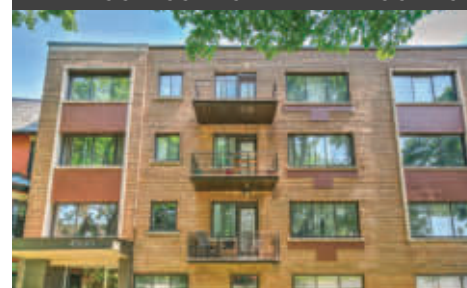
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Westmount | 315 Av. Olivier
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Woman treated after falling on Sherbrooke

When Public Security patrollers received a call for an injured woman on Sherbrooke at Clarke, June 22, they found her sitting on steps accompanied by her husband.

She was reported to have missed a step on the sidewalk, fallen on her wrist and scraped her face, according to department officials. Described as a 74-year-old resident of Prince Albert, she was treated for the scratches. Urgences Santé was not called, however, when she did not appear to have a concussion or broken wrist. The call for assistance had been received at 9:56 am.

Water pipe burst on Mountain

A broken water pipe on Mountain between Severn and Anwoth June 21 caused a large flow of water on the ground but was not recorded to have resulted in property damage, according to Public Security officials. One vehicle had to be towed and a “subcontractor” was called to the scene. No cause was reported and it is not known if the pipe was city-owned or private. The incident outside 462 Mountain was reported at 10:13 am.

Letters, p. 8

Dodge on December real estate transfers, p. 20

Art Scene: Heravi and Park, p. 22

Police Report, p. 23

Pet Page, p. 26

Social Notes: ECS scavenger hunt, p. 28

Social Notes: La Poste re-opens, p. 29

Parking inspector witnesses altercation

An altercation between the driver of a car and a pedestrian was witnessed by a city parking inspector June 19 on the south side of de Maisonneuve and Olivier, Public Security officials said.

The incident was reported to have occurred about 5:11 pm when the inspector was issuing tickets and heard a woman who had exited a car yelling at a pedestrian. A passenger in the car also stepped out of the vehicle, both described as appearing very aggressive.

The parking inspector called for assistance, which brought out police, who were given information on the car, which by then had left the scene. “This shows how the parking inspectors can help out citizens,” said Public Security director Greg McBain.

Group of 6 ticketed for curfew violation

Six people in their 20s were issued \$78 tickets June 13 at 4:46 am for breaking the city’s midnight parks curfew, Public Security officials said. The noisy group was found in Olivier Park around 4:46 am in possession of a “large amount of alcohol.” The six were described as a 24-year-old Westmount woman, four city of Montreal residents and one from Vancouver.

Public Security helps man suffering from heat

A resident of Metcalfe called Public Security June 28 at 3:41 pm to seek help for a man who appeared to be overcome by heat at Metcalfe and de Maisonneuve, Public Security officials said. When officers arrived with bottled water, the caller stated he had escorted the man to a bench in Westmount Park, where he was found.

He was described as very pale, his heavy clothes – including a long-sleeved flannel

shirt – wet from perspiration. One of the officers recognized him as someone she had recently assisted on a previous call. They escorted him back to his residence at Manoir Westmount, where he was assisted by the nurse.

City workers help woman who fell

A 76-year-old Westmount woman who fell June 25 at St. Catherine and Grosvenor was found seated in a Public Works vehicle when Public Security arrived to provide medical assistance until the arrival of Urgences Santé. Public Works had called for

Public Security’s assistance.

She was described as conscious and alert but suffering a cut to the upper lip that was bleeding profusely, according to Public Security officials. She was treated to reduce the swelling and bleeding until an ambulance took her to the Montreal General Hospital.

This issue is our second-to-last one before our usual summer break





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INTRODUCING

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Joseph Montanaro

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INTRODUCING

Westmount, 172 Ch. Edgehill
\$5,750,000



INTRODUCING

Westmount, 3 Rue Westmount-Square,
apt. 1312 | **\$3,500,000**



INTRODUCING

Westmount, 455 Av. Strathcona
\$2,795,000



INTRODUCING

Ville-Marie, 650 Rue Notre-Dame O.,
apt. PH1801 | **\$2,750,000**



INTRODUCING

Westmount, 492 Av. Argyle
\$2,395,000



INTRODUCING

L'Île-Bizard, 2116 Ch. du Bord-du-Lac
\$1,950,000



INTRODUCING

Westmount, 510 Av. Argyle
\$1,795,000



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Westmount, 28 Av. Devon

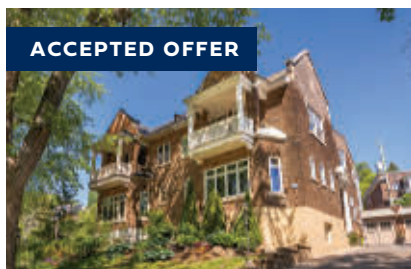


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Nun's Island, 41 Rue Claude-Vivier
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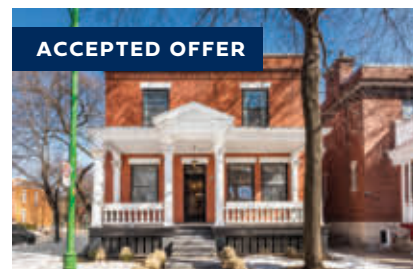
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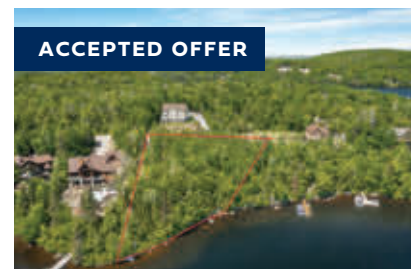
ACCEPTED OFFER

Westmount, 655 Av. Murray Hill
\$2,229,900*



ACCEPTED OFFER

Outremont, 297 Av. de l'Épée
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ACCEPTED OFFER

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Location under discussion

Modular 'pumptrack' to be installed in Westmount, somewhere

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Something new for Westmount is on the way with the purchase by city council June 21 of a modular "pumptrack." This is an oval-shaped track for use by cyclists, skateboarders, rollerbladers or "anyone with wheels," Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week.

"It's very inclusive for all ages and all abilities, and can accommodate two to three users at a time," he explained. The track can be described as an "innovative play park amenity," which provides up and down motion generated by the momentum of users.

Approved at a cost of \$89,930 in a new business resolution at the end of the council meeting, the new attraction will be the same modular model made by Parkitect as found in Baie d' Urfé, he said, as well as other municipalities on the South Shore. It will come from supplier Atmosphère Inc., the selected bidder.

"It can be seen in communities across the country," said Councillor Mary Galloway in presenting the resolution.

Measuring 90 by 50 feet, it requires a flat horizontal space. As a result, its loca-



This pumptrack in a park in Laprairie is the same model to be installed in Westmount.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

tion in Westmount is still under discussion, Lapointe said.

As a modular piece of equipment, it can be put together, moved if required and stored in the winter.

It's composed of a wood and metal structure topped by a track of a composite material with an anti-slip covering to make it more adherent to wheels. Given a 12 to 16 week delivery period, it will likely be installed in the fall, he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROPOSED RESTORATION OF 1-3 HILLSIDE INCORPORATES EXISTING ELEMENTS

In response to the June 22 (p. 10) letter “Expropriate Hillside 1-3 for rec centre.” As the developers of 1-3 Hillside, we would like to take this opportunity to respond to some misinformation about the residential project currently under review by the city of Westmount.

We acquired the building in 2018, and since then we have been undergoing a rigorous process with the city of Westmount to obtain the necessary permit for a conversion into a residential project, as per existing zoning. Though some Westmount residents would like to see a community centre, the zoning does not allow such use.

To clarify, we are not demolishing the building though we have to apply for a demolition permit as required by the city’s by-laws when more than 50 percent has to be demolished. We have consulted with experts in structural and heritage buildings to determine what can and cannot be saved in the restoration of this building. These reports have been submitted to the city attesting that given the deterioration of the brick, a higher percentage of the building envelope must be replaced. We have proposed a restoration that incorporates the architectural elements of the original building.

In terms of its height, at five storeys, it

is actually a few feet higher than the existing building and well below the height of some of the surrounding six- to eight-storey apartment towers in its vicinity. The proposed setbacks of last two floors will minimize the shadows on its neighbours, as demonstrated in a study submitted to the city.

We have also conducted a traffic study demonstrating that this project will not have a negative impact.

We have over the past two years sought to restore the existing structure, in a way that will benefit the community. We would also like to thank all those residents who have expressed their support in seeing this new residential project move forward.

LUCIANO GIRLANDO,
HILLSIDE PARK PROJECT

WHY MILLIONS (AND GROWING) FOR GREENHOUSE, BUT NOTHING FOR THE BOULEVARD?

In June 2020, I had a conference call with Mayor Smith and Ms. Gaetano from Westmount’s Engineering department to discuss making improvements to The Boulevard to improve safety and quality of life for all Westmount residents in view of the intolerable traffic situation in our municipality.

I asked how priorities are decided and how funding is determined in order to assess whether taxpayer money was being

spent where residents wanted it spent. Why the re-build and restoration of the greenhouse versus rebuilding The Boulevard? The greenhouse is used by few and has little impact on residents’ quality of life, whereas The Boulevard is used by everyone and has a serious negative impact on all residents’ quality of life, public safety as well as our health.

Mayor Smith said the greenhouse had been condemned because panes of glass had fallen. True, but no one’s life is in danger in a facility that is closed to the public.

How does that compare to the danger lurking on The Boulevard, namely millions of cars and trucks speeding through our neighbourhood?

At the time of our meeting in June 2020, the budget for the greenhouse was \$4.3 million (see April 2, 2019, p. 7), up from \$2.5 to \$3.2 million when Mayor Trent began the process (see April 2, 2019, p. 7, May 30, 2017, p. 1, February 7, 2017, p. 1 and the Montreal Gazette, December 28, 2016).

I said: there will be overruns, historical renovation projects always have unknowns, and contractors have mastered the art of additional costs – to which Mayor Smith and Ms. Gaetano said, “Our contracts are iron clad. There will be no additional costs.”

Less than one year later, the budget was increased to \$5.7 million (see January 12, 2021, p. 1 and March 23, 2021, p. 3) and within weeks of breaking ground, we are now at \$6 million (see June 15, 2021, p. 2) – and it is still early days.

Given the current environment of runaway construction costs, the budget will no doubt increase. With soft costs such as engineering and architectural fees spent over the last five years, this project will end up at \$8 million plus.

Perhaps Mayor Smith could provide a more comprehensive breakout of the true total cost?

But no money for The Boulevard. With the city’s pay-as-you-go capital projects funding that project, the greenhouse is sucking all the air out of the city’s surplus and the capital works budget.

Mayor Smith’s approach is a continuation and endorsement of Mayor Trent’s,

who said, “We’re spending a huge amount of time researching where we can find people to help us put [the greenhouse] back to its former glory” (CBC, December 29, 2016), “We will spend whatever is required to bring it back to what it was,” (Montreal Gazette, December 28, 2016), and additional money will be taken from next year’s budget (CBC, December 29, 2016).

Perhaps the mayor and city council members who pride themselves on prudent fiscal management can reconcile to residents why they are spending scarce limited financial resources on a vanity project that serves few (I asked how many people visit the greenhouse – no answer) while continuing to ignore the most basic of services such as re-building roads and sidewalks, public safety and management of the infrastructure that services all.

JANIS KRAUT, THE BOULEVARD

WHEN WILL THE ARENA BE FINISHED?

Open exchange with Councillor Marina Brzeski

Hello. As a 38-year resident of Westmount, I have been asking candidate and now councillor Marina Brzeski why, eight years after its opening, this piece of the arena complex and Westmount Park [near Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve] was never finished.

LORNE WOODS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.



Councillor Brzeski replies: Thank you for reaching out to me about this issue. I appreciate the photo, which adds clarity to your request. Rest assured that this issue has been on the city’s radar. The city had hired the architectural firm Affleck de la Riva to examine this exposed section of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) arena roof and come back with recommendation(s) that continued on p. 9

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Summer schedule

July 13 – issue
July 20 & 27 and August 3 – no issues
(regular summer break)
August 10 until Christmas –
weekly issues

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

will solve the problem.

The city administration is expecting its report in a couple of weeks time, after which it will present recommendations and projected costs to council at a following general committee meeting.

Should you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Editor's note: This issue has a long history, including residents' complaints (e.g. November 27, 2018, p. 8 and May 14, 2019, p. 6) and the city's then director general saying that money for landscaping in that area was in the 2019 budget but that solutions to the exposed concrete were "limited" by the proximity of the bike path (December 4, 2018, p. 8). The arena was opened to the public in fall 2013. – DP.

ACTUAL MAJORITY SUPPORTS WESTMOUNT PARK AS IS

The council has issued a general statement that a majority of the 100 participants in the online survey were "satisfied" with the Stantec proposals for Westmount Park, as presented.

This cannot be viewed as an indication of community support for these proposals.

On the contrary, the overwhelmingly negative comments on the city website and in the *Independent* as well as the reactions to my February 9 letter to the *Independent* (p. 8) and the opinions expressed to me since then, all provide clear evidence of strong objections to the proposals, not "satisfaction."

The mayor has said that further surveys of public opinion and analysis of the project will be undertaken by Stantec. It is neither appropriate nor useful to use Stantec, which clearly has a conflict of interest in conducting such a survey to evaluate its own proposals. As well as the issue of possible bias, the nature of Stantec's proposals have shown it to be unable or unwilling to listen to or understand how Westmount residents view our park or how it is used. To engage Stantec would simply be a further waste of time and money.

I believe that it is already clear that the community would much prefer that the park remain as it is and that it is against the wholesale changes proposed. The appropriate course would be to shelve the Stantec proposals and instead to concentrate on upgrading maintenance and supervision, the two items most frequently raised in the November 2020 consultation (according to Stantec's own report).

Any future changes should be approached as individual projects based on the actual needs and wishes of the users of the park at the time, always bearing in

mind that this is an exceptionally well designed, intensively used urban park and that the users of the park are clearly "very satisfied" with its current configuration and character.

Proper feasibility studies including a detailed analysis of any significant change and the resulting advantages and disadvantages to the users of the park should be undertaken and made available to the public prior to any public consultation. Priority should be given to maintaining the existing design and character of the park, preserving green space and existing trees and other plantings, avoiding the addition of unnecessary features and minimizing any disruptions to the use of the park.

To summarize, forget the bells and whistles and concentrate on looking after the well-loved gem that is Westmount Park.

CAROL HOLLAND, MELVILLE AVE.

SHAME – ABORIGINAL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

This poem is for all the abandoned and murdered children who had no voice.

If I was your child
I would try to behave
not cry for no reason
or cause you pain.

I would be so good
you wouldn't consider
any other but me
for your family.

Don't let them send me away
to those places
where fake holy men prey
on children without say.

Instead of a number
I would keep your name
proud I would stand
without shame.

I was your child
removed from our land
broken of spirit
silenced of tongue.

They buried me
in unknown ground
please bring me home
to where I belong.

RONA SHEFLER HEFT, KENSINGTON AVE.

**This issue is our
second-to-last one before
our usual summer break**

Contactivity, Public Security explain joint program

Phone check-in service for seniors explained in park



Fiona Smith, right, and Kimberley Colquhoun, assistant director Public Security, in Westmount Park June 23.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Representatives of the Contactivity Centre and Public Security spent the morning in Westmount Park June 23 to explain activities now available to seniors as well as how their joint phone-check program can help benefit seniors living alone.

Also on display was a sample of a "lockbox" that can be used to secure a house key at Public Security. This would be for emergency personnel to gain access to a home after the box is smashed by Public Security, said Kimberley Colquhoun, the assistant Public Security director.

On hand was Councillor Anitra Bostock as well as the "first-ever" beneficiary of the lock-box program, which happened after a check-in phone call to a woman in mid-March. Public Security dispatcher Christine Goodyer noticed that the woman's speech sounded different, and was slowed and confused, Colquhoun explained. "This

caused the dispatcher to suspect the woman may have suffered a stroke."

Urgences Santé was sent to the home, the lockbox was smashed and an officer took the key to meet the ambulance attendants. The woman had indeed suffered a stroke, Colquhoun said, and was taken to hospital.

The lockbox can provide the security, privacy and peace of mind to assure a resident or relatives that the key can only be accessed in an emergency.

Additional details on the "Bonjour Westmount" phone program can be obtained from Colquhoun at 514.989.5367 or from Fiona Smith, Contactivity's outreach coordinator at 438.920.3460 or email: fsmithcontactivity@gmail.com.

Here comes Peter Cottontail



June 12 on Forden Ave.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Duchesne.

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Children’s library carries off \$8,000 prize

Westmount wins national award for innovative program

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The children’s department of the Westmount Public Library has won the top national award for English libraries in the annual TD Summer Reading Club Challenge (TDSRC) for 2020.

“We were impressed with all that Westmount Public Library managed to put in place for the club in 2020, despite a reduced budget, very limited planning time, and a summer that would be drastically different due to COVID-19,” according to the award’s citation.

“I was quite shocked,” librarian Wendy Wayling told the *Independent* last week. “We had brainstormed on ways to keep connected with the kids when we were closed because customer service is our strength: How would we transfer this to an online environment?”

Along with a plaque, the library wins the \$8,000 first prize to invest in its collection, which Wayling said has yet to be allocated. Winners were announced June 15 during the virtual Manitoba-Saskatchewan Libraries Conference.

The award explained that Westmount’s extensive participation in the summer



reading club resulted from a “commitment to having a large variety of activities (such as local author visits and a Storywalk), offering Canadian content and putting in place efficient communications, such as numerous e-newsletters, which totalled 20.

“This Montreal neighbourhood library was able to provide an experience of community solidarity during a difficult time,” it added. “They made great use of the TDSRC promotional and programming materials, and even created their own emoji characters to go with the club’s artwork.”

There were 94 participants logging 1,113 hours, three authors and 86 author views.

To feel connected

Wayling explained that “We stepped out of our normal roles and relied on the talents of staff from different departments, including Lora Baiocco, our online services

librarian. We wanted both the staff and the children to feel connected while promoting reading.”

The library also garnered first place in 2013 followed by several honorable mentions.

‘Olympic’ challenge

Last year’s awarding theme of “Game on 2020” related to the Olympic Games cancelled in Tokyo. To carry this out, Westmount included 10 simple challenges the children could accomplish safely at home such as reading to a stuffed animal or pet (see photos September 8, 2020, p. 7).

Also offered were 19 weekly online story times in both French and English, featuring the familiar faces of the staff, which generated 5,758 views in July and August. The staff also phoned the children at home to let them know when they had won a prize, and among other online events, produced a closing party.

The winning French library also came from Quebec: the Bibliothèque L’Octogone in LaSalle.

◀Photo of the plaque held by Findlay the owl, the library’s mascot.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Finding ‘Hope in a Cherry Tree’

New interactive Storywalk set up in Westmount Park

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It’s a story of hope as the city, province and country emerge from a long pandemic year and the library launches its partial re-opening July 5.

The first Storywalk in Westmount Park for 2021 was set up June 28 along the path winding down from the library beside the lagoon depicting “I Found Hope in A Cherry Tree,” an illustrated poem in the children’s book of the same name.

It was chosen after children’s librarian Wendy Wayling met the author, Jean E.

Pendziwol, at this year’s Canadian Children’s Book Week.

“She did a live Zoom event with us and a grade 1 class at Roslyn School,” Wayling said. “We are hoping on having an interactive element to the Storywalk by asking our patrons to add their hopes to paper flowers that we will glue on a tree in the library for all to see!”

In a description of the book, the child in the story observes the sun by playing with her shadow, though sometimes it disappears. She listens to the wind tell stories, even when it howls like wolves. She tastes

snowflakes – sometimes sweet and delicate; other times sharp on her cheeks.

Finally, she finds hope in the buds on a cherry tree that survive through the winter to blossom in spring.

Pendziwol is an award-winning Canadian author raised in northwestern Ontario who draws on the culture, history and geography of the region for inspiration for her stories, Wayling said. “I fell in love with this book and thought it would be perfect for a Storywalk. It’s illustrated by Nathalie Dion and translated into French and under the title *J’ai trouvé l’espoir dans un cerisier*.”

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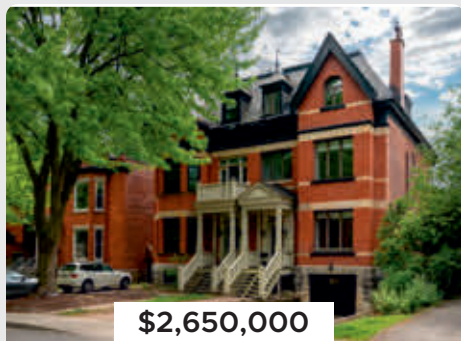
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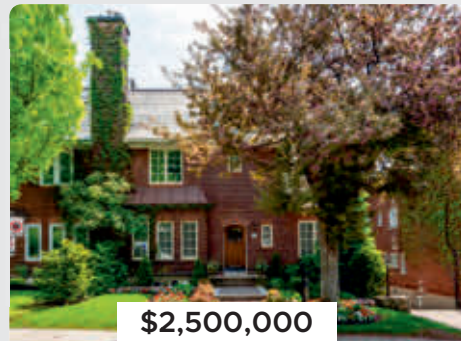
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Demolition meeting postponed for Hillside armoury

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The meeting announced for July 8 on a demolition application for the Hillside armoury has been “suspended given new considerations with regards to the demolition,” the city announced June 23. No date for a new demolition hearing was provided in the cancellation notice.

While no reason was given in the notice, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* June 24 it had to do with “various calculations” that had to be redone.

A replacement plan indicated restoring the Category II heritage building rather

than completely demolishing it, as had been initially presented. Calculations made public a month ago called for demolishing 73.5 percent of the building. No details were presented as to what the remaining 21.5 percent of the building would be retained.

“Urgent work” on masonry is already under way, according to the developer (see story June 15, p. 9).

The building’s capacity also had been reduced from 37 to 27 residential units. The height of the building has been lowered to five storeys from eight as had originally been submitted.

4898 de Mais., cont'd. from p. 1

six townhouses had raised skepticism within the Urban Planning department and Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) two years ago that the removal of the brick and roof could be achieved within the 50-percent threshold without a demolition permit.

“We loudly and clearly forewarn the applicant, that the construction documentation and execution will be reviewed with the most rigorous scrutiny,” Councillor Conrad Peart had told the council meeting August 6, 2019. This was when the overall building permit had been approved (see story August 13, 2019, p. 1.).

On record

“Any deviation past the 50-percent threshold will be answered with an immediate stop-work order and the applicant will be forced to initiate and obtain a demolition permit,” Peart had stated.

An architect, who is planning commissioner for permits and architecture, Peart is on record at the meeting as adding that the applicant’s licensed professionals had attested to the feasibility of the execution of such work.

The site had been the object of two previous SCAOPI applications for non-conforming projects before the current conforming one.

When the project gained council’s approval, Peart explained that it had been reviewed 22 times by the Board of Inspections and 10 times by the PAC, resulting in “iterations” to the project.

Demo is demo, even if re-built

What constitutes a “demolition”?

“The issue in connection with the project at 4898 de Maisonneuve raises ongoing issues about what constitutes a demolition,” the city’s interim director general Duncan Campbell told the *Independent*,

In the city’s interpretation, “once you take down a wall, it’s been demolished.” Whether that wall is re-built using the same brick, it still constitutes a demolition “whether you put the wall back or not, and once you cross the 50-percent mark, it becomes demolished.”

Demolition is an area the city will be addressing as part of broader efforts to update the Urban Planning department, he explained.

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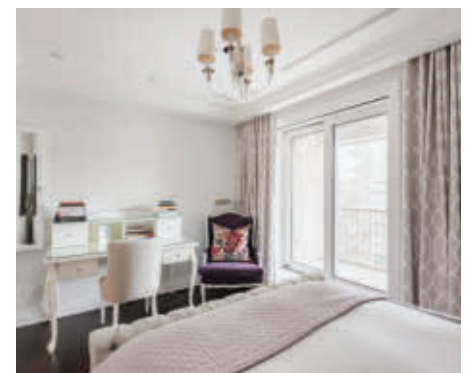
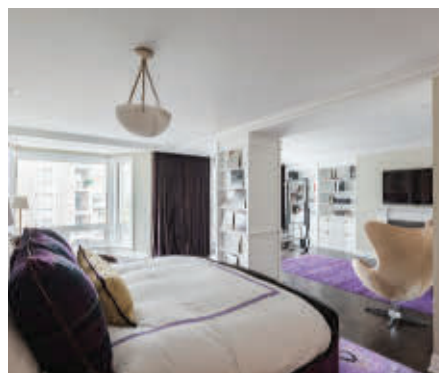
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Melville, cont'd. from p. 1

options” to demolition and “we were skeptical from the outset.”

Mayor Christina Smith also told the meeting she found “accusations” from some opponents of the demolition that the council had been “undemocratic” and acting in bad faith over the change in process to be “very unfortunate.” She also said an appeal of the decision could be made to the council within 30 days.

The resolution to refuse demolition also explains that on the day of the hearing, the city had received information from “an interested person” of their interest in acquiring the property “to preserve it as rental housing” and requesting that the Demolition Committee postpone its decision for 60 days.

This received only a passing comment. The webinar session began with a full presentation of the demolition application by city of Westmount urban planning advisor Youki Cropas. She described the Category III building as having been built in 1904 and transformed in the 1950s and 1960s. It was not considered to provide heritage value but was an example of “modern” architecture.

She also presented the recent recommendations of refusal from the Board of Inspections and PAC along with demolition by-law criteria, all of which had to be

considered. Criteria include a building’s condition, costs of restoration, use of the vacant land and the public interest.

Project architect L. P. Lemieux, of 2Architectures, described details of the proposed replacement project. These included two buildings, one in front of the other, each containing two semi-detached residential units of three storeys plus roof terraces and a common underground garage.

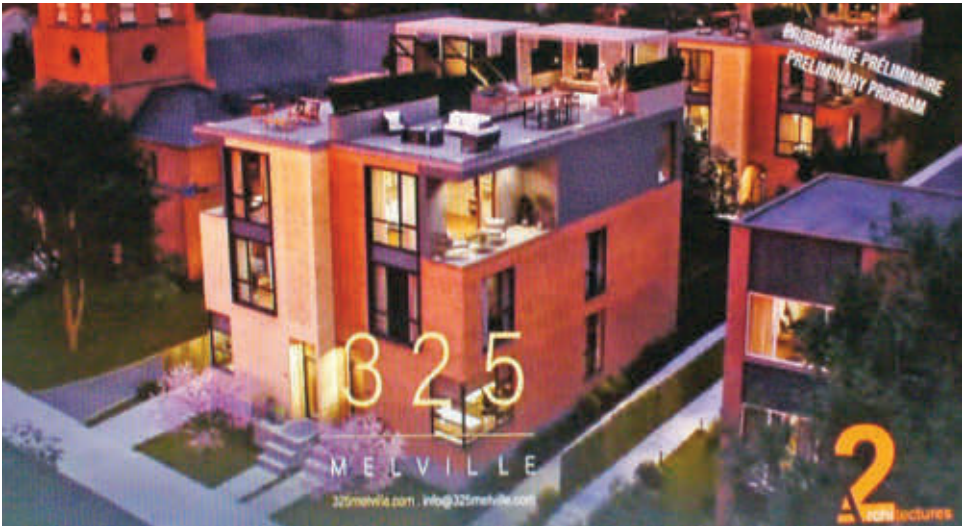
Developer challenges ‘misconceptions’

Developer Darren Reid followed with a rebuttal of “misconceptions” from the neighbourhood about so-called reno-victions and that the building provided rare “affordable” units. In fact, he cited neighbouring rents that were in the same range of \$2,000 a month and that there was little scarcity of other units, some in better condition.

The Melville apartments had not been renovated, he said, had small rooms and the building was “not functional.”

He also asked why the city’s recommendations from the Urban Planning department had changed recently from those documented earlier in previous minutes, which were pro-demolition.

He was told that it was only after a recent closer look at the building that these were reversed.



A screenshot from the Zoom presentation of what was proposed.

After a number of comments and questions from the public, mostly opposing the project, the council adjourned for a 20-minute deliberation before announcing the decision.

Right decision: Hoffmann

“The committee made the right decision,” Peter Hoffmann, of de Maison-neuve, later told the *Independent*. This was because the demolition application “lacked all merit.”

Hoffman, who had helped spearhead

opposition to the city’s controversial change in procedure, added after agreeing with the decision that he would “like this council to go back to its own more transparent public consultation process of just a few years ago. That would be consistent with Westmount’s long-standing democratic traditions and practices and restore residents’ confidence.”

He had been challenging the lack of information on the proposed replacement project submitted along with the demolition application (see story March 9, p. 1).

BUILDING PERMITS What’s permitted

Council approves 14 permit requests June 7

The following 14 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the June 7 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

These permit requests approved or rejected by city council are those that have been recommended or not 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.

Approved

- 730 Upper Belmont: to build a pool, modify the rear balcony and do landscaping on condition the guard rails are revised in a more traditional style to better integrate with the building’s architecture;
- 541 Belmont: to replace the entrance door on the side façade;
- 1362 Greene: to install a commercial sign;
- 25 Rosemount: at a Category I house, to erect a fence in a secondary front yard;
- 59 Windsor: to enlarge two window openings at the rear, create a new opening for a window at the side and replace a side

- upper window provided the traditional optional style is chosen for the new windows with a larger centre mullion;
- 637 Roslyn: to repair the roof of the entry and a small rear roof;
- 4633 Sherbrooke: to replace a basement door;
- 65 Thornhill: to modify the retaining wall facing the street and rebuild the front staircase;
- 351 Redfern: to replace windows provided the SDL vertical division is replicated on the kitchen window;
- 85 Sunnyside: to replace the entrance handrails;
- 16 Weredale Park: at a Category I building, to replace windows provided the dimensions of the existing mullion on the front façade is preserved;
- 3040 Sherbrooke: at Dawson College, a Category I* building, to replace the roof on condition the sides of the skylights are in copper;
- 664 Grosvenor: to restore the cornice and replace the roof of the front marquee on condition the proposed coverings are in copper;
- 1120 Greene: at a Category I building, to modify a window opening of an existing structure of the rear façade.



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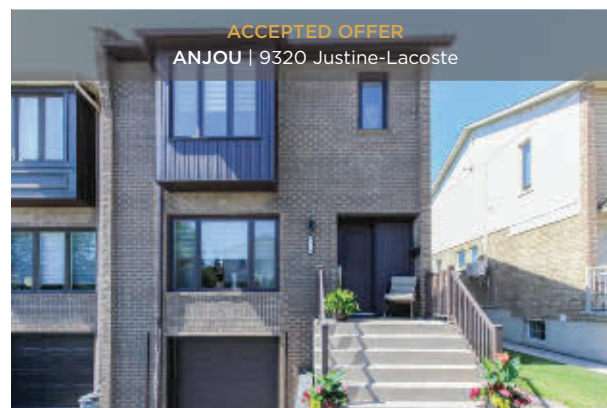
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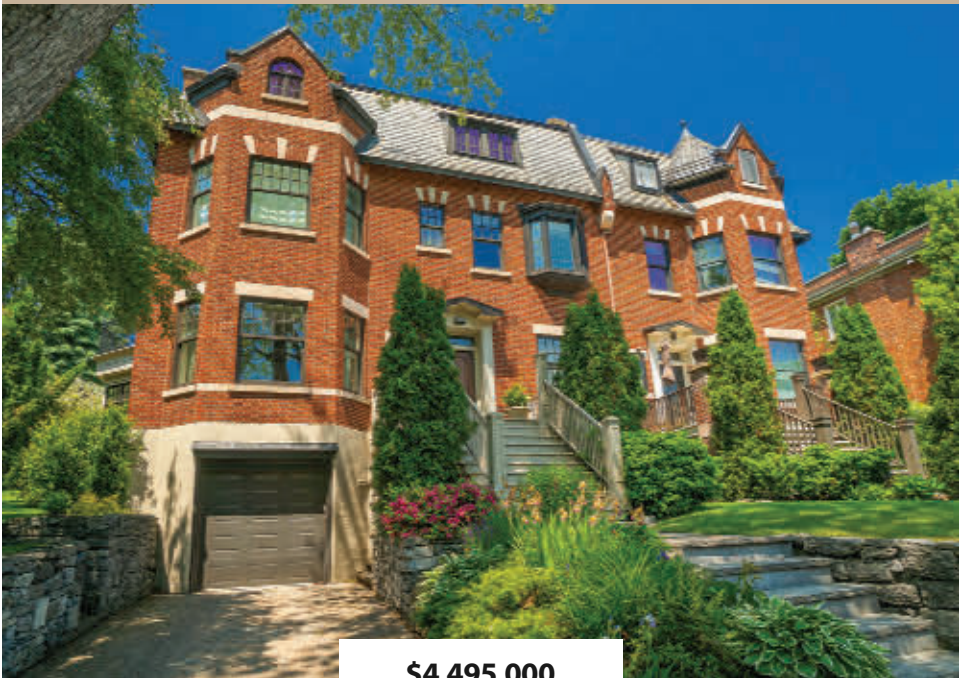
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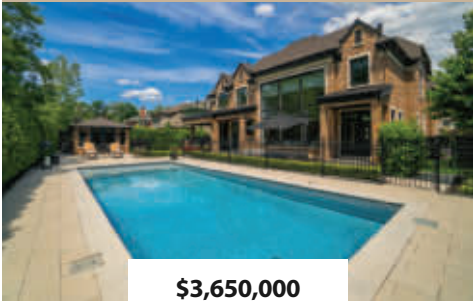
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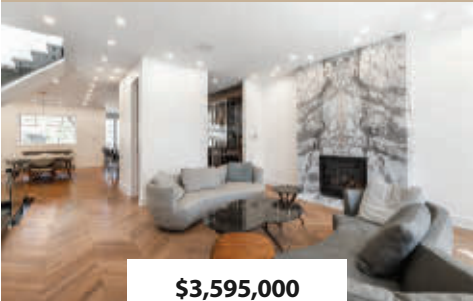
CUSTOM-BUILT MANSION WITH CONCRETE POOL



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RUE DES VÉRONIQUES, BEACONSFIELD

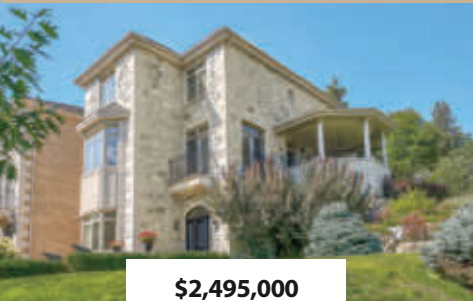
CONTEMPORARY | STEPS FROM MOUNT-ROYAL PARK



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AV. CLAUDE-CHAMPAGNE, OUTREMONT

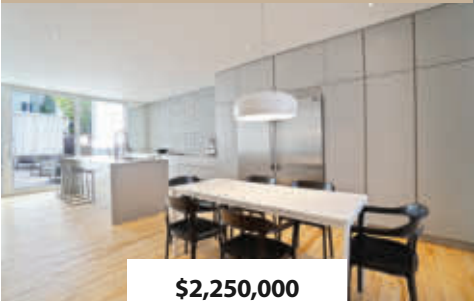
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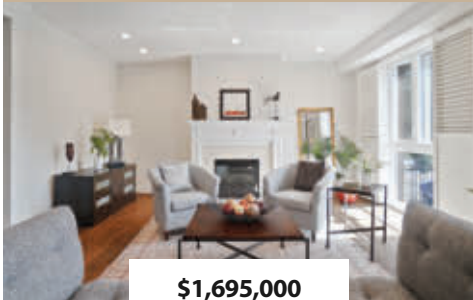
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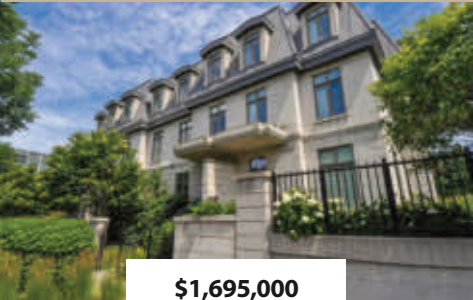
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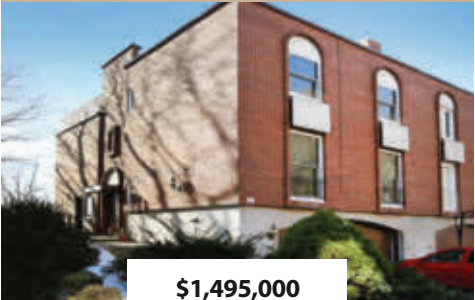
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in December 2020. A list of sales can be found on p. 21.)

Westmount real estate continued to climb back to its peak following the

December transfers: Rounding out COVID year

“COVID collapse” that plagued last spring’s market.

In March of 2020, signatures on purchase deeds for Westmount property were hard to find, as notaries first were deemed “non-essential” (so had to close up their offices) and then had to set up remote signings, which required some changes in law and thus action from the provincial legislature. With only necessary sales recorded, the average price of local real estate



579 Roslyn on June 28.



112 Blenheim, at centre, on June 28.

dropped from \$2,300,000 to just over \$2,100,000 by June, but had climbed back close to the \$2,300,000 level by December.

The lowest price was a stunning \$1,423,000 for a classic row-house at 112 Blenheim Place, a street whose last sale (according to our records) took place in 2011, when 119 Blenheim sold for \$723,000. December prices went up from there to \$3,845,000 paid out for 579 Roslyn Ave., corner Westmount Ave., a huge

detached house that had a city assessment of \$4,026,500, thus though the price was highest in the month, the price-valuation ratio was the lowest at 95.5 percent, the only property to sell in December at less than its tax value.

Highest mark-up in December was registered for the only duplex sold in the month, as 4470 de Maisonneuve Blvd., between Metcalfe and Melville avenues, which sold *continued on p. 23*



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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in December 2020

| ADDRESS | VENDOR | PRICE | 2020 VAL | RATIO (%) |
|--|--|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 489 Argyle | Thierry Portafaix & France Renaud | \$1,665,000 | \$1,341,600 | 24.1% |
| 641 Belmont | 9337-3348 Québec Inc. | \$2,295,000 | \$1,641,700 | 39.8% |
| 112 Blenheim | Gaël Gravenor & Tricia Kuhl | \$1,423,000 | \$1,109,600 | 28.2% |
| 382 Grosvenor | Max Sigler & Jamie Tajfel | \$1,725,000 | \$1,129,000 | 52.8% |
| 330 Kensington | Johanne Pérusse | \$2,570,000 | \$2,514,500 | 2.2% |
| 331 Lansdowne | Holly Simpson & Curtis Millen | \$2,750,000 | \$2,666,700 | 3.1% |
| 605 Lansdowne | Candida Martine Dias | \$2,295,000 | \$2,159,600 | 6.3% |
| 579 Roslyn | Carole Teitelbaum | \$3,845,000 | \$4,026,500 | -4.5% |
| 651 Victoria | Julie Veilleux & Marc Tremblay | \$1,762,500 | \$1,727,900 | 2.0% |
| 21 Windsor | Joanne Vrakas & André Monet | \$1,915,000 | \$1,468,900 | 30.4% |
| DUPLEXES | | | | |
| 4470 de Maisonneuve | Adam Benjamin, Albert Greenspoon & Barry Mintz | \$2,650,000 | \$1,175,000 | 125.5% |
| CONDOMINIUMS | | | | |
| 200 Lansdowne #907 | Stanley Jablonski & Sheila Connelly | \$2,010,000 | \$1,597,200 ¹ | 25.8% |
| 4476 St. Catherine #103 | Odile Cloutier | \$945,000 | \$523,700 | 80.4% |
| OTHER | | | | |
| 4826 De Maisonneuve/ 309A-B Grosvenor | Antonio del Corpo & Gladys Bouhadana | \$2,655,500 | \$1,400,000 | 89.7% |
| 4055 St. Catherine #099 | 9250-4190 Québec Inc, | \$95,000 | \$36,500 | 160.3% |

¹Sale in November. Valuation roll entry includes five parking spaces.

FEATURING

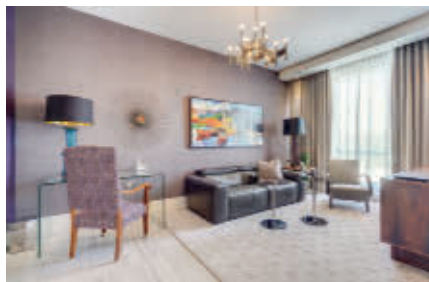
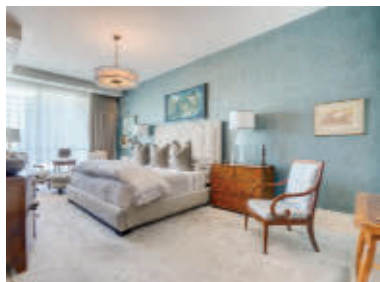
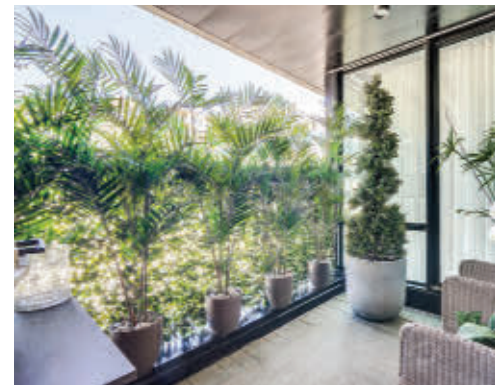
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Heravi and Park: Being and belonging



Westmount
Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Two exhibitions held at the McClure Gallery drew on both traditional and contemporary symbols. Saba Heravi's paintings and ceramics depict feminine roles and relationships while Jongwook Park's bold figures and tigers convey an individual as well as cultural identity.

Through their work, both artists explore the relationship between being and becoming.

Soft memories

Whimsical figures – both drawn in watercolour or ceramic – define Heravi's oeuvre. Painted with fine lines or patterned shapes, the artist's loose, storybook style captures both fantasy as well as childhood truths.

Entitled *Delusory Comforts*, the exhibition name suggests the safety of self-deception, as well as the need to conform culturally or belong.

In the watercolour "Almost Invisible," an outline of a woman – her back to the viewer – fades into flowered wallpaper. The placement of the woman on and beneath prickly blue thistles conveys the danger of compliant, cultural roles. In "Break-time Games #1," a woman carries another on her back evoking both relationship strength and support, as well as burden.



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The subject of "Not Myself Today" is a ceramic white rabbit with a woman's body. Covered in Delft-blue tulips, the rabbit – a fertility symbol in both Europe and the Middle East – suggests childbearing, acts of magic, as well as Alice in Wonderland's time-keeping rabbit.

The ambiguity in Heravi's art and technique prompt viewer memories and – when associations are drawn – enlightenment.

Fierce graphics

Park's dramatic black-and-white drawings are flamboyant yet controlled. His subjects – plants, people, tigers and birds – are drawn with fine, lyrical lines often within bold, black shapes.

Entitled *Ontology*, the exhibition – and series – explores social reality as well as the relationship between being and becoming.

In "Ontology 21," a bird hovers as a man and tiger stare out from under a tree. The tiger – the symbol of South Korea and protection – is depicted with bulging eyes and fierce aggression. A mix of east and west, many of Park's intricate drawings and balanced compositions recall Asian woodcuts as well as Aubrey Beardsley's Art Nouveau prints.

Skillfully rendered and elegant in their black-and-white simplicity, trees are a common motif in many of Park's designs. Other compositions include street scenes with stippled textures and grey tones create a 3D effect and resemble graphic novels. Often ambiguous in form or meaning, Park's orig-

continued on p. 23

"Not Myself Today" and "Break-time Games #1" by Saba Heravi.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

"Ontology 21" by Jongwook Park.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

Art scene, cont'd. from p. 22

inal and contemporary style challenges viewers to question their connection to others or to their cultural environment.

Raised awareness

In the work of Heravi and Park, emotions – both positive and negative – surface as symbols and stories. Although different to subject matter and message, both artists extend their personal and cultural reality to viewers within contemporary yet traditional forms. As Jackson Pollock once said: “Painting is self-discovery. Every good artist paints what he is.”

Both exhibitions were at the Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

Dodge, cont'd. from p. 20

from a group of investors for \$2,650,000, well over double its valuation.

One late-November condominium sale appears on the December list, along with one other St. Catherine St. condo, but those add to a dozen other sales in October-November to complete the tally for the fourth quarter of last year, when eight apartment-type condos and six duplex-type condos combined to form an average price of \$1,175,214, but that is sort of deceiving: 11 of the sales were for less than \$1 million (ranging down to \$525,000 for a flat on St. Antoine St.), then the other three between \$2,010,000 and \$3,200,000. The median price for the quarter was \$766,500.

Other sales registered in December included a four-plex at the corner of Grosvenor Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. for 90 percent more than its tax value, and a commercial condominium at 4055 St. Catherine St. – basically the basement of the 1 Wood Ave. complex – sold for \$95,000, 2.6 times its city assessment.

Police Report**Suspects sought for armed theft of graphics cards**

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators with the Montreal police are seeking two suspects believed to have been involved in the recent armed theft of a type of high-end computer component, whose value has increased as the demand by cryptocurrency traders has soared.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the owner of two computer video graphics cards who offered to sell them on an online classified advertising website agreed to meet an individual who replied expressing interest.

He said the incident bore similarities to a separate incident also involving the theft of computer graphics cards that had taken place around a week earlier in the city of Montreal.

Among other things, the buyer had the same online user-name as in the previous incident.

The seller and buyer agreed to meet at 9:30 am on June 26 in a parking lot located in Westmount near the intersection of Glen Rd. and the elevated Route 136 (the former 720/20).

According to an account provided to police, the victim said he was met by an individual who examined the graphics cards, which were in plastic pouches.

Suddenly, a second individual came running towards the victim. Ordering him not to move, the second suspect displayed what appeared to be a firearm. The two suspects then ran off with the stolen video cards.

The first suspect who met the victim was described as a 25-year-old English-speaking male, 6'2" tall, with long, dark

hair and a dark complexion. The second suspect was 5'8" tall, but there were fewer details of his physical appearance as the victim caught only a fleeting glance.

Pimentel said the incident remains under investigation by the Montreal police department's technical crime division, which might have the means to trace and locate the video cards when they are activated.

The investigators could also have some video images of the suspects, as security cameras in the area may have been pointed towards the crime scene.

While not revealing the estimated value of the stolen components, Pimentel described them as “expensive” and of “substantial value.”

Last February, the UK-based TechRadar computer technology review website reported that a surge of cryptocurrency mining was making it harder to find computer graphics cards.

Citing an average sales price of US\$1,250 per card, the website said “a large number of those cards are likely going to people who are putting them to work mining cryptocurrencies for profit,” while other users such as gamers are frustrated at not being able to get a hold of the scarce graphics cards.

Stolen pick-up found off island

The owner of a black pick-up truck that was stolen while parked on Victoria Ave. June 15-16 lost more than his vehicle.

Construction tools and a set of keys belonging to the owner, a building contractor, were stolen at the same time, although the truck itself was found two days later in a town just off the western tip of the island of Montreal.

The vehicle was identified and recovered around 3:30 pm on June 18 in Vaudreuil-Dorion by the Sûreté du Québec, which is responsible for policing in that

municipality.

A sharp-eyed SQ officer on patrol spotted it.

“The door handle and the lock were damaged on the vehicle,” said Montreal police Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, suggesting the perpetrator used force to get in.

Rear window smashed

The owner of a car who parked in the interior garage above Alexis Nihon Plaza at 8:30 am on June 21 found upon returning at 7 pm that the car's rear window had been smashed with a piece of traffic-control signage that had been flung at the vehicle.

“The vehicle was vandalized,” said Pimentel, reading from a crime incident report, while adding that a stop sign was used.

“Somebody took the stop sign and threw it through the rear window of the vehicle, around where the trunk is located. So, the window was shattered.”

The police officers who turned up at the scene found that the stop sign, which was mounted on a stand, was firmly planted half-way in and half-way outside the car's rear window.

While security cameras are often positioned strategically in parking garages, Pimentel said none were found in the particular area of the garage where this incident took place.

Although a presumed suspect was briefly intercepted by the mall's security staff, he wasn't detained or arrested because there wasn't enough evidence to link him to the incident, said Pimentel.

The Alexis Nihon Plaza security deemed his behaviour suspicious when he ran off after being seen. He was released after explaining that he fled because of fear of being detained for consuming alcohol in a public location.



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McGill I+P office offers ‘solutions looking for a problem’ (in a good way), says director Weber

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Although scientific research done on university campuses occasionally produces large royalties for patent-owning universities, runaway successes like the drug Lyrica – which earned \$1 billion for Northwestern University – are rare, a McGill University scientist told the Westmount Rotarians during their webcast meeting on June 16.

Chemical engineer Mark Weber has been working since 2012 at McGill, where he is director of innovation and partnerships in the Office of Innovation and Partnerships.

The office is responsible for the promotion and advancement of research at McGill and serves the research community in a variety of ways.

The office operates as an interface between McGill researchers and outside

parties, including established corporations but sometimes also spin-off companies, who license ideas through the office and bring them to market.

“I say quite frequently that we often invent solutions looking for a problem,” he said, noting that this isn’t how industry normally approaches things.

McGill University ranked third in Canada in 2019 for total research funding. During the same year, McGill ranked in the top-100 universities globally for granted US patents, tying with the University of Toronto. Weber said the needs of industry don’t often align well with a university’s way of doing things.

“Industry wants to maybe move a little quicker than a university can,” he said. “Conversely, industry has needs that are set around secrecy. That doesn’t work so great in a university environment.”

While he acknowledged that technology transfer offices like McGill’s typically don’t generate any positive revenue, he noted that the anticonvulsant drug Lyrica was first developed at Northwestern University.

The university, which owns the patent, has earned \$1 billion from licensing fees, although Weber maintains Northwestern had no idea at the time the research was under way that it would pay off as well as it did.

Some other examples of university research that succeeded financially: The University of Wisconsin has earned \$300 million since it licensed a patent for food irradiation to Quaker Oats; Gatorade was invented during the 1960s by a team of scientists at the University of Florida and has earned \$150 million in royalties for the university.

Weber said McGill has one of the most

generous plans in Canada for splitting revenues with inventors from successfully-marketed concepts and ideas. Under the terms, the first \$10,000 in revenue goes to the inventor. After that, 60 per cent goes to the inventor and 40 per cent to the university.

He said that most other universities in Canada divide revenues on a 50/50 basis, whereas in the US, revenues are divided

between the inventor, the university faculty and the university itself. (An additional 15 per cent goes to the tech transfer office.)

Among the concepts McGill’s Office of Innovation and Partnerships has successfully helped guide into the marketplace was an ophthalmological device based on the video game Tetris for improving lazy-eye syndrome, which was sold to Novartis, Weber said.

Violence against women must stop, Dastoor tells Rotarians

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Domestic violence has risen 200 per cent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic more than a year ago, said Dolly Dastoor, a McGill University assistant professor of psychiatry and a former president of Zonta Montreal, on June 2 during the Westmount Rotary Club’s weekly webcast gathering.

Zonta International is a global service club with a specific mission to advance the status of women. Founded in 1919 in the US, the club is organized along principles similar to those of the Rotary Club, with members dedicating a significant amount of their time to community improvement work.

The organization’s name derives from the Lakota word “zonta,” meaning “honest” or “trustworthy,” Dastoor said. Currently the Montreal chapter of Zonta has around 15 members, she added.

After explaining some of the scholarship programs offered by Zonta, Dastoor focused on what she called a “signature” annual Zonta campaign started in 2012, in which “Zonta says no to violence against women,” she said.

“We have declared 16 days of activism,” added Dastoor, noting that the annual campaign’s start date, November 25, is the Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, while the end date on December 10 is the International Day for Human Rights.

“So, those 16 days in between have been declared by Zonta International, and by the United Nations, as 16 days of activism against gender violence, which is the most pervasive and least recognized of human rights violations worldwide which affects women and girls of every race, every class, every culture, every ethnicity, all ages, in every country.”

Dastoor’s presentation provided fuel for

an interesting exchange between some of those who took part in the webcast.

Attendee Marilyn Stewart said she was “a big believer” and supporter of efforts to deal with violence against women. “And I am stunned, although happily, to hear what your mandate is and all of these wonderful things that you’re doing,” she said.

She pointed out that in recent months, there were news reports of as many as seven women killed through acts of domestic violence.

“Believe it or not, it’s a mind-set,” attendee Yvonne Quintyn suggested. “We get these women out and they’re the ones who go back to the men. It’s a mind-set. And I know it sounds horrible, but it’s a mind-set. It’s very, very, very hard to get the women out of those situations.”

Stewart added, “Without your being a victim of domestic violence, you do not understand why the women go back. And they all just about go back, and that is when they need the help. And they go back because their children are threatened, their families are threatened, somebody’s going to get killed, and they go back. And that is the time when they need the help.”



Seen here on June 2 during the Westmount Rotarians’ webcast gathering is Dolly Dastoor of Zonta Montreal.



Mark Weber, director of innovation and partnerships at the McGill Office of Innovation and Partnerships, addressed the Rotary Club of Westmount during their webcast on June 16.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Demolition Application

1. The application for a demolition permit and the demolition process for the immovable located at **1-3 Hillside Avenue** are suspended given new considerations with regards to the demolition;
2. The public sitting of the Demolition Committee scheduled for July 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. is therefore cancelled until further notice.

The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/>

www.westmount.org

Doherty dazzles Hope & Cope with her cancer survival story

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While Westmount author Susan Doherty is known for her award-winning novels *A Secret Music* and *The Ghost Garden*, a story she shared with Hope and Cope June 7 was far from a work of fiction.

Addressing nearly 100 members of the cancer support fellowship during a webcast of their annual Cancer Survivorship Day, she shared the harrowing story of the lessons she learned about life in the face of death, culminating in her face-to-face meeting with the stem cell donor largely responsible for saving her life.

Back from the brink

Her mesmerizing story, 'Back from the brink: How I survived a deadly illness,' recounting how she overcame a rare and deadly illness, was captivating and radiated spirituality, optimism and hope.

Her story began in February 2015 in Boston. While attending a conference with her husband, Hal Hannaford, then headmaster at Selwyn House School, she began to feel shivery and cold, alternating with profound sweats.

After an hour it stopped and she thought she was just coming down with flu. But the next night, she had another hour-long session of extreme sweating, followed by another ten nights, after which she finally sought out medical help at a walk-in clinic.

Although initially diagnosed as suffering from stress, the night sweats persisted for months. Her family doctor sent her to three specialists. Finally, one told her she



Susan Doherty, seen here during her webcast presentation to Hope & Cope on June 7, said she "made contact with the other side" during an especially harrowing part of her treatment for cancer.

had stage-four lymphoma, that she needed to see an oncologist and should start chemotherapy perhaps as soon as the next two days.

"He said I could expect five years," said Doherty. "I cried all the way home and I had that run-over-by-a-bus feeling." The diagnosis turned out to be mistaken. She found out the true underlying cause at the Jewish General Hospital.

She had a rare blood disorder known as hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). HLH is so rare that her blood samples had to be sent to Toronto to confirm the diagnosis since there is no hospital in Quebec equipped to do the task. The death rate for HLH is more than 70 per cent, and because of its rarity it is often overlooked.

Noting that she was diagnosed on August 6, 2015, Doherty said that "it was both the darkest and scariest night of my life and the most spiritual."

After she was administered her first dose of chemo in hospital, her family went home and she again began feeling the

powerful symptoms of the disease.

Contact with the other side

She said that at the height of the fever, "I made contact with the other side." That experience included visions of her deceased father crying. "I was hallucinating images that I can still see clearly today. I saw the diseased cells in my body. I saw the walls of my bone marrow. I saw macrophages eating my blood cells."

She said the chills, fever and night sweats lasted seven hours. And then it was over, "like blowing out a candle."

When the fever broke, "I felt a sort of bliss overtake my mind and body like I had run through a burning forest and made it to the other side with my shoes on fire, but

nothing else. My gratitude was infinite. I said 'thank you' to God over and over and over again. I said 'thank you' for this intense feeling of bliss."

And yet, tribulations still lay ahead. A relapse required a stem cell transplant. From a large database of stem cell donors, one was found in the UK who was a match. The donor, William Ashby-Hall, a 23-year-old gay British man, contacted her 27 months after her transplant.

"It was one of the most transcendent moments of my life," she said of the meeting, adding that members of her family from Boston, New York and Montreal gathered together at the Grosvenor Hotel in London for the meeting in January 2019.

Summer park patrol



Patrolling the parks for Public Security this summer with a focus on Westmount Park and King George (Murray) Park are, from left, on June 19: Giuliano Mastrocola, Micheal Ramsay, Sarah Scanlon and Jérémie Marineau. All are students of police technology. They are temporary employees of the city working as cadets in the law enforcement field.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

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26— July 6, 2021

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

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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

Oral School's garden beefed up for 'monarchs'

BY HEATHER BLACK

'Butterflyway Ranger' Penny Arsenault added plants June 17 to the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf's garden on St. Catherine St. near Lansdowne – with the help of over 20 3- to 5-year-olds.

Milkweed – the host plant of the monarch butterfly – was among those planted. The Westmount resident said: "Helping kids learn about native, pollinator-friendly plants is so important if species such as the monarch are to survive."

To improve pollinator habitats, Arsenault joined the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Rangers last winter. Since

then, she has planted several neighbourhood plots, including the one at the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf.

She said: "The children are so enthusiastic and engaged with this project. They saw me work in the garden as they arrived at school and were excited to be involved!"

The school – founded in 1950 – helps children with hearing loss. Teacher Kathryn Lee said: "The Montreal Oral School for the Deaf is one of two Canadian institutions that focus on developing listening and speaking skills."

Their program allows 3- to 5-year-olds to acquire language and literacy in English and French before attending local schools.

Giada Pagliuca-Fiset, Penny Arsenault and Jones Spicer on June 17. ►



Updating aims to meet ‘today’s needs’

New city by-law to abolish city’s Board of Inspections

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A draft urban planning by-law was tabled by city council June 21 to serve as a “foundational piece” in updating various municipal by-laws by designating public officers who have administrative and enforcement authority, all reported to comply with provincial government legislation.

The new by-law abolishes the city’s Board of Inspections, the body that reviews urban planning permit applications at weekly meetings and plays a key role in ensuring they meet technical aspects such as zoning, subdivision, demolition, plumbing and fire protection.

The weight and influence of this body was demonstrated recently when it recommended that the city council’s Demolition Committee refuse a request to tear down the building at 325 Melville because it did not meet conditions in the demolition by-law (see separate story, p. 1).

With abolition of the board, “it may not exist by by-law, but will essentially maintain the approach but with the inspectors becoming more generalist,” Duncan Campbell, the city’s interim director general told the *Independent* last week.

“We’re working on expediency and getting the organization of the Urban Planning department more relevant to today’s needs.”

Benefit to residents

“The point that will affect residents most,” Mayor Christina Smith said at the council meeting, is that one point person [in Urban Planning] will be appointed to follow a permit through the approval process rather than, as Councillor Conrad Peart stated, ‘being shepherded off from one person to another.’”

While most of the changes in the new by-law are largely administrative, Peart explained as the commissioner for permits and architecture that they will harmonize “a multitude of by-laws” in terms of terminology and consistency.

Nine affected by-laws

Among the nine are those dealing with permits and certificates, zoning, demolition, plumbing, noise, building, waste management, nuisances and public order, and SCAOPI (which sets out an approval process non-conforming development projects).

These include those requiring updates to comply with Quebec legislation on land use planning and development, municipal powers, and cities and towns.

When the Urban Planning department began the recent process of updating its by-laws, it was believed this exercise would be a matter of “tweaks,” Councillor Peart explained.

It has, however, turned out to be a more comprehensive undertaking.

Proposed under the new By-law 1547 is amending the “competent authorities having jurisdiction” for the administration and enforcement of various by-laws. Currently the city’s by-law confers powers to some members of the administration that they may not have.

These will now include a department director, assistant director, advisor and various division heads.

In respect to these “authorities,” Peart said, in replying to a virtual question on the reasons for abolishing the Board of Inspections, this board was created in 1967 when it was “normal” to bestow discretionary powers on various employees “which today is illegal.”



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Tough times call for fun spirit-raisers! ECS moms **Sophie Robichon Collins**, **Daniele Harrison** and **Megan Melville-Archer** teamed up with the school's advancement office to create an outdoor event that would be interactive and enjoyable for everyone.

Due to COVID restrictions, the middle and senior school's father/daughter event (usually a winter ball) had to be reimagined. Students wanted to experience something in person, but what?

That's where the Spring Rally idea came in. While keeping a safe distance, with road books in hand, 42 teams went on a scavenger hunt through Montreal.

A 1950s style *Grease* theme meant a few T-Birds and Pink Ladies were spotted in and around the city on April 25. Although the day started with sunshine, it ended with the proverbial April showers.

Via car windows for social distancing, volunteers delivered a delicious meal by Jerry Food Truck (Jérôme Ferrer) so the cold rain was quickly forgotten.

Head of School **Lauren Aslin** waved par-

ECS scavenger hunt great fun



Left to right, from top: winners Maxime and daughter Gabrielle Tessier; Lauren Aslin and Bianca Vitale; Mary and dad Josh Cundill; Laurent Ferreira with daughter Sophie; Cole Pinnow with daughters Marie and Clare; Martin Rosenthal with daughter Amanda.

Participants off at the start line, ably assisted by volunteer Westmount resident **Bianca Vitale**.

Mayor Christina Smith cheered one and all, including her daughter **Mary** with her father **Josh Cundill**.

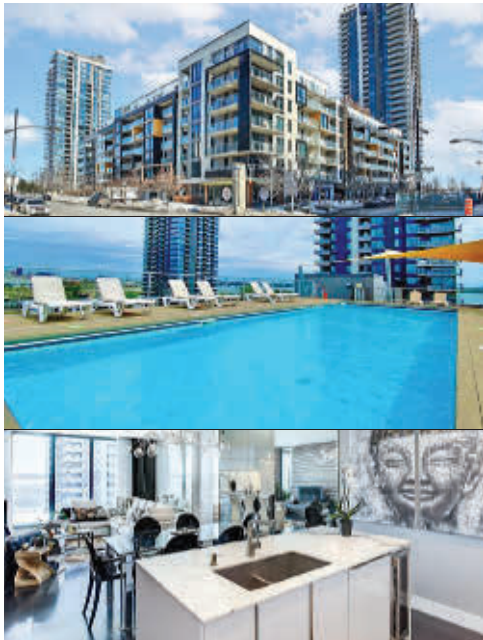
Organizers were ECS' **Véronique Courey**, director advancement, **Sophie Robichon**

Collins, **Mean Melville Archer**, **Daniele Harrison** and **Jenny Jacob**. Fathers and daughters enjoying the day included **Laurent Ferreira** and daughter **Sophie**; **Cole Pinnow** with daughters **Marie** and **Clare** and **Martin Rosenthal** with **Amanda**.

The winning team was **Maxime Tessier** and daughter **Gabrielle**. Although nothing

was really "hidden" on the hunt, participants had to answer all sorts of questions, for example, "How many octagons on that house?" The route was planned by Total Rallye and went from Montreal to Pointe Claire, ending at the Dollarama head office parking lot.

The innovative day raised \$5,000.



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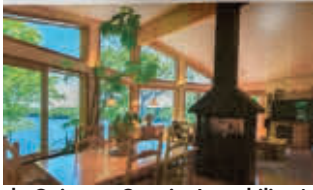
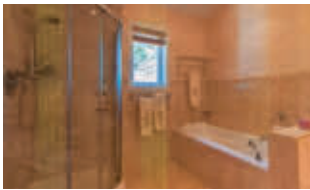
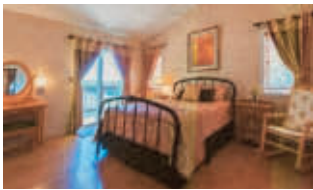
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La Poste re-opens



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Along with the city's many galleries, one of Little Burgundy's go-to destinations has just re-opened.

1700 La Poste is a cutting-edge gallery housed in, yes, a former post office. Built in 1913, the neo-classical style postal station

was purchased by philanthropist **Isabelle de Mévius**. The local res worked with the late architect **Luc Laporte**, who transformed the space to house her vision of a gallery/museum dedicated to the visual arts.

As executive director/curator, de Mévius aims to highlight the work of contemporary artists from here and abroad. The current exhibition features Quebec artist **Julie Ouellet**, whose work is accompanied by a video.

"Ouellet's artistic work begins with the body in its organic reality and develops in



Isabelle de Mévius and Pierre-François Ouellette at the gallery's 5th anniversary in 2018.

the form of arabesques or invented writing systems," explains de Mévius.

One of the show's underlying themes is Ouellet's fascination with "the line and its propensity to wander and propel itself."

The exhibit launched with a socially distanced press review. Journalists toured the 1700 La Poste space, suffused with a lovely natural light that bathed the soothing gracefulness of the artist's ephemeral creations. The knot-like works have a labyrinthine feel – a meditative path to take one's mind away: no yoga mat needed!

Ceding to COVID restrictions, the current exhibit requires on-line reservations. And, of course, a mask. Wander down on the next warm (or hot) day. An elegant ode to the graceful union of the Beaux-Arts architectural style and a contemporary gallery, 1700 La Poste will delight you.

1700 LA POSTE,
1700 Notre Dame St. West
Julie Ouellet – until July 18
Wed. to Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm
Free admission upon reservation
1700laposte.com



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Remembering pre-COVID Canada Days



Waiting for some of the Canada Day cake at the Westmount recreation centre party.
PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



The Splash Bash at the Westmount recreation centre pool, a longtime Canada Day tradition in Westmount.
PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.



“The Loons” in Westmount Park by Westmount-headquartered CS Design, which is led by Westmounter Conor Sampson.
PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Camping in Westmount Park June 30 with a fire tended by George Deare and music from Emily Gamble, left, Jacquelyn Sundberg on ukulele and Brittany Williams on guitar. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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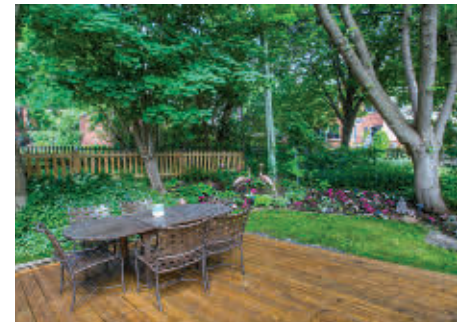
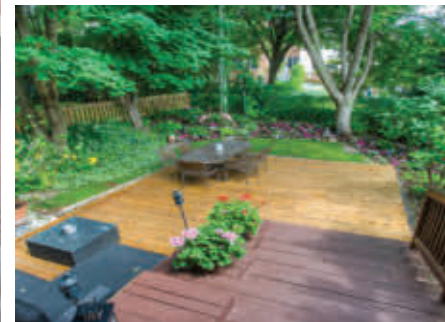
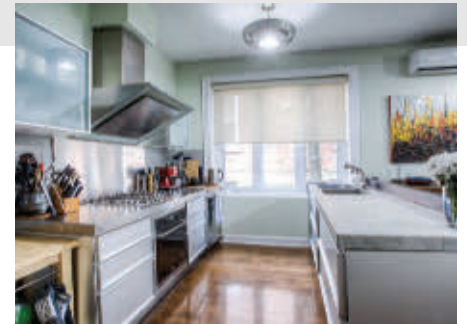
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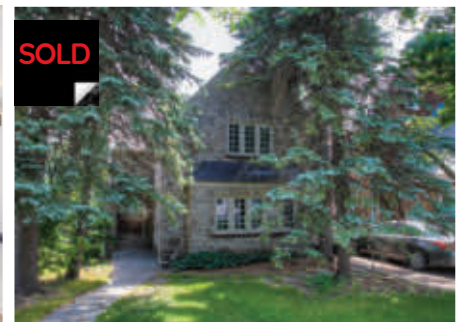
ARUNDEL **MLS : 13714757**
Large 443-acre estate, a few minutes from Tremblant.

SOLD



VILLE-MARIE **MLS : 16303883**
Multiple offers, sold above asking price.

SOLD



VILLE-MARIE **MLS : 10212122**
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