

Public Security, RMR, residents pitch in to help

Ducks rescued thrice!

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Was it too boring simply swimming around in the same water? Or did one mother duck have the day well planned out for her brood of nine when they ventured from Westmount Park to explore the city?

Twice the same day, June 5, a mother duck and her nine ducklings were rescued from busy streets and taken back to the lagoon, according to Public Security officials.

It all began just after 11 am when a call

was received from a resident about a mother duck and nine ducklings trying to cross the street at St. Catherine and Blenheim Place across from the armoury of the Royal Montreal Regiment.

When Public Safety Officer Marie-Ève Parent responded, she found two soldiers had spotted the family, rescued them and were ready to take them to the lagoon at her suggestion, where there were reported to be two other duck families. The ducklings were believed to be two days old.

At 1:25 pm, another resident called Public Security to report the same family at Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve. When PSO Parent arrived this time, she found residents and the brood behind the apartment building at 266 Lansdowne, where the ducklings were contained.

The residents, including the young daughter of one, walked back to the lagoon along with Parent and the ducklings accompanied by the mother duck.

At the park, the young girl placed the ducklings into the water where they immediately went to the mother while a group from a day camp arrived at the scene causing a commotion described as “clearly stressing to the mother and ducklings.”

The monitor and children were sensitized by Parent concerning the treatment of wildlife and operators of day camps were to be contacted by Public Security and advised of ways to treat the wildlife.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

Extra costs okayed

Sunnyside street work, p. 9
136/720 sound barrier study, p. 5

Too much to okay

Bids for city hall's windows, p. 3
Tenders for Roslyn lookout steps, p. 3

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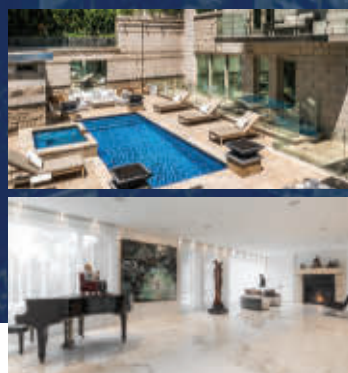
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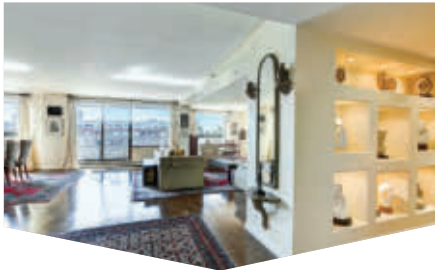
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Lone bid at \$2.7M double the estimate

Tender rejected for restoration of city hall windows

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The restoration of city hall's original wood and leaded glass windows will have to wait until next year. City council July 5 rejected the lone bid at \$2.66 million from St-Denis Thompson, the firm now executing the work on the heritage greenhouse project.

Million-dollar work to repair Roslyn stairs too pricey

City council July 5 rejected bids from three different contractors tendering to repair the public stairs that lead from The Boulevard to the Roslyn lookout. This follows refusal of a bid to restore windows at city hall (see story above).

The Roslyn bids concerning two options ranged from a low of \$1,554,652 to a high of \$2,284,553. No other details were provided.

This amount, taxes included, was double the estimated \$1.3 million mentioned when the council approved a work permit for the 300 windows April 6 (see story April 13, p. 1).

While the plan was to start the work this summer as phase 3 of work on city hall to be followed up next year, it is now proposed to go to tender in the fall for work in the spring, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham in moving the resolution.

The city was planning to follow its own window guidelines for such Category 1 heritage-rated buildings as city hall. This will require each one of the exterior leaded-paned windows that swing outward to be restored individually along with the interior windows that swing inward and also latch when closed. The frames are to be repaired and pieces of rotted wood replaced.

'Mystery' pop-up concerts set for July, August

A series of four pop-up concerts is being planned this summer by the city. While the dates are publishable now, the times and locations will "remain a mystery" until the day of the event, according to library and community events director Julie-Anne Cardella. This is in keeping with last summer's pop-up series in order to reduce numbers of people gathering.

The musicians will perform for 20 to 30 minutes in a location before moving on to the next of three. Among the musicians are a jazz band, a cello player and a harpist.

These will take place on the following Saturdays: July 17, 24 and 31 as well as August 14.

Police Report, p. 5

Letters, p. 8

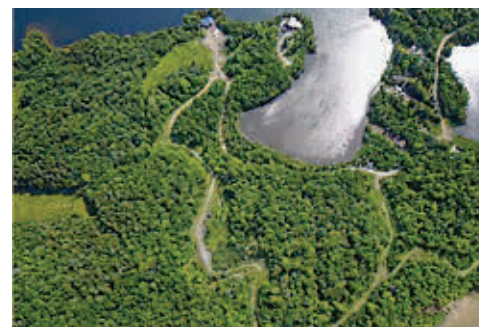
Pet Page, p. 13

Social Notes:
University Club
in Murray Park, p. 17

Retail Review: Peluche
pet shop opens, p. 18



infoWestmount, p. 12



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Summit falcon watchers zoom in on Oratory nest

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Some of the people who live up near Westmount's summit or who occasionally pass through may have been scratching their heads over the past few weeks over some unusual activity at the far end of Surrey Gardens.

For days at a time, a small group of women has been seen peering for hours through tripod-mounted cameras and telescopic lenses at the dome of St. Joseph's Oratory.

Just what have they been up to?

A different kind of voyeurism, you might say: one involving birds – peregrines, to be precise – a type of falcon once considered endangered in the Montreal region, although said to be flourishing now.

Back in 2008, after discovering a pair of peregrine falcons hanging out on the tower of the University of Montreal, and finding that peregrines don't habitually build nests, Eve Bélisle organized the installation of a nesting box for them at the U of M.

Bélisle, who is a computer research associate at the École Polytechnique on the campus, is part of a small group of dedicated falcon watchers.

In an interview with the *Independent*,



One of the young falcons on July 1.

she said a total of 30 young falcons have been born at U of M in the years since the nesting box was created. A webcam installed on the nesting box allowed fans to watch as the falcons incubated their eggs and raised their young.

However, she added, this year some of the falcons decided to leave their usual abode and moved to an old raven's nest made of branches around the dome at St. Joseph's Oratory.

The watchers found out about the nest while pointing the high-powered lens of a surveillance camera located at U of M towards the Oratory dome, around a kilo-

meter away, where they could see by late May that two young falcons had been born.

The falcon watchers' presence on Surrey Gardens has drawn the attention of a few local residents, Bélisle admitted, although most have simply been curious and have become interested in the well-being of the falcons.

As of last Friday, Bélisle was still out at the Oratory site watching and waiting for the young falcons to mature and fly on their own from the nest. She expected this to happen within a few days.

Update: At press time Monday, the *Independent* received word that the fledglings are flying! They are best viewed from the front of the Oratory.



Seen here on July 1 on Surrey Gardens next to St. Joseph's Oratory are, from left, Eve Bélisle, Élise Deshaies and Huguette Lenoir.

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Police Report**Crime incidents in Westmount up since start of July**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. report an uptick in crime in Westmount since the beginning of the month, although there were no violent incidents.

While there has been a noticeably smaller number of theft, break-and-enter or trespass incidents in Westmount since the onset of the COVID pandemic early last year, there were three between July 1 and July 8.

On July 1 around 6 pm, the owner of a vacant residence near the corner of Dorchester Blvd. and Weredale Park was notified by his security monitoring company that an intrusion alarm had gone off.

Although police arriving at the scene managed to locate an apparently homeless intruder who had managed to get in through an unsecured entrance, the owner, who was not living at the address, declined to press charges.

He agreed to lock up the property more securely and the suspect, whom the police reported as being cooperative, was released.

Stayner & Greene theft

Around midnight on July 6, a residence near the corner of Stayner St. and Greene Ave. was entered illegally by someone who may have been in possession of a key.

In an incident report made to the police, the owner said that only a still camera was stolen. Since there were no signs of forced entry, the police suggested that the perpetrator may have had a copy of the entrance key.

Retail B&E at Sherbrooke & Claremont

During the night of July 8, a panel of glass on a front door at a retail boutique on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Claremont was shattered by someone who then entered and proceeded to steal what he found in a cash drawer, which consisted only of small change.

Police who arrived on the scene notified the owner, who was asked to come over to make a report and take measures to secure the door until it could be repaired.

Honda stolen

Sometime during the night of July 8-9, a white Honda parked on Tupper Ave. was stolen. The police who turned up found there was no debris left behind to suggest a forced entry.

As well, there were no witnesses. The car's description, including its VIN number, has been entered into the Montreal police department's stolen vehicle database should it turn up somewhere else.

Truck stolen

On July 6, a construction project employee who had parked his truck that morning near the corner of Clarke Ave. and The Boulevard and left his wallet inside the vehicle found after returning in the early afternoon that it had been stolen along with numerous credit cards and pieces of ID.

Police at Station 12 say that under no circumstances should personal identification, including vehicle registration papers, be left inside a vehicle as they can be used by personal identity thieves.

Sound barrier contract modified to hike city's cost

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council agreed July 5 to modify a contract with Transport Quebec in order to increase the city's share of a "final preliminary" design study for construction of a sound barrier along the north side of Highway 136 (the former 720/20) between Greene and Atwater.

This brings the city's share of total costs (now listed at \$119,077, plus taxes) to \$68,454, plus taxes, an increase of some \$10,867 more than expected in 2018. This was when the city had agreed to pay "under protest" 50 percent of the costs (see story October 9, 2018, p. 5).

"This is a much anticipated feasibility study to move ahead," said District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez. The study would be required to determine the feasibility of erecting a sound barrier along the *falaise* between the CP train tracks and the highway, as proposed by the Quebec ministry of Transport (see story October 9, 2018, p. 1).

Five years earlier, however, the city undertook to pay 50 percent of a feasibility study for a sound barrier east of Hollowell (see story August 20, 2013, p. 8). Residents expressed opposition to options proposed in the study and suggested a barrier be built along the existing Ville Marie expressway (see story August 4, 2015, p. 1).



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BY Joia



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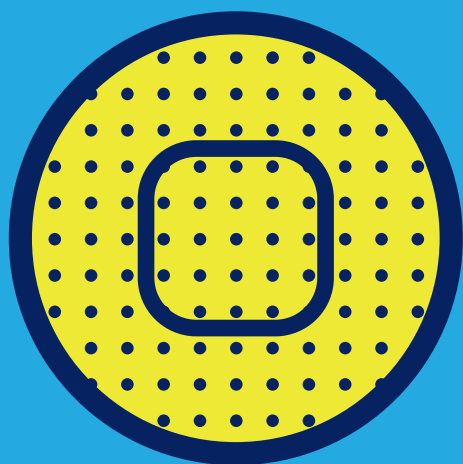
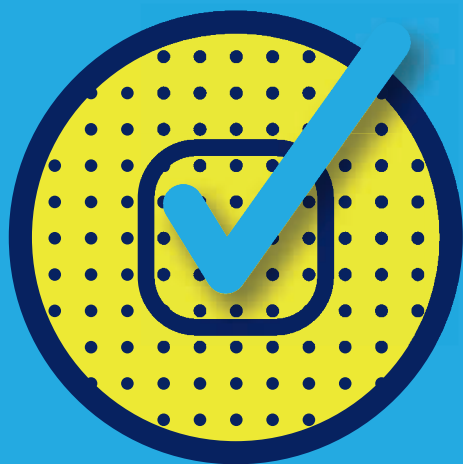
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2020 operating surplus goes to pay-as-you-go, COVID

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's operating surplus for 2020 of \$9,766,249 was appropriated by city council July 5 to pay \$8,654,193 toward pay-as-you-go portions of the city's capital works budget, and the remaining \$1,112,056 toward expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic.

The COVID amount is the balance of the grant from the Quebec government awarded last year to Westmount in the amount of \$4,209,206 to ease unexpected expenses by municipalities (see story October 20, p. 1).

This was awarded to help offset expenses in 2020 and 2021.

The city's total surplus at December 31, 2020 consisting of appropriated and unappropriated surpluses was \$37,544,943, most of which was made up from surpluses in other years that had been appropriated by council to specific projects such as restoration of the greenhouses.

The designation of the 2020 portion for pay-as-you-go is consistent with the city's investment in capital assets "without increasing its debt," as explained in the res-

olution moved by Councillor Kathleen Kez, finance commissioner. "It's pretty straight forward," she said.

Absentee residents can get passing attention from Public Security

Residents who may go away for a week-end or longer over the holidays were encouraged at the city council meeting July 5 to alert Public Security and sign up for its "special passing attention" (SPA) program. This enables patrollers to check out the exterior of their property.

The suggestion came from Councillor Anitra Bostock, public security commissioner, who explained how patrollers can check for signs of break-in or telltale signs of residents' absence such as parcels left at the door. They can also be told who might have a house key if required in an emergency.

The program, which has been in effect for many years, can also provide Public Security with contact information during the resident's absence.

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

Council approves 18 permit requests June 21

The following 18 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the June 21 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

These permit requests approved or rejected by city council are those that have been accessed 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 urban planning department.

Approved

67 Clandeboye: to rebuild and modify the balconies at the rear and replace a window and a door provided the arched details of the top of the openings are preserved;

629 Belmont: to replace windows and the front door;

1355 Greene: to reclad the stone façade;

425 Grosvenor: to rebuild the front porch and redo the front landscaping;

4927 de Maisonneuve: to build an addition at the rear, replace the windows and do

exterior renovations at the back;

618 Carleton: to replace windows;

314 Lansdowne: to build a new two-storey residential building with a basement (see story March 23, p. 1, 9);

4075 St. Catherine: at a Category I building, to replace commercial signage;

651 Victoria: to build a terrace;

4550 St. Catherine: to replace the slate roof and carry out other roof work;

4335 Montrose: to replace windows provided all the existing vertical mullions are preserved or replicated;

62 Arlington: to replace windows;

471 Victoria: landscaping in the front yard to include reconstruction of the retaining wall;


479 Strathcona: to replace windows and modify an opening;

479 Strathcona: a second permit at the above home to replace the front door and garage door;

235 Clarke: to replace windows and a door of an accessory building;

14 Forden Ave.: landscaping in the front yard including reconfiguring the driveway;

37 Church Hill: to infill two windows provided the infill is in stone matching the existing in pattern and colour.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



WHAT IS THE CITY'S DEFINITION OF 'START OF CONSTRUCTION'?

While construction is not allowed to start before 7 am, these four very large trucks (above) were in place at 6:05 am on July 5. They are certainly very noisy arriving, before 7 am! Unfortunately, this is the normal arrival time, and not just an exception this morning.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

SIGN COUNTS BIKE PATH USERS, NOT BIXI USERS

The front page of your June 22 issue depicted two people excitedly taking a Bixi from the station at Greene and de Maisonneuve. The caption below the photo stated "...according to the counter on the Bixi

sign, they were the 684th and 685th riders that Saturday."

As an avid reader of the *Westmount Independent*, and an employee of the Montreal company that makes these signs, I was disappointed to read this misinformation.

The sign is a recently-installed Eco-Counter bike counter that displays the total number of bikes counted on the bike path at that section of Maisonneuve that day so far, and year to date. Similar bike counters can be found in front of the Laurier Metro station, in Ahuntsic's Park Stanley, and in cities across North America.

MATT AINSLEY,

ECO-COUNTER MARKETING DEPARTMENT
& WESTMOUNT ENTHUSIAST

YES, PEOPLE USED GREENHOUSE, WANT IT BACK

Janis Kraut takes the cake (July 6 p. 8 letter) with her complaint about spending on the greenhouse versus resurfacing The Boulevard.

Her fanciful assertion that no one goes to the greenhouse is laughable. Her address gives her selfish attitude away.

It's been my understanding that streets and avenues that encompass several boroughs are under the control of [the agglomeration of] Montreal.*

The Boulevard, which goes from Côte St. Luc through Hampstead [and NDG in the city of Montreal], then Westmount, is such an artery. People using this artery are not paying Westmount taxes. So, Ms. Kraut, aim your poison pen elsewhere.

I miss and want my greenhouse back.

ANNE SUTHERLAND, METCALFE AVE.

**Editor's note:* It is my understanding that the city Westmount pays for all the work on streets and sidewalks in Westmount, even if certain important ones are deemed "arterial" or even a provincial highway, which limits its ability to close and control them. This rule does not mean it pays for all the infrastructure underneath the roadways, which may belong to all sorts of entities, including the city or agglomeration of Montreal. – DP

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO CHANGE CYCLISTS' BEHAVIOUR?

I am traumatized and still suffering physically and mentally because I was hit and knocked unconscious by a cyclist on June 17. It happened in front of Westmount

High on St. Catherine at Redfern.

I was coming home from my morning walk, crossing St. Catherine on the green (with numbers) when I was hit by a cyclist who ran through a red light because he was "distracted." He was very decent and sat beside me until I woke up. He apologized and gave me his name and phone number. The ambulance and police had been called by that time. Still, I ended up in the Glen's ER with no concussion, but with a broken nose, cracked front teeth and bruised ribs – and I still hurt three weeks later!

I got a file number from the police but no details about how I was hit. When I walked to the police station a few days later to get more information about the situation, I was told that any information concerning the cyclist was confidential – and that was all I could find out!

What does it take to educate the cyclists to ride with more care and observe traffic rules?

PS: In the meantime, I saw two more cyclists on my morning walks going through red lights at the same place.

GABRIELLE SCHMIDT,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

MORE INFO WANTED ON RAT TRAPS

Like many others, I have spent the past year on long COVID walks around Westmount and beyond. I noticed that there are quite a few rodent poison "traps"/stations scattered throughout lower Westmount. So many, in fact, I decided to take a walk from Claremont to Atwater to see how many I could find.

Without any difficulty, I spotted 16 outside nine different commercial establishments and condominiums (example: above right). No doubt there are more on streets or alleys that I didn't go down, or traps hidden in gardens or behind shrubbery.

Rats themselves are, of course, not new to Westmount. Nor are they restricted to lower Westmount. Last year, I saw two during the day on the front lawn of a house on the Westmount stretch of Cedar.

Questions come to mind that someone may have the answers to:

- Is the rat situation worse now than it has been in the past? If so, is it due to increased food waste? People leaving food out for squirrels? All the construction going on (demolition of the building at 4014-4022 St. Catherine St., work on 4898 de Maisonneuve, water main work on de Maisonneuve, etc.)?
- Do these poison stations also inadvertently kill squirrels or other animals besides rats and mice?

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July 20 & 27 and August 3 – no issues
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



• I'm guessing it is mostly private establishments that arrange for the placing of the poison stations, but does the city

also set them out?
• How effective are they?

HUGH RAY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Work resumes for public safety at 4898 site

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Work at the development site at 4898 de Maisonneuve was resumed this week to stabilize portions of terra cotta walls or sills for public safety purposes and prevent collapse, according to lawyer Carl Ravinsky, acting on behalf of the developer.

The city recently issued a stop-work order for the site (see July 6, p. 1).

"This [stabilizing work] is being done with the knowledge of the city, which knows and agrees," he said. "The possibil-

ity of this had been disclosed to the city... and noted in the plans."

An engineer's letter dated June 15, the day that demolition began on the exterior brick walls, described mold and fungi as having infected these portions.

Ravinsky said his client had relied on a verbal "go-ahead" from the city to start removal of the brick before the actual work permit was issued and began on "good faith" when the rotted condition that had been foreseen was confirmed.

Sunnyside costs rise for more work on retaining walls

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council July 5 approved a cost increase in the work required for the major reconstruction of Sunnyside between Upper Bellevue and Belvedere Rd. This additional amount is \$232,966, including taxes, to pay for more repairs than expected to retaining walls.

The new amount required modification of the contract with Les Excavations Super

Inc. approved March 15, and bringing the total to \$4,892,284, all taxes included.

This amount will be taken from a five-percent contingency, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said in moving the resolution.

Originally slated for last summer, Sunnyside was postponed to this year due to the financial impact from COVID. The project is taking a large portion of this year's record-setting capital works budget of \$27.2 million.

Go Habs ... gone (until next season!)



© Lise Gallant

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Register for presentations by service providers and resources of interest to seniors and their families, neighbours, or caregivers. Free and open to all.

- ☐ **Are you uncomfortable with a situation?** Are you worried about an older adult's well-being or safety? What constitutes abuse? A representative of the Provincial Elder Mistreatment Helpline/ Ligne provinciale Aide Abus Aînés will tell us more.

Tuesday July 27 from 1 to 2 pm (Please register by noon on Friday July 23)

- ☐ **Mary Pallett, funeral director at Kane Fetterly,** will provide information on prearrangements along with breaking the myths surrounding funerals, and what alternative burials and procedures are. **Tuesday August 17** from 1 to 2 pm

(Please register by noon on August 13)

Register online at www.contactivitycentre.org

No internet? Lectures can also be accessed with a basic landline phone. Call Contactivity Centre's Outreach worker Fiona Smith for details: **438-920-3460**. More topics will be covered in the Fall.

Funded by the I.T.M.A.V. program of the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux.

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infoWESTMOUNT

2021.07.13 • Vol. 2/13
Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 7 août

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, August 7th



Recyclage de masques

Ne jetez pas vos masques à usage unique; mettez-les dans les boîtes de récupération GO ZERO, situées dans les entrées principales du Centre des loisirs de Westmount. Les masques respiratoires, médicaux, de procédures et à fenêtre sont acceptés. westmount.org



Recycling of masks

Don't throw away your single-use masks; bring them to the GO ZERO collection boxes located in the main entrances of the Westmount Recreation Centre. Respiratory, medical, procedural and see-through masks are accepted. westmount.org

Vous venez d'arriver à Westmount?
Bienvenue! Découvrez les programmes et services de la Ville en visitant notre page pour les nouveaux résidents à westmount.org.

Collecte de résidus alimentaires dans les immeubles à appartements
La Ville étend son programme de compostage. Les immeubles de 9 à 100 unités sont invités à participer. westmount.org

Cours gratuits au parc Westmount
Joignez-vous à des cours de conditionnement, de danse, de tai chi et plus les mardis et les jeudis de 10 h à 11 h. Consultez l'horaire d'activités à westmount.org.

Vous déménagez? Avisez Hydro
Contactez Hydro Westmount avant votre déménagement. westmount.org.

COVID-19 : Montréal au palier vert
Informez-vous sur les mesures sanitaires et restrictions en vigueur à quebec.ca.
Vaccination : renseignez-vous et prenez rendez-vous à quebec.ca ou santemontreal.ca.

Consultation sur l'accessibilité
Le gouvernement du Canada veut connaître l'opinion de la population sur la façon d'améliorer la vie des Canadiens en situation d'handicap. Pour participer, visitez canada.ca.

Piscine extérieure : réservations requises
Les utilisateurs de la piscine doivent détenir une carte d'accès aux installations sportives valide et réserver à l'avance. westmount.org

Sports et loisirs : activités d'été
Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Are you new to Westmount?
Welcome! Learn more about the City's services and programmes by visiting our page for new residents at westmount.org.

Food waste collection in apartment buildings
The City is expanding its composting programme and buildings of 9 to 100 units are invited to join. westmount.org

Free classes in Westmount Park
Enjoy fitness, dance, tai chi and more every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. Consult the schedule of activities at westmount.org.

Are you moving? Tell Hydro
Contact Hydro Westmount before moving day. westmount.org.

COVID-19: Montréal green zone status
Learn more about the health measures and restrictions in effect at quebec.ca.
Vaccination: for information or to make an appointment: quebec.ca or santemontreal.ca.

Consultation on accessibility
The Government of Canada is seeking opinions from the population on how to improve the lives of Canadians with disabilities. To participate, visit canada.ca.

Outdoor pool: reservations required
Users of the pool must hold a valid Sports Facility Access Card and reserve in advance. westmount.org.

Sports & Recreation: summer activities
Sign up at westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Réouverture de la Bibliothèque
Les abonnés peuvent désormais visiter la collection et emprunter des documents dans un environnement sécuritaire. Informez-vous des règlements et conditions avant de vous présenter. westlib.org

Service de cueillette sans contact
Vous pouvez toujours réserver vos items en ligne ou par courriel et les ramasser à la Bibliothèque. Visitez westlib.org pour connaître l'horaire de cueillette.

Club de lecture d'été TD 2021
Cet été, le Club de lecture d'été TD est en ligne à 100%. Nous t'enversons des défis du club de lecture, des activités, des suggestions de lecture, et t'informerons des événements spéciaux. Inscris-toi! westlib.org

Hommage aux auteurs autochtones
La Bibliothèque a compilé une liste de

documents de fiction et non-fiction écrits par des auteurs autochtones du Canada. Consultez ou téléchargez la liste à westlib.org.

L'heure de conte en ligne
Découvrez des contes en français et en anglais sur la chaîne YouTube de la Bibliothèque.

Les concerts éphémères sont de retour
Cet été, gardez l'œil ouvert : de courts concerts surprises seront offerts à différents endroits à Westmount. Nous annoncerons les dates à l'avance, mais l'heure et les lieux demeureront un mystère! westmount.org

Promenade mystère
Disponible tout l'été. Utilisez votre téléphone intelligent pour lire l'histoire et résoudre les énigmes en fonction de ce que vous voyez autour de vous. Pour les familles et tous les adultes qui ont gardé un cœur d'enfant! westlib.org

LIBRARY

Reopening of the Library
Members may now browse the collection and borrow items in a safe environment. Before arriving, please read the requirements and conditions. westlib.org

Contactless pickup service
You can still reserve your items online or by phone and pick them up at the Library. Visit westlib.org for more details, including the pickup schedule.

TD Summer Reading Club 2021
This summer, the TD Summer Reading Club is 100% online. We'll send you summer reading club challenges, activities, book suggestions, and let you know about special events. Sign up now at westlib.org.

Celebrating indigenous authors
The Library has compiled a list of fiction and non-fiction resources by indigenous authors in

Canada. Consult or download the list at westlib.org.

Storytime online
Join us for storytimes in French and in English on the Library's YouTube channel.

Pop-Up Concerts are back
This summer, keep your eyes peeled for a series of short surprise musical performances around Westmount. We'll announce the dates in advance, but the exact times and locations will remain a mystery! westmount.org

Mystery Walk
Available all summer. Use your smartphone to read the story and solve the riddles based on what you see around you. For older kids, families, and the young at heart! westlib.org



WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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PET PAGE

13— July 13, 2021



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Elegant Litchi



Litchi has touched my heart. Such a beautiful grey domestic longhair with contrasting gold-tone eyes.

As you see, so very affectionate and playful, quite the most loving companion. Yet she is now at the Montreal SPCA cattery at 12 years of age, which are her best quiet years to be spent with a family. A little shy then more confident, she is a sweet cuddling softie who enjoys being petted and having her chin scratched.

Litchi is being presented as a humani-

tarian adoption for a reduced placement fee, as she was fully vetted on arrival at the SPCA and they noted a heart murmur. She is diabetic and she would be a good match with a family that knows the routine.

Litchi is healthy for her age (as being diabetic is a condition and not a liability), she is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

Please refer to her identification number 47954047 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and fill out the adoption application for her 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

Hamlet the mini-pup



*Westmount
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

Mini Pinscher pups are the cutest little ones, fascinating in their tiny sculpted perfection. As I have had full-sized Dobermans, I have found that the large doxies are fairly placid, while the mini pinschers are adorably feisty!

Yes, young 10-month-old Hamlet fits the bill at a proud 12 pounds! He is in foster care for the grassroots volunteer rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, where he is quite charismatic and very affectionate with all.

His foster family reports that he loves play time, his walks, fetching sticks in the yard, cuddling on the couch with his humans, playing with other dogs and deep snoozes wrapped up in his cozy blankets.

Smart and trainable, he needs an experienced, active family that understands the exercise level and mental stimulation he requires.

He is an active puppy on the go and doesn't know much about safety, so he is on leash or in the fenced backyard.



Hamlet is very healthy, vaccinated, neutered and microchipped. If you are interested in finding out more about Hamlet, please refer to his information page on their website at www.gerdysrescue.org and email them at info@gerdysrescue.org in order for the rescue volunteers to forward an adoption candidate questionnaire.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Yard worker available

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Domestic help available

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Gratitude

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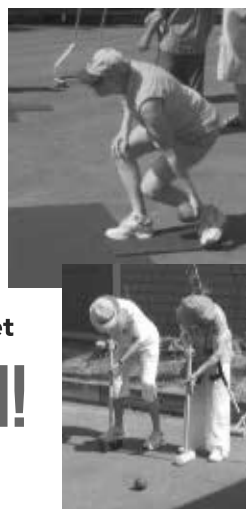
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T's Takes

RALPH THOMPSON

I have a small plaque above my computer, alongside an abacus as a back-up system in case my computer crashes, with the old Yorkshire saying “All the world’s queer save thee and me, and even thee’s a bit queer.”

(“Queer” in this context is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as strange, odd, peculiar, eccentric, in appearance or character.)

This little phrase came to mind as I ploughed through the text on a sign in front of the conservatory restoration project next to the Westmount Public Library.

The large *pancarte*, with the construction company’s logo emblazoned in the upper corner, provides safety instructions for workers entering the job site.

It’s fully in French, so it’s not the same message written twice in two languages. I

Sign of the times

estimated that there are over 4,000 words, which works out to about 20,000 characters on this sign.

As I neared the halfway point in the script, my head was aching and my thoughts were turning to the owl and the pussy-cat who went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat (Edward Lear) and other nonsense and absurdist literature by Samuel Beckett.

Feeling a little light-headed at this point, I thought: “Has anyone read this, save for the lawyer who wrote it?”

I watched several workmen walk right past it, but maybe they’d stood in front of it for 30 minutes in the morning and already digested it in full. Possibly the foreman had read it out to the gathered workforce like a priestly sermon before the start of construction.

Is brevity the soul of wit? Social media?

Perchance, the author is not familiar with social media? Today
we précis all our thoughts *continued on p. 16*



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From Ezekiel Hart to Leonard Cohen, Rotarians learn history of Shaar

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Sometime early in the 20th century, when Congregation Shaar Hashomayim wasn't yet located in Westmount on Côte St. Antoine Rd., members of the synagogue faced a difficult decision.

Although they owned land on the western corner of Atwater and St. Catherine, they asked themselves if they really wanted to be competing with the up-and-coming Montreal Canadiens hockey team, which would be playing just across the road at the (now re-purposed) Forum.

"And so they moved to Westmount, and it was a very wise decision," Shaar Hashomayim Senior Rabbi Adam Scheier recounted to members of the Rotary Club of

Westmount during their weekly webcast meeting on June 9.

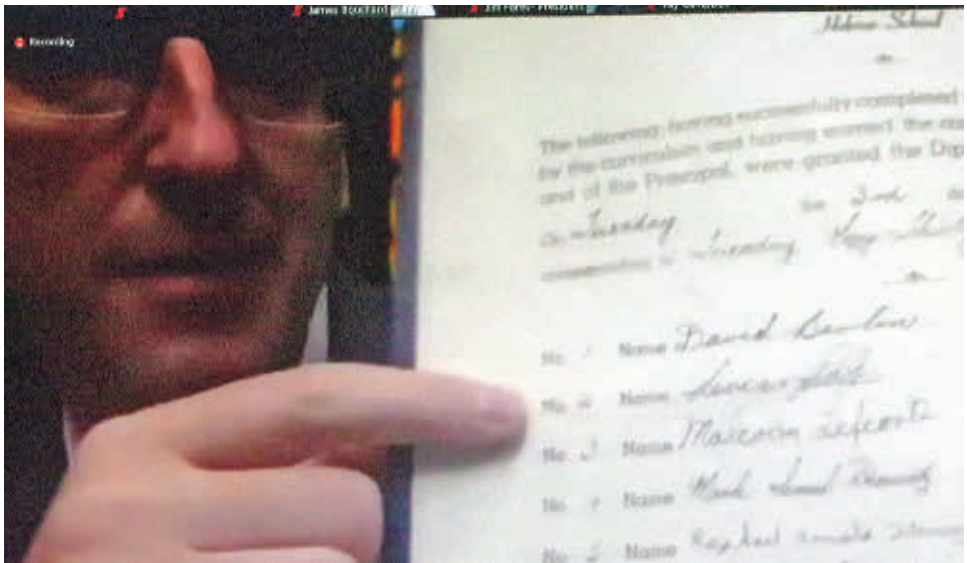
As Scheier explained during his presentation on the history of the Shaar, Canada's second-largest synagogue adheres to a branch of Judaism known as Modern Orthodoxy, although "the majority of our members are not Sabbath-observant," he added.

While it has become fairly well-known that Ezekiel Hart was the first Jew elected to the Lower Canada legislative assembly in the early 19th century, according to Scheier the first Jew to enter Canada was a woman named Esther Brandeau.

She came from France around 1738 disguised in men's clothing, while representing herself as a Roman Catholic, since the French government had decreed that only Catholics could settle in New France. Despite her efforts, her true identity was soon revealed and she was returned to France.

Thirty years later, in 1768, Canada's first Jewish house of worship, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, was established by former British and western European Jews in Montreal. For around eight years, it was the only Anglo-Jewish synagogue in Canada.

Another prominent Jew in Lower Canada, Moses Judah Hayes, built four homes in Westmount, including Metcalfe Terrace, two houses of which still stand on Côte St. Antoine Rd. (see February 23, 2021, p. 18 and February 6, 2018, p. 18).



Congregation Shaar Hashomayim senior rabbi Adam Scheier points to the line in an old Shaar register with the signature of Leonard Cohen.

In 1846, a storefront at the intersection of St. James and St. Gabriel (which no longer exists) was the original location of Shaar Hashomayim. Then there was a move to de Bullion St., after which the Shaar was located on McGill College Ave.

Toward the end of the presentation, Scheier offered a glimpse of an artifact from Shaar Hashomayim's archives, which he said had probably never been seen by anyone outside the Shaar.

On a page inside a bound register for Hebrew school was a list of students in

1949. Inscribed on the second line was the signature of Canadian poet/singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen, with his Westmount address, 599 Belmont. (See November 15, 2016, p. 16 for coverage of Cohen, including this house.)

It dated from when Cohen was 13 years old and his family belonged to the Shaar. "I don't think this has ever been seen in public – you may be the first people to see this treasure of Leonard Cohen history," said Scheier.



Rabbi Adam Scheier.

Falling incident

A man died after falling from a residential building in western Westmount June 22. Police were on the scene for several hours, but they declined to comment on the incident. Two sources have told the *Independent* that he jumped. – DP.

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into less than 140 characters (granted Twitter has upped that to a Biblical 280).

Ironically, Twitter's "Terms of Service" run to well over 31,000 characters. Do as I say, not as I do.

But another contractor working no more than 50 feet away on the library basement has solved the problem of legalese, words and languages by posting a checklist of pictograms, right, for the mandatory attire. However, the purpose seems to have been missed. No boxes on the checklist are ticked off – so does that mean there are no mandatory requirements?

Techcruch.com states on its website that only 9 percent of Tweets ever reach 140 characters with only one percent of Tweets hitting the newer 280-character limit. According to a Deloitte survey of 2,000 consumers in the U.S, 91 percent of people consent to legal terms and services conditions without reading them, presumably that means 9 percent of the population are lawyers. For younger people aged 18-34, the rate is even higher, with 97 percent agreeing to conditions before reading (only three percent are wanna-be lawyers).

T's takes, cont'd. from p. 14

However, we must compliment the contractor, it seems to be a very safe site, no accidents or COVID outbreaks reported to date that I'm aware of. Maybe the work force arrives onsite 30 minutes early, reads the sign, then collapse on their backs in

the conservatory, mind-numb, asleep all day making it a very safe workplace. Or perchance, the sign is totally ignored like other signs around our city.

But that's just my take on the peculiar signs of our times.



University Club's 'green carpet' jumpstarts red carpets to come



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Fête Champêtre. Le déjeuner sur l'herbe.
In other words, a picnic party.

Held in Murray Park, the outdoor event, much welcomed after the winter of our discontent, was organized by members of the University Club, one of Montreal's most historic organizations.

(By the way, the club has left its former space on Mansfield St. and this fall will be housed in the Reid Wilson House in the Square Mile, the heritage building aka as the Corby House.)

With no need for Ascot-style hampers, guests simply arrived to a pre-designated spot by one of the few trees in Murray Park not yet utterly devastated by tent caterpillars. Delivered in environmentally-friendly brown paper bags, the noon luncheon was created by Olive and Orange. Two towed toddlers, still wet from swimming nearby, stood admiring the well-dressed guests, clad in beautiful sun-shading hats and classic boaters. Many men wore bow ties.



Eric Perlinger, Louis Villeneuve and François Sénécal.



Mikey Colangelo-Lauzon and Miss Fanny.



Geneviève Roy.

Ladies were elegant in styles that allowed easy sitting on grassy knolls covered with blankets.

Violinist **Geneviève Roy**, wearing an on-trend embroidered linen sheath, entertained to much applause. **Miss Fanny**, event organizer for the club, wore a pretty sundress accessorized by her tiny Yorkie proudly sporting a pearl in its head-band.

(Fanny's fun former life included a stint as a burlesque dancer, but I digress.) Guests included Westmounters **Louis Villeneuve**, wealth advisor RBC Dominion; **François Sénécal**, DSL, with his wife **Brigitte Brabant**; **Mary Rivard-David** and **Claude David**; **Amin Noorani**, Aga Khan Foundation; and **François Morin**, partner at the BLG Canada law firm, as well as **Eric Perlinger** and **Anna Newton-Brain** with their tiny new-born son **Alexandre**; **Eileen Kennedy** and **Michael McMahon**, professor of music at McGill University; **Marc Cormier**, senior property manager – CIL Investment Properties Inc.; **Katia Coric**, artist; **Inder Arya**, vp portfolio manager RBC Dominion and **Carmen King** communication director Rodeo FX, and **Thomas Leslie**, not only a classical singer, but also commanding officer Royal Canadian Air Cadets and executive
director of the Interna- continued on p. 18

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Claude David and Mary Rivard-David.



Thomas Leslie chatting with and future club member baby Alexandre.

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 17

tional Organ Competition.
(Leslie informed me there will be an exciting recital this fall at Westmount's Ascension of Our Lord, where the organ was recently renovated. Stay tuned.)
A stand-out amidst the cushions was the perfect summer-suitcase-picnic-valise with cutlery and bottles held firmly in place owned by **Mikey Colangelo-Lauzon**, who wore his white naval uniform, complete with cap. With the HMCS *Donnacona* Montreal, he wore it as nod of recognition to Canadian military surgeon John MacCrae, author of "In Flanders Field," co-founder of the University Club in 1907, along with Stephen Leacock.
How fabulous it was to see a bit of elegance again! One does get a bit tired of athleisure-wear, hoodies and the ubiquitous black tights.



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

During COVID and lockdowns our furry friends were better friends than ever. Not only were animals rescued (best buy ever!), but also sales of purebreds increased. Particularly for those living alone, these BFFs (best friends forever) offered soothing – and sometimes purring – comfort. Paralleling the growth in pet ownership, shops are offering more and more temptations.

New to Westmount is Peluche ("plush") pet shop, which opened June 25, and attracted customers with its charming window display. The large *vitrine* features an elegant Dalmatian, beloved mascot of fire stations. The tall toy sits atop bountiful bags of dog food: choices run from raw food to special treats and the cutest clothing ever.

Owner Mario Vizzaccaro pointed out his "just arrived" line by Christian Cowan x maxbone, a "couture-style" lilac turtleneck

Peluche

bedecked with fur (fake of course), and another in basic beige with loops – sure to be best sellers for those little guys that one notes being carried in totes.

And speaking of treats; for owners, little "smiley" bags (also maxbone) that hold the necessary poop baggies are charming. The store – formerly an all-you-can-eat sushi space – is large and therefore has room for all sorts of surprises.

Leashes go beyond the plain to stand-out, and perhaps the most eye-catching toy for cats I have ever seen. The turquoise sequined 'outfit' also has an iridescent "tail," allowing your favourite feline to pretend to be a mermaid. It is actually a useful toy/play space, as the crinkly material "encourages burrowing instincts."

Peluche is not only fun for the pets. I noted a few couples taking selfies of the shiny "flipping fish." Battery-charged and full of catnip, it is great fun for cats as well as owners who can chuckle while watching their pet jump around the flopping toy.
PELUCHEPETS.CA
4071 St. Catherine St.
Open every day 10 am to 5 pm

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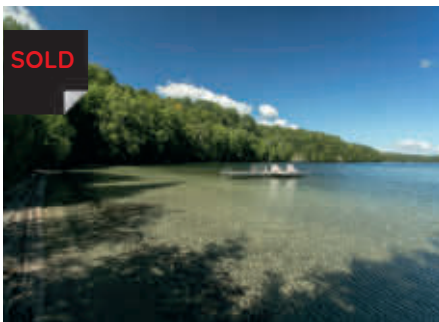
MONT-TREMBLANT REGION | ARUNDEL | MLS 13714757
Most unique property on 443 acre lot of pristine land, ideal for nature lovers, weekend getaways in a peaceful environment. 17km from Mont-Tremblant.

NEW



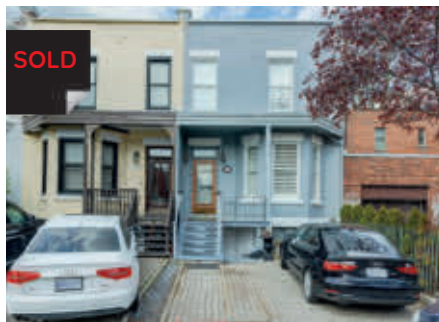
MONT-TREMBLANT | MLS 12670707
HORIZON: New ski in/ski out, luxurious, fully furnished corner unit with stunning views of Lac Tremblant and direct access to fabulous hiking trails.

SOLD



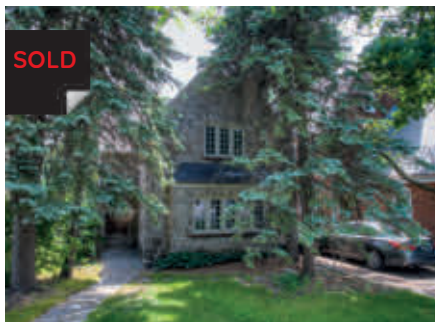
LA CONCEPTION | LAC XAVIER
Most stunning waterfront property of 48 acres

SOLD



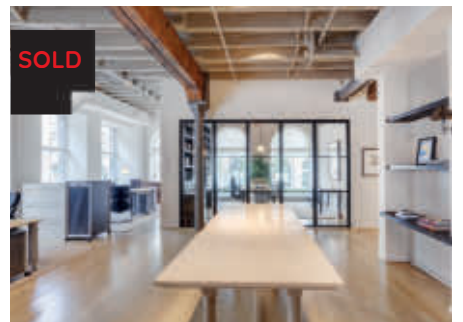
VICTORIA VILLAGE | MLS 21419057
Sold above asking with multiple offers

SOLD



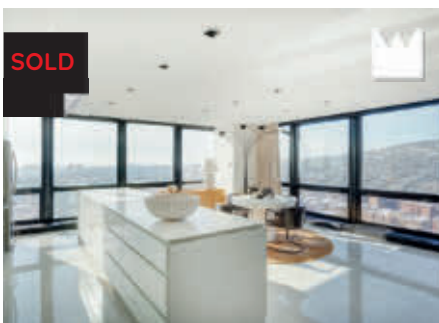
WESTMOUNT ADJ | MLS 10212122
Stunning stone detached residence with garden

SOLD



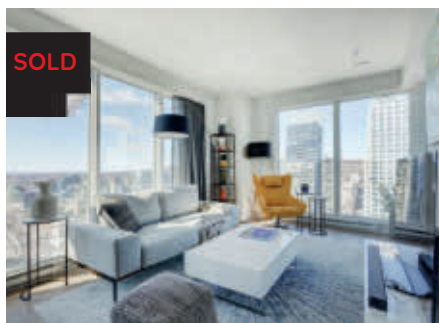
VILLE-MARIE | MLS 16303883
Gorgeous commercial space in Old Montreal

SOLD



WESTMOUNT | MLS 16812402
Splendid unit w/ breathtaking mountain views

SOLD



VILLE-MARIE | MLS 26244042
Million dollar views from the 50th floor

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TANIA KALECHEFF

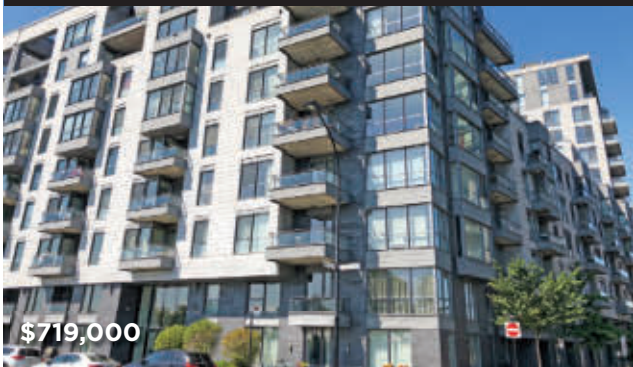
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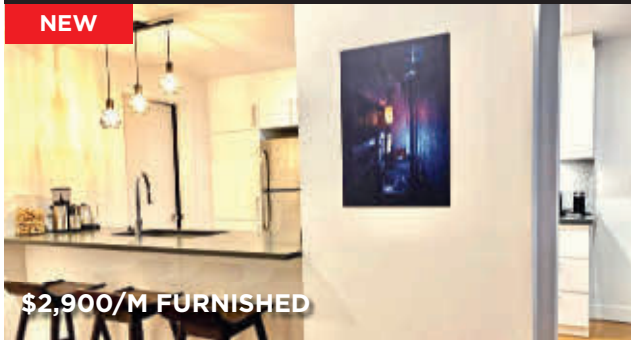


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