

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 11b

We are Westmount

November 8, 2022

Two venues return, unrelated to COVID

City's winter 'playground' approved for rink, toboggan hill

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What might be called the city's "winter playground" is returning for a third year as city council approved two separate contracts October 11 for a refrigerated rink in Westmount Park and a formal toboggan run at King George (Murray) Park.

Rink installation began November 1.

So popular that ...

These two attractions proved so popular for the winters of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 that this year's contracts were quickly adopted so work to create them could take place soon as possible. They had been initiated previously to provide additional outdoor activities during COVID closures of

municipal buildings and increasingly uncertain weather.

The refrigerated rink is a "clear sign" of climate change now that the season for the city's many outdoor rinks has become progressively shortened by rain and warmer temperatures, Mayor Christina Smith said.

"This is what this contract is all about," she said. "It's a highly used rink in Westmount Park" that is reserved for general skating as opposed to hockey and usually installed in November.

One conforming bid

The only conforming bid for the rink came from Synergglace Canada for a maximum of \$98,521 including tax credits.

continued on p. 11

Wang family wins pumpkin-decorating contest



Family winners of the city's pumpkin decorating contest Guanqiao Wang, right, with his mother Haichao Sha at the city's Scooby Doo-themed Hallowe'en party. See p. 8 for story.

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Villa Ste-Marcelline update

Family of student commits to buy school's building with goal of keeping school open
See p. 7

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Public Security cracks down on safety before onset of winter

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As a rush is under way to finish up residential and road construction projects before the onset of winter, the city has been paying special attention to pedestrian safety, Public Security director Greg McBain said last week.

“Maybe it’s a catch-up after the COVID years,” he suggested, in explaining the need to concentrate on permit violations in conjunction with the city’s Engineering department.

An example of contractors violating requirements for occupying the public domain or failing to obtain a permit at all came October 25. This report was for a truck delivering construction material on Aberdeen at 2:52 pm described as “totally obstructing the sidewalk and southbound traffic.” A ticket for \$1,308 was issued.

Dog owner ticketed for allowing dog off leash to play Frisbee

A Westmount dog owner was issued a ticket October 28 for allowing his dog to go off leash at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), according to Public Security officials.

The dog was noticed at 5:13 pm when it came out of the dog run and went onto the playing field to play with a Frisbee. When patrollers asked the owner if he had ever been warned about the leash regulation, he reported he had not. After being identified by his driver’s licence, however, it turned out that he had been in 2018 at King George (Murray) Park. A ticket was therefore issued for \$227.

Cleaner locked out, rescued from balcony

A woman described as a cleaning person was locked out on the second-floor

balcony of a home on Olivier November 2, Public Security officials said. She had left keys and a phone inside and all windows were also found locked.

When efforts to contact the home owner were unsuccessful, a call was made to Public Security at 9:55 am and fire-fighters were called. They raised a small ladder to help the woman. A neighbour offered to shelter her.

WHS student breaks wrist

A 14-year-old student at Westmount High was reported to have broken a wrist while walking and falling on the street outside 4506 St. Catherine, according to Public Security officials. The boy was accompanied by a friend who called for help at 3:50 pm.

When public safety officers arrived, they diagnosed a broken wrist, treated it with ice and immobilized it. With help from his friend, the victim contacted his father who picked him up so Urgences Santé was not required.

Confused man may be added to city’s registry of vulnerable persons

When a call to Public Security October 29 was received for a possibly confused and disoriented man at Sherbrooke and Clarke around 4 pm, patrollers located him at Côte St. Antoine and Clarke heading west. He was reported to be asking passers-by for the way home, department officials said.

Asked where he was coming from and going to, he replied “over there.” Concerned about him, the information was given to Urgences Santé. While awaiting assistance, however, a woman came to meet him, telling officers he had left his residence. He was identified as aged 90.

It was suggested that he be entered on Public Security’s registry of vulnerable persons.

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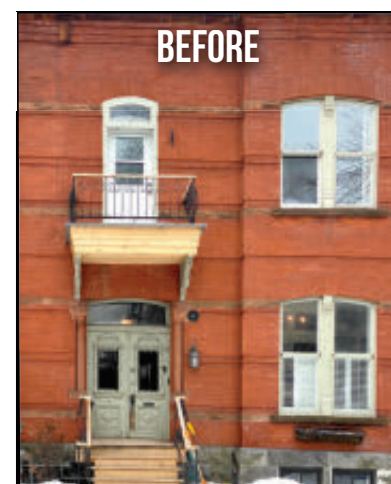
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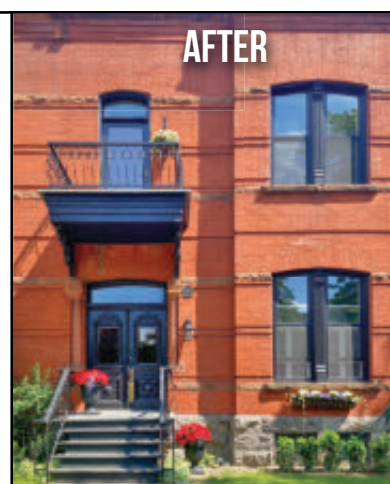
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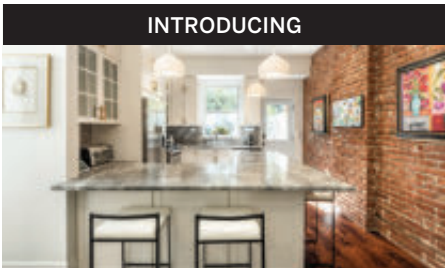
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HAMPSTEAD **\$2,095,000**
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VILLE-MARIE **\$ 9,250,000**
BEDS: 6 BATHS: 5+2 | MLS 22951732
Majestic stone mansion built in 1928 by renowned architect Percy Nobbs with pool.



WESTMOUNT **\$7,500,000**
BEDS: 7 BATHS: 6 | MLS 17554683
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



How NOT to GATHER LEAVES

This morning [November 1], I saw a huge tractor removing leaves on de Maissonneuve (see photos at left). The tractor gorged out a cement section as the machinery is not appropriate for the task. When I mentioned this to a passer-by, she told me that this particular worker had already gorged out three other sections before this particular one.

Furthermore, the worker left half the gathered leaves on the side of the road.

Out tax dollars not at work.

MARILYN COOPERMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Exciting Play Structure

[In reply to letter “Boring play structure,” October 18, p. 6] – Who says this play structure isn’t being used? During an afternoon walk, what a delight to see Westmount’s children at play (see photo at right), including in this picture of one almost in and one waiting (not shown).

LEONARD KANTOR,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Raking Creatively Pleasurable

Opening to p. 8 of this week’s *Independent* (November 1), it was a pleasure to read three readers’ letters on leaf-blowers in Westmount. The one that first caught my eye was John Stix’s “In praise of rakes and raking.”

Being a simple, elegant tool as he effec-



tively describes it, why is it hardly seen in Westmount? It is quiet and slow in its effectiveness but the user is rewarded with positive health benefits and the additional time it requires to rake leaves can be so creatively pleasurable that the raker will look forward to the next leaf fall.

I wish to point out that apart from the noise and pollution of electric and gasoline-powered leaf-blowers extensively used in Westmount, they do not only blow leaves for collection.

They also effectively blow dust into the air to be carried far and wide by the wind. And there are very strong winds in our fall season.

And the dust blown into the lungs of passing-by residents may contain: a) carcinogenic traffic dust, b) dried bird, squirrel, dog, and other animal droppings, c) dried spittle and phlegm from coughs that may contain viruses.

Besides my letter, I would hope that Westmount’s health department would also read John Stix’s letter on the “simple and elegant rake.” And, take a piercing look into fall’s leaf-blowing machines used in Westmount.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

400 Mount Pleasant Already Disruptive

A response to Mr. Adler’s letter to the editor on November 1 (p. 9):

With all due respect, I do not believe that Mr. Adler’s letter in the *Independent* accurately reflects the experience of the neighbours living in the vicinity. Far from

moving in quietly as he claims, the disruptions and inconvenience created by a constant stream of workers has continued for quite some time.

There seems to be a flagrant disregard for the flow of traffic with both the sidewalk, the road and the laneway often being blocked.

The by-law modifications also include issues of concern such as allowing for a commercial parking lot on the property and altering the permitted types and uses of the building. As it stands, there are frequently multiple cars parked on the property often obstructing common access to the street. In addition, the street itself becomes blocked by cars being washed and equipment such as bikes using the road as if it were private property.

The garden to which he refers as being an unkempt eyesore was actually a beautiful space with multiple floral species that seemed to be maintained lovingly by the family of the previous owner. It has now been grassed over.

I do not think that it is fair to accuse Mr. Cummings of misrepresentation. His concerns accurately reflect the discontent of many of the neighbours who are impacted by what has gone on and what is likely to continue to happen.

The city has made the process of challenging this by-law modification quite difficult. It seems to me that the benefit of one individual and his commercial interests does not present a convincing imperative to disrupt the lives of many other residents.

We have obtained the needed signatures to open a registry, attended town council meetings to express discontent and obtained 108 signatures to open this referendum.

I would urge the city of Westmount to respect the concerns of its residents.

JULIUS ERDSTEIN, MOUNT PLEASANT AVE.

The Key to a Fine Memory

In the recent issue of the *Independent* (p. 3), you wrote about lost keys being held at Police Station 12.

That reminded me of a situation that occurred about five years ago when, while walking my dog Max, I somehow dropped/lost my keys in the snow. I called Public Security to report it and mentioned that the keys were on a purple key ring.

About three hours later, a public security officer was at my door with my keys. He told me that someone had found them and had brought them to city hall and someone from there called Public Security!

Most definitely a fine memory.

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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Family of Ste-Marcelline student commits to purchasing building

BY JENNIFER BALL

It was just disclosed that the family of a student at Villa Ste-Marcelline has purchased the land and the building with the goal of keeping the school open. Ninon St. Pierre, director general of the school told parents and students at the end of the week of October 24, writing in French: “...we hope that the sale will be official within the next 90 days,”

To be split off from other buildings

Victoria Hall’s boiler room, Phase 2, okayed at \$1.6 M

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council October 19 approved a tender bid to undertake Phase 2 of the renovation to Victoria Hall’s boiler room. This is to split off its mechanical operations from the old section of the library as well as the greenhouses in order to enable each building to be independent of the other.

This was described at the start of Phase 1 last year as being important especially since Victoria Hall is the city’s “official secure emergency shelter,” city officials told the *Independent* at the time.

The work on Phase 2 was awarded to

New house deviates from approved plans

City council denies permit request re: garage door

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council October 11 refused to grant a request concerning the construction of the new house at 181 Edgehill that was initially approved September 4, 2018. That is when a garage facing the street had shown a door of a “single format” at 10 feet wide, according to the council resolution.

After installation, at a “derogatory width of 17.6 feet,” it is described as exceeding the dimensions as prepared and submitted by the owner’s architects, one of several “whereas” reasons listed.

Also included was one referring to an unfavourable recommendation from the

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editor@westmountindependent.com

The Congrégation des Soeurs de Sainte Marcelline owns the school’s building at 815 Upper Belmont, but the school itself is a separate entity. The congregation had announced its intention not to renew the school’s lease for the next school year, citing the cost of maintaining the building (see “Villa Sainte-Marcelline may close given \$12-16M cost of renovations,” October 18, p. 12).

Mechanication Inc. described as being the lowest conforming bid at a maximum of \$1,533,750 including taxes. This is the same firm that began the Phase 1 work in 2021 after winning that contract with a bid of \$789,692, including tax credits (see story June 22, 2021, p. 6).

At that time the work on Victoria Hall was explained as including inspection of the aging piping, and electrical systems in preparation for the Phase 2 work to replace the heating, plumbing and other structural elements.

Work on the library’s project to install two electrical boilers has been taking place in an amount of \$378,268.

city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) at a PAC meeting of September 13, 2022.

The PAC recommendation was based on the city’s Site Planning and Integration By-law 1305 (5.2.9 on garages in new construction) stating that garages should be located and designed in such a way as to reduce their visibility from the street and their impact on existing buildings and that the garage entrance should not be an important element of the façade facing the street.

Correction

Boulos represented Maccarone; Parent a PSO

Contrary to what we wrote last week (p. 21), political attaché Sophie Boulos represented provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone at Contactivity’s 50th birthday party at Selwyn House School and Marie-Ève Parent is a Westmount public security officer (PSO). – DP.

Seeking lower tax rates

Council supports tax exemption requests for Y, Centre Greene



The Sherbrooke St. Y on November 3.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two more community organizations – Centre Greene and the YMCA – received city support last month for renewing their tax exemption status from the Quebec Municipal Commission.

This follows a similar request in February from the Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

A nine-year periodic review of the request from the Centre Greene community centre had been previously submitted June 25, 2013, according to a council resolution October 19 with respect to the land and building at 1090 Greene.

After analysis and investigation, “the council indicates that the organization still

meets the conditions required to confirm such status,” it explains.

At the previous meeting October 11, a similar resolution was also moved by Councillor Antonio D’Amico (as commissioner of finance) for the YMCAs of Quebec – Westmount at 4585 Sherbrooke.”

As D’Amico explained back on February 7 in support of a similar request from the Atwater Library that even though such organizations may hold tax exemption status, they are still bound to pay compensation to the city. This is established according to the non-taxable value of the property entered on the real estate roll and at a lower rate compared with the tax rate on the single-family dwelling (see story February 22, p. 3).



Centre Greene on November 3.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



Music influenced Basquiat

Wow! Another great MMFA show. Super celebrity artist Jean-Michel Basquiat is featured in the exciting new exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts. *Seeing Loud – Basquiat and Music* reveals how his art was complemented by his friendships and collaborations with musicians. (He owned over 3,000 records.)

His meteoric rise was during the late 1970s and 1980s in New York when his art quickly caught the eye of cognoscenti. Today his work sells for up to US\$100 million. Links between his paintings and music are carried out by MMFA events and concerts. The exhibition was curated by Westmounter Mary-Dailey Desmarais, chief curator MMFA and Musée de la Musique – Philharmonie de Paris guest curators Vincent Bussi eres and Dieter Buchhart. The show is the first time ever to focus on the role of music in Basquiat's artistic practice. An American born to Haitian and Puerto Rican parents, he addressed black identity and referenced the wild streets of New York during a moment of cultural explosion. A must-see – many times. Check the MMFA website for affiliated events such as films and concerts.

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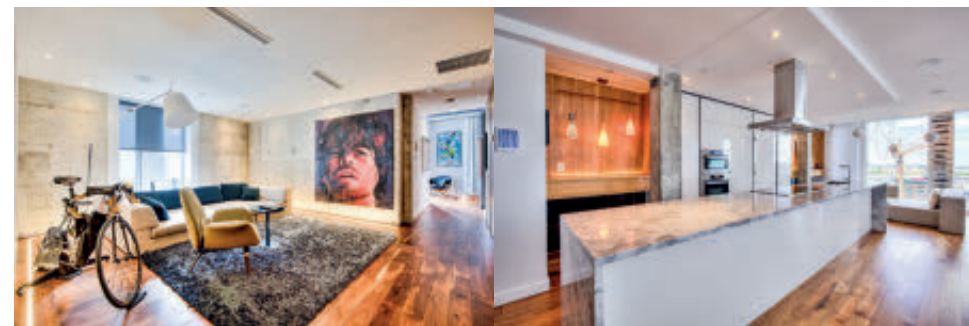


Jean-Michel Basquiat. *A Panel of Experts*, 1982.

MMFA. GIFT OF IRA YOUNG. © ESTATE OF JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT.
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Dieter Buchhart, Mary-Dailey Desmarais and Vincent Bessi eres.



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As we were so close to deadline, last week I didn't do justice to the wonderful event marking the 50th anniversary of the Contactivity seniors' centre located at Westmount Park United Church. So, gentle reader, here are a few more details.

The brunch, hosted at Selwyn House School, (a frequent partner of Contactivity), attracted 100 guests, mostly Contactivity members and volunteers.

The office of local provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone was represented by **Sophie Boulos**. Contactivity board members attending were **Tony Wait**, **Helene McCormack**, **Bonnie Sandler**, **Kitty Lackenbauer**, **Maureen Kiely**, **Sandra Baines**, **Kathy Hewitt** and **Joyce Blond**.

Contactivity staff present were **Emily Rill** (program coordinator), **Dora Knez**, **Barbara Savada**, **Janice Parnell**, **Noemi Stafford** and **Elana Schwartz**.

Noted also were **Matt Aronson**, city councillor, and **Gilles Sirois**, community organizer with CIUSSS West Central Montreal.

Guests were welcomed by **Michael Downey**, Selwyn headmaster, followed by

Contactivity at 50, Part II



Mary Stark

a welcome from **Benita Goldin**, Contactivity executive director.

Tony Wait talked about the history of Contactivity and presented former executive director **Mary Stark** with a special certificate honouring her 25 years in that position.

Wilma Goodman-Lo talked about how she enjoyed being a member; how the centre keeps her engaged in the community and current on technology, and what



Wilma Goodman-Lo

fun it was to be involved in the intergenerational visiting program with Selwyn.

Along with Selwyn community members helping out were students **Jack Sun**



Jack Sun and Platon Kotkovskyy.

and **Platon Kotkovskyy** and **Courtney Prieur**, director experiential learning. An interesting video was presented and can be viewed at Contactivitycentre.org.

RMR Museum presents 'Westmount at War'

The Royal Montreal Regiment Museum is presenting an exhibition in time for Remembrance Day that focuses on the contribution of Westmount residents to Canada's war efforts from World War I to the present.

It opened November 3 and will continue until Sunday, November 13 at the Royal Montreal Regiment Armoury on St. Catherine St., located just east of the Westmount recreation centre. There is also an online component.

The physical exhibition features eight bilingual interpretive panels reflecting Westmount's eight electoral districts and historical artifacts, including military equipment, home-front items such as ration books and propaganda posters, and photographs.

The online exhibition features an interactive map (map.rmrmuseum.com/) that allows visitors to explore the military history hidden in Westmount, including soldiers' homes and historical monuments.

"This Remembrance Day, we are looking back at our local history," Colin Robinson, former commanding officer of the RMR is quoted as saying in a press release for the exhibition. "The RMR was founded in 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, and has been based on St. Catherine St. in Westmount ever since. For more than a century, Westmount residents have made a major contribution to our regiment and all branches of the armed forces. This year,

we honour the service and sacrifice of all veterans, with a special focus on the longstanding special relationship between Westmount and the RMR. We invite citizens, educators and students to visit us. *Let's not forget.*"

The exhibition is open from 10 am to 6 pm weekdays and from noon to 4 pm on weekends. Admission is free.

Comin' Up

Tuesday, November 15

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents former NDP leader Tom Mulcair on "Current Events in Canada and Quebec Politics." \$15 or annual membership for \$60. Victoria Hall and remotely (www.wccmontreal.org). 12:30 pm.

Saturday, November 19

Treats & Treasures Craft Sale & Bazaar. Free entry. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. 10 am to 4 pm.

Ongoing

'Westmount at War.' Free. RMR Museum, armory at 4625 St. Catherine St. Weekdays: 10 am to 6 pm. Weekends: noon to 4 pm. *Until Sunday, November 13.*



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Top left, Mila had finished her online schooling by 10 am January 14 earlier this year and by lunch-time she was out enjoying the park with her dad, Jhonny Dandy. Mila, a fan of Skywalker, attends the International School and the family loves coming to Westmount from NDG.

Top right, snowboarder Trey Holder takes a giant leap off one of the two large snow bumps in the King George (Murray) snow park on January 27 earlier this year.

Bottom, Elsa Tsokanos (front) and her brother Monty blasted off down the toboggan run at Murray Park January 4 early this year. At the time, they had two weeks of home schooling to look forward to, so a bit of fresh air and fun was to help them weather the storm. It was hard, said their mum at the time, having to sit in front of the computer and maintain their concentration and attention for full school days.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

Winter is coming, cont'd from p. 1

The installation and maintenance of the formal toboggan run was awarded to Snö Innovation, again the only conforming bidder, asking a maximum of \$1,235,000 with taxes for the winter of 2022-2023.

The man-made snow was blown on the hill during December for last winter (see story September 28, 2020, p. 1).

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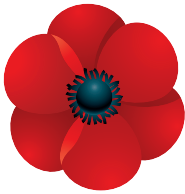
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Hallowe'en on ice at WRC

The Westmount recreation centre got a little spooky October 30, with loud music, colourful lights, ghosts, goblins and ghouls swishing around the ice. By 1:30 pm, there were children galore with parents in tow. A couple of not-so-scary witches with big smiles aka Emily Gamble and Mélissa Denis from Westmount's Community Events division were serving up hot chocolate and candies, and WRC staff including Andrew Maislin, WRC operations manager, dressed in a hazmat suit, were keeping an eye on safety on the ice. At right, long-time Westmounters the Smirnovs were enjoying family fun on the ice. Dad Konstantin (left), 2-year-old Vera, 5-year-old twins Clara and Ella, and mum Nancy with 5-month-old Lila. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



Remembrance Day is Friday, November 11th



For those who believe that Remembrance Day should be observed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there will be an unofficial gathering at 11 a.m. at the Westmount Cenotaph on Friday, November 11th. All are welcome.

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A **WESTCLIFF** PROJECT

Diggers and Weeders Garden Club give out awards for their 90th anniversary

BY JENNIFER BALL

To celebrate its 90th anniversary, the Diggers and Weeders Garden Club offered three \$500 awards earlier this year to develop or enhance community-focused gardens. When they reviewed the entries, it was too difficult for the club to pick just three so they added a fourth award.

Representatives from three out of four of the winning garden projects were able to personally accept their awards at a ceremony held at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, on de Maisonneuve Blvd. at Claremont Ave., on October 13. In attendance were Kimberley John, Fresia Saborio and Anne Williams.

The winners

John's initiative: permaculture Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue includes, as a long-term goal, to revitalize unused public spaces and to provide the community with local vegetables and herbs through urban permaculture farms.

Saborio's habitat is at St. George's Anglican Church in Granby, Quebec. The project consists of developing a community garden for soup and aims to raise aware-



Left, Anne Williams accepting the award on behalf of Philips Anglican Church from honorary president Julie Dawson, who has been a club member for 60 years. Fresia Saborio of St. George's Anglican Church in Granby, Quebec. Kimberley John accepting the award on behalf of permaculture Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

PHOTOS TAKEN ON OCTOBER 13.

ness of food security among the people who participate.

Williams' patch is at the Philips Anglican Church, Montreal West where in 2019 they initiated a multi-year project to transform most of their large lawn area into gardens. The money from the award will support a raised garden as a vertical spiral. This unique shape allows the gardener maximum use of space, and to plant both sun- and shade-loving herbs in the same bed of soil.

The Hemmingford collective garden project is managed by Maude St-Hilaire,

who was unable to attend the awards ceremony. First set up in 2014, its goal is to sensitize, educate and train the youth of the municipality with gardening techniques to augment vegetable garden products.

St. George's School wins too

The grade three class at St. George's elementary school in Westmount, under the leadership of teacher Erin Ryan, won the special encouragement award. Students learnt about the importance of community-supported agriculture, and eating and buying local. They were all at the botanical

gardens in Montreal when the awards were handed out.

"We had to recognize their efforts," Katie Kinnear said "it just touched our hearts."

Kinnear is a past president and current president Lori Baird was by her side to answer questions.

What swayed judges was the community effort put into the projects. "They were growing the food for the community and then they were serving dinner," Baird stated. "The whole idea of the awards was because it was our 90th birthday and we wanted to have some kind of outreach, celebratory thing."

"Our raison d'être is to be a garden club," Baird said. She had earlier this year spoken in depth with Heather Black of the *Independent* (March 15, p. 22) on the club's achievements over the decades.

Since the time that the club had its first public meeting in February 1933 at Victoria Hall, Baird said that "things have evolved but the underlying theme of community has been very strong, as is the love of gardening. Westmount is where its roots were and now, we have people who are a little further afield, but possibly a third of our members are still Westmounters."

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Remembering Jawaid Khan (1942-2022)

‘Khan Krew’ raises funds against pulmonary fibrosis

On a recent chilly day, the Westmount Khan family joined others at Parc Angrignon at an event raising funds for the CPFF (Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation). The fun fall day was part of September’s pulmonary fibrosis awareness month.



The late Jawaid (“Waid”) Khan at a Han Gallery event in 2018.

Sadly, just after the event Jawaid Khan passed away from this disease. Walking for the cause were his wife Sue and daughters Nissa, Jenni, Tina and Wendy.

Amidst a crowd of supporters, the “Khan Krew” was joined by local res Paul Smerjian and family friend Jennifer

Roszler.

Fundraising walks were held across the country. The Khan team raised over \$10,000 – the second highest in Canada, “due to the generosity of a great number of Westmounters who knew our father, though this was before he passed away,”

explained Wendy Khan.

Proceeds go to support patient care, seminars and medical research. – VR

▼ The “Khan Krew”: sisters Tina, Nissa, mother Sue, and sisters Wendy and Jenni.



Police Report: Nasty trick on Hallowe’en

By MARTIN C. BARRY

While Hallowe’en night was relatively trouble-free, police at Station 12 report that the exception was an armed robbery incident in King George (Murray) Park.

Around 7 pm on October 31, two 14-year-old boys who were out trick-or-treating and were walking through the park suddenly found themselves surrounded by a group of 10 to 15 young male adults.

According to Station 12 spokesperson Cst. Mike Yigit, the two teenaged Westmounters were robbed by the mob of the candy they had gathered door-to-door, as well as their portable music devices.

“They got surrounded and one of the suspects had a gun at his belt,” he said. “And so, the two victims handed over their candy bags and their ear pods.”

Pickpocket at Metro

Station 12 investigators are hoping that security camera footage taken of a pickpocket incident at the Metro grocery store on October 28 will help them identify and track down the suspects.

Around noon, an elderly woman, about 80 years of age, was exiting the store with her purchases, when one of the perpetrators blocked her path with an empty groc-

ery cart.

“So, as this was going on, she tried to go around, but he kept blocking her,” said Cst. Yigit. “And as this was happening, a second suspect came from behind and went into her purse and removed her wallet.” He said it was obvious the first suspect was trying to stall the woman because “when she tried to move around, he advanced to block her again. So, he was just basically stalling her while the second suspect came behind and went through her purse.”

One of the suspects is described as a white male, around 50 years old, with grey hair. The second suspect was also around 50, but his hair was darker. They were said to be of average weight and height.

Pimentel returns

Finally, according to Cst. Yigit, Station 12’s long-time community relations officer, Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, is returning this week to his regular duties as the station’s principal media spokesperson after an absence of several months.

“He’s going to be coming back on light duty,” said Yigit, noting that Pimentel will initially be working at the Stanton St. station one day a week. He had been on leave of absence for a health-related issue.

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Even buildings need winter coats



This existing building at St. Catherine and Prince Albert is being re-purposed into townhouses for the Albert Square project, as seen October 20, left, and October 31. It has been a skeleton for some time and the orange tarps were added between the time of these two photos, presumably to allow for winter work.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Ils ne vieilliront pas comme nous, qui leur avons survécu.
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October was dyslexia awareness month

Profile of a Westmount educator: Marcy Scott

By JENNIFER BALL

Dyslexia affects 10 to 20 percent of the population and Canada marked October as dyslexia awareness month.

Westmount city hall was lit up in red on October 17 and 18 for the “mark it read” literacy campaign, and a lecture – “Understanding Dyslexia” – was presented on October 18 at the Westmount Public Library, where speakers from the Montreal Fluency Centre discussed the impact of dyslexia on learning.

Few know this subject matter better than Westmount educator Marcy Scott.

Logical Letters

Her learning methodology, Logical Letters, has proven to be remarkably successful in teaching literacy and while Scott may not be a household name, there is one advocate who is: Sir Richard Branson: the English dyslexic billionaire, entrepreneur and space explorer, whose experience highlights the headwinds dyslexics can face.

A foundation that he supports is called Made by Dyslexia and the catalyst for it was the fact that certain sperm banks in the US had a proviso that donors with dyslexia

need not apply.

“Because, God forbid, these genes should be carried forth,” Scott exclaimed.

“Put that in contrast with the fact that the top 10 inventions ever in the world – the light bulb, the car, the computer, the telephone – were all created by dyslexic people. Where would we be without the innovative, amazing minds of dyslexic people?”

No light bulb?

“We wouldn’t have a light bulb. We wouldn’t have a car or the telephone... Henry Ford and Alexander Graham Bell... all this incredible stuff and what are we doing to those kids? We’re trashing them in schools because the teachers don’t even realize that these kids have the superpowers that they do.”

Scott was drawn to students with special needs as a young teacher and is now an advocate with the end-goal of starting a foundation for her teaching methodology to continue in perpetuity.

She opened an office because “the breaking point came when I had 16 or 17 different offices in 16 or 17 different schools.”

No rote learning

Her approach has been so successful because she uses a website that functions as an interactive keyboard, allowing spelling through dyslexic strengths like visual recognition.

“We eliminate all rote memory and learning becomes fun.”

She associates colours with letters, and tells stories and anecdotes about all the letters of the alphabet and how they pair with other letters in reading rules. It resonates with children rather than drilling them with repetition.

“In 2019, we built a unique online interactive digital keyboard for our students that is uniquely developed for them that works in synch with our entire program.”




Retirement, although she admitted she is in that age-range, is not on her mind because she has so much left to do.

There is too much disinformation that the children are not trying hard enough in school and all the while it is neurological, she said.



“If I could start my life all over again and get reborn with a choice of what I want to be, I think I’d still choose to be female but I would also choose to be dyslexic. But

only if they change the school system, because other than the school system, I think it’s the best way to be: innovators and the creative minds!”

Jennifer Ball’s son has been a pupil of Marcy Scott.

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Liz taking shape, literally



Groupe Maurice’s seniors’ home (“Liz”) at St. Catherine, de Maisonneuve and Claremont will be horseshoe-shaped, as seen November 3 looking west from the parking lot of the former Air Canada/Aeroplan building. Liz is in NDG and, seen in the background, the Château Maisonneuve office and apartment building is in Westmount.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Profile of the Elder family, p. 22 • House History, p. 23

400 Mount Pleasant: In the news, in history, in families

The building on November 3. The 1 Rosemount apartment complex is in the background.



The garage of 400 Mount Pleasant: "402 Mount Pleasant," on November 3.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Builders of 400 Mount Pleasant – the city’s first medical building?

The Elder family: A study in medicine, wartime service and Westmount

By David Price, with files and information from Matthew Elder

The large red-brick building at the northwest corner of Mount Pleasant/Greene and Sherbrooke may very well have been the first medical building to be built in Westmount. It was constructed in 1897 for Dr. John Munro Elder, to be both his home and office (see photo p. 21).

That “one-roof” decision may have had profound effects on his family: both his son Herbert and grandson John also became well-known Westmount doctors.

John Munro Elder (1858-1922)

The patriarch of the family, John Munro Elder, the oldest of seven children, was born in 1858 in Huntingdon, Quebec, southwest of Montreal.

He attended McGill University for both a bachelor of arts and his medical degree in 1885, winning the Prince of Wales gold medal during the former and the Sutherland gold medal during the latter.

Early in his medical career, John served as surgeon-lieutenant and surgeon-major in a military unit in 1885 during the second Louis Riel rebellion, returning to civilian life with the rank of surgeon-major.

In addition to his private practice and senior staff position at the Montreal General Hospital, John taught anatomy at McGill University.

He married Grace Hendrie and relocated to Montreal and Westmount in the 1890s, working first out of 3016 St. Catherine St. (1891-94) and then 4178 St. Catherine (1894-98) before moving to Mount Pleasant.

“I believe the [medical] office might have used a Sherbrooke St. address, although accessed from the Mount Pleasant side,” great-grandson Matthew Elder recently told the *Independent*. “The 1895 Lovell’s Directory lists his office at 4201 Sherbrooke St. West and his home at 400 Mount Pleasant.”

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, he joined the Canadian Corp’s medical division as a reservist, eventually becoming

Editor’s thank-you

Editor David Price would like to thank Matthew Elder for his help, enthusiasm and for contacting the *Independent* with the initial idea of creating/publishing these articles, Catherine Leisser for sharing her writing and research so generously and graciously, McGill University/the Maxwell archives for sharing its images, and Andy Dodge for his usual excellent work.



Colonel John Elder at his desk in France during World War I.

the commanding officer with the rank of colonel of the Canadian No. 3 General Hospital in Boulogne, France.

In Flanders Fields

“In France, the surgical team included John McCrae, author of ‘In Flanders Fields,’” continued Matthew, “and rumour has it my great-grandfather and another colleague retrieved the poem’s draft after McCrae had discarded it in a trash can and implored him to have it published.”

Elder was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and awarded the Portuguese Order of Aviz.

He survived World War I, but returned



400 Mt. Pleasant/4201 Sherbrooke St. from Sherbrooke on November 2. The Sherbrooke address is still on the building. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



Brigadier Herbert Elder, who served in World War I as a bugler and in World War II as a surgeon.

ill due to blood poisoning suffered during wartime surgery and died in 1922 at age 64. His wife Grace died in 1938.

Herbert Elder (1898-1951)

Herbert Elder, John’s son, did not venture far from his father’s path.

He was the youngest of three children, after brother Aubrey and sister Allison.

Herbert grew up in the house/office on Mount Pleasant. According to a family history written by his own son John, “In the stable, he kept white rabbits, rats, and, at one point, an enormous barn owl, which made a particular impression on him due to its habit of swooping on mice, which he released on the stable floor.

“His mother did not like cats, which may have been the reason for his deciding finally that they were the most desirable pets.

“All my life,” continued his son John, “I have been accustomed to having cats in the house, from one to three at a time, and all were invariably exceedingly spoiled by all members of the family,”

Herbert had persuaded his father John to let him accompany him as a bugler to France during World War I. His time there caused him to change career goals from engineering to medicine.

Herbert graduated from McGill medical school in 1923, winning the Wood Gold Medal for surgery. He became a resident of 18 de Casson Rd., a short walk from his father’s house and office.

When World War II broke out, he mobilized the 9th Field Ambulance, went overseas as its commanding officer in November 1939 and eventually became the com-



Dr. John Elder demonstrating the grasp reflex with a young patient. He served in the artillery in World War II before becoming a pediatrician.

manding officer with the rank of brigadier general of the Canadian Medical Corps in northwest Europe.

After the war, he was co-head of surgery at the Montreal General.

He died in 1951 and his wife, Mary Pangman Elder, in 1968.

John Elder (1924-2006)

John Munro Elder was named after his grandfather and grew up on de Casson Rd. During World War II, he joined the infantry at the age of 18 in 1943, having just finished the first year of his BSc degree at McGill.

When his father Herbert heard this news, he had him and his friend Jack Lewis “summarily transferred” to the Royal Canadian Artillery, according to a history written by John’s son Matthew, “as this was seen as a less dangerous section of the army in which to serve in combat.”

He served in 4th Field Regiment in northwest Europe during World War II. It landed in Normandy on D-Day plus 30, or July 6, 1944, one month after the Allied invasion.

“The Canadian Army in Normandy faced one of the toughest German SS units,” continues Matthew’s account, “and endured several brutal months advancing south from the English Channel coast to Falaise, where they and British units connected with the US Army, and together drove the Germans eastward past Paris all the way to Germany and Belgium.”

According to Matthew, his father John had been “an excellent geometry student in high school” and “continued on p. 26

400 Mount Pleasant: From doctor's office to rooming house to 4-plex to...

John Young (1811-1878) was one of many Scottish settlers in Montreal who had come to seek fame and fortune.

From there, he could watch the construction of the Victoria bridge, which he promoted as an important commercial endeavor for the continued economic growth of Montreal. He was also the harbour commissioner for over 20 years.

His land stretched down the hill alongside a farm cared for by the Sulpician Order of Monks, who were the original owners of a vast stretch of land surrounding their monastic headquarters, Fort des Messieurs de Saint Sulpice, to the north and west of the growing city of Montreal.

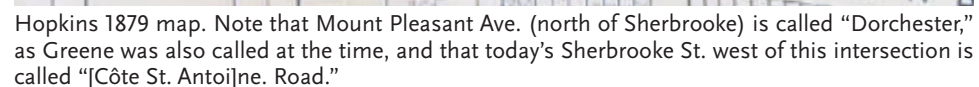
The priests had adapted a native trail heading west from the fort toward the small settlement of Lachine, which they named “Côte St. Antoine Road” (the eastern part of which is now the section of Sherbrooke St. near Greene).

Young's home was one of a number of

In the early 1860s, Young sold his mansion to Robert James Reekie, president of the Kingston Locomotive Works, which designed the engine for the Grand Trunk Railway. Reekie, who also called himself a general contractor in Lovell's Directory, had several houses built on the lower stretch of that driveway, which became a public street named "Rosemount Ave."

In 1872, Reekie sold the northeast corner of "Côte St. Antoine Rd." and Rosemount Ave. to Julia Greene-Woodhouse, a member of one of the larger and more prominent families, the Greenes, who had come to Montreal from Vermont in the 1850s.

The land was described as having 173 feet of frontage on "Côte St. Antoine Rd.," 164 feet along Rosemount Ave., 158 feet on the back line and 241 feet along the "north-east sideline," which was to become a roadway continuing north from what was the extension of the then named Dorchester Street, *continued on p. 24*



but what was soon to be re-named Greene Ave. This north-of-Sherbrooke extension of Dorchester/Greene would become Mount Pleasant Ave.

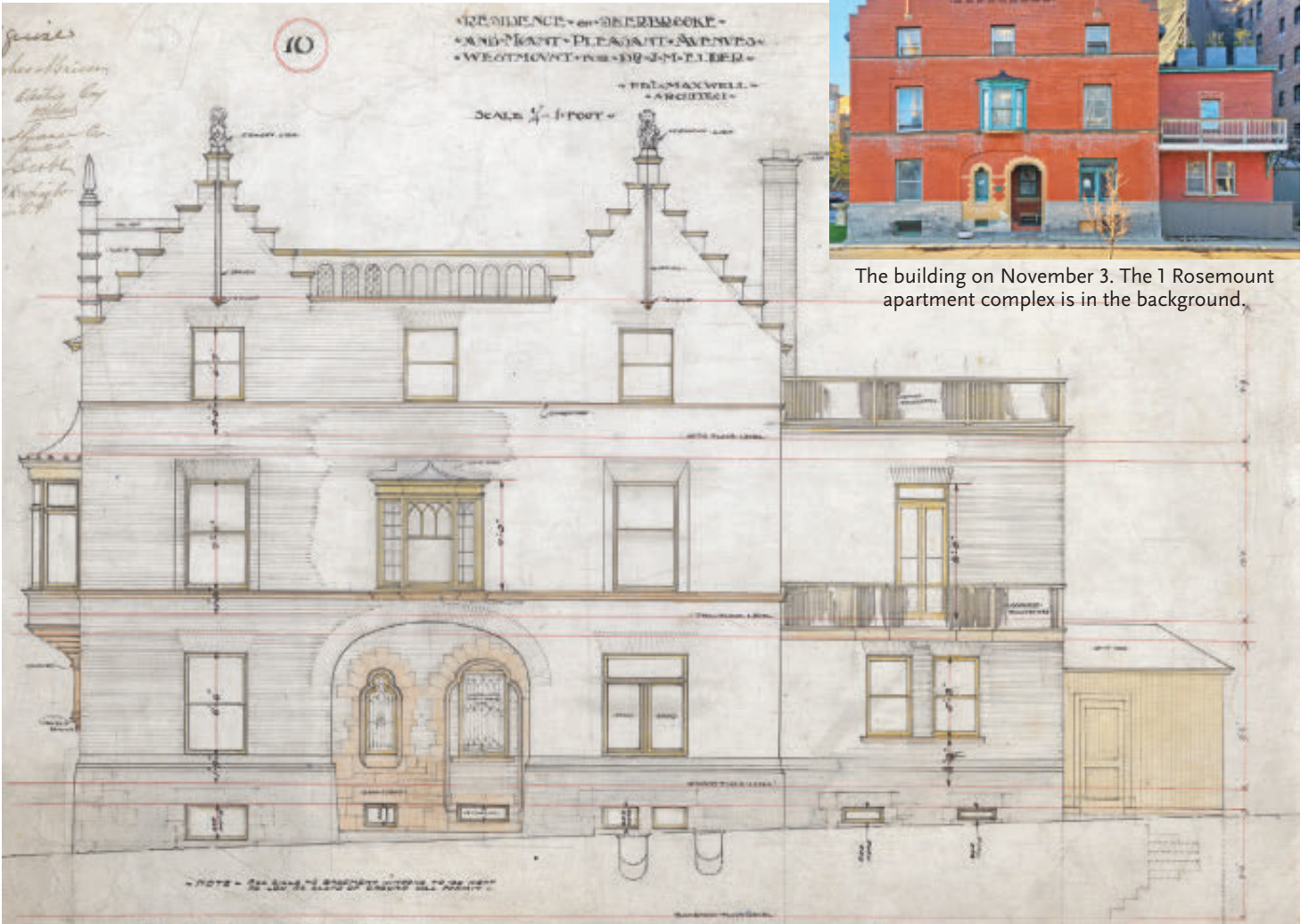
**Greene-Woodhouses
build 5 Rosemount**

The Woodhouses built a large mansion set well back from Rosemount Ave. (5 Rosemount Ave.), and a coach house situated on the back roadway (the “northeast sideline”), described in the deed only as the road dividing the property from the Luther H. Holton property to the east.

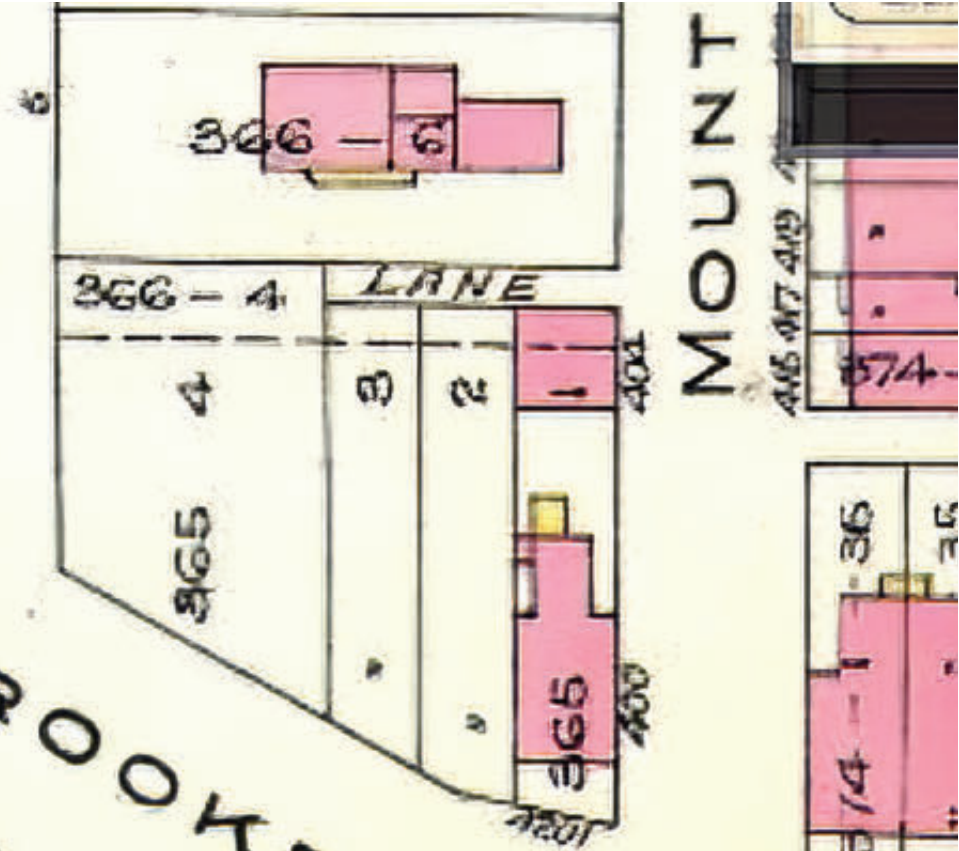
A large lawn shielded the house from the growing traffic on Côte St. Antoine Rd. On the other (west) side of Rosemount Ave. was “Villa Mona” (see ‘Villa Mona’ mansion, now demolished, replaced by 12 Rosemount,” October 2, 2017, p. 8), an equally large mansion owned by J.K. Ward (Westmount’s second mayor), and another villa owned by James H. Redfern, who was to become mayor in 1894.

By the time the Woodhouses sold their house in 1890, they had already moved to Germany, and the house had been rented out. The north-south stretch of Dorchester St. had been renamed Greene Ave. and that part of Côte St. Antoine Rd. was in the process of being re-named Sherbrooke St., with a planned extension going westward from Clarke Ave.

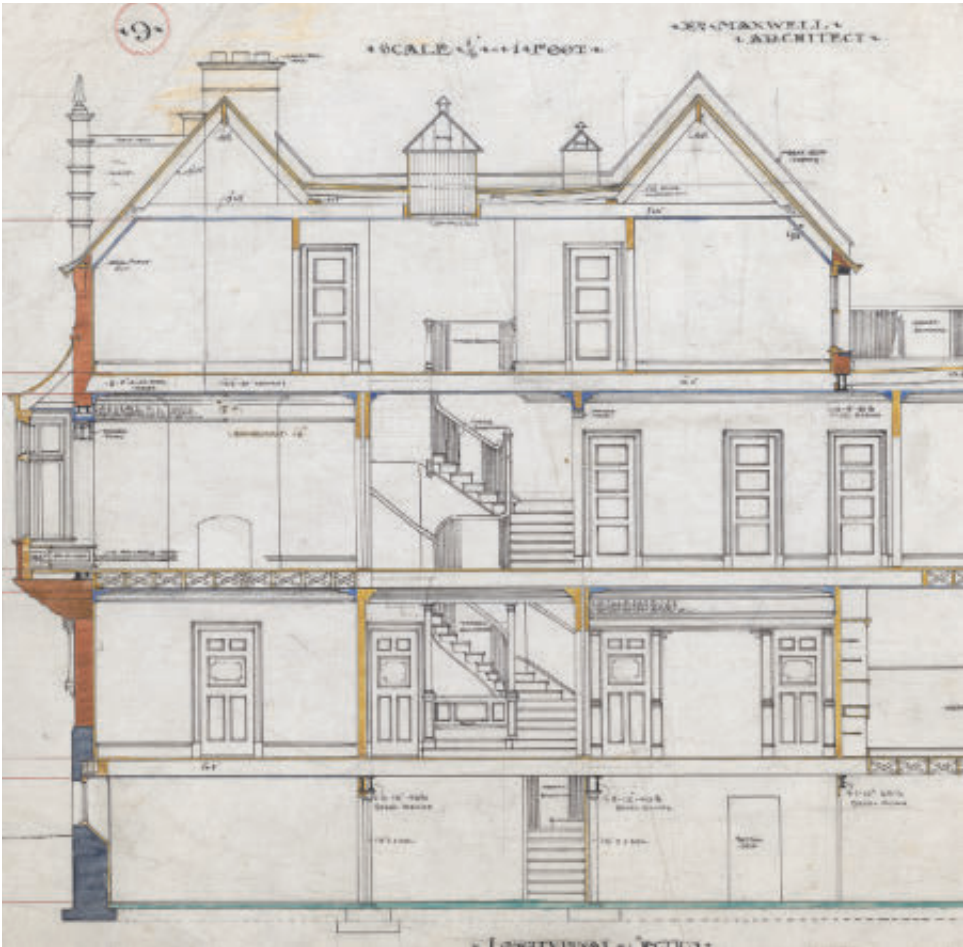
James H. Redfern bought the entire Woodhouse property for \$11,000. He then subdivided the land located between the south side of the former Woodhouse home



The building on November 3. The 1 Rosemount apartment complex is in the background.



Goad's 1912 cadastral map.





Edward Maxwell in 1893. SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

and along Sherbrooke St. into four lots: a large lot at the corner of Rosemount Ave. and Sherbrooke St. (365-4), and three smaller lots to the east of it (365- 1,2,3).

400 Mt Pleasant built

Five years later, in 1895, Redfern sold the first of the four subdivided lots to Dr. John M. Elder, a successful young surgeon at the Montreal General Hospital who graduated from McGill (see p. 22). Dr. Elder was also establishing a private practice and wanted to do this out of his home. He commissioned an already-famous architect, Edward Maxwell, creator of the Henry Birks Building on Phillips Square, and many other commercial and residential projects in Montreal, particularly in the Square Mile and Westmount. Maxwell designed the three-storey building (plus full-height basement) so that the front rooms facing Sherbrooke St. on the ground floor housed Dr. Elder’s private practice (office and waiting room). While the house bore two civic numbers (400 Mount Pleasant Ave., and 4201 Sher-

brooke St. West), there was only one main entrance, on Mount Pleasant Ave., but from which the medical practice and private home could be accessed separately from an interior vestibule. The private ground-floor entrance hall was accessed from the interior vestibule and featured a large window looking out to Mount Pleasant Ave. and a bench nestled within the curve of main staircase. The dining room and kitchen were located to the rear. A full-width drawing room graced the front area of the middle floor, above the offices. It contained a very large semi-circular oriel window with a fitted bench camouflaging the radiators. Other rooms were arranged toward the rear. The top floor contained three more rooms, in addition to a maid’s room, a bathroom and a work-room. According to the Canadian Architecture Collection at McGill University, “the elevations reveal a playful rendition of Dutch urban houses with their stepped gables. One is centrally placed on the Sherbrooke front elevation and two are found on either side of the entrance on Mount Pleasant Avenue.” In addition to his private practice and surgical work at the Montreal General Hospital, Elder was a prominent member of the community, serving as school commissioner and director of the Westmount Municipal Association. Both his son and grandson followed him into the medical profession, the latter serving as Westmount’s medical officer of health in the 1970s. It appears, however, that neither joined the senior Dr. Elder in his private medical practice.

New owners

Instead, in 1920, Dr. J. A. Winters took over both the medical office and residence, while Dr. Elder moved further downtown to 731 Sherbrooke St. West and sold the property. The building was purchased by Lewis B. McFarlane, president of Bell Telephone Company and who used part of the house

as his residence. While it is unclear, architecturally, how the space was divided, it appears that Dr. Winters and his wife also resided there until his death in about 1923. His wife continued to live there for a number of years. Lovell’s Directory removed the 4201 Sherbrooke St. address in from its 1927 edition and lists Mr. McFarlane as living at 400 Mount Pleasant Ave.; by 1930 both Mr. McFarlane and the widowed Mrs. Winters are listed as residents of 400 Mount Pleasant Ave., presumably as a building with two dwellings but sharing one address.

1 Rosemount built

It should be noted that the 1920 sale by Dr. Elder may have been the result of activities going on at the adjacent lot, namely, the development of the rest of the land retained by James Redfern. Redfern was unable to sell the three other lots (365-2,3,4) along Sherbrooke St. between the Elder house and Rosemount Ave. Apparently Redfern may have gotten into trouble, thus possibly prompting him to surrender those lots around 1917. The three lots were eventually picked up by the Westmount Industrial Corporation, headed by Andrew Ross McMaster, a local lawyer. Construction started on the massive, six-storey, 42-unit apartment building now known as 1 Rosemount Avenue.

Lewis McFarlane continued to live at the property until he died in 1943. The availability of affordable housing had become progressively problematic during the war years and even more so as soldiers returned after the war, with little money, yet with ambitions to continue schooling and/or find employment. In Westmount, many homeowners rented out spare rooms to ex-soldiers, war widows, and particularly workers coming from rural regions outside of Montreal who were needed for continued expansion of the already burgeoning manufacturing base that post-war Montreal had become.



Lewis B. McFarlane

400 Mount Pleasant becomes rooming house

Possibly in reaction to both the need for affordable housing, and the less affordable apartments on offer “next door,” Paul A. McFarlane, Lewis McFarlane’s son and the executor of his estate, apparently turned his father’s residence into a rooming house. Rooming houses at this time were a neutrally viewed housing type, of which there were many examples in Westmount and elsewhere in Montreal, and were without the negative connotation that the term sometimes has today. All sorts of people would “rent a room,” including students, unmarried men and women, and workers with rural roots who would return home to the country on weekends. Lovell’s Directory in 1945 shows only one “occupant” of 400 Mount Pleasant Ave.: D. Neveu, whose profession is identified as “prop rmng house,” apparently hired by estate McFarlane to manage the building until it could be sold. Two same-day deeds in 1948 indicated the new owner to be one Marie Hélène Annie Leblanc, otherwise known as Annie White, continued on p. 26



On November 2, from left: 16 Severn, its former gatehouse at 70 Rosemount Crescent, 5 Rosemount and 1 Rosemount.



George and Edeltraud Leisser in 1952 and 1984.



House history, cont'd from p. 25

who purchased the property for \$17,500. In the deed, nothing is mentioned about its use as a rooming house, except to say that the owner was required to honour “the existing lease subject to the Wartime Prices & Trade Board regulations and with the right unto the purchaser of receiving the rental derivable therefrom as and from the first day of June nineteen hundred and forty-eight.”

In 1951, Annie Leblanc sold the property to Gabrielle Jodoin-l’Ecuyer, a resident of Côte St. Paul, thus more than doubling her investment, but taking a balance-of-sale whereby Jodoin-l’Ecuyer paid her \$29,000 over 10 years, at 5 percent interest on the mortgage.

Lovell’s Directory does not list the tenants of the building until 1960, at which time it suggested there were 12 rentable rooms, of which four were vacant. From then on, at times the number of rooms increases to 14.

By 1970, Lovell’s Directory no longer identified all the tenants living there and by 1973, when George and Edeltraud Leisser purchased the building for \$50,000, only two tenants were indicated in Lovell’s.

The realtor’s listing advertised 13 fur-

nished rooms with annual revenue of \$9,000, but little additional detail.

At the time Mr. and Mrs. Leisser lived at 488 Elm Ave., only one block away. They continued to operate 400 Mount Pleasant Ave. as a rooming house. In the mid-1990s the top floor, consisting of five individually-rented rooms, was converted into an apartment for one of their children, while the rest of the house remained a rooming-house.

In 2000/2001 Mr. and Mrs. Leisser converted the middle floor, which consisted of five individually rented rooms, into an apartment for themselves, and subsequently sold their Elm Ave. residence in 2002. Two studio flats continued to be rented out for some years after that.

The city identified the property as having four living units in 2020.

It is also noteworthy that in 1994, the city of Westmount issued its “character area” study in which it classified many of its buildings according to their historic significance. 400 Mount Pleasant Ave. was given a Category 1 rating, which means it is classified as “important” and thus protected by the city’s architectural and planning commission.

The coach house garage that still stands at the back of the property has its own address: 402 Mount Pleasant Ave.

It may have stood there since the Wood-houses built what is now 5 Rosemount Ave. and then became part of the land sold to Dr. Elder in 1895. It was given a Category 3 rating by the city of Westmount.

In the latest valuation roll, the property has a municipal valuation of \$1,996,000. Mrs. Leisser died in 2002, and Mr. Leisser died in 2020.

The new owner, Les Investissements Richelieu, is seeking a re-zoning to allow for office use (see October 25, p. 5).



The front hall of 400 Mount Pleasant in 2020.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CATHERINE LEISSER.

Elder family, cont'd from p. 22

school [and] worked as a bombardier with a 25-pounder team, in charge of calculating gun ranges, essential in setting the angle of power of shell fire.

“He also did duty assisting a forward observation officer (FOO), working ahead of the infantry line to advise artillery on precise locations on which to bring down fire on the enemy.”

‘Where the Hell are the Guns?’

John is among the soldiers mentioned by fellow soldier George Blackburn in his books *Where the Hell are the Guns?*, *The Guns of Normandy* and *The Guns of Victory*. The hair-raising details of his service belie the notion that the artillery was a safe, or even safer, arm of the military. At one time after an attack left him pinned under massive spare tire, he could hear his colleagues discussing his presumed death, “We sure were lucky! It seems only Elder bought it!”

According to Matthew, “4th Field went on to play a key role in the liberation of Belgium and Holland, before moving into western Germany when the war ended. After V-E Day (May 8, 1945), my father volunteered for service in the Pacific, ahead of the expected invasion of Japan.... He never got farther than a US artillery training base in Oklahoma before the war ended, and he soon returned home to Montreal.

“In later years, he claimed he knew the war would end before anyone could be sent from Europe to the Pacific and it was just a ploy to get home early.”

After the war, John attended McGill again and entered its medical school in 1947. He married Janet Dixon in 1949. He graduated from McGill in 1951 and, after specializing in pediatrics, entered private practice in 1956.

Like his grandfather’s office, his practice was located for many years on the north side of Sherbrooke, but between Strathcona Ave. and Arlington Ave. Perhaps appropriately for a former artilleryman, the city’s two 1812 cannon were at that time stationed just opposite, in Westmount Park.

Among his many positions, John was medical director of the Mackay Centre, founding director of the Montreal Children’s Hospital Adolescent Clinic, director of the Montreal General Hospital Newborn Nursery, a board member of Camp Amy Molson and on the staff of the Children’s Service Centre.

He also served as president of the Canadian Paediatric Society. “His dedication to youth extended to the educational community,” according to his obituary, “and he served several years as a commissioner for the Westmount Protestant School Board.”

John retired in 1997, but remained loved “by his former patients, some of whom would greet him on his frequent walks in his neighbourhood.”

In 2002, John and Janet’s daughter Judy predeceased them. She was a marketing executive and head of Microsoft’s Canadian retail software operations, and a Toronto resident.

John Elder died in 2006 and his wife Janet in 2014. They had lived at 588 Lansdowne Ave. for 51 years.

They are survived by children Matthew, a journalist and communications consultant who lives in downtown Montreal; Kathy, a commercial leasing specialist who divides her time between Toronto and St. Agathe; Stephen, an engineer who retired as head of physical plant for the city of Westmount five years ago; and eight grandchildren.

HISTORY OF 400 MOUNT PLEASANT AVE. (since construction by John M. Elder)		
Date	Buyer	Price
30-Apr-1920	Lewis B. McFarlane, president of Bell Telephone Company of Canada	\$28,000
2-Jun-1948	Theodore B. Laberge, Insurance Agent	\$15,000
2-Jun-1948	Marie Helene Annie Leblanc (White)	\$17,500
21-Nov-1951	Gabrielle Jodoin	\$36,000
12-Jul-1973	George Leisser	\$50,000



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Friendly Pika

white tabby, he will easily fit in a family lifestyle with lots of affection and play.

Pika is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, where there are also a lot of kittens to steal attention from him even though he is a perfect companion as well. At six years of age, he is very healthy and happy, so ready for a caring home.

Pika is handsome and sweet, and you can tell that he looks forward to company and cuddles. A classic hunky grey-and-



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Pika is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped as well. To find out more about him, please go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, refer to his information page by his identification number, 51437940, then click the "Book a visit" button on the upper right-hand section of his page.

When opening this link, you will be contacting the adoption coordinator group and will be able to schedule a visit at the shelter for adoption.

Pika is waiting, please think of him.
Your neighbour, Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Cachou is adorable and sweet, a little senior poodle mix who has a wonderful nature. Smart and a quick learner as well, he is already adapting well to his foster family, which has taken him in for the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoption volunteer animal rescue group.

As one of a number of senior pets whose families can no longer care for them because of health issues, Cachou is in need of a new family now.

At 11 years of age, he is active, and keen on his walks and adventures. He is also a lap dog who is very bonded and affectionate. He loves his crate with the door open when he feels like a time-out or a snooze.



Cutest Cachou

Cachou will be best in an adult-only home and can also live with another small, confident senior dog.

A healthy fellow, he is up to date with his vaccinations, neutered and microchipped. A dental update will be done before adoption as well.

For more information on Cachou, please email Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at info@gerdysrescue.org in order to discuss your family's interest in adopting him.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Event honours LeBlanc – artist, curator, art-school director, author



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount artists **Ann McCall** and **Shelley Freeman** organized a lovely tribute for artist **Virginia LeBlanc**, outgoing curator of Westmount’s Gallery at Victoria Hall (1999-2022). LeBlanc was also director of the Visual Arts Centre on Victoria Ave. and its McClure Gallery from 1996 to 2017. A visual artist, she has participated in solo and group exhibitions across the country.

But wait. She is also an author: *Hold* (2019) and *Clay Roots: The Potters’ Club and its legacy at the Visual Arts Centre* (2021). And soon to come is *Small Territories* and *Mudlark*, “a series of medication in paint and words on a ‘path by a river.’”

How appropriate, then, that this moving moment was held by Westmount Park’s much-loved paths by a currently drained and duck-less waterway. Invited guests were all artists.

The 5-à-7 was held in Westmount’s municipal gallery, where
Melissa Denis-Daignault, continued on p. 29



Shelley Freeman and Virginia LeBlanc.



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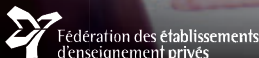
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Anthony and Nicole Hobbs.



Ann Elsdon, Bram Rubinger and Eliane Rivard.

Social Notes, cont'd from p. 28

community events technician for Victoria Hall, had set up a sipping table and delicious nibbles, much appreciated on the chilly day.

Her décor of carnation bouquets in

pinks echoed the palette of Alexandra Mac-Dougall's watercolours on exhibition with Nina Cherney's bright oils (see xx).

As fall leaves twirled outside in massive maelstroms of wind, guests quickly undid layers of warming fleece to congratulate Virginia.

Noted were photographer **Philippe Laporta**, **Nicole** and **Anthony Hobbs**, **Mary Lou Freel**, **Sam Kasirer-Smibert**, **Sean Wilson**, **Mary Martha Guy**, **Ann Elsdon**, **Bram Rubinger**, **Eliane Rivard**, **Susan Joiner** and **Mona Agia**.

Most ladies carried a tote, large enough

for collapsible umbrellas, library books, gloves, wool hats, phones *et al*.

But this alert observer did catch a glimpse of a YSL-initialled bag worn in the look-*du-jour*: cross body.

Ann McCall and Shelley Freeman both lauded *continued on p. 30*



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Social Notes, cont'd from p. 29

Virginia LeBlanc with beautifully-worded presentations. “She brought a wealth of visual art experience to the whole community,” noted Ann McCall, who was unable to attend.
Send your event information to veronica@redgravepr.com.



Melissa Denis Daignault.



Philippe Laporta.



Sean Wilson and Sam Kasirer-Smibert.



Mary Martha Guy, Susan Joiner and Mona Agia.

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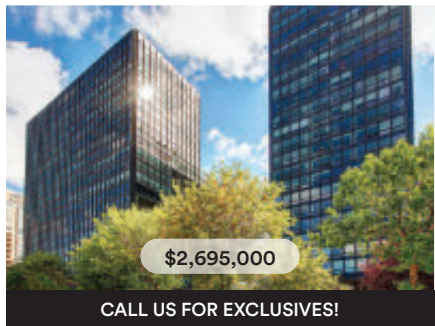
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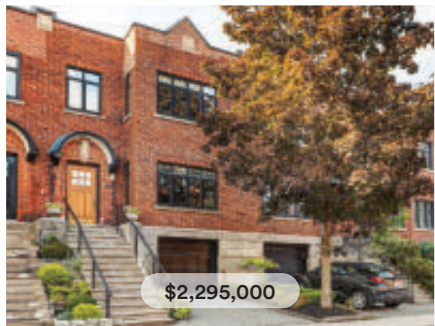
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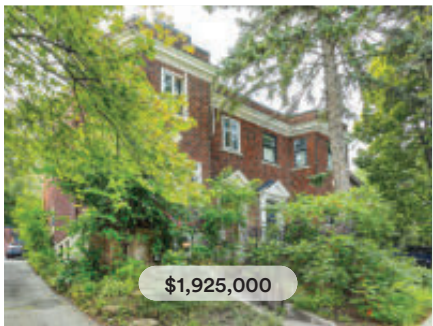
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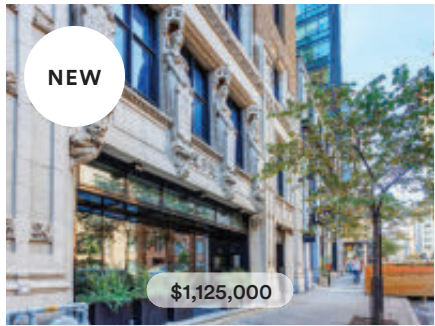
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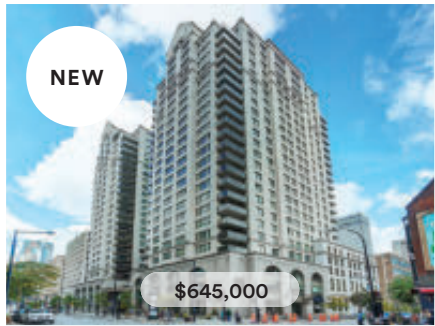
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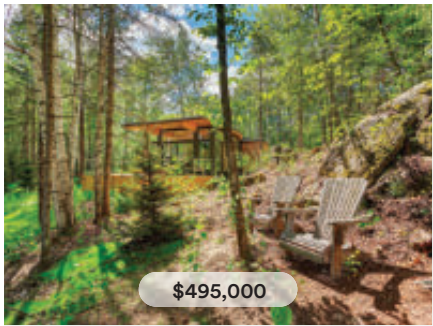
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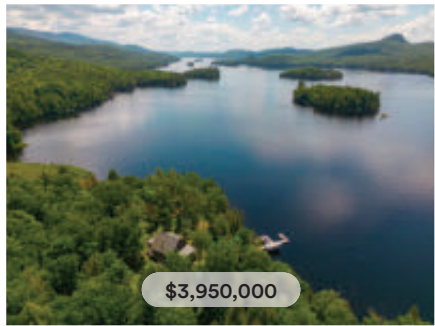
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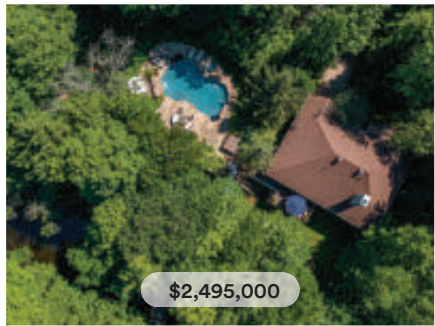
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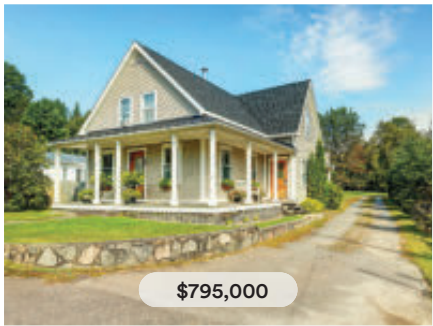
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