

Holiday Gift Guide 2022

WESTMOUNT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 12b

We are Westmount

No taxes, no services: Cllr. D'Amico

City resigns taxes to Montreal from 1111 Atwater tower

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 7 resigned tax rolls to the city of Montreal concerning the small portion of the tower at 1111 Atwater that is located in Westmount citing a cost/benefit in so doing.

These tax bills, some 1,500, concerned

This is our second-to-last issue of 2022

December 13: issue

December 20 & 27 and January 3 & 10:
no issues (usual Christmas break)

January 17 & weekly from then: issues

common areas amounting to some \$3-\$6 each for a total of about \$9,000, according to finance commissioner Councillor Antonio D'Amico.

The resolution, which he moved, stated that the cost of processing the property tax bills is "considerably higher than the value of the property taxes."

As a result, the city will not be providing services to the building or residents such as the use of Westmount facilities or parking stickers, he told the *Independent*. "This is my understanding."

Details obtained from
D'Amico explain that be- continued on p. 14

Pull-out section after p.10

INDEPENDENT

December 6, 2022



Councillor Mary Gallery, front and centre, at the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of city hall December 1, with from left, councillors Anitra Bostock, Matt Aronson, Kathleen Kez and Jeff Sharnie, Mayor Christina Smith, and Councillor Conrad Peart. See p. GG-1 for more photos of the event.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Record Breaking, World Renowned



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Two more holiday concerts coming to Vic Hall

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two more musical events coming up at Victoria Hall to celebrate Christmas start with a traditional "Neighbourhood Caroling" and followed by a more non-traditional program.

"If you love all the 'traditional' Christmas songs, the 'Neighbourhood Caroling' kicks off on December 11 at 2 pm, for an afternoon around the piano singing all your favourite holiday songs," said Donna Lach, assistant director, library and community events.

On the other hand, "if you love classical music and want to discover a different repertoire of holiday songs," this will follow with a program from Noël Lyrique with Temps Fort Choir, on Friday, December 16 at 7 pm. This is a team composed of a classical choir and a choir of "metal growlers." This presentation is by reservation at Eventbrite.

Pointing out what a major role music continues to play at this time of year, Lach said the Rotary Club's presentation of the People's Gospel Choir last December 3 was sold out.



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Known for similar fainting incidents

Public Security catches man searching through car

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When a public safety officer responded to a call November 27 at 6:20 pm for someone possibly searching a car at Montrose and Clarke, a man was seen leaning into a car in a driveway through the driver's door, Public Security officials said.

When asked what he doing in the black Tesla, the man stated he was fixing something for a friend but could not provide the friend's name.

At that point, his eyes closed and he fell backward as if having a seizure. He was given oxygen and first aid while police and Urgences Santé were called. Described as "unconscious," the man was taken to hospital by ambulance.

It was subsequently reported that this was not the first time he had been questioned for similar previous incidents and

behaviour in Montreal. When no answer was obtained at the door to the residence, the car was secured.

"This is a reminder on how important it is to ensure car doors are locked at all times and to not leave items in plain view," said Public Security director Greg McBain.

Car damaged in accident on private property

A car was found damaged on private property at 121 Aberdeen November 26 at 8:08 am, according to Public Security officials. The front bumper was marked, shrubs damaged and a sprinkler system appeared to have been bent. The driver was not injured and the matter was left in the hands of police. It was reported that it looked as if the car had "jumped the curb."

In the aftermath of greenhouse work

Proposal okayed to repair damage to garden, courtyard

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the major restoration of the city's heritage conservatory and frog pond wrapped up this summer, the exterior of the immediate site has yet to be put back in order.

City council November 7 accepted a proposal from a landscaping firm to carry out this project described as "reconfiguration of the storytelling garden (outside the children's department of the library) and the conservatory courtyard" between the library and the gallery of Victoria Hall.

"It's not necessarily a reconfiguration," Mayor Christina Smith said, but work resulting from the greenhouse project.

The selected bidder was landscape

architect Conception Paysage. This was for \$36,746 including tax credits for the 2022 fiscal year and a maximum amount of \$89,681 including taxes.

Both the award-winning story-telling garden and the conservatory courtyard had been created as part of the library's 1995 addition. The story garden can be easily viewed through the large library windows as well as an elevated area outside the conservatory where an owl sculpture had been placed. This was safely removed and stored for the work on the conservatory.

The owl, representing the library's mascot, had been commissioned after a real one had taken up residence in the rafters during the work on the library's addition.

5 Reasons to List Your House during the Holidays

1 While there may be fewer buyers at this time of the year, people who are looking for a home during the holidays are serious and ready to buy



2 There are fewer homes available which means your home stands out

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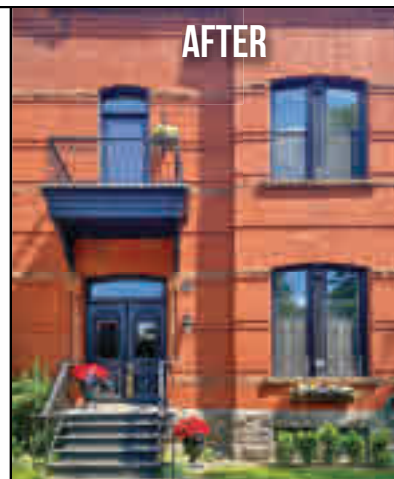
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Gift Guide

after p. 10

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Comin’ Up

Wednesday, December 7

Toy Tea. 4625 St. Catherine St, The Royal Montreal Regiment armoury. Please bring a new unwrapped non-violent toy for children living in women’s shelters for domestic violence. 10 am to 2 pm.

Tuesday, December 20

City’s Hanukkah celebration and menorah lighting at city hall. 5 pm.

Expropriation for highway lowering Second MTQ payment approved for taking city land



Looking east at the city’s triangular-shaped corporate yard and Public Works buildings on December 5.
PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council November 21 ratified what was described as a second partial agreement with the Quebec Transport Ministry (MTQ) for its expropriation of city land including southern portions of that used by Public Works and Hydro Westmount.

This involved the Turcot project’s lowering of the Ville Marie Expressway, now called Route 136. This has been in dispute since Westmount’s claims in 2017 that also included land at the foot of Bethune, Hal-

lowell, Selby and Lenoir streets (see also story November 30, 2021, p. 20).

This second portion of the amount was approved in the amount of \$1,299,563, plus interest, owing on an initial agreement of some \$2,250,656. An amount of \$951,062 has already been paid as “provisional compensation,” according to the resolution moved by Councillor Kathleen Kez.

Councillor Antonio D’Amico, commissioner of finance, told the *Independent* last week that he hopes this second payment can be added to this year’s budget revenue.

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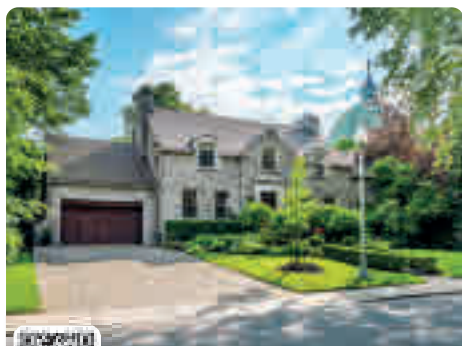




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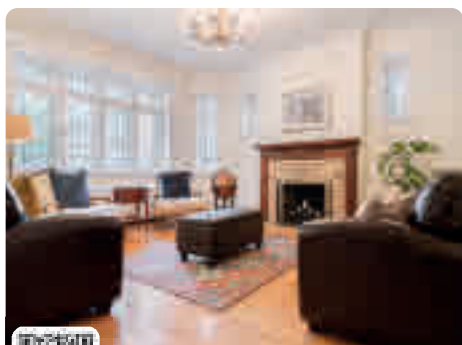
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\$2,100,000



BOUL. DE MAISONNEUVE | WESTMOUNT
\$2,099,000



AV. ARLINGTON | WESTMOUNT
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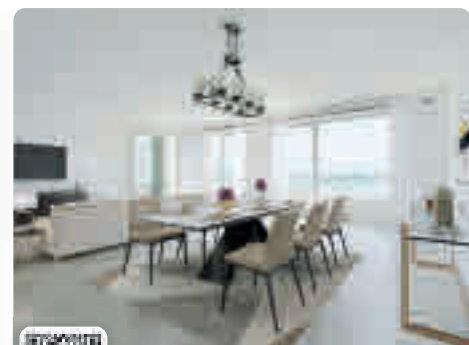
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WESTMOUNT **\$2,495,000**
BEDS: 4 BATHS: 2+2 | MLS 19756073
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HAMPSTEAD **\$2,095,000**
BEDS: 6 BATHS: 4+1 | MLS 22118669
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GOLDEN SQUARE MILE **\$ 35,000,000**
BEDS: 12 BATHS: 8+4 | MLS 27385401
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VILLE-MARIE **\$ 9,250,000**
BEDS: 6 BATHS: 5+2 | MLS 22951732
Majestic stone mansion situated adjacent to Mount Royal Park built in 1928 by renowned architect Percy Nobbs. 2 car garage and pool.



WESTMOUNT **\$7,500,000**
BEDS: 7 BATHS: 6+3 | MLS 17554683
Turn-of-the-century mansion sits majestically just across the iconic Murray Hill Park. 4 car garage and pool.



WESTMOUNT **\$5,995,000**
BEDS: 10 BATHS: 7+2 | MLS 18821264
Grand home on 34,500 ft² of land, steps from the Westmount summit. Unique opportunity to renovate and create your dream estate.



WESTMOUNT **\$ 5,995,000**
BEDS: 3 BATHS: 3+1 | MLS 12018911
Iconic Upper Westmount home boasting sweeping views of the city from all floors. 2 car garage and pool.



WESTMOUNT **\$3,898,000/\$14,000^{MO}**
BEDS: 5 BATHS: 3+1 | MLS 9080798
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BEDS: 3 BATHS: 2+1 | MLS 16653505
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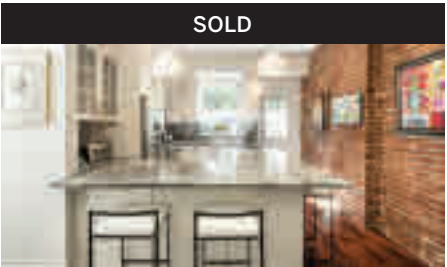
WESTMOUNT **\$1,329,000/\$4,400^{MO}**
BEDS: 5 BATHS: 2 | MLS 21072879
Turn-of-the-century Victorian townhome is perfectly located on a family friendly street in the heart of Victoria Village.



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Constant learning a part of Miriam Tees’s formula for longevity

By Martin C. Barry

For Clarke Ave. resident Miriam Tees, a natural curiosity, along with a constant pursuit of learning and a love of swimming, were probably major factors leading towards her being able to celebrate her 100th birthday with neighbours and friends on November 23.

Although Tees’s birthday will actually be early next year, a gathering to mark the occasion early was held in the lobby at 250 Clarke because many of her friends and neighbours are snowbirds who will be away.

Tees is well known in the field of library sciences, having taught several generations of librarians at the McGill Graduate School of Library Studies.

After retiring in 1988, she took on assignments at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, at Curtin University in Australia, and at the University of British West Indies in Jamaica, while also travelling widely in Europe.

Master’s degree at 73

Having had an active interest in music since childhood, Tees enrolled as a student at the McGill Faculty of Music, graduating in 1996 from the master’s program at age 73. In the years that followed, she put her acquired musical knowledge to work as a volunteer in the McGill Music Library.

She then discovered the McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement, where she be-



As her friend Juliet Wait, left, watches, Miriam Tees cuts her birthday cake on November 23 during an early celebration of her 100th birthday.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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(except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

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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came a moderator. She has moderated many study groups in the field of music, usually involving the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

A biographical sketch of Tees published more than a decade ago by the McGill Association of University Teachers stated that “Miriam feels she is doing well at 87 and that since she shares her centenarian mother’s genes, expects to enjoy life for many years to come.”

Although the indoor pool at 250 Clarke has been out of commission for two years, before then Tees could be regularly seen around 8 am each day getting her morning workout in the water, said Heather Faith, who also lives in the building.

“I’m very, very fortunate to be able to look after myself,” she said in an interview with the *Westmount Independent*, while noting that she receives help from friends. “But I do look after myself. I do my own shopping and my own cooking.”

Tees is also still driving a car, although she is scheduled to undergo testing soon to determine whether she can continue doing so.

Windy Westmount



Victoria Ave. below Westmount Ave. this past weekend, where a tarp tent erected on scaffolding was blown down.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILIE BLOUIN-KLEIN.

Oink Oink building for sale



BY JENNIFER BALL

The building housing the Oink Oink toy store, a fixture on Greene Ave. since the 1990s, is up for sale with a list price of \$1.9 million. The building is owned by Jane Silverstone Segal, who is also the principal shareholder of the business. She did not respond to interview requests about what this means for Oink Oink.

According to the realtor's website "...the listing is zoned C5-24-12 commercial, multi residential, and office. The property has natural light due to the sky light and large windows, exposed brick walls, basement with outside access for receiving and a powder room..."

'Giving Tuesday' targets Friday too

Shoppers give over \$1,000 to Public Security's food drive

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Giving Tuesday kiosk set up outside Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave. Tuesday, November 29 for Public Security's food drive collected just over \$1,100 and 10 recycling bins full of non-perishable food, said assistant department director Kimberley Colquhoun.

Residents asked for ideas

"Many residents came to ask what we needed and would then come out with bags full of groceries to give."

A similar collection outside Les 5 Saisons on Greene planned for Wednesday, November 30 was postponed due to the weather until Friday, December 2. Not Tuesday, but no matter!

Collection bins are also to be found in municipal buildings.

► From left, PSO Julie Noiret, Parking Inspector Richard Lamer, Councillor Kathleen Kez and PSO Tek Vong participated in Public Security's high-profile food drive venue outside the Metro store on Victoria November 29.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF WESTMOUNT.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHY NO BENCHES?

Why have the benches been removed from Westmount sidewalks and mini parks, including on St. Catherine St. between Kensington and Greene?

Seniors miss the breaks these benches provide. Without a place to rest periodically, walks must be cut very short and are therefore less effective.

With no benches at bus stops and few benches to be found in shelters, standing while waiting is the only option.

For those who suffer from sciatica, arthritis and other senior-related conditions, standing is very painful.

It is hoped that the city of Westmount will heed the need for some benches on sidewalks in winters.

NANCY LORIMER, KENSINGTON AVE.

HEALTH OVER PROFIT ON LEAVES, PLEASE

In two recent issues of the *Indie*, there were several letters that warmed my heart. Each provided a supportive perspective on the leaf-blower ban.

This is a crusade in which I have been engaged for a long, long while and in which I anticipated and tried to counter the opposition of the contractors. To re-

iterate, I noted that batteries are improving and can be re-charged during coffee breaks; long electric cords could be used at most homes; and if great technical obstacles were to emerge, rakes still exist.

The objections to these quaint, archaic garden tools is that they are slower than blowers. No doubt this is true. They are also safer and quieter, and the added cost of a slow removal could and should be borne by the home owners. I assume most can readily afford the cost, especially if they have, as many assert, large lots. Let's get our priorities straight and put health and well-being ahead of profit.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

ADDITIONAL WINTER PARKING ADVICE

Re "Watch out for winter parking starting Dec. 1" (November 29, p. 3), specifically the advice from PSU director McBain to "adopt winter parking habits by parking cars about a foot away from the curb."

He should have added: "except Grove Park, which is barely wide enough without said advice and on hills, where it is required that wheels be turned towards the curb (and resting against it if you're smart)."

Just my opinion.

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Library’s popular holiday book sale raises \$10,422

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The quality fall book sale held by Friends of the Westmount Public Library volunteers on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20, raised a total of \$10,422, said Anne-Marie Lacombe, director of the library and community events.

This amount is to be added to some \$12,418 raised at the sale last April in the semi-annual spring sale, the first that had been held after a two-year hiatus over COVID.

This time, the sale at Victoria Hall was

smaller because donations had been put on hold in October when the basement space in the library used to collect and sort them had filled up (see story October 11, p. 6). This resulted while awaiting renovations by the city following water infiltration in the small space in August 2021.

“We hope this will be fixed after the holidays so we can be back to our usual space,” said Carolyn O’Neill, president of the Friends group.

“Nevertheless, the sale was as popular as ever, and much anticipated,” said Donna Lach, assistant director of the library and community events. “Some people were so enthusiastic they started lining up early both days.”

The children’s section, for example, was sold out by 12 noon on the first day (Saturday), O’Neill said. About 50 volunteers turned out to help prepare the tables and work at the sale.

While a decision has not yet been made on the use of the proceeds, over the years it usually has been put toward launching start-up programs, O’Neill said. “The library offers us a wish list from which we choose what we feel to be most in line with our goals.

“Thank you to the community for showing up and providing so much positive feedback. We hope to be back to our usual size in the spring.”

City’s aggro quote-part rises 4.4% Less than expected, others – but ‘still not acceptable’: Mayor Smith

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For once, there appears to be possible good news for Westmount taxpayers in the Montreal agglomeration budget.

Compared to many of the 15 demerged municipalities paying into the island-wide shared services such as police, fire and transit, Westmount’s 2023 portion – the *quote-part* – is listed as up 4.4 percent over last year and at the bottom of the list presented by the Association of Suburban Municipalities.

“It’s not nearly as much as we expected,” said Mayor Christina Smith in forwarding

the list November 30, though the total amount assessed to the 15 cities is not acceptable, she said.

The list shows Westmount will pay \$57.5 million to the agglomeration – some \$2.5 million more than some \$55.0 million listed for 2022.

This assessment for the city is expected to be reflected in the city’s capital works budget, which was scheduled to have been tabled December 5 and later in the city’s operating budget as part of the pay-as-you component.

This year’s total hit to the group of demerged cities is up 12.4 percent (some

\$49.5 million more), although the agglomeration budget is up 8.1 percent.

Montreal East’s is up 28.9 percent, followed by St. Anne de Bellevue at 23.6 percent and Baie D’Urfé at 19.3 percent. At the lower end, just above Westmount is Dorval’s increase of 6.7 percent. Some of Westmount’s neighbouring municipalities with which it is often compared are Montreal West up 17.1 percent and Town of Mount Royal at 12 percent.

The ASM, in a press release November 29 called for “an immediate and fair adjustment of the quotas.”

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Pull-out section

Holiday Gift Guide 2022

Christmas comes to city hall

At the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of city hall December 1, right photo: enthusiastic young singers accompanied by Ira Sokolov on the keyboard; bottom photo: the crowd. The tree lighting at Prince Albert square the day before was cancelled due to inclement weather. See p. 1 for another photo. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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Deck the halls with DIY décor



Decorating is one of the joys of the holiday season. Families often decorate together, and such traditions may include dressing the Christmas tree and hanging holiday lights around the house.

A day spent making homemade ornaments is another great way to decorate and spend quality time together as a family during the holiday season. Though families can let their imaginations run wild when making ornaments at home, the following are some great starting points that can serve as springboards for holiday crafting sessions.

• **Snowmen:** The holiday season simply wouldn't be the same without snowmen. Homemade snowmen can be made out of ping pong balls, which are the ideal size when making ornaments for the Christmas tree. Those who want to go a little bigger can glue wiffle balls or large polystyrene balls together or create their own papier mâché snowmen to display on mantles or on console tables in a foyer or hallway.

• **Santa Claus:** Another staple of holiday decor, Santa Claus has inspired many a DIY holiday ornament over the years. A paperplate Santa Claus with a cotton ball beard glued on can make for a fun Christmas craft, especially for young children who can't wait for the big guy to appear on Christmas Eve.

• **Penguins:** Though they might not have a direct link to the holiday season, penguins evoke feelings of cold weather, making them an ideal addition to holiday décor schemes. Make your own penguin family using polystyrene craft balls in assorted sizes and then hang them on the tree or place them around the house.

• **Reindeer:** Santa would not be able to get the job done each Christmas Eve without his trustworthy team of reindeer. Popsicle-stick reindeer projects can be fun for kids of all ages and a great way for youngsters to recognize the efforts of Dasher, Dancer, Comet, Cupid, and, of course, Rudolph, among others.

• **Cookie cutters:** Family baking sessions are a holiday tradition for millions of people. Though that often leads to batches upon batches of tasty cookies, it also means families tend to have a surplus of holiday cookie cutters around the house. Surplus cookie cutters tend to be discarded or relegated to the miscellaneous items drawer in kitchens, but a more awe-inspiring fate can await them. A coat of paint, some glitter and a little bit of string or twine is all families need to transform their extra cookie cutters into colourful tree ornaments.

Holiday decorating sessions can be made even more fun when families take time to craft some DIY decorations together.

Lesser known Hanukkah traditions

Hanukkah is a relatively modern holiday in regard to the Hebrew calendar. Unlike Yom Kippur or Passover, which are steeped in rich traditions, there are few Hanukkah customs.

Hanukkah celebrants still participate in various customs each year, some of which are customized according to family preferences. While some traditions, such as the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah, are familiar, others may not be as widely known – especially to those outside of the faith. Here's a look at a select few.

• **Saying the Shehecheyanu blessing:** Traditionally, there are two blessings that some people say each night while lighting the candles. The first is recited while holding the lit shamash, and the second is said while lighting the candles. Another blessing, known as the “Shehecheyanu,” is said the first night. According to 18Doors, a resource on the Jewish faith, it's the same blessing traditionally said on the first night of all Jewish holidays and other special occasions.

• **Display or use of the shofar:** A shofar is a type of instrument made from a ram's horn. It is a symbol of the ram that Abraham offered as a sacrifice in

place of his son Isaac, exemplifying heroic faith of the fathers of the Jewish people. The shofar also serves as a reminder of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, and calls people to strive for Israel's renewal and fellowship with God.

• **Singing “Ma'oz Tzur”:** Hanukkah songs may not be as numerous or as widely sung as Christmas carols during the holiday season, but there are a select few that are part of the festivities. “Oh Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah” and “The Dreidl Song” are some of the most widely known songs, but some people also follow the custom of singing “Ma'oz Tzur (Rock of Ages)” around the menorah.

The words were composed in the 13th century, and the song summarizes historical challenges faced by the Jewish people that were overcome with God's help.

• **Use of oil in Hanukkah feasts:** It's well known that latkes, or fried potato pancakes, are served around Hanukkah. The reason is due to the oil used to fry them, which traditionally is olive oil. Fried foods call to mind a specific Hanukkah miracle. After the Greeks destroyed the sanctuary and defiled



what was thought to be all of the oil, one jug sealed with the imprint of the High Priest was found. That one jug managed to keep the temple's menorah lit for eight days, despite it being insufficient to handle this task. This

was considered a miracle and celebrated in subsequent years.

Hanukkah is a relatively modern holiday with few traditions. However, the customs associated with this holiday are held dear.

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‘Jingle Bells’

The instantly recognizable “Jingle Bells” has become a wildly popular Christmas carol despite not mentioning Christmas or any other holiday. Written by New England native James Lord Pierpont, “Jingle Bells” is commemorated with plaques in two different cities, each of which claims to be the place where Pierpont wrote the song in the 1850s. One plaque is in Medford, Massachusetts, where Pierpont is said to have written the song from a tavern while watching sleigh races taking place outside. The other plaque is in Savannah, Georgia, where locals believe Pierpont wrote the lyrics prior to leading a sing-along of the song at a local church in 1857.

“JINGLE BELLS” (Extended version)

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O’er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight! Oh,
Jingle bells, jingle bells

Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
A day or two ago
I thought I’d take a ride
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side,
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upstot.
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
A day or two ago,
The story I must tell
I went out on the snow,
And on my back I fell;
A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there I sprawling lie,

But quickly drove away.
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Now the ground is white
Go it while you’re young,
Take the girls tonight
and sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bobtailed
Two forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! you’ll take the lead.
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Lyrics written by James Lord Pierpont
Lyrics courtesy of Digital Music News



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Ways to stick to a holiday budget

The holidays are an exciting, fun and joyful time of year. And for many people, the holidays also are expensive.

According to the Motley Fool Company, a financial wellness resource, the average American spent \$882.45 on Christmas gifts, food, decorations, travel, and other holiday-related expenses in 2019. Around 56 percent of gift shoppers set a budget for holiday spending, but only 64 percent stuck to it. In addition, 21.5 percent of respondents went into debt due to holiday shopping.

These strategies can make it easy to establish and stick to a budget this holiday season.

Budget. When working out spending plans, factor in all of the holiday expenses associated – not just the most obvious, like gifts. Costs for gas, parking lot fees, greeting cards, postage, travel expenses... in your final number.

Determine how much you can spend. Money for gifts and other holiday expenses should ideally come from your disposable income. Find ways to make up any deficit by curtailing expenses like dining out or entertainment extras. Many people plan to use credit cards to pay now and worry about the aftermath later.

Only use credit cards if you have the money in the bank and can pay off the entire bill.

Set a spending limit for individuals. Based on your numbers and how much you plan to spend overall, start allocating money to categories, including gift recipients. Come up with a spending range for each person and stick to it.

Pay in cash as much as possible. It's easy to know what you're spending when using cash as opposed to credit. There is some risk with carrying around cash, but that risk may be offset by the benefit of spending only what you can afford.

Track all purchases. Save the receipts and keep a running total of expenditures so you can see how your spending is measuring up to your budget. If necessary, scale back on one category if you've tipped the scales in spending on another.

Shop sales and deals. Look for comparable gifts at discount stores and other retailers. Also, if you must use a credit card, use one that earns you a cash-back bonus for added savings.

A holiday budget is a must to avoid overspending and finding yourself in debt early next year.

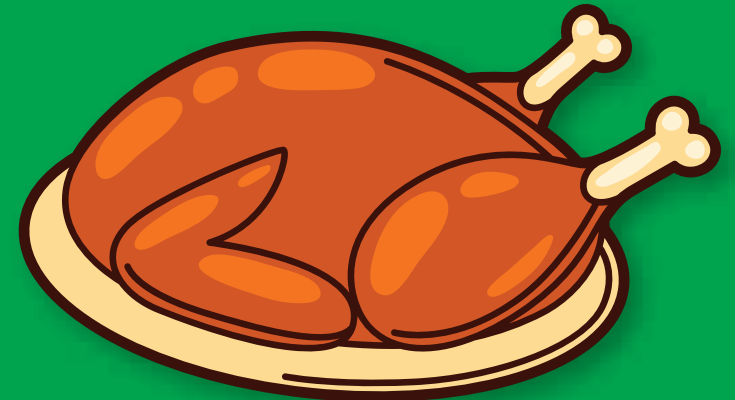
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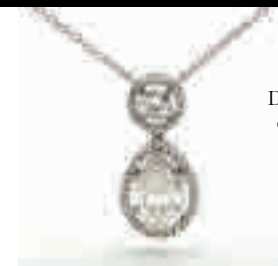
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Movies that are perfect for families this holiday season

Various traditions take centre stage during the holiday season. One tradition may be sitting down and enjoying any of a number of timeless Christmas movies or even newer holiday films that are quickly becoming favourites.

Film fans have their own ideas about the best films to watch during the holidays, but the following movies are some kids and adults can enjoy together.

- **“The Polar Express” (2004):** A young boy enjoys a magical adventure to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express train. He learns about the true spirit of

the holidays and the value of bravery and friendship along the way.

- **“The Muppet Christmas Carol” (1992):** Charles Dickens’ classic story about a bitter miser might be a little frightening for young children to enjoy in its more theatrical offerings. However, when the Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale, the story becomes much more family-friendly.
- **“A Boy Called Christmas” (2021):** Based on the book by Matt Haig, this movie is a reimagined take on Father Christmas. It focuses on Nikolas as he goes on an



- adventure to find a magical town called Elfhelm.
- **“Jack Frost” (1998):** When a father dies in a car accident, he comes back to life as a snowman in his son’s front yard. Jack learns to keep his promises and make things right with his son – things he wasn’t capable of doing as a human.
- **“Christmas with the Kranks” (2004):** The Kranks decide to forgo their annual Christmas party and plan a vacation since their daughter will be out of town. But when said daughter decides to come home after all, chaos sets in as the couple tries to figure out how to put together an extravaganza at the last minute.
- **“Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas” (1997):** The Beast does not favour the holiday season, so Belle must change his mind on the matter in this

- animated Disney offering.
 - **“Elf” (2003):** As a youngster, Buddy was magically transported to the North Pole and raised by Santa’s elves. As an adult, he’s determined to find his real dad in New York City and uncover a way to fit in.
 - **“Santa Hunters” (2014):** A young boy teams up with his sibling and cousins to try to capture footage of Santa in action and prove that the man in red truly exists.
 - **“The Nutcracker and the Four Realms” (2018):** This is a newer take on the classic Nutcracker tale. This adventure sees Clara defending the Land of Sweets from the evil Mother Ginger.
- Holiday films enhance the celebratory nature of the season. Certain movies are tailor-made for families to watch together during this special time of year.

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The origins of 'The 12 Days of Christmas'

Christmas carols can be heard far and wide from US Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Day.

"The 12 Days of Christmas" is one of the most recognizable carols, and for good reason, as the popular song can trace its history back several centuries.

Researchers have traced the earliest printed version of the poem on which the song is based all the way back to 1780. That's three years before the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the American Revolutionary War.

The song has long been suspected to have been a way for Catholics in Britain to teach their children the catechism, as the 1700s was

a controversial period for Catholicism in the country. However, no documentary evidence exists in support of that theory,

and many historians feel it is inaccurate. Others indicate that, while 1780 is likely the first time the poem was printed, the poem is likely much older than that, with origins potentially in France or Scotland. What is known is that the version many people recognize today, namely in song form, can be traced to the early twentieth century, when English singer and composer Frederic Austin first popularized the

melody for the song. Austin performed that version of the song beginning in 1905, and it was first published in 1909.



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A short history of electric Christmas tree lights



The senior students' choir from The Study conducted by music teacher Joanna Papamihelakis with Alberto Santos on keyboard at the Westmount city hall tree lighting on December 1. See p. 1 and GG-1 for more photos and details.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Lights on a Christmas tree may seem like a relatively recent phenomenon, but people who can't wait to deck the halls each December may be surprised to learn that this beloved tradition dates all the way back to the late nineteenth century. Edward Johnson, a friend and colleague of Thomas Edison, introduced holiday light bulbs in 1882. Prior to that, candles were lit on trees and families would briefly gaze at this awe-inspiring bit of holiday décor before the candles were quickly extinguished. (The practice

is now illegal in most jurisdictions.) Johnson is credited with being the first to suggest light bulbs, which were invented by his friend Edison, be used to light trees in place of candles. While many were impressed by Johnson's eight-bulb holiday display, it remained a novelty until the 1920s, when pre-assembled lights became more accessible. Since then, Christmas tree lights have taken hold as a must-have piece of holiday decor in households across the globe

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Fire safety protocols to keep in mind when holiday decorating

Decorating the interior and exterior of a home is a beloved holiday season tradition in millions of households. Such décor makes it easy to dive into the festive nature of the season.

Many people could not imagine a holiday season without decorating their homes, and it's vital that celebrants do so safely. Fire safety is especially important during a time of year when string lights and potentially dried out trees feature so prominently. These fire safety tips can ensure this holiday season is safe.

- **Buy the safest lights.** It might be tempting to buy the most inexpensive lights, especially given all the extra costs already associated with the holiday season. However, safety should be the utmost priority when buying new lights. Testing laboratories such as CSA, Intertek and UL certify products to ensure they're safe for use. Products that aren't certified should be avoided.
- **Use lights and cords where they're intended to be used.** The packaging on lights will indicate if the product is intended to be used indoors or outdoors. It's vital that individuals decorating their homes with lights pay attention to these labels. Never decorate the exterior of a



home with interior lights, and vice versa. Extension cords made for indoors also should not be used outdoors and vice versa.

- **Be especially careful with candles.** Candles should only be burned when adults are in the room and should always be extinguished before leaving the room or going to bed. When burning candles,

place them on heat-resistant surfaces that are beyond the reach of curious kids and pets. Never place candles within arm's length of Christmas trees or houseplants, including poinsettias.

- **Ask an electrician to inspect your exterior outlets and circuits.** Ground fault circuit interruptor (GFCI) outlets are designed to prevent electric shocks

and reduce the risk of electrical fires. Most areas now require new homes be built exclusively with GFCIs, which are recognizable because they feature two buttons between the outlets. But older homes may not be equipped with GFCIs, particularly with exterior outlets. GFCI installation is not an especially expensive job, so homeowners should ask an electrician to inspect their interior and exterior outlets and replace non-GFCIs with GFCIs.

- **Do not pinch light cords.** Stringing lights can be a hassle, but cords should never be pinched in doors or windows or beneath interior and exterior furniture. Doing so increases the risk of damage to the cord, which in turn increases the likelihood of fire.

• **Avoid overloading circuits.** Overloaded circuits pose a significant fire hazard. When plugging in lights, choose outlets that aren't already occupied by devices and other electronics. If need be, unplug appliances like televisions and devices while lights are on and plugged in.

When decorating this holiday season, celebrants are urged to do everything they can to reduce the risk of fire in their homes.



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Put the finishing touch on Hanukah celebrations

Challah is a special bread within Jewish households that is cooked to herald the Sabbath and celebrate various holidays. Jewish scholars indicate that the history of challah can be traced to the scripture story of manna, or bread, that God sent to the Israelites in the wilderness. Also, during the days of the temple in Jerusalem, Jews presented dough as an offering to priests, who used it to bake their own bread.

Challah can be sweet or savoury, and leftovers can make for a delicious French toast base for breakfasts and brunches. Anyone can learn how to make challah for their holiday celebrations. Traditional challah is made with eggs and a shiny egg wash, but this plant-based version uses potato water starch in the recipe. Bake up a loaf or two with this recipe, courtesy of “Plant-Based Gourmet: Vegan Cuisine for the Home Chef” (Apollo Publishers) by chef Suzi Gerber.

- 1. To make “potato water,” combine the potatoes with 3½ cups cold water in a large pot, bring to a boil, and keep at a boil for 20 minutes, uncovered, liquid level should reduce to about 2 cups.
- 2. Drain the potatoes, and reserve the liquid.
- 3. Combine 1½ cups of the potato

CHALLAH Makes 2 loaves	1 teaspoon kala namak (Indian black salt)
3 Yukon Gold potatoes or other butter potatoes (about 1½ pounds), peeled and cubed	1 teaspoon turmeric powder
⅓ cup safflower oil or avocado oil	1 teaspoon sea salt
⅓ cup sugar	1 packet active instant dry yeast (approximately ¼ ounce)
5 cups all-purpose flour or gluten-free all-purpose flour	½ cup Butter, softened and cut into cubes
1 tablespoon cornstarch	⅓ cup oat milk

water with the safflower oil and sugar in a mixing bowl or a large measuring cup with a pour spout (reserve the remaining potato water). Whisk until sugar is completely dissolved.

- 4. Combine the flour, cornstarch, kala namak, turmeric, and sea salt in a stand mixer and whisk to combine. Make sure there are no salt clusters for the yeast to come in contact with, slowly add yeast.
- 5. Change the mixer attachment to a dough hook, and slowly add the potato-water mixture to the dry ingredients while mixing. This slow pour should take about a minute.
- 6. Add in the softened butter, 1 cube at a time, until fully incorporated.
- 7. Knead the dough hook on medium-high (number 6 on standard home machines) for 10 minutes, keeping an

- eye on the elasticity of the dough. Pinch and pull the dough to check its elasticity: When ready, it should stretch like a rubber band and reach about 10 inches without breaking.
- 8. Let the dough rise, covered, for 45 minutes at room temperature. It should double in size.
- 9. Portion the dough into 2 equal blocks. Divide each block into thirds to form a traditional straight braid, or into 4 sections to form a round braid. Roll the pieces into equal-sized ribbons that are at least 18 inches long. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and braid the ribbons directly on the parchment, tucking the ends under and pinching them together.
- 10. Cover again and let rise a second time, for 30 to 45 minutes. The dough

- should dramatically increase in size, eliminating any gaps in the braid.
- 11. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
- 12. While the bread rises, combine the remaining potato water (about ½ cup) with the cornstarch in a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer, whisk often until a thick gel forms, and then remove from the heat.
- 13. Slowly add the oat milk to the gel, whisking until the gel is thin enough to paint.
- 14. Brush a generous and even amount of the starch-and-oat-milk wash onto the risen bread right before placing in the oven.
- 15. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, rotating halfway through. Remove once the crust is smooth and dark and the bottom is strong. When you thump the bottom with your finger, it should sound hollow. The internal temperature should be 190 to 200°F.
- 16. Paint the loaves again with more of the wash and let cool. Store in zip-top bags. Keep for 3 to 5 days (if they last you that long!) at room temperature, or up to 6 months if frozen.
- 17. If you over-proof or let the finished loaves sit out uncovered or past 5 days and they get hard, it’s French toast time.



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Westmount resident victim of sophisticated hack, scam

By JENNIFER BALL

A Westmount resident disclosed to the *Independent* that they were the victim of a sophisticated scam. They received a call from a someone claiming to be from Amazon asking about delivery information for a new iPhone 14.

There was back-and-forth between the two parties about cancellation of the order and the discussion ended with the resident saying that they were going to contact the police.

The next attempted call that the resident made was to their bank, not the police, but the scammer was still on the phone, now pretending to be a “bank employee.” At this point, the resident believed their phone had been hacked.

Bad to worse

Their day went from bad to worse when they contacted Equifax and a report flagged that someone had tried to steal their identity. “I went directly to the bank and cancelled my credit cards and my debit cards. I changed all my passwords on my computer.

“But I also received a message saying that someone tried to open a bank account at the bank I use. My account was temporarily suspended due to suspicion of fraudulent activity.”

The city of Westmount was recently hacked and has explained what city services were affected, but the resident was struck by the coincidence of these two events and wanted to understand how secure their data is.

The city has “all my information!” the Westmount resident lamented. “I do not know what is protected and what is not protected.”

There is a reason why they attacked

Westmount, the resident speculated, alluding to its affluence. “I hope that they are going to improve the security. The city is as important as the bank!”

City responds

Mugisha Rutishisha is a communication officer with the city who spoke with the *Independent* on December 1.

He was unable to share many details at this time because it is an ongoing criminal investigation.

“For those reasons, we cannot add more comments at the moment as far as if any data were stolen or not, and whose data were stolen or not, but as soon as the situation permits, [we] will give out more information,” he said.

When pressed if the city was hearing of a spike in residents being scammed or attempts on identify theft, he responded by saying: “Again, this is also an element on which I cannot comment at the moment. On the recommendation of the society which is working with us, not to damage the investigation,” Rutishisha said.

The Westmount resident was vigilant: they changed their mobile phone sim card, cancelled credit cards and debit cards, contacted Equifax and changed all online program passwords, but a sense of vulnerability persists about bad agents’ intentions.

Rutishisha was sympathetic, albeit unable to provide assurances. “Yeah, that could be terrifying indeed,” he said.

À VENDRE



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Authorities show flexibility to get products onto shelves

High demand outstrips supply of children’s pain relievers

By JENNIFER BALL

In communities across Canada, including Westmount, children’s pain relievers are finally hitting shelves again – and being bought up as quickly as they arrive.

Although free flu vaccines are now on offer in Quebec, hospital emergency rooms are surging with patients suffering from three respiratory illnesses: respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID and influenza, all while pharmacies have lacked children’s cold and flu medications.

More than 1,000,000 bottles of children’s pain reliever medication arrived in Canada beginning the week of November 21, the chief medical adviser at Health Canada, Dr. Supriya Sharma, said when she met the press on November 14.

Hugues Mousseau, general director of the association of Quebec pharmacy banners and chains (ABCPQ) and spokesman for the entire Jean Coutu franchise including the one on Greene Ave., said approximately 250,000 of the 1,000,000 arrived in our province.

He provided context for the underlying challenges pharmacies have been facing for some time. “It all started back in De-



Pharmacist Thai Khang Nguyen of Proxim pharmacy on November 26.



French-language instructions provided with purchase of children’s Tylenol, as seen at Proxim on St. Catherine St. and Metcalfe Ave., on November 26.

crease as it was expected to. Then they started seeing a pattern where demand was exceeding the supply of products. “The entire category in total is up to about 100 different products,” he said.

In his opinion, though, manufacturers were quick to react. “Health Canada has had a leadership role in this since the summer. They convened all the stakeholders from manufacturers all the way down to pharmacies.

“The supply has been doubled, which is encouraging, but not enough – certainly not enough to re-stock shelves – not enough to re-stock our own reserves and not enough to re-stock manufacturers’ own reserves. We’re operating in a ‘just in time’ environment.”

Pain medication was here – and sold

Pharmacist Thai Khang Nguyen of Proxim on St. Catherine St. and Metcalfe Ave., echoed this assessment. He did receive a large shipment of children’s Tylenol the week of November 21, “but the thing is: it all disappeared the following day,” Nguyen said.

“They needed to import [specific medications with] new DIN numbers from else-

where but it is the same ingredients.” A Drug Identification Number (DIN) is an eight-digit number assigned by Health Canada to a specific drug product prior to being marketed in Canada.

The shipment he was referring to was Johnson and Johnson Tylenol, for which it should be noted, the product size is slightly different. “We’re used to seeing oral suspension of 100 milliliters in Quebec. This product is 120 milliliters, so it’s slightly different although the concentration is similar to what we’re used to seeing, which is 160 milligrams per 5 ml,” Mousseau explained.

Unilingual bottle, supplemental French sheet

The other unique aspect is product labelling language. Johnson and Johnson provided pads to pharmacists where parents can have French product information as the bottle packaging in this rush to market was unilingual English.

“Health Canada made a temporary exception to import a limited quantity of suspensions of acetaminophen of Tylenol for children,” the French language supplement reads.

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Silver Kitten was abandoned



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

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Poor Silver Kitten, noticed at four months of age alone in the backwoods area behind the summit.

A small fluff, he was focused on as an emergency, fed copiously to stabilize him

for a few days, then caught with a huge bowl of smelly fish in order to be taken to the veterinarian for assessment and care.

I am pleased to report that, after that step, Silver Kitten is healthy, has received his first doses of kitten inoculations, and was neutered.

Back at the home of the Good Samaritan who saved him, he is eating well and spending a lot of time in a closet, reverting to the hiding behaviour that made it possible for him to survive kitten abandonment outdoors, by himself, with nothing. Silver Kitten is very handsome, with a sleek pearl-grey coat, huge green eyes and adorable pink nose and toes. He is now in his fifth month of age, active and playful.

Silver is ready for a forever family now, maybe with another caring cat to bond with as well. All he needs is a family environment to enjoy his days.

As a tiny kitten, he went through a lot outdoors in our neighbourhood and, as neighbourhood volunteers, we now hope to offer him the caring love of a quiet family life.

For more information on Silver Kitten, please do not hesitate to contact me at lysfo@gmail.com.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Gamin has some Black Labrador in his mix. His short gleaming-black coat and soft brown eyes are quite telling. Oh yes, he enjoys walks and exploring the woods as a fun and companionable buddy.

Presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA, he is an active and affectionate fellow who would fit in beautifully in our neighbourhood doggy lifestyle.

Loving, playful, keen on games and exploring, at a young three years of age, he is ready to join in anytime.

Gamin is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and micro-chipped. He is still in need of an adult-dog framework after puppyhood, a tad barksy when alone and needing exposure to a home routine, whereby this extra required attention sets him under the humanitarian adoption reduced-fee category.

Please enquire about him online at the Montreal SPCA website www.sPCA.com, then scroll to his information page from his identification number, 51425944, which was under the name Diesel, and click on the "Fill out the form" rectangle on the

Gamin, a companion for a woodsy walk



upper right-hand side of his page.

This will link you to the adoption coordinator group, which will take your contact information and reach out to you for an interview to discuss adoption.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Police Report

Montrose/Mt. Pleasant burglar thwarted by blocked window

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The owners of a home near the corner of Montrose and Mount Pleasant avenues narrowly avoided being burglarized when an intruder almost managed to get in, but found himself blocked by an obstruction on the inside of a second-storey window.

According to a report filed by Station 12 officers on the November 25 incident, the owners called 9-1-1 shortly before 8 pm, saying they found a rear window conspicuously open.

Although they were notified by their home security service that something triggered their burglar alarm that same day, it wasn't clear in the police report whether it was at the same time as the break-in.

While inspecting the outside, the owners found a retractable ladder that didn't belong to them standing up against the side of the house under the open second-storey window.

They found that the frame around the

window had been damaged after apparently being forced. As well, a lock inside the window was broken.

However, the intruder probably never made it into the house because of the small size of the window, as well as the fact it was partly blocked by some household items inside.

The investigators have few, if any, clues – having determined there were no active security cameras in the house or on neighbouring properties. As well, they were unable to find any fingerprints on the ladder as any were washed away by a heavy downpour of rain.

Several construction contractors working in the area were questioned as to whether they were missing a ladder, but the response was negative.

Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Adalbert Pimentel noted that the *modus operandi* used by the would-be thief is similar to the pattern from a string of break-in incidents in Westmount a few

years back, when the perpetrators took advantage of weak second-storey security to rob homes.

But at the same time, he pointed out that this latest incident is one of the few burglary events of this type lately, "and it's not something that's going on," Pimentel added.



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Westmount High stairs re-open

The front stairs of Westmount High are open again. They have been under construction since August 2021. The *Independent* noticed them at least temporarily open in September, but the “official” re-opening was late last month.

“Besides new steps, steel columns were reinforced, curtain-wall windows replaced and new front entrance doors installed. New handrails were also added on the stairways. Total construction costs will exceed \$800,000,” said a press release from the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) November 30.

“The timing for the completion of this work was excellent, given the fact Westmount High School is celebrating its 150th anniversary,” EMSB director general Nick Katalifos is quoted as saying. He also thanked project manager Mariana Osorio and her team, who were responsible for the project.

Westmount High School is presently home to 810 students, according to the release.

► Top, the *Independent’s* first photo of the work-site, from August 18, 2021 and, right, students on the refurbished steps the week of November 21, 2022. BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF EMSB.



1111 Atwater, cont'd from p. 1

cause all of the condo units are in the city Montreal, “the only portion that is on the territory of Westmount is the entrance hall. In order to tax this common area, it is the city of Westmount’s legal obligation to transmit a property tax bill to all the units that own this common area. Due to the small portion of this common area, it would cost (administration fees, printing and delivery fees, etc.) more to transmit these property tax bills to each unit than the amount to be collected.”

Long before the city approved a building permit for the small Westmount section diagonally straddling the property line, it was reported that Hydro Westmount would not be supplying electricity to the building as it had done to the former Montreal Children’s Hospital before its demolition. This is because the electrical entry to the site had already been re-located in Montreal (see story in February 26, 2019, p. 8).

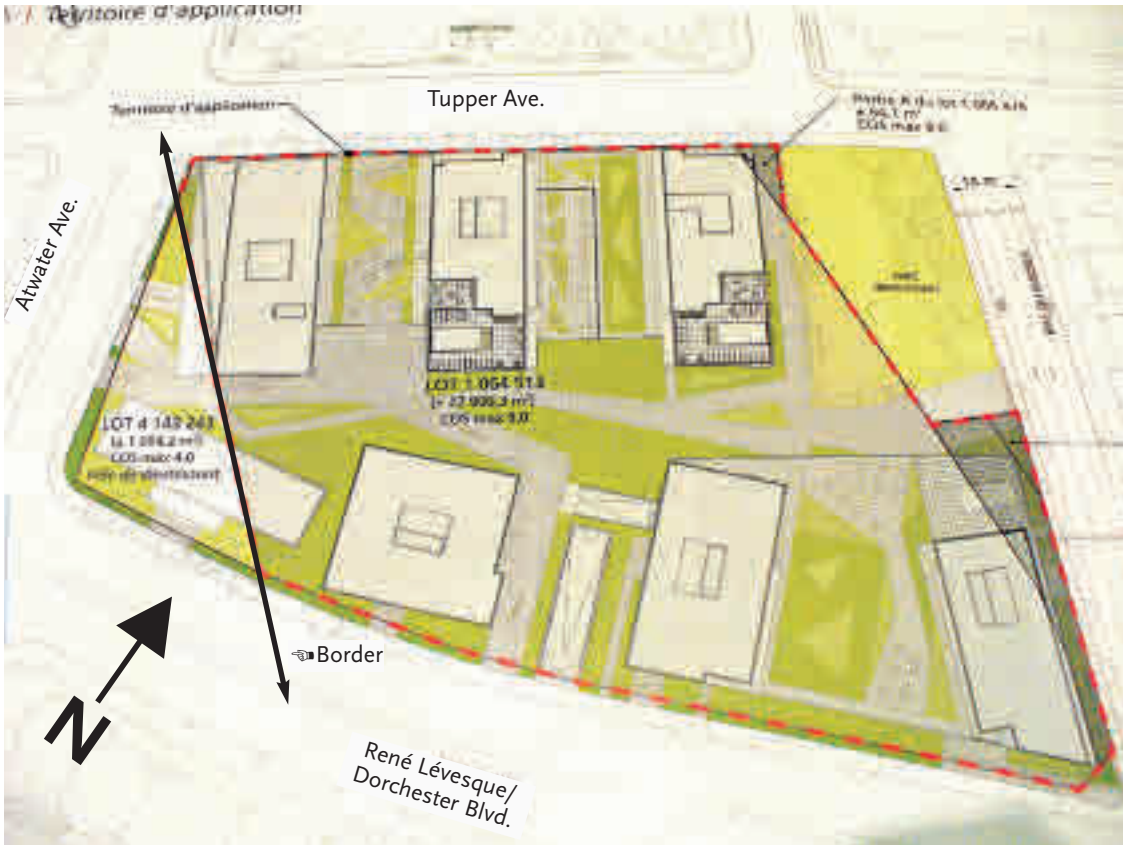
Challenges, compromises

Westmount’s approval of a building permit eventually issued May 6, 2019, encountered many challenges and compromises because of the small triangular wedge located in Westmount.

“It has been a very complicated file,” Councillor Conrad Peart explained at the time as commissioner of urban planning (see story May 14, 2019).

The Westmount address to the building leads directly to this small corner portion for which it is now understood the city will renounce issuing tax bills and providing services.

► This site plan from 2019 by MSDL architects shows the lot in Westmount (#4 143 243) and how the Westmount-downtown border cuts through the preserved nurses’ building at the bottom left corner of the block, as well through a nine-storey portion of the now under construction Tower 1 at the top left of the block. Border, north-pointing arrow and street names added by *Independent*.



Census analysis Westmount getting more secular

By JENNIFER BALL

Statistics Canada has published the data for Westmount on religion from the 2021 census of population and the findings indicate no religion or a secular perspective has increased dramatically since census takers visited in 2011.

The 2016 census of population did not collect any information regarding religion. This question is only asked every 10 years.

The data is derived from the category “Total – Religion for the population in private households – 25% sample data” and key takeaways from the data are summarized in the table below.

Statistics Canada advised “the “25% sample data” was collected by a long-form questionnaire that only 25 percent of recipients received.

There were 19,285 implied responses in 2021 and 19,350 in 2010.

- Citizens self-reported a Christian plurality of 40 percent, down from 52.1 percent in 2011 – a 12-percent-point drop;
- Within Christianity, Catholics form a majority at 60 percent, but this group experience a 24-percent drop from 2011 to 2021.
- Then, still under Christianity, in descending order of total reporting responses are:
 - Anglican
 - Orthodox
 - Reformation Protestants (Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians, United Church)

Second in private households by religion reporting is Judaism at 22 percent, which is the same percentage in both census years.

Muslim is third in reporting, with an eight-percent drop in size since 2011.

Census results for religion in Westmount

	2010		2021		
		% of total		% of total	
Total population in private households by religion	19,350	100.0%	19,285	100.0%	
Buddhist	175	0.9%	200	1.0%	
Christian	10,090	52.1%	7,720	40.0%	24-percent drop
Catholic	6,095	31.5%	4,635	24.0%	24-percent drop
Anglican	1,315	6.8%	755	3.9%	43-percent drop
Orthodox	710	3.7%	525	2.7%	26-percent drop
Jehovah's Witnesses	NA	45	0.2%		
Reformation Protestants (Lutherans, Baptists, Presbetyrians, United Church)	905	4.7%	505	2.6%	44-percent drop
Other Christian and Christian-related traditions	1,020	5.3%	420	2.2%	59-percent drop
Jewish	4,295	22.2%	4,330	22.5%	no material change between 2021 and 2011
Hindu	65	0.3%	125	0.6%	
Sikh	—	0.0%	25	0.1%	
Mormons	NA	—	0.0%		
Muslim	760	3.9%	705	3.7%	8-percent drop
Other religions	135	0.7%	120	0.6%	
Other (computed by Independent via subtraction)	45	0.2%	830	4.3%	
No religion and secular perspectives	3,830	19.8%	6,065	31.4%	58-percent increase

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Kim marks South Korea’s 70 years in International Civil Aviation Organization



Westmounter Sangdo Kim, above centre, who is the South Korea’s consul-general in Montreal, marked his country’s 70 years in ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) with a festive cultural event December 1 at the group’s building downtown. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Quebec lieutenant-governor Michel Doyon, standing in the foreground, and the chair of the Montreal executive committee, Dominique Ollivier (not pictured). Kim used the occasion to announce his upcoming departure from the post and thank many people for their welcome during his time here.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Drummond Foundation brings music to St. Margaret's, Atwater



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Drummond Foundation’s “Choral Jubilee concert” was recently held at St. Margaret’s Residential Centre.

Among those present at the event were the foundation’s board members local res **Nancy Dunton**, heritage historian-author and lecturer; president **Bruce Drummond McNiven** and his wife **Marie Senécal-Tremblay**; chair donations committee, along with choir conductor **Megan Batty** and **Kimberley Kerr**, recreational therapist at Saint Margaret’s.

The women of the Drummond Foundation, and in particular, Julia Parker Hamilton Drummond (1860-1942), were pioneer advocates for basic health and social care in Montreal, actively supporting the establishment of community organizations to provide such resources.

The Drummond Foundation draws daily inspiration from these women, who were leaders in the field.

“It is therefore entirely appropriate to



Bruce Drummond McNiven, Nancy Dunton and Marie Senécal-Tremblay.

participate in the platinum jubilee celebrations in Canada, since, in doing so, we commemorate and honour an outstanding woman leader – Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – who contributed internationally through her exceptional life of devoted public service,” noted McNiven in his opening remarks.

The program of Canadian composers

featured the national and royal anthems, Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” arranged by Megan Batty; an arrangement of “Victimae Paschali Laudes” by Imant Raminsh, and “V’la l’bon Vent” in French, to name but a few of the moving performances.

The concert was such a success that the Atwater Library asked the Drummond Foundation to sponsor a concert in its

Adair Atrium as part of the closing event of its platinum jubilee exhibition. The November 29 concert marked the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II and featured professional and amateur choristers, including students from McGill University and l’École de musique Vincent-d’Indy, as well as work from across Canada in French, English and Ojibway.







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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

After a two-year hiatus, the Miriam Foundation Art Auction for Autism was in full swing for its 10th anniversary at Le Jardin Royalmount. Although a rainy night, the cocktail dinatoire was packed.

Guests viewed donated works by **Yehouda Chaki**, **Richard Roblin**, whose work can be seen at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and **Paul Émile Rioux**, who recently showed during the Venice Biennale. Other artists included **Michael Litvack**, **Lynda Granatstein**, **Maxwell Bitton** and **Robert Rahal**, to name but a few.

Brera offered irresistible canapés and the oyster bar was a great hit. In addition, tapas-style dishes were served, including lamb chops, filet mignon, grilled salmon, and mushroom-filled pasta.

Über-auctioneer **Lee Haberkorn** successfully encouraged competitive bidding. Noted in the crowd were **Carol and Neil Tryansky**, **Judy Wolfe**, **Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir** with **Ziki**, **Tommy Alberga**, **Franki** and **Peter Yanofsky**, sisters **Rebecca** and **Mandy Wolfe**, **Robyn Yanofsky**, **Andrea** and **Alex Bernstein**, **Alice** and **Jonathan Goldbloom** with their daughter **Amanda**, **Rosemary** and **Frank Niro**, **Sarah** and **Allen Rubin**, **Erica** and **Louis Ludwick**, foundation board member, and **Warren Greenstone**, foundation CEO.

Over \$130,000 was raised, to support programs for clients on the autism spectrum at the Miriam Foundation's new facility on Ferrier.



Miriam Foundation brings back art auction for autism



Warren Greenstone, Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir, Carol Tryansky, Judy Wolfe, Franky Yanofsky and Lee Haberkorn.



Jonathan Goldbloom.

▼ Mike Shatilla, Erica Ludwick and Louis Ludwick.

► Andrea and Alex Bernstein.

◀ Mandy Wolfe, Lee Haberkorn and Rebecca Wolfe.

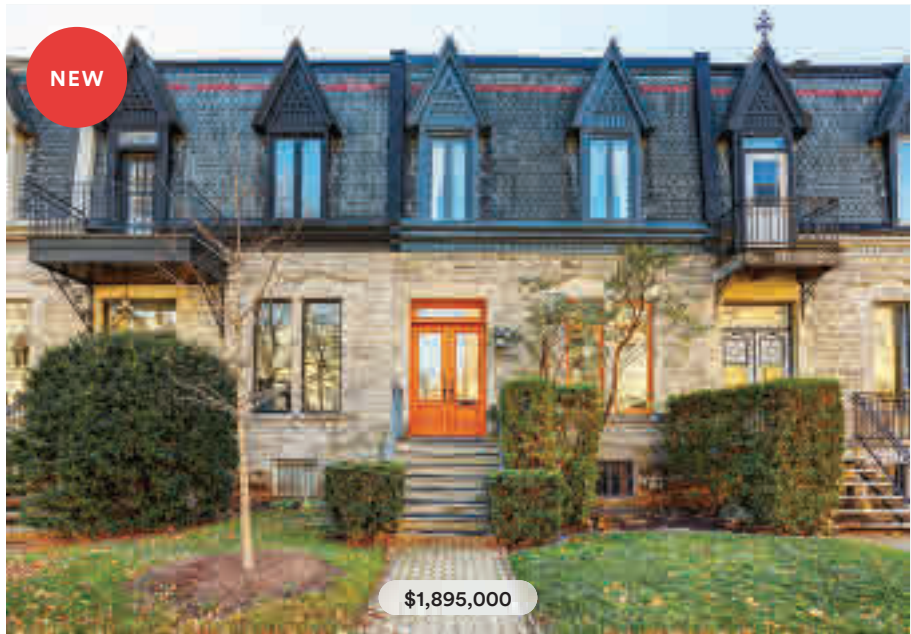




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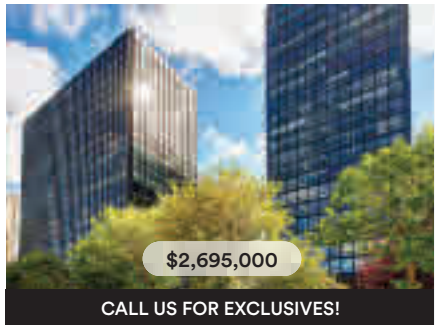
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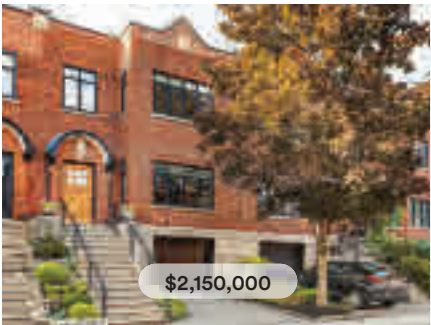


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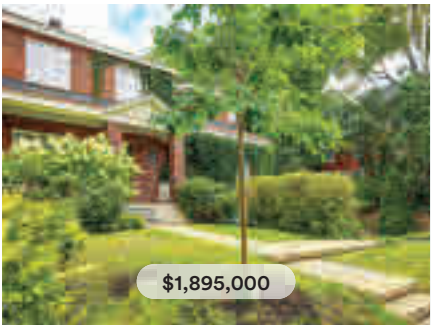
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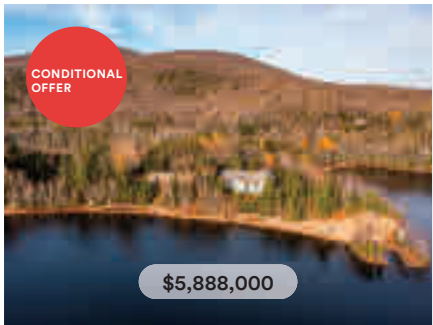
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