Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 2a We are Westmount February 1, 2022

City carnival on hold – for now

Youth programs open up at WRC, Vic Hall – but no games

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

All city Sports and Recreation programs for youth (under 18) that involve a maximum of 25 people were to be opened January 31, department director Dave Lapointe confirmed last week after a Quebec government announcement.

This change applies to practices, but not games.

General skating and the stick-and-puck activities remain open by reservation three days beforehand while people already reg-

Committee recommendation: Keep Sunnyside section one-way – see p. 9 for story istered for youth hockey will be notified of their practice times.

"It's good news," Lapointe said. "It's going in the right direction. Now we're hoping for news about adult activities." The recent easing of restrictions applies at both the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and Victoria Hall.

While the city's annual winter carnival was traditionally due to take place over the coming weekend, this year's government limit on 250 people congregating outdoors is cancelling it – so far, that is.

This is because proof of vaccination would be required, "which we can't control," he said. "If outdoor measures change, we will try to organize a 'pop-up' carnival setting if the suppliers we usually use are available on short notice."

Getting some air/fresh air



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.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Cllr. D'Amico: 'Green' accounting is a first 'baby step'

City aims to start collecting data on its carbon footprint

By Laureen Sweeney

Climate change, according to Councillor Antonio D'Amico, was one of the concerns raised during the municipal election when he campaigned door to door in District 1, the seat he won that is located north of The Boulevard.

And now that he has been named finance commissioner, the concern he heard from residents made its way into the budget speech he delivered January 10 as a council objective to explore the possibility of implementing "green accounting."









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Public Security apprehends 4 in action

Teens caught vandalizing fence at toboggan run



Some of the damage to the toboggan-run fences at King George (Murray) Park, as seen January 24.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURI

By Laureen Sweeney

Four Westmount teens were caught ripping out the protective fencing near the base of the toboggan run at King George (Murray) Park at 10:34 pm, after the run had been closed for the night January 23, Public Security officials said.

The vandalism caused by the four, aged 15 to 17, was described as extending over a wide area as they ripped out and scattered the wooden pickets over the ground and removed steel plates and stakes securing the fence – leaving jagged wiring loose and

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Pet Page, p. 19

Dodge on August real estate transfers, p. 14

City Views: Claire Webster, p. 21

dangerous to passers-by.

The fence is intended to prevent users of the run from going into Côte St. Antoine but the boys were reported to have torn it out to extend the run they were apparently using with prohibited snowboards and skis.

The *Independent* had already noticed some damage to it by January 22 (see January 25, p. 3).

Witnessed in action

When a call was received at Public Security for the run being used after hours and damaged at the same time, an officer witnessed the action from the corner of Côte St. Antoine and Mount Stephen.

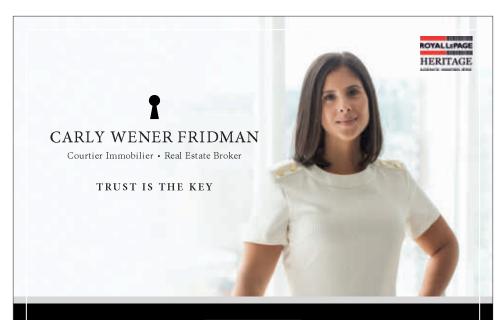
Other officers attended and the four were intercepted. They admitted to the damage and their parents were called to pick them up at the hill. When the parents of one could not be contacted by phone, officers went to the nearby home.

"The parents came to the park and were

all very upset and disappointed by the comportment of their sons," said Public Security director Greg McBain. "We want to keep the run open. A lot of effort, money and man-hours by Public Works goes into maintaining the run."

No tickets were issued because of the boys' minor ages, he said, but the parents were to deal with the matter.

The run was so successful last winter that it was enlarged this year (see story September 28, p. 1).



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EDITORIAL

Fourth shot for Astra-mRNA-mRNA recipients? Not yet

I have continued to pursue the vaccination fates of people who, after being asked to use expiring AstraZeneca doses, received one such dose last spring, followed by two mRNA doses in the summer, of which I am one (see January 18, p. 6). We "ARRs" are currently not eligible for a fourth/booster (mRNA) dose, despite the passage of five-plus months since our last vaccine.

I sent an email January 21 to federal member of parliament for NDG-Westmount Marc Garneau, urging him to advocate for us with Health Canada, given that the provincial minister of Health explained in a January 13 email to me that Quebec was deferring to Canada in this regard. Garneau's office sent an immediate confirmation of receipt, for which I thank them.

On January 24, I spoke to provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis Jennifer Maccarone, who said she would be pursuing the matter with the regional health authorities. I thank her for her time.

Facts from Dr. Vinh

I also spoke to Dr. Donald Vinh, infectious disease specialist at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), January 26 about recipients of AstraZeneca plus two mRNA vaccine doses. I thank him for his time.

He explained a number of things. When I asked him about the protection that these ARR recipients currently have, he said: "We don't entirely know," and explained that, while there are several studies that have been published that have looked at antibody responses under different vaccine combinations, studies assessing the specific permutation of ARR are under way in Canada, given that the third dose has been heterogeneously implemented across the country.

However, he explained that, based on current immunologic principles, antibody levels following the ARR combination "may be just fine" and seemed positive about their prospects.

And antibody levels are not the whole story. Regardless of the vaccine, antibodies will decline over time, but recipients are "not necessarily less protected," due to a memory response that the immune system has acquired by vaccination – with an added benefit that this response can "ripen" over time.

When asked about the protection that these recipients provide to those around them by hopefully not transmitting the virus, he again explained that the data did not yet exist and so he had "no specific answer." That being said, adequately vaccinated people have been shown to trans-

mit pre-Omicron variants for shorter time periods, a study of triple-vaccinated mRNA-only recipients showed good results and, given what is known about vaccination and diseases, it would make sense for ARR recipients to transmit the virus less or for less time.

Even if it's murky, why not vaccinate these people again with an mRNA dose right now? Is there a downside?

Unfortunately, yes, there may be, said Dr. Vinh. If you keep vaccinating vaccinated people, they can develop a hypersensitivity reaction. As the benefits of added vaccine doses decline (a kind of medical law of diminishing returns) and the risk of these reactions increase, the lines cross.

And have the ARRs been forgotten? Are we too few to merit study? No, said Vinh. Across Canada, there are many people in the same boat and the medical community is interested in the answer.

Where are we?

So where does that leave we ARRs? This pandemic, most probably like all previous

ones, is a choose-your-own-adventure and different people are doing different things.

I know of one ARR who, for good or ill, fluked into a fourth, mRNA dose. I know another who is looking for a workaround to getting one. I know another who has found a viable route to a fourth dose. I know of another person who had hours of his time wasted at a vaccination site before being told "No."

If I can summarize our mood, I would say that we feel a little used by the Quebec government (as if it said: "Take this slightly less effective Astra before it goes bad and before we stop using it altogether, and then don't call us — we'll call you"), a little neglected and not entirely confident that we and our contacts are as protected as we can be

For these reasons, I urge the medical and governmental authorities to keep on that data. As the answers become clear, please share them and, if applicable, change the policy.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What's with the negativity on armoury project? Negative coverage?

I run on the track next to Westmount High School, and have periodically followed the coverage (dare we say saga?) of the Hillside armoury in this publication. I find the critical coverage of its redevelopment perplexing. Let's be honest and admit the existing building has no architectural value or pleasing aesthetics whatsoever. It is, objectively, an ugly industrial building. I am hard pressed to understand the justification for preserving any part of it, and I imagine most pragmatic people would recognize its historical use shouldn't have any bearing on its future.

Additionally, the NIMBY-ism comments of those opposed are somewhat absurd. One groused how it's not turning into an aquatic center to be used freely. Yes, and I

Correction: Kamateros pictured

The picture on p. 20 of last week's paper is in fact of notary Anna Kamateros, not lawyer Ann Soden. They both spoke at a webinar about elder abuse organized by the Atwater Library January 13. My apologies. – DP.

would like my neighbour to transform his home into a skating rink, but alas his property belongs neither to me, nor to the city. Another complained of the construction that would inconvenience her, yet the construction of her own condo was likely once a nuisance to someone else. Multiple buildings in the area are under construction. Why single this one out?

Even the recent article in this paper subtly casts aspersions for height and density changes. The proposed development is indicated as five storeys, but two buildings over are seven- and six-storey edifices respectively. Opposite on St. Catherine is a 10-storey building.

Why this instinct towards the negative, and this frantic search to find something to oppose?*

What about the best interests of the students nearby? Has a dilapidated building next to a school ever been associated with good things? Most people would prefer a new development to improve and beautify the neighbourhood than the monstrosity that currently exists.

This project should be embraced.

GEORGE VOULOUMANOS, EDGEHILL RD.

Editor's reply: I don't see how our correct description of the proposal (which is about to be judged by the municipal government and so continued on p. 7

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Mt. Pleasant online survey marks start of 2022 construction

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Launching the 2022 construction season, the city has sent residents of Mount Pleasant between Sherbrooke and Rosemount Cresc., an online survey to provide their opinions of the current needs of the street and its design before tenders for costs are prepared.

"This initiative is part of a pilot project aimed to facilitate resident communications ...in advance of a reconstruction," the survey states. Residents of some surrounding streets also received invitations to participate.

The project is to include the reconstruc-

tion of road and sidewalks, Hydro Westmount's underground structure and replacement of the street lighting network. Replacement of the water main network took place in the summer of 2020 (see story April 6, 2021, p. 12).

The online survey states that the overall design of the street could depend on survey results such as the possible narrowing of the street, a bike lane, widening of sidewalks, the addition of bump-outs and other speed reducers in accordance with current standards and regulations as well as the recommendations from the Westmount Traffic Calming Guide from 2013.

A deadline of January 14 was set for sub-

mitting the survey.

No way of accessing this guide was mentioned though it can be found on the city's website by searching for "Traffic Study" at the top of the home page (see also a summary from the Independent March 12, 2013, p. 1).

More information requested on the survev such as the numbers sent out and to which residents on which streets was not received from the city by press time Monday, January 31.

Lesley Wright, a resident of Olivier, however, said she had received a letter in the mail directing her to complete the survev online.

She said she was pleased at the city's effort to consult the surrounding area but needed more background information on many of the questions and how to access the traffic study.

This included "how suggested changes fit into the city as a whole, not piecemeal. To participate, you need to have more information including costs. Westmounters are smart. We care about our city and we want a livable city."

For example, she said she could not answer whether universal electrical charging stations were needed on Mount Pleasant without knowing the availability of offstreet parking, for example.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

timely as news) is "critical" or "casting aspersions." And how is correctly counting the plan's storeys "negative"? Would it be neutral to hide the truth? Would it serve the reader? - DP

DANGEROUS TRUCKS? YES -KILLER TRUCKS? HOPEFULLY NOT

Yesterday as I walked along a Westmount street, a man passing me exclaimed as I stopped to look at a garbage truck: "Killer truck."

I asked for clarification, to which he stated they drive dangerously and frequently cut corners. How timely, since the day before I experienced the same thing at the back of my home.

I live on an alley that is for residents to access their homes and service people to use only when they have business there. At 7:40 am, a compost truck turned onto the alley, as usual cutting the corner. Since I live there, he, and others, frequently cause damage to my property as they cross

He, like others, was travelling fast. I was walking on the alley near my house on the passenger side. I put my hand up trying to communicate to let me access a driveway

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to keep myself safe and to allow him to continue. He did not.

I screamed and had to jump up onto a garbage box. As it passed, the truck's double rear wheels of the truck were a few feet from me. He did not stop or slow down. I shudder to think what would have happened if I had slipped, or if a child or animal had been with me. I took a picture of the truck as it got to the end of the alley. Tuesday was not a collection day for this sector so he had no business to be there. He was simply looking for a shortcut.

This is not the first time that this has happened. A few years ago, a garbage truck, cutting across, clipped concrete blocks that were there to stop any vehicles from causing damage to my property. The block flew into the air, landing 12 feet from where it was launched, broke into a few pieces, with a piece damaging my car. The noise was deafening and people came around looking to see what it was.

Thankfully, no one was hurt. This event resulted in the city remaking the concrete curb so it cannot break apart. It has many marks of trucks hitting it but it has protected things somewhat.

Other neighbours also have experienced

similar incidents, some involving very young kids.

The city responded promptly after they looked into this matter. The driver claims he did not see me! That is even more worrisome. Would he see a child, or a dog being walked? Many use this alley.

Something has to be done to ensure the safety of our residents. I and others over the years have made suggestions that have resulted in speed bumps and signs. I do believe that has helped cars. But the trucks are a hazard. It was suggested that I file a police report to document this incident. Perhaps I should have. I wish to work with the city to find solutions. No death this time, but the killer trucks need to be controlled.

LESLEY AITON, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

THERE ARE LIMITS TO REMOTE WORSHIP

With the eruv [around Westmount], Zoom, and other artifices, the People of the Book can end-run some of the Halachic canons while remaining true to the faith. But there are limits to abbreviating tradition, and paying our final respects to the dead at the appointed time in the time-hallowed way shouldn't require anyone's

Unfortunately, the pandemic has ushered in a new tradition where the family decides who shall be invited to mourn. Limiting the circle of mourners dishonours the dead and is an indignity to the communal and public nature of prayer. Death shall have no dominion, the poet said. Nor should the pandemic.

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New 'Sustainable Land Development' committee rejects change to Sunnyside

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The request to city council for a oneblock stretch of Sunnyside to revert to its original two-way traffic was turned down last week at a meeting of a new city committee called the Sustainable Land Development Management Commission (SLDMC).

"I personally preferred and voted for an option presented which would see traffic return to two-way circulation, with maintained parking," District 1 councillor Antonio D'Amico said after the meeting.

The one-way status quo option to be rec-

ommended to council was chosen by the commission for reasons including security, and lack of time savings and costs, he explained. The minutes and findings are to be tabled at an upcoming council meeting and a new visual model is then expected to be "communicated publicly."

The change in direction to one-way east between Bellevue and Upper Bellevue took place after last summer's reconstruction of the street and a poll of some residents. It was opposed by Harry Bloomfield of Surrey Gardens, who called for a wider poll of users (see story December 14, p. 19).

Power turned off to 250 Clarke during water break

Montreal firefighters called Public Security January 22 at 12:21 am to help block traffic when a water main broke on St. Catherine just south of the large apartment building at 250 Clarke. On the scene, Public Security officials said it was noticed that water was coming out of the ground and found seeping into the building's electrical

room, causing Hydro Westmount to cut power at 1:30 am.

Officers blocked traffic between Redfern and Clarke and stayed on the scene until hydro workers arrived and Public Works picked up ice and slush. The power was reported to have been restored at 3:25

Second water main break on St. Catherine

For the second time within 24 hours, a water main ruptured on St. Catherine St., this time on January 23 at 4:10 pm, according to Public Security officials.

This break occurred at Metcalfe, infiltrating the basement of the mixed-commercial building at the southwest corner of the intersection.

Firefighters were called when the water was found seeping through the walls although most of it was flowing into a floor

Items were moved away from the drain and other buildings were checked.

St. Catherine was blocked to traffic between Melville and Metcalfe and a Public Works loader was required to help clear the area of snow and slush.

Very cold weather was attributed as the cause of this break and the earlier one further east at Clarke (see separate story



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Developer: Armoury's legal 'demolition' actually a 'restoration'



Photos from an inspection report by Underwriters' Laboratories showing the Hillside Lane wall (the east façade), which is to be dismantled due to the level of corrosion of its six metal columns and the deterioration of its bricks. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROUPIMMO ÉLITE.



While the city requires that a demolition hearing take place whenever 50 percent or more of a building's exterior is to be removed, in the case of the vacant Hillside armoury, developers said last week that the 87 percent being proposed includes the roof, which accounts for 47 percent.

Developer: 'Trying to keep shape, footprint'

"We're planning to keep the same shape, volume and footprint, while adapting the building to today's needs in the current residential zoning," explained Luciano Girlando.

As a result, he considers the project to be a "restoration" rather than a demolition.

The proposed residential building is also to have a LEED rating for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, added Maya Girlando, director of development for Groupimmo Élite. "I think we're giving the building an elegance it didn't

Described as being in a serious state of deterioration, the Category II heritagerated building at 1-3 Hillside across from the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) was built in 1910 as a riding academy in what was then an industrial zone.

Corroded metal

Maya Girlando said the existing east façade on Hillside Lane has been found by engineers to contain six columns of "corroded metal" that support the roof.

Other findings from the same report,

foundation." Another is that in order to meet today's insulation code and other requirements, the new wall will be some 10 inches thick.

According to the city's presentation on its website, the total 87 percent demolition figure includes 100 percent of the east façade, 43 percent of the south façade along Hillside Ave., 67 percent of the west side and 58 percent of the back.

Details of the proposed "preliminary" plan for the "restored" building show the new residential structure to have a fifth, setback storey on the new roof.

The upcoming demolition hearing is to focus on whether or not an application for a demolition permit should be approved. This depends on a building's condition, architecture, suitability within the current neighbourhood zoning and other aspects.

Possible SCAOPI process

If the city's Demolition Committee, composed of all members of council, approves the demolition application, the proposed project would then be subjected to the city's SCAOPI process for non-conforming buildings (see story January 18, p.

A brief summary of the proposal shows a five-storey development of 27 residential units that does not comply to zoning density and height requirements

Vacant since 2014

The building has stood vacant since the 34 Combat Engineer Regiment (formerly the 3 Field Engineers) moved out in 2014 after 67 years, citing the condition of the building (see story April 1, 2014, p. 1).

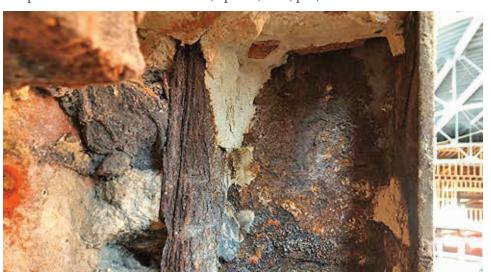
It was then sold to a developer who proposed turning it into a pool and fitness centre (see story April 15, 2017, p. 1).

That plan was subsequently rejected by the city, which required on-site parking, and the site was sold to Girlando and partners at the end of 2018 (see story April 2, 2019, p. 6).















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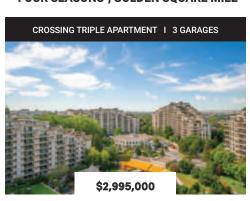
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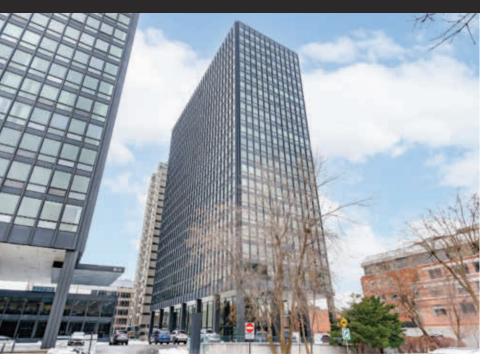
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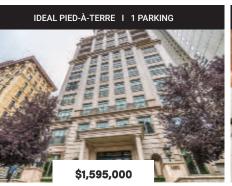
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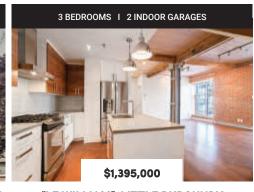
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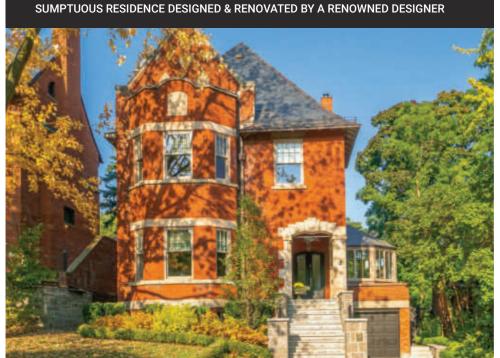


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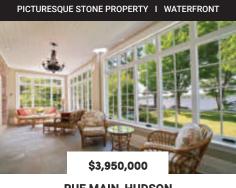
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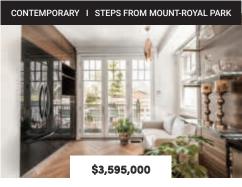
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Real Estate
ANDY DODGE

NOTE: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2021, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found at right.

One of Westmount's more majestic homes, a three-storey house towering above Edgehill Rd., changed hands in August last year for \$6,400,000, the third-highest price registered in Westmount during the first eight months last year and, in fact, since September 2019.

August transfers: Edgehill mansion leads the way

With the sale of 23 Edgehill Rd. leading the way, Westmount saw 11 single-family homes change hands, five above \$2 million and six ranging from \$1,998,000 down to \$1,510,000. This made for an average price of \$2,560,273, and a median price of \$1,998,000. Volume was up from the seven sales registered in July, but well below the 28 transactions that were closed in June last year.

The average mark-up over valuation in August was 23.4 percent, somewhat lower than for any month since March; the average for year-to-date is 26.2 percent, so the difference is fairly marginal.

The highest mark-up in

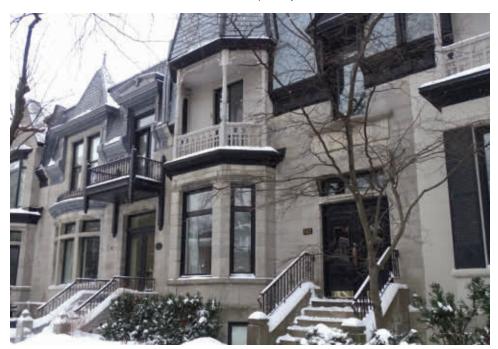
August was actually the lo
continued on p. 16



11 Lorraine on January 25.



23 Edgehill on January 25.



462 Wood on January 25.









Bought & Sold - real estate transfers in August 2021

Address	Vendor	Price	2020 VAL	RATIO (%)
446 Argyle	Sophie Tremblay & Martin Frank Silva	\$2,230,000	\$1,463,500	52.4%
3306 Cedar	Samuel Theron Ramsey	\$2,350,000	\$2,050,500	14.6%
35 Church Hill	Nancy Cummings	\$3,750,000	\$3,068,500	22.2%
23 Edgehill	Fiducie Triple A	\$6,400,000	\$5,775,600	10.8%
11 Lorraine	Warren Garfield & Stephanie Gliksman	\$1,510,000	\$990,000	52.5%
325 Metcalfe	David Robert Collier & Chantal Corriveau	\$2,625,000	\$2,073,000	26.6%
384 Metcalfe	Christopher David Wright & Tara Cope	\$1,560,000	\$1,225,000	27.3%
708 Victoria	Caron Gelber	\$1,780,000	\$1,391,200	27.9%
462 Wood	François Ameye & Jacqueline Caillot	\$1,980,000	\$1,852,100	6.9%
CONDOMINIUMS				
11 Hillside #201	Martha Stephenson	\$475,000	\$364,800	30.2%
11 Hillside #304	177724 Canada Inc.	\$620,000	\$499,100	24.2%
200 Lansdowne #209	Howard Reilly	\$600,000	\$584,600	2.6%
4175 St. Catherine # 501	Celina Livac & Anne Berard	\$1,209,214	\$824,900	50.9%
4175 St. Catherine #1003	Stephane Senecal & Angelo Marino	\$2,525,000	\$1,602,100	57.6%
4700 St. Catherine #302	Dima Dimensions Inc.	\$1,247,000	\$718,100	73.7%
4700 St. Catherine #802	Michael Mendell & Phyllis Liebovitch	\$1,640,000	\$1,386,900	18.2%
4825 St. Catherine	Sacha Singh	\$550,000	\$389,600	41.2%
1 Wood # 404	Peter Reiskind Holdings ULC	\$1,300,000	\$1,054,500	23.3%
OTHER				
1346-48 Greene	Chaussures Tony Inc.	\$1,960,000	\$1,213,110	61.6%



YES, IT'S COLD

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McEntyre writing competition turns 50



From left, Wendy Wayling, the children's librarian at the Westmount Public Library, and chief judge Rosalind Davis with this year's poster.

Photo COURTESY OF R. DAVIS.

"Imagine what Mayor Peter McEntyre would think today about a project he started in 1972," stated a press release received by the *Independent* from the McEntyre writing competition for students January 24.

The theme of the annual competition is just that: "What's next? Tell us what you

imagine in the next moment, hour, year. What will happen when you open that door? What do you hope to see, and what will you see? Or back in 1972, what could you have dreamt would happen?" Entries are due Thursday, April 1 and full details are available on the Westmount Public Library website.

Carbon footstep, cont'd from p. 1

"It's a baby step," he explained last week in order to "quantify" the city's efforts to reduce GHG emissions, "for example to determine the amount of fuel we use and how it relates to the degrees the average day went up."

This type of data is already documented by the city of Montreal in its financial statement, he said, though that city has a sizeable number of staff members to do this. "I will be working with [Councillor] Matt Aronson on this issue."

City to set example: Aronson

Also a newcomer to Westmount's council, Aronson, in District 7, whose commissionership includes climate change, told

the *Independent* that "we need to address climate change however we can. Getting the data on our carbon footprint is important information the city needs in order to set an example in a variety of areas."

These include emissions such as those attributed to the use of concrete in sidewalk repairs and even in home renovations

"We need to take a holistic approach," Aronson said.

D'Amico had also been asked for the meaning of "green accounting" by Denis Biro of Burton Ave. during the Zoom question period at the council meeting January 10 following presentation of the budget speech.

August transfers, cont'd from p. 14

west-priced house at 11 Lorraine Ave., \$1,510,000, though the 52.5-percent mark-up barely squeaked past the 52.4 percent recorded in the sale of 446 Argyle Ave. The lowest mark-up, 6.9 percent, was for the lovely stonefront townhouse at 462 Wood Ave.

Condos volume up

Nine more condominiums changed hands in August, adding to the seven sales closed in July to make 16 transfers in the third quarter last year, with September yet to come.

Already that is more than for either the first or second quarters, an indication of the increased popularity of condos. The total 42 sales so far this year is already higher than the 38 condo transactions that took place in 2020.

The August sales provided the highest and lowest condo prices so far in the third quarter, ranging from \$475,000 to \$2,525,000, and the 73.7-percent mark-up

for an apartment at 4700 St. Catherine St. in August was the highest in the quarter, though the 2.6 percent mark-up for a second-floor unit at 200 Lansdowne Ave. was barely higher than for a third-floor sale in the same building in July, at 2.5 percent.

(Over the past two years only two of nine sales at 200 Lansdowne have achieved double-digit mark-ups while four others were actually below valuation, so the condos in that building might be expected to have a notable reduction in overall valuation compared to other Westmount condos in the next valuation roll.)

One other August title deed documented the sale of Tony's Shoes, 1346-48 Greene Ave., a landmark on Greene Ave. that had been in the Fargnoli family since 1945.

It was purchased by a numbered company headed by local realtor Rochelle Cantor, who has now done the renovations and posted a "for rent" sign on the front window.

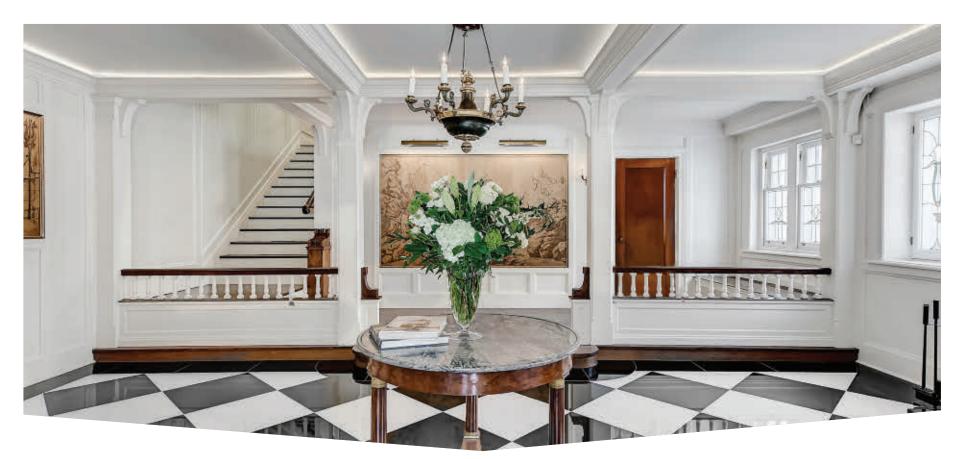


1346-48 Greene – former site of Tony's Shoes – on January 25.

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

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Police Report

Driver charged following The Boulecard/Cedar road-rage incident

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A confrontation on January 26 between two motorists heading east along The Boulevard and Cedar Ave. escalated into a full-blown road-rage incident that ended with one of the drivers arrested and charged with mischief.

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. received two calls around 3:30 pm via 9-1-1 about the incident, coming from each of the drivers.

One of the drivers had passed the other at least once on the winding stretch between The Boulevard and along Cedar, leading to a side-by-side argument, followed by an exchange of insults between the two.

One of the drivers later admitted to officers who responded to the scene that he had broken one of the other car's sidemounted rear-view mirrors because the other driver was blocking his vehicle.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the officers ended up arresting the driver who first called 9-1-1. He was charged with mischief and damaging the other driver's vehicle.

"All this started because somebody passed someone who didn't like it," added Pimentel, noting that this is often how road-rage incidents get started and then spiral out of control.

"It's easy to lose your cool behind the wheel. In a car, you can feel a little bit like

being at a computer: You're anonymous and rules don't apply, but they do."

Pimentel noted that although one of the drivers was arrested, he was detained on the scene just long enough to process the charges and he was not taken into custody.

Break-in but nothing taken

Station 12 investigators have few if any clues as to the identity of an individual who entered the garage of an apartment building at the corner Sherbrooke St. and Kitchener Ave., entered an unlocked vehicle, rifled through some belongings, then left without removing anything.

Sometime between 2 pm on January 24 and 8 am on Jan. 25, at least one suspect was able to gain access to the building. In

the garage, a vehicle was broken into.

The vehicle's owner noticed later that items inside the car were in an apparent state of disorder and called 9-1-1 to report a suspected break-in.

However, upon closer inspection, the owner couldn't confirm that anything was missing, and concluded that the perpetrator seemed only to have searched the vehicle. The owner also confirmed to the investigators that he had left the car unlocked.

Although there were security cameras inside the building, according to Pimentel they were not in operation during the time-frame of the incident. The investigators were also unable to find any fingerprint evidence.

No turns onto de Maisonneuve from Atwater







A reader wrote (thank you!) to inform us that north- and south-bound Atwater vehicles are currently not allowed to turn onto the newly re-opened section of de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Wood (see January 18, p. 22). It was indeed so when the *Independent* went by January 30. At least for now, four bags have been placed over the green traffic-light arrows allowing such turns (photo at left, arrow added by *Independent*). Confusingly, a metal sign seeming to permit a right turn for

southbound motorists remains on the southeast corner (centre) and a metal sign permitting only forward travel applies only to transiting trucks (right). All these signs and lights are in Montreal's downtown (Ville Marie) borough, but westbound motorists enter Westmount on de Maisonneuve right after the Metro station entrance.

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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Such a darling beagle! We had two females when I was a child and so many family memories were built around our love for them.

Here is lovely Foxxy, whose owner passed away a few weeks ago and who is now in a foster family for the grassroots animal rescue Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. It is so hard for a pet who has accompanied her beloved person through illness,



As a beaglette, she is true to her breed as a wonderful companion in and out of the house. At home, she loves her toys and is up for play, in between cuddle sessions and snoozes in her little bed and blankets. Outdoors, she is starting to explore the backyard and enjoys a good walk in a little coat against the cold weather.

If you would like more information on Foxxy, please do not hesitate to refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at gerdysrescue.org and drop them a note at their email info@gerdysrescue.org for more details and great photographs.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Miss Ivy

dysrescue.org for an update and Ivy-themed photographs.

Your neighbour, Lysanne





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on the everyday joys of affection and play. She is in foster

care for the volunteer adoption group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, ready to transition very easily to her forever family.

She is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. Please do not hesitate to contact the volunteers Gerdy's Rescues to find out more about her, their website is at gerdysrescue.org and you can write them at their email address info@ger-



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as Foxxy did at the bedside of her late

and has settled in really well with the adults

which is middle aged for a beagle as they

live long lives. She is very healthy, up to

date with her inoculations, spayed and

and her two foster-dog siblings.

She now enjoys her new foster family

Foxxy is eight-and-a-half years old,

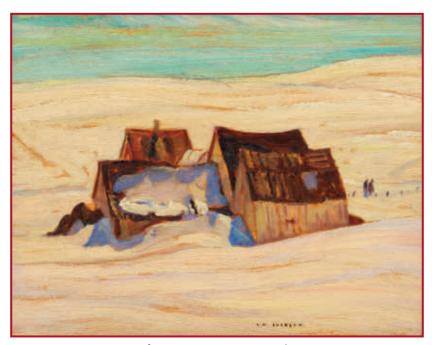
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Maybe these two should pair up?





Gloves half a block apart on Sherbrooke between Melville and Mt. Stephen, as seen January 14.



belgraveroofing.ca







City Views

Veronica Redgrave

Former Westmounter Claire Webster has used her painful personal experience to help others. When her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006, the doctor answered her question "What do I do now?" with a "Good luck."

And luck was all she had. "I had no prescription of care."

She sought help for her mother's failing health while working and managing her family of three young children. She got caught up in a "cyclone of care" and finally "broke down."

Today, she offers support to those who are caregivers. Her extensive research into resources has taken Webster to a new path: that of a mentor, advocate and lecturer. As a Certified Dementia Care Consultant (PAC), and Certified Professional Consultant on Aging (CPCA), she is a conference speaker and educator speaking about caring for an individual with dementia.

She works in collaboration with McGill University's faculty of medicine and health sciences and the division of geriatric medicine. She also is the founder and ambas-

Webster works to support, educate Alzheimer's caregivers



sador of the McGill Dementia Education Program and *McGill Cares*, a weekly webcast series addressing family care partners.

She is one of the McGill senior co-editors of the World Alzheimer Report 2021, A journey through the diagnosis of dementia, launched September 21, 2021 by Alzheimer's Disease International.

She is a senior co-editor of the upcoming World Alzheimer Report 2022 Post-diagnostic management and support: a prescription of care. Webster founded and is president of Caregiver Crosswalk Inc., which provides education and services to help individuals navigate the journey of Alzheimer's disease and/or dementia related illnesses.

Caregiver Crosswalk Inc. collaborates with McGill University's faculty of medicine's Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning, McGill's division of geriatric medicine, the McGill University Research Centre for Studies in Aging, as well as McGill School of Physical and Occupational Therapy to offer dementia education workshops for family caregivers.

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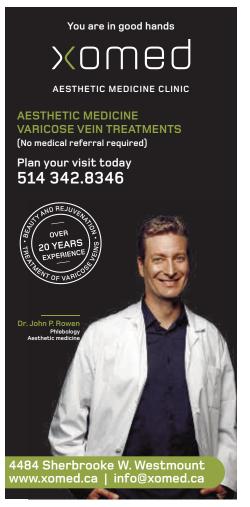
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Sharing the faith – Part 3: Anglicanism

Rev. Wheeler: 'Posit yourself in the divine, which is bigger than you'

By Jennifer Ball

Good tidings from Quebec City last week! Places of worship can re-open at half-capacity, for at total of up to 250 people as of February 7.

St. Matthias' Anglican Church will welcome congregants back in its pews but will also continue to offer the services on its digital meeting platform. The *Independent* sat down with Reverend Patrick Wheeler recently to unpack two years of his congregants' COVID-19 experiences.

St. Matthias is now the only Anglican church in Westmount after St. Stephen's closed in 2018. St. Stephen's last function was as a spiritual haven, and also a homeless and wet shelter, before being sold to the Stanford Properties Group.

Anglican public worship focuses on praising God through preaching, Bible reading, prayer and music, especially in the communion service where people receive the bread and wine.

Attendance up!

In the first and second waves of the pandemic, Rev. Wheeler experienced the same outcome that two of Westmount's Jewish leaders, rabbis Greenspan and Shanowitz, did: attendance surged when services were live-streamed – *sans* the bread and wine.

"It doubled and sometimes tripled," Rev. Wheeler said. "Our faith tells us that we are not alone, and every week we would gather and have this reinforced, in the presence of others who were going through exactly the same thing that we were going through."

What Rev. Wheeler told his congregation when they assembled via the online meeting platform is that COVID will come to an end one way or another, and that they will take some skills and affinities with them that they have acquired through the journey.

"The services provide an opportunity for the people to acknowledge their apprehension in the context of the liturgy. As a priest, you try to create liturgies that help express what the community is feeling. Their fear, anxiety – as well as their hope."

"God moves in a mysterious way" is in the libretto of a Christian hymn, written in 1773 by William Cowper, who was an evangelical deeply committed to the Christian gospel message.

It has become an adage, encouraging a person to trust God's greater wisdom in the face of trouble or inexplicable events.



Reverend Wheeler on January 25.

For almost 250 years, the expression has been a riposte to the supernatural, the unexplainable and sometimes a balm to buttress those who have lost someone precious or too early.

One can only hazard a guess as to how often it has sprung to the minds of the devoted, since patient zero fell ill with the coronavirus.

Dark mysteries

"There is a parallel between mysteries," Rev Wheeler said.

"Spirituality is the faith in something other and it is mystery. COVID presents mystery as well. A darker mystery: 'What

is going to happen to me, what is going to happen to my loved ones?'

"I think people try to posit themselves in something bigger than themselves. There is the duality of the COVID ambiguity: fear and uncertainty and also the mystery of God.

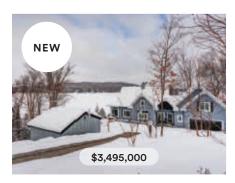
"Posit yourself in the divine which is bigger than you!" Rev. Wheeler said.

The Independent will be reaching out to congregations and religious leaders, but if you are a religious leader based in Westmount and you want to be interviewed, please write or call the editor at editor@westmountindependent. com or 514.935.4537.



sicotte & co

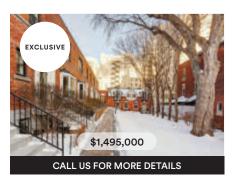
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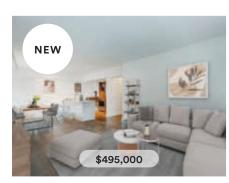
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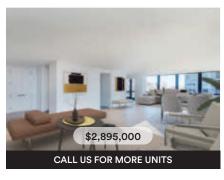
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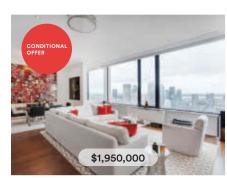
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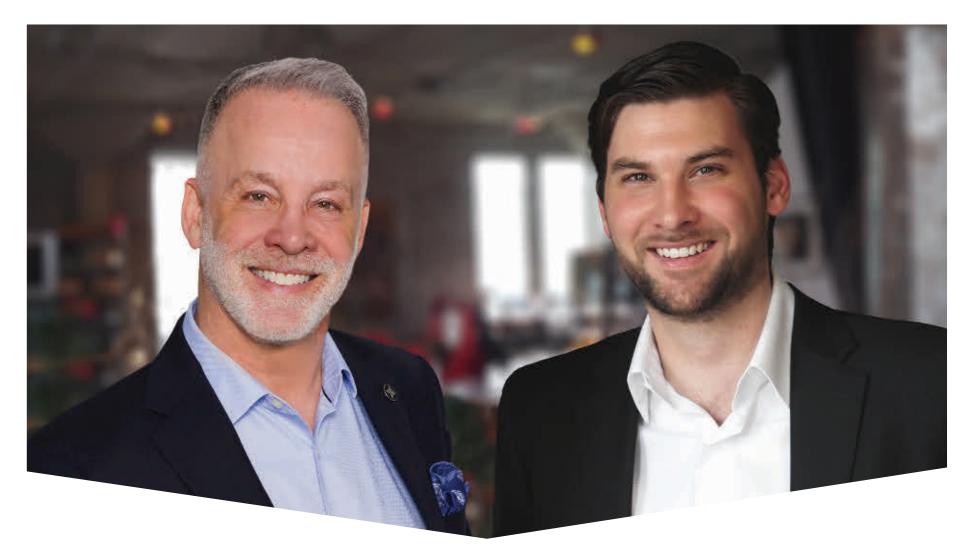


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