

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 2b

We are Westmount

February 8, 2022

Taxes up 3.75% – first installment: Feb. 25

2022 tax bill letter highlights rising aggro increases

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Westmount's 2022 tax bills were being opened last week, an accompanying letter from Mayor Christina Smith explained efforts to limit this year's tax increase on the average single-family dwelling to 3.75 percent.

While "COVID-19 continues to bring uncertainties for the coming year in our programs and buildings," she writes, "we have worked diligently to reduce local expenses where possible."

"The increase in your tax bill is due primarily to the rise in agglomeration costs that we hope will be a one-time increase

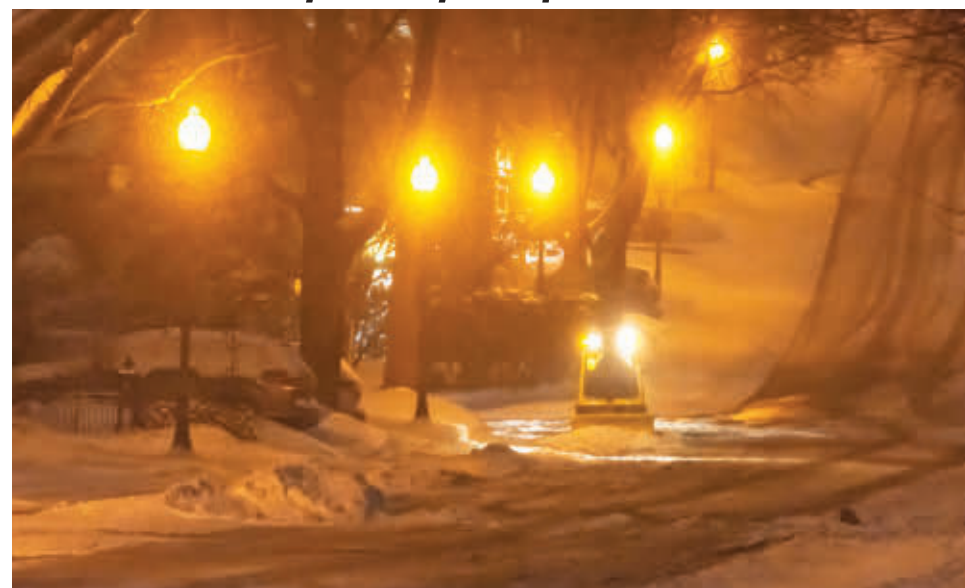
due to security (police and fire services)," she states.

Two significant elements were singled out as leading those that impacted the preparation of this year's budget.

These were using \$3.1 million of accumulated surplus along with another \$11.7 million to finance the "pay-as-you-go" portion of the capital works budget for infrastructure renewal (see story January 18, p. 1).

The letter includes a table showing that since 2019 the portion of taxes on the average single-family dwelling attributed to Westmount's own operations has decreased year-
continued on p. 3

Solitary, early, important work



A city sidewalk snowplough makes it way up the hill at the corner of Clarke and Anwoth, February 4 at 6 am. See also p. 17.
PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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City's leisure programs open to adults Feb. 14, but still no hockey games

It's good news for adult leisure programs and activities but not for adult hockey, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week.

The leisure programs will resume Monday, February 14 at Victoria Hall for those

who have already registered for the winter session. But hockey games for both youths and adults are still not allowed, which rules out hockey for adults who do not hold practices.

The city's youth programs are already open (see story February 1, p. 1).

When restrictions allow, the city's two rinks at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) are not only used for the city's activities but are also rented out to others for games.

No-go to Dawson expansion impacts southeast, p. 8

Susan Lloyd (Leduc)

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Enter the 'Sustainable Land Development Management Commission'

New city committee still evolving to study major files

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new city committee is needed to provide "a more structured" approach in bringing together major files involving Urban Planning, Engineering and citizens' engagement, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* last week.

This new Sustainable Land Development Management Commission (SLDMC) has not yet been formalized regarding how often it will meet, who the members will be and how it will relate with other related committees such as the Mobility Committee (formerly the Transportation Advisory Committee) and even the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), whose main role is

reviewing building permits that have an architectural or aesthetic aspect.

It is part of the recent decision to combine Urban Planning and Engineering into one commissionership "portfolio" with Councillor Conrad Peart as the new commissioner, she said.

This has already been demonstrated in the surveys concerning the consultation on the reconstruction of Mount Pleasant and Lexington, for example. In those cases, not only the residents on the concerned street have been polled (as was the city's previous practice), but also those surrounding them.

This was a take-away from the Sunnyside poll last summer in which only those living on the one-block stretch between Bellevue and Upper Bellevue were polled but it was later discovered how important the street was to other users.

The new committee will not only be involved in the design of streets and land but also of other areas such as parks. Westmount Park, for example, is one major project in which the new committee is expected to be involved.

More information will be forthcoming, Mayor Smith said.

The fledgling committee was reported to have met January 27.

Greene underpass hit again

A utility van hit the CP rail bridge over Greene Ave. February 7 at 8:40 am, "badly damaging some of its [rooftop] equipment (ladder, etc) and creating havoc for circulation on Greene," according to one witness. "The loud impact noise resonated throughout" Centre Greene.

Tax bill, cont'd from p. 1

ly from increases of 0.53 percent, 0.50 percent and 0.48 percent in 2021 to this year's decrease of 4.31 percent. This helped reduce the impact of the agglomeration hike to a total tax increase of 3.73 percent, under the cost of inflation.

For 2022, the letter explains that the value of the average single-family dwelling is \$1,964,958, which, with a residential tax rate of \$0.7459 per \$100 of evaluation results in an average bill of \$14,657 compared to \$14,126 last year (see also story January

18, p. 1).

The first installment is due February 25; the second on May 27.

"The work with the agglomeration is as crucial as ever, as we rebuild after the financial impact of COVID-19...and to ensure we have a fair and equitable share of agglomeration costs," Mayor Smith concludes.

The city's total budget for 2022 is \$118.6 after a net adjustment regarding the Hydro Westmount utility.

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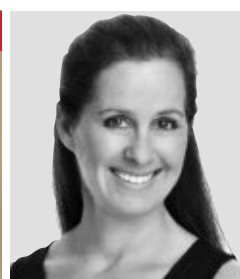


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Richards, Billette retire – Trevor Williams joins board

Centre Greene navigates the pandemic with hope and optimism

By MARTIN C. BARRY

If there is one thing that has been learned at Centre Greene over the last two years during the COVID pandemic, it's that "life is what happens when you're making plans," says Jane Wightman, the community centre's president.

Centre Greene's staff and board have been continually learning new lessons since the day in March 2020 when the centre was forced to radically alter its operations and plans when the provincial government declared COVID-19 a public health emergency.

"This period has aptly been named 'the great pause,'" she said, delivering her latest annual report during a webcast annual general meeting on February 3.

"We're feeling optimistic and hopeful for the future at Centre Greene," said Wightman. "And more than ever, it seems that we need to wind the clock, hang onto hope and remember that tomorrow is another day."

In his financial report, Centre Greene treasurer Gerard Fellerath said that although it had been another challenging year, "happily, from a financial perspective, we've ended the year in very good shape."

He said that through the combined benefits of generous donations from a wide range of supporters, as well as government assistance and rental revenues,



"We're feeling optimistic and hopeful for the future at Centre Greene," the community centre's president, Jane Wightman, said during a webcast annual general meeting on Feb. 3.

Centre Greene was able to finish the financial year in a strong position.

Centre Greene's revenues last year, including government pandemic subsidies, totalled \$376,000, while expenses amounted to \$313,000.

"So, we finished our financial year on August 31 in a stronger position than we

entered the year," said Fellerath.

While the retirement of two long-time members of the Centre Greene board was revealed by Wightman, she also announced the arrival of a new board member.

Paul Billette, who is leaving, "has been here through the bad and the good times," she said. "He's never been afraid to pick

up a paint brush or to offer sound governance advice. He's been involved in so many projects."

Jim Richards, who is also withdrawing from the board, played a crucial role in the planning and engineering of several Centre Greene projects, including the front entrance ramp and important renovations to the gymnasium and kitchen.

"Jim is one of those people that is always there when you need him," said Wightman. "He's making soup, he's chopping vegetables or he's checking light fixtures. He's a man that's often behind the scenes but you can always count on."

The new board member is Trevor Williams. A former member of the Canadian national men's basketball team and currently a AAA basketball coach at Dawson College, he also runs the Trevor Williams Kids Foundation, which provides help to troubled inner-city youth.

"Trevor believes strongly in inclusion, acceptance and tolerance," Wightman said. "We're absolutely thrilled to have you join us. So, welcome to the board at Centre Greene."

In addition to Williams, the following people were also appointed to the new Centre Greene board of directors: Michele Beacom, Erica Bloom, Gerard Fellerath, Christine Harkness, Peter Marcovitz, Gisele Murphy, Kate Sutherland, Willem Westenberg and Jane Wightman.

Broken pipe!



A city water main broke on Irvine Ave. January 30, city director general Hadi Hakim informed the *Independent* via his assistant Catherine Skinner February 7. Public Works reduced the water pressure after houses in the area started having water accumulation in their basements. A 1.3-meter section of eight-inch water pipe was replaced the same day and a service junction to a resident's house the next day. Bottled water was made available to residents during shutdown periods and they were informed of a boil-water advisory, which was lifted February 3 after the receipt of a lab report.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAM BEITEL.

Oncoming, even on one-way



This car was photographed January 30 on de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert going east against the one-way.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Was St. Leon School
expansion an emergency?
A good idea?

In its January 18 edition (p. 19), the *Westmount Independent* reported that the St. Leon School's peak enrolment of 830 students three years ago now stands at around 555, for a loss of 12 classes!

Only one question comes to the minds of Kitchener/Clarke residents: Was the on-going – and never-ending – St. Leon School renovation rushed during the pandemic to leave the school with more, but empty, classes, the right decision?

When COVID hit in the spring of 2020, all the banks, government entities and most companies instantly adopted the same approach: a wait-and-see mode. No one could predict the future. The world was put on hold and most people refrained from pushing forward material projects or taking drastic actions. Prudence was the watchword.

But our Westmount council decided to leverage a special state of emergency decree adopted by the Quebec government. Was the construction of the St. Leon School an emergency? Was this project urgent enough to justify bypassing democracy, skipping the usual citizen consultation process and bulldozing the St. Leon School project through?

When the world was stopped and everyone busy catching up their breath and salvaging their businesses, Westmount went ahead full speed with a major school expansion project without measuring all the consequences of the after-pandemic. Let's also not forget that the governing arm of St. Leon School (the Centre de Services Scolaire de Montreal (CSSDM)) was at the time also going through an important crisis of alleged breach of trust, conflict of interests, appearance of collusion, etc.

All these circumstances combined should have been enough to raise red flags and to signal that caution should have been exercised by our elected officials, rather than rushing during the pandemic of the century a project that was the result of years of poor planning from a CSSDM in total chaos.

A construction site equals disruption, yes. A construction site for an expansion that did not go through the usual democratic residents' consultation process and that is, in the end, not required, equals frustration. Now the Kitchener/Clarke residents will have to live with the consequences of this total, and avoidable, mismanagement.

N. FORCIER,
KITCHENER AVE.

IN DEFENCE OF
BIKING BOLLARDS

I too noticed the seven green bollards at the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve (see letter January 24, p. 7)

But I had a very different take.

Often it is only a few bollards or lines of paint that give a cyclist any semblance of protection. A car driver is protected by a big metal box, whereas a cyclist – like a pedestrian – is exposed with no physical defence except respect of space.

Bike paths have been created to remove cyclists from the competitive space of road and sidewalk. The city of Westmount works hard to ensure all surfaces are clear and safe. Sharing the road is based on education respect and consideration. Let's all do our part.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT (CYCLIST, PEDESTRIAN,
DRIVER), HILLSIDE AVE.

HILLSIDE PROJECT NEEDS
MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION –
INSIDE & OUT

I once visited the interior of the Hillside armoury. The box-like exterior is unremarkable except for its eight two-storey windows. However, the interior was stunning with a grand vaulted ceiling. On the ground floor were stables and horse stalls, and on the mezzanine or first floor was a riding ring. I've never seen one elsewhere in Montreal – it may well be the last of its kind in Canada.

The Hillside armoury started life in 1910 as a riding academy. Horses were boarded there by companies and by the affluent for equestrian diversions. A field engineers' corps took over the armoury in 1918. Mindful, the apogee of the horse was in 1921 – when their numbers peaked above the country's population.

Recently, a developer purchased the armoury with the intention of building 27 condos.

This would mean gutting the interior. At the February 2019 consultation, no report of the condition of the interior was provided.

On February 17 of this year, in a two-step process, a demolition committee will first vote on the demolition of the exterior. If approved, removal of the four sides and roof will jeopardize the interior, allowing it to crumble, thus making it impossible to incorporate any remaining original features into the new plan.

A separate hearing will follow on the demolition of the interior. The two-step process is puzzling.

Will the eight distinctive windows be truly restored, or simply remain as façadism? Why

continued on p. 7

Curbside pick-up to end

Library opens to all starting Valentine's Day

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Monday, February 14, the Westmount Public Library will be opening up all services with the only restrictions in place being masking, safe distancing requirements for

seating and computer use, reduced hours and no access for groups.

"We're pleased to welcome everyone back," said library director Julie-Anne Cardella. This includes members of the general public who do not necessarily hold library membership cards or vaccination

passports.

This is the first time since November that anyone will be able to browse through the collection.

Entry will continue to be from the Sherbrooke St. door. Curbside pick-up will no longer be available but people who reserve

material will be able to pick it up from the self-serve section across from the circulation desk.

The library will be open weekdays and weekends from 1 to 5 pm except for Wednesdays and Friday hours: 10 am to 5 pm.

The Westmount Public Library on February 5. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

isn't the interior design available before the upcoming vote?

To build 27 condos, the developer must seek approval to derogate from existing code. The SCAOPI process allows a developer and city to negotiate reciprocal benefits. Hillside is in a high-density area. The obvious community benefit would include plans incorporating a private-public swim-

ming pool and gym.

Westmount residents deserve a meaningful consultation process for this project.

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

GET ON WITH REFINED RENOVATION FOR HILLSIDE ARMOURY

I have read the proposal re 1-3 Hillside

on the Westmount website.

The renovation proposed to this red-stone building is classic and refined. I live and work in Westmount and see the abandoned building when I drive on St. Catherine or watch my sons play football.

It's about time this building gets renovated, as it's falling apart and becoming a real eyesore.

Why do the approval processes, which in this case are for an obvious improvement, take so long?

Get on with the demolition and give the permission to (re)build and create more living space in our beautiful Westmount.

FRANK HEIDEMANN,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Possible pavilion site was south side of St. Catherine west of Atwater

Cancelled Dawson expansion affects city’s hopes for district

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

While a final decision is not expected until March, a recent announcement by the Quebec government to drop a long-standing plan for building a \$180-million pavilion to help what the college and province describe as an overcrowded Dawson College is “very disappointing,” Mayor Christina Smith said last week.

This is not only because the government has “backtracked” on a seven-year commitment from both Liberal and CAQ governments to ease the CEGEPS’s desire

for additional space, she said. It is also because of the impact the project would have on the city’s economic revitalization of the St. Catherine/Greene district as a whole.

Site discussed

“We’ve been speaking with Dawson about its need for expansion,” she said but did not want to mention a specific site, though sources at Dawson said the south side of St. Catherine just west of Atwater had long been one discussed since no more expansion can take place on the campus, a historic property.

This southwest corner of St. Catherine across from Alexis Nihon was re-zoned by the city in 2014 to allow for major redevelopment (see story December 9, 2014, p. 1).

This recent news is separate from the CEGEP’s current request for a grant to update its sporting facilities as recently supported in a partnership agreement with Westmount (see story December 14, p.1).

Whole area ‘in desperate need’: Cllr. Aronson

Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes economic develop-

ment, said this area was “in desperate need” of economic development and that the loss of money for Dawson would hurt Westmount.

Aronson, who was president of the Dawson student association in 1997 and is now secretary of the Quebec Community Groups Network, has been well aware of the school’s capacity and the recent announcement is “appalling,” he said.



St. Catherine St., looking southwest from Atwater on February 5.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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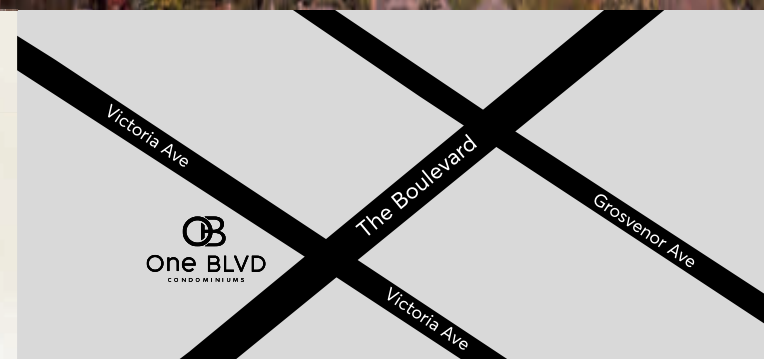
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Demo meeting for 1-3 Hillside

29 letters received, most seeking armoury's demolition

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A total of 29 letters have been posted on the city's website and labelled as received in response to the demolition meeting February 17 at 4 pm on the Hillside armoury project at 1-3 Hillside. The submissions had a deadline of January 25.

Of the total, most letters appeared to favour some sort of demolition and/or restoration of the building and voiced approval with the preliminary replacement program that was presented on the website summary.

Of the approval comments, the common reasons given were that the current vacant "industrial" building was an "eyesore," appeared to be in a serious state of deterioration and that, despite its Category II heritage status, no longer fit into the residential character of the neighbourhood. Other adjectives included "ugly" and "dangerous."

"Although I understand the initial hesitations of the city to destroy a 'historic' building," wrote one, "the restoration of

the building should have happened years ago to allow a result satisfying all the parties involved in the project."

Another said the proposed new project – a five-storey building with 27 units, provided the city with a need for new housing and would be "a welcome improvement" to the neighbourhood.

Want sports centre

Some asked for a sports centre as a replacement.

A couple of the six or seven letters opposing demolition did so based on the plan for a new residential building being so close to the condo building at 11 Hillside, though a letter from that building's condominium association said more information was required on the replacement project.

The approaching meeting is designed principally to address the developer's application to obtain a demolition permit that is required to dismantle 50 percent or more of a building. In this case, it is 87 percent, of which 47 percent is the large roof (see story February 1, p. 10).



The former Hillside armoury on February 5. Hillside is to the left; Hillside Lane to the right.
PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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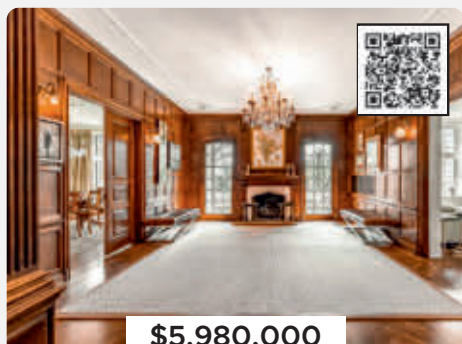
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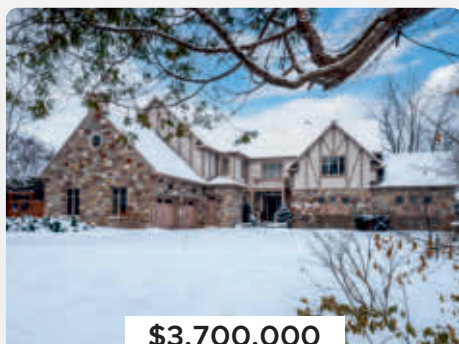


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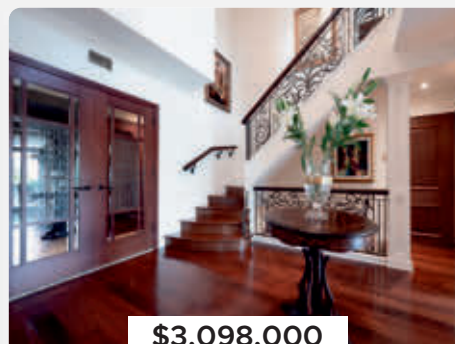
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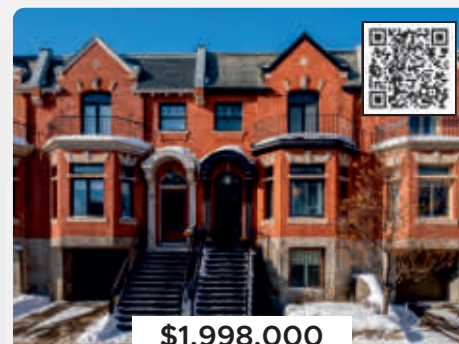
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— NEW LISTING —



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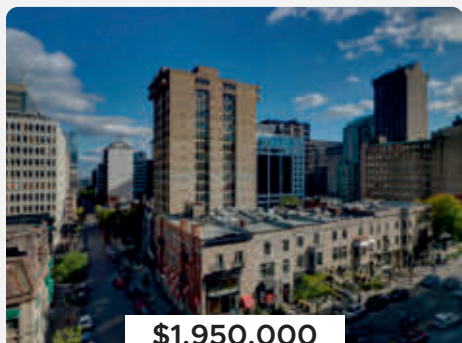
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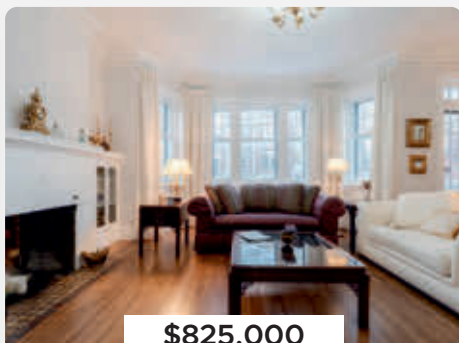
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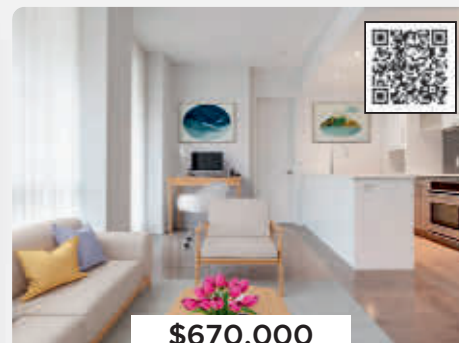
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Many neighbouring streets involved

Residents polled on reconstruction of Lexington

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Just like residents around Mount Pleasant, those living on many streets near Lexington were asked by the city to participate in an online survey concerning the complete reconstruction of that street, the *Independent* learned last week.

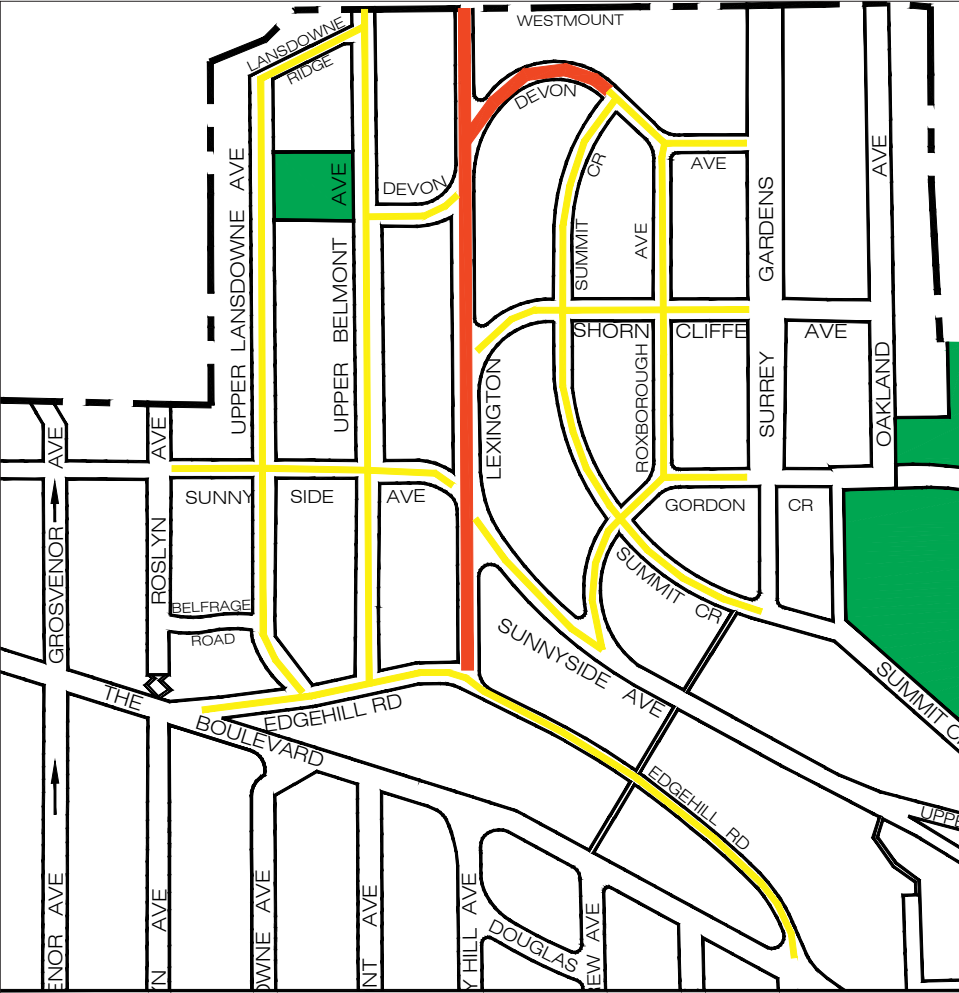
Both surveys are part of a wider public consultation process initiated by the city before going to tender on a complete road reconstruction project. Both had deadlines of January 14 (see Mount Pleasant story, February 1, p. 6).

According to city officials, the results will be presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee (now called the Mobility Committee) and the newly formed Sustainable Land Development Management Commission (see story p. 3).

In the case of Lexington, a total of 278 letters and access codes were delivered to area residents living on the streets shown in the map at right. These included all of Upper Lansdowne, Upper Belmont, Lansdowne Ridge; Sunnyside (Roslyn to Roxborough); all of Devon and Shorncliffe, as well as Summit Crescent (Devon to Surrey Gardens), and Roxborough.

In a letter from District 1 councillor Antonio D’Amico, residents were told their responses and comments would be analyzed and integrated into the upcoming

Lexington project where possible. “The city would like to ensure that the needs and wishes of affected residents are adequately addressed,” the letter states.



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This includes improving the livability of the area and increasing the quality of life of their environment, it adds.

According to Mayor Christina Smith, this wider consultation process stems from a poll limited to the few residents on and regarding a stretch of Sunnyside last year that resulted in some complaints from users living on nearby streets.

Among the same questions asked in the Lexington survey as in the one for Mount Pleasant were ones about residents’ satisfaction with the current configuration of the street, would it benefit from a universal electric vehicle charging station and would they be in favour of removing parking to provide extra-wide sidewalks, a bike path or bump-outs?

Best practices

The survey pointed out that the final design would need to follow general guidelines of the city’s traffic master study from 2013 as well as “best practices” in street design. Changes are also subject to current traffic regulations.

The traffic study and guide can be found on the city’s website by searching at the top of the home page “traffic study.”



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Alan Klinkhoff Gallery

The Olympic Watercolours, 1976 by Ken Danby

A virtual exhibition on view at Klinkhoff.ca/Danby

Ken Danby was one of Canada's foremost artists of his generation painting in a realist style. *The Olympic Watercolours* is a collection of six compositions painted by Ken Danby in 1976 for the National Sport and Recreation Centre in Ottawa.

Danby also authorized the sale of reproductions of *The Olympic Watercolours* to fund amateur sports in Canada. The collection is comprised of *The Sprinter*, *The Diver*, *The Gymnast*, *The Cyclist*, *The Sculler* and *The Higher Jumper*.

Alan Klinkhoff Gallery recently sold all six original Ken Danby's from *The Olympics Watercolours* collection. Please note the exhibition is presented online-only.

Visit Klinkhoff.ca/Danby or scan the QR code below to view *The Olympic Watercolours*



Ken Danby (1940-2007) *The Cyclist*, 1976, Watercolour 21 x 27 in (53.3 x 68.6 cm)

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Toronto
190 Davenport Road
416.233.0339

www.klinkhoff.ca
info@klinkhoff.ca

Back to work at 4898



This excavator was removing snow from the former parking lot at 4898 de Maisonneuve (corner Prince Albert) February 1. A second site trailer photographed the same day, inset, is also a recent addition. The site has been quiet since a stop-work order after a partial June demolition that the city deemed had gone beyond the original permit (see July 6, p. 1). The city subsequently granted

the developer a demolition permit October 7, but it was to receive a penalty (see October 19, p. 1, 6). The project, called Albert Square, includes the conversion of the original three-storey office building into six residential units and the construction of a separate three-storey building for two families (see stories August 13, 2019, p. 1 and May 28, 2019, p. 1).

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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Back to work at 4898, part 2

Happy Valentine's!



Soon after snow was removed (see story at left), digging began, as seen February 4.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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2022.02.11 • Vol. 3/03
Publié par la Ville de Westmount
Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 21 février

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, February 21



Sondage sur vos habitudes de gestion de vos déchets

Une brochure sur la gestion de vos déchets et l'horaire des collectes a été envoyée aux résidents de la Ville. Les résidents sont également invités à répondre à un court sondage. westmount.org/collecte



Survey on your waste management habits

A brochure on waste management and collection schedules was recently sent to Westmount residents. Residents are also invited to complete a short survey. westmount.org/collection

Mois de l'histoire des noirs
Westmount reconnaît la contribution de la communauté noire dans la prospérité, la diversité et l'inclusivité de la Ville. westmount.org

Nouvel an chinois
La mairesse et le conseil vous souhaitent une joyeuse célébration du Nouvel An chinois 农历新年 2022! westmount.org

Reprise des programmes de loisirs pour les jeunes
Les jeunes de moins de 18 ans peuvent maintenant participer à des activités parascolaires. westmount.org

Black History Month
Westmount recognize the black community contribution to the prosperity, diversity, and inclusivity of the City. westmount.org

Youth recreation programmes resume
Youth under 18 years of age can now participate in extracurricular activities. westmount.org

Comptes de taxes municipales 2022
Les comptes de taxes municipales 2022 ont été envoyés par la poste. Vous pouvez aussi les consulter sur le portail en ligne VOILÀ!. westmount.org

Patinage libre et bâton-rondelle au CLW
Ces activités ont repris au Centre des loisirs de Westmount. Pour participer, il faut réserver au préalable et présenter la carte d'accès aux installations 2022. westmount.org

Chinese New Year 2022
Westmount's Mayor and Council wish you a joyful celebration of the Chinese New Year 农历新年 2022! westmount.org

General skating and Stick & Puck at WRC
These activities have resumed at the Westmount Recreation Centre. Participants must reserve in advance and show a 2022 Facility access card on site. westmount.org

Travaux d'aqueduc sur le ch. Belvédère
La Ville de Montréal effectue des travaux sur le réseau d'eau potable à l'intersection de Le Boulevard et le ch. Belvédère jusqu'au 20 février. Des entraves de circulation sont à prévoir. westmount.org

Pistes de ski de fond au parc King George et au WAG
Deux pistes de ski de fond sont aménagées : au parc King George et au terrain d'athlétisme de Westmount. westmount.org

2022 Property Tax Bills
The 2022 property tax bills were mailed out on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. You can also view your tax bill in the VOILÀ! Online Property Portal. westmount.org

Cross-country ski trails at King George Park and the WAG
Two cross-country ski trails are now open: one in King George Park, and the other, in the Westmount Athletic Grounds. westmount.org

Bureaux municipaux fermés au public
Tous les services sont disponibles en ligne et par téléphone. westmount.org

Water main work on Belvedere Road
The City of Montreal is carrying out work on the water network at the intersection of Belvedere Rd. and The Boulevard until February 20. Some road closures will be required. westmount.org

Municipal offices closed to the public
All City services are available online and by phone. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Bibliothèque et Victoria Hall fermés
Nos édifices demeurent fermés au public, mais nous sommes disponibles pour répondre à vos questions à distance. wpl@westmount.org / 514 989-5299 / westlib.org

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2022
Il y a 50 ans, en 1972, Atari créait le premier jeu vidéo, les téléphones étaient munis de cadrans rotatifs, il fallait mettre de la pellicule dans son appareil pour prendre des photos et le maire de Westmount, Peter McEntyre, a lancé un concours littéraire pour les jeunes. Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire une histoire, un poème ou un essai sur le thème Et ensuite? dans le contexte de la communauté. westlib.org

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L'heure du conte en ligne
Découvrez des contes en français et en anglais racontés par des employés de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount et par des auteurs. westlib.org

Souvenirs du parc Westmount
Promenade StoryWalk® tout l'hiver dans le parc. Découvrez plus d'un siècle de vie dans le parc Westmount à travers cette marche unique.



LIBRARY

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Our buildings remain closed to the public, but we are available to answer questions remotely. wpl@westmount.org / 514 989-5299 / westlib.org

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Place a hold by phone, via email, or in your Library account. You will receive an email or phone call when your items are ready to be picked up. westlib.org

Storytime online
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Westmount Park Memories
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2022 McEntyre Writing Competition
Fifty years ago, in 1972, Atari created the first video game, the space shuttle programme was launched, telephones had rotary dials, you needed film in your camera to take pictures, and Westmount Mayor Peter McEntyre started a writing competition for local youth. This year, we are asking you to write a story, a poem or an essay on the theme of What's Next? in the context of community. westlib.org

Canada = snow



Top left, a city truck clears Greene Ave. and sprinkles salt; top right, a worker clears snow in front of the International School of Montreal on Côte St. Antoine.

Above, a bold cyclist weaves his way along Sherbrooke at 7 am; bottom right, a large snowplough clears the corner of Kitchener and Sherbrooke. All photos February 4.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON

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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Leaning trees, leaning lamppost



This lamppost, seen February 3, is on the front lawn of 4800 de Maisonneuve, corner Roslyn.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. At the regular Council sitting held on Monday, February 7, 2022, Councillor Antonio D'Amico tabled the draft of By-law No. 1584 entitled "BY-LAW RESPECTING THE CODE OF ETHICS AND GOOD CONDUCT OF ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT";
2. This draft by-law will be submitted for adoption at the regular sitting of Council which will be held on **Monday, February 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.**
3. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notice/>.
4. A copy of the draft by-law is available for consultation on the City's website at the following address: <https://westmount.org/en/meetings/regular-council-sitting-held-on-monday-february-7-2022/>.

www.westmount.org

Police Report

Police arrest suspect in 'bail money' phone scam targeting seniors

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Officers from the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St. arrested a fraud suspect on January 25 at the home of a retired Westmount resident who was the victim of a phone scam involving false claims that a close relative was under arrest and in need of bail money in the US.

The senior received an initial call on January 5 from an individual impersonating a police officer based in the US. The suspect stated that the victim's daughter had been involved in a road accident and was being detained for causing another person injury.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the victim was told she was not allowed to speak to her daughter due to a court order.

"These people can be very convincing. They always have the right words. They know what to say. They have all the answers to whatever questions you might have," said Pimentel, noting that they almost always target senior citizens.

He said the suspects in such cases will sometimes do some research into a target's background to give themselves credibility.

In this particular case, they told the victim that an RCMP officer would go to her home to pick up an amount of money in cash that the victim was told she had to pay.

As it was, an individual impersonating an officer, but dressed in plain clothes, went to the home several times, Pimentel added. Eventually, staff at Station 12 learned of the scam.

"When we found out, we met with the victim," he said, adding that Montreal police department's fraud section was also involved. Officers were on the scene when the suspect turned up another time to get

paid, at which time he was arrested.

Pimentel said senior citizens in particular should be especially on guard against this and other types of fraud, which target the elderly because of their vulnerability as well as for their accumulated wealth.

"Sometimes they get solicited by telephone, sometimes text message, e-mail," he said. "But what they always try to do to the victim is to create a feeling of panic."

He said probably the best way seniors can protect themselves from scams and fraud is to become informed through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's website (antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca).

Sunglasses stolen

A Toyota parked near the corner of Dorchester Blvd. and Bruce Ave. during the night of January 27-28 was entered by an unknown suspect who stole a pair of sunglasses.

As no damage to the car was found, it is presumed the vehicle had been left unlocked.

Hit-and-run

Accident investigators at Station 12 believe they may have some good leads towards identifying the driver of a truck that is believed to have damaged a car parked on de Ramezay Ave. near The Boulevard sometime between 8:30 and 11 am on January 28.

The car's owner, who worked nearby, noticed that the rear bumper had been damaged after the vehicle was parked. On returning to work, the owner verified a recording of a security camera that had been pointed in the direction of the damaged vehicle.

The footage identified a truck that was parked behind the damaged car, while also providing a description of the truck's driver, who is seen leaving.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is lovely Paige, a sweetheart in need of a new family in our neighborhood. She is pretty as can be, with the softest, cream-and-tan fur and contrasting dark eyes that steal hearts.

She is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel, and she is waiting for a new home as soon as possible. Paige comes from a home where she was the best of friends

tions, which makes her new family eligible for a reduced fee upon adoption.

If you would like to find out more about Paige, please consult her information page under her identification number A49469195, with the same adoption number for Lady, at the Montreal SPCA website www.montrealspca.com, where you will find the link to their adoption appointment page for further information and scheduling details. You can also write to formulaireadoption@spca.com.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Snoozing Pumpkin



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, now you have seen the best of Pumpkin. So pretty and affectionate, all is seen in her smiling face as she sleeps all cuddled up on the cushion in this photograph.

Pumpkin is a marmalade tabby, with a white face, blouse and precious booties.

An adorable pink nose and kissable little toes are more of her to love. Pumpkin is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, in need of a forever family to take her home as soon as possible.

She is nine years young, very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

As she is a young senior, she is available for a humanitarian adoption, which offers a reduced fee upon adoption.

If you would like to find out more about Pumpkin, please refer to her information page under her identification number 18926035 through the www.montrealspca.com website. You can then go to the appointment link mid-page and make arrangements directly with an adoption coordinator for more information and a visit at the shelter. Please do not hesitate to contact them, she is waiting for loving arms and a heartwarming future.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



with a cat, Lady, who would be up for adoption with her as a bonded pair.

A small girlie, Paige is easy to add to a family routine as she is affectionate, very bright, enjoys the company of cats and dogs, and companionable walks.

Paige is 10 years old, very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. As she is a senior, she falls under the category of humanitarian adop-

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Gold link ring Friday Jan 28 between Westmount Square and BOC, Greene Avenue. 514-486-5898.

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Sharing the Faith – Part 4: The United Church

‘When God created man, he over-estimated his ability’

By JENNIFER BALL

Places of worship in Westmount re-opened this week, with a cap of 250 people.

The parishioners of Westmount Park United Church had no distancing restrictions, however, when they strolled through Summit Woods this past Sunday.

Reverend Neil Whitehouse leads participants each first Sunday of the month to experience how nature and spirituality are inseparable, sometimes with exercises that galvanize stillness and awareness.

The expression of the faith-in-nature programme is called Wild Church.

“The present moment is a very powerful thing to be able to practise. The Wild Church is ‘nature bathing,’ but with other people. Because we go to the same place, some subtle things – that would change from one experience to the next – are easier to spot because you are controlling some of the parameters.

“Which is the area you are using to appreciate nature,” Reverend Whitehouse said.

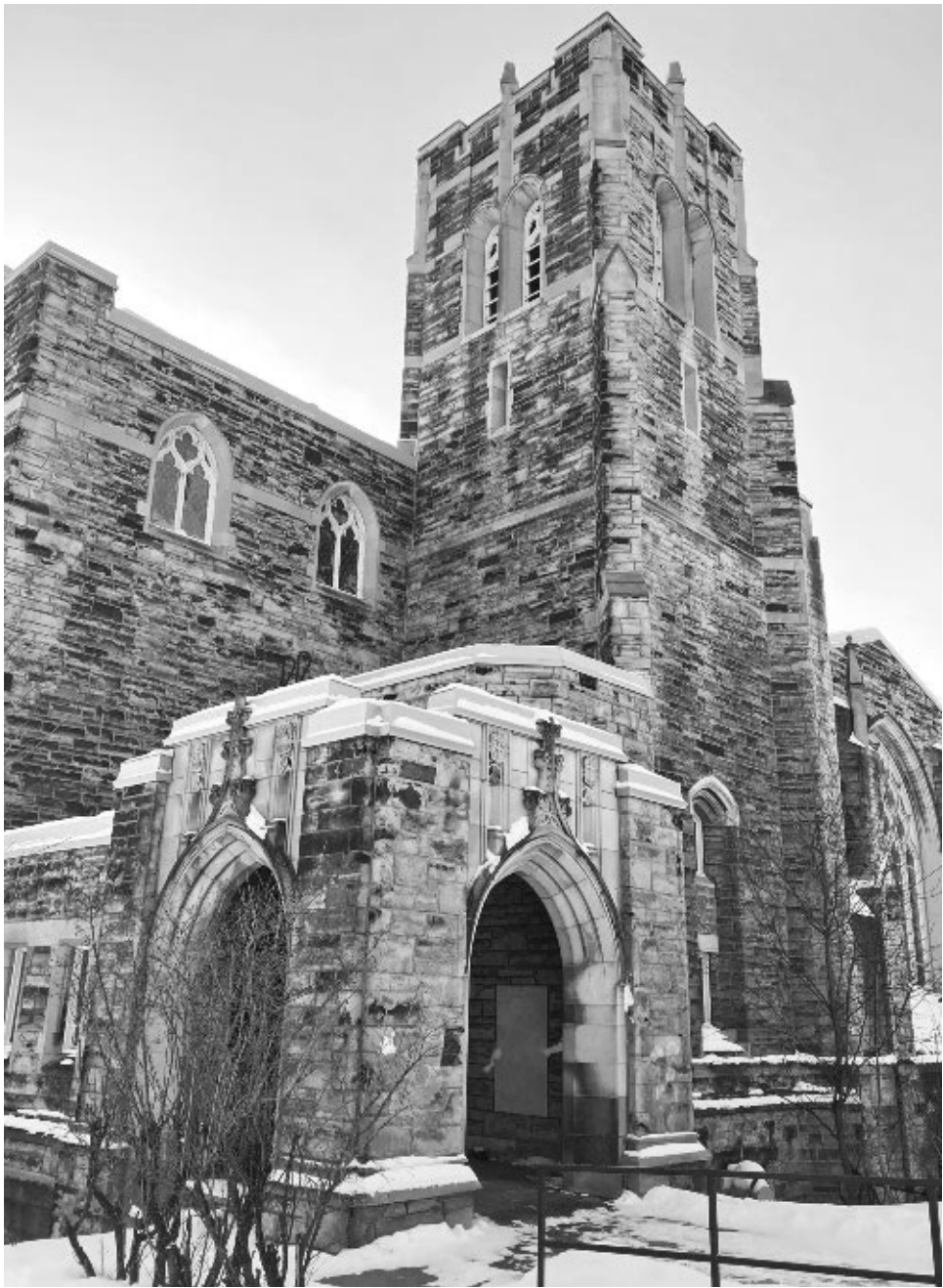
He also draws parallels from nature in his services to frame the state of the world, for instance, viruses that jump from wild animals to humans and the frigid Atlantic Ocean with leviathan icebergs bobbing in it.

He invoked the cautionary tale of the sinking of the *Titanic* – a tragedy that happened, that could have been avoided – along with parallels to the present tragedy of the global pandemic.

“The accident happened because of a false sense of security. Let’s learn from that!” Whitehouse said.

The link between the church and the *Titanic* is not just verbal.

Etched into a stained-glass window at Westmount Park United Church is a commemoration: “Go to the glory of God and in memory of George B. Allison (1879-



Mountainside Church on January 31.

1933), also Dorothy and nephew Hudson, a loving tribute from his wife and family.”

George’s brother, Hudson Joshua Creighton Allison, a broker and parishioner at Westmount Park, was one of Westmount’s richest men when he boarded the *Titanic* with his wife Bess, daughter Lorraine, and infant son Hudson Trevor – the only one to survive the disaster and who is the “Hudson” remembered on the window. (See April 10, 2012, p. 22 for the whole Allison-*Titanic* story.)

Extreme pandemic behaviours

Up the hill, another United minister was also thinking about error.

and embraces science. There is no aspect of the divine puppeteer, but rather finding ties to the greater oneness and love which is God.”

Mountainside United Church was sold in 2018 to Corev Immobilier and the neo-Gothic church is currently leased back to the congregation. When questioned on what the future plans are, Rev. Throop couldn’t say.

“In the words of a former Canadian prime minister in a crisis, in October: ‘Just watch us!’ I cannot share any more at this point in time.”

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. editor@westmountindependent.com or 514.935.4537.



Reverend Neil Whitehouse on February 6 – in ‘Wild Church’ attire.

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City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The UPS Store not only handles your parcels – yes, all those pandemic-purchased Amazon returns – but acts as a business center. Opened last June, the space is staffed by Nancy (manager) and Victoria (assistant manager). (It’s a first name world.)

Being an essential service, the shop was not closed during the COVID shut-downs. Nancy explained that during that time, people were working at home, and “of course actually still do. Many came to us to make photocopies or to send a fax. From business cards to posters and banners, we have been printing items in colour and black and white almost weekly.

“We offer personalized service and cater to specific needs. You see me or Victoria when you come in, and we can usually serve you right away.”

The day I went, very trendy millennials came in – one with blue hair and the other with the very, very latest Nike trainers, somehow clear of slush. (I want his secret!) They lugged big boxes in those huge blue IKEA bags. Victoria quickly printed labels and the parcels went on their way.

Convenience & bricks-and-mortar, 21st century-style



Victoria, assistant manager at The UPS Store.

Another popular service is shredding. “People are wary of identity theft and often bring in personal papers that they don’t want to put in the garbage.”

That personal service has made The UPS Store a destination call/visit was proved by a charming anecdote that Nancy recounted. An elderly local resident called. The 90-year-old wished to send his medical books to the US as he was no longer a practising doctor. Not only did The UPS store handle the myriad of details for shipping but quickly arranged for a UPS pick-up. The shop also offers mail boxes (“a real address” notes Victoria) and lockers. But not any lockers. Customers who cannot get there during office hours are sent a special code. They can then enter the locker area, fenced off from the main area when the store is closed, and drop off or pick up their merchandise. Super convenient.

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Down already



A new orange plastic snow fence was erected recently as part of the safety precautions at the King George (Murray) snow park, but it was already down in several places by February 6.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



New heights
IN SENIOR LIVING



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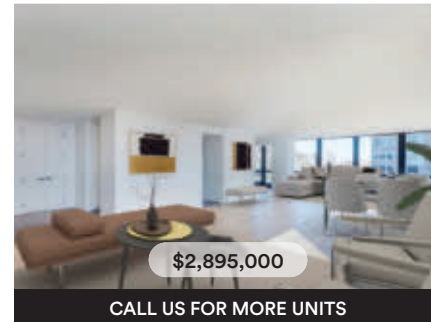
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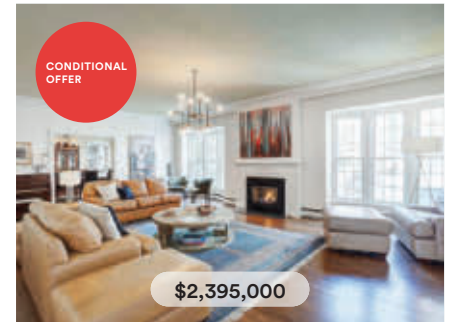
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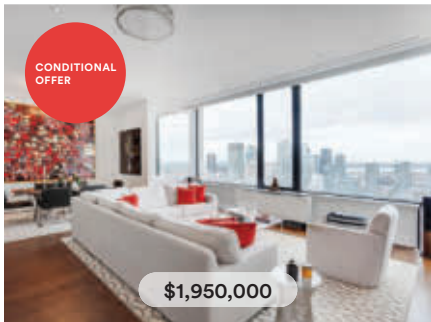
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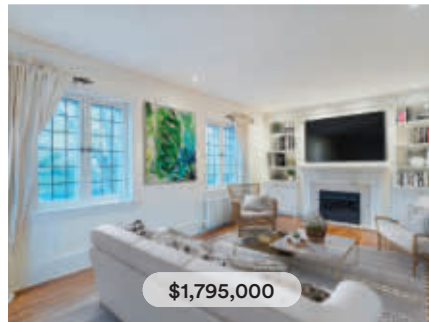
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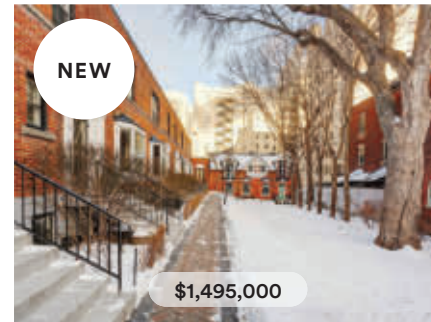
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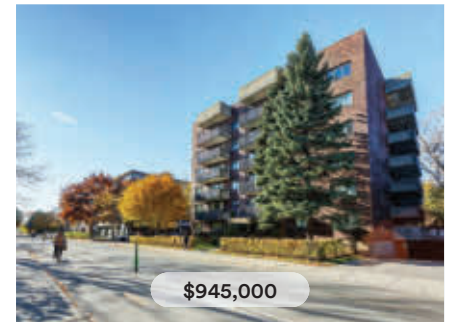
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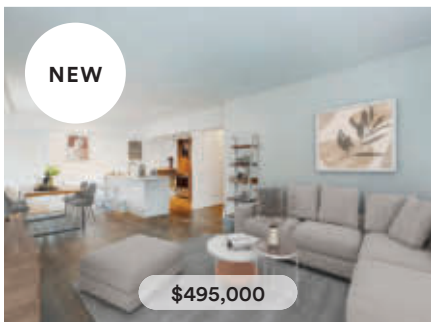
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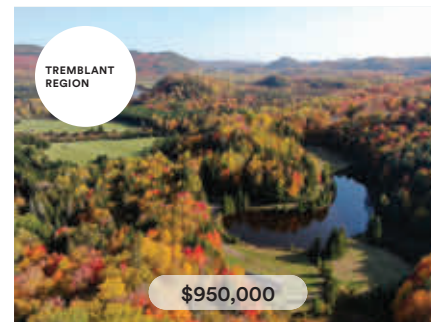
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