

## Who is losing footwear in Westmount? How?



We don't know! But this boot, left, was photographed February 9 in Summit Woods, near the intersection of Summit Crescent and Summit Circle. It was also there February 7, centre left. Meanwhile at the bottom of the hill, this boot and shoe, right, were photographed February 3, near the Westmount recreation centre and on Greene below Dorchester.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON, LEFT, COURTESY OF OZGUR GURTUNA, CENTRE LEFT, AND INDEPENDENT.

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### Conditions imposed on 4216 Dorchester

## Building on fire-razed lot near Greene gets council's permit okay

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A development project under city review for more than two years was granted permit approval by city council February 7 at 4216 Dorchester, the vacant lot just west of the former nurses' building at Greene.

The approved five-storey stepped-back residential building had gone through the city's SCAOP process for buildings that

do not conform to current by-laws – in this case, increased height and floor-area ratio. It will replace a three-storey apartment building razed by fire in 1999.

"It will be good to have housing in there," Mayor Christina Smith said at the council meeting. The project is to contain some 11 condo-type units.

Starting with the developer's consultation with

continued on p. 14



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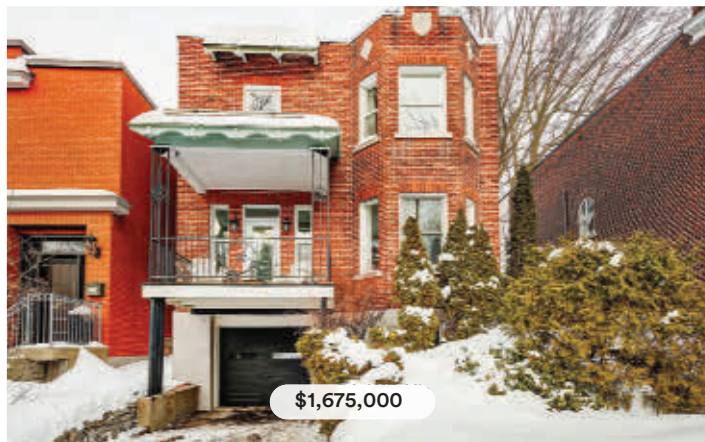


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Joint program by Public Security, Contactivity

# Surprise visit takes flowers and Valentines to 50 seniors



Golda Mark, a grade 8 student at ECS, helps make Valentines for distribution to 50 seniors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Flowers, heart-shaped cookies and Valentine cards were to be delivered to 50 seniors February 14 in a surprise visit by public safety officers and outreach workers from the Contactivity seniors' centre.

"The recipients are people in the area we know through our vulnerable persons' registry and the morning Telecheck service," said Kimberley Colquhoun, assistant Public Security director, who organized the

project with community outreach worker Fiona Smith.

The Telechecks are daily security phone calls.

"It was such a nice way for us to put a face to a name after all this time" when people have been shut in or isolated by the pandemic," Smith said.

The Valentine cards were decorated by Golda Mark, a grade 8 student at ECS, and a friend who worked on the project with Contactivity.

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## Nature's rink



Canadians go to a lot of effort to create indoor and outdoor skating rinks but, every once in a while, nature does a fine job all on its own, as seen here February 13 at the Westmount Athletic Grounds behind Westmount High, looking east towards Hallowell. There were no skaters in sight.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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**EMSB: 'isolated incident' – 'not an issue at this school'****Westmount High investigates after students targeted with swastikas**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

An English Montreal School Board (EMSB) spokesperson says swastikas found scrawled on notes placed in student lockers as well as on a student's desk at Westmount High School last week are "really an isolated incident," but "obviously something that the school is taking very seriously."

EMSB director of communications Michael Cohen told the *Independent* that the Westmount High administration has launched an investigation to find the perpetrators.

"And if they are caught, there'll be very significant consequences because there is zero tolerance for something like this," he said.

According to Cohen, Westmount High has "a good number of Jewish students among its population and they have a lot of Jewish staff. This is not something to be taken lightly."

He said that prior to this incident, the school launched a sensitization program for secondary 1 to secondary 5 (grades 7 to 11) students, to be carried out until the end of the current school year. "This was planned beforehand," he added.

"It's really a matter of education," said Cohen. "Whichever individual or individuals did this, they're obviously either playing a silly prank and don't realize what the consequences are, or they're immature or showing utter ignorance. But it's not like there's an issue at this school."

**Woman detained for trying to open car doors**

Public safety officers detained a woman on de Maisonneuve just east of Victoria February 10 after she was seen trying the door handles of cars parked in the lot at the Westmount recreation centre, Public Security officials said.

She was recognized through a photo as someone known to officers for attempting to gain entry to cars. She was followed, apprehended around 8:30 am and turned

over to police, one of whom was a former Westmount public safety officer. As she was being detained, a woman called out to PSOs saying: "That woman just tried to open my car door."

"It's important to keep items out of sight in parked cars and to lock the doors," said Kimberley Colquhoun, assistant Public Security director. "In this case, the woman could not gain entry to any."

**Confused man taken home**

Public safety officers reported responding to a call late in the afternoon February 7 for a confused man on de Maisonneuve near Clarke. They managed to trace his residency to Manoir Westmount using Public Security's vulnerable persons' registry and took him home.

"This shows the value of the registry regarding people who may have a tendency to wander," explained Kimberley Colquhoun, assistant Public Security director.

**Police Report****Neighbour thwarts two break-in attempts near Atwater/Dorchester**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Intruders who attempted twice last week to break into a non-residential building near the corner of Atwater Ave. and Dorchester Blvd. were stopped after a neighbour who'd spotted them warned that they were trespassing on private property.

The building, near the intersection although set back from Dorchester along a side street, according to a police spokesperson, had at least one window boarded over when the trespassers tried to get in by prying the boarding loose.

On February 6 between 11 pm and midnight, staff at the Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St. received a call about an attempt to get into the building.

"There was a witness that noticed on two different occasions four individuals on the property," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

According to Pimentel, the witness noticed there was a window that was covered with a wooden board and the suspects were removing it. The board was placed

over the window frame because the window glass was broken.

"The witness advised them that it was a private property," Pimentel continued. In an account to the police investigators, the witness said the suspects left, although they returned a day later.

"The next day, he noticed again four individuals," said Pimentel, noting that the witness warned them another time and they departed. He furnished the investigators with descriptions of the four suspects, as well as a description of a vehicle they used.

**Letters, p. 6****Pet Page, p. 19****Dodge on  
January real estate, p. 20****City Views:  
Organic Allure, p. 21**VILLE DE | CITY OF  
**WESTMOUNT****IMPORTANT NOTICE**

1. The Régie de l'énergie (the Régie) will examine the application of the City of Westmount, Municipal Distributors, for approval of new complaint examination procedures concerning rates and conditions of service. The application is submitted by virtue of Section 87 of the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie.
2. Any person interested in participating in the file must send the Régie, no later than February 25, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., a request for intervention and, where applicable, a budget for participation, in accordance with the Regulation respecting the procedure of the Régie de l'énergie (the Regulation), the Guide de paiement des frais 2020 (the Guide) and the Régie's instructions contained in decision D-2022-014.
3. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: [westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/](http://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/).

**We welcome  
your letters**

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GUEST COLUMN

Tribute to Don Johnston, MP

By Andy Dodge

The death of Hon. Donald Johnston last week brought back some fond memories of one of Canada's classiest politicians, who served Westmount and Canada with equal devotion.

As a reporter for the *Westmount Examiner*, I met Don Johnston in 1978 when he decided to run for the seat being vacated by Hon. Charles M. "Bud" Drury, who had served as Westmount's member of parliament for 16 years. He won that by-election with 60 percent of the vote and won the hearts of his constituents with his charm and – from my point of view – a true interest in local events. We became good friends to the point that he invited me to Ottawa to follow him around for a day, including a flight to Quebec City for a speech and then back to Ottawa for lunch – with Jean Chrétien, it turns out.



© HOUSE OF COMMONS 1984.

Once, after a meeting at Westmount Park School, I invited him over to my newly-purchased house nearby on Lansdowne Ave. He was immediately stunned at its size and decided that the whole house should be filled with "boat people," refugees from Vietnam, whom Canada had invited to repatriate following the fall of Saigon. Needless to say, I opted out, but it showed his genuine humanitarian concern.

After running for the party leadership and losing to Chrétien, he went on to become president of the federal Liberal Party for two terms and eventually moved on to Paris, where he headed up the OECD for two terms, always showing his leadership abilities and his devotion to his fellow man.

I like to think of him as a person who showed how far honesty and sincerity and a real interest in improving the human condition can lead us all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREEDOM MEANS:

Some thoughts that the Ottawa "freedom" truckers might wish to consider:  
Freedom from smallpox? Vaccination.  
Freedom from polio? Vaccination.  
Freedom from diphtheria? Vaccination.  
Freedom from tetanus? Vaccination.  
Freedom from hepatitis? Vaccination.  
Freedom for women from cancer of the cervix? Vaccination.  
Freedom after a rabid animal bite? Vaccination.  
Freedom from influenza and COVID pandemics? Vaccination.  
If you believe in freedom for all, you had better believe in vaccination.  
ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

PERSONAL, PERPETUAL MASK MANDATE

For most years prior to COVID-19, I used to get the, 'flu' or come down with colds that often led to bronchitis. However, in early February 2020, I started wearing a mask in all public places, even the lobby and corridors of my apartment building. I curtailed all public gatherings and sadly only saw my family and friends at brief outdoor meetings with no hugging or kissing and, of course, wearing a mask. Strangely enough, I have not had any colds or bronchial symptoms since then!  
To protect my lungs, I flatly refuse to inhale any harmful pathogens or share anyone else's germs constantly floating in indoor air, so I will continue to wear a mask in public spaces long after the mask mandate is lifted.  
I know I will be ridiculed, but for those who do, it will be their problem not mine. Furthermore, it's my choice!  
ANDREA KLEIN, KENSINGTON AVE.

UNNECESSARILY EARLY WAKE-UP CALL

During the last snow removal operation, February 6, I was surprised to receive a call at 5:45 in the morning. Still asleep, I answered the phone a bit disoriented. The person on the other end of the call informed me that they were calling from Westmount Security and that I needed to move my car as the removal trucks were waiting and my car was in their way.  
The night before I had noticed the sign and decided to move my car in the morning. I had until 7 am to move it.  
Not realizing it was only 5:45 and that I still had over an hour to move my car, I thanked them and ran to move it. As I left, my wife asked what the noise was all about and so I told her. She looked at her phone and said, "It's 5:30! What are they thinking!!"

She then noticed that she had missed a call from Westmount Security 15 minutes prior to them calling me.  
Annoyed of being robbed of the only day I get to sleep in, I figured I should move the car and go for a workout. When I got back home at 7:30 am, the snow had still not been cleared.  
Not sure if I am making too much of a big deal about this, but it was incredibly annoying at the time and as it turns out, an unnecessarily early wake-up call.  
JULIE TIMMINS & PETER DALFEN,  
METCALFE AVE.

QUESTIONS FOR OPPONENTS OF HILLSIDE ARMOURY CONDOS

A few residents of 11 Hillside complain for strictly personal reasons because they may have to endure the inconvenience of new construction.  
Do they realize that the building in which they live today has already been, in the recent past, a property that was demolished to allow their residence to be built?  
Don't they realize that their neighbours at the time had to endure the noise and the dust that construction generated at the time?  
To those who propose that a community pool be built at 1-3 Hillside, do they know that the zoning does not allow it? Also extensive studies proved that the structure of the building does not allow a pool to be built and there is no room to make parking spots available.\*

Did they try to imagine if a sports centre was built and what kind of traffic jam this would generate?  
Do these people understand that the city had long ago included this address in the urban plan as a residential area?  
Do those asking the city to conduct additional studies, have understood that the developer, over the last three years, has diligently followed the regulations and recommendations of the city for the restoration of the building?  
The people who oppose this project should know and understand that the structure and the envelope of the building are in an advanced state of degradation.  
We should respectfully ask these questions that come to mind when reading certain comments, which are misleading to the public, as to the reality of the present facts regarding the building and its restoration.  
NELLO ORSINI, ST. CATHERINE ST.  
\*Editor's note: I am not sure about two of these points. In our April 1, 2014 coverage (p. 14), Westmount's then Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier ..... was doubtful a municipal continued on p. 7

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**‘Chronically under-investing’: resident Goddard**

# Irvine Ave. flood victim asks council for street work plan



Workers on Irvine Ave. January 30 after a break in a water main under the roadway.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF N. GODDARD

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A resident of Irvine whose basement was flooded Sunday morning January 30 when a water main broke in the street asked city council February 7 to provide a schedule of streets that are up for repair and reconstruction in the short term.

Nigel Goddard, said that the water break had occurred “at the exact same location” where he had been reporting an ongoing depression in the street since 2019. Knowing his street might be planned for work in the next three years, for example, he might not have been so upset.

He said it would also help residents to plan in advance to be away at the same time as disruptive construction.

Mayor Christina Smith referred to the city’s 20-year capital works plan for repairing streets, water mains and other infrastructure but did not respond directly to

the request for specifying which streets would be scheduled for work in the near future.

Typically, the city identifies street work coming up within the same year it submits its capital works budget.

Ava Chisling, a resident of de Maison-neuve, also asked the council about street repairs saying: “Why are Westmount streets in such bad condition?” She said they were “dangerous.” Mayor Smith said she had reported a pothole on Victoria that very day to Public Works and urged residents to do the same.

The broken pipe on Irvine Ave. ended up flooding at least three other basements, Goddard later told the *Independent*. He had discovered his own problem about 7:30 am when “my first instinct was to call a plumber and my insurance agent.”

However, he noticed a fire truck on the street and firefighters came to his house

to clean up about 5 cm of water but “I was lucky. They told me another basement had about two feet. The firefighters were very good and the insurance company sent in huge fans.”

The broken pipe was repaired and water service was restored in the evening but a boil-water advisory remained in effect until February 3 (see February 8, p. 5).

## ‘Don’t put valuables in basements’

“One thing I would ask the city is to encourage people not to put valuable things in the basement,” Goddard said.

He noted that two other water main failures had occurred relatively nearby within the one week. One was at Clarke and St. Catherine January 22 and the other January 23 at St. Catherine and Metcalfe (see stories February 1, p. 9).

Considering many of the city’s older streets had water mains dating back well over 100 years, “why are we entrusting 100-year-old pipes to carry our water supply?” he said. “We’re chronically underinvesting in them.”

Given the current low interest rates, he suggested the city borrow to deal with aged infrastructure more quickly than trying to limit such projects to the city’s pay-as-you-go funding policy for capital works budgets even though these are already at record-level spending of some \$27 million.

At the council meeting, District 7 councillor Matt Aronson expressed his concerns for the affected residents on Irvine and

thanked firefighters for their clean-up efforts.

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*Letters to the editor, cont'd from p. 6*

pool could fit, but did not mention a zoning issue for a pool in what was then a grandfathered “assembly building” in a residential zone.

In our June 5, 2018 (p. 1) coverage explaining why the pool proposal was abandoned by then-developer Karl Beauchamp, we wrote, “Beauchamp said he had last met with Urban Planning officials in October and has already eliminated a former idea to include an indoor pool, mainly for

the structural work it would entail and now to comply with a city request to supply 30 indoor parking spaces. These would occupy the basement and sub-basement, where the pool would have been located.” The requirement for expensive or extensive structural work does not mean “the building does not allow” it, and zoning was not mentioned as a factor in abandoning the pool idea. – DP

*‘Off the COVID roller-coaster,’ operations manager Maislin*

# Hockey games return Feb. 14, youth playoffs next month

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After the provincial government’s loosening of COVID restrictions, the first inter-city youth hockey game in almost two months was scheduled to take place February 14 at 7 pm at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

“I’m ready to get off the roller-coaster,” said WRC operations manager Andrew Maislin last week. Getting back to a regular schedule “is really essential to the well-being of the kids for the social interaction hockey brings,” he said, adding – “and to the parents who need a break.”

While certain arrangements still had to

be worked out regarding safe distancing in changing rooms, parents and spectators at games will be allowed but masks and vaccination passports are still required in the building.

Announcing the return to the regular hockey season for the city’s 190 youth players who have been limited to practice

sessions only, Maislin said the on-again news means that plans are still under way for March 21 playoffs in the Eastern Hockey League, which Maislin also runs as the league’s administrator for the eight member cities.



The Academy Rd. entrance to the Westmount recreation centre on February 13.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Coming this week: spring booklet  
for Sports & Rec programs

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the days lengthen and inter-city hockey for youth as well as adult recreational hockey programs return to normal February 14, the city’s booklet listing all spring programs was expected to be online February 18, according to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

Registration for these programs will open for local residents March 15 with registration to follow for non-residents March 29, depending on available space.

As of February 14, all regular adult activities at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) as well as Victoria Hall were also starting up again, Lapointe said. The doors to the WRC will be open, however, only when games and activities are in session.

With the return to “normalcy,” the WRC’s Mouton Noir Café opened last week but is accessible only from the upper door off the green roof.

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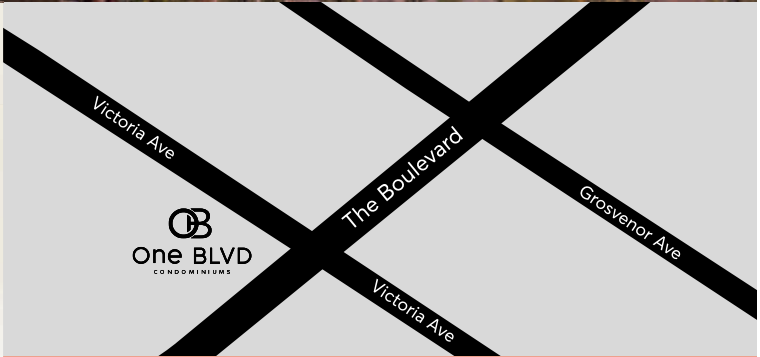
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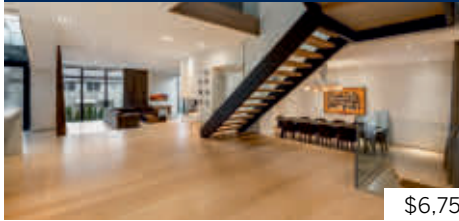
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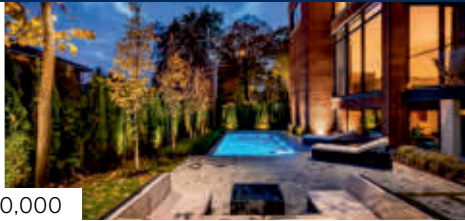
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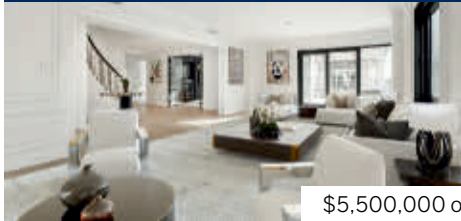
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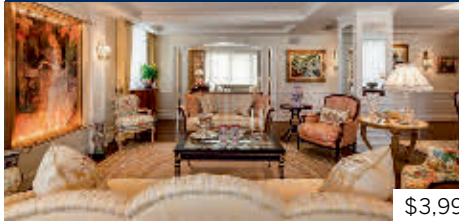
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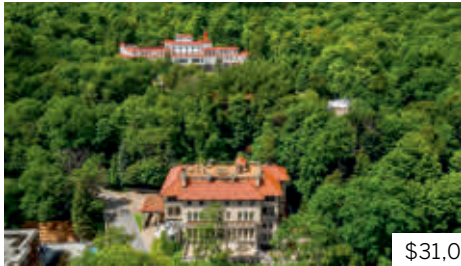
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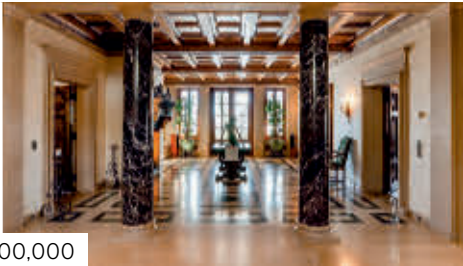
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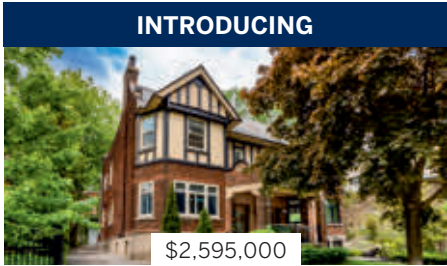
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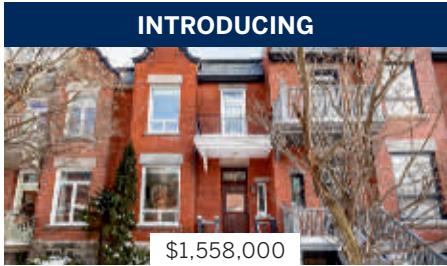


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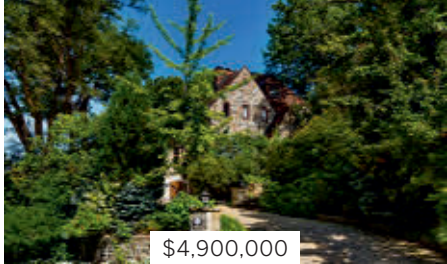


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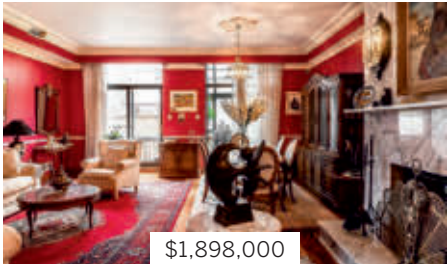
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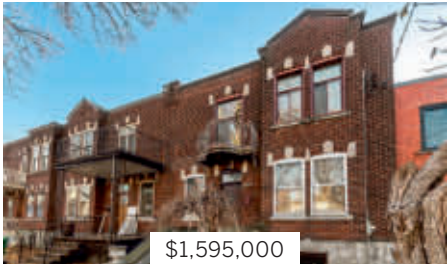
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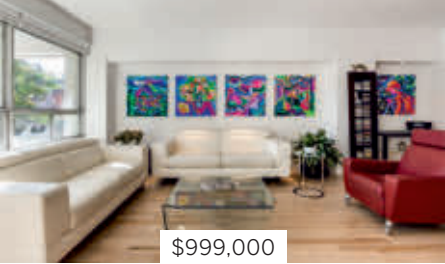
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High-seeming number not extraordinary: source

# Firefighters answer eight calls at ‘4300’ in less than six weeks

By Martin C. Barry

Firefighters from the Montreal fire department’s Station 76 have responded eight times since January 1 to calls for assistance at the 4300 de Maisonneuve Blvd. apartment block, according to a source at the Stanton St. fire station.

Out of the eight times up to February 9, four were for medical calls, two were for people stuck in stalled elevators, and two calls were for fire alarms.

The source, who did not want to be identified, said that on one occasion between January 1 and January 15, Station 76 personnel responded twice on the same night to 4300 de Maisonneuve because of a defective alarm, following which alarm company workers were called in to service the system.

“We had the alarm company come in to look over the system and stop this, because we can’t keep coming back every five minutes,” he said.

“4300 de Maisonneuve is a very special building,” added the source, noting that the building’s residents have a reputation for being insistent, while the administration of the building has changed at least twice



‘The 4300’ on February 13, looking east towards Clarke Ave.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

in the past four or so years.

He described the alarm as “sufficiently adequate” for the large building’s needs, while noting that the alarm system was “updated and modernized not too long

ago,” and “they’re right up to code.”

The source said the number of calls to that address was not extraordinary, taking into account the building’s large population, as well as the fact that a large number

of the residents are senior citizens.

“It’s a big building with an older population, so you’re going to get medical calls,” he said, adding that it’s also not unusual for elevators to stall in older buildings.



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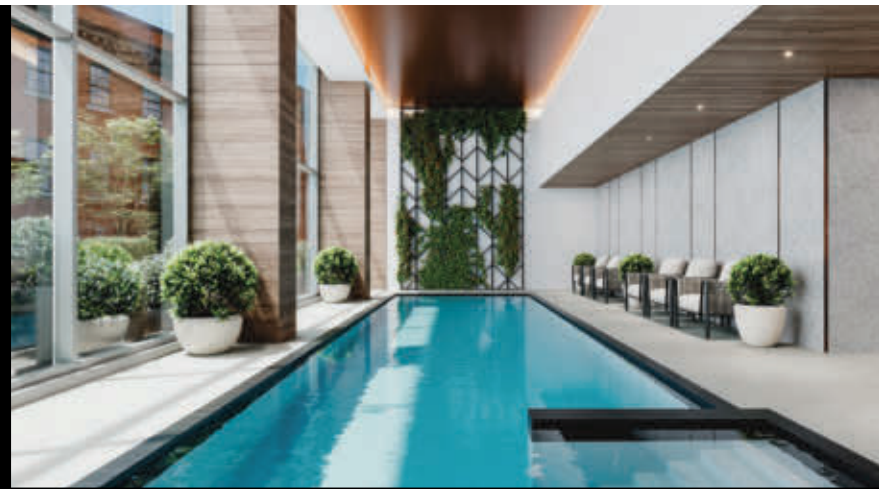
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**4216 Dorchester, cont'd from p. 1**  
residents in 2018, the project resulted in some 10 letters from nearby residents during a city consultation period two years later. Most opposed it as being too high, not in keeping with the neighbourhood and providing not enough green space (see story May 12, 2020).

The planting of three deciduous trees in the front and three in the rear as well as the preservation of an existing tree at the rear were among aspects listed in the approval of the permit resolution recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Three conditions listed for the permit approval were that the brick cladding on the main facade along Dorchester "be of the same type identified for the entire building, that the main entrance be ornamented with stone lintels and pilasters" and that the oriel-type of bay window be clad in zinc.

The project has been "long-awaited," District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez told the *Independent*. "It will be nice to have the empty space filled, though I know the construction will be disruptive. Many of the concerns of residents have been addressed: I'm happy for the added trees."

Among a number of "characteristics"

◀The original apartment building was destroyed by fire April 25, 1999.



A rendering of the planned building (centre) from the developer's SCAOPI application to the city. The existing former nurses' building is visible to the left/east.

listed in the approval resolution are the building's maximum height of five storeys (59 feet) including rooftop structure, maximum site coverage of 66 percent and a floor-area ratio of 2.35. This is the ratio of a building's gross floor area to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built.

A minimum of three benches for public use are to be provided in the front and rear yards as part of community benefits required for a SCAOPI project.

Other reasons for the PAC recommendation included criteria that increase the new building's height and the floor-area ratio intended to better integrate with the surroundings: the commercial building to the east and the red brick mansion to the west.

These were depicted in drawings by architect Jean-Pierre Bart and documentation from engineering consultant Sevall Experts-Conseils Inc.

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Northwest of Westmount boundary

# ‘One BLVD’ condominium complex to be built near intersection of The Boulevard and Victoria

BY JENNIFER BALL

A new 12-storey condo tower will be breaking ground shortly just outside of Westmount. Contractors and compactors will convene at the intersection of The Boulevard and Victoria Ave to build a development akin to the composition of Manhattan’s flat-iron building.

Co-directors of the One BLVD project, Darren Reid and Mark Dichter, declined a phone interview before the official launch of the project, but they did provide a statement.

“Construction is beginning this year on an iconic condo tower with the most magnificent views on the island of Montreal. Perched at the top of the hill, right where Westmount and Montreal meet, One BLVD is modern, full-amenity, luxury living – perfectly located in the West End near family and friends, with easy access to the fresh air and quiet of Summit Woods, the convenience of Victoria village, a few minutes from the highway.”

The construction is a partnership with developers ACDF architecture, Verterra Investments, Scott Yetman Design, Lotus Realities Inc. and Reliance Construction Group.

One BLVD blueprint’s feature a lounge

and an outdoor garden. It also has a gym, a yoga room, indoor parking, and two guest suites to be reserved for visitor accommodation.

The 5,500 square foot penthouse will encompass the entire twelfth floor and it plans to feature a rooftop terrace with a

view onto Mount Royal and farther afield.

One BLVD plans to be move-in ready for the spring of 2024. Pricing is starting at \$1,000/sf, with units ranging from 1,000 sf to the penthouse, which is 5,500 sf and priced at \$10,500,000 (all prices are plus applicable taxes.)



Looking east into Westmount across the planned site of One BLVD. It was once a gas station.



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*Unnamed Westmouter might run in provincial election under new colours*

# Linguistic policy 'task force' president Standish ponders new party for Quebec election

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The leader of a group of activist anglophones with objections to Quebec's new language law Bill 96 and Ottawa's Bill C-32 overhauling the Official Languages Act says they are thinking of starting a new political party to run in the provincial election later this year.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy was established last year by Colin Standish, an Eastern Townships resident who currently serves as the group's president and as the official spokesperson for the fledgling party.

Since last year, the task force has managed to attract support from a number of old guard members of the province's anglophone rights movement who were active and outspoken more than 25 years ago.

These include constitutional rights lawyer Brent Tyler, who took a good number of legal challenges to Bill 101 to court, and Keith Henderson, former leader of the Equality Party, which succeeded in electing four members to the provincial legislature from the early to mid-1990s.

In an interview with the *Independent*, Standish said he wished to make clear that the work undertaken recently to set up the new political party is separate from the task force.

## Task force separate from party

"I think what's very important to understand is that the task force itself is incorporated, it has its own board of directors and that is separate," said Standish.

According to the provincial government's online corporate registration database, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy's board of directors has two other members, Brian Rock of Gatineau (formerly Hull)

and Andrew Caddell of Kamouraska in the Lower South Shore.

Standish said donations to the task force, which now amount to around \$25,000 according to the organization's website, will be used to build the group into what Standish described as "a hard-hitting interest group which we intend to continue."

Describing the new political entity, he said, "This is not a backlash or a group of angryphones. This is a serious, responsible group of citizens who feel we've been abandoned by all our mainstream provincial political parties, as well as federal ones, although it's a provincial focus, and we're looking for an alternative."

Standish said the as yet unnamed party would seek support from a broad base of Quebecers who no longer feel adequately represented, including anglophones, allophones, francophones and native people.

## Westmount resident involved

He said discussions between party organizers and a Westmount resident who could run as one of their candidates in the next provincial election are currently under way, although he declined to identify that person.

"We do have a Westmouter on our executive, but their name will not be disclosed yet," he said.

While acknowledging that the prov-

ince's anglophones vote consistently for the Quebec Liberal Party, he said that if that party ends up endorsing even an amended version of the CAQ government's Bill 96, "there will be a significant movement against them in the next provincial elections."

That reaction, he added, would come not only from the English-speaking community, but also from allophones and others. "The indigenous community has been very strongly against Bill 96," Standish said, noting that some francophones also have objections to the language legislation.

The possible party's website "re: political options" is [exploratorycommittee.ca](http://exploratorycommittee.ca).

## Bird of prey, with prey



This bird was seen February 7 in the alley between Victoria, Prince Albert, Somerville and de Maisonneuve. It is holding a pigeon in its claws.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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# Greene rail bridge hit .... again



The CP rail bridge over Greene Ave. between St. Antoine St. and Prospect was hit again the morning of February 14. According to radio reports, commuter rail service was stopped as the bridge was inspected. By 9:14 am, the Frito Lay truck was being positioned – under its own power – for a tow, above. An electrical line under the bridge was seen hanging from the bridge, marked with yellow tape. From the location of this damage, left, and the post-strike position of the truck south of the bridge, the *Independent* infers that the truck was headed north when the collision occurred. The last strike had been exactly one week before. As a result of that event, the *Independent* had been by February 13 to see if the warning panel for northbound trucks was in place. It was not, although its chains were, below.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



## Non-exhaustive list of Greene rail bridge strikes

- February 7 northbound van (February 8, p. 3)
- December 16 northbound truck (January 11, p. 7)
- October 13 northbound truck (October 19, p. 18)
- October 6 southbound truck (see Oct. 12, p. 3)
- September 29 southbound truck (Oct. 5, p. 17)
- September 23 northbound truck (Sept. 28, p. 23)
- August 12 northbound truck (Aug. 24, p. 21)
- November 5, 2020 northbound truck (Nov. 24, 2020, p. 4)

### Unofficial record for shortest time:

6 days between strikes

# Cubanito and Luna, together through change

## Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Since Luna is not comfortable with a man as her only guardian, we are in need of a woman as a primary caregiver for them in their new home.

They are active, really enjoying the fenced backyard of their foster home, but are not used to children or cats yet.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

A delight, tiny Angel is only four and a half months old! She is so beautiful, a contrast of her grey tabby short coat and huge gold-tone eyes.

She is presently in foster care for the grass-roots volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. Her foster family reports that she is quite playful, healthy and full of energy, a most delightful lovie.

Yes, she is running about and interacting with toys and balls between snoozes

## Angel Kitten

and hearty meals.

Angel is very friendly, enjoys other cats and is quite keen on interaction with people around her.

She is starting her kitten veterinary file, being up to date with her vaccinations for her age and will be spayed and micro-chipped.

If you would like more information on Angel, please refer to her information page on their website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) and email them at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) for fantastic photographs and an adoption application questionnaire.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



Cubanito on the left is a dashchund/chihuahua mix, a bright and fun little fellow. Luna on the right is an American Eskimo doggie, so pretty and loving.

They have been together for five years, and are now still together, through the loss of their owner, thus the loss of their home and bearings.

They are now stable in foster care for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, awaiting a welcoming family.

Cubanito is an easy-going six-year-old, always together with Luna, who is 11 years old. Luna is a puppy-mill survivor and has been terrified of men since she was rescued and adopted. So having lost their owner now, they have bonded even more in this bereavement as they were very attached to their lady owner.

Cubanito and Luna weigh about 20 pounds each. They are up to date with their inoculations, sterilized, microchipped and vaccinated.

Please refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org) for more information on them, and do not hesitate to write to the volunteers at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) to get more photographs and fill out the questionnaire that will be provided in the adoption application process.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

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## We welcome your letters

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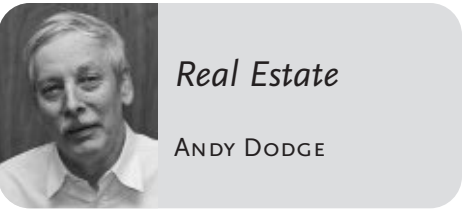
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*Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in January 2022. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.*

The normally-slow January in Westmount real estate repeated itself this year with seven sales of single-family dwellings and one duplex drawing an average price of \$2,953,500 and a median of \$2,700,000, including only two sales under \$2 million, with the lowest reported price at \$1,918,000.

The market appears to be turning the corner, however, as four of the eight sales took less than three weeks to sell – at least one going for \$100,000 more than the asking price and another selling for 2.5 times its municipal valuation. The latter sale pulled the average mark-up in the month to 40.5 percent, the highest monthly average since June of last year when buyer resistance to the high Westmount prices started to be felt.

All of this awaits the normally-strong

# January sales: Turning the corner

spring market, but of course there are many factors – pandemic recovery, interest rates, business investment plans and so much more – that can influence the local real estate market.

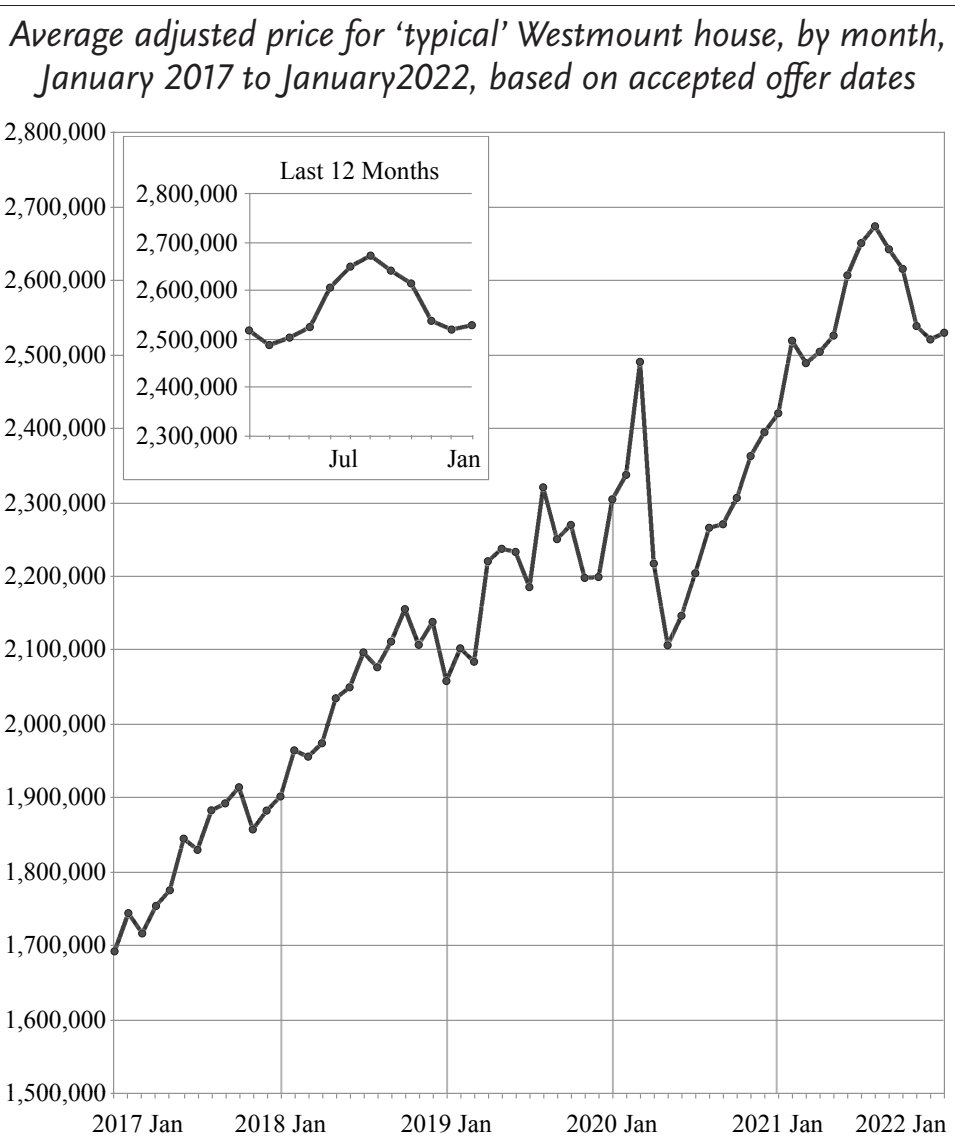
Supply, of courses is another factor and the market is only just coming back from the holidays, with 58 home listings at last report while there were only 53 in mid-January. Of those, only 11 are listed for less than \$2 million, with the lowest asking price at \$1,089,000, while 17 are asking over \$5 million, all the way up to \$27,500,000.

**Rentals**

Westmount’s home rental market is also off to a slow start, with only one rental posted by mid-February. That involved an upper-Westmount home that will be rented for \$14,000 per month, the only listing asking more than \$10,000 so far this year. By this time last year, four houses had been rented, including one for \$12,000.

The final figures for last year show a total 149 sales arranged by local agents, up from 140 in 2020 and 138 in 2019, with the average adjusted price for a Westmount house at \$2,570,807, up from \$2,264,691 in 2020.

For those who want a point of reference, the adjusted value has doubled since 2009, tripled since 2002 and quadrupled since 2000, when the average Westmount house would have sold for about \$645,000.



## Winter? That didn't stop them



These brand new concrete steps were recently completed for the building at the northeast corner of Grosvenor and St. Catherine St., as seen February 12 The cold January weather did not stop progress: a plastic tent kept the project on track.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Ready for spring?



We last caught up with the new construction at 314-316 Lansdowne, just north of de Maisonneuve, in late October. Since the destruction (see November 2, p. 27), the foundation has been dug. Waiting for warmer weather to really get started?

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT



## City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# The allure of organic



Although super-celeb Jennifer Lopez cut her hair (BIG HEADLINE news!) many clients at Organic Allure (OA) love their longer locks.

Owner Marija (Maria) Spasojevic was just finishing a customer's softly falling style when I arrived. The salon is perfect for a quiet "take-care-of-me" moment.

On entering, tranquility is in the air. Aloe and bamboo plants accent the tactile wood framing the mirrors. There are two stylist's chairs.

### 'Listen to clients'

"I listen to my clients' needs according to their lifestyle. And I offer only organic products. They are from Italy and contain no chemicals. So for my customers colouring their hair every three weeks, there is no ammonia. Their restorative hair treatments have active ingredients sourced from effective essential oils."

Building on her 35 years of experience, Maria's expertise for *balayage* brought her clients who formerly lived in New York.

"I don't do streaks with foil, but 'paint'

them on for a more natural look."

What's new as we spring into, well, spring?

"My younger clientele is asking for bangs: layered, curtain and blunt."

Stylist Meena is her able assistant. Although located on Westmount's busy Sherbrooke St. – thankfully not full of trucks – her salon in the back of the building is serene, with a view of the setting sun and New York-style brick buildings complete with outside iron fire stairs.

OA, 4823 Sherbrooke St.

Tuesday to Saturday 9 am to 6 pm

Closed: Sunday and Monday

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Sharing the faith – Part 5: Baptists and Evangelical Brethren

COVID era ‘not a fun place’ but Lord will ‘take us through’

By JENNIFER BALL

Baptists form a major branch of Evangelical Christianity and subscribe to the doctrines of “soul competency”: the responsibility and accountability of every person before God.

The Bethel Gospel Chapel is an assembly of the Christians known as brethren. They are affiliated with Christian Brethren Churches and they believe in salvation from accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. They also believe in eternal life.

While the pastor at Westmount Baptist Church, Joel Kwadwo Okyere, believes that his church members have been tested by governmental COVID restrictions, church elder and treasurer John M. Slyfield believes the congregation at Bethel Gospel Chapel have had their devotion only strengthened.

“Before the pandemic, we would have potlucks, so beyond worshipping there was community and interaction with other people,” Pastor Okyere said. “Those two things – not being able to have our normal social gatherings and not being able to worship under the same roof – have been very challenging.”

With long waiting lists to see psychotherapists, psychiatrists – with François Legault recently describing the mood of Quebecers as angry – it is apropos for our spiritual leaders to serve beyond providing expository sermons on YouTube or meeting platforms.

Even before the pandemic they could be called on to counsel congregants going through psychological challenges. No prescriptions were not written but tea and sympathy were supplied in abundance.

“Almost every single week there is a church member or a relative of a church member who needs somebody to speak to about the stress, the anxiety. Spiritual leaders need to find ways to be close to



Bethel Gospel Church on February 6.

His flock, after all, has been impacted not just by curfews, higher prices at the grocery store, travel and restaurant cancellations but by real loss. “You have people who are mourning but are unable to be at the funeral services of loved ones due to travel restrictions. That has been a huge impact to a number of people.”

Bethel Gospel Chapel’s chief pastor is Carl Worrell. He is 88 years old and having just lost his sight, he was unavailable for an interview. Church elder and treasurer John M. Slyfield spoke on behalf of the chapel.

“Our faith is strong and we knew that the Lord would take us through. We were patient and we were not disheartened in any way, because we kept up the fellowship after the services,” Slyfield 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.editor@westmountindependent.com or 514.935.4537.*



Pastor Okyere on February 7.

COVID-19 Testing for travel

6 Locations to serve you

- Downtown - 1216 Stanley, H3B 2S7
- Griffintown - 1245 Notre-Dame W, H3C 0B1
- TMR - 4961 Jean-Talon West, H4P 1W7
- Ville Saint-Laurent - 2071 Saint-Louis, H4M 1P1
- Côte Saint-Luc - 5531 Westminster, H4W 2J2
- West Island - 6321 Rte Transcanadienne, H9R 5A5



SCAN TO BOOK

Circle graphic showing test prices: \$55 for Rapid Antigen Test, \$155 for RT-PCR Test. Includes a discount code: WESTMOUNT.

- Travel documents provided
- Health Canada licensed
- Results in 15 minutes (antigen)
- 20,000+ tests administered
- Group discounts available

their congregants to let them know that they are there for them,” Pastor Okyere said.

Psalm 23 soothes

The psalm that he might invoke during his sit-downs – the one he describes as most encouraging during these challenges – is Psalm 23 that depicts the companionship of the almighty during our travails. “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

“It is not a fun place, but it says ‘You are with me,’” he said.

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*In the **Sud-Ouest + Verdun**, I'm getting desperate,  
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Do you have something we haven't seen before?*

*I need 3+1 bedrooms under \$900,000  
In **Hudson or Saint Lazare**,  
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But all need parking for their car.*

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### COMING SOON

- Mid-level Westmount with garage, to renovate
- Nun's Island family home
- Downtown condo, to renovate
- Old Montreal, 2 bedroom condo



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