# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 5d

We are Westmount

Permit allows for 17 units, extension to manse

# **Council approves permit** for residential development at former St. Stephen's

#### By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Almost five years after the former St. Stephen's Church and property were sold to a developer, city council May 16 approved a permit allowing for a residential project at the site to provide 17 dwelling units that involves restoring and preserving the 1903 church buildings.

The project is also to include an addition linked to the currently detached manse (rectory), whose civic address is 1 Weredale Park, the number used by the city to define the project.

Located at the southwest corner of Dorchester at Atwater, the property's potential had been a source of speculation and concern to many in the residential neighbourhood, especially given the dense development now rising at the former Montreal Children's Hospital site kitty-corner from the church.

By comparison, explained Mayor Christina Smith, the St. Stephen's re-development provides a "light" densification of the area, which is in keeping with current environmental concerns to discourage urban sprawl while providing access to transportation and other urban amenities.

"It's a welcome relief to many and will improve the area," said District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez.

"I am indeed pleased to see the church being adapted for re-use as a multi-unit residential project," said urban planning commis- *continued on p.* 12

## Steeles to retire – Jeff winds up six decades as milkman



Jeff and Ginette Steele on Wood Ave. May 20. See story on p. 4.

Photo: Iennieer Bali

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# Pair of semi-detached single-family dwellings planned 325 Melville gets okay for partial demo, re-development

#### By Laureen Sweeney

City council gave its approval May 16 for a permit to convert a small apartment building at 325-327 Melville into a pair of semi-detached single-family dwellings for which a partial demolition would be required.

Of two storeys, they would have a rooftop terrace and underground parking, be of contemporary style, clad in a red brick and be "compatible with the existing buildings on the street," according to a favourable recommendation from the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The re-development of the property has been "a subject of interest to the community," explained Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner, in introducing the *continued on p. 3* 





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# Alan Klinkhoff Gallery

Scan QR Code to view images of *Spring Break-Up* and to read appreciations by Joan Murray and Charles C. Hill



# The "missing Thomson" from the J.S. McLean Collection, Rediscovered

Alan Klinkhoff Gallery is proud to announce the sale of a longlost Tom Thomson, the last of eight paintings by Thomson from the famous J.S. McLean Collection to be located. Paintings by Thomson are among the rarest and most sought after works of art by a Canadian. The painting, *River in Spring* (also known as *Spring Break-up* or *Spring Ice*), painted in the spring of 1916, has remained unseen by the public since it was exhibited at the National Gallery of Canada in 1952. McLean began collecting art in the 1920s, and the painting may have been in his collection since then.

While Tom Thomson paintings are already scarce, the plethora of research and lengthy history of collecting makes the rediscovery of an exceptional example a remarkable occurence today. *River in Spring*, 1916, also belongs to a much rarer subgroup of paintings signed by Thomson himself. Likely due to its long-term ownership within the same family, details of *River in Spring* were never submitted to Joan Murray while she was in preparation of her important Tom Thomson Catalogue Raisonne, which is now in the possession of the Art Gallery of Ontario. Subsequent to her review of the painting, which she described as a "beautiful Thomson", Murray submitted an addendum to the AGO to accompany the Catalogue.

To acquire a Thomson under these circumstances - exceptional in quality, signed, exhibited, uncatalogued, and with such distinguished provenance - is a landmark event in the art business. We offered to the consignors the benefits of our advantageous selling strategy, including our industry leading web presence serving collectors globally, galleries in Canada's two largest markets, our experience, as well as transparency, financial efficiency, and price protection. We are grateful to the consignors for their confidence, and extend thanks to scholars Joan Murray and Charles C. Hill for their astute collaborations.



**Tom Thomson** 1877-1917, *River in Spring* (*Spring Break-up or Spring Ice*), 1916 (Spring), Oil on composite wood-pulp board, 8  $1/2 \times 10 1/2$  in (21.6 x 26.7 cm). Sold.

Tom Thomson is Canada's most influential artist and was the spiritual leader of the Group of Seven, which formed several years after his death, in the wake of Canada's WWI sacrifices. His raw, powerful interpretations of Canada's natural environment, largely painted en plein air, provided foundational inspiration for the first uniquely Canadian art movement.

J.S. McLean was President of Canada Packers and ushered in the company's long period of dominance in Canada's meat packing industry. McLean was also a major art collector and philanthropist. A substantial part of his collection was gifted to the Art Gallery of Ontario after the death of his widow in 1968, and his legacy lives on through the AGO's J.S. McLean Centre for Indigenous and Canadian Art.

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A rendering of the planned Melville Ave. project.

Image courtesy of Darren Reid

Melville, cont'd from p. 1

permit request.

A previous request for a full demolition had been refused less than a year ago following receipt of 55 letters of concern, many from the nearby residents (see story July 6, 2021, p. 1). The building in question is immediately south of the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church.

#### Last year's decision

These letters, along with the city's Demolition Committee, found last year that the building was in "workable condition" and did not meet the criteria for demolition under By-law 1317. It was stated then that the building provided "options."

This month's approved plan is "entirely new," project architect Louis-Paul Lemieux, of 2Achitectures, told the *Independent* last week. Lemieux was also involved in the previous plan for the developer, Darren Reid. "This is a new project," he said, "in which everything has changed."

Criteria described in a favourable recommendation to the council by the city's Planning Advisory Committee included the contemporary styling of the proposed project being compatible with the existing buildings on the street.

#### Now: Two large dwellings

Reid told the *Independent* that as much as he believed the property was best suited to the development of four homes, as previously proposed, the approved plans call for two large semi-detached dwellings, each of which would now have roughly 4,000 square feet, plus integrated parking.

In addition, each home is to have a 5,000-square-foot lot allowing for an "exceptional" backyard as well as a private 1,000-square-foot rooftop deck overlooking Westmount Park and beyond.

The issuance of the permit itself after this approval is not automatic or immediate. Often, additional technical aspects must be checked, clarified and/or remedied as required by the city's Urban Planning department.

More information about the project can be found on the developer's website: 325melville.com.

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Spotless 3-bedroom condo in desirable area in close proximity to sports facilities, parks, restaurants, bakeries, and a short walk to Monkland Village. Beautiful original woodwork, gas fireplace for cold winter nights, front bedroom with private balcony can also serve as home office, master bedroom with wall of closets, air conditioning, modern renovated bathroom, extra spacious dining room, large updated eat-in kitchen with center island and room for 4 guests, laundry area, sunroom with garden views. Basement is one big open space, ideal for home projects and storage. Access to small private backyard area for garden or barbecue. \$619,000



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# 59 years on the job for Jeff – 23 for Ginette Steeles' last milk run is May 30

#### By Jennifer Ball

The milkman cometh no more.

Jeff Steele started his career as an assistant to André Caza in 1963 when he was five years old. His payment at the time was a chocolate milk. He is now retiring after 59 years on the job and his last delivery will be to Westmount homes on May 30.

"At that time, [in 1963] you have to understand that everybody had milk. There were three milk trucks alone servicing Windsor – and Windsor is two tiny little blocks between Victoria Ave. and Claremont Ave. That street would take us an hour just to deliver all the milk," Steele said. The route expanded and he started doing Prince Albert.

In 1979, he started his own route and he calls the 43 years that he has operated it a real privilege. "It was never work."

Jeff's wife Ginette joined him on the road in 1999.

Steele said he found the decision to retire so difficult because "I'm not just leaving my work after so many years of work. I'm leaving a lot of customers."

One such customer is *Independent* editor David Price. "I have known Jeff since the 1970s and when I was a teenager, I drank so much milk that my mother put me in charge of putting out the pre-paid 'tickets' for him," he said. "He used to come *four* days a week, which was then reduced to *three*, which was a big adjustment at the time. In recent years, he has come once a week to my house and, though I have rarely been up at 2 am to see him, it has been a privilege to have had this connection for so long.

"I wish him and Ginette well in the next phase. I am sad and I will miss them."

Business has been on the decline for years, though. When Steele started his delivery business, almost no one had a car. Now many Westmount families own two so getting groceries and ascending to upper Westmount is no challenge, he said.

"[The business] was coming to an end, and then COVID came along and home deliveries just went through the roof. So, there's a silver lining and it was just like the old days again."

Throughout his career, Steele has noticed that customers re-calibrated their orders to more health-conscious choices. When he started, he said he delivered homogenized milk, pasteurized milk, cream, whipping cream, chocolate milk and butter milk.

"Now you have homogenized two-percent, one-percent skim, lactose-free milk, soya beverages, almond beverages, oat milk, etc. I mean, the last time we counted, we had 82 different products."

It gets more difficult when you are a small distributor offering many choices, he said because dairy farmers really want to fulfill large orders. "It's all about volume. If you only need a few items of a certain kind, they don't want to give it to you because it's not efficient for them."

As retirement looms, Steele wonders if workers like himself and Ginette – the men and women who are willing to work up to seven days a week, 52 weeks a year – are maybe a diminishing breed.

"That doesn't work in today's world," he said. "People want a 35-hour work week, and they want weekends off and also holidays."

So, what are Steele's plans for retirement at the end of the month? More work! "We have a small hobby farm. I bought it in 1984 so there is almost 40 years of work to catch up on."

He plans to also produce maple syrup, the original way, with just maple trees, taps and cans. The idea of sailing a boat is also lovely but when other people think about retirement as an opportunity to "sail off into the sunset" in Steele's version, "It is always a rising sun, not a setting sun."

See photo on p. 1.



# Place Kensington awarded National Assembly Medal for COVID response



Above, Westmount-St. Louis provincial representative Jennifer Maccarone, right, provides Place Kensington residents, from left, Winnie Margles, Nikolaus Vonniessen and Olga Vonniessen with an up-close look at the National Assembly Medal Maccarone awarded May 19 to the staff at the home recognizing their care for seniors during the COVID pandemic. The medal is the highest honour that Quebec provincial representatives can bestow. Below, from left, préposé aux bénéficiaires Sylvia Joseph, Place Kensington presenter Debbie Moss and Jennifer Maccarone.

Photos: Martin C. Barry.





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#### **EVEN SQUIRRELS FIND IT HOT**

A neighbour on Irvine took this photo of a squirrel basking on his fence after drinking from his birdbath. Perhaps it found the unseasonal heat as tiring as I do. **JOAN MCCORDICK, ABBOTT AVE.** 

#### TALK TO LOWER-INCOME CANADIANS

I throw my wholehearted support behind Katherine Hope's sentiments in her letter to the editor "What about the *dental* patients?" (April 26, p. 8) regarding the Liberal-NDP dental plan. To have solicited only the views of dentists and not include those of lower-income Canadians is a glaring fault of the original article: "Local dentists skeptical about federal dental plan" (April 12, p. 21).

We are experiencing a dangerous crisis

in our world in the vast and growing gap between wealth and opportunity. The Liberal government's expansion of health care to include dental coverage is one way of recognizing the separate but unequal aspect of that gap in health discrepancy.

BRONWEN MANTEL, BRUCE AVE.

#### ST-LÉON-DE-WESTMOUNT'S REAL NAME?

Our school is called St-Léon-de-Westmount! I would like you to stop writing "St. Leo's" (May 17, p. 4). (You can call it St-Léon for short.) Thank you.

LILA SILLERY, KENSINGTON AVE. Grade 2 student at St-Léon/St. Leo's Sent with parental permission

Editor's reply: Places and institutions can have more than one name, including unofficial ones. For instance, Germans call a city in Bavaria "München," but Englishspeakers call it "Munich." I don't find this inaccurate or insensitive. This phenomenon is true for English place names, too: London/Londres, New York/Nueva York et cetera. In addition, English is more chaotic than many other languages. There are no politicians or academics charged with saying what correct English is, so you will see many variants in spelling, grammar and usage. It might interest you that 40 years ago "St. Leo's" was the much more common form. Majority views and fashions ebb and flow, but not everybody has to go along. – DP.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT We are Westmount

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

12th of May, 2022.



"Pour quoi se cloturer ... Quand on désire s'épanouir ?

PIERRE DESJARDINS, SHERBROOKE ST.

#### AN UGLY SHADE OF GREENE

Picnic tables resembling those found in provincial parks or on elementary school playgrounds now dot Greene Ave., turning the once trendy and *chic* street into the most non-descript, parking-unfriendly road in Westmount. There is one lane of traffic in perpetual gridlock and little room to back into a parking space, if one could even be found.

And what's with the hideous yellowand-green painting at the curbs? What

were they thinking? Or were they even thinking at all?

In the eyes of this particular citizen, painting the curbs at the side of the road and adding those Réno-Dépôt-type tables and traffic bollards to the landscape doesn't quite have that certain "je ne sais quoi" that Greene Ave. used to possess. I can't wait to see what the city has planned next for Greene; perhaps a petting zoo?

How plain and ordinary this once fine street has become.

Joe Russo, Sherbrooke St.

# Guest column Thoughts on the black locust trees of King George, King Henri

#### By Ron Williams

Several Westmount residents who are concerned by the current re-forestation project in King George (Murray) Park have asked me to provide my thoughts on the subject, with particular regard to the many existing black locust (*robinia pseudoacacia*) trees. I hope that some of the observations and reflections I prepared for them will also be of interest to your newspaper and your readers.

I first encountered this remarkable stand of trees in the mid-1980s when I was involved in the re-design of a residential garden immediately adjacent to the park. I have renewed my acquaintance with these splendid trees on many subsequent occasions while working on similar projects in the neighbourhood, and on projects with the city and local non-profit associations.

Many of the trees were already mature decades ago and the total stand within the park numbered perhaps 60 to 100 in total. This is certainly one of the largest and most impressive groupings of this tree species in the Montreal area. Since the

black locust is approximately at its limit of cultivation here, it is not surprising that there are relatively few other major groupings of this species in our region; and I believe that, from an esthetic and landscape perspective, the King George Park grove is the most outstanding of these.

The primary value of these trees lies in their visual character as irregularly-formed and picturesque plants with extremely rough bark and gorgeous racemes [flower stems] of downward-hanging white flowers; and the delightful fragrance of these blossoms, which typically arrive in late June at our latitudes. The overall appearance of a well-established grove of these trees is most striking. I have visited the park many times through the years to photograph the overall effect and the individual trees.

#### Long history in North America, Europe

The black locust is also of considerable historical interest. Its native habitat is within the Appalachian region of the United States and was first planted outside that region by Jean Robin, the royal botanist of French king Henri IV, in 1601. The tree's scientific name, *robinia pseudoacacia*,



Work on the black locust trees in Murray Park has begun, as seen May 20. Some of the trees have been labelled green (for pruning), purple (for cabling/buttressing) and red (for removal). The grove reaches from mid-Murray Ave. to southeast of the field on Westmount Ave. For more history on the trees, including a photo from the 1920s or before, see March 27, 2018, p. RE-8.

was given to it Carl Linnaeus himself. (Linnaeus was the originator of binomial Latin nomenclature, the modern system of naming organisms.)

1601 is an astonishingly early date – the seeds were apparently given to Robin by the famous English botanist John Tradescant the Elder, who may have received them from a colonist of the first, unsuccessful, 1580s English settlement in Virginia. Descendants of Robin's original tree still live in the Jardin des Plantes and in Place René Viviani in Paris.

Within the *robinia* genus, the species name of "*pseudoacacia*" does not suggest that the tree is somehow false or deceitful. It's simply an indication that the compound leaf array typical of this tree somewhat resembles that of the very numerous genus *acacia* (now considered to be several genera), whose species are found in the southern hemisphere, in Australia, Asia and Africa.

They are, like *robinia*, members of the vast bean family (*fabaceae*), well-known for their nitrogen-fixing properties that are beneficial to the soil. In Westmount and Montreal generally, it is common to refer

to black locust trees simply as "acacias."

#### Economic value, drawbacks

Besides its decorative and gardening potential, the black locust has proved to have considerable economic value over the years. It is a strong and robust tree with dense wood useful as firewood; a fastgrowing tree that tolerates poor soil conditions and is useful in erosion control and reclamation of damaged lands; and it has often been employed for honey production. It has been widely naturalized throughout many parts of the world for these and other purposes.

The plant has some drawbacks, including:

a) the thorny branches of younger trees, b) its susceptibility to the locust-borer, an insect that tunnels into the bark and wood. This insect can weaken the tree and cause limbs to fall, and needs to be carefully monitored. Apparently, some maintenance measures, such as increased water supply during dry periods, can help.

c) the black locust reproduces not only from its flowers, but also by root suckers, such that, in some locations, it is considered to be an invasive plant that supplants native vegetation and is thus undesirable. However, no less an authority than Frère Marie-Victorin (Flore Laurentienne, 1934) has stated that, in Quebec - probably due to our cold weather - it is not an aggressive plant. Certainly the trees in King George Park, which I have known for nearly 40 years, do not seem to be waging an aggressive war against their neighbours, as one often sees with such other species as *rhamnus* (buckthorn) or Norway maple.

Of course, all trees have disadvantages and are hosts to disease and insects, with very few exceptions such as gingkos and California redwoods (though the latter seem to have recently encountered some problems).

Given the vital role that the King George Park black locusts play in the visual character of the park and in the local residents' sense of identification with their community, it is vital that all major maintenance measures, including pruning and tree replacement, be discussed fully with local citizens and knowledgeable authorities, and that long-term strategies be worked

out that are acceptable to all.

#### Preserving the stand

I understand from a recent article in the *Westmount Independent* (May 3, p. 7), that the current plan for re-forestation of the park is being reconsidered. I hope this is a sign that major tree removal, particularly of black locusts, has been postponed, and that such an interactive process will be established.

A final note: when dealing with aging trees that will sooner or later need to be replaced, it is often useful to plant future substitutes of the same species nearby some years before cutting the trees so that their replacements are already well-established when old trees are removed, and the visual loss to nearby residents and park users is less dramatic.

I hope my observations, reflections and suggestions will help the city in its deliberations.

Ron Williams, CM, FCSLA, FRAIC, is a landscape architect and architect, and was a professor at the School of Landscape Architecture of the University of Montreal before his retirement.

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# Kobelansky breaks national record for blindfolded Rubik's cube solving



Elliott Kobelansky, Canadian national record holder for the fastest time to solve a Rubik's cube blind-folded, and his father, Allan, on May 17.

#### By Jennifer Ball

At 17 years of age and in his first year at Marianopolis College doing a double major in music/ pure-and-applied science, Elliott Kobelansky broke a national record for the fastest time to solve a Rubik's cube while wearing a blindfold.

The new record was achieved at a recent World Cube Association event that took place on May 14 at École de Technologie Supérieure.

Kobelansky first picked up a Rubik's cube at age six and it did not take him long to solve it. "Two or three days," he said, "but I followed along with a tutorial online and then I moved on to a better method."

So how does it feel to be the new Canadian champion with a chance to compete for gold at this summer's North American championship in Toronto in July?

"It feels good. It is something that I have been working towards for a while. I have put a lot of hours into this and it is good to see it eventually pay off."

To put his achievement into context, there are 43 quintillion possible combinations to solve the Rubik's cube and part of the 15.86 seconds Kobelansky took to do it included seeing the cube and memorizing the moves he would need to make to solve it."

It was 94 twists from memory. "There are different ways to count moves but 94 would be the

best number."

His process of memorizing involves "looking at the cube and transforming it into a string of about 20 letters and, through different pneumonic techniques, I memorize that string of 20 letters. Once I put the blinders on, for each two letters, I have a set of moves that solves those two letters. I go through two by two, performing the moves and once I get to the end, it should be solved."

Kobelansky's father Allan, who has been very supportive of his son's pursuit, supplemented information that Elliott shared with the *Independent* about his cubing mastery.

"Elliott excels at solving multi-cubes blindfolded. You could scramble all the cubes up, he would memorize them all, put the blind-fold on and solve them all. In competition, you have an hour to do that. He has ratcheted his way up now to 65 cubes."

Ernő Rubik, the Hungarian educator who invented the cube, spent much of his career promoting science in education and problem solving. Both career prongs intrigue this teen cuber as he plans for university, "either problem-solving in the world of computer science, mathematics; or there is also the option of me becoming a musician.

"Which does not relate too much to this stuff, but it is a lot of fun."

A former resident of his Belmont Ave. address enjoyed music as well: the iconic singer/songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen.





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On May 19: left, the former St. Stephen's manse as seen from Weredale Park, with the vacant land to the left, and, right, the vacant land behind it (which is also between the manse, back left, and the church, front right), as seen from Atwater Ave.

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sioner and city councillor Conrad Peart. me "The project also maintains the Category I heritage value of the church, which is to be restored ... The church will remain de-

tached on all four sides above grade." Angelo Pasto, president of Stanford Properties, the developer, said the proposal is for five of the units to be located in the former church building, three in the manse and nine in the addition to the manse planned for the area bordering Atwater left vacant after a fire many years ago.

"We're excited to get the approval and have been working with neighbours so that it sits well with the neighbourhood," he said. No rendering is available at this time, pending details to be worked out the Urban Planning department, he added.

#### Favourable recommendation

The project was described as being favourably recommended to the council by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), considering that the conversion of the Category I existing buildings is preserved and that the proposed modifications to the existing exterior walls as well as the majority of windows and doors are preserved and restored.

Other considerations include that replace-

St. Stephen's, cont'd from p. 1

ment of original features and materials compare favourably with the original ones in terms of design, colour, texture, and material.

The extension is to be compatible with the massing, size, scale and architectural features of the buildings and its contemporary style is to be compatible with existing buildings on the site and street.

The church's Category I rating has provided a challenge to its re-purposing and re-development (see story July 4, 2017, p. 3). The sale of the property to Stanford Properties took place in August 2017 but The Open Door day shelter had been allowed to continue operating there until eventually finding and moving into a new home in December 2018.

The maximum allowable height of the residential zone in which it is located is listed at three storeys or 35 feet. This could allow for a conforming extension to be built as long as the maximum site coverage of 65 percent is observed, Urban Planning officials told the *Independent* in the past (March 6, 2018, p. 18).

The issuance of the permit itself after this approval is not automatic or immediate. Often, additional technical aspects must be checked, clarified and/or remedied as required by the city's Urban Planning department.



514-907-9044

# Raccoons on Sherbrooke!



Sherbrooke near Roslyn on May 16. "Jaywalking," wrote contributor Sam Beitel.

# Skunks on de Maisonneuve!



"Be careful out there, Westmount! Spotted Wednesday [May 18] evening (8:10 pm) near de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Victoria Ave.," says contributor Christopher Petras.







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# Loyola High School to launch co-education in 2023

# 125-year-old institution looks to the future by welcoming young women

Private English education is undergoing big changes in NDG, as Loyola High School announces that it will open admissions to young women for the first time, with the school launching co-education for the start of the 2023-24 academic year. Loyola is currently one of very few single-gender high schools remaining in Montreal. The

remaining in Montreal. The school administration publicly announced the change at a special event on Wednesday, May 18.

"This exciting transformation will open Loyola's doors to new perspectives and diverse ideas, in an updated educational and spiritual environment that helps each child develop their full potential as enriched and well-rounded individuals," says Marcelle DeFreitas, president of Loyola High School, located on the corner of Sherbrooke Street West and West Broadway. "We are moving forward together to make a Jesuit, Catholic education available to any student with English-language eligibility, regardless of gender, background or belief.'

"We have graduated Jesuiteducated young men for 125 years and are extremely proud of what our alumni have accomplished, becoming leaders for change in their respective fields, and giving back to their communities and the world," says Tom Malone, Loyola's Principal. "We are happy to extend this commitment to the whole person to all youth in Montreal and beyond, as we continue our efforts to shape men



# Loyola

THE JESUIT SCHOOL OF MONTREAL and women for others." "While the core mission of Loyola has remained the same since its founding, the culture and experience of our students has consistently changed from one generation to the next, and we must ensure that we keep updating our pedagogical approach for the times," says Fr. Len

Altilia, SJ, Superior of the Community. "Throughout our history, Loyola has offered a Jesuit, Catholic education centred on the development of the whole person, forming them into individuals who are intellectually competent, compassionate, guided by conscience and committed to a just global society. Our new strategic direction will allow us to continue to do so for years to come."

"This change is not only a great opportunity for local girls to benefit from the close-knit community and the academic and extracurricular activities Loyola is known for, but it will also bring brothers and sisters from the same families together under one roof," says Mark Noble, alumnus and parent of a current Secondary 2 student. "I am excited to be able to offer my younger daughter the chance to experience what my son has cherished at Loyola."

That optimism for the future is shared by Patrick Shea, current Loyola parent, alumnus and the founding president of the Loyola High School Alumni Association. "Loyola students and graduates have always shared remarkable community spirit, with strong bonds of friendship and



connectedness that they maintain for a lifetime to better serve our society with compassion for oneself and others. I look forward to expanding that spirit and tradition to a more diverse group of alumni and alumnae."

To celebrate this exciting change, Loyola will be holding an Open House on Saturday, September 17, 2022, when families of grade 5 and 6 students can meet faculty, staff and students, and explore Loyola's facilities. Applications for both young men and women will open shortly, in anticipation of welcoming the first female students in August 2023. For more details, visit **www.loyola.ca**.







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loyola.ca

# Police Report Anarchist vandals hit RBC Westmount Square another time

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Royal Bank's Westmount Square branch was the target of another vandalism attack last week.

According to the Montreal police department's Station 12 spokesperson Michel Yigit, vandals splashed red paint across a window of the RBC branch on St. Catherine St. around 5 am on May 19.

A report written by a Station 12 police officer who responded to the scene said the incident was similar to other similar and recent occurrences at the RBC branch.

The report attributed the motive to an anarchist political group that is radically opposed to the Coastal GasLink pipeline project in BC, while saying the Westmount Square RBC branch had been targeted with red paint several times before.

In a possibly related incident, the branch's front window was shattered during a late-night incident last year. As well, the front window of an RBC branch in the centre of Town of Mount Royal also was broken last year in an overnight incident.

Although he acknowledged being aware of at least some these incidents, Constable Yigit said there is no clear evidence they



Police at Station 12 say this intervention at the corner of Hillside Lane and St. Catherine St. on the morning of May 19 was part of routine procedure for dealing with speeding and other traffic infractions on a stretch near Westmount High.



are all related, while adding that there has also been vandalism outside the Israeli consulate, which is located in the same complex of buildings.

There were news reports earlier this month that two vehicles parked outside the TMR home of former Conservative cabinet minister Michael Fortier were destroyed in a firebombing incident around 1:30 am on May 4.

According to CTV Montreal, the authors of an anonymous letter posted on the website of a Montreal-based anarchist news group took credit for the act, saying it was directed at Fortier, who is currently vicechairman of capital markets at RBC. The letter said the action was taken because of RBC's decision to continue funding the controversial Coastal GasLink pipeline project, and "in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en land defenders and all those who fight the extractive industry," said the statement.

The Montreal daily news site La Presse confirmed in January that at least six RBC branches all over Montreal had their windows shattered or were defaced by graffiti since last fall by anti-pipeline anarchists.

#### New type of gift card scam

As with the many mutations of the COVID virus seen during the pandemic, fraud artists continue to develop new variants of the "grandparent" scam to earn their dishonest living.

In one of the latest re-workings of the scheme, an employee at a Westmount business received a cellphone text message recently from a sender using a false caller ID while posing as his employer, telling him to immediately purchase and send five electronic gift cards worth \$100 each.

The employee caught on that it might be a scam when the anonymous sender received the numeric information for the cards, and called back to ask for 10 more. The sender also refused to confirm his identity by sending a personal headshot of the employee's boss.

While the employee didn't fall for it a second time, his company was on the hook for the first five cards as this kind of transaction can't be reversed nor can it be traced.

While grandparent scams usually prey on elderly people by fooling them into believing a young family member is in trouble and in need of financial help, the method for transferring payments is often through electronic gift cards.



# Looking back at 2021 real estate

Real estate columnist Andy Dodge continues to cover bull-market records, including last issue with a new high for his theoretical "typical" Westmount house: just shy of \$2.9 million (May 17, p. SL-6). Here are some pictures of houses sold last year.



4927 de Maisonneuve was the lowest price of the year for a single-family house and the only one below \$1 million: \$985,000.



A third-floor apartment at 11 Hillside Ave. brought the lowest condo price of 2021, at \$400,000. The highest was at #1 Wood: \$4 million (not pictured).







28 Devon Rd., a recently built house on Westmount's northern border, sold for \$8 million in October, the third-most expensive of 2021. Number one was 12-14 Sunnyside at \$18.5 million (see December 14, 2021, p. 1 and, for its first time as number one, April 18, 2017, p. 6) and number two was 100 Summit Crescent for \$11.7 million (see August 10, 2021).





Last year, only three condos in Westmount sold for less than their 2020 municipal valuations, two of which were at 200 Lansdowne Ave., which also had three selling for less than three-percent mark-ups. A good sign for taxpayers there?

Photos: Andy Dodge.





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Retail Review

Veronica Redgrave

There's giving back – and there's giving back.

Westmount's Mouton Royal is giving back by providing a platform for local youngsters to do just that. The children's shop graciously welcomed Eloise Henrich and Leila King to display and sell their wares.

Eloise is already a budding young business person. The bracelet designer wears many of her own bright beaded bracelets.

"That's how I started. During COVID, I needed something to do, so I started making these. People asked me about them and sometimes bought the ones I was wearing," she smiled.

Eloise also has her own business card: "Elo's Beads: Handmade beaded jewelry by a 12-year-old girl."

Each bracelet is one of a kind. Some are packaged as two bracelets. Paired, they are great fun. Peanut-Butter-and-Jelly and Milk-and-Cookies (each bracelet has these words spelt with beads) are "two of the main sellers at \$25."

After subtracting the cost of the beads, Eloise donates the entire proceeds to the Quebec Breast Cancer Society.

Her mother, Caroline Blakely, is a breast cancer survivor. "This is my way of helping."

#### Light catchers

Her best friend Leila King also uses beads in her "light catchers." Lovely translucent beads of different sizes are strung in a line and hung in a window – "or anywhere."

Leila is donating her proceeds to The Ocean Clean-up, the non-profit organization with the mission of cleaning up 90 percent of floating plastic ocean pollution. "If only people would stop using plastic

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# Beads, bracelets and best friends



Eloise Henrich and Leila King.

water bottles." (I agree!)

Leila holds up "my last pieces. The rest sold!" she proudly states.

She is now also making little birdhouses. Perfect for birds or also as folk art. They are charming.

Completing the tale is the fact that the visionary duo has been best friends all their lives.

Store manager Arianna Rabinovitch explained that Mouton Royal invites young designers to pop by to show their wares and explain how they plan to donate. For details, see below.

MOUTON ROYAL 39 Somerville Contact: Loren@moutonroyal.ca Tuesday to Friday: 11 to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday: 12 to 4 pm

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# Charlotte and Max together



Lysanne Fowler

Charlotte and Max are a family and were left at the Montreal SPCA for adoption together. They have always been a complementary duo: nine-year-old grey tabby Charlotte and four-year-old sleek, black Max.

9 Lives

Both are very healthy, up to date on their





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FRI. & SAT. May 27 & 28 9AM – 3PM inoculations, sterilized and microchipped. They are a bit roundish since they were given lots of love in their previous home and a few extra treats as well, so back to regular meal portions!

If you would like to have more information on Charlotte and Max, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca. com, select Charlotte and Max's individual information pages by their identification numbers 19819248 and 37087348 respectively. Then click on the "Book a visit" square to be referred to the adoption coordinators' link where a questionnaire and schedule give opportunities to book your visit at the shelter. Please don't forget to bring your transport cages for the cats or you can purchase carriers at the onsite boutique.

#### Great news on legal front

On May 11, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec released its draft regulation on the welfare of companion animals and equines. I will share with you a summary of the new regulation, which included major advances for animals, including:

- A ban on non-therapeutic surgeries, including de-clawing in cats and tail docking, ear cropping, and de-vocalization in dogs,
- A prohibition on the use of gas chambers for euthanasia,
- A ban on the use of prong collars for dogs,
- New and stricter requirements regarding exercise, socialization, and enrichment for dogs and cats,
- Enhanced oversight of breeding, including a limit of 50 cats or dogs that can be kept by one person, a minimum age for breeding, a maximum number of litters per year and a mandatory veterinary consultation prior to breeding,
- An obligation to provide daily enrichment to cats, dogs, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs and companion pigs,

# Fun days ahead with Bogey



Westmount A-dog-tions Lysanne Fowler

Here he is, a great companion who can hardly wait to join an active neighbourhood family! Bogey is an all-around great fellow, a four-year-old poodle-doodle type who looks for playfulness, exercise and buddy time.

He is ready to leave the Montreal SPCA kennel, ride in the car and cuddle, sniff his new home and comfy bed, gobble snacks and discover new toys.

Young Bogey is keen to go to the park, the summit and the shops, where everyone will know him by name very shortly.

He has a great personality, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He has not been with children or cats much, so a little kindness and empathy at the adoption-and-integration stage are very important when he will be meeting new friends.

If you would like more information on cutest Bogey, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com and refer to the information page under his identification number 50144224. You can then click on the square "Book a visit" button, through which you are linked to adoption coordinators to set up a visit at the shelter,

• A requirement that all owners of equines adhere to the National Code of Practice.

The Montreal SPCA has been advocating for most of these changes for many years. "However, certain important elements are missing from the regulations," Sophie Gaillard, director of animal advocacy and legal affairs at the Montreal SPCA, "such as a ban on the permanent chaining of dogs. We are also disappointed



bringing along family members and pets for a complete adoption meeting. Your neighbour, Lysanne

that animals used in research will not benefit from these new protections."

More social and legal advances are needed. We applaud the dedicated work of organizations and authorities who have brought these laws forward. It is vital to send forth a very strong message: animal abuse will not be tolerated, and our society will protect and speak up for the defenceless.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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## Retail Review

Veronica Redgrave

# Tissu popped up on St. Catherine, stayed online



Liv Neil, Crystal Theoharris and Natasha Nickels.

More and more young Westmount entrepreneurs are launching new businesses. Last September, Natasha Nickels partnered with Crystal Theoharris to found Tissu Quotidien.

Their company specializes in terry cloth, "the fabric we've all grown up with and love," said Nickels.

"We grew quickly from toiletry bags to bikinis, robes, pyjamas, bucket hats and a super tote," adds Theoharris.

On May 12, the dynamic duo held a popup shop at Shop 4110, formerly TNT. (Full disclosure: my PR firm launched the original TNT a few years ago.)

Situated amidst luxe items, Tissu Quoti-

dien headquartered for four days amidst Shop 4110's new wellness corner. Liv Neil modelled some cool comfy terry cloth pieces.

A popular plus of the collection is that bags *et cetera* can be monogrammed.

Nickels has been working as a personal shopper at 4110 for the past seven years, so the site choice made fashion sense.

Their large promotional banner blew down so many times on the gusty day that it was finally brought indoors. After their pop-up closed, the team returned to managing their firm on an e-commerce and wholesale basis.

TissuQuotidien.com



## Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

Barbra Streisand's 80th birthday was recently celebrated by her most famous impersonator Steven Brinberg, who invited local res Sharon Azrieli to perform at Simply Barbra's New York soirée.

Azrieli performs classical and operatic works. From 2001 to 2003, she was cantor at Westmount's Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. The tribute evening was held at Feinstein's/54 Below in Manhattan.

Azrieli had just returned from Poland where she was working on a film.

"It is the story of Irene's vow, the story of a non-Jewish Polish woman who saved 14 Jews during WWII. I felt it was an important project to be involved in."

Steven Brinberg writes and stars in Simply Barbra, which has travelled around the world.

It has twice toured Australia, New Zealand and England, last year ending in a West End run at the Arts and Playhouse theatres. Among many cities, the show has played in Singapore, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Miami Beach.

# Simply Sharon, Steven and Barbra

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Sharon Azrieli and Steven Brinberg.



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# Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

Westmounter Barry Garber attended the recent Juno Awards for a very special reason. The impresario's long-time client ("25 years!") Deborah Cox was inducted in the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

"She is the first black woman to receive this honour," he said.

# Garber celebrates Cox, Kahlo

The award-winning artist is an internationally renowned Broadway, television and film performer.

Held outdoors on the Budweiser Stage in Toronto, the rock 'n' roll event was the first since the pandemic. Garber attended with local res Linda Smith, who had held a private dinner at her home for Cox pre-COVID.

#### Kahlo exhibition

Garber is also involved with upcoming

 Image: Constraint of the sector of

Frida Kahlo exhibition at the Arsenal, opening June 10.

A North American premiere, *Frida Kahlo, The Life of an Icon* offers a journey through the life of one of the most influential artists in history. The immersive experience features videos that surround the viewer. The innovative exhibition includes historical photographs, original films, digital environments, artistic installations, collectors' items and newly created music.

For prior Van Gogh and Monet shows, Garber also acted as producer, taking the exhibitions across North America.



Barry Garber and Deborah Cox.

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