## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 7a

We are Westmount

July 5, 2022

Residents' reply considered satisfactory

## DG threatens to sue letter writers, rescinds threat

By David Price

The city of Westmount's city clerk rescinded on June 28 the threat of a lawsuit that he had articulated in a letter of demand to Arlington Ave. residents Emy Benjamin and Graeme Low dated June 23. The city clerk is the head of the city's legal department and its in-house lawyer.

The letter of demand, mandated by the director general's office and on which the *Independent* was copied, had requested that

#### **Editorials this issue:**

- City's director general should not threaten critics with lawsuits, p. 8
- City's director general should not threaten the press with lawsuits, p. 10

the residents "retract" and "apologize" for comments in their letter to the editor published in the *Independent* of June 21 (p. 8). That letter to the editor followed up an earlier, June 7 letter from the residents (to the city only) about mail delivery issues on their street during city construction work.

The letter of demand contended that the published letter contained comments that were "with no foundation, defamatory and undermine the reputation and dignity of a City employee, namely Mr. Andrew Laplante."

It went on to say, "We were informed that Mr. Laplante, as well as other City employees, have tried everything in their power to minimize the inconveniences of this **decision made by Canada Post**. We were told that several representations have been made to Canada Post to obtain temporary mailboxes, extended business hours of the post office, etc."

Mayor Christina Smith, who was unaware of the letter of demand until being alerted by the *Independent*, wrote in reaction: "I do not support this approach," and "while I would have preferred [the *Independent*] exclude the employee's name [from the published letter to the editor], I will certainly defend a resident's right to express themselves as they see fit."

After talking to the residents, the mayor later told the *Independent* by phone on July 4 that they did not know how their letter to the *Independent* for publication, copying Andrew Laplante on the email, would be presented. Before publication, the *Independent* did double check with the residents about who at the city they were copying.

Benjamin and Low sent a new letter for publication to the *Independent* and the clerk's office on June 24, which is reproduced on p. 26.

The clerk declared himself "satisfied

with [this] answer" in his June 28 letter to them, on which the *Independent* was copied.

David Price, editor of the *Independent*, has said he is "appalled" by the behaviour of the director general.

"If you have ever cared about any aspect of municipal governance or of this newspaper, I urge you to read my editorials on p. 8 and p. 10, which contain many further details about this dispute, and to write to us for publication if you agree (or disagree). All of the participants in this matter are, of course, free to write in for publication too.

"I apologize for the editorials' length. I would rather be drinking beer and publishing photos of bunny rabbits, but – and it pains me to say this – there are sometimes more important things than beer and bunnies.

"Democracy and the right of free speech are two of them, and they are worth fighting for."



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Freed by emergency services, Public Works

### Girl's leg trapped by pedal in freak bike path mishap

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 4-year-old Westmount girl who fell on the bike path in Westmount Park June 24, trapping her ankle between the pedal and the frame of the bike, required emergency services and the city's Public Works to eventually free her.

In describing the mishap, Public Security officials said they received the call for assistance at 9:10 am and found the fire department arriving at the same time. There was no apparent injury but the girl's left ankle was caught.

A Public Works employee who also was there with cutters managed to unfasten the pedal mechanism so the leg could be dislodged. The girl, who was accompanied by her parents, was able to get up and walk

"Everyone came to the rescue," said Public Security director Greg McBain, adding the parents posted a thank-you to emergency services and Public Works. The incident occurred near the dog run.

#### Parking inspector gets help for man fallen in sidewalk

A man aged about 80 who fell June 27 outside the apartment building at 4501 Sherbrooke was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé, Public Security officials said.

#### Indie's summer schedule

July 12: issue

July 19 & 26 and August 2: no issues (usual summer break)

Beginning with August 9 issue: weekly until Christmas

No details on his condition were reported.

The fall was reported by a parking inspector at 3:32 pm, leading to the arrival of public safety officers, who began stabilizing him as fire-department first responders also attended and began administering oxygen. Officers controlled traffic on Sherbrooke.

#### **Ticket for \$1,308** issued to contractor

A contractor reported to have been filling a construction container with debris from 1304 Greene June 27 was ticketed \$1,308 for occupying the public sidewalk without obtaining a permit, Public Security officials said. Spotted by a patroller at 7:40 am, the truck with the container was also parked facing the wrong direction and was recognized for a similar offence in the past.

Public Security and police have been cracking down on the occupation of the public domain without having a permit to do so; and failing to setting up a safety passage for pedestrians, or cyclists if blocking a bike lane.

See p.4 for a similar story.

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'Puts Westmount in the room' where decisions are made

## Maislin new VP of Hockey Lac St. Louis, aims to promote girls' hockey

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The recruitment of girls for hockey and marketing of their sport have long been goals for Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the city's Sports and Recreation department. And his appointment June 21 as the new vice-president of the Lac St. Louis hockey federation "puts Westmount in the room where it all happens," he told the *Independent*.

Hockey Lac St. Louis includes 24 hockey associations like Westmount's and is a member of Hockey Quebec. The Eastern Hockey League, for which Maislin continues as administrator, is one of the three subdivisions of Lac St. Louis.

This additional role "is great for our goal of increasing girls' hockey in Westmount," he added. "Now we can steer the ship for our girls." Girls' hockey has always been under appreciated around the world, he contended. The marketing of hockey and recruitment of girls, including reaching out to the schools, has been "sorely



Maislin launched the first all-girls' hockey team in November 2021 for the Westmount Minor Hockey Association. He also organized and brought to Westmount the nine final games of the season for Lac St. Louis' girls' hockey March 27.

According to an information bulletin from the Lac St. Louis federation announcing Maislin's appointment, "Andrew has been entrusted with overseeing the girls' hockey program, a segment of the hockey sphere that is particularly close to his heart. His diverse experience in sports and recreation management with the city of Westmount for over 15 years is an undeniable asset to the corporation."

For Maislin, adding the new responsibility "is a part of my life," he said.

■ Andrew Maislin looking out over one of the Westmount recreation centre's hockey rinks on June 29. "Maislin is as much part of the WRC as its impressive hockey facilities and the popular outdoor swimming pool," according to one PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON



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### **Blocking sidewalk brings** ticket for \$1,308

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A contractor was issued a ticket for \$1,308 June 15 for failing to obtain a permit and install protective measures for pedestrians outside 448 Mount Stephen at 11:42 am. When patrollers, accompanied by Public Works engineers, visited the site at 11:42 am, they reported a dump truck moving earth across the sidewalk.

"There has to be safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists," explained Public Security director Greg McBain.

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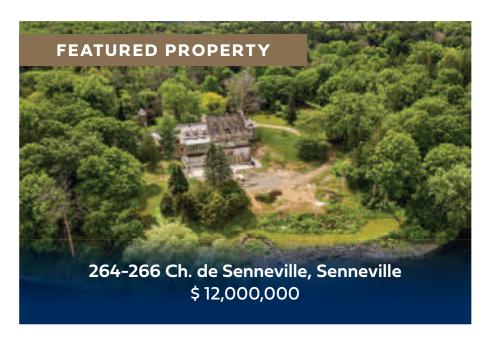
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Unexplained modifications adopted by council

## Lexington's original design at Devon proves too tight for fire trucks

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Small changes to the previously approved street design for Lexington and Devon (between Lexington and Summit Crescent) were adopted unanimously at the city council meeting June 20 "to remove the protrusions indicated on the plan attached to this resolution."

No details or plan were presented, however, and the abovementioned modifications as unanimously adopted could not be described last week to the *Independent* by the director general's office but were believed to involve two intersections with Devon.

"Some of these details are still forthcoming from the administration [i.e. the city's senior unelected employees]," said Councillor Conrad Peart, commissioner of urban planning and infrastructure, initially.

Councillor Antoino D'Amico, who represents District 1, however, said these "protrusions," whether they be bump-outs or grassy spots to narrow the two intersections of Lexington and Devon, had been

found by a testing fire truck to require very tight turns especially come winter weather.

#### To be contracted out

He said he also had been asking for specifics, but had been told the city may have to contract out the modified design before it can be released owing to staff shortages in-house.

The originally proposed design had been contracted out May 2 to Cojalac Inc. for some \$6.1 million (including tax credits) at which time Peart had said that "We are open to re-considering a few small revisions that won't impact the contract."

While it was premature at that time to say what they were, he explained, the project was to be given back to the administration to see what they could do.

Now that these revisions to "protrusions" apparently have been made, according to the June 20 amending resolution, the modifying plans were to be forwarded to Cojalac Inc. "in order that the work be executed accordingly."

The work is the final phase of three

years of total reconstruction regarding sewer and water lines, and now lighting, new sidewalks and roadway.

## 'Protrusions' are further explained by Cllr. Peart

Councillor Conrad Peart sent the following reply June 30 to questions concerning the modification of the protrusions on Lexington:

"On the northwest and southwest corners of the Lexington/Devon intersections, the protrusions refer to the curb extensions, a. k. a. 'bump-outs.' These two curb extensions will be eliminated from the design. On the southeast corner, the street geometry will be simplified to a larger radius turn — similar to the existing condition.

"The drawings and specifications are being validated by an outside firm prior to being available for publication. A change to the contract price is not anticipated at this time."

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### EDITORIAL #1

## City's director general should not threaten critics with lawsuits

"I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen."

- Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms (1521)

The *Independent* skipped an issue last week, but things just kept happening!

One of the more interesting events that occurred was this newspaper being copied by Westmount's city clerk on a letter of demand that he sent to residents Emy Benjamin and Graeme Low in response to their letter to the editor published in the June 21 *Independent* (p. 8, reproduced this issue at p. 12).

For those who may not know, the "city clerk" is the municipality's in-house lawyer. See p. 9 for a copy of the city's letter.

The letter of demand stated, among other things, that "The comments made [in the letter to the editor] are with no foundation, defamatory and undermine the reputation and dignity of a City employee, namely Mr. Andrew Laplante," and "You are hereby formally requested to retract yourself and apologize in the next edition of the Westmount Independent newspaper. Be advised that should you default to do so, the City of Westmount will file legal proceedings without any further notice nor delay in order to protect the reputation and the dignity of its employees."

Who is responsible for this letter? The letter of demand opens with the very clear statement, "We have been mandated by the Director General's Office of the City of Westmount to send you this letter."

I was surprised at the choice of target (the published letter to the editor strikes me as completely benign and very typical of letters to us), but I was unfortunately not shocked at the overall approach given my previous dealings with the principal occupant of the "Director General's Office of the City of Westmount" – namely city of Westmount director general Hadi Hakim (see editorial #2, p. 10).

#### Second time around

I had hoped that the director general had changed approaches since December of last year, perhaps as directed by the mayor in January of this year, but he obviously has not.

When I asked her about this letter of demand on June 24, the mayor replied over two emails: "This is news to me. This issue was never raised with me and while I would have preferred you exclude the employee's name [from the published letter to the editor], I will certainly defend a resi-

dent's right to express themselves as they see fit... Just so we are clear, I do not support this approach. A solution would be to get residents their mail, not threaten them with a lawsuit."

I agree.

In December, the director general threated to sue a newspaper (i.e. us), which has some relevant skills and resources in this area. I chose to let the issue drop in the hope that we could continue the good working relationship with the city that we have had since our founding in 2007. I felt that I could take the heat, report the news nonetheless and move on. To wildly misquote Shania Twain, most lawyers don't impress me much and telling one to buzz off every once in a while suits me just fine.

But now Hakim is targeting residents with potential lawsuits, and they are (generally) not used to dealing with the city in this way, or with the courts.

And what if next time the city clerk does not copy us? Will the director general be able to send a chill through Westmount without the press even being aware of it?

Residents Benjamin and Low have since replied, for publication. Their new letter is on p. 26, and contains additional information about their dealings with the city. The city clerk has declared himself "satisfied" with their answer. His second letter is on p. 9.

\* \* \*

Where do I begin? Given the obvious problems with threatening to sue residents of a democracy for complaining, should I have to write anything at all? This incident did happen, though, so I guess that I do have to write something, so here goes:

Firstly, in my opinion, the letter is not without foundation, nor is it defamatory, nor does it undermine the reputation and dignity of any city employee.

#### What is the foundation?

What set this off? Two senior residents of Westmount were not getting their mail at home or a nearby temporary mailbox due to city construction on their street, Arlington Ave.

Yes, Canada Post (a federal entity) also played a role in this, but the precipitating fact was the city's work. It is not for residents to understand in detail all the backand-forth that has to go on before temporary mailboxes appear, and they have a right to express themselves, to ask questions and to complain – especially to the government initiating the relevant construction.

I have been covering municipalities for 15 years and the possible reasons for this suboptimal situation are endless.

Or maybe the city did everything perfectly and Canada Post underperformed. Maybe the problem is entirely Canada Post's fault, as the letter of demand implies. If so, a simple reply in these pages, or directly to the residents, would have been a normal response in a democracy.

Maybe it is a mix of issues requiring even more explanation.

Regardless, it can't be said enough: as residents, it is perfectly reasonable to ask questions to, and for actual results from, a government.

#### Canadian federalism at work

I would go further, though. Situations do not need to be intimately connected to a municipality for it to be petitioned. It is an unremarkable practice in Canada for citizens to ask one government to intervene with another, including asking a municipality to intercede with a federal entity.

This sort of thing happens all the time. People ask the federal government to disallow provincial legislation. People ask the federal government to turn more power over to the provinces. People ask one government to fund another. People ask one government to sue another, or fund private litigants against another one.

And people often ask mayors to take stances on provincial and federal issues. Remember when then-Montreal mayor Denis Coderre destroyed the slab of a Canada Post "super mailbox" in 2015? Talk about interceding! (And on a postal issue!)

Our governments do not exist in hermetically sealed containers, and, to repeat, asking the precipitating government to take an interest in a problem that its work created is reasonable and unremarkable in a democracy.

I see lots of "foundation" to this open letter to the city.

#### Why this recipient?

But, as everyone knows, "the city" is an incorporeal entity so residents have to choose a person to contact, and there are many elected officials and unelected employees to choose from.

An Arlington resident tells me that Andrew Laplante had been identified to residents of the street as the project manager by the city, so the choice of him as the recipient of an email, including an open one copying a newspaper, was entirely reasonable. He is also listed, with his email address, as responsible for the Arlington project on the city website's "Info construc-

tion" tool and is named on the city's website as a member of its Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Readers might be interested to know that we are careful about publishing criticism of city employees – as a matter of internal policy, not legal prohibition. City employees are often executing policies that they did not make and may not agree with, and are often not in a position to defend their actions in consequence-less replies to the newspaper the way most residents can.

This case does not even come close to our line. Andrew Laplante had been identified by the city as a point of contact. Residents expressed discontent with the result of city actions and asked questions. What is the problem? And why would we not identify who received the letter at the city? It was true.

(The case of city director general Hadi Hakim's actions, the subject of much of this editorial, is also not close to our line. Hakim is the city's *chief* employee and seems to be out there on his own directing the city's legal policy.)

#### Defamatory?

But there are more allegations in the letter of demand than just a lack of "foundation," including defamation!

"To defame" means to spread an untruth. What untrue thing did this letter to the editor say about Andrew Laplante? Read it once, read it twice, but you will not find anything.

And then there is a charge of undermining his "reputation and dignity," which does not even pass the laugh test.

Indeed, there is nothing written about Andrew Laplante's actions or statements in the published letter to the editor! The focus is more on the net result of the actions of everybody involved, i.e. city and federal actors, and on questions.

#### Misuse of city resources?

There is a more serious issue than all of this. In my view, composing this letter of demand was a misuse of government resources (i.e. the city clerk's time).

Yes, elected representatives and unelected government employees have the right to be heard as much as anyone else (and our pages are open to them, including next week, as are many other options). Yes, residents can be wrong on the facts and unreasonable in their demands. (I've been doing this for 15 years. Enough said.) Yes, residents can want things one way when the true, legal and democratic power to make the decision lies with people who

think the opposite.

But using government resources to try to force residents to recant criticisms or take back questions is the opposite of what democracy is about. We elect representatives, who in turn hire government employees, so that they do what we want and so that they to listen to us — NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

Did you pay your municipal taxes so unelected employees could threaten your neighbours with lawsuits?

#### Abuse of power?

In my opinion, this letter of demand was also an abuse of government power. While the municipal government of Westmount is small, poor and weak compared to our provincial and federal governments, and while it is limited by Quebec municipal law and by the Canadian constitution, it is still a government with very real powers to tax, to fine, to grant and rescind permits, and to sue.

And receiving a legal threat from a government is not like being in a private dispute. Even a small municipal government's resources are vast compared to most members of the public, and no living and breathing person is paying the city's legal bills. The prospect of costs often injects sanity and limits into purely private legal disputes. A city, on the other hand, can pretty much litigate forever: filing motions, appealing decisions and making life difficult for the defendant in question.

This power should not be used lightly. In my view, residents should only be taken to court by the city, or threatened with it, in cases where their behaviour is illegal or egregious.

More generally, in my view a government should only be using its very real coercive power, which it holds in effective trust for the people's benefit, in correct ways. Attempting to silence critics and questioners, and attempting to force them to recant is NOT CORRECT IN A

DEMOCRACY.

The more I read the letter of demand's final sentence, "You are hereby formally requested to *retract* yourself and *apologize* in the next edition of the Westmount Independent newspaper" (emphasis added), the less democratic it sounds.

Asking critics to retract and to apologize does not belong in a letter of a municipal city clerk working for a municipal director general in 21st century Canada. Is the extracted reply letter free speech?

Democratic politics is generally not about retracting and apologizing. It is about debate.

Being able to speak freely about politics and to petition the government are core democratic rights and are usually and rightly interpreted broadly. In a democracy, people can criticize, cajole, characterize, question, infer and imply when they attack a government. Given that the politicians and the unelected employees are more intimately acquainted with the details of government, and that they have the power, a lot of latitude should be, and is, given to private citizens when they express themselves in good faith – but there is little or no need for that latitude here. What fact did the letter writers get wrong?

Without hyperbole, this right to criticize government is what people fought and in many cases died to create during the Reformation, the English Civil War, the Glorious Revolution, the American Revolution and the French Revolution. Without hyperbole, it is what people died to protect in World War II and during Cold War I. Without hyperbole, it is what Hong Kongers were trying to keep in 2019 and what Ukrainians are fighting for right now.

M' Denis Ferland, Attorney

Director of Legal Services and City Clerk's Office City of Westmount Think what you want of Christianity, of Protestantism and of Martin Luther generally, but his defiance and courage before Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms (referenced at the head of this editorial) was a key moment in the history of the individual conscience, of everyone's right to it and of everyone's right to expression.

Should we let this core right disappear undefended? On the issue of temporary mailhoxes?

#### Council, please act!

I urge the mayor and the whole of city council to take this matter very, very seriously and to address it in such a way that:

- They are informed of letters of demand and letters of a serious legal nature *before* they are composed, and certainly before they are sent, and
- It does not happen again.

\* \* \*

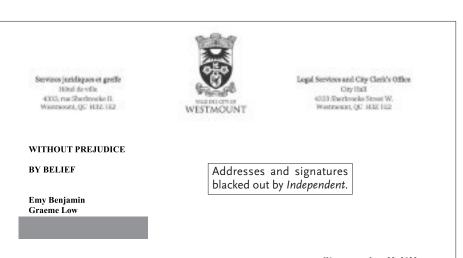
What should the *Independent* do? Readers, residents of Westmount and citizens of Canada, I will take my cue from you.

A newspaper does not have a tax base, or a security force, or (in our case) an inhouse lawyer. We need residents to stand up for us and for the rights of their fellow residents if we are to operate properly.

Do you think that this letter of demand and the one in December 2021 (see editorial #2) were correct uses of government resources? Of government power?

Please let me know with letters for publication. (And please remember that we only have one issue left before our usual summer break.)

David Price is the editor of the Independent.



Westmount, June 23, 2022

#### Object: City of Westmount vs Emy Benjamin and Graeme Low

Madam

We have been mandated by the Director General's Office of the City of Westmount to send you this letter.

An open letter published on page 8 of the June 21, 2022 edition of the Westmount Independent weekly newspaper, which is attributed to you, has been brought to our attention. The comments made therein are with no foundation, defamatory and undermine the reputation and dignity of a City employee, namely Mr. Andrew Laplante.

As you were, the members of the City's Administration were also surprised to learn the suspension of the mail delivery services. It was understood that the safety of the users was not compromised by the works on Arlington Avenue.

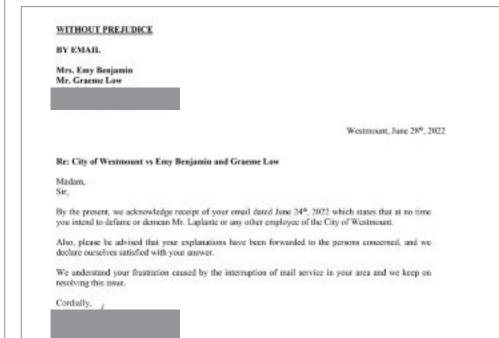
We were informed that Mr. Laplante, as well as other City employees, have tried everything in their power to minimize the inconveniences of this **decision made by Canada Post**. We were told that several representations have been made to Canada Post to obtain temporary mailboxes, extended business hours of the post office, etc.

You are hereby formally requested to retract yourself and apologize in the next edition of the Westmount Independent newspaper.

Be advised that should you default to do so, the City of Westmount will file legal proceedings without any further notice nor delay in order to protect the reputation and the dignity of its employees.

#### DO GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.

M° Denis Ferland, attorney
Director of Legal Services and City Clerk's Office
City of Westmount



#### EDITORIAL #2

## City's director general should not threaten the press with lawsuits

This editorial was largely written in January 2022 when the relevant events were fresh in my mind. - DP.

"Somebody's got to tell the tale, I guess it must be up to me" "Up to Me" by Bob Dylan (1974)

It was an interesting December out there in the world, as well as here in the usually quiet waters that are Westmount journalism. It all started with a simple update story about the long-running Selby condo/rental project (see December 14, p. 12). Reporter Martin Barry submitted a story on Friday, December 10 on the new owners of the development and their plans for it, along some words on the small continuing role of former owner Roland Hakim. I noticed that Roland's last name was the same as Westmount's new director general, Hadi. In what I saw as a routine example of the press doing its job, I wrote a short email to Hadi to see if there was a family relationship.

#### Anger

Boy, did that anger Hadi!

Instead of an email reply, I received a quick phone call back, explaining that Roland was a cousin of his father whom he may have met but did not know - and why would this interest readers?

I explained that our readers would be

He shot back: "They don't have anything better to do?" and "You are ruining the relationship with the city of Westmount." Hadi then said that, if this information were published, I would be creating a link that was untrue. I said that only untrue assertions are untrue.

He shot back again that, if we published this information, "We will talk to you less and less."

The short call ended soon after.

In my view, this threat to deny a news outlet access to a government - because of a personal preference that certain true facts not be published in it - is extremely inappropriate, and I intended to follow up with the mayor and/or city council.

And it got worse!

On Sunday, December 12, I received a lawyer's letter (see p. 11), which escalated the threats. I am not a lawyer, but it seemed odd to me to threaten to sue a newspaper that was planning to tell the truth, doing nothing wrong and that would not be causing damage to anyone. (Plus, a newspaper is not just any business, but one with particular constitutional and customary rights.)

I was also confused about whether this legal missive came from Hadi personally or from the city of Westmount. Mayor Christina Smith responded to an email from me asking who had sent it by texting: "That is from the DG. Not from me."

#### I say 'No'

I then responded to the lawyer's letter with an email of my own (see p. 11), refusing to remove the fact in question from the issue of December 14.

The lawyer renewed the threat of a lawsuit the evening of December 12. He replied: "The content of the mise en demeure [demand letter] is clear. Publishing the information at stake has nothing to do with journalism and I am being polite. In a nutshell, if you publish, you will be sued. Those are my instructions and they tend to be crystal clear." I ignored this threat. (I shudder to think what kind of country we would have if the definition of "journalism" were dictated by municipal lawyers who write and send letters such as that one and the one reproduced on p. 11.)

The next morning (Monday, December 13), I spoke to the mayor on the phone, who was working to keep the peace and avoid a lawsuit, and asked her if this sort of thing was acceptable in her view. She told me that Hadi had told her that the talkto-you-less-and-less remark was "taken out of context." I find this statement interesting for two reasons: Hadi was not denying that he had said it, and, very importantly: in what context would such a remark be okay? (And the call was very short. There wasn't a lot of "context" to hide in.)

We published the story, with the fact at issue in an editor's note (December 14, p. 12, reproduced on p. 12). As of today, we have not been sued.

#### Hope for future

I spoke to the mayor again on January 12 and asked her if the city had any thoughts to share about Hadi's behaviour in December. She said that she would not comment on "HR issues," which gave me the distinct impression that Hadi had been spoken to in some way. I asked if she thought we would have future problems asking questions of city employees.

She said "No." I asked "Even if they don't' like them?" She said "Yes," meaning that we would not have issues.

At one point, I said something about asking questions, and she said, "That is your job." She also re-iterated her previous support, and that of the council, of the newspaper as a real newspaper, "not Face-

But the whole thing has turned into a separate news and opinion item. We have to be able to do our main task: reporting.

#### What is news?

In my time at this company, we have covered three levels of government, and several municipalities (Westmount, the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough of Montreal, Hampstead and Côte St. Luc). Please excuse me, reader, if I lay out some fundamental misconceptions about the press that seem to crop up from time to time in our dealings with newsmakers and that might be at play in this case.

- 1. A question is not an accusation or an **insinuation**. It is the job of the press to ask questions about all sorts of things, including queries that people might prefer not to answer. In some cases, the true answers to these questions could be very incriminating. That does NOT mean that when reporters do their jobs and ask "tough questions," that they think that there has been malfeasance, or want there to be. They are just doing the work required for a thorough story. If the press is to inform the public, it has to ask these questions. If not, news turns into the repetition of obvious facts, the vapid re-writing of press releases or government propaganda.
- 2. Relatedly, it is not in any way wrong to have family members in this or that business, and stating the true connections between people is a part of the job of the press. One could imagine the press being vilified for not publishing facts of this nature that it is aware of.
- **3.** Any answer can be news. It is not the press' job to ask questions, find out that nothing seems to be wrong, and then cancel the story. Or, to put it another way, many stories are written about things that are entirely benign, innocuous and unremarkable. More than once, I have had the experience of getting an innocuous answer to a question, publishing it and then having the newsmaker say, "Why did that go into the paper?" All sorts of things go into a newspaper, from very damaging material to very benign stuff. Just because something is not Watergate, it doesn't mean that it isn't true and interesting. If we only published material about salacious scandals, the Independent would be pages and pages of white, unprinted newsprint surrounded by ads. Human beings are curious creatures, which is likely why they invented newspapers in

- the first place, and we aim to answer questions that we have, and that we guess that readers have.
- 4. The press should show its work. Obviously, we don't put everything we know into every issue of the paper. The journalists and editor edit. But the readers do like to know what has and has not been asked, so they can judge if we have been thorough. As a result, all sorts of non-salacious, non-scandalous material goes into each issue. If it's true and interesting, I like to publish it. And I like to show that we are doing our job thoroughly.

#### What do you think?

My cards are on the table. I think director general Hadi Hakim's behaviour was unacceptable. What do you think?

Should the *Independent* work to present what it knows are facts and which it finds interesting – as informed by its best judgement? Or should this newspaper become something else (The Westmount Dependent? Pravda II?) and have the director general threaten us into publishing what he thinks should be in the newspaper?

Relatedly, are the city of Westmount's assets (including intangible ones like the press' access to its politicians and employees) an asset of the people that are held in effective trust for their benefit? Or are these things the personal assets of this or that unelected employee, to be weaponized without reference to the public good or the principles of democratic government?

I am very curious about your opinion. Please write to me for publication.

We – the press, the politicians, the city's unelected employees - can all go from there.

On a personal note, please know that this kind of conflict brings me no joy. I am a businessman who got into newspapers, not a Woodward-and-Bernstein wannabee stirring the pot or trying to prove a point. Even so, I did make a promise to chief reporter Laureen Sweeney when we started that we would be a "real newspaper," which I have since been reaffirmed many times, explicitly and implicitly, to readers, team members and advertisers. In my view, real newspapers ask questions and don't back down when threatened.

And good businessmen keep their promises.

> David Price is the editor of the Independent. He can be reached at editor@westmountindependent.com.

From: editor@westmountindependent.com <editor@westmountindependent.com>

Sent: December 10, 2021 1:42 PM

Too

Subject: Question

Hi, Hadi,

Roland Hakim is involved in the Selby condos/rental project on St. Antoine St. Is he a relative of yours?

Best regards, David

Email addresses and signatures blacked out by Independent.

#### Bélanger Sauvé

MF Maro-André LeChesseur

Le 12 décembre 2021

SOUS TOUTES RÉSERVES

Par courriel

Monsieur David Price

Westmount Independent

editor@westmountindependant.com

Objet: Ville de Westmount et Hadi Hakim

Notre dossier : 22502/1

Monsieur Price,

Nous avons reçu instructions de nos clients, la Ville de Westmount ainsi que le directeur général monsieur Hadi Hakim, de vous faire tenir la présente mise en demeure. Vous avez récemment informé M. Hakim que vous entendez faire un lien entre ce dernier et le consultant dans un projet de construction du nom de Roland Hakim.

Il n'existe aucun lien possible entre monsieur Hadi Hakim et ce consultant. Ce dernier participe à la réalisation d'un projet de construction sur le territoire de la Ville de Westmount. Il s'avère être le cousin du père de notre client, qui l'ignorait jusqu'à la réception de votre appel. Monsieur Hadi Hakim ne connaît pas ce consultant.

Ce lien filial lointain n'a aucune incidence sur le travail de notre client ni sur la réalisation du projet pour lequel monsieur Roland Hakim agit comme consultant. De toute évidence, si vous publiez un article qui fait un tel lien, c'est uniquement dans l'intention de nuire à nos clients car il n'existe aucune relation entre les deux hommes ni aucun fait suggérant une quelconque connaissance mutuelle. Les deux gagnent leur vie, indépendamment l'un de l'autre, et on ne saurait induire un manquement aux devoirs du directeur général de la Ville parce qu'il porte le même nom que ce consultant. Ce fait ne constitue nullement une nouvelle ni l'exercice du journaisme.

Un tel raccourcis constitue, sur le plan légal, de la diffamation et vise à susciter du mépris et le doute dans la perception du lecteur à l'égard de monsieur Hadi Hakim.

Soyez avisé que toute publication visant ce demier et insinuant, même implicitement, qu'il existe un lien entre lui et Monsieur Roland Hakim pouvant jouer un quelconque rôle dans le déroulement du projet immobilier qui a cours (et qui se déroule sans anicroche) entraînera <u>immédialement</u> l'introduction d'un recours en rétractation et dommages devant la Cour supérieure.

Pour votre information, nous vous suggérons de lire l'arrêt de la Cour d'appel dans l'affaire Les Publicerions Leonardoins, c. Ville de Saint-Lambert que nous avons plaidée. Vous êtes susceptible d'y trouver de l'information pertinente sur la manière dont <u>doit</u> s'exercer votre tâche.

VEUILLEZ AGIR EN CONSÉQUENCE.

BÉLANGER SAUVÉ



Maro-André LeChasseur

From: editor@westmountindependent.com <editor@westmountindependent.com>

Sent: December 12, 2021 4:06 PM

Cc: Christina Smith <csmith@westmount.org>

Subject: Reply to mise-en-demeure

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Dear Mr. LeChasseur (cc Mayor Christina Smith),

I am in receipt of your letter of December 12, 2021. I would note the following:

- 1. Your letter indicates (both in is "objet" and in the body) that you received instructions from Mr. Hakim and the City of Westmount to send me the mise-endemeure related to alleged potential defamation of Mr. Hakim by our newspaper, the Westmount Independent, in an article that is not yet published, and which Mr. Hakim does not know the content of. Upon verification with Westmount mayor Christina Smith, who is cc-d on this email, I found out that the letter is not from the City of Westmount. Furthermore, assuming that the article that will be published on Tuesday did defame Mr. Hakim which is vehemently denied the City of Westmount does not, and could not, have any legal interest in that claim. In my opinion, your use of the city in your letter is an attempt to intimidate me.
- 2. Based on your letter and on my conversation with Mr. Hakim on Friday, your client seems to be under the false impression that the article that will be published in the next issue of the *Westmount Independent* is somehow about him or maligns him in some way. This is false. Rather, when I noticed that a Westmount developer had the same last name as Mr. Hakim, I wrote Mr. Hakim an email (attached) to see whether there was a familial relationship, as I would do in any similar circumstance, e.g. when a subject matter of a story has the same last name as a member of council or the city staff. This was a routine journalistic inquiry.

Mr. Hakim told me on the phone that there was no strong connection and this is what I intend to publish. But during this conversation, he also made the other statements outlined below. (I immediately memorialized this conversation after it occurred, given the serious nature of the threats that Mr. Hakim made therein, and was in the process of alerting Mayor Smith to same when I received your email.)

As you note in your letter, Mr. Hakim did tell me that Roland Hakim was a cousin of his father, and that while he may have met him in the past, he does not know him. He also asked why this information would be in the newspaper. I told him that our readers would be asking the same question that I had, and would be interested in the answer. He responded, "They don't have anything better to do?" and "You are ruining the relationship with the city of Westmount." "The relationship" in this sense obviously refers to the one that the entire municipal government has with the *Westmount Independent*, which has been free of legal acrimony from our inception 14 years ago until your letter to us.

Mr. Hakim then demanded that we not publish this information. Given the true, and in this case benign, nature of the information requested and provided, I did not agree. Mr. Hakim then said that if this information were published, I would be creating a link that was untrue. I said that only untrue assertions are untrue.

Mr. Hakim finally said that if we published this information, "We will talk to you less and less." "We" in this context obviously means the entire municipal government of Westmount and "you" means the reporting staff of the *Westmount Independent*. It should go without saying that the press' access to the city and government of Westmount is not the personal property of its director general, and he should not threaten to allow access or not based on his personal preferences.

I assume that your client did not advise you of the above exchange, which is, clearly, completely inappropriate.

3. I have read the decision referred to in your letter. The circumstances described therein are completely separate from what is at issue here. In that case, the newspaper in question was engaged in a two-year smear campaign against a municipal council. As you and your client will see when you read the story, nothing could be further from the truth here.

Given the above, I expect you to withdraw your *mise-en-demeure* before 11 am on Monday, December 13.

Sincerely,

David Price, editor Westmount Independent 12 - WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT - July 5, 2022



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#### This page contains only republished material

The letter to the editor reproduced at right is from the Independent of June 21 (p. 8) and the article below is reprinted from December 14, 2021 (p. 12).

These pieces are reprinted to give context to the article on p. 1 ("DG threatens to sue letter writers, rescinds threat") and the editorials on p. 8 ("City's director general should not threaten critics with lawsuits") and p. 10 ("City's director general should not threaten the press with lawsuits").



Letter from June 21, 2022, p. 8's Letters to the Editor section

News article from December 14, 2021, p. 12 

#### WHY CAN'T ARLINGTON AVE. HAVE MAIL, OR TEMPORARY MAILBOXES?

Open letter to Andrew Laplante, city of Westmount Engineering department

Before I launch into complaints, I would like to say that [the city's contractor] ForAction and its employees have been universally friendly and helpful since they began work here on Arlington, in particular when it comes to helping us all navigate our way up and down the road, whether by foot or by car. Never have we felt in any danger as a result of the work, which, once one has seen the holes in the pavement, is clearly necessary, if inconvenient.

Which brings me to the question – why are the postal workers no longer willing to deliver our mail? My husband and I walk up and down numerous times a day, either with our dogs, or going to work and doing errands. Since both of us have long qualified as seniors, I am surprised that the younger and fitter Canada Post and Purolator employees deem it too difficult. We note that other delivery services continue to find ways of providing for their cus-

Instead, we must find time and energy either to walk to Greene, and/or to pay to park our cars while we go to collect our mail. The city of Westmount has clearly negotiated with the various companies responsible for waste collection - Thank you! - so why is mail service not deemed important? The rumour here is that it will take six weeks if we get a temporary box.



Temporary mailboxes on Sherbrooke St. for Mt. Stephen Ave. residents during road construction last year, as seen October 1. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

What a joke.

EMY BENJAMIN & GRAEME LOW, ARLINGTON AVE.

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## Former Selby Condos becomes LABO Rental Housing project

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A multi-unit residential project in lower Westmount that has been dormant for nearly 25 years is expected by developers to be offering rental apartments by next summer.

Located on St. Antoine St. in buildings once occupied by the Charles E. Frosst pharmaceuticals company, followed by Dawson College until 1997, the LABO Rental Housing project was re-branded after being known as the Selby Condos.

"The site will finally undergo the rejuvenation it deserves and will come back to life in June 2022," states a press release issued by PUR Immobilia and EMD-Batimo. The two companies acquired the project late last year from its previous owner, Roland Hakim, who remains involved as an associate.\*

PUR and EMD say the rejuvenated project will offer two phases of New York-inspired rental units with 12-foot ceilings and large windows, exploiting the building's original industrial look, in conjunction with renovations that add a distinctive touch of modern.

The first phase, taking place in the original building dating from 1926, will have 126 rental units, spread over seven floors, and served by two elevators. All parking



Seen here looking eastward from the corner of St. Antoine and Rose de Lima streets in lower Westmount on December 9, the rejuvenated LABO Rental Housing project is expected by developers to offer rental apartments by next summer.

will be indoors, there will be charging stations for electric vehicles, and bicycle spaces will be available. As well, there will be storage spaces on each floor.

The developers say that "smart lockers" (made by the Quebec firm Expedibox) in a hall of the original building will facilitate the reception of deliveries, so that packages can be received securely at all times even if no one is home.

A second phase is expected to consist of 188 units over 18 floors. The developers

say that plans for phase two will soon be submitted for approval to the city.

Once this phase is completed, all tenants will have access to an indoor swimming pool, co-working spaces, a large lobby and green spaces on rooftop terraces. In all, \$120 million is expected to be spent redeveloping the older building while adding a

\*Editor's note: Roland is a distant relative of Hadi Hakim, Westmount's director general, but the two are not acquainted. – DP

























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## 

400 Mt. Pleasant is the only building in Zone R9-09-03.

OURCE: CITY WEE

► 400 Mt. Pleasant/4201 Sherbrooke on July 1.1 Rosemount is the paler-brick building visible in the background at centre right.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

#### Office, parking use at 400 Mt. Pleasant

## Sherbrooke/Greene re-zoning meeting set for July 11

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting has been set for July 11 concerning a city proposal to re-zone the northwest corner of Sherbrooke and Greene to allow for commercial use at the current residential building at 400 Mount Pleasant. This is the only building in zone R9-09-03 and has a Category I heritage rating

The plan is to be presented and explained as a draft by-law, 1588, amending zoning By-law 1303. It is to be explained at 7 pm, just prior to the regular council meeting at 7:30 pm.

Announced as a notice of motion, Councillor Conrad Peart, commissioner of urban planning and infrastructure, said the concerned building contains four residences. The current residential usage allows for singlefamily occupancies up to multi-family ones, and/or a senior citizens' residence

Notwithstanding this, any office that existed on November 27, 1980 may be occupied for office work and consultation by any of city's 17 recognized professionals such as notaries, physicians, chartered accountants and architects. The building appears to have had one such office.





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## **Council approves Goode House permit for addition**

By Laureen Sweeney

City council at its regular mid-month meeting June 20 approved a permit for a two-storey addition to the heritage-protected Goode House at 178 Côte St. Antoine

This addition had been proposed the week before at a special demolition hearing June 14 for certain protected elements of the Category 1\* home, but the addition was not up for approval at that time, although provisions for it had been made (see story June 21, p. 1 and 4).

The resolution of approval for the addition stated that the permit be granted on the grounds of several exceptions concerning a Category 1\* house despite the fact that alterations to character defining features and additions affecting them are generally "unacceptable."

It was deemed acceptable in part because it was at the back of the house, was "reversible" by being "independent" from the stone façade of the original structure and enables the 1840s house to be "sustainable" by allowing a family of today to move

in, explained Councillor Conrad Peart, commissioner of urban planning.

The addition was also found to be of contemporary style that "integrates well" with the house, adopts a "conservative design approach," and that modifications required do not "significantly alter" the character-defining features of the original building.

Peart also pointed out that the addition had been recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Also approved was the installation of a swimming pool at the back of the large property as well as replacing a garage located at the side of the house with one that would be "reminiscent" of the original one in terms of form and materials.

## Violating midnight curfew costs \$79

Two young men aged 22 and 23 were given \$79 tickets June 15 at 2:20 am for violating the city's midnight to 5 am parks curfew. Public Security officials said the two were spotted by park patrollers.

## Ticket issued for dog off leash on tennis courts

A patroller in King George (Murray) Park noticed a man inside the tennis courts playing ball with his dog June 18 at 8:38 am. A check of the dog tag showed the man was the dog's owner and had received a previous warning about the dog being off leash in the park. Even though the courts are fenced off, the leash requirements are still required in all parts of the park other than the dog run, Public Security officials explained. A ticket was issued

## Westmount teen ticketted for graffiti, false ID

When Public Security received a call at 12:09 pm for three people drawing graffiti on a picnic table and benches in the Bruce Ave. tot lot June 16, responding officers found a group of six boys and girls seated at the table. One admitted to the graffiti but provided false identification, according the department officials.

Identified as a 17-year-old who does not live in Westmount, he was issued two tickets: one for \$71 for defacing the table; another for \$171 for obstructing the work of the officer by providing the false ID. They were described as possibly attending a local school.



## **CLASS OF 2022!**

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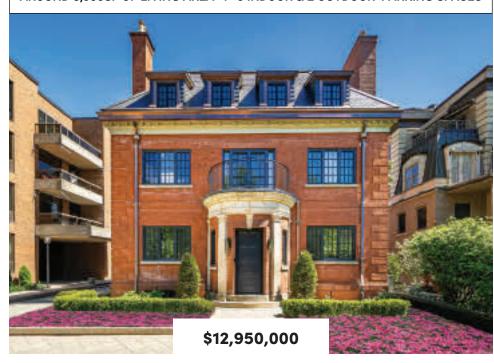
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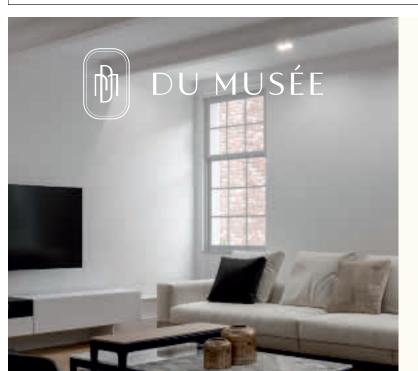
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## Bought & Sold - real estate transfers in February 2022

Address	Vendor	Price	2020 VAL	<b>Ratio</b> (%)
3225 Cedar	Da Wang & Xiaolan Zhu	\$2,725,000	\$1,708,500	59.5%
451 Claremont	estate Rosemary Fleming Reilly	\$1,960,000	\$1,585,700	23.6%
592 Côte St. Antoine	Yang Wang & Hua Cheng	\$2,150,000	\$1,608,600	33.7%
362 Grosvenor	Charles Flicker & Tegan Webster	\$2,125,000	\$1,685,000	26.1%
711 Grosvenor	Philippe Fortier & Nakin Plaski	\$1,925,000	\$1,521,900	26.5%
344 Metcalfe	Pierre Anctil & Carole Diodati	\$5,200,000	\$3,734,500	39.2%
4002 Montrose	John Valentine Blomfield	\$2,235,000	\$1,754,300	27.4%
639 Murray Hill	estate John Herbert Burgess	\$1,875,000	\$1,494,800	25.4%
657 Murray Hill	Kendall Billick & Katia Vigny	\$2,525,000	\$1,584,000	59.4%
339 Olivier	Jacobus Fontein	\$2,100,000	\$1,953,500	7.5%
368 Redfern	Elizabeth Glimenaki & Bruno Desautels	\$6,895,000	\$2,890,900	138.5%
94 Sunnyside	Water Singer Bloom	\$7,300,000	\$5,901,6001	23.7%
3238 The Boulevard	Carlos Torres Pardo & Angela Romero Jaramillo	\$2,350,000	\$1,988,100	18.2%
706 Victoria	Oleg Nazarov	\$1,730,000	\$1,411,700	22.5%
CONDOMINIUMS				
4210 de Maisonneuve #2	Brett Kinnon	\$1,098,000	\$709,000	54.9%
11 Hillside #106	Ekaterina Ermakova	\$657,000	\$460,900	42.5%
554 Grosvenor	Andrea de Mori Bajolin	\$1,285,000	\$987,100	30.2%
363 Melville	Edda Scholz	\$1,000,000	\$855,600	16.9%
SHARE SALES				
328-30 Wood, 45%	Daphnée Anctil	\$685,000	\$589,6352	16.2%
OTHER				
4000 St. Catherine	8236089 Canada Inc.	\$6,500,000	\$2,495,4003	160.5%
4630-34 St. Catherine	estate Michael J. Granofsky	\$1,350,000	\$929,800	45.2%
4920 Sherbrooke	Pen-Jan Holdings Ltd.	\$2,875,000	\$1,788,500	60.7%



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<sup>2</sup>Exclusive use of 330 Wood. Valuation is 45 percent of \$1,310,300. <sup>3</sup>Valuation includes \$183,000 in Montreal, \$2,312,400 in Westmount.

<sup>1</sup>Valuation is a combination of \$4,739,900 for the main house, \$1,161,700 for the extra lot on Upper Lansdowne Ave.

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730 Upper Roslyn, 318 Kensington

## Minor exemptions approved for solarium, third storey





From left, 316 Kensington with three stories and 318 with two, as seen July 1.

#### BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council June 20 approved two requests for minor exemptions from the city's by-laws that would allow for building projects that deviate slightly: one at 730 Upper Roslyn south of Sunnyside; another at 318 Kensington, just north of de Maison-

Such deviations can only be granted if the zoning and applicable by-laws are found to cause "serious harm" or prejudice to the person requesting the exemption, do not hinder the owners of neighbouring properties in the enjoyment of their right of ownership, or exacerbate safety, public health risk or general well-being.

#### 730 Upper Roslyn

The request from 730 Upper Roslyn to build a new solarium to replace an existing one would bring the maximum site coverage to 44 percent. This exceeds the current 43.9 percent coverage of an existing one, which itself is greater than the current 40 percent because it benefits from an acquired right.

The impact on the neighbourhood was described as "negligible."

#### 318 Kensington

At 318 Kensington, the exemption would allow for construction of a third storey to a semi-detached home similar to the adjoining home at 316 Kensington. As well, the height is described as a "contradiction" between two city by-laws and to deny the request was explained as causing a prejudice to the applicant.

"I thought this was a great candidate for a minor derogation," said Councillor Conrad Peart, commissioner of urban planning and infrastructure.



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Real Estate ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in February 2022, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found

The large stone mansion at 94 Sunnyside Ave., which had been owned by members of the Bloom family since its construction in 1948 and which includes a separate lot along Upper Lansdowne Ave. behind the house, sold in February this year for \$7,300,000, the highest price for a Westmount residence since last November's blockbuster price of \$18,500,000 for 12-14 Sunnyside Ave.

That February 2 sale price was closely followed by a price of \$6,895,000 paid out

## February transfers: Some big prices



Sold! For \$6.5 million. The former McDonald's/Miso/current Resilience site, as seen June 24.

a day earlier for 368 Redfern Ave., which had a city valuation of only \$2,890,900, representing by far the highest mark-up over valuation, more than double. The house

had been picked up in May 2019, for \$2,550,000 and obviously underwent extensive renovations, to be able to re-sell less than three years later for \$6,895,000. Also sold was one of the "gingerbread" houses on Metcalfe Ave., 344 Metcalfe, for \$5,200,000.

Those were among the 14 residential property sales deeds signed in February, roughly the same volume as in the previous four months and on the high end of a range of average mark-ups over valuation

between 20 and 40 percent, where it has been hovering since April last year. That means that the "typical" Westmount house with a valuation of \$1,936,003 has an adjusted value ranging from \$2.4 to \$2.7 mil-

The lowest price paid in February was \$1,730,000 for 706 Victoria Ave., a semi-detached brick-and-stone home now undergoing renovation. The lowest mark-up in February involved one of the oldest houses on Olivier Ave., at 339 Oli-

vier, next door to the city's continued on p. 27







339 Olivier on June 24.



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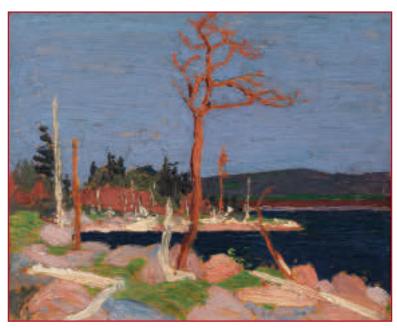
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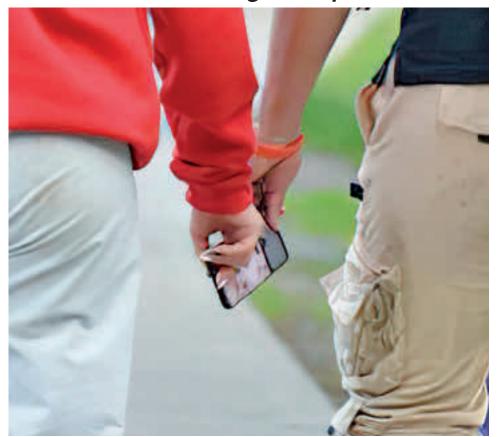
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### Love is sharing a cell phone



Contributor Sam Beitel calls this "An expression of love in the 21st century," but also wonders who answers if the phone rings. The photo was taken in Westmount Park.

PHOTO COURTESY OF S. BEITEL.





## Westmount conservatory open again after renovations

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Nearly seven years after closing for safety reasons, the Westmount conservatory was re-opened by Mayor Christina Smith and an entourage of city councillors on June 23 after undergoing a \$6-million refurbishment.

Speaking to a small crowd of guests standing in the rain outside the conservatory entrance the afternoon of June 23 prior to an official ribbon-cutting, Mayor Smith acknowledged the project was a long one, and that "day after day, we received questions from the population to know when the work would be completed."

According to the mayor, "When can I take my wedding pictures?" was one question she received time and again from people making wedding plans.

"We could have cut corners to re-open as soon as possible. We could have been less demanding," she said. "But we didn't, because we wanted to ensure that this architectural gem retained its beauty inside and out, and its prestige."

In addition to the architectural restoration work, the interior of the conservatory



From left, Mayor Christina Smith outside the main entrance of the Westmount conservatory with city councillors Kathleen Kez and Mary Gallery, as she prepares to cut a ribbon of flowers to mark the building's re-opening.

now includes a universal access ramp for wheelchairs and reduced mobility conveyances leading into Westmount Public Library. There will also be a story-telling garden inside the conservatory where the children's library will be hosting readings.

A second phase of the project will involve the adjacent production green-houses, currently closed to the public, where many of the city's flowers and plants were cultivated. The city says a "needs analysis" is under way to establish the future of these decrepit buildings.

Built in 1927 by noted greenhouse manufacturers Lord & Burnham, which also built flower conservatories in New York City and Washington DC, the Westmount conservatory produced many elaborate annual floral exhibitions over the years, although they have been on hold since 2015.

Among the Westmounters visiting the refurbished conservatory after the doors were opened last week was noted Canadian author Roch Carrier.

Former councillor Cynthia Lulham, who worked extensively on the project before retiring last year, was also present.



The interior of the Westmount Conservatory on June 23.



Among the Westmounters getting their first glance of the newly-restored conservatory on June 23 were members of the Sala family of Arlington Ave. From left, Yuri, Lincoln, Walter, Jay and Arthur Sala.

TAKE NOTICE that as of June 17th 2022, Dr. Connie Tse Wallerstein formerly practicing at Westmount Dental Care, 1 Westmount Square, Suite 420, Westmount, H3Z 2P9, Tel: (514) 937-3008, will continue to practice dentistry at Rapoport and Lasry Dental, located at 4095 Tupper Street, Westmount, H3Z 3E5, Tel: (514) 488-9570.

Patients are advised that they may accept the assignment of their files to the owner of Westmount Dental, Dr. Hamilton, they can take back their files or request for their files to be transferred to another professional by contacting the clinic.

Connie Tse-Wallerstein DDS, MAGD, DIDIA

#### **Notice**

In the October 19, 2021 edition of the Westmount Independent, an article stated, after relying on statements from her, that Jane Silverstone had become a member of the Quebec bar.

Jane Silverstone is not a lawyer and has never been a member of the Quebec bar.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note: Because this letter to the editor was received in reply to a letter of demand from the city clerk of the city of Westmount (see p. 1), we have published it unedited and without a headline. - DP.

In response to the letter signed by Me Denis Ferland, Westmount Legal Services and Director and City Clerk, and sent to us via e-mail by Mihail Lisichkin, Office Assistant to Legal Services and City Clerk's Office, on June 23rd 2022, concerning a letter published in the Westmount Independent June 21st 2022, we would like to clarify a few points.

I had originally sent an email to Mr. Laplante on the 7th of June 2022, in which I said both that the work on Arlington was proceeding well, but that the arrangements for postal delivery were a problem for us, to which I received a prompt reply about how he, Mr. Laplante, would be speaking to a Post Office supervisor during the week. Until the receipt of your letter sent by email on the 23 of June, we had not received any clarification as to why the postal delivery was stopped or who was responsible for the decision to do this. A simple note of clarification explaining the reasons for stopping mail service delivered to Arlington Avenue residents would have gone a long way to make the situation more tolerable.

At no time did we ever intend to defame or demean Mr. Laplante, or any other em-

ployee of the City of Westmount. We wrote to the Independent because mail delivery may well be disrupted on other streets undergoing similar work in the future. If an apology is required in order to avoid further legal action, which would do nothing to redress the issues surrounding mail delivery on Arlington, please consider this letter as such.

> EMY BENJAMIN AND GRAEME LOW, ARLINGTON AVENUE

#### DIAGONAL CROSSING NOT SAFE FOR GROUPS OF CHILDREN!

A serious situation has arisen whereby daycares are marching toddlers diagonally across at certain of those intersections that can accommodate this practice but only for spry people. Large groups invariably take longer than the allotted time and children, as young as two, are placed at terrible risk.

I am not suggesting that there is a need to make any adjustments to the street light timers for crossing. However, I am advocating for daycares, and similar organizations, not to cross the street with children diagonally but rather to cross in two stages; one street at a time.

You will appreciate that this message, directed at all daycares, day camps, nursery schools and the like, will be seen by parents and staff. The risk of a tragic accident

PETER S. MARCOVITZ,

#### HOW ABOUT SOME ENGLISH?

RE: The sound walk for places of worship described in "Exploring city's religious sites," June 21, p. 11.

What a great idea! For some.

I am a mobility-challenged octogenarian who would love to do this walk. However, to manage my walker, my phone app (still working on app things) and to do it all in French, as what is called a "historic anglo" - and at my age I feel very historic - it is a few things too many.

I have lived in Quebec most of my life. Of course, I am not totally incapable of doing the walk in French, but this is Westmount! Multi-lingual. Multi-cultural, at least in my experience. And that is how it should be.

Could this walk be made more inclusive? Could I do it, carefully with my limitations, in my language of birth and choice? English?

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

#### HOW ABOUT SOME CLAY?

Open to letter to Westmount Sports and Recreation

In reference to the article on the clay tennis courts that appeared in the Westmount Independent June 14, 2022 it seems that the work that was done last autumn to fix the irrigation system isn't working. I, and my fellow players, arrived June 22 to play at 9 am. All four courts had huge pools of water on them. Yes, it had rained through the night but one would have thought the drainage system on the courts would take care of that. Clearly, it's not working. A member from Public Works arrived with a blower in the hope of blowing the water away but it did not work. She advised us that Westmount is still waiting for another load of clay for these courts.

It's almost the end of June and we are still waiting to use these courts on a regular basis. There is a devoted group of players that comes to the courts each day in order to play and keep fit. Many are older adults. We know how hard it is to get workers and supplies these days, but we would be very interested in knowing when the courts will be fixed so that we can play each day.

PAT McCormack, de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Reply from Dave Lapointe, director of Westmount Sports and Recreation: For your information, the irrigation repairs were repairs to the watering system and not the drainage.

These courts are currently available to be used on a regular basis, but there was a big rainstorm overnight [June 21-22] and we have had record rain falls over the past weeks. With rainfalls like that, you can't expect there to be no accumulation of water.

#### Aubry named to Order of Canada

Westmounter Suzanne Aubry was named to the Order of Canada last month as a "member."

She is the author of many plays and novels, as well as of scripts for films and television series.

Among her best-known works is the "Fanette" series of historical novels set in the 19th century. They describe the life of a young girl emigrating from Famine-era Ireland to

She is the president of the Union des Écrivaines et des Écrivains du Québec.

The surface needs time to drain and to dry. We thank you for your understanding.

#### LOTS OF FRENCH IN NORTH AMERICA

At the present time, the government of Quebec is running an advert in Englishlanguage newspapers entitled "BILL 96: THE FACTS."

While assuring us that, "the Quebec government is acting in a balanced manner to ensure the future of the French language" with regard to, "Quebec is the only predominantly French-speaking nation in North America," it seems to have been overlooked that the Caribbean is part of North America, where multiple nations ensure that French is alive and well.

The West Indies island nations of Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Martin, and St. Barthelemy are all francophone.

The other obvious omission is the French jurisdiction of St. Pierre et Miquelon.

Quebec is not even the largest French community in North America. That honour goes to Haiti with two million more citizens than Quebec.

Is there anything else that needs straightening out in the Bill 96 "facts"?

ANTHONY WALTER, LANSDOWNE AVE.

#### THANKS FOR THE AIR

I was so pleased to read "City to bring back its plan to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers" (June 21, p. 1). Although long overdue, I am delighted. To the mayor and council, I say: "Enfin! At last! Bravo!"

This is one less issue to keep up at night those of us who care about the air we breathe. I trust this decision will be acted upon this autumn.

Thanks to you all.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

will therefore be greatly reduced.

ST. CATHERINE ST.

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## Keops and Isis, a sisterly bond



9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler



A lifetime of togetherness, now through adoption in a new family.

These gorgeous sisters, almost twins except for the uniqueness of noses, as one has a black-heart nose and one a pink-heart nose

They are very affectionate and interested in the family home routine. Keops is the leader, so Isis lets her lead in a companionable way.

They are both very healthy seniors at 15 years of age, up to date with their inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

They are eligible for a humanitarian adoption-fee reduction as they are in the senior category and Isis has hyperthyroidism, which is routinely treated. If you would like more information of these adorably sweet bonded sisters, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www. spca.com, then scroll to their adoption pages from their identification numbers, Keops' is 50478768 and Isis' is 50478766. Then click on the "Fill out the form" button to provide your information on the adoption coordination form, to start the visit and adoption process for them.

Your neighbour,

Lysanne

## Lizzie is ready to come home



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

This photograph of attentive Lizzie says so much ...

At the Montreal SPCA kennel, she is so beautiful and sitting perfectly poised until it is her time to go to her space. We are both hoping that this shot will draw you to her and you will adopt her as soon as possible

A very good girlie, she is only a year old, so she is learning all the time. In her new family, there will be a wide world of affection and active play to explore.

Her socialization with other dogs is good, so children and cats are the next steps.

Lizzie is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like more information on her, please go directly to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spca.com and find Lizzie's information page by her identification number 500483934. You can then click on the "Book an appointment" button to fill out the adoption-coordination form in order to schedule a visit at the shelter with a coordinator to meet and discuss young Lizzie's adoption.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



**Dodge transfers,** cont'd from p. 23 power transformer, sold for only 7.5 percent more than its valuation.

#### Condos & commercial

Four condominiums sold in February, bringing to nine the number sold in the first quarter of 2022, ranging on price from \$657,000 to \$1,285,000. Added to the five transfers in January brings the total for the

first quarter of 2022 to nine (with March still to come), with a range (both January sales) from \$380,000 for Apt. 7 at 343 Clarke Ave. to \$4,850,000 for Apt. 501 at 1250 Greene Ave. The average mark-up of the nine sales is 31 percent, the highest for any quarter of the last two years except the third quarter of 2021.

Another share of a duplex at 328-30 Wood Ave., including occupancy of 330 Wood Ave., sold for \$685,000, some 16 per-

cent more than its representative share of the city tax assessment.

Three commercial property sales were led by the \$6,500,000 sale of 4000 St. Catherine St., the onetime restaurant built by McDonald's at the time of the 1976 Olympics that has most recently been the home of Resilience Montreal, looking after the homeless and otherwise needy people who congregate across the street in Cabot Square. The property straddles the border

between Montreal and Westmount with most of the building in Westmount; 24 percent of the land is in Montreal. The total valuation in both municipalities is \$2,495,400, meaning a total mark-up of 160.5 percent.

The other two non-residential properties are much smaller buildings, one on St. Catherine St. at the corner of Blenheim Place, the other on Sherbrooke St. between Prince Albert and Claremont Aves.



706 Victoria on June 24.



368 Redfern on June 24.



Art Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Recently Greene Ave. saw a hip crowd attending a fun eve at Galerie S16, an extension of the art gallery whose main site was once on rue St. Laurent and is now in Old Montreal.

S16's cocktail celebration was honouring the gallery's "Paix et Justice" exhibition of Shepard Fairey, the world-renowned street artist. This was his first solo show in Quebec, and he was also in Montreal to participate in MURAL 2022, for which he created a nine-storey work with his travelling team of four assistants. ("We have worked together on murals around the world.")

I first noted this artist in 2008 when I was covering Art Basel Miami, where Fairey's famous Hope Obama poster was a stand-out. His image of Obama was later used as a TIME magazine cover, of which he has done many.

Hailing from skateboard and punk culture, the artist was classically trained, giving him the ability to communicate his ideas with technical prowess.

"Street art is a natural way to communicate in a non-traditional way."

His art creates a cultural conversation, a counter narrative. Some of the pieces at S16 were unique; some were part of an edition: on wood the edition was six; metal – three and paper – 19. There were also canvases, an edition of two.

#### Already sold!

Co-owner of S16 with Carlo de Luca. Adam Vieira and the gallery team created the perfect space for the exhibition. The day I met with them, some of the work already carried red dots: Sold!

In honour of the exhibit, a special poster was offered whose image was repeated in a massive mural painted on the gallery

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## Galerie S16 hosts street artist Fairey



Adam Vieira and Shephard Fairey.

wall. Fairey's work combines recognizable symbols in exciting and unexpected ways.

Although they are iconic, the artist uses them differently, combining silk screening, stencils, photography and typography in his powerful compositions. The viewer has to think as he/she links the point-counter point references.

"The artworks in 'Printed Matters: Paix

Et Justice' address several concepts, but the themes of peace and justice are consistent.

"Peace is represented in both direct and sublime imagery and allegory, whether it be flowers in gun barrels, doves, or blooming flowers, symbolizing harmony cultiva-

"Justice is a thread through the show, visible in art addressing environmental justice, racial justice, gender equality, and police brutality.

"Some people say print is on its way out, that digital media will wipe it out, but I say you can never replace the provocative, tactile experience of an art print on the street or in a gallery. Printing still matters.

"My prints address an issue. I donate a portion to that cause, so in a way each person who buys one makes a contribution."

S16 gallery director Gregory Cance mused that the former space of Le Bistro, once a destination dining spot, has been transformed. But the restaurant's famous marble bar counter remains.

The better to serve art aficionados.

Gallery S16 1362 Greene Ave. Shepard Fairey solo show until July 3 Tuesday to Friday: 10 to 6 pm Saturday & Sunday: 12 to 5 pm Closed Mondays S16gallery.com

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## de Maisoneuve/Atwater temporary spaces ready for use

BY JENNIFER BALL

Similar to its work on the pedestrian spaces of Greene Ave., the city of West-

mount has created a "temporary space" for seating outside the Atwater Metro exit pavilion, in front of Dawson College and Place Alexis Nihon. By June 22, the area has been transformed with street paint, street furniture and wooden planters full of seasonal greenery. The temporary installations will

all be in place until the fall of 2022 or until further notice.







June 16. Finished by June 22

Police Report

## Station 12 police finally arrest 'Midnight Bandit'

By Martin C. Barry

The Montreal police department's Station 12 reported some bad news and some good news regarding a series of recent break-ins in Westmount.

On the downside, the so-called "Midnight Bandit" household burglar struck again.

But the good news is that several officers from the Stanton St. station, who had a good description of the suspect, finally spotted him during the late afternoon on June 25 near the corner of Atwater Ave. and Dorchester Blvd. and were able to make an arrest.

"The officers ran after him, caught up and chased him down, and finally got him around Weredale Park," said Station 12 interim community relations officer Michel Yigit.

According to Cst. Yigit, Montreal police bicycle patrollers provided their colleagues

with support.

"When it got called out over the radio, they all converged to the area and were able to catch him," he said.

As of last week, the suspect remained detained, because a significant number of recent burglary and break-in incidents in Westmount alone are alleged to have been committed by him.

Although there were no witness descriptions of the suspect, he was identified through images taken by security cameras. In addition to the most recent break-ins and burglaries attributed to him, the suspect was already quite well known to police, added Yigit.

With the two-week "construction holiday" coming up in mid-July, he advises home owners and renovation site managers to be extra mindful to lock up or secure tools and equipment, as this is the time of year when construction site thieves become more active.

## No ETA on clay courts' drinking fountain



BY JENNIFER BALL

According to a city employee, who preferred not to be named, the water fountains outside the clay courts at the Lansdowne entrance of Westmount Park have not been operational since the spring.

Sebastien Samuel, division chief of communications for the city, indicated that "a piece had broken in the fountains. A replacement part was ordered and it will be required to be installed before the fountain is in operation again."

No estimated time could be given at the time, he said on when the part will be received and when the water will be back on.

■ The drinking fountain outside the clay courts located near the Lansdowne entrance of Westmount Park on June 29.

## Raison d'art receives SIFA Festival award for its 'portaitX' app

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Raison d'art, a Greene Ave.-based nonprofit that works to create socially meaningful art projects for the educational sector, recently won an award at the International Social Impact Film and Art Festival for a tablet app or application designed to raise awareness of dating violence among high school students.

PortraitX received the Best Social Impact Community Initiative Award on June 2 during the first annual SIFA Festival held at the Rialto Theatre in Montreal. The festival highlights and recognizes films and art projects that generate awareness of social issues around the world.

The award recognized work done by Raison d'art in the midst of the COVID pandemic, with support from the Public Health Agency of Canada, on an artistic technology tool for students attending high school in Quebec and Ontario.

"The most recent stats show that there is one in three teens that report they've had an incident of relational violence either on-



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Seen here on June 23, at left, Nathalie Hazan, president of Raison d'Art, holds the Best Social Impact Community Initiative Award the organization received from SIFA on June 2, while Raison d'Art vice-president Anne-Marie Leduc holds a tablet displaying a page from the portraitX app.

line or in person," Nathalie Hazan, Raison d'art's president, said in an interview with the *Independent*.

"So, even among the teenagers you might know, one in three of them has had experience of sexual violence. It could be somebody they've just met online, or it could be somebody they've known or been

dating for years."

While acknowledging that "there are certain portions of the population that are more vulnerable," Hazan said that "ultimately the stats are high, and these are only stats that came out pre-pandemic.

"My sense is that with the pandemic, and not having sexuality education in the schools or resources available in communities, those stats have probably gone higher."

PortraitX contains six workshops that

teach youth about healthy relationships, while they create digital media to fight against discrimination and violence.

The app allows youth-sourced works to be shared on social media, while also facilitating their installation on the walls of the participating schools.

After introducing the app to more than 700 students in Ontario and Quebec, Raison d'art now plans to expand the reach of portraitX to high schools across Canada.

The organization, which is led by Hazan and Anne-Marie Dupont, who is Raison d'art's vice-president, previously received a Simone Award, recognizing the commitment of women to a worthy cause with a global perspective.

## Heavy spring rain, wind bring down heavy branches

By Laureen Sweeney

Heavy rain and wind was reported to have brought down tree branches last month in several locations including a large limb with many branches that completely blocked the street outside 528 Victoria June 17 and crashed on at least one parked car, Public Security officials said. Public Works attended with equipment to push the branch away. The darkness, rain and size of the branches prevented a full assessment of damage.

A couple of hours earlier, patrollers on Argyle noticed a branch that had fallen on a car whose owners were reported to be away for the weekend.

The next day, Public Security received a call regarding a large branch that had broken off outside 388 Grosvenor but was resting on other branches some 10 to 15 feet above ground. Public Works was called and the area cordoned off until an arborist came to remove the hazard.

## VILLE DE | CITY OF WESTMOUNT

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

- 1. At its regular meeting held on Monday, June 20, 2022, the Municipal Council adopted, by resolution, the draft of By-law No. 1588 entitled "BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND ZONING BY-LAW 1303 OFFICE USE IN ZONE R9-09-03".
- 2. Council will hold a public consultation meeting on **Monday**, **July 11**, **2022**, **at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Council Chamber of City Hall at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount. The meeting will be broadcast live on the City's website. The link for the meeting will be available at the following address: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88609470789">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88609470789</a>
- 3. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <a href="https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/">https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/</a>

## Ruth Stalker Antiques



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www.westmount.org

## Canada Day: Eating, swimming, splashing



Canada Day at the Westmount recreation centre featured the usual, pre-pandemic activities, including food, a Canada Day cake and the Splash Bash, which kicked off at 2 pm with lots of kids dem-

onstrating how not to dive into clear blue waters, creating large splashes and smaller sploshes encouraged by parents and friends. Two lifeguards judged the height of the water columns, giving ratings 0 to

9. There were quite a few 9s, including for the work of 9-year-old Luka Siveski seen here.

This year, lifeguards restrained themselves and left it to the youngsters to pro-

vide the entertainment. While the mood and weather were upbeat, there seemed to be fewer attendees than in pre-pandemic times (i.e. 2019 and before).

Photos: Ralph Thompson.









## Temple marks Indigenous Peoples Day/Forced Displacement project

BY JENNIFER BALL

Rabbi Lisa Grushcow of Westmount's Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on Sherbrooke St., corner Wood Ave., chose to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21, by showcasing portraits of native people from the Indigenous Forced Displacement project on the walls of the temple. The project aims to bring awareness to the forced displacement of native peoples in Canada.

The posters feature Canadian indigenous individuals who have been uprooted

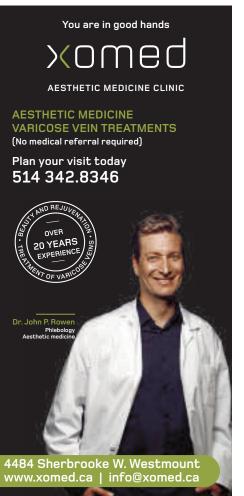
from their homes. Their message is a positive one though: "We're still here and we're still thriving!"



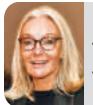


A portrait of Jessie A., as seen June 30.

A portrait of Corey T., as seen June 30.



## Hurtubise House: Layers & layers of Westmount history



Art Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

I have often looked longingly at the huge property anchored by an elegant fieldstone house and a large high-roofed out-building.

Recently, La Maison Hurtubise on Côte St. Antoine celebrated its 65th anniversary of preservation by Canadian Heritage of Quebec. Built in 1739, the home premieres the unpublished photographs taken from 1900 to 1910 by Dr. Léopold Hurtubise.

In an era of photo-shopped perfection and hot-for-a-minute Instagrams, the images are history frozen in time. They portray a bygone life and style. As does the house.

Not only are the doors lower and narrower, but the floors tell a story: there are four different coverings. First were wooden planks. Then, curiously, came burlap, "used as a 'carpet," explained guide Delia Oltean. Next was leather, and finally linoleum, of which there are two patterns; one earlier and much worn, the second



La Maison Hurtubise guide Delia Oltean.

William Morris inspired.

A fun "modern invention" is the old lamp ensconced in a wall: it lights three rooms. Along with the photographs, one can see an original glass-plate negative. There is a wonderful stone sink cleverly placed as a windowsill. Water thrown from the kitchen onto its angled base was used for the garden. Early re-cycling.

The charming abode is a must-visit. Particularly for teens and children. Lest they forget that pre-smart phones, there were different conversations.

We are lucky the estate still stands. It was meant to be sold in 1955 as a developer had planned to demolish it in order to build new homes. Thanks to the efforts by

heritage activist Alice Lighthall and the other members of the nascent of the Westmount Historical Association – Colin Molson, his aunt Mabel Molson and James Beattie – it was saved. Now we can all stroll up the path – wide enough for carriages – and enter in search of lost time.

PS. Did you know that Westmount once had another name? The then-little town of Côte St. Antoine was renamed in 1895.
LA MAISON HURTUBISE

583 Côte St. Antoine (corner Victoria)
Parking on the street
Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Guided tours 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Adults \$10. Teens \$6 Children \$4. Contact: coord@hcq-chq.org

## Chez Doris fundraises, readies to launch shelter, residences



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Chez Doris' fund-raising eve was happy and glorious. Themed "Gimme Shelter Day and Night," it aimed to raise money for the organization's expansion plans.

The cocktail benefit honoured **Elizabeth Wirth**, chair, M.F. Wirth Rail, who led the major fundraising campaign to its successful conclusion with her co-chair **François Carrier**, head of investment banking at Desjardins Capital Markets.

In 2020, Wirth chose to dedicate her time, network and significant financial support to what she calls the "less glamorous cause that is Chez Doris."

Founded 45 years ago, each year Chez Doris serves an average of 1,500 vulnerable and homeless women, many suffering from physical and mental health challenges, and all struggling below the poverty line.

Honorary co-chairs were **Mila Mulroney** and **Louise Roy**. **Ben Mulroney** was the



Brian and Mila Mulroney.

MC. Event committee members were Westmounters Sharon Azrieli, Claudette Dagenais and Lucy Riddell working with Manon Chevalier, Sylvie Lafrenière, Bita Cattelan and Monica Schirdewahn.

Chez Doris board members present were Carole Croteau (board president) and Marina Boulos-Winton (executive director, Chez Doris).

The innovative eve was coordinated by event planner Daniele Bitton at her Le Richmond location. She revamped the former church with a festive feel featuring masses of trees twinkling with tiny lights, complemented by glorious flowers.

Not just any flowers. Graceful orchids were colourfully massed at the entrance. Buffet tables held fabulous floral arrangements, the best being bouquets of white lilies crowned by towering calla lilies. Side tables sported vases of green foliage.

And then there was the music. A board member of the McGill Schulich School of Music and the Opéra de Montréal, Wirth was surprised by performers from both organizations. Arrivals flexed fashion muscle. (After all, it's been a while!) Dopamine dressing was the order of the night. Everyone looked – and felt

– great. Mila Mulroney continued on p. 34



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Louise Roy, Marina Boulos and Elizabeth Wirth.



Jennifer Maccarone, Caroline Savic and Gwen Nacos.

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#### **Social Notes,** cont'd from p. 33

was outstanding in a patterned midi dress, accessorized with a statement crystal necklace and strappy stilettos.

Local res Cornelia Nihon wore a Provence-blue pantsuit, and Gwen Nacos sported wide-striped pants paired with a floral blouse. Susan Travers' perfect LBD was set off by pearls. Pascale Bourbeau (P. K. Péladeau's partner) wore a slinky satin dress. Emmelle Segal's glam designer gown was adorned with appliqued flowers ("I'm on my way to the Goodman gala.")

Ground control? Many ladies wore trainers: in style and in comfort. None were down at the heel. Ben Mulroney wore initialled velvet dress loafers. Among the guests were Westmounters Bram Garber, Amanda and Rebecca Wolfe, Donna Doherty, Lilliana Vocisano Simpson, Soryl Rosenberg, Sondra Palangio, Suzanne Crawford, Shirley Corn, Aviva Vetter, Bernard Stotland, Ronald Corey, Vera Berloni, Laura Santini, Astri Prugger and Veronica Brownstein, mother of Ben Mulroney's wife Iessica Brownstein.

Also noted were provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone, Lynn Perkins (Doris campaign manager), Norma and David Mulder, Robert Poirier, John Schweitzer, Marie-Josée and Maurice Pisonnault, Colleen Wicha, Lillian Howick, the Opéra de Montréal's Patrick Corrigan (director general) and Chantal Lambert (director) and Taras Kulish, director general Orchestre classique de Montréal.

A few years ago, local philanthropist the late Andrew Harper donated \$1 million, kickstarting Chez Doris' fundraising.

This evening raised more than \$197,000. Included in the total raised from the campaign \$15,486,039 (\$5 million of which was from the government). Monies are to be used for construction and renovation costs, acquisition of furniture and equipment, as well as for the first five years of operational costs of Chez Doris' new emergency night shelter for homeless women (scheduled to open in September 2022), and for the first of two residences offering affordable studio apartments with psychosocial support for vulnerable and/or homeless women (scheduled to open in January 2023).

MEA CULPA. Huge apologies to one of Canada's finest philanthropists Bruce Bailey. I referred to him as Brian Bailey in my story on his fabulous fund-raiser for the MMFA.



Cornelia Nihon, Lillian Howick and Sondra Palangio.



Pascale Bourbeau.



François Carrier.



Ben Mulroney.

#### Music and Art for Ukrainian Refugees

INVITATION

Supporting the Sutton Committee for Ukrainian Refugees in sponsoring several Ukrainian families' move to Sutton.



**Sunday August 7, 2022** 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### RECITAL

Karen Kaderavek, acclaimed cellist **Scott Woolweaver**, principal violist Boston Pops

The Little Anglican Church (1865) 10, rue des Églises ouest, Abercorn, Qc.

TICKETS \$60 Limited seating

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#### The Art of Sculpture David James,

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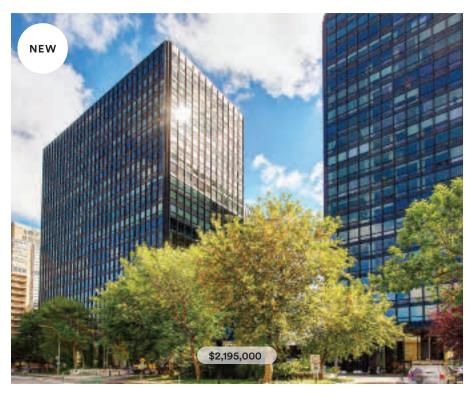




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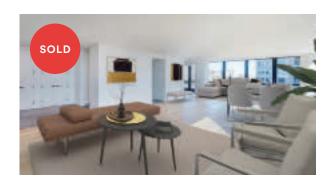












Westmount 2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE APT. 1404



Westmount 2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE APT. 1303



Westmount 2 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE APT. 1501

More than 7 units sold by our team this year. Congratulations to our Sellers and Buyers! Call us and let us do the same for you.





#### Review of Home sale by Engel and Völkers Brian Dutch and Edouard Gamache

The Engel and Völkers team were very well tuned to performing the necessities of home staging, photography, contract planning and negotiations and the final home sale. It was a pleasure to work with this team.

The house was beautifully staged showing the elegant features of the historic home. Decluttering and emphasis on the home's natural colors and style was easily achieved when you have an expert like Brian. His sensitivity and knowledge of luxury properties were very much appreciated. The photography was quick and efficient, produced amazing results, showing the beautiful features of this 100+year old home. The effort of putting the home on the market was clearly explained, a painless process for us, with no surprises when you count on his 30+year's experience dealing with historical properties.

Now the property was ready to go. The organization and planning of the visits were well balanced with our busy schedules. The complex handling of the Buyer-Seller paperwork was efficiently performed by Edward. He explained clearly all the steps involved while contributing his property knowledge in the mix . The attention to detail and readiness in addressing every question was a skill very much appreciated by the visitors. Edward was brilliant in helping us through the complex process, very well appreciated by both Seller and Buyer.

The historical home was a perfect fit for its new upcoming growing family. The expert knowledge and experience of our Engel and Völkers dynamic duo, made it all possible.

- Mario Saba 2022-7-1



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