Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 7b

We are Westmount

July 12, 2022

Westmount Park's play structures now delayed

# Devon Park redevelopment contract awarded

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Devon Park is the city's latest one to receive updating with the awarding by city council July 4 of a contract for its "redevelopment."

The contract was won by Ventec Construction at a maximum cost of \$1,247,243

Residents, council respond to Independent's editorials about DG's threatened lawsuits, p. 6 & 7

including tax credits. This was the lowest of four bids, the highest being \$1,379,208. While few details of the project were presented at the city council meeting, "the bulk" of the cost relates to preliminary work on the area before the addition of new play structures.

According to specifics of the project explained later by District 1 councillor Antonio D'Amico, the initial work includes that related to retaining walls, broken asphalt walkways and a drinking fountain.

The play structures are based on models approved for Westmount Park April 19 for installation in time for this summer's use. These are now delayed by supply chain issues, Councillor Mary Gallery announced July 4 (see illustrations April 26, 2022, p. 25)

### Library's reading club back for summer



Jonathan and Rosie are among this year's participants in the Westmount Public Library's summer reading club. See p. 18 for story.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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# Fall registration starts August 2 for Sports and Rec

Fall is on the way! Registration for sports and recreation activities begins Tuesday, August 2 at 8 am online (8:30 am

Last issue before our usual three-week break No issues: July 19 & 26 & Aug. 2 Next issue: August 9 in person) for Westmount residents and August 30 for non-residents.

Details are listed on the city's website.







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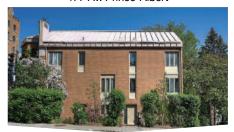
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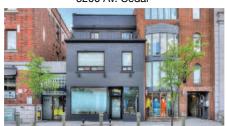
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### **Arlington fountain**



Excitement at what one resident calls "Westmount's epicentre," Arlington Ave. On July 6 at around 7 pm, a huge spout of water was projected high above this three-storey house. The temporary water main had burst. By about 7:35, the water had been turned off, solving problem #1, but leaving residents without water. By 10:15 pm, the water was back on. Photo: RALPH THOMPSON.

#### Indie's summer schedule

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

Beginning with August 9 issue: weekly until Christmas

At 1:30 am on Lansdowne

# Public Security spots stolen car, detains accomplices for police

By Laureen Sweeney

Observant Public Security patrollers at 1:30 am June 30 led to the arrest of two men described as being suspected accomplices in the theft of a car around Lansdowne and Côte St. Antoine, according to Public Security officials.

The patrollers were heading south on Lansdowne when they spotted a Honda Acura immobilized on the street with a Chevrolet Cruze behind. A man who jumped into the driver's seat of the Acura wore a mask.

He was described as nervous upon seeing the officers. As the car left, it made a grinding or rubbing sound as it headed south to Sherbrooke. At that point, it turned west and was followed by the patrollers as it "burned" through a red light at high speed and disappeared south down a street between Claremont and Decarie.

Having called police, officers made a U-turn and headed east until finding the Cruze parked outside 4350 Sherbrooke at Redfern. Moving the patrol vehicle diagonally in front of the Cruze to prevent its departure, they approached two men inside, required them to remove the keys and handed them over police on arrival.

The Acura was subsequently described as having been stolen while the two in the Cruze were detained as accomplices, said Public Security director Greg McBain.

#### **Table of Contents**

Letters, p. 6

Pet Page, p. 14

Dog Days of Summer, p. 15-17

Retail Watch: Vilebrequin, p. 19



Social Notes: Future Stars, p. 21

InfoWestmount, p. 20



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# 50 shades of orange







On the island of Montreal, we use many types of orange cones in many different ways, including, from left, teeny-tiny cones, cones that seem to be growing into or out of the ground (Are cones made in a factory or harvested from sites like this?), and placed on top of cars. These photos are from Prince Albert above de Maisonneuve (May 4), Sherbrooke at Strathcona (March 31) and Prince Albert below de Maisonneuve (April 20).



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**Police Report** 

# Police respond after Victoria Ave. man draws complaints

By Martin C. Barry

Officers from the Montreal police department's Station 12 responded on four different occasions in June and July after several Victoria Ave. residents and business owners complained about the presence of a male vagrant whose behaviour raised questions about his mental state.

Although no charges were laid against the 50-year-old following the latest incident around 5 pm on July 5 near the corner of de Maisonneuve, Station 12 spokesperson Cst. Michel Yigit said "the gentleman that seems to be causing the problem appears to be someone who has mental health issues."

Cst. Yigit said that after the vagrant had been reported by residents to police a few times previously for loitering, officers asked him to leave, but he returned each time.

"The residents called back on several occasions to ask the police to come and ask him to leave," said Yigit, adding that during the most recent incident, the vagrant responded by making offensive hand-gestures towards a business owner, and "they seemed to be threatening gestures.

"The police were called on several occasions," he continued. "And when they would come, they would talk to him and they would ask him about himself. He didn't seem to be from the area.

"They would ask him to leave, but he would always come back."

He said the police responded twice on July 5 to ask him to leave. He said the vagrant's behaviour, which was deemed alarming by onlookers, included lying down in public spaces. As well, an onlooker reported that at one point he tried to get into a locked car.

Officers also responded to complaints about the same individual on June 28.

"The thing that was catching most people's attention was that he was lying down and sleeping," Cst. Yigit said. "It's unusual for the area to see someone sleeping on the ground. There was never any threat. It was more that he looked out of place than anything else."

However, Cst. Yigit acknowledged that during the most recent incident, the vagrant became confrontational with the officers, although he left the area when asked.

Editor's note

### **Portrait Sonore's** 'soundwalk' available in English

A letter writer last week (p. 4) deplored the lack of an English version for Portrait Sonore's "soundwalk" of Westmount's religious establishments (see June 21, p. 11 for our story on them).

In fact, there is an English version, but it is not visible when you are looking at the French one. To find the English version, once you have the app downloaded, go to the index (button with horizontal lines) at top right. "English" is the last option on the drop-down menu that appears. You will then see all the English offerings together.

I have encouraged our self-described octogenarian letter writer not to be discouraged about not figuring out this aspect of "this app thing."

I am still on the first side of 50 and when I checked pre-publication, I also did not find the English version. She has encouraged me to share the correct information with this note.

I apologize for the misinformation.



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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Readers support Independent's editorials against DG threatening lawsuits

### Thank you, Westmounters. – David

# APOLOGIZE, APPROVE LETTERS, ASSESS SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Open letter to Mayor Christina Smith & Councillor Conrad Peart

First, please let me share some general observations on organizational leadership, then provide my recommendations for action.

Anyone in a managerial position in any organization requires four elements for success. Three of the elements are competencies, i.e., they can be learned and improved; the fourth is innate in each individual:

- Relevant technical skills (e.g., plumbers must be able to fix leaking pipes; city managers must be able to apply appropriate laws and regulations).
- Management skills (e.g., setting and controlling a realistic budget; hiring and firing staff; setting priorities and balancing multiple projects; managing conflicts).
- Leadership competencies (e.g., having and communicating a realistic but challenging vision for the future; thinking strategically; inspiring all and diverse stakeholders to alignment and action; agility in leading change).
- Personal values in alignment with the organization.

I cannot or will not comment on [city director general] Hadi Hakim's performance on the first three elements; however, I hope that recent incidents will cause the council to assess these very closely, as it falls within their role and responsibilities.

On the fourth element, it is clear that there is a misalignment with the values expected of members of the Westmount community, unless, of course, there has been a recent shift in these values that has slipped my attention.

In my opinion, the following should happen as quickly as possible:

- The mayor, on behalf of the council and the entire city, should apologize privately and publicly to E. Benjamin and G. Low for the disgusting manner in which they have been treated by city employees.
- The mayor, on behalf of the council, should send an official communication to the city clerk that any future threatening letters to be sent to citizens first must be approved by council. [Editor's note: Council has done this. See p. 7. DP]
- The mayor, on behalf of the council, should craft a concise communication for publishing on the city website (and in the *Independent*), that lays out in clear

terms the council's vision of "What does Westmount stand for," now and in the future (refer to "Leadership Competencies," above).

• The council engages a reputable third party to review the performance and qualifications of *all* senior management in the city and make rapid recommendations for action within a reasonable time frame (three to four months). This review should also include assessing the recruiting and hiring processes for senior managers.

Thank you, Mr. Price, for bringing these important and critical issues to the fore.

STANLEY SCHMIDT, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

# NOT EVEN A SCINTILLA OF DEFAMATION

The city's two demand letters (to Benjamin/Low and the *Independent\**) are egregiously frivolous and vexatious abuses of process. Adding insult to injury, they are a misuse and misappropriation of taxpayers' money\* and public resources.

The authors of these demand letters don't seem to have the foggiest idea what defamation actually is. The [original published] letter from Benjamin/Low (June 21, p. 8) does not contain anything even remotely defamatory or legally actionable. Not even the smallest scintilla. There is also absolutely nothing defamatory about the *Independent*'s reporting on Mr. Hakim's father's cousin. Nothing.

I would say that those responsible for these demand letters displayed an appalling lack of judgement that would disqualify anyone else from holding a higher office in municipal government.

Council should re-focus the administration's mind on providing excellent and polite service to residents, the city's ultimate *raison d'être*, instead of squandering time and taxpayers' money on illegitimate, bullying legal missives.

Such actions needlessly overshadow the day-in and day-out hard work and dedication of our mayor, our councillors, and city staff, and have no place in the conduct of our municipality's affairs.

PETER F. HOFFMANN

# LETTERS OF DEMAND

Thank you for your detailed and articulate editorials # 1 and 2 in the *Westmount Independent* of July 5 (p. 8 & p. 10). I strongly agree that the letter of demand from the director of Legal Services and City Clerk's

Office dated June 23, 2022 and the one\* from Bélanger Sauvé dated December 12, 2021 were inappropriate and constituted incorrect and abusive uses of government resources paid for\* by taxpayers. Your plea to the mayor and city council to take the matters raised very, very seriously, as they have ultimate accountability, is clearly urgently needed.

Please continue to ask questions, to inform Westmount's citizens of matters that, in the newspaper's opinion, should be of interest to them and finally to continue to live up to your name, the *Westmount Independent*.

CATHERINE DUFF-CARON, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

# SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT, STAFF

Freedom of speech! It seems to me that a newspaper and reporters publish news! Not opinions, except where indicated! The *Indie* does just that!

I have enjoyed the *Westmount Independent* for many years. I am upset that the editor, David Price, has been put in this uncomfortable position.

I support David and his reporting staff. Please continue on with your honest reporting.

Good luck. You have a lot of Westmounters supporting you.

Beverley Hutchison, Kitchener Ave.

# TROUBLING STORY, HOPEFUL EDITORIALS

The July 5 *Independent* story (p. 1) by David Price on the director general's threat of a lawsuit deeply troubled me. His powerful editorials (p. 8 and p. 10), in contrast, provide *continued on p. 8* 

\*Editor's note: Last week, I did not know which person or entity paid the invoice resulting from Bélanger Sauvé's work in December 2021, or if that work was even billed. As a result, I asked the mayor on July 8. She replied, "You would have to go through Access [to Information], but at that time BS [Bélanger Sauvé] was working with us with a bank of hours to cover off the fact that we did not have a city clerk."

As a result, I still do not know anything about the invoicing (or non-invoicing) of that work.

I decline the invitation to make an access to information request, and will repose the relevant questions in August.

### WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

Editor
David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter Laureen Sweeney Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales
Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads www.westendclassifieds.com

Accounting
Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138
office@westmountindependent.com

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LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do

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- DP.



Council Column

To the residents of Westmount,

As mayor and the elected council representatives of Westmounters, we wish to respond to the recent coverage of letters of demand issued in relation to the Selby Condos and to complaints about postal delivery on Arlington. Concerning the letter to the editor from the residents on Arlington, we do not believe that this letter was really directed at our employee, but instead voiced the frustration of the residents towards Canada Post for not providing service. It is clear to us that these residents did not intend to single out an employee but cc'd him on an email. In fact, they recognize that he worked hard to try and resolve this issue.

#### Solution, not legal threats

The proper course of action for the leadership in the administration should have been to find a solution to this and at no time should residents have been threatened with legal action. If you have interacted with any of our city employees on our in-

# Mayor, council respond to last week's letters-of-demand coverage

frastructure sites, you would agree that the feedback is overwhelmingly positive about how they go above and beyond to help residents cope while their street is under construction. Those are the values of the council

At the outset, let us be clear that we support a free press and value the critical role that the Westmount Independent and other media outlets play in keeping residents informed and ensuring a wholesome debate on matters of concern. Challenging and insightful questions are part of the give and take between city administrations and the media. We don't always like what is written (especially in the Letters to the Editor section), but we appreciate that the media represents a vital part of our democratic process. We will always defend that fundamental principle. If you do not believe in this principle, then you have no place in public office.

We also welcome engaged residents who bring issues of concern to our attention and share their views on matters ranging from Hydro rates to our capital works program, to Victoria Hall access, and of course, to the poor state of our roads. In fact, in recent weeks, we held town hall meetings in different districts so that we could hear from you. Our pledge is to continue to listen and to respond to issues in a timely manner.

Working collaboratively and transparently is our approach to governing.

We wish to stress that it is extremely rare that the city of Westmount issues letters of demand to a media outlet or to an individual resident. In the two cases cited in the coverage, we do not believe they should not have been issued.

#### Addressing situation

We have addressed the situation with our director general, who advised council that the letter regarding the Arlington situation was sent without proper authorization – a result of poor communication on a holiday weekend. For this, he has apologized. At the same time, it has been made very clear that, in the future, letters of demand may only be issued with the consent of the mayor and council. Whatever the reasons may have been for the director

general to have taken this action, it was neither approved nor supported by council

Having an open dialogue with residents is key to having an effective council and administration that reflects the priorities and views of its residents. Initiatives of the city will be that much better if we have the benefit of your input. We urge you to be engaged

The city of Westmount led the fight to demerge from Montreal. Leaders in this were our previous mayors, many members of the city council and the citizens of Westmount. We fought to be an independent city because our values are that service to citizens is paramount and that those services are best delivered when you know your community. We cannot and will not stray from those values.

Mayor Christina Smith, Councillor Antonio D'Amico, Councillor Elisabeth Roux, Councillor Jeff Shamie, Councillor Conrad Peart, Councillor Anitra Bostock, Councillor Mary Gallery, Councillor Matt Aronson and Councillor Kathleen Kez.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Residents support Independent's editorials against legal threats

cont'd from p. 6

This is my story.

I have learned that there are subtle ways a city could persuade a resident to question one's freedom of speech. A resident then faces several options: disengage entirely with the city, practise self-censorship or fight back.

First, some background information. I have been for many years mostly a critic of the city and council both at council meetings and in this paper. More recently in February, I wrote about my concerns regarding how our Urban Planning group worked with developers.

On Tuesday, March 15, my doorbell rang. An inspector from Westmount's Urban Planning department politely informed me that he had been asked by his department to inspect my front windows for by-law compliance, take photos and return to Urban Planning where they would decide "how to handle it." He readily acknowledged that it has been six years since my permit application to replace windows had been made. It was rejected at the time.

I told the inspector that I did go ahead and replace my windows, was fined by the city for doing so without a permit and paid the \$650 fine immediately. Mayor Smith, first as a councillor, had seen my windows before replacement and then after, when mayor. The file was closed and had been for many years.

The inspector appeared surprised. He told me that his department had sent him out without informing him of this - that I had paid a fine and that the file was long closed. At this point in our discussion, he questioned whether, given the facts, the city now had any ability "to handle it" in a new way. He took his photos and left. I never heard from him again.

I was unnerved and puzzled at the time by the inspector's completely unwarranted visit, but today, no longer.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

#### THANKS FOR STANDING UP TO BULLY

Re: Editorials 1 and 2 in the Westmount Independent July 5 (p. 8 & 10)

What a sordid story. It's difficult to imagine anything more disturbing except two such histories, which is exactly what we were treated to. The current director general, exhibiting egregiously poor judgement and low behaviour, has created a stench that merits severe repercussions. Thank you, David Price, on behalf of all Westmounters, for resolutely standing up to a bully.

STEPHEN COHEN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

#### LEGAL RISKS PUT POSSIBLE **CHILL ON IMPORTANT** LETTERS SECTION

Odds are that most readers of the Independent start with the front page, reserved for the timeliest and most high-profile stories. My preference is to skip ahead to the Letters page for an up-close-and-personal take on what's going, for better or worse, with my fellow Westmounters.

In recent years, the Letters space has become a hybrid: part neighbourhood watch and part cri de coeur. Whether it's a council decision contrary to what a group of homeowners wants, or an individual frustrated with city hall's response (or lack of one) to an ongoing problem affecting their quality of life, residents rely on this space not just to express themselves, but more importantly, when other avenues for help have been exhausted and there is nowhere else

A free and open Letters forum is vital in a functioning democracy. It is available to anyone with a pen who is respectful of the standards of honesty and courtesy set by this paper's publisher and editor, David Price. Writing a letter takes not just time, but courage - yes, courage to put oneself out there with name, street and grievance.

Well, sometimes one just has to stir the pot with a letter in the Independent to get

However, if a resident fears that naming an elected or unelected official in such a letter could risk legal consequences, will that not put a chill on their willingness to publicly air a concern? And will residents continue to feel as free as they do now to criticize policies and practices that they disagree with, or to point out areas that need improvement?

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

#### SIMPLE MISUNDERSTANDING?

I believe it is all just a big misunderstanding. It is obvious to me that Mr. Hakim thinks he lives in Russia!! Maybe a qualified person can clarify to Mr. Hakim that we do live in Quebec, BUT it is still a part of Canada and NOT Russia.

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

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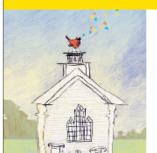
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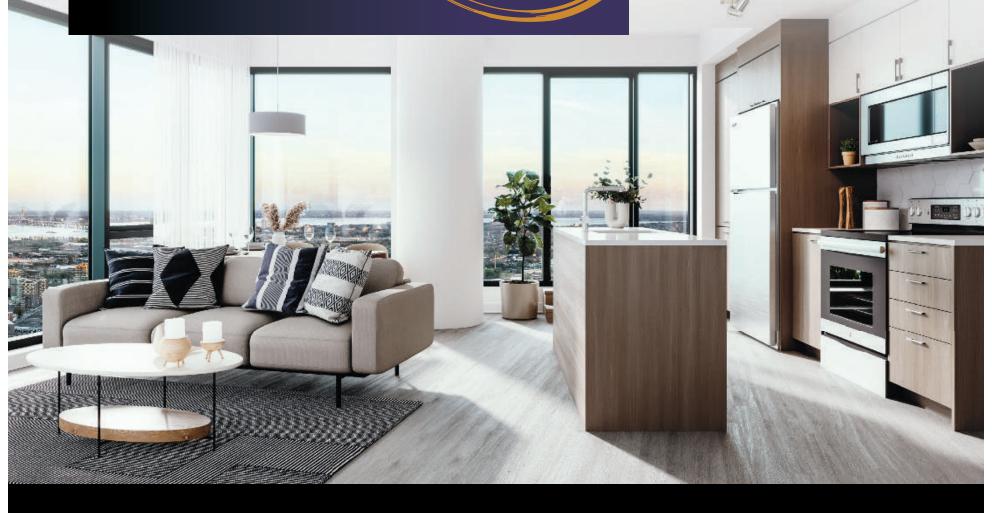
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# 3 reports of tree incidents occur July 4



Victoria Ave. on July 4.

One of several incidents involving

downed tree branches on July 4 blocked

the entire northbound lane near 329 Vic-

toria, Public Security officials report. The

incident occurred just before 6 pm at rush

was being supported by other branches. Public Security called in emergency crews to remove it and the property owner was advised to have the tree assessed.

A call was also received around 3:45 pm

PHOTO: TED SANCTON

hour. It appeared that a large branch had fallen from a tree south of the Somerville intersection.

Earlier in the day, a large broken branch was found hanging over the laneway near 4335 de Maisonneuve at Redfern where it when an electrical pole was found to have been struck on Montrose at the rear of ECS at 4003 Montrose just east of Mount Pleasant. The pole, its electrical wires still attached, was knocked into a tree. Hydro Westmount crews were called in.

## Wood/Elm party returns



The Wood/Elm lane party was revived after a long hiatus July 6. "Perfect weather, bountiful food and great camaraderie as neighbours and pooches alike mingled," said resident Diane Deruchie.

PHOTO COURTESY OF D. DERUCHIE.

# Vew heights IN SENIOR LIVING









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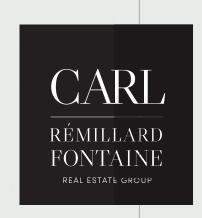
#### We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

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### Summer cadets on duty



From left, Alex Paleologopoulos, Zach Frotten and Connor Green.

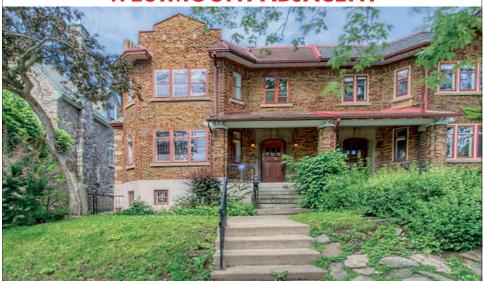


tions posed by park users. "Feel free to introduce yourself and talk with them," said

Public Security director Greg McBain.

Meet Public Security's three summer cadets, who will be patrolling the major parks to help explain regulations and answer ques-

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# City honours Contactivity's Mary Stark with appreciation bench



In front of Westmount Park Church on June 21, from left, seated: Mayor Christina Smith and Mary Stark; standing front row: Contactivity board members Joyce Blond, Helene McCormack, Maureen Kiely, Catherine Lackenbauer and former board member Sharyn Scott; back row: board members Tony Wait, Bill Smith (partially obscured), former city councillor Tom Thompson and Vera Burt.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CONTACTIVITY.

#### By Laureen Sweeney

The efforts and contributions of Mary Stark, retired executive director of the Contactivity seniors' centre for 25 years, was officially recognized by the city June 21 in unveiling an appreciation bench with plaque in her honour outside the front door of Westmount Park United Church.

The bench is located at the entrance to the centre based at the Lansdowne turnabout of de Maisonneuve. It is from here that it continued to operate programs of interest and assistance during the pandemic lockdown periods, particularly concerning the acquisition of computer skills.

Announced at the city council meeting July 4, Mayor Christina Smith singled out how the bench was the city's way to thank Stark and her committee for their work and particularly over the last two years in help-

ing "a community not completely at ease moving to the online and Zoom work."

She also mentioned their work with the city's Public Security team during those years.

"I was very touched and moved by the gesture," Stark told the *Independent* last week. "I think the bench will be well used. It's another example of the type of community we have in Westmount."

The city has helped support the community's only seniors' centre through its annual supporting grants to non-profits, this year recognizing Contactivity's request for some \$75,000.

"We value the partnership with the city and the grant enables us to provide services and programs for seniors which we could not otherwise offer," explained executive director Benita Goldin (see story March 1, p. 4).







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# Sisters Amy and Maya



9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler

Amy and Maya have a wonderful sisterly bond. At four years of age, they are very companionable together and also to family members.

Their owner must find a new family as soon as possible for them as he will be travelling extensively for work, so we hope that a family can be found in our neighbourhood for these loving girlies.

They are quite distinct in their personalities. Amy is very clever and analytical



while Maya is very playful. Both enjoy company and are very affectionate.

They are very healthy, up to date with their inoculations, and spayed. If you would like more information on Amy and Maya and sweet photographs, please contact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org and do not hesitate to go to their website at www.gerdysrescue.org for more information on their group.

#### Foster family season

It is the busiest time of year for rescue groups, as the summer and moving season are upon us. If you would have the opportunity to volunteer as a foster family to take in a kitten or cat while they are being presented for adoption, it would be a very kind



# Otis, sweetheart pup



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

This adorable puppy is only three months old, so very young to be in need of a family where he will be basking in love and security. Through the fast thinking of a good Samaritan, Otis is now in foster care for the grassroots animal rescue volunteers of Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions.

We will agree that he does melt hearts! Yes, such a handsome blond golden Lab with the most blue eyes, Maybe their colour will change with time, but he will al-

and life-changing gesture for the animal being given the opportunity to have a stable and loving home environment while being placed on the long term.

Would you consider opening your heart and your home to foster? Please write to the Gerdy's volunteer group at info@gerdysrescue.org and they will contact you with more information on joining their foster family program.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



ways have the sweetest earnest expression. Otis is hilariously playful and very affec-

tionate. He is bright and attentive, gaining new skills and assurance every day.

He is on plan for his puppy veterinary care, being vaccinated for this three-month stage and microchipped. If you would like more information on Otis and more wonderful photographs, please do not hesitate to contact the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at their email info@gerdysrescue.org and visit their website at www.gerdysrescue.org to find out more about their dedicated animal rescue mission.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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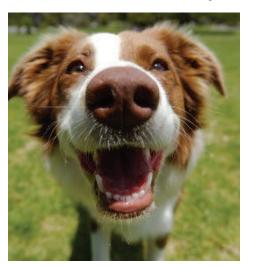


# Protect pets in hot weather

Warm weather brings many changes. Warm weather can make travel more enjoyable and affords people more time to comfortably enjoy the great outdoors.

It's best to keep safety in mind when soaking up the sun. That's important for all members of the family, including pets. Cats and dogs are as susceptible to heat-related illnesses as their human companions.

**Recognize heat stroke** – Pets can suffer from heat stroke, according to the American Red Cross. Certain breeds of dogs are



highly susceptible, particularly those with short snouts, such as pugs and bulldogs. Excessive exercise in hot weather, lack of appropriate shelter outdoors and leaving a dog in a hot car may precipitate an episode of heat stroke. It's important to get the pet out of direct heat right away and check for signs of shock, which include seizures, a body temperature of 104°F or higher, stupor, increased heart rate, or excessive panting. Placing water-soaked towels on the pet's feet, head, neck and abdomen can bring down its temperature.

Be cautious of hot surfaces – Humans wear shoes on their feet for protection, but pets do not have that luxury. Think about how hot your feet can feel when you scurry barefoot across hot sand en route to the shoreline or to cross a deck to get to the pool. When the sun beats down on surfaces, those surface temperatures rise quickly. According to a 2010 study by Liberty Home and Pet Services, at peak afternoon sun and an ambient temperature of 95°F (35°C) in southern Florida, the temperature of cement was measured at 125°F. red brick at 135°F, blacktop at 140°F, and grass at 102°F. Individuals who think a car is safer for their dog or cat may be surprised the informal study measured 152°F on seat surfaces.



Provide extra water – It's likely you will need to fill your pets' water bowls more frequently in warm weather than during other times of the year. Be sure to provide constant access to fresh water, even for young puppies who may be learning to house train.

Avoid cutting fur too short – If a veterinarian suggests a hair cut may be beneficial for keeping a pet cool or comfortable, resist the urge to shave down to the skin. Having at least one inch of fur will protect the pet from sunburn.

Outdoor hazards – Warm weather may bring out a high number of insects and wildlife. Use a flea and tick preventative product and medication to protect against heartworm, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. Snakes, skunks, raccoons, foxes and other animals may be roaming around, and a scuffle with your pet can result in injury.

Pets need extra care during the warm weather to avoid damage and sickness from the sun, heat and more.

- Metro Creative Graphics, Inc. (MCG).

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# How heartworm affects household pets

Pets are beloved members of many

So it's no surprise that so many pet owners place such a great emphasis on raising healthy ones, often going to great lengths to provide nutritious foods for their furry friends and protecting them from a host of dangers, including heartworm.

#### What is heartworm?

The American Veterinary Medical Association notes that heartworm is a serious and potentially fatal disease caused by a parasite that primarily infects dogs, cats and ferrets.

According to the American Heartworm Society, the heartworm is one foot in length and lives in the heart, lungs and blood vessels of affected pets.

ease, heart failure and organ damage.

Geography is not a factor that affects heartworms. The AVMA says heartworms pose a threat to pets in every state in the United States and various countries across

#### Are all cats and dogs vulnerable to heartworms?

According to the AVMA, all dogs are susceptible to heartworm infection. Indoor and outdoor cats also are vulnerable to heartworm infection. The AVMA notes that heartworm is spread from animal to animal via mosquitoes, which can easily get into homes, potentially biting pets, including indoor house cats.

#### Do cats and dogs infected with heartworm react differently?

The AHS notes that heartworm manifests itself very differently in cats than it does in dogs. In fact, dogs with heartworms whose conditions have not yet been treated may have several worms in their not have any adult heartworms.

are not always conclusive. But potential warning signs of heartworm in cats include coughing, respiratory distress and vomiting.

#### What are signs of heartworm in dogs?

The AVMA indicates that dogs may show no signs of illness if they were recently or mildly infected with heartworms. Signs may only develop when the worms reach adulthood. Dogs may cough, become lethargic, lose their appetites, or experience difficulty breathing. In addition, the AVMA indicates that dogs with heartworm infections may tire rapidly after only moderate ex-

#### Is heartworm preventable?

The good news for pet owners and their pets is that heartworm is entirely preventable. Various preventive medicines are available, and pet owners can speak with their veterinarians to determine which product is best for their pets.

Heartworm is a serious yet preventable disease. Pet owners who suspect their pets are infected with heartworm should report those suspicions to their veterinarians immediately. - MCG.

#### bodies, while cats with heartworms typically have three or fewer worms and may What happens if a pet is infected with heartworms? What are signs of heartworm in cats? Heartworms can cause severe lung dis-The AVMA notes that diagnosing heart-Where do heartworms pose a threat? worm in cats is more difficult than diagnosing it in dogs, perhaps due to the smaller number of worms in infected cats than in infected dogs. Various tests may be needed to determine the likelihood of the globe. heartworm infection in cats, but such tests The Canine Club is not

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# Did you know?

Is your precious pooch joining you at the bathroom sink each day when you brush your teeth? If so, you may want to think about having him or her learn the proper technique to keeping teeth clean with your help, of course.

Cleaning a dog's teeth is just as essential to the pet's health as a nutritious diet, grooming and regular exercise. According to the American Kennel Club, keeping a dog's teeth clean comes down to a few basic steps.

- Brush teeth. Teeth brushing is the foundation of good oral health. Brush a dog's teeth at least once a week or more frequently. Use toothpaste specifically designed for dogs. Never use toothpaste made for humans.
- Offer dental chews. Rely on a dog's natural inclination to chew with treats that also clean the teeth. Chews are designed to minimize the build-up of
- Use special oral sprays: Investigate dog dental sprays that kill bacteria that can make a dog's breath smell bad and contribute to tartar and plaque.
- Provide plenty of chew toys. In addition

to dental chews, regular chew toys also scour the teeth and improve oral health. Rotate several toys to prevent boredom.

• Schedule professional cleanings. Dogs need dental cleanings and examinations at least every year. Some dogs are more susceptible to periodontal disease and will require more frequent cleanings. Consult a vet.

It may take some time for dogs to get acclimated to having their mouths handled and their teeth brushed, but over time they can grow accustomed to the process.

Some dogs may even enjoy it. – *MCG*.





# How to keep pets occupied while you're at work

If one had to find a silver lining during the global pandemic that kept people close to home for an extended period of time, the chance to spend more time with pets is worthy of consideration. Cats, dogs, birds and other animals reaped the rewards of having humans nearby for much of the day.

As the world continues to open up and people are returning to their offices and schools, pets who have grown accustomed to having company all day long may be in for a shock. Concerned pet owners can take various steps to help keep their pets occupied and content while their human companions are away from home.



When two pets get together, the opportunity for play increases exponentially. Animals can keep themselves company and hopefully out of trouble. A single pet may experience separation anxiety when his owner goes away to work or school, and that may result in damaging behaviour like chewing, scratching or even soiling in inappropriate places.

#### Provide puzzling toys

Keeping pets' brains active can reduce instances of boredom. PetMD suggests food puzzle toys that can be stuffed with treats and involve brain power to unlock the food rewards.

#### Expend energy

Prior to leaving for work or school, pet

parents can help pets expend some energy so they're more inclined to sleep during the day.

The Animal Behavior College suggests an extra 20 minutes of walking each day may be enough to tire out most breeds. Working dogs, such as shepherds, pointers

and setters, may need 40 or more minutes to burn off energy.

Cat owners can play with their cats indoors, but generally cats will lounge around during the day anyway.

#### Provide white noise

Pets may have grown accustomed to the sounds of an active house, so white noise can fill the void owners' absences create. Turn on the television or

radio. Pet fountains, fans and other devices can create noises to keep pets content.

#### Introduce new toys

Keep a cache of new toys and rotate them on a regular basis. Pets may become so interested in the bevy of new toys that they fail to even realize their owners are gone for much of the day.

#### Make rest enticing

Invest in a new and cozy pet bed (or cage bedding) that's too comfortable for pets to ignore.

Pets who grew accustomed to constant companionship during the pandemic may need to readjust to a quiet home. Owners can try various strategies to help pets during this adjustment period. – *MCG*.



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# Library's reading club for kids features the 'Land of Westmount'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Welcome to "The Land of Westmount," the theme of this year's TD Summer Reading Club at the children's library based on myths and legends and a number of activities throughout the summer for children aged up to 13.

The "club" is a program that children can register for on the Westmount library's website, said children's librarian Wendy Wayling. "When they do, they can get a bag with a kit that includes a log book to record the books they will read over the summer at home or at the library as well as stickers and games to play.



"Music by the Season" with Alison Notkin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY

up," she said. In 2020, Westmount won the their activities associated with the TDSRC.

"We want as many as possible to sign national award for English libraries for

After 2-year absence from Westmount Park

# The return of concerts, theatre, mystery walk & more

By Laureen Sweeney

With the approach of mid-summer, numerous events are returning to Westmount Park after a two-year pandemic hiatus. The round of events include concerts by the lagoon, Repercussion Theatre's Shakespeare-in-the-Park performances and a new mystery walk and children's activities.

With "way too many to list," said Donna Lach, assistant director of library and community events, an entire listing can be consulted on the library's website at westlib. org and Westmount.org.

"I am looking forward to Repercussion Theatre's four presentations of All Shall Be Well," she added. "Imagine 400 years ago and London is in lockdown due to the plague pandemic. It's a must-see for everyone. This takes place Saturday, July 23 and July 24 starting at 7 pm.

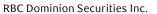
"Concerts by the lagoon are such a nice way to spend a summer afternoon too," Lach said. These start Sunday, July 17 at 2 pm.

"And if you are looking for a fun event for the whole family, our Mystery Walk will delight all as you discover or re-discover your city," Lach continued.

This is an interactive game named for the queen's jubilee and requires using a cell phone.

The Mystery Walk is among those highlighted by Julie-Anne Cardella, library and community events director, pointing out the theme: the "Curious Case of the Corgi's Collar." It's an interactive walk starting at Queen Elizabeth Gardens and going from

There are movies for kids in the park and events scheduled as part of the city's participation this year's TD Summer Reading Club (see story at left).





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The Westmount boutique is the first in Canada.

Vilebrequin is recognizable at an Instagram glance for its stand-out colour combos. That makes sense: the fabrics are printed in Italy. The collection has a come a long way from beauties on the beach.

#### Classic cut

Today, Vilebrequin offers the classic Moorea, the original swimwear cut whose iconic look was inspired by 1970s chic, as well as matching outfits for mothersdaughters and fathers-sons.

The shop also offers beachwear accessories. Fabulous big-brimmed hats that shade from the searing sun; the Le Mistral line with hand-embroidery and sterling silver ties (\$10,000); and a fun Kenny Scharf line.

"We see our fabric as a canvas," ex-

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# Vilebrequin arrives in Canada, in Westmount



Emmanuele Vinciguerra and Cheryl Glense.

plained Emmanuele Vinciguerra, Vilebrequin president of the Americas, who arrived from New York for the Canadian premiere.

Time to settle in on your sand-space? There are wonderful sop-up wrap-up beach towels, frisbees, classic French game pétanque sets, tote bags and flip flops. And

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as the sun sets, ladies can don elegant eye-catching dresses made of viscose; not only light and flattering but easy-peasy to

(An elegant blue-and-white one caught my eye as it swayed in the zephyr-driven cocktail launch.)

Vilebrequin has exploded from its south

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I can't wait. Neither can the new store's owner Cheryl Glense, just back from Cannes where she met with Vilebrequin global CEO Roland Herlory.



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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL

Lundi 1er août



#### Inscriptions pour les activités d'automne dès le 2 août

La période d'inscription pour les activités sportives et de loisirs pour l'automne commence le mardi 2 août à 8 h en ligne. Consultez le guide d'activités à westmount.org.

#### Réaménagement des structures de jeux au parc Devon

Par mesure de sécurité, l'accès à une des structures et aux balançoires du parc Devon est interdit. Un réaménagement aura lieu dans le courant de l'automne 2022. westmount.org

#### Skateparc ouvert

Situé dans le stationnement est de l'école Westmount High, le skateparc est ouvert tous les jours de 9 h à 21 pour les jeunes de 10 ans et plus. Équipements requis et règles : westmount.org.

#### Cours de loisirs gratuits dans le parc

Assistez à des cours de conditionnement, de yoga et plus, tous les mardis et jeudis de 10 h à 11 h au parc Westmount. Horaire: westmount.org.

#### Ville de Montréal: fermeture du ch. Belvédère, intersection Côte-des-Neiges

En raison de travaux de remplacement des conduites d'eau et d'égout, le ch. Belvédère sera fermé complètement à la circulation du 11 au 15 iuillet à l'intersection du chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges. westmount.org

#### Le kiosque de ferme est de retour!

Des légumes biologiques de la ferme Complètement légume seront en vente le jeudi 14 juillet de 14 h 30 à 18 h 30 au Square Prince-Albert. Pour plus de détails, visitez westmount.org.

#### Conservatoire: heures d'ouverture

Du lundi au vendredi: 10 h à 20 h Samedi et dimanche: 10 h à 17 h.

#### **NEWS**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 1st



#### **Registration for fall activities** begins August 2nd

The registration period for sports and leisure activities for the fall will begin Tuesday, August 2nd at 8 a.m. online. Consult the Sports & Recreation activity guide at westmount.org.

#### Renewal of play structures in Devon Park

For safety reasons, access to one of the play structures and to the swings in Devon Park is prohibited. A project to replace the equipment will take place in the fall of 2022. westmount.org

#### Skatepark open

Located in the east portion of the Westmount High School parking lot, the skatepark is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for youth aged 10 and up. Required equipment & rules: westmount.org.

#### Free leisure classes in the park

Join in the fitness, yoga and other classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. in Westmount Park. Schedule at westmount.org.

#### Ville de Montréal: closure of Belvédère Rd at the Côte-des-Neiges intersection

Due to water and sewer main replacement work. Ch. Belvédère will be completely closed to traffic at the intersection of Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges from July 11 to 15. westmount.org

#### The farm market stand is back!

Organic vegetables from the **Complètement** légume farm will be on sale on Thursday, July 14, from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Prince Albert Square. Find out more at westmount.org.

#### **Conservatory: opening hours**

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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#### Horaire d'été de la Bibliothèque

Du lundi au vendredi: 10 h à 21 h Le samedi: 10 h à 17 h

#### Club de lecture d'été TD 2022

Inscris-toi au club pour obtenir des suggestions de lecture et participer à des activités. Tu peux prendre part à la bataille des livres, rencontrer des auteurs, relever des défis et dénicher le livre parfait! Thème: Mythes et légendes! westlib.org

#### Marche littéraire au parc Westmount

Lors de votre prochaine visite au parc, parcourez le StoryWalk® du livre Parfois je suis un renard de l'auteure et artiste métisse Danielle Daniel.

#### Promenade mystère: La disparition du collier du corgi royal

Utilisez votre téléphone intelligent pour lire l'histoire et résoudre les énigmes en fonction de ce que vous voyez autour de vous. westmount.org

#### Exposition estivale de groupe

Du 5 juillet au 19 août. Galerie du Victoria Hall. Œuvres de dix artistes de Westmount.

#### Concerts d'été au parc Westmount Les dimanches à 14 h, du 10 juillet au 21 août,

près de l'étang. Le 10 juillet : La Horde Vocale (a capella). Visitez westmount.org pour la liste complète des concerts.

#### Ateliers pour les jeunes

Mardi 19 juillet, 16 h, parc Westmount: Création de tampons en caoutchouc (9-12 ans) Mercredi 20 juillet, 16 h, parc Westmount: Atelier Bricolage mythologique (7 ans et +) Inscription requise: westlib.org

#### Shakespeare-in-the-Park 2022

Les 23 et 24 juillet et les 3 et 4 août, 19 h, parc Westmount. All Shall Be Well. Plus de détails à repercussiontheatre.com.

#### LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### **Summer hours at the Library**

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### 2022 TD Summer Reading Club

Sign up to the Club to receive book suggestions and participate in activities. You can take part in the Battle of the Books, meet authors, and find the perfect book. Theme: Legends and Myths!

#### StoryWalk® in Westmount Park

On your next visit to the park, follow the StoryWalk® and read Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox, by Métis author and artist Danielle Daniel.

#### **Mystery Walk:**

#### The Curious Case of the Corgi's Collar

Use your smartphone to read the story and solve the riddles based on what you see around you. westmount.org

#### **Summer Group Exhibition**

July 5 to August 19. Gallery at Victoria Hall. Works by ten Westmount artists.

#### **Summer concerts in Westmount Park** Sundays at 2 p.m., from July 10 to August 21,

near the lagoon. July 10: La Horde Vocale (a capella). Visit westmount.org for the concert list.

#### Workshops for children

Tuesday, July 19, 4 p.m., Westmount Park: Stamp Making (9-12 yr olds)

Wednesday, July 20, 4 p.m., Westmount Park: Mythical Craft Workshop (7 yrs+) Registration required: westlib.org

#### Shakespeare-in-the-Park 2022

July 23 & 24, and August 3 &

4,7 p.m., Westmount Park. All Shall Be Well. Details at repercussiontheatre.com.





Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

After a few years of lesser crowds, Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts once again had a full house. The Future Stars' grand premiere on June 7 was a resounding success.

Organizing committee co-chairs were Westmounter Sylvie Chagnon, management of corporate donations, Lallemand, board member Fondation de la Place des Arts; along with Sandra Chartrand, president, Fondation Sandra et Alain Bouchard, vice-president, Fondation de la Place des Arts; and Jacques Marchand, honorary president, LCI Éducation, working with committee members Louise St-Pierre, board chair of Société de la Place des Arts and Fondation de la Place des Arts; Marie-**Iosée Desrochers**. CEO. Société de la Place des Arts, board member Fondation de la Place des Arts: Catherine Samson, senior director, communications and outreach Québec, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, board member Fondation de la Place des Arts; Jean-Philippe Lemay, CEO, Fiera continued on p. 22

# Future Stars bring large crowd to Place des Arts



From left, first row: Louise St-Pierre, Sandra Chartrand, Sylvie Chagnon, Marie-Josée Desrochers; back: Catherine Samson, Jean-Philippe Lemay, Frédérique Cardinal, Jacques Marchand, Marc Blondeau and Amélie Fortier-Cyr.



# CATCH IT WHILE YOU CAN

How can one truly appreciate the amazing range of colours nature provides? This amazing creation with sapphire wings must been seen in person to truly be understood.



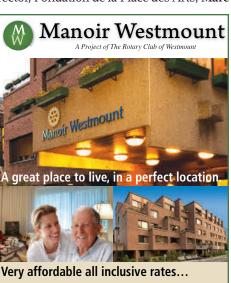
Patek Philippe · Parmigiani Fleurier

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**Social notes,** cont'd from p. 21

Capital, president, Fondation de la Place des Arts; Frédérique Cardinal, executive director, Fondation de la Place des Arts; Marc



- ✓ All meals
- Medication distribution

✓ 24 hour security

- ✓ Daily tea
- ✓ Daily housekeeping ✓ 24 hour nurse
- ✓ Personal Laundry
- Extensive activity programme

#### Manoir Westmount Inc.

4646 Sherbrooke Street West Westmount, QC H3Z 2Z8



For an appointment to view, please call

www.manoirwestmount.ca

Blondeau, and Amélie Fortier-Cyr, managing director Lancôme, L'Oreal Canada, board member, Fondation de la Place des

Guests enjoyed a pre-concert cocktail



Ericka Alneus and Marie-Josée Desrochers.

buffet and after the program a wine and dessert reception to meet the artists. With artistic direction by Valérie Milot - an internationally renowned musician and the first harpist in over 100 years to win the Prix d'Europe – the event was a showcase for exceptionally talented young artists working in various disciplines of the performing arts.

Guest conductor was Hubert Tanguay-Labrosse.

"Emerging artists" were Emrik Revermann, violin Elisabeth Pion, piano; Romain-Olivier Gray, cello; and Devon Packer, piano and composition.

"Established artists" were soprano Myriam Leblanc and Zal Sissokho, kora.

Also performing were the Orchestre de l'Agora and Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal, a choir of 80 young singers. Among the many enjoying the sold-out night were lawyer Eric Gosselin, partner business law group McCarthy Tétrault and Place des Arts board vice-chair; André Provencher, senior business advisor, Inno-centre; Capital, president, Fondation de la Place des Arts and Ericka Alneus, member of the executive committee of the city of Montreal, responsible for culture and heritage.

The magical eve raised a record amount of more than \$688,000. The funds will allow the fondation to pursue its mission by continuing to support the two components of Place des Arts' L'Art en soi program - Education and Communities which, each year, offer cultural and educational activities to benefit all citizens, introducing them to the performing arts with support from professional artists.



Eric Gosselin and André Provencher.

#### Music and Art for Ukrainian Refugees

#### INVITATION

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



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

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

En collaboration avec l'Association de la culture et du patrimoine d'Abercorn et le Centre culturel d'Abercorn

Renowned sculptor

David James

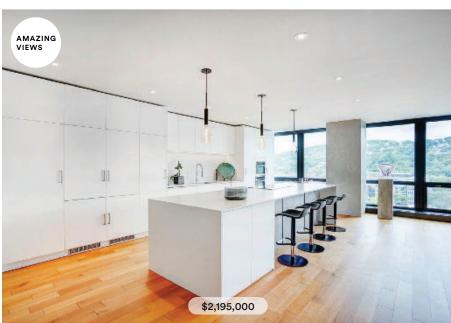
The Art of Sculpture

TICKETS \$60 Limited seating



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