

**PAC recommendation: unfavourable**

## Hillside armoury developer can pursue permit request, or change proposal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A decision on how to proceed with a proposal to turn the historic former Hillside armoury into 27 residential units now appears to lie mainly in the hands of the developer. This follows a design review and unfavourable recommendation by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The findings were brought to light in minutes of the PAC meeting of July 14 tabled at the Westmount city council meeting August 15.

While these went without comment, urban planning commissioner Conrad Peart later told the *Independent* that the project applicant (developer/architect) had been informed of the PAC opinion and was presented with two options.

These are: "to modify their proposal and re-submit for PAC review, or to maintain their proposal as-is for council consideration. The city awaits their written confirmation of the chosen option."

He soon updated it to add that the applicant had opted to defer a council decision while they contemplate their strategy before proceeding further.

He also said they "presumably" were aware of a neighbourhood petition opposing the project (separate story p. 10).

"We have to analyze the reasons behind the PAC opinion," explained Maya Girlando, *continued on p. 10*

## Summer office?



Xavier Ayme had parked his electric bike and was doing a little reading on his tablet in King George (Murray) Park Saturday, August 20. Ayme, who works in logistics and transportation, moved to Montreal from France 20 years ago.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



## Architectural 'grands prix' awards

### City hall's restoration work cited for bronze, silver and gold

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As this summer's work on city hall continues with the restoration of windows, comes news that the project to restore the exterior of the 100-year-old heritage building had carried off awards in three categories of the "15th Grands Prix du design."

This is a competition created in 2007 to recognize the work of designers and archi-

itects working in Quebec but opened worldwide in 2020.

In the classification of architecture, the four-phase city hall project won bronze certification for institutional buildings as well as silver for heritage enhancement and gold for architecture and renovation.

Most of the work has involved the use of original building material – stone, roof and *continued on p. 6*

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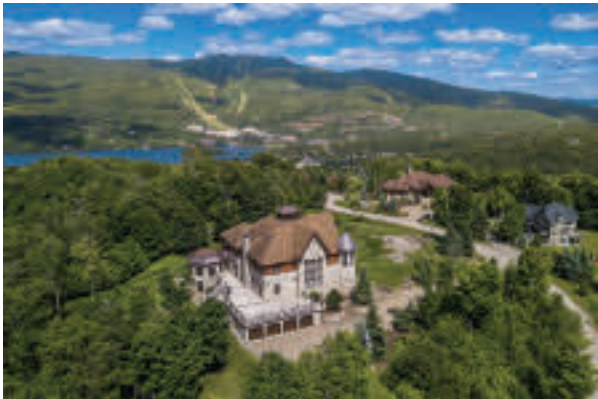
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# Need to wear helmet cited as cyclist flies over handlebars on hill

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A cyclist was taken to hospital August 15 after “flying” over the handlebars of her bike in front of 678 Victoria, Public Security officials said. She was reported to have been trying to slow down on the steep top of the hill just south of The Boulevard when the incident occurred around 8 am.

The driver of a car behind her stopped it to prevent traffic hitting her, went to her assistance and waited with her for Urgences Santé, which took her to the Verdun Hospital. Public Security took the bicycle to the station on Stanton St. and reported she had not been wearing a helmet, though the extent of injuries was not reported.

When the cyclist, a 20-year-old resident of Park Ave., arrived to pick up her bike two days later, she confirmed she had been riding a little fast on the hill and had to suddenly apply the brakes, said Public Security director Greg McBain.

“The importance of wearing a helmet was emphasized,” he explained. He also noted how “fortunate it was that the Good Samaritan managed to stop and wait with her for Urgences Santé.”

## Back-to-school preparation campaign under way

Public safety officers have been conducting a special campaign to inspect the safety of school zones around Westmount schools, according to director Greg McBain. “We’ve been looking for branches, bushes and other foliage that might be covering signs as well as testing traffic lights and checking out pedestrian crossings.”

Any deficiencies including missing signs were being noted to inform Public Works in time for the approaching return to school.

## Branch falls on car, traced though parking permit

The branch of a tree was discovered August 5 to have fallen on the top of a red Dodge parked at Redfern and St. Catherine, Public Security officials said. The owner of the car was informed after being identified by the city parking permit. The damage to the car was noticed at 6:23 am.

## Woman trips on hole on de Maisonneuve Blvd.

A Public Security patroller on de Maisonneuve August 18 noticed a woman fall outside Westmount Square around 10:50 am and parked to help her, department officials said. She complained of a sore left knee and had scratches on the knees, saying she had tripped while walking and dropped her phone.

The city of Montreal resident explained she had fallen on a hole (cracked pavement) and was informed the defect was on Westmount Square property should she want to pursue a complaint.

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Launching a new feature?  
**Council introduces new way  
to answer questions**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Looking for answers to questions asked at council meetings?

A new process was tried out at the opening of the August 15 city council meeting to provide answers asked by residents at a previous meeting in person or sent online.

Since some questioners have noted that answers they sought had been promised by “we’ll get back to you” but not received, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* after the meeting that “we are trying” the new system “for questions that can be answered.”

As it turned out, no questions were asked at the recent meeting, but substitute director general Michel Larue answered three questions from the previous session, August 1.

These concerned the “deplorable condition” of sidewalks in Victoria village specifically in front of the Metro store (from Denis Biro), as well as on-going noise from the Metro store’s roof top ventilation from Dave Dorey of Grosvenor, and the city’s vision for tree replacement in general and

specifically King George (Murray) Park (from Sophie Robitaille).

Larue stated to those three questions that the team at Public Works will start filling sidewalks “beginning next week” (i.e. August 22 to 26), that attempts were made to move the Metro units but a solution was still being sought involving the city’s Urban Planning department and Metro, and that the city’s plan for tree replacement can be found on the city’s website. Mayor Smith thanked Larue for his “quick follow-up.”

**Poodle wanders  
into Westmount**

A beige poodle reported to have been found running around at 16 Sunnyside August 18 at 8:24 am was taken to the Public Security station. It was soon retrieved by the owner, a resident of Trafalgar, who called looking for it, officials said. Although the dog did not wear any tags, no tickets were issued since the owner’s house is not located within the city territory.

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A worker using a power tool on a window grille on the west side of city hall August 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

.....  
**City Hall, cont'd from p. 1**

windows – which the city’s urban planning commissioner Conrad Peart has explained as the city following its own regulations for renovating heritage-rated 1\* buildings.

“The city is both pleased and proud to be recognized for the ongoing restoration project,” he said last week, pointing out that in 2011 Parks Canada had recognized city hall as a national historic site.

**Leading by example**

“The city of Westmount is committed to the responsible stewardship of our unique built heritage,” he added. “We hold our property owners to a high standard – it follows that the city should take every opportunity to lead by example. This project is the realization of this responsibility.”

The project began in 2019 to ensure the sustainability of the building with work and repairs to the exterior limestone

masonry at a contracted price of \$991,085 to Maçonnerie Rainville et Frères (see story June 11, 2019, p. 1).

This first phase of the project was followed by restoration and renovation of the slate-shingle roof for some \$1.4 million using purple and green slate, a material described as “faithful to the original choice” (see story June 9, 2020, p. 1).

The third phase, which began this year, is being undertaken again by Maçonnerie Rainville at a total contracted amount of \$2.2 million (see story April 5, 2022, p. 3). This applies to restoration of the wooden elements of the leaded glass windows made of Douglas fir.

The fourth phase will be landscaping to include the area around city hall as well as Vimy Park around the cenotaph.

The award cites the following as being involved in the work: Nadeau Blondin Lortie architects, FNX-INNOV Inc. and Couverture Montreal-Nord.

*Liu promoted from ‘advisor’*  
**Legal services office re-creates assistant director post**



Stephanie Zhao Liu, centre, is congratulated on her appointment at the council meeting August 15 by Mayor Christina Smith, left, and Denis Ferland, director of legal services and city clerk.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council August 15 appointed Stephanie Zhao Liu to the position of assistant director of legal services and assistant city clerk after her work in the department for a year and a half in the position of advisor.

The appointment, effective August 16, was moved by Councillor Jeff Shamie, commissioner of finance and administration, as an item of new business and approved unanimously by council.

Liu joined the city’s legal team in January 2021 for a professional internship and was later named advisor – legal services and city clerk’s office. She was also reported to have played a major role in the management of the 2021 municipal election.

The office has undergone several management changes since the departure of its previous director and city clerk Andrew Brownstein September 10, 2021 on the approach of the municipal elections November 7.

It was announced at that time that the city would not be filling the vacancy of assistant city clerk.

When this left the city without a returning officer for the elections, the city brought in François Rivard from the municipal law firm of Bélanger Sauvé to serve as the returning officer.

The city’s director general, Hadi Hakim, was appointed substitute city clerk until Denis Ferland was hired as the legal director and city clerk in January (see January 18, 2022, p. 1).

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*Also Saturday, September 10, 2 pm @ 7:30 pm, and Sunday, September 11, 2 pm*

**Thursday, September 15**

Book launch and presentation of *Autobiography of a Garden* by author Patterson Webster. Westmount Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave. 5 to 7 pm.



**Don’t Miss  
our  
pet  
supplement,  
p. 22**

## Resident Beitel: Is there really a rule against riding a bike in Westmount Park?



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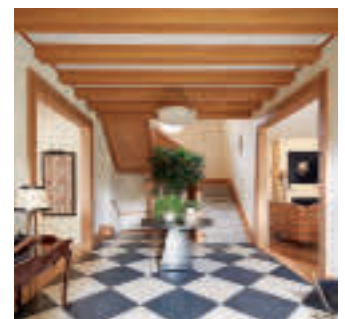
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ANDY DODGE

# July sales: Volume is (still) the issue

15 total sales were posted after 18 sales were negotiated in April alone.

The average number of sales in July (going back to 1986) is 11.6 and for the three-month period the average is 43.5, so agents have a long way to go to catch up to the “typical” mid-summer volume.

**Montreal volume drops by half**

For Montreal, the volume has dropped by almost half since April, so the trend in Westmount reflects the trend for all of Montreal, though the very low volume makes any comparison of price movement difficult to assess.

The top price in July was only \$2,750,000, lower than the adjusted average price of Westmount homes for the month; the lowest price of \$1,350,000 was the only one below \$2 million, thus showing the difficulty developing statistics with such a low number of sales.

**Interest rates up**

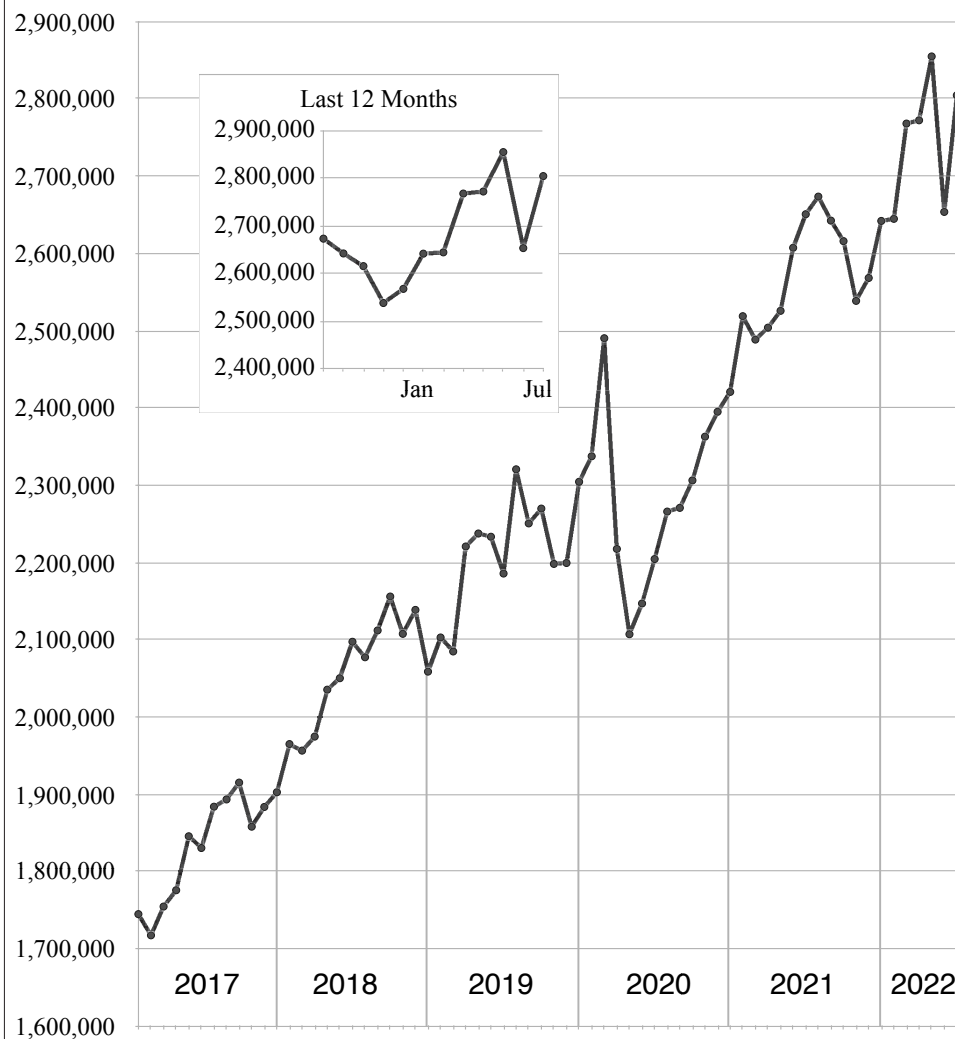
Interest rates started climbing in April, and removal of the mask mandate offered some hope that the pandemic was coming to an end and that home offices and/or more living space in homes could become a thing of the past. The market is still in a “transition” mode,” not quite sure what shape it might take in the coming months.

**No condos**

The same might be said of Westmount's condominium market; in fact, no condos sold in July and only one co-op apartment at 3 Westmount Square, though two other co-ops, one at 3 Westmount Square and one at 300 Lansdowne Ave., were posted as having been sold in June.

Only four adjacent-Westmount sales were reported in July, including one house, one condo/duplex and one share of a duplex, all in the Côte des Neiges area south of Queen Mary Rd., and one house in the Trafalgar/Daulac area just east of Westmount.

Average adjusted price for ‘typical’ Westmount house, by month, January 2017 to July 2022, based on accepted offer dates

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The Hillside armoury on August 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

**Hillside**, cont'd from p. 1

development director for Groupeimmo Élite. “We’re in the dark at the moment. We have to look at details and receive information from the PAC.”

Girlando said she was not surprised by the PAC opinion since the city’s design review committee had also provided an unfavourable recommendation to the council at a demolition hearing. Nevertheless, the demolition proposal had received approval by the council in its role as the city’s Demolition Committee (see story February 22, p. 13).

This was to allow the dismantling of 87 percent of the building to build the residential units as the project goes through the SCAOPI approval process for buildings that do not conform to current zoning.

**PAC’s reasons**

While the recent PAC minutes stated that a residential project “is appropriate for the environment,” they listed a number of “considerations” leading to a conclusion

that “the harmonious integration of the (proposed) building with the built environment, particularly in regard to its location, is not achieved.”

The site is located at the corner of Hillside and Hillside Lane. This is directly across from the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) to the east, St. Margaret’s Residence to the south and next door to a condo building to the west where several residents have continued to voice opposition to the windowed west wall and balconies of the proposed new building.

**Planning, building history**

In the recent case of the Goode house on Côte St. Antoine (see July 5, p. 16 and August 9, p. 9), city council approved a project at a Category 1\* building (the city’s highest/most protected designation) despite an unfavourable PAC recommendation. The Hillside armoury has a heritage rating of Category II (see April 1, 2014, p. 14).

The building dates to 1910 and 1911 when built as a riding academy and then

used for many years as an armoury both in accordance with zoning at the time. The army moved out in 2014 after 67 years (see story April 1, 2014, p. 1) citing unsafe and deteriorating conditions.

**Neighbours file petition**

A petition against the proposal’s west wall was presented to the city July 14, according to William Chan, one of the organizers and a resident of the 11 Hillside condo building. It had collected some 25-30 signatures, he told the *Independent*.

These are mainly residents of the building who had been opposing the lack of privacy they feared from the proximity of windows and balconies on the project’s west wall, as has already been raised at the demolition hearing (see story February 8, p. 10). The petitioners are also asking for the west wall to be further set back from their building and that the south wall also be set back from the street, he said.

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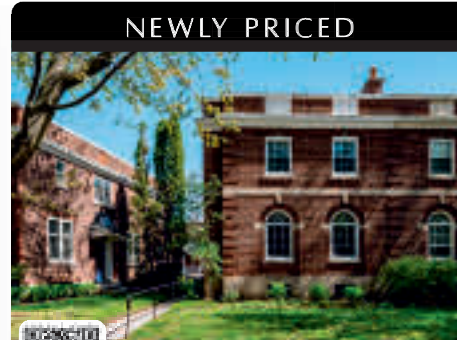
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**\$2,450,000**



AV. ARLINGTON | WESTMOUNT  
**\$2,250,000**



AV. LANSDOWNE | WESTMOUNT  
**\$1,979,000**



### NEWLY PRICED

CH. DE CASSON | WESTMOUNT  
**\$1,885,000**

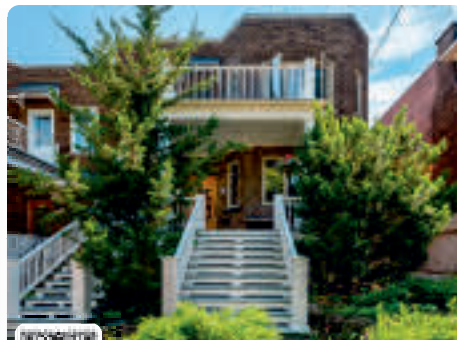


### NEW LISTING

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AV. IRVINE | WESTMOUNT  
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AV. DE VENDÔME | CDN/NDG  
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### NEWLY PRICED

RUE VINET | LE SUD-OUEST  
**\$699,000**

Police Report

‘Stone dust’ at Israeli consulate demo was symbolic, police told

MARTIN C. BARRY

Police who intervened at a protest event outside the Israeli consulate on August 10 at Westmount Square – where at least one demonstrator allegedly brought along a sack of decorative stones for unspecified reasons – were told that the purpose of the materials was “symbolic,” a Station 12 spokesman has told the *Independent*.

Supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have gathered outside the consulate at Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. on several occasions over the past few years to stage noisy demonstrations.

Leading up to their gathering around 8:30 pm on August 10, a witness told the *Independent* he saw several participants remove bags of garden stones from their cars and carry them over to the base of the Westmount Square stairs on the east side of Wood (see August 16, p. 5).

According to Station 12 community re-

lations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, someone called 9-1-1 that evening with a complaint about stones or rocks being deployed at the scene, although the intervening police officers were told by one of the demonstrators interviewed that the contents of the sacks was symbolic.

“The officers don’t write why,” Yigit said, reading from the incident report filed by the police officers. “But they spoke to the gentleman who deposited the bag, and the officers told him that he was going to have to take away the bag because of the danger that it might cause.”

According to the officers’ report, only one bag was identified as having been brought to the scene and – contrary to what the witness interviewed by the *Independent* for last week’s paper said that he saw – it was labelled as containing “*poussière de roche*” (stone dust), a by-product of crushed limestone often used to underlie outdoor paving stones.

“The gentleman who deposited it spoke

to the officers and said that it’s symbolic,” said Yigit, noting that the gathering took place at the end of a larger protest event that began downtown a few hours earlier.

**‘Coffee with a Cop’ is back**

Station 12’s community relations staff plans to hold another of their popular “Coffee with a Cop” public safety information gatherings at the McDonald’s restaurant on Sherbrooke St. at the corner of Claremont Ave. (5011 Sherbrooke St. West) from 10 am to 1 pm on Thursday August 25.

In the past, a good number of Westmounters, and especially seniors, have found it convenient to be able to sit down with the police to ask specific questions based on their security concerns, while being served a free cup of coffee.

**Looking for crosswalk guards**

With the new school year set to begin shortly, Station 12 is in need of crosswalk guards and is currently screening appli-

cants for the part-time positions.

The crossing guards’ work hours correspond to time periods on weekdays when students are going to or leaving school (morning, noon hour and mid-afternoon).

While the guards are paid by the hour when they are on duty, an added perk is that they receive employment insurance benefits during long off-periods, such as summer vacation.

“It’s a Monday-to-Friday job that’s a nice little source of revenue, especially for somebody who is retired and who doesn’t mind getting up early,” said Yigit.

According to a posting on the Montreal police department’s website, “on-call” school crossing guards (to replace permanent school crossing guards on an as-needed basis) are paid \$12.51 per hour. (Nothing is said about the permanent school crossing guards’ pay.)

Interested applicants can contact Station 12 directly at 514.280.0112, or Montreal police headquarters at 514.280.3210.

How green is my alley?

Homeowners evaluated on their recycling, composting habits

By JENNIFER BALL

To date, about half of Westmount homes have had the contents of their compost and recycling bins inspected and this will continue until the end of the summer. It is not the first year of this type of inspection.

If you have received an evaluation door hanger, it was circulated on behalf of an environment technician leading a public-awareness project for the city, Patricia Racette. Assisting her is her “green patroller,” Eve Liszkowski.

“She is an employee of the Regroupement des éco-quartiers assigned to Westmount and she worked for the city on different projects throughout the summer: green- and blue-bin inspections, implementation of the composting program in multi-unit buildings, education on proper waste management, *et cetera*,” Racette said.

When residents could be away for an extended period over the summer, isn’t having Liszkowski place door hangers telegraphing their absence?

“If a door hanger was left, it was because waste was left, meaning that someone was home,” Racette explained, while conceding that using the mail slot in the future could be an option.

The evaluation will often be about “the common mistakes that people are doing

2015:	2,014 tonnes of recycling and 575 tonnes of food waste
2020:	2,153 tonnes of recycling and 586 tonnes of food waste

[which will be noted in the ‘pro tip’ comment box at the bottom of the form]. Styrofoam does not go into the recycling bin. For compost bins, often people are using plastic bags,” Racette said.

The reverse side of the door hanger outlines what can go into the blue bin as well as items that cannot be recycled.

Plastics!

When recycling plastics, you need to review the labelling.

“When you have a plastic item, look for the triangle for three arrows, sometimes it can be underneath and it has a number inside of it. If it is up to number five and number seven, it is recyclable, but if it is number six, it is not recyclable.

“Also, if there are letters and no numbers, it means that it is not recyclable,” Racette said.

Racette said some Westmount homeowners needed to be reminded to put their recycling out before 7 am, because “people forget to put their recycling at the curbside, and then they call us and they scream at us that we missed them.”

“We have cameras on our truck so 99.9



A door hanger in situ, and up close August 17.

percent of the time, we can see when there was no recycling curbside [on time].”

Between 2021 and 2022, there was a 30-percent increase in dog ownership in Westmount, Gregory McBain, the director of Westmount Public Safety said in April of this year. If dog owners believe that their pets feces can go into the compost bin, they are mistaken. Liquids, plastics and feces are strictly prohibited.

Racette shared her statistics that represented tonnages collected from the city of Westmount from 2014 to 2021. While recent statistics Canada census data shows that the population of Westmount has decreased three percent between the years 2015 and 2020, we are producing more recycling and food waste, although this might partially be the result of diverting items from garbage.

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Dear Westmount owners,

Thinking of selling this Fall or early next year? NOW is the perfect time to contact your trusted Real Estate Advisor to have some Summer pictures taken of the exterior of your property. Also, the perfect time to order a new certificate of location if older than 10 years or if it does not reflect the current state of your property.

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# Douglas Foundation honours trustees Ivory, Giannetti with ‘Builder of Hope’ awards



*Social Notes*  
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter **Sarah Ivory** along with **Marisa Giannetti** was recently honoured by the Douglas Foundation. They were presented with the Builder of Hope Award for their years of service as ambassadors and as key members of its board of trustees.

The recognition is awarded to stakeholders who contributed to the growth of the foundation in recent years.

Giannetti is immediate past president of the board of trustees and hopes “the foundation can continue to raise funds for the well-being of patients who suffer from mental health problems.”

Ivory commented that she is “eager to learn about the next advancements made by mental health experts at the Douglas.”

### ‘Been an honour’

**Laura Fish**, CEO of the Douglas Foundation, said “it has been an honour to work with both of them and I am very grateful for their dedication to the success of our organization.

“Their efforts helped tremendously to raise awareness for mental illness and to establish the Douglas as a force to be reckoned with in mental health research and care in Quebec.”

Created in 1972, the foundation supports and finances the development of the Douglas Institute, including work in patients’ care and their environment, research in neuroscience and mental health as well as education and training.



Sarah Ivory, Laura Fish and Maria Giannetti.

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## McKenzie launches 13th novel



Westmounter Catherine McKenzie launched her 13th novel, *Please Join Us*, at Indigo Place Montreal Trust on August 20. It is published by Simon & Schuster. She was also in Pointe Claire the next day for a signing. She is the wife of the *Independent's* editor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF C. MCKENZIE.



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-Sheri Spunt



Westmount Hebrew has been wonderful for our children. They learned a lot and were well motivated by their enthusiastic and kind morahs. The private Hebrew classes have been very successful, plus the projects have been so *creative* and engaging.

-Alana Schwartz



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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE  
DU CONSEIL

Mardi 6 septembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING

Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>



**Concours : capsule temporelle**  
Cet automne, Westmount dévoilera le contenu d'une capsule temporelle enterrée il y a cent ans. La Ville lance un concours pour déterminer le contenu de la prochaine capsule! Renseignez-vous en visitant [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Retour à l'horaire régulier le 29 août**  
La semaine prochaine, les bureaux municipaux reprennent l'horaire de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 du lundi au vendredi.

**Inscription d'automne en cours**  
Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant à vos activités préférées de sports et de loisirs. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Travaux : fermeture du ch. Belvédère entre Le Boulevard et Sunnyside**  
La Ville de Montréal reprend les travaux sur le réseau principal d'eau **du 15 au 31 août**. La circulation locale sera maintenue. [montreal.ca](https://montreal.ca).

**Éclairage durable au parc King George**  
Hydro Westmount a terminé l'installation de lampes DEL dans les lampadaires du parc King

George. Cette transition vers un éclairage public écoénergétique se poursuivra dans tous les parcs et les rues de la Ville. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Rappel : fraude aux grands-parents**  
Augmentation des cas d'arnaque téléphonique visant les personnes âgées. Renseignez-vous afin de la prévenir. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Réaménagement du parc Devon**  
Des travaux de réaménagement du parc Devon débuteront en septembre 2022. Consultez le plan sur [engage.westmount.org](https://engage.westmount.org)

**Collecte d'encombrants en septembre**  
La collecte du lundi 5 septembre est reportée au mardi 6 septembre. Visitez [westmount.org](https://westmount.org) pour connaître le jour de collecte dans votre secteur.



**Time Capsule Contest**  
This fall, Westmount will reveal the contents of a time capsule buried 100 years ago. The City is launching a contest to determine the contents of the next capsule! Find out more by visiting [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Regular schedule resumes August 29**  
Municipal offices will return to the schedule of 8:30 to 4:30, Monday to Friday next week.

**Registration for fall activities**  
Register now for your favourite sports and recreation activities. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Water work: closure of Belvédère Rd. between The Boulevard and Sunnyside**  
The Ville de Montréal will resume water main work **from August 15<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>**. Local traffic will be maintained.). [montreal.ca](https://montreal.ca).

**Energy-efficient lighting in King George Park**  
Westmount Hydro has completed the installation of LED lights in the King George Park lighting

fixtures. This transition to energy efficient street lighting will continue in all City parks and streets. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Reminder: grandparent fraud**  
Local police have reported an increase in phone fraud targeting seniors. Find out more, and learn to prevent it. [westmount.org](https://westmount.org)

**Redesigning Devon Park**  
Work to redesign Devon Park and replace the play structure will begin in September 2022. Consult the plans at [engage.westmount.org](https://engage.westmount.org).

**Curbside collection of bulky items**  
**First week of September.** The Monday collection is moved to Tuesday, September 6. Visit [westmount.org](https://westmount.org) to find your collection day.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

**Horaire d'été de la Bibliothèque**  
Lundi au vendredi de 10 h à 21 h  
Samedi de 10 h à 17 h

**Club de lecture d'été TD 2022**  
Inscris-toi au CLETD! 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](https://westlib.org)

**Marche littéraire au parc Westmount**  
*Parfois je suis un renard* de 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](https://westmount.org)

**L'aventure du Pique-nique mythique**  
Participez à cette promenade mystère interactive au parc Westmount (4 à 12 ans). [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

**Film sous les étoiles : Encanto (2021)**  
**Jeudi 25 août, au crépuscule**, parc Westmount. Apportez vos chaises et couvertures. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

**CLETD TD 2022 : fête de clôture**  
**Samedi 17 septembre, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. Les membres du club sont invités à un après-midi ludique, avec des prix, en présence du magicien The Amazing Todsky.

**Parlons opéra! : Il Trovatore**  
**Dimanche 28 août, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. En collaboration avec l'Opéra de Montréal. Inscrivez-vous à [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Cinéma sous les étoiles : Une fois que tu sais (2020)**  
**Mercredi 31 août, 20 h**, parc Westmount. Apportez vos chaises et couvertures. En collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.

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 TDSRC! You can take part in the Battle of the Books, meet authors, and find the perfect book. Theme: *Legends and Myths!* [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

**StoryWalk® in Westmount Park**  
*Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox*, by 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](https://westmount.org).

**Mythic Summer Picnic Mystery Walk**  
Take part in this interactive walk in Westmount Park (ages 4-12). [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

**Movie Under the Stars: Encanto (2021)**  
**Thursday, August 25, dusk**, Westmount Park. Bring your chairs and blankets. [westlib.org](https://westlib.org)

**2022 TDSRC closing party**  
**Saturday, September 17, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Club members are invited to an afternoon of fun and prizes with magician The Amazing Todsky.

**Let's Talk Opera!: Il Trovatore**  
**Sunday, August 28, 2 p.m.** Victoria Hall. In collaboration with l'Opéra de Montréal. Register in advance at [westmount.org](https://westmount.org).

**Cinema Under the Stars: Once You Know (2020)**  
**Wednesday, August 31, 8 p.m.**, Westmount Park. Bring your chairs and blankets. In collaboration with the Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.



# Dawson College named 'Sustainability Institution of the Year'

By JENNIFER BALL

Dawson College was named Sustainability Institution of the Year on July 6 by the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education. Dawson beat out 56 finalists from 19 countries and Chris Adam, the coordinator of Sustainable Dawson's projects and initiatives, Dawson College teacher Paul Wasacz and student/intern Narcisse Hassan were happy to provide the *Independent* a tour of the projects that sealed the deal.

Dawson is a leafy campus between Atwater Ave. on the east and Wood Ave. on the west.

"Whenever a tree branch falls, they take the branches and set them down to decompose. It's going to attract whole new insects and different biodiversity," Hassan said.



From left, Chris Adam, Narcisse Hassan and Paul Wasacz outside the Peace Garden, on the west side of Dawson College campus on August 11.



Progress on the raised marsh bioretention zone on August 11.

"They found an orchid in another biodiversity-zone, so you know it is working."

The current sustainability project that the team showed off is affectionally called "the pit."

"It's actually a raised marsh or bioretention zone," Adam said. Huge piles of gravel had been delivered that day and it was up to a physical education class to disperse it.

"It is a new PE class where they are going to – through eco-landscaping – create a micro-habitat to increase our biodiversity. We are creating our first raised wetland," Adam said.

"Being physically active does not necessarily need to be done inside a gym or on a sports team," Wasacz said. "It can be done in a variety of ways and movement is good."

There are hundreds of ecologic components to the project, the team explained. A dragonfly or a damselfly can have a full life-cycle here by finding its food source in the campus flower gardens and then finding a place in the wetland to lay its eggs.

A college social media competition is

currently under way to be the first to photograph the insect's hatchlings. "That is the evaluation of our institution: even this insect has the right to have its full life-cycle in downtown [Westmount]," Adam said.

It was also in this downtown Westmount setting, in 2006, that a gunman caused 19 injuries and one death before taking his own life.

"The day the shooting happened was the day we started sustainable Dawson," Adam said. "We all question ourselves. 'Why do we teach? How do we build hope?' There is that hope now of 'I am doing something for my planet.' With these simple scaffolding goals, you build resilience and once you have that, everything else is a bonus."

The memory garden on the grounds of Dawson College commemorates Anastasia De Sousa, who died as a result of the violence.

"A tragic event like that forces us to think about what really matters," Adam said. "We changed the vocabulary. We may work for the Sustainability office but now

we have changed it to "sustainable living campus," where well-being for all is a core value. How do we take care of ourselves, others and the planet? That is sustainability!"

Thriving close by to the De Sousa Garden is a little tree. Taken as a cutting from a ginkgo that emerged from the ash after a B-29 Superfortress dropped a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, the tree serves as a memo to the sustainable living campus that the natural world can snap back despite humankind's malevolence.

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Two Sandras reminisce, 2+ years into COVID

# Other people are an extension of us

BY SANDRA HENDLISZ

At times in the pandemic, we were cast in a situation of the total lockdown of our city and thus isolation. It is known that without social connection we can deteriorate into madness. The experience of children who were born during the pandemic was different from their siblings as they did not interact with other children as their sisters and brothers had.

Thus, on a personal level, I felt I had to engage in activities that are both meaningful and fulfilling, yet without the physical connections we get from others. I read a

fear of being infected. My friends who live alone felt particularly vulnerable. As I pondered my life, I thought that despite some very painful patches, I've been quite fortunate. That said, any existing issues were compounded by the isolation we lived in.

At this point, with the pandemic slowly and seemingly waning, we look forward to connecting with others. Knowing our darkest place will make it a lot easier to be in the company of others. Understanding others as we understand ourselves are all part of a shared humanity. We have never held ourselves more apart and above as the epidemic of loneliness surged with the

# Chasing safety, finding each other

BY SANDRA FELDMAN

At its worst, COVID seemed like a serial killer bent on killing us in our homes. Now it is more like an unwanted guest who won't leave.

The worst of the pandemic may be behind us – or so we hope – but the virus still casts a shadow over our lives. We have been vaccinated and bolstered to the max, yet we still feel vulnerable to a disease that the two Sandras have so far managed to avoid.

The anxiety lingers.

So does the isolation, although summer

might have contracted anyway in terms of work, travel, entertaining and other activities. But COVID hastened and exaggerated that process, and stole choices from us at a time when they are fewer and more precious.

But on the positive side: I feel so lucky to have a life partner with whom to share the isolation and insecurity. The COVID crisis seems to be bringing some people together; siblings are closer, friends talk more, and everyone has a greater appreciation for the short times they can spend together.

This increased feeling of human connection

may also lead to greater empathy for people beyond our social circles. War and terrorism continue in spite of COVID; there is so much suffering and real pain in the world. It seems to me that the collective trauma we have gone through in the past few years has helped us identify more with the deprivation of the less fortunate. We feel a rawer connection.

Another positive effect, in my own life, has been music. Now that we are spending so much time at home, music has become our hobby. We have started taking ukulele lessons

on Zoom. There is something unique and adorable about this instrument and learning to play it, even a little, brings joy and laughter to our lives. (Along with some nervousness about playing and performing. Another anxiety!)

Yes, people are slowly creeping back to “normal” life. But maybe we are doing so with a deeper sense of the interdependency and kinship of groups, and a richer appreciation for the small gestures of giving and receiving that can somehow raise our spirits. As we learn to live with the loss and fear that come with COVID, our spirits are lifted by the security that comes from the routines of daily life in the face of it.

*Retired Westmount High English teacher Sandra Hendlisz is a former Westmounter. Both Sandras attend the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. See February 16, 2021, p. 22, June 15, 2021, p. 18 and October 26, 2021, p. 16 for their previous reminiscences*



From left, Sandra Hendlisz and Sandra Feldman on August 16 at the newly re-opened Westmount greenhouse.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

lot, at times with limited concentration. I walked a lot as form of exercise and meditation.

On these long walks in downtown Montreal, my husband and I noticed all the businesses that were bankrupt. Imagine St. Catherine St. with so many bankrupt stores. As well, I wrote frequently as I felt a strong desire to express myself. Throughout these long and restrictive days, I tried to spend a lot of time practising gratitude for the gifts in my life. The methods of communication were either the internet or the telephone, which is not the same as in-person contact. The thoughts may have come across, but the communications left me feeling unsatisfied and that I had not been able to express myself as I wanted. Sometimes I even felt annoyed at the interaction.

Most of us, after more than two years of the pandemic experienced some degree of complete or partial isolation and may have felt extreme anxiety, loneliness and

COVID one. A study in the US said that one fifth of people rarely or never feel close to people and it is particularly prevalent now. When we see others as an extension of ourselves, we can integrate into this changed world with joy. We can also play a little, which has been absent from our lives and is so invigorating for our souls. We must come alive again as there are so many components in our lives that have been missing during the lockdown.

Socializing might take some courage after being alone for so long. The act of being with others takes some compassion. Thus, if we had spent a little time trying to understand ourselves, the trauma of the last couple of years will help in becoming intimate with one another. We will be able to have a healing mechanism of the torn field between us. We must relearn the skills of being with each other as we are out of practice.

at least permits socializing outdoors, with that new oxymoron called “social distancing.”

In this third year of COVID, we feel some gratitude to science and medicine for how quickly and how far our response to COVID has progressed in the course of this global crisis. Yet many people I know have been caught in the most recent uptick of cases (early July): older, more vulnerable people, who have not been reckless in exposing themselves to contagion. Some think everyone will eventually get it.

So, important life milestones such as funerals, marriages, retirement parties, church and synagogue events entail major decisions about whether or not to attend. We think about risks and benefits, and feel a little dissatisfied either way. Because of COVID, my husband and I have missed two of our grandchildren's graduation ceremonies (one of which was cancelled altogether).

Since we are getting older, our lives



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Curious Tommy

the form.” By filling out this online information form, which the adoption coordinators require, you will be able to work with them to organize a visit at the shelter for Tommy’s adoption and sharing family life with him.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Tommy has come out of his shell and is now in a temporary foster home for the



Montreal SPCA. He has decided that exploring and checking everything out is fine.

He is a beautiful cat, a stunning Siamese colourpoint with exquisite pale-blue eyes. His pink nose is quite smoochable as well. He knows he is handsome, and enjoys cuddling as he is very affectionate and companionable.

Tommy is 11 years young, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please enquire about him at the Montreal SPCA website [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), referring to his information page from his identification number 49908216, then clicking the adoption form link: “Fill out



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

## Precious Lili

coordinators to offer information and schedule a visit at the shelter for adoption.

Please do not hesitate. Lili in in need of a home and family as soon as possible.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

She is adorable and affectionate, this Lili. Cute as a button as well: white, black, and painted here and there with doggy freckles.

As you noticed, her eyes say so much: “Are you there? Should I stand here much longer?”

Lili is at the Montreal SPCA kennel, waiting for a caring family to bond with. She is a bit nervous around new dogs but is good with cats, which means that she is very accommodating!

Lili is three years old and very healthy, and is keen on good walks and fetch games.

She is up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like more information on lovely Lili, please do not hesitate to consult the Montreal SPCA website at [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com), scrolling to Lili’s information page under her identification number 50686965, and clicking on the “Fill out the form” button that will open the information page that is needed by the adoption



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## Make vet visits easier for all involved



People often get anxious about visiting the doctor, and the same can be said for pets. According to the online animal resource Top Dog Tips, a lot of dogs and cats have serious anxiety about going to the vet.

Veterinarian visits typically happen once per year, and the earlier your pet can become more comfortable and acclimated to the process, the better it will behave during each subsequent visit. The following are some steps pet owners can take to make vet visits go smoothly.

- Handle your pet frequently. Teach your pet to accept touching of the paws, ears, mouth, tail, legs, and stomach. Regular sessions petting and touching your pet may make him or her more comfortable when the vet has to do so.
- Consider waiting outside. Research from *Companion Animal Psychology* says 30 percent of dogs are highly stressed while sitting in the waiting room of the vet's office. It can be hectic in the waiting room, with lots of new smells, people coming in and out and animals with all sorts of energy. If waiting rooms put your pet on edge, wait outside.

- Associate the carrier with comfort. If you pull out the crate only when the pet will be going to the vet, the animal will soon associate it with negative experiences. Instead, use the crate frequently and rely on treats so that the dog or cat sees it as a safe and fun space to spend its time. Take frequent car rides to different destinations so pets don't associate car rides with vet visits.
- Find the right veterinarian. Interview several vets to find an office and staff who love interacting with your pet and can make him or her comfortable.
- Stay relaxed yourself. Pets can sense their owner's energy. If you are worked up and anxious, then your animal may feed off of those feelings. By remaining calm, you can help keep your pet calm.
- Do a fun or practice visit. Acclimate the pet to the vet's office with a trial run. Vet visits are vital to pets' long-term health. Setting the stage for positive experiences early on can make visits go smoothly throughout the pet's life.

– Metro Creative Graphics (MCG)

# Adoption gives dogs a new 'leash' on life

"Adopt don't shop" is a mantra utilized by many organizations devoted to finding loving homes for shelter animals. With thousands of dogs, cats and other companion animals residing in shelters or being fostered until they can find their forever homes, rescue organizations urge the pet-loving public to adopt rather than purchase dogs from private breeders.

Individuals who choose to adopt a dog from a private rescue, humane society, animal shelter, or another welfare group would be wise to follow some guidelines that can help individuals and families find the best matches with their new pets.

"It's important to be honest with the rescue group regarding, not only what you're looking for in a dog, such as disposition, energy level, age, and size, but to describe the overall household dynamic," advises Toni Diamond, founder of Diamond Dogs Rescue, Inc. ([www.diamonddogsrescueinc.com](http://www.diamonddogsrescueinc.com)), a foster-based rescue with resources in New Jersey and Massachusetts. "This way the rescue can match your needs with the dogs they have available to ensure the best opportunity the placed pet will remain in your home."

Here are some other tips to consider if you're thinking of adopting a pet.



- Think about fostering first. If you're on the fence about whether to take in a dog right now, fostering offers a way to gauge how life can change with a dog in the household. Fostering a dog can free up resources and enable rescues to help other dogs. Many "foster fails" are dogs that foster families adopted themselves because they couldn't bear to give

the dogs up.

- Expect to be vetted. Rescue groups generally do some type of adopter check, which includes an application questionnaire, and may want to visit your home to be sure that it is safe and comfortable for the dog. Expect an adoption fee, as this helps defray the cost of sheltering animals.
- Don't feel limited by geography. Rescues handle dogs from across the country. Some may even be willing to facilitate travel from one area to another. If you see a dog online that seems to be a perfect fit but is a good distance away, contact the rescue to see what can be done.
- Be patient and open-minded. Rescued animals often have been jostled around a bit, moving from place to place. Expect a transition period for the shell-shocked animal to settle down before judging his or her true personality. It's possible for rescued dogs to have accidents in a home, act out or be hesitant around people while they learn to trust their new owners.

Adopting a dog can be a great way to add to the family and provide a loving animal with new beginnings. – MCG

## Did you know?

Pets groom themselves to stay clean, but when allergies are present, dogs and cats may spend extended periods of time scratching, licking and biting. While these actions can be problematic for the animals themselves, for those sensitive to sounds, the repetition may induce unsettled feelings.

*Psychology Today* says "misphonia" is an extreme emotional and physical response to seemingly innocuous, repetitive sounds. While chewing and lip-smacking are common triggers, noises made by pets (like barking or licking) also can cause an issue. The result is a fight-or-flight response to these noises, along with physical tension, disproportionate anger and possible hatred or disgust toward the person or animal responsible for the trigger noise.

While studies into misphonia are in their juvenile stages and only recently gained traction, symptoms are thought to begin in childhood or adolescence and increase in severity. Treatment for misphonia is varied, but if aversion to the noise a pet is making can be alleviated by addressing the pet's underlying issue, then people's misphonia may be alleviated as well. – MCG

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# Beaconsfield golf tournament supports Old Brewery Mission



James Hughes, Lynne Dupuis, Michael Fitzgerald, Westmounter Jim Wilson, Paula Shannon, John Castellarin, Nicole Beaulieu and James Ross.



Raymond (Martin) Wong; James Hughes, CEO of the Old Brewery Mission; Alain Laurendeau, and Westmounter Mackenzie (Mac) Watson.



*Social Notes*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Golfers (118!) enjoyed a perfect sunny day as they participated in the Ken Reed

Golf Tournament held at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on August 1. The 19th edition, sponsored by the Tenaquip Foundation, raised \$270,300 to support the fight against homelessness in Montreal.

The organizing committee was Westmounters **Mackenzie Watson** and **Jim Wilson**, working with tournament chair **Paula Shannon**, **James Ross**, **Lynne Dupuis**, **Michael Fitzgerald**, **John Castellarin**, **Nicole**

**Beaulieu** and **James Hughes**, CEO Old Brewery Mission.

Special thanks was extended to supporters the Tenaquip Foundation and tournament partners Anbec Construction, Pipe and Piling Supplies, Square Phillips Hôtel & Suites, BrainBox AI, Fuze Logistics, Audi Anjou, Patriot Freight Services, Lapointe Rosenstein and CIBC Wood Gundy.

The annual Ken Reed Golf Tournament

has raised over \$3 million for the Old Brewery Mission since 2003.

Founded in 1889, the Mission is the largest resource in Quebec for homeless men and the largest in Canada for homeless women. The organization works to prevent homelessness in Quebec and provides emergency services, psychosocial support, urban health programs, housing options and support in the community.



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# Sutton/Abercorn event held to support Ukrainian refugees



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The town of Sutton in the Eastern Townships has garnered praise from PartIcipACTION.

The national non-profit organization just announced that the town won the Community Better Challenge at the provincial level.

So it was no wonder that Westmounter **Gillian MacCormack** found eager local volunteers for her afternoon event held in the charming hamlet of Abercorn just outside Sutton.

Music and Art for Ukraine raised funds for Ukrainian families moving to the area. (Full disclosure: I too was a volunteer.)

Committee volunteers were **Gisèle Bolduc**, **Lisa** and **Janie Barakette**, **Liane Bruneau**, **Lili de Grandpré**, **Bryan MacCormack**, **Muriel Luderowski** (a docent with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts) and **Agathe Frenette**, president l'Association de la culture et du patrimoine d'Abercorn.



Karen Kaderavek and Scott Woolweaver.

Assisting from that organization were **Michel Marcouiller**, **Jean Simoneau**, **Alain Dalpé**, **Jean-Francois Duquette**, **Marie Dupras** and **Cheryl Farthing**.

The event featured a noteworthy recital performed by acclaimed musicians **Karen Kaderavek** and **Scott Woolweaver**. Kaderavek, a Sutton resident, has performed as a soloist and chamber music artist throughout North America and Europe. Currently she produces the weekly radio program “The Classical Music of the World” on CIDI 99 FM Knowlton.

Woolweaver came in from Boston, where he is principal violist with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and teaches at Tuft University and the All-Newton Music School in West Newton, Massachusetts.

To appreciative applause, they played pieces from Bartok, Milone and Skoryk, a Ukrainian composer.

Artist **David James**, internationally renowned for his amazing glass sculptures, presented two glimmering glass pieces. He is one of the few glass artists worldwide who create sculptures via the complex lost wax (*cire perdue*) process. He attended with **Lili de Grandpré**.

After the concert, ..... guests sipped bubbly in a *continued on p. 26*



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Gisèle Bolduc and Muriel Luderowski.



Tamara Gimasova, Michelle Jean and Jonathan Sommer.

*Social notes, cont'd from p. 25*

cool room full of silent auction pieces, including overflowing food baskets from Montreal-based PRONTO Prêt-à-manger. **Michel Lafrance**, former mayor of Sutton, addressed the sold-out audience. Noted in the audience were **Michelle Julien**

and her husband lawyer **Jonathan Sommer** who sponsored recent Ukrainian arrivals **Tamara Gimasova**, her husband **Erdem**, and their children **Marat** and **Arsenly**, who came to Canada from Turkey where they were vacationing but then could not return

home. Also present was **Denys Kuzmenko** who arrived from Kracow. The elegant afternoon interlude was presented in collaboration with the l'Association de la culture et du patrimoine,

and was a benefit for the Comité de Sutton pour réfugiés ukrainiens pour l'accueil de plusieurs familles à Sutton. Please send information on your upcoming social and charitable events to veronica@redgravepr.com.

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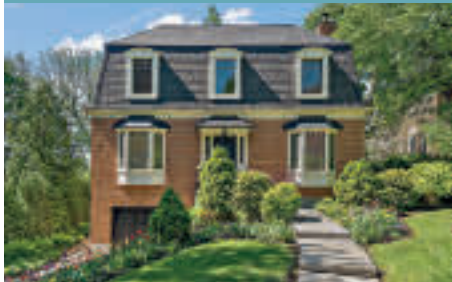
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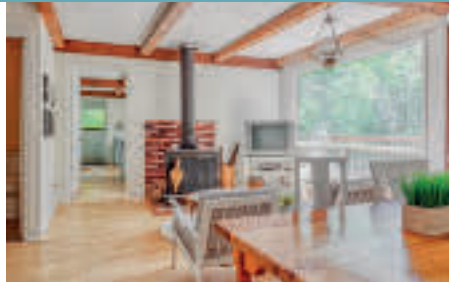
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