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Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 8d

August 30, 2022

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Heel spur?
Bunions?



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Animators Marc Ducusin and Jeanne Motulsky demonstrate interactive, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*-type movements before the start of the film.



The Pink Ladies of Victoria Hall: from left, Donna Lach, Ashley Baker, Mélissa Denis and Emily Gamble. See story p. 16.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.



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kindergarten to grade 11.*



Police Report

Police I.D. deceased homeless man found under highway

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A spokesperson for the Montreal police department's Station 12 has identified a man found dead under the Ville Marie Expressway in Westmount on August 23 as Nicolas, a homeless person some officers had come to know over the last few years.

According to initial information, Montreal police who regularly patrol beneath the expressway where a number of homeless have set up camps in recent years first discovered the lifeless body.

However, since the area below the provincial highway falls within the jurisdiction of the Sûreté du Québec, which patrols the province's autoroutes and highways, the investigation is being conducted by the SQ, although the Montreal police will be providing support.

"There's going to be an autopsy," said

Station 12's information officer, Cst. Mike Yigit, while adding that preliminary indications suggest the deceased suffered a drug overdose, "but they're not sure."

He said the neighbourhood station's officers have been monitoring activity under Highway 136 in the years since it has become an encampment for the homeless because a significant number of people there have mental health problems.

"We like to know our clientèle," he said, noting that on occasion some disturbances which have taken place elsewhere in Westmount were linked to people living under the highway overpass, while some panhandlers working in Westmount "seem to gravitate around that area," he added.

According to Cst. Yigit, Nicolas had been living under the highway for the past three to four years. He said police officers patrol the site to make sure there are no

hazardous activities, such as open fires or the use of appliances containing flammables like propane.

Dog adopted

Yigit said Nicolas had told police who spoke to him some time before he died that one of his few concerns was the fate that might befall the dog he kept as a companion while living beneath the overpass.

He said one of the police officers told Nicolas not to worry and pledged to see

that the dog would be taken care of no matter what happened.

As a result, the dog was kept at Station 12 for a few days while an animal shelter was contacted to take charge.

He said the dog has now been adopted by a family.

According to Cst. Yigit, the Pitou Minou & Compagnons/Global Pet Foods store on St. Catherine St. near the corner of Melville Ave. donated a bag of pet food to tide over the dog until its adoption.

Roofer gets ticket for \$1,308 for violating safety regulations on Wood

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A roofer was fined \$1,308 August 24 when caught at work on Wood Ave. without abiding by Westmount regulations, as would have been stipulated in a work permit, Public Security officials said.

Alerted by a Public Works inspector, a patroller witnessed a number of infractions required for occupying the public domain.

These included the entire southbound lane being blocked, causing traffic in both directions to come face to face in the absence of a flagman. As well, no safe passage had been set up for pedestrians and the truck's stabilizers were set up on the sidewalk.

When it turned out the work could not be stopped, various methods were used to

increase safe passage and the contractor was advised of the statement of offence to be sent to the company.

Jumping ahead with falling leaves?

With the falling leaves of autumn still to come, a contractor using a leaf blower August 22 was ticketed \$277, Public Security officials said. The device was found in operation at 9:51 am at 4334 Westmount Ave.

The use of leaf blowers is permitted in Westmount only for the fall clean-up period October 1 to December 1 and for spring between April 1 and May 1, both periods between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Saturday.

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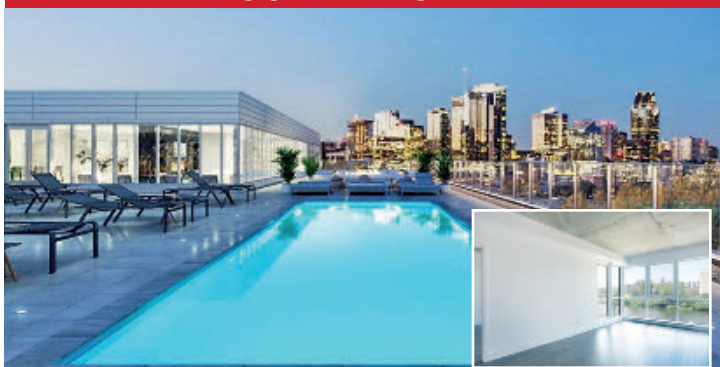


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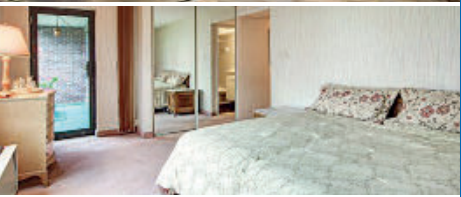
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‘We want to get it right’: Cllr. Kez
City adds funds to sound level analysis of highway

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council August 15 added \$15,470, before taxes, to a previous mandate to provide “an expert report” on noise levels in the vicinity of Route 136, the new Ville Marie Expressway/720. This is in connection with the city’s legal action against the Quebec Transport Ministry (MTQ) seeking a sound barrier for noise mitigation between Glen Rd. and Greene Ave.

The new amount is described in the council resolution as “a complementary budget” to add to a previous \$92,463, before taxes, for the professional fees of Soft dB Active Control Systems Inc.

This is the firm hired by IMK, the law firm handling the city’s action against the ministry, to analyze sound studies from the MTQ in this stretch, explained Councillor Kathleen Kez, who represents District 8.

“This technical work is very important because we want to get it right,” she said. “Too much is riding on it.”

In another sound-related matter regarding the stretch of the highway from Atwater to Hallowell, the city requested that Transport Quebec install photo radar to

monitor the 70 km/h speed limit (see story March 15, p. 1).

“The letter was submitted and the city received a reply to the effect that photo radar is not installed for noise mitigation

but for safety reasons,” she said. This led to a second letter from the city requesting the photo radar for safety measures to which a reply was received stating the request would be analyzed.



The Ville Marie Expressway/136/720 looking east towards Greene Ave. and downtown at around 3 pm August 25. Photographed from the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG). PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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New petition supports Hillside project

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A petition was launched last week in support of the current residential proposal to develop the vacant former armoury at 1-3 Hillside.

It responds to an opposing petition submitted to the city July 14 by residents of the condo building next door at 11 Hillside Ave (see August 23, p. 10).

Based on the desire for more housing in the neighbourhood for people wanting to downsize along with the former armoury's deterioration, the supporting petition began gaining signatures after being posted on Facebook August 22, according to organizer Robert Martin of Lewis.

He told the *Independent* he had heard about the petition that opposes the project, but lives next door to the developers and believes the project to be well conceived and would be well built. "We're behind it and hope to move in there."

The residents in the petition against the project stated the west wall of the proposed

building with windows and balconies would threaten their privacy as it now faces the basically solid wall of the former armoury (see August 15, p. 1).

The new petition refers to the development proposal presented at the city's demolition hearing in February in which the request to dismantle 87 percent of the building was approved by the city council after hearing arguments for and against the project.

"The longer it stays empty and abandoned, the higher the danger for the high students (at Westmount High), the St. Margaret's residents and the neighbours," the supporting petition reads.

The developer is understood to be in discussion with the city's Urban Planning department as the project heads into the possible approval process required for those that do not conform to current zoning.

The support petition is on the lesignes-bougent.org website. At press time August 29, there were 48 signatures.



Rendering of the proposed project on which the support petition is based.

SOURCE: LESLIGNESBOUGENT.ORG WEBSITE.



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Giant swallowtail visits Vic village



Victoria Ave., where this butterfly was photographed August 18, is named after a monarch, but this butterfly is not one. An internet search tells the *Independent* that it is a giant swallowtail and at the northern edge of its range. In the American South, it is known as a “orange dog” due to its preference for citrus trees as food.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Looking to next year

Survey launched on use of temporary public spaces

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How often do you visit the city's public terraces and temporary public spaces? How satisfied are you with them? Why do

you visit and would you like them to return another year?

These are some of the many questions being asked in a city online and on-site survey launched last week to assess the use-

fulness of the city's "temporary public spaces" on Greene, de Maisonneuve from Atwater to Wood, and in Victoria village. These are the seasonal picnic tables, benches and other seating set up generally in commercial areas.

Introduced initially during the first waves at the start of the COVID pandemic to enable outside socializing, these pedestrian spaces also aimed to attract shoppers to the shopping areas.

The consultation aims "to determine whether the temporary public spaces are meeting the needs of citizens and whether adjustments are necessary," the survey explains.

Conducted by Mark Wilkins Consulting on behalf of the city, the survey includes people who live, work or frequent Westmount and can be found online at engage.westmount.org/publicspaces.

The consultation will also involve merchants.

Many questions are asked including about levels of satisfaction within various categories, reasons for using the spaces, and ranges of satisfaction from elements such as safety, design, layout, accessibility and availability of parking,



Westmount resident Ruth Plotnick, left, and Cecilia De Castro were taking a break August 25 around 3 pm on a pleasant summer afternoon on Greene Ave. and were thankful for a place to sit. Most of the picnic tables were occupied along the full length of Greene.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



BUREAUX MUNICIPAUX FERMÉS Lundi 5 septembre 2022

Les bureaux administratifs et la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount seront fermés le lundi 5 septembre en raison de la fête du Travail. La séance ordinaire du conseil aura lieu à l'Hôtel de Ville le mardi 6 septembre à 19 h 30.

La collecte d'encombrants du lundi est reportée au mardi pour les secteurs 1 et 2. Vérifiez votre secteur de collecte à westmount.org/collectes. Toutes les autres collectes de matières résiduelles auront lieu selon l'horaire habituel.

Veuillez noter que l'horaire régulier de bureau est de nouveau en vigueur dans les édifices municipaux, soit de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 du lundi au vendredi.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED Monday, September 5, 2022

Westmount's administrative offices and Public Library will be closed Monday, September 5 for the Labour Day holiday. The regular council sitting will take place at City Hall on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The Monday collection of bulky items will take place on Tuesday in sectors 1 and 2. Check your collection sector at westmount.org/collections. All other waste collections will take place according to the usual schedule.

Please note that the regular office schedule of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday has resumed in City buildings.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIC VILLAGE ACCESS STILL
A CHALLENGE

Hey! It's me again! (See also March 22, p. 6.)

I went to Metro today, in the rain, accompanied by Hot Wheels (my walker, which hated the wet). Got to the door for the mobility-challenged people, pushed the button three times. The door quivered, obviously trying hard, but wouldn't open. A passer-by told me that the door was locked.

From there to the Victoria door. The access was blocked by a car getting a car order, but access would still have been me lifting a post, sliding Hot Wheels in, and replacing the post. I folded Hot Wheels, and slithered in where I didn't have to lift anything.

Once in the store, I went to the main desk to complain. There I was met by an employee who cavalierly told me that she would look into it (I have complained before, not going to happen) and another employee telling me that there was a red button to push. Been there, done that!

I live only a couple of blocks from this Metro on Victoria and Sherbrooke. I am no longer able to drive. I only needed a few things, which weren't enough for a phone/delivery order.

Let's face it. I feel like a senior who is increasingly realizing that our "golden years" are fool's gold. Sorry for the rant, but, just maybe, by complaining publicly I can shop in comparative comfort, as can

all the other seniors in the neighbourhood. Oh, and on our way out, Hot Wheels and I lifted a pole, charged through, and cursed everyone with whom we had been in contact. (Except for two people who were really nice.) And do hexes actually work?

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

POLICE COLUMN SPREADS
BIASED, INACCURATE MATERIAL

Our very own Fox News. What was Martin C. Barry thinking? (Police Report, August 16, p. 5)

Is the *Westmount Independent* really the place for uncorroborated, biased and factually inaccurate material? When you hap upon an individual who refuses to give his/her name and whose only intel on this very sensitive subject is nothing more than presumption and conjecture, you do not report it. Ever. It is not legitimate journalism; hence, it is not newsworthy.

If this paper were truly dedicated to having a productive conversation on the demonstrations outside the Israeli consulate, then seeking credible and independent sources would be the place to start. I urge you to stay clear of subjects that you are unable or unwilling to understand.

You have my email now, I will happily point you in the right direction.

RAFEEF DAJANI, ROSLYN AVE.

Editor's reply: You seem to mistake journalism with prosecution on formulaic tv shows. In journalism, you often have one person willing and able to talk to you, and

that's it. It's not like Jack McCoy needing a little more evidence before he can send Briscoe and Curtis out for the arrest on *Law & Order* (and then getting that missing puzzle piece, every time). Also, unlike on tv, in journalism there is usually no final revelation of incontrovertible truth just in time for the last 10 minutes of the show. We are often left in the dark (or twilight), forever.

This time, however, there was a little bit more information that came to light. Taken together, the subsequent week's column (August 23, p. 12) and the one that you mention (August 16, p. 5), gave us two seemingly conflicting accounts of one event (witness and police officers' report), or perhaps two accounts of two events that were very close in time and geography, i.e. maybe there were two sets of bags: one bag with dust (officers' report) and separate bags with stones (witness).

Our job is to share with the reader the facts that we know, including identifying their origin, which – to repeat – is often just the say-so of a source, including ones that don't want to be identified *but whom we meet or talk to*. Because we live in a free society, that source is free to speculate about what people might have been doing or planning. Others, including yourself, are free to interpret things differently and judge sources' credibility, including applying a discount (if desired) due to their desire to be anonymous. By the way, you are the one being loose with facts when you write the witness shared "*nothing* more than presumption and conjecture" [emphasis added]. Seeing stones is not "conjecture" on the witness' part. It is seeing stones. And what is the basis for your charge of bias? You know nothing about this person.

With the facts that we are able to surmise and share, properly and wholly described, readers can then come up with their own interpretation of events and assign their own confidence level to it.

And no such interpretation is particularly hard to "understand," to use your term. – DP.

CONGRATULATIONS DAWSON –
SHORT GINKGO TOUR POSSIBLE

Huge congratulations to Dawson College on recognition of their tremendous work towards sustainable living (August 23, p. 19).

My church is a Living Church as Dawson is a Living Campus, and we both have special ginkgo trees. I can correct a detail in your interesting article: the ginkgo tree next to the Dawson Peace Garden grew from a seed, not a cutting. The Green Legacy Hiroshima Project accepts requests for

seeds to be sown around the world to share the hope that trees gave to survivors in 1945.

There are two more Hiroshima ginkgo trees to visit, both on de Maisonneuve Blvd: one in the garden of the Unitarian church west of Claremont and the other at my own Westmount Park United Church, opposite the Westmount recreation centre.

Moving videos and stories are on the Green Legacy Hiroshima website. After the bombing, everything was black and white. No one believed that life could return but the trees were the first to bring colour and hope back, with new shoots.

You can experience an echo of this each spring, when the buds of the ginkgos break out from their winter slumber. While these are young trees, it is always uncertain. The frisson of our trees surviving connects me to Hiroshima and calls me to honour yearnings for peace and the integrity of the earth.

REV. NEIL WHITEHOUSE,
WESTMOUNT PARK UNITED CHURCH

WHAT'S THE RULE FOR
TREE CUTTING?

As a five-year tenant at 1 Rosemount, I was hoping you could clarify the city of Westmount's rules vis à vis an apartment owner's right to cut down trees on its private property. I was under the impression that any tree over six feet in height needed a city permit to be cut.

However, this past week (August 19), a very friendly Westmount inspector informed me that the rule for private-property demolition of trees is based not on height, but on the diameter of the trunk not exceeding six inches.

I visited Public Works two months ago, which directed me to Westmount's Urban Planning. I immediately sent an email to its permits site, then two weeks later to the director of Urban Planning, but to this date (and now too late for cedars at 1 Rosemount), I never received a response from either!

DOUGLAS PRICE, ROSEMOUNT AVE.

Editor's reply: I found a long explanation on the city's website (westmount.org/en/tree-felling/#1478710181586-cf0d2bd8-3a21), which I will quote at length given the interest in the subject matter. – DP

"City authorization for tree felling on private property is required in all cases, except if the tree is not more than 10 cm (4 in.) in diameter, when measured at a height of 1.5 m (5 ft.) from the ground.

"In order to protect Westmount's tree canopy, tree cutting is only authorized in the following circumstances, and after the issuance of a certificate of authorization for tree cut-
..... continued on p. 13

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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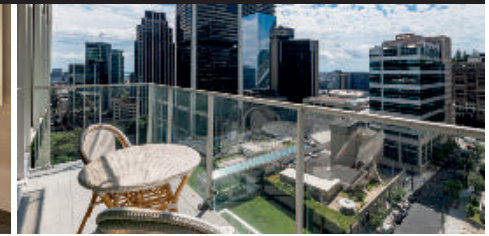
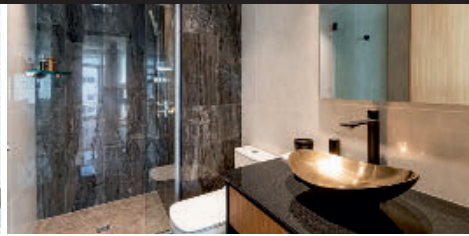
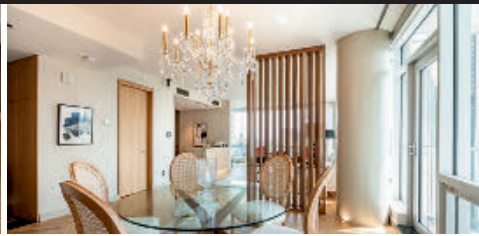
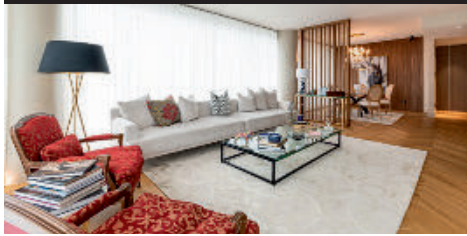
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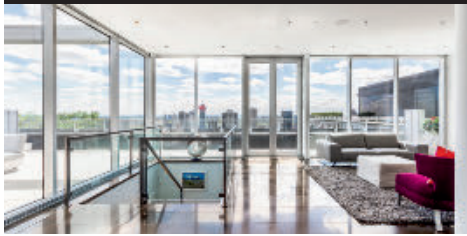
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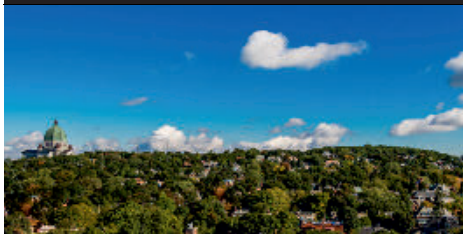
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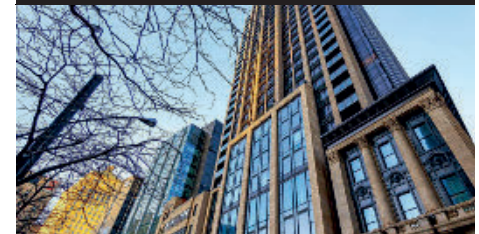
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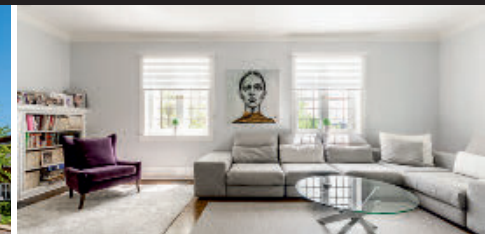
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City, WHS hockey ‘old boys’ hold reunion at Bishop’s University



From left, back row: Greg McBain, Mike Deegan, Mike Goldbloom, Andre Lefebvre, Sean Berry, Ewan French, Hunter Scott, Geoff Wagner and Jamie Heward; front: Luc Poirier, Ryan French, Ryan MacDougall, Allan Ansell, Jean-Loup Barbeau and Dave Sedgwick. Coaches were Jamie Fraser, Mike Whitworth, Bert Gow and Steve Pickrell.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A group of some 25 hockey players from the Westmount High Old Boys Association and the city’s former Senior A hockey team called The Wanderers held a reunion over the weekend of August 16-17 at Bishop’s University in Lennoxville. It was hosted by Bishop’s principal Michael Goldbloom, a former Wanderers player. Among those attending were retired

Public Security director Dave Sedgwick, the current director Greg McBain and former city director general Mike Deegan who also served as a director of Sports and Recreation for 16 years. He retired five years ago after 30 years with the city (see August 15, 2017, p. 1) “Many don’t even play hockey anymore,” said Deegan, who still plays himself but only in the annual charity hockey game organized by former councillor Nick



Left side, front to back: Bert Gow, Mike Goldbloom, Ewan French, Jamie Heward, Geoff Wagner; right side, front to back: Mike Deegan, Dave Sedgwick, Mike Whitworth, Sean Berry, Jamie Fraser and Hunter Scott.

Matossian. Most of those attending grew up in Westmount, Deegan said, with many now living elsewhere including reunion organizer Ewan French, who came from Vancouver. The union included a Saturday hockey game with those still playing, followed by cocktails at Goldbloom’s house, dinner, drinks and golf on Sunday. “It was a long time since we’ve seen such a large bunch of us together,” Deegan said adding “as Bert Gow said, ‘it was good for the soul.’” Gow coached as a volunteer for many years in the city’s hockey program along with Sedgwick. “It was also great to see Greg McBain still carrying the torch in Westmount between the former and current employees. A big toast to Mike Goldbloom for hosting us and to Ewan French for organizing the reunion.”



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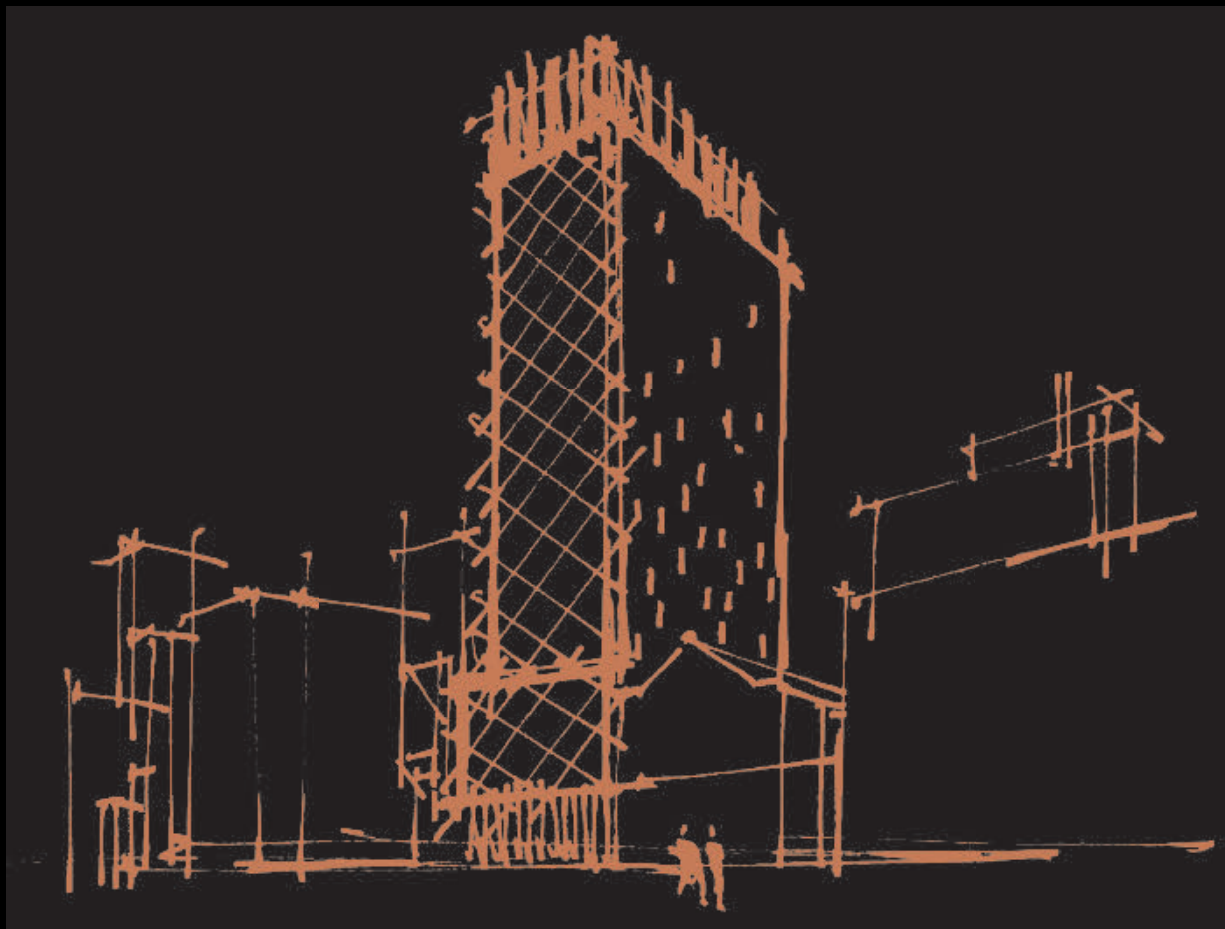
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Unofficial strike #13 of the Greene Ave. rail bridge below Dorchester Blvd., as seen August 25. It is the third known one this month.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MO RAHIMI.



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Westmount now and looking forward

Contest under way for city hall's next time-capsule

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What is Westmount like now, and what's in store for the next 100 years? What sports are we playing? What innovations are under way? How are webcasts transforming activities and events?

Residents are being challenged to submit their impressions of today's ever-changing way of life as the city seeks contents for a new time capsule at city hall. Items are to be displayed beforehand and some will be chosen by popular vote.

This effort continues a Westmount tradition beginning with one hidden during the laying of the cornerstone of city hall October 14, 1922, which the city plans to open October 14, 2022.

At the time of the first city hall time capsule, horses still pulled wagons and carriages up Côte St. Antoine and many houses north of Westmount Ave. remained in the minds of developers. Other ways of daily life may be revealed when the original one is opened.

"It's something you dream of – trying to dig up a time capsule," said Donna Lach,

assistant director of library services and Community Events, which has been planning the contest for residents to submit their own impressions of the city now and predictions for the future under the theme of "Westmount: the present and beyond."

But no one will have to live another 100 years to know what is inside the new time capsule.

The contest's entries will displayed at the Gallery in Victoria Hall from September 28 to October 14. Ideas and creations must be submitted as part of a kit containing the mandatory archival paper to be picked up at the library or the Community Events office at Victoria Hall. The special paper is required so that entries will not deteriorate over the years, Lach said. Entries can be submitted up to September 12.

Back to the WRC

When a time capsule was buried at the new Westmount recreation centre in 2013, some of its contents included an anti-merger mug, a Westmount dog tag and carved wood from the old cottonwood tree taken down the year before at Lansdowne

Nine years down, so only 91 to go



A time capsule is lowered into its resting place August 12, 2013 by then Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan, left, and then councillor Patrick Martin before its ceremonial burial by then mayor Peter Trent, right, at the Lansdowne entrance of the new Westmount recreation centre.

PHOTO: LAUREEN SWEENEY.

and St. Catherine,

Also reported was a letter from Buckingham Palace thanking the city for its annual shipment of maple syrup, a recreation

card and program booklet as well as a letter of greeting to the mayor of the future from then mayor Peter Trent (see story August 6, 2013, p. 8).

ting:

- based on an arboriculturist's report, the tree is dead or in a state of irreversible blight, with more than 50 percent of the crown consisting of dead wood;
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- the tree is located within the building

Letters to the editor, cont'd from p. 8

site of a swimming pool or, in the case of the front yard, within the building site of accessory parking or means of access to a building, but only if no other area is available elsewhere on the parcel of land for such construction – Please note that a building permit or landscaping certificate is a pre-requisite in this context;

- based on an arboriculturist's report, the tree is likely to spread a disease or is an exotic invasive species and accordingly, *must be replaced*;
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if the tree represents a dangerous condition due to an irreversible situation resulting from a disease or structural deficiency affecting its solidity;

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2021 census data for Westmount is in

Overall population shrinks – Mother-tongue picture becomes more complex, even as 52.2% of single responses list English

By JENNIFER BALL

Statistics Canada has published the 2021 Census of Population for Westmount and the key findings are summarized below. It compares takeaways from 2020 with data from 2016.

The population of Westmount is 19,658, a decrease of 3.3 percent between 2016 (20,312) and 2020.

Mean income is down 9.6 percent for men, but data shows an increase for women of 12 percent. Median income is up for men and women: 9.2 percent for men and 15 percent for women. It should be noted that these figures are self reported and, unlike tax returns, not usually subject to audit.

Regarding mother tongue, English is a 52.2-percent majority of single responses. Remembering that the population of Westmount decreased 3.3 percent, English decreased 7.4 percent and French decreased 8.2 percent.

Other “Indo-European” languages still make up the third-highest cohort but de-

creased 6.2 percent as well. Within the Indo-European category, Spanish led, with 335 respondents in 2020 and 550 in 2016, followed by Iranian Persian/Farsi and Italian (300 each in 2020, and 295 each in

2016).

In 2021, Chinese languages and Arabic exceeded each of these languages with 880 and 560 respondents respectively.

Key takeaways from the data are sum-

marized in the table below.

The collected data is organized into the following classifications:


- population and dwellings,
- age characteristics,
- household and dwelling characteristics,
- marital status,
- family characteristics,
- household type,
- income of individuals in 2020,
- income of individuals in 2019,
- income of households in 2020,
- income of economic families in 2020,
- low income and income inequality in 2020,
- knowledge of official languages,
- first official language spoken,
- mother tongue,
- all languages spoken at home,
- language spoken most often at home,
- other language spoken regularly at home,
- knowledge of languages.

Census data for Westmount	2021	2016	Notes
Average age of the population	46.7	45.1	older
Family Characteristics			
Average size of census families	2.9	3	smaller
Household type			
Responses	8,590	8,685	
Couple-family households	4,380	4,560	
With children	2,225	2,405	
Without children	2,155	2,160	
One-parent family households	735	785	
Income of individuals			
Median total income among recipients (\$)	56,000	50,053	
Men	70,500	64,583	
Women	49,600	43,123	
Average (mean) employment income among recipients (\$)	136,000	143,077	less
Men	200,200	221,409	less
Women	72,000	64,118	
Knowledge of official languages			
Responses	19,445	19,940	
English only	4,070	4,015	
French only	450	510	
English & French	14,705	15,235	
Neither English nor French	220	185	
Mother tongue			
Single responses	18,125	19,065	
English	9,470	10,225	decline
French	3,890	4,240	decline
Indo-European languages other than French & English	2,550	2,720	decline
Chinese languages	880	565	
Arabic	560	520	
Other (computed by <i>Independent</i> via subtraction)	775	795	
Multiple responses	1,325	875	up

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

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Mesmerizingly beautiful and adorably affectionate, Sago is a treasure.

This young one-year-old is exquisite even when he is not in formal wear, a soft white shorthair coat, water-blue eyes and pinkest nose, ears and toes.

Sago is presently in a foster home for the grassroots volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. The family reports that he loves to play and is a very active youngster. He will come for cuddles and petting, also tucking in for naptime. He would be a great companion to another active cat, and he is a fun friend.

Sago is very healthy, not deaf as some white cats are, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

If you would like to find out more about this loving little fellow, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org and contact their volunteers at their email info@gerdysrescue.org to find out more details and receive more wonderful photographs of Sago being more than cute!

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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Chucky is very healthy and energetic. He is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is learning about doggy-buddy integration and has not yet met a cat.

If you would like to find out more about him, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then scroll to Chucky's information page from his identification number A50865279 to click on the "Fill Out The Form" square. This links you



to the adoption counsellors and presents the information questionnaire to be filled out for their review and scheduling of a follow-up and meeting at the shelter.

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Grease comes to Victoria Hall

BY RALPH THOMPSON

T-Birds! Pink Ladies! Danny! Sandy! They were all right here in Westmount last week.

The city's outdoor screening of *Grease*, originally scheduled for August 18 outdoors after sunset in Westmount Park, was postponed due to rain. So, on August 23, the show went ahead with undampened enthusiasm in Victoria Hall.

The evening was hosted by the bubbly "Pink Ladies of Victoria Hall" dressed in pink jackets. It comprised Community Events staff Donna Lach, Emily Gamble, Ashley Baker and Mélissa Denis. Elisabeth Roux, city councillor and commissioner of the Westmount Public Library and Community Events, also assisted with the event.

The screening went ahead at 7 pm rather than the 8 pm the original start time, causing a few Rockers and Jive Bunnys to miss the pre-show briefing.

About 50 people were in their seats as the lights went down and the movie started rolling at about 7:30 pm.

For those unfamiliar with the 1978 film, it is a musical romantic comedy starring a greasy haired John Travolta and the late Olivia Newton-John as a clean-cut Austra-

lian navigating a new high school.

But Westmount's screening had a twist: it was interactive, including the hand jive brilliantly demonstrated by Ashley Baker, agent at the city's Community Events and Logistics departments.

Singing, dancing and flag waving by spectators were all part of the show. Prop bags were handed out and animators Marc Ducusin and Jeanne Motulsky led everyone through the movements, hand gestures and gesticulations that were expected whenever certain scenes occurred. The dry run clearly showed a lot of audience talent, which included both older and younger Westmounters.

The Boy Scouts completed the ambience with freshly popped corn, sugar candy, almond cookies and lemonade.

See photos on p. 1.

We welcome your letters

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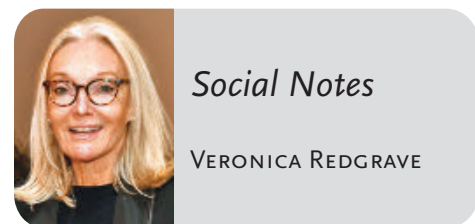
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Au Contraire film fest asks ‘What is normal? Who decides?’



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Although the foliage is fake, the wall-to-wall greenery of Jardin Royalmount was a respite from the murmurings of streaming steel on Decarie. Even though many guests had to drive an obstacle course around – you guessed it – construction cones (Waze notwithstanding), they were delighted to arrive at the mood of a cool garden party.

The Au Contraire Film Festival (ACFF), held to celebrate 10 years of “breaking mental health stigma,” was hosted by Westmounters **Barbara** and **Phil Silverberg**, founders of Urban Pardes, the Canadian charity that umbrellas the Donald Berman UP House.

The house helps adults living with mental illness re-build their confidence, purpose and community. It is based on an evidence-based award-winning recovery model subscribed to by over 320 mental health communities around the world. Urban Pardes board members are **Paul**



Phil and Barbara Silverberg.

Sauvé (president), **David Hoppenheim** (vice president), **Emanuela De Bonis**, **Larry Kaplan**, **Barbara** and **Phil Silverberg**, **Leslie Ungar** and **Lena Fitzmorris**.

Welcoming comments were made by **Paul Sauvé** and **David Hoppenheim**, **Grant G.** (UP House member), **Marcel Pinch-evsky** (director ACFF) and **Marjolaine Lachance**, senior manager, community investment, Bell Canada – Quebec.

Then **#AMiNORMAL**, a film directed by **Mika Orr**, exploring what is normal and who gets to decide, was shown. **Phil Silverberg** presented **La Coupe Lumière** to **Karen Hetherington**, president of both the national and the Quebec division of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Appropriately the cup, created by artist **Colin Schlee**, was made with lacquered film strips. ACFF’s key moderator **Dr. Karl Looper**, chief of psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital, addressed the sold-out crowd.

Then the film **Neurodivergent**, directed by **Afton Quast Saler**, had its Canadian premiere.

ACFF spokesperson **Florence K.** spoke before **The Runner** directed by **Matthew Ferraro**. In from Toronto, musician and adjunct professor at York University, **Robb Johannes** shared his “journey with suicide.” In a nod *continued on p. 18*

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Social notes, cont'd from p. 17

to the azure August eve, quite a few ladies wore cool linen dresses – often sporting the today-length of mid-ankle. Others wore pant-jacket combos, an ever-classic and easy summer style. Many wore wedge sandals – the smart shoe for grass treading: even plastic turf can be tricky.

Noted in the picturesque picnic-style scene were **Cybil Geracimo**, ACFF curator; **Barbara Pascal**, **Joshua Silverberg**, **Romi Swidler Howard**, **Marlene Levenson**, **Karen Morgan**, **Matthew Ferraro**, and local res **Barbara Stutman** and **Alta and Harvey Levenson**.

As the “verdant” vines of the *jardin* were all artificial, there were no insect bites. However, fun food bites were offered. Vouchers gave arrivals yummy choices: a hamburger platter or chicken tacos or a poké bowl, with a glass of wine or beer.

As dusk descended, the festive festival eve closed on a sweet note: cookies. Then Bob Perras’ valet team brought back cars to departing guests. From October 2 to 16, ACFF.ca will feature jury-selected films available to passholders and ticket buyers.

►Top right, Barbara Stutman, Marlene Levenson and Harvey and Alta Levenson. Right, David Hoppenheim, Karen Morgan and Matthew Ferraro. Far right, Larry and Bernice Kaplan.





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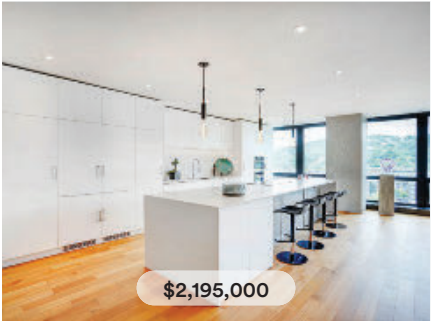
\$2,985,000



Westmount Adjacent
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3 2

\$595,000



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