

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 16 No. 9b

We are Westmount

September 13, 2022

Number of players 'tells the story,' drives change: director Lapointe

City combines Senior A & B hockey leagues in sudden change

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A last-minute consolidation of the city's former Senior A and Senior B hockey leagues into one has upset both groups of adult players.

This concern has led from sudden and last-minute changes in scheduling, the city's longstanding traditions, disparity in skills between the two leagues that lead to safety concerns, and the exclusion of some of some players who may not live in Westmount but who coach or volunteer in some of the city's programs.

"It's like a poison pill," said Nick Martin, longtime captain of one of the city's Senior A teams, who grew up playing, coaching and refereeing Westmount hockey.

"The sudden change has left us scrambling," he said of many Senior A and some Senior B players. "There may be alternative solutions we could have suggested. We ask the city to give us back our time (Tuesday and Thursday evenings) or we'll have to play elsewhere such as LCC or Côte St. Luc, but now on such late notice, this may be difficult to find ice time elsewhere."

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Requiescat in pace Elizabeth Regina (1926-2022)



All was quiet at the eponymous Queen Elizabeth Gardens September 9, one day after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. This stone was installed to commemorate her coronation on June 2, 1953. She acceded to the throne on February 6, 1952. Flags throughout the city are being flown at half-mast.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Subject now to possible referendum process

400 Mt. Pleasant re-zoning gets second reading

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A re-zoning amendment to zone C9-09-03 was given second reading by city council September 6. This is a zone at the north-west corner of Sherbrooke and Greene/Mt. Pleasant that contains a single residential building of some four units.

The re-zoning plan, draft By-law 1588, as explained in a city presentation dated

July 11, came at the request of the building owner in order to allow for office use. The building, 400 Mount Pleasant, originally included a doctor's office on the first floor.

The request has been approved so far by the council, the meeting was told, considering the zone contains only the one building and is in a location in which office buildings and multi-family buildings are per-

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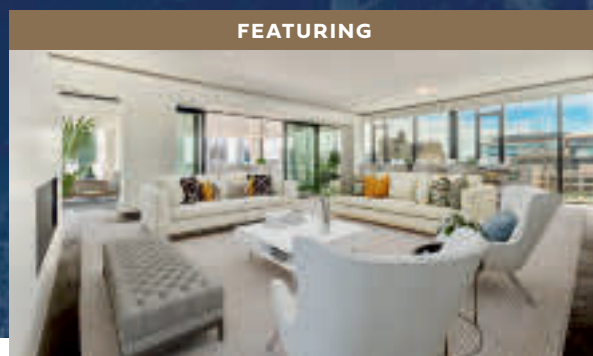
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Let the snow come!

City prepares for approaching winter

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The white stuff may not be in sight just yet, but three tenders awarded by city council September 6 were a reminder that it's coming.

All contracts were presented for approval by Councillor Anitra Bostock as commissioner of Public Works starting with a group purchase for winter abrasives with the city of Montreal from Demix Agrégats, a division of CRH Group Inc.

"It costs a lot less money going in with the city of Montreal," she explained.

The second tender, for snow removal in various parking lots, was won for West-

mount by Les Excavations Super Inc. as the lowest conforming bidder at a maximum amount of \$89,106 including taxes for what was described as "season 1." This was followed by "season 2" at \$91,750 and "season 3" at 96,467. These compared with quotes from Ventec construction for \$108,306, \$113,726 and \$119,406 respectively.

The third winter tender, this time for snow clearing in lanes, went again to Excavations Super at a maximum of \$429,671 including taxes from November 1 to April 15, 2023 with two options for renewal. This "means that our lanes will be free of snow," Bostock stated. The second conforming bid came from Ventec \$180,000.

Man helped during morning rush hour

Public safety officers worked to clear the airways of a man in respiratory distress found seated on a bench at Sherbrooke and Grosvenor September 9 at 7:51 am, Public Security officials said. Police and fire department first responders also attended at the busy intersection and the man was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé. He was described as a Montreal resident aged in his late 60s.

Warned about no work on Labour Day

Two workers were found working outside September 5 and warned about Labour Day being a legal holiday in Westmount, Public Security officials said. One was seen working on Prince Albert at 10:54 am, the other was an arborist on Grenville. Both were reported to have been co-operative and stopped. No tickers were issued.

Being safe, looking festive



Westmount public safety officer Marie-Ève Parent in the school zone at The Study wearing a Hawaiian lei given to her by the local crossing guard at the time of a school BBQ Sept. 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

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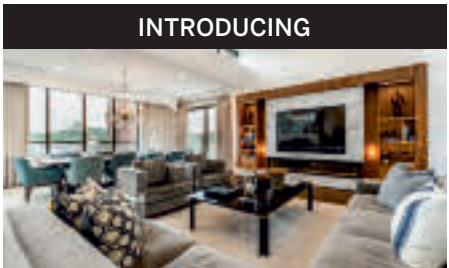
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CÔTE-SAINT-LUC **\$4,845,000**
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BEDS: 4 BATHS: 3+1 | MLS 16847885
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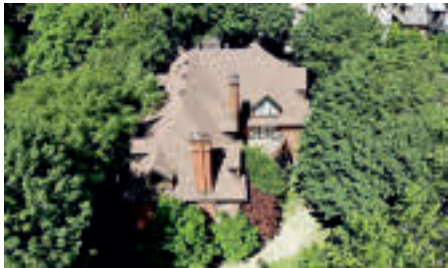
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MANOIR BELMONT **\$3,975,000**
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BEDS: 3 BATHS: 2 | MLS 9010525
3,500+ ft² renovated modern masterpiece boasts thoughtfully conceived living spaces at every turn.



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1616 DES BERGES-DE-L'EST ROAD
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WESTMOUNT **\$10,750,000**
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BEDS: 6+1 BATHS: 6+1 | MLS 17554683
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VILLE-MARIE **\$ 9,250,000**
1444 REDPATH-CRESCENT ROAD
BEDS: 6 BATHS: 5+2 | MLS 22951732
Majestic stone mansion built in 1928 by renowned architect Percy Nobbs with pool.



WESTMOUNT **\$6,900,000**
55 BELVEDERE ROAD
BEDS: 10 BATHS: 7+1 | MLS 18821264
Grand 10 bedroom home sitting on 34,500 ft² of land, steps from the summit.



WESTMOUNT **\$3,898,000/\$14,000^{MO}**
11 ANWOTH ROAD
BEDS: 5 BATHS: 3+1 | MLS 9080798
Grand & elegant detached 3 storey home steps to Greene Avenue with 2 car garage.



WESTMOUNT **\$2,995,000**
613 ROSLYN AVENUE
BEDS: 3+1 BATHS: 3+1
Completely renovated family home in the heart of Westmount.



WESTMOUNT **\$2,895,000**
669 GROSVENOR AVENUE
BEDS: 6+1 BATHS: 4+1 | MLS 26999345
Completely renovated Westmount home with double garage & amazing views.



GLENEAGLES **\$2,450,000**
3940 CÔTE-DES-NEIGES ROAD, APT. A41
BEDS: 3 BATHS: 2 | MLS 24285452
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WESTMOUNT **\$ 2,195,000**
15 ANWOTH ROAD
BEDS: 3 BATHS: 3+1 | MLS 14507740
Beautiful home located on one of Westmount's most coveted streets on the flats.



WESTMOUNT **\$2,195,000**
435 STRATHCONA AVENUE
BEDS: 6 BATHS: 3+1 | MLS 16642553
Very large semi-detached 5 bedroom home on the flats with enormous potential.



WESTMOUNT **\$1,550,000/\$4,600^{MO}**
37 BURTON AVENUE
BEDS: 5 BATHS: 2 | MLS 21072879
Perfectly located in the heart of Victoria Village, this turn-of-the-century victorian family home has it all.



VILLE-MARIE **\$1,549,000**
3534-3536 CÔTE-DES-NEIGES ROAD
BEDS: 2 BATHS: 2 | MLS 9626573
Ideally located in the heart of downtown, this architecturally unique duplex has it all.



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Westmount Adj. - 2 198 000\$



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EDITORIAL

Gazette's René Lévesque cartoon terrible from multiple perspectives

Sorry to be late to this party. Weekly publication has its drawbacks. – DP

The *Gazette* ran a cartoon August 30 showing, from left, an old woman with a leashed dog in a Canadian-flag sweater urinating on a poster commemorating what would have been former premier René Lévesque's 100th birthday.

Unsurprisingly, this caused a stir among the separatists and their fellow travellers. That's fair. Lévesque is not a hot topic right now and this cartoon certainly dredges up all sorts of negative memories from the past, for no obvious reason.*

Why go there, *Gazette*? Why go there, cartoonist?

More interesting to me, though, were some of the facts that came to light afterwards and the hyper tone-deaf defence of the cartoon penned by *The Gazette*'s new editor, Bert Archer, major portions of which are reproduced at right.

Where does one begin?

Goldstyn fan of Lévesque!

Firstly, from CTV News, we learned that the cartoonist – Boris/Jacques Goldstyn – “told *La Presse* in response to the backlash that he is, in fact, a fan of Lévesque and that he voted yes during the Quebec referendum.

“[Goldstyn] went on to say that his intention was to denounce the contempt that some anglophones in Quebec have for Lévesque, whose 100th birthday was celebrated by heavyweights in Quebec politics earlier this year at the Quebec National Library in Montreal.”

Aha.

So the target was not Lévesque, but anglos! In an English newspaper. Because of an attitude that a Yes voter thinks that anglophones have.

Hmmm.

There is a French term – probably acceptable to the *Office québécois de la langue française* itself – for this kind of person: an *agent provocateur*.

*Keen readers will remember that I opposed re-naming Dorchester Blvd in Westmount after Lévesque (January 16, 2018, p. 19). Like this brouhaha, that debate was started by someone trying to expand the commemoration of Lévesque, not by anyone going on the offensive against him. And while we are at it, do you think that the commemoration of Lévesque's 100th birthday was an organic, heartfelt popular outpouring? Or an attempt by a small number of current-day political actors to bolster their cause, and careers?

Most readers of *The Gazette* – franco, anglo and allo – probably don't know much about Goldstyn, so he could easily start this acrimonious fight between his (current or erstwhile?) separatist/nationalist allies and anglos, and give ammunition to his (current or erstwhile?) separatist/nationalist allies, all the while appearing to be a federalist due to his cartoon's presence in an English newspaper.

Nice work if you can get it. But surely *The Gazette* should know more about its contributor? Why play along?

The Gazette's readership is likely overwhelmingly federalist. Does that readership, or the anglophone community generally, need to be set up, against its knowledge and without its consent, as a caricature that no longer exists, and may not have existed, or existed much?

Today, I suspect most anglos would not only not allow their (actual or metaphorical) dog to *negligently* urinate on a poster Lévesque, they would work very, very hard (i.e. *above and beyond the mere avoidance of negligence*) to avoid that situation.

In the end, it is Goldstyn's own prejudices that he reveals. Most anglos that I am aware of are happy to let Lévesque rest in peace. The urine came from Goldstyn's pen, not the dog of any anglo.

Archer misses

Then there is Archer's defence of the cartoon, which he seems to interpret in the same way as Goldstyn.

His characterization of the woman in the cartoon is a checklist of ageist, misogynist, lookist and prejudiced terms, including:

- “a woman drawn without sympathy,”
- whose “signs of age [are] exaggerated,”
- and who is “made to look ugly” because
- “she represents a stereotype of a certain breed of intransigent anglo, or simply a generation that mostly doesn't exist in Montreal anymore, a generation that's aged out in one way or another.”

If in fact this “certain breed” of person doesn't exist in Montreal “anymore,” why bring her/him/them up? And is *The Gazette* now endorsing *stereotyping*?

Will it soon be stereotyping other communities too? Please let us know.

Don't mistake me: I have a strong stomach for satire and off-colour humour. Satirists and comedians should be allowed to speak and write and draw, even when their work offends. But we also have the right to respond and point out the weakness in their arguments and their inconsistencies – and those of their publishers. It is not

just politicians who are hypocrites.

The point is not that I am offended by Goldstyn's cartoon, and it certainly is not that this cartoon should be illegal. My point is subtler. Has *The Gazette* now become a version of *The Onion* or of Mike Ward's comedy, where all sorts of unbridled, off-colour commentary is acceptable? Against any target?

Or is it only okay against certain targets? Perhaps because you can get away with if the target is *perceived* to have power?

Why anglos?

Even if this were so (and I oppose this double standard), are anglos powerful? They haven't stopped Bill 96. Their votes don't change election results. Why are they being treated in this way?

Or are anglos being targetted because they are weak and unlikely to defend themselves much? There is a word for that in English: bully.

Or should the cartoon be understood as adolescent-style rebellion? Something like: “Daddy hated Lévesque” – in the 1970s – “so I'll show him now.”

Or should the cartoon be understood as self-hatred? Remember that *The Gazette* is an English-language paper, with presumably mainly anglophone subscribers.

Archer calls Lévesque one of “Québec's greatest political figures, who fought for a vision of this province that many came to share in one way or another.”

Umm, not many (or no) anglos or federalists of my acquaintance. While anglos do not mention Lévesque much, I have never heard any say, “Bill 101 was such sensible, measured legislation” or “I am really glad so many of my friends and family members now live in Toronto/New York/London” or “I am so glad we spend so much time talking about language in this province. It is so constructive.”

And why the accent on “Quebec”? Is it not an English word, too?

Why are we here?

Archer then talks of his readers as people “who did not move away, or who have come back or moved here, precisely because of the legacy Lévesque and others like him have left.”

Again, no: not many (or no) anglos or federalists of my acquaintance.

Many of your readers, Bert Archer, are here *despite* Leveque's legacy. And – now that you and Goldstyn have made us think of him – we recall that Lévesque's legacy is:

- Economic turmoil,
- Unprovoked attacks on Quebecers'

rights and anglophone institutions,

- Division and strife,
- The categorization of Quebecers by their provincial government into groups (e.g. historic anglo, franco, allo – each with different rights and duties),
- Absent family and friends.

Rest in peace, René Lévesque, but I look forward to the repeal through the democratic process of many of the legal prohibitions that your supporters have espoused over the years – for the benefit of anglos, allos and, yes, francos.

English is not a disease, Canada is not a conspiracy, and personal freedom and individual rights are good things – for everybody.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

Excerpt from “Gazette editor's note about the controversial Boris cartoon” by Bert Archer (August 31)

I saw in the foreground a woman drawn without sympathy – no visible eyes, the signs of age exaggerated and made to look ugly – who is oblivious to everything, including her dog, which is urinating in the direction of a poster in the background with a sensitively, even reverently drawn René Lévesque.

I took the woman as being the subject of the cartoon, not Lévesque. Whether she represents a stereotype of a certain breed of intransigent anglo, or simply a generation that mostly doesn't exist in Montreal anymore, a generation that's aged out in one way or another, I took it to be her and her careless ignorance that is the butt of the satire, not the former premier.

This was a strong cartoon, for me, precisely because of the starkness of the central image. It is an outrage to piss on the memory of one of Québec's greatest political figures, who fought for a vision of this province that many came to share in one way or another.

The Montreal *Gazette* serves, and is put out all day every day by, people who love this city and this province. Our staff, like Montreal, consists of, among many others, anglos who did not move away, or who have come back or moved here, precisely because of the legacy Lévesque and others like him have left.

A tribute to the Echenbergs, father Paul (1943-2022) & son Michael (1974-2022): Accomplished, kind, funny

By DAVID PRICE

Longtime Westmounter Paul Echenberg died August 29, two days after his son, Michael, who was raised here but was living in New York at the time of his death.

Michael was a successful businessman, holding a number of senior positions at US companies, including Weight Watchers. He is survived by his wife Janis and children Henry and William Echenberg.

As our profile of him explained (January 16, 2008, p. 1), Paul was also a successful businessman and proud father of three, Nancy, Lynne and Michael, and grandfather of four, including Michael's children and Nancy's, Jake and Anna Lisser.

Paul is survived by his wife Judy.

Last week was a sombre one at the *Independent* and among Westmounters who knew them.

* * *

Michael was one year below me in high school and I knew him a bit, particularly at the week-long high school debating nationals of 1990 and, on a different note, at one of the most out-of-control teenage parties that I have ever attended. (His behaviour was impeccable. I was in my element and enjoyed myself immensely.)

At nationals, which was held in Medicine Hat, Alberta, we had a great time and the Quebec team came up with many silly inside jokes, which – being teenagers – we milked to death.

Quebec Clan

First off, for whatever reason, the 10 or so Quebec debaters knew each other much better than other provinces' team members did, so we were accused of being "clannish." Okay, we said, we will be the "Quebec Clan," which we brought up as often as we could in an unrepentant, irreverent way.

It caught on so much that a student from some other province said to me at one time, "What is the Quebec Clan doing tonight?" as though we had a formal decision-making process set up to coordinate social plans.

Another silly joke came from an encounter on the way there with a very odd woman in the Calgary airport who *really, really* wanted to tell us that the Calgary airport was a *double airport*. We never figured out what she meant, but we sure found it funny!

Once we arrived, one of the events of the week was a 100-person mock parliament. I got to play the part of a government



Michael Echenberg, right, and David Price at the 24th National Student Debating Seminar in Medicine Hat, Alberta, held April 28 to May 4, 1990. This detail is from the event's group photo.

minister. Michael was cast as an opposition member. During "question period," he rose and asked me about "this newfangled *double airport*" in Calgary.

It was hard not to burst out laughing, which of course would have made no sense to most attendees.

'Double airport' returns

Years later, during another sombre week, after September 11, 2001, I heard that many US airplanes had been diverted to the Calgary airport (among other places).

Out of nowhere, I heard this little voice inside my head that said: "But at least it's a *double airport*."

I had not thought about this "joke" for years, but even on such a sad day my inner high school student could not help cracking a smile. I left Michael a voicemail about it.

In a similar vein, at that delightful teenage party, Michael and I had a long, running joke about all the names of the devil. On my end, the reader will be unsurprised to learn that I had consumed a few beverages. I make no accusations about Michael, but the conversation sure was funny at the time.

I only saw him once or twice after that. What a lucky guy I would have been to have known him better.

My condolences to his family and friends.

* * *

Paul, on the other hand, I got to know quite well.

At one of those awkward times in life when I had education but not that much

experience, and risked getting caught in the classic unemployment catch-22 (no job without experience, but no experience without a job), Paul and his three business partners hired me as the fifth finance professional and sole junior at their private equity group, Schrodgers & Associates Canada – for which I remain grateful.

(This private equity business was founded as an offshoot of, but was largely distinct by this time from, the still-operating money manager Schrodgers.)

Two sides to business career

Unlike many businessmen, Paul succeeded both as an operator (i.e. directing a business that actually makes things, in his case packaging at Twinpak in "phase one" of his career) and as a corporate finance professional in "phase two" (i.e. advising clients on mergers, acquisitions and financings, and investing in companies without actually running them himself).

At the time, Paul was in phase two of his career and our job was to operate two buyout funds whose mandate was to take major shareholding positions in fairly large profitable private companies, grow them, and re-sell them in three to five years.

Sense of humour

As we worked away at this serious stuff, it became apparent to me that Paul, like his son Michael, had a great sense of humour. As the junior, one of my jobs was to read the lower-quality business proposals that arrived over the general email address, none of which ever approached being se-

riously considered. (Most likely deals came from lawyers, accountants and mid-market investment bankers.) When I summarized for the partners the bizarre smorgasbord that these emails formed, laughter erupted, often. Half the time, we could not even figure out what these "businesses" did.

One of the funniest emails I received was looking for funding for a porn site. (Was it called "Electronic Rabbit"? Or am I inventing that?) It was wrong for us on about five different levels, but we laughed and laughed!

And who knows? It might have been a great investment for someone.

Another time – and it is a testament to Paul's informality and sense of humour that I was willing to share this joke with my boss, who was also old enough to be my father – I told him about this expression that a friend and I had coined in university: *glutei convivii* – in rough Latin: "party assholes." He thought it was hilarious. I still remember him laughing about it behind his large, very executive-looking desk. Many finance-types are less merry and literate, trust me.

(For clarity, Paul was a wonderful host and – I am sure – a fine guest too, not a *gluteus convivii*, but he still appreciated the irreverent humour.)

Paul was also very kind. We once had a mid-career lawyer make an awful hash of advising us about a securities law issue over the phone. None of us was impressed, but Paul said, "You know what? I think I can help. We should have another meeting." Over the years, I've seen a lot of lawyers do a lot of work for a lot of clients, including all sorts of non-value-add activities. I have only once seen an unimpressed senior client offer to help a lawyer be better next time, likely with other clients and so of no benefit to him.

Eventually, it was time for me to move on, but I stayed in touch with Paul and we would have lunch from time to time.

Mergers & acquisitions revisited, twice

As some readers will remember, here at the *Independent* we at one time worked to acquire our now defunct rival, *The Examiner*, from its owner, Transcontinental (see *Examiner*: December 15, 2011 p. 4 and our issue: December 21-22, 2011, p. 6).

Mergers and acquisitions! This was my former wheelhouse! And Paul's!

He and I reconnected, and he gave me some advice on how to approach them. I visited him at temporary offices that he was using as Schrodgers & Associates

wound down. Coincidentally, those offices were on the same floor in Place Ville Marie as Transcon's HQ.

"We should just go knock on the door!" Paul said, with a big smile on his face. What Transcon would have made of that, I cannot imagine.

Anyway, that deal never happened and Paul summed it up philosophically, as he often would: "Some of the best deals are the ones that you do not do."

I thanked him for his help with a bottle of Chivas Regal, which I remembered was his drink. It was probably the least profitable mandate he was ever involved in.

Going home again

In this period, I even had the opportunity to go back to Schrodgers & Associates for a small consulting job regarding some final details at one of the investments.

Novelist Jack Kerouac wanted at one time to return home to Lowell, Massachusetts to prove wrong the admonition of one of his favourite authors, Thomas Wolfe, who wrote *You Can't Go Home Again*. Well, in this one case, I succeeded where Jack failed.

I remember Paul, one of his partners and I sitting in freezing-cold board room (why do they keep them so cold?) in Toronto, with other shareholders of the company, and lawyers galore, and a million thorny details. Private equity all over again,

in a good way. It was as though I had never left.

Last call

Thankfully, my last memory of Paul is one of the best. As readers will remember, the *Independent* appealed for readers' support last year regarding access to public real estate information.

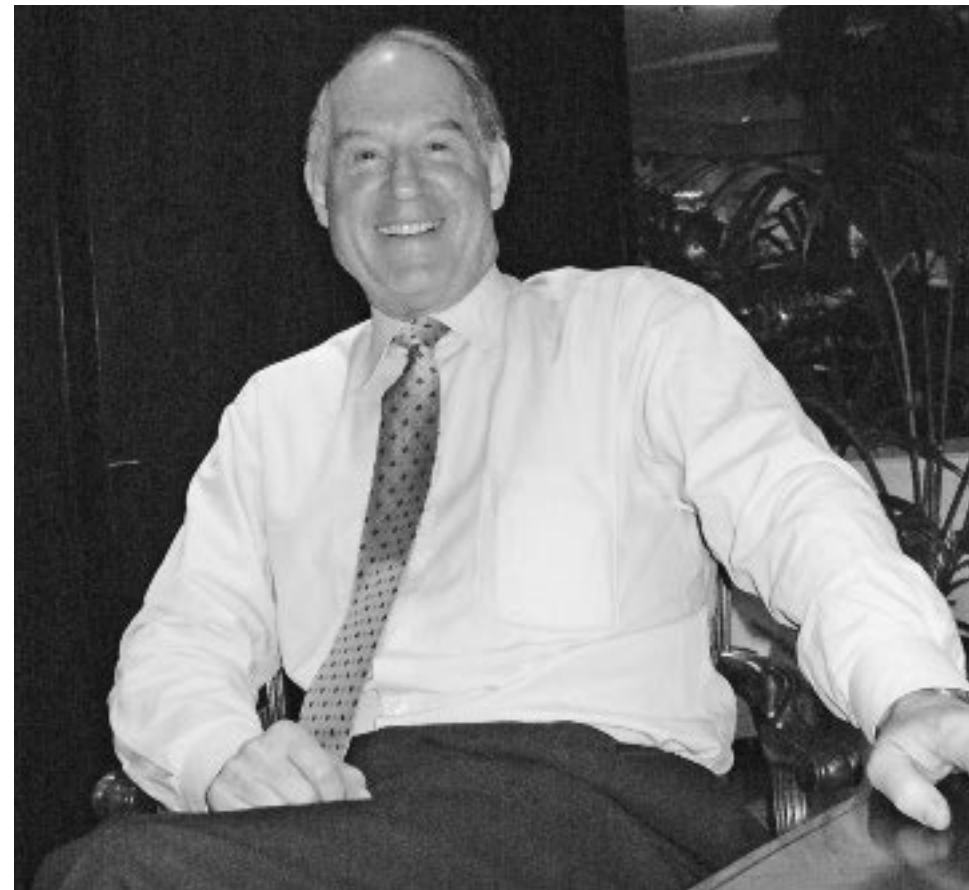
I did not know most of the people who wrote in to support us (which was a nice surprise in itself), but – unsolicited – Paul sent a very warm and complimentary letter for publication (September 28, 2021, p. 8). I was particularly pleased when he used the term "our *Independent*" – a wonderful endorsement. I thanked him over a phone call and we had a nice conversation, talking about a number of things, including – unfortunately – Michael's illness.

I hope to see Paul in the afterlife. If that works out, I will forego beer for once and join him in some slugs of Chivas. We can perhaps be (mild) *glutei convivii* together at some out-of-control party and laugh about how we should have invested in Electronic Rabbit.

Regardless, I hope that I have conveyed to those who did, and did not, know him what a great guy I think he was.

Westmount has suffered a great loss.

My condolences to his family and friends.



Paul Echenberg in early 2008 at the time of his profile in the *Independent*. "It's been a great ride," he said as he retired from Schrodgers & Associates Canada – and from having full-time responsibilities. He continued to be on the board of many companies.

PHOTO: LAUREN SWEENEY.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘ACCIDENTS’ ON CITY PAVEMENT AFFECT LIVES

Our sidewalks are in a hazardous condition! Indeed, accidents are all-too frequent on public streets, and arguably not dealt with proactively, or fairly, by the city’s administration.

The memory of what happened to a friend is pertinent. She’d had a bad fall and as a result of her injury was taken to Emergency. In addition to the physical pain, experiencing such a lengthy delay to her claim (over three years), which was never resolved, was disheartening. She lost hope of seeing a reasonable conclusion. Perhaps not engaging a lawyer was an error. I believe such lengthy waits are, in part, a deterrent and the reason many people choose not to pursue a complaint to the appropriate department.

To get to the heart of the matter, people’s lives are greatly affected when “accidents” are caused by lack of appropriate maintenance – timely repairs and appropriate materials. It is indisputable that tax-paying (property owners or renters) Westmount residents – and the many others who attend schools, places of work and worship, traveling here for health appointments or shopping, must be assured that this issue will be given immediate attention.

The elected officials, from Mayor [Christina] Smith to city councillor [Anitra] Bostock, whose portfolio was safety and is Public Works, and the directors of Public Works and of the Legal department, should exert themselves in this regard. People’s lives should matter, whether they are drivers or cyclists who when reaching their destination are on foot, or others who rely on public transit.

While many streets are in good condition, some – such as stretches of Victoria Ave. and St. Catherine, in particular near Alexis Nihon – are in deplorable condition. Citizens must have reliable standards of maintenance and not be at the mercy of inconsistent reparation or neglect.

Due to the fall I had on St. Catherine near the bus stop at Alexis Nihon this summer, I was not only hurt and incapacitated. It had a major impact on my daily life and health. Not only were summer activities, including participating in the Dragon Boat with the Cedar’s Cancer fund-

raising event and exercise such as swimming impossible, but essentials such as cleaning, cooking and other aspects of life were significantly affected.

A cast attracts attention: I’ve had many unsolicited comments, and acknowledgement that it’s happened to them or those they’ve known.

Having attended a late-spring public meeting with the mayor and local councillors, I recall a response suggesting that this area is under construction and renewal, thus the street work/repair is on hold.

That would be a fallacy for several reasons: firstly, safety must be ensured, and secondly, the area where I fell, brought on by the condition of the sidewalk, is on the north side near Atwater, not on the south side, which has been the focus of renewal and construction.

Patching, according to Councillor Kathleen Kez, is not the answer. I am most grateful for her call when hearing of my fall. Her will and commitment to find solutions to difficult issue is refreshing.

Our well-being, the safety of Westmount residents and people coming here from every corner of the island of Montreal, is important. Of course, the pandemic has stalled “business as usual” – all services, including repairs, have been affected.

But, hazardous streets and consequences have been a notable problem well before 2019. “Accidents” are preventable. Let’s see a renewed commitment to street safety as a priority.

CAROLINE JONDAHL, ST. CATHERINE ST.

WHERE’S THE FOLLOW-THROUGH?

Our mayor and council seem intent on providing an illusion of progress, when in reality the city is barely moving forward in many areas. Let’s start with two recent issues raised repeatedly by me at council.

Why is the city not delivering at all on its 2021 commitment to a merchant outreach program to improve accessibility? The city acknowledges that nothing was undertaken last year but offers no new action plan.

Why are unsafe sidewalks not being repaired in Victoria village? After promising to start the repairs (August 23, p. 4), the only patching done in the Vic village neigh-

bourhood was at the Metro front door and at a restaurant across Victoria. No other defect anywhere else is even marked.

The city just set up a report-a-sidewalk problem on its website. Are residents now the front line of defence? Where is the necessary systematic plan to inspect sidewalks and repair them?

What happened to Imagine Westmount 2040 and the Westmount Park restoration? After the huge launch effort, both have completely disappeared from sight.

What about the development of the Tupper lots? We don’t hear anything anymore. The city could use the money.

Where is the indoor pool?

Why did residents feel the need to hire their own consultant regarding the design of sidewalks on Mount Pleasant (August 16, p. 3)? Are residents no longer confident in the quality of the city’s proposals or that they will be heard?

What happened to the update of renovation guidelines repeatedly promised and even launched six years ago? As a climate-mitigation step, it could have a huge pay-back.

Why is our council continuing to struggle with setting up a stable leadership structure to run the city?

Is this what residents expect for their tax dollars? I think not. These are serious issues that have a direct impact on our quality of life.

It’s critical for councillors to now step back and re-think their priorities for the city. We can do much better.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

WHY SO MUCH MONEY FOR SOUND REVIEW?

While I understand Councillor Kathleen Kez’s desire to “get it right” (“City adds funds to sound level analysis of highway,” August 30, p. 4), I have difficulty understanding why the costs are so high.

The figures quoted in the article amount to almost \$108,000 plus taxes. These are fees to a firm hired by the law firm involved in the city’s action against the ministry [of Transport of the province, the “MTQ”]. This amount seems excessive for what is described as “to analyze sound studies from the MTQ.”

One would think that checking out these studies, presuming they were done by a reputable firm, cannot be so complicated, nor should it require such an expenditure. It may even be possible that more funds might be required in the future.

Considering the terrible condition of our streets in Westmount one could think of better use of these funds.

BERNARD SHUSTER, WOOD AVE.

CONTEXT NEEDED ABOUT POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE

The reports in the August 16 (p. 5) and 23 (p. 12) editions mention that “supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have gathered outside the (Israeli) consulate at Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. on several occasions in the past few years to stage noisy demonstrations – often while being monitored closely by the police.” The report went on to state that a witness had seen “several participants re-

continued on p. 13

Correction re: 4353 Montrose



Last issue (p. 16), we published the wrong photo for 4353 Montrose, which sold in April for \$2.1 million. 4353 Montrose is in fact the house at left, as seen September 12. – DP. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

move 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.”

Your report does not give any context about the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).*

The PFLP does not recognize the state of Israel, opposes negotiations with the Israeli government, and favours a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The PFLP is well known for pioneering armed aircraft hijackings.

The PFLP has been designated a terrorist organization by Canada, the United States, the EU, Japan and Australia.

It is truly outrageous that the police continuously issue** demonstration permits to an organization that fronts for the PFLP.

AVRUM STARK, CLARKE AVE.

Editor's notes: *As I have said about vaccination (March 1, p. 7) and climate change (January 11, p. 8), I caution anyone with an interest in Middle East politics: you will not find in-depth coverage here, or convince the other side(s) via letters to us. Even so, when an event with Middle Eastern connections happens in Westmount, we will cover it – if it is the type of event that we would cover normally.

**I asked. There was no permit issued by Station 12 on Stanton St. for the August 10 demonstration in Westmount. It is my impression, after talking to our police reporter Martin Barry, that many demonstrations take place without permits. So, as a matter of analysis, *not approval (or disapproval) by me*: I encourage readers (1) not to assume that a permit has been issued because they see a demonstration in progress, and (2) not to expect the police to try to terminate a protest because it does not have a permit. Readers are, of course, free to criticize this state of affairs and advocate for another, in these pages or elsewhere. – DP.

HOPING FOR AN INCLUSIVE QUEBEC

RE: “Introducing Colin Standish, leader of the Canadian Party” (editorial, September 6, p. 6)

I fully agree with your comments. Even though English is my third language, I have always been in favour of people learning languages, as it opens up other worlds.

Note that French or maybe more properly my *français fonctionnel* (diplôme de génie mécanique de l'école Polytechnique et une maîtrise en informatique de

L'UQAM) ended up sort of being my fourth language.

When we arrived in Montreal in 1953, my parents were pleased to learn that here one not only spoke English but also French. Although my father spoke four languages, and my mother only three, neither spoke French, but they definitely wanted me to learn it and thus my mother set off with me to a French school nearby.

Of course, when the good nuns at the French school heard that we were Protestants, they got us out the door so fast that my mother did not even understand why. A neighbour clarified the situation. If you were not *catholique de Rome*, you could not go to French schools.

Also, my first friend in Canada was Québécois (*pure laine*) but fully bilingual. As I was already starting to learn English, he helped me with my English.

Anyhow, I just like the way Mr. Standish offers people a freedom of choice of either French or English. After all, when we immigrated from Germany in 1953, we heard the phrase “But this is a free country” so often that even after all of these years (note I was only eight years old at the time), I still remember it.

And yes, I am very sorry regarding the

[provincial] Liberal Party, as in the past I have almost always voted for them, as they came the closest to what I wished. And yes, I am fully aware re vote splitting, BUT I cannot vote for anyone who does not care for me.

AFTER ALL, I AM A CANADIAN WHO UP TO NOW HAS GENERALLY ENJOYED LIVING IN QUEBEC AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE HERE, BUT IN AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

LACK OF STRATEGY HURTS NEW PARTIES' CHANCES

The Equality Party with under four percent of the popular vote on the island of Montreal and under five percent of the popular vote province-wide elected four MNAs to the National Assembly [in 1989]. The combined popular vote of the two new parties [Canadian, Bloc Montreal] is reported at five percent provincially. One would assume that the support is coming from the same quarters as it did in 1989 when the Unity Party joined forces with Equality. Strategic thinking appears to be off the table this time, with the likely result that anglos will be on the shelf.

HOWARD GREENFIELD, HILLSIDE AVE.

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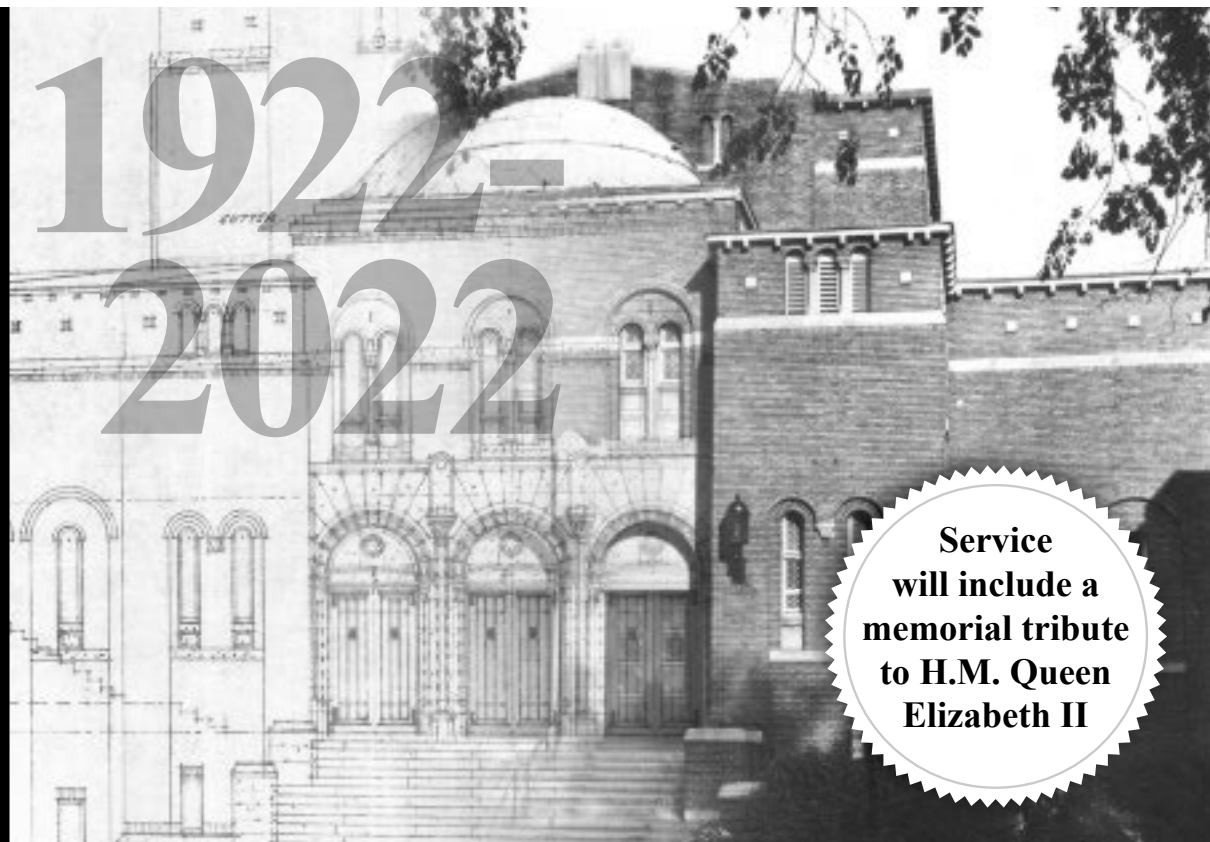
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Hockey, cont'd from p. 1

At age 34, Martin is not ready to play in the city's Executive league, which is designed for older players and those able to play only once a week rather than two, he said.

Numbers at stake

But what the Senior leagues lose, the Executive League gains. "The numbers tell the story," Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe told the *Independent*.

With recent hockey registration, the demand for the city's Executive league (typically older players who play less often) had a waiting list this year of 40, while combined numbers in the two senior leagues kept declining and required more and more non-residents to operate.

Why the changes in these demographics?

Lapointe cites several reasons: adult players getting older, some with less time to play hockey two nights a week, the role that COVID has played and a number of new adult city residents wanting to take up hockey.

Combining the two senior leagues will allow the city to expand the Executive league to add two more teams and accommodate more residents "which is our mission," Lapointe said. "The city's requirements are that programs must have a minimum of 75 percent residents."

Those who may not live in Westmount are typically accorded resident status if they coach or volunteer in the city programs or are staff members but this is still not accommodating the numbers needed in the Senior leagues.

To the Senior A players, in particular, however, their league has been an "institution" in the city based on the competitive nature of their players, Martin said. Meanwhile, in a new combined league, some of the Senior B players do not relish the idea of playing alongside the more aggressive Senior A ones, described by Martin as "a safety issue."

Time offered for private rental

Under the new schedule, however, the city has offered to rent ice time to a privately run Senior A hockey league for one night a week. This is so that Justin McManus, who operates a summer Senior A hockey league when the city does not, can involve many of the same Senior A players who no longer want to play in the city's new combined league.

The city, McManus said last week, has offered him two time slots one night a week. This is Wednesdays, for which some 50 Senior A players have already signed up, Martin said at press time. They will be paying more for less playing time on the private rental than with the city's program.

"It's hard to understand how throughout the years we were always able to schedule separate Senior A and Senior B games as well as those in the Executive league when we had only one rink," said Martin. "We now have double the rinks."



400 Mount Pleasant on September 9.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Mt. Pleasant building owner seeks 'office' zoning, cont'd from p. 1

mitted.

The re-zoning by-law allows for a parking "provision" meaning that none would

be required for the first 6,000 square feet on the first floor as is the case for adjacent commercial areas on Greene. Other parking considerations include the fact that the current building is not designed to accommodate a sufficient number of parking spaces and is located near a Metro station, it was explained in the city's presentation.

Some indoor and outdoor parking currently exists on the property.

The re-zoning is now subject to the possible referendum process, for which a public notice is being published including information on required signatures.

The building has a Category I heritage rating (see story July 5, p. 14).

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Application to open a registry in view of approval by way of referendum –
Second draft of By-law 1588**

1. Following the public consultation meeting held on July 11, 2022, on the first draft of By-law 1588, the Municipal Council adopted the second draft of by-law 1588 entitled "BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND ZONING BY-LAW 1303 – OFFICE USE IN ZONE R9-09-03" by resolution at its regular meeting held on September 6, 2022.
2. This second draft by-law contains provisions that may be requested by interested persons in order that a by-law containing them be submitted for their approval in accordance with the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* (CQLR, chapter E-2.2).
3. Interested persons may submit to the City Clerk's Office, no later than **Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**, an application to open a registry in view of submitting the provisions of the second draft of by-law 1588 to the approval of certain qualified voters.
4. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

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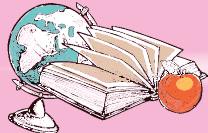


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Weekly, Vol. 16 No. 9b

We are Westmount

September 13, 2022



School's in

Roslyn student Angèle Dopp was excited to be back at school, as seen September 8 outside Roslyn School, but not so thrilled to be rushing off to the dentist.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

ON BOARD THIS ISSUE			
	GIRLS ONLY	GIRLS & BOYS	BOYS ONLY
Elementary		Solomon Schechter, p. 16 The Priory p. 7	
Elementary & high school*	ECS p. 5 The Study p. 3	LCC p. 4 St. George's p. 10 Kells p. 14-5	Selwyn House p. 2
High school*	Sacred Heart p. 9 Trafalgar p. 8	BCS p. 6 Centennial p. 12-3 Loyola p. 11	

*also includes
Grade 12 and CEGEP
in some cases.

Back to school!



Buses lined up on Academy Rd. in front of Westmount Park School. This is apparently a new set-up from the previous way of queuing on Park Place.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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LCC Puts the Focus on Emotional Well-Being

One of Canada’s leading schools, Lower Canada College has a reputation as a bastion of academic success that is affirmed by more than a century of graduates who have reached every echelon of achievement. While a rigorous curriculum will always be the focus, changing times and new perspectives in psychology are bringing the importance of the emotional well-being of LCC’s students to the fore.

Children today face an array of stressors, both technological and social, that were unknown to their parents. Recognizing the risks that these new pressures entail, LCC has been thoughtfully putting supports in place, systems intended not to remove challenges from their students’ paths, but to help them build techniques and practice coping mechanisms so they can face and overcome the

obstacles that life is sure to throw their way.

Teachers for the youngest grades have been emphasizing social-emotional learning (SEL), employing a well-regarded program called Zones of Regulation. It makes use of a simple colour-coded system to help kids name and recognize their feelings in order to foster greater control of their emotions. Later Junior School grades have implemented the Umbrella Project, building on this emotional work and introducing skills like resilience, realistic optimism and growth mindset. LCC is the first school in Quebec to adopt this leading-edge curriculum.

As students make their way through the Middle School years, LCC has adopted the PERMA-V model, which stands for Positive emotion, Engagement,

Relationships, Meaning, Accomplishment, and Vitality. Intended to improve well-being, PERMA-V has had demonstrated success in education settings and beyond. LCC Outreach and Wellness Coordinator Gillian Shadley also notes the importance of adult mentorship. Indeed, a wide array of staff is on hand: teachers, of course, but also three full-time school counsellors, grade coordinators, directors, interns, nurses, and coaches, all working in cooperation. “The more adults you bring in, with a diversity of experiences and interests, the easier it is for kids to make a connection.”

One of LCC’s great strengths is its advisory program, which begins in Middle School and continues throughout Senior School. Groups of 10-15 students meet twice weekly with a

teacher who gets to know them and follows their growth over a period of several years. This advisor acts as an advocate and guide, offering advice and monitoring progress. These sessions are a great milieu in which to explore PERMA-V and some of the more complex elements of social well-being that students deal with.

As LCC Director of Student Life, Michele Owen says, “we’re using reframing and mindfulness techniques that offer alternatives to frustration and withdrawal. And they’re also learning the value of breaking things down into manageable goals rather than lofty ones. It’s an approach deeply rooted in research, and it’s showing a real effect on both our students’ sense of self and their academic, co-curricular, and social success.”



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Sacred Heart teaches its students to feel brave enough to take on a world that will challenge them in many different ways over the course of a lifetime, but also feel safe enough to rely on their Sacred Heart community for support and encouragement.

The most influential years of a person's life are between the ages of 12 and 17 which makes high school a crucial stepping stone. Choosing the Sacred Heart School of Montreal to educate your child during these formative years is a responsibility they are not only proud to embrace but also one that is not taken lightly. Ensuring a caring, safe, value-based education and inspirational environment for its students is what Sacred Heart is all about. The small class sizes allow for more individual attention and one-on-one guidance, whereas the all-girl environment offers a nurturing space for the students to flourish and reach their fullest potential.

Finding Her Voice

Since 1861, Sacred Heart has always been ahead of its time, deeming girls' worthy of not only an education but one that goes over and above one's rights. Encouraging its students to thrive academically as well as socially, and to strive for greatness are all part of Sacred Heart's fundamentals. The school is committed to developing young women of intellect, conviction, compassion and with a sense of justice for all.

Since girls learn differently than boys, all-girls' schools are able to focus on girls' unique learning styles. Imagine being taught by educators who understand and appreciate the way girls learn. Imagine walking the hallways with images gracing the walls of past & present inspirational female leaders and role models, feeling that could very well be you one day. Wouldn't you feel like your future is full of wonder and opportunity? The young women of Sacred Heart experience this every day, and are then inspired to become informed, engaged global citizens who lead with confidence and grace.

She Matters

Opening in the Fall of 2022 is the new Julia Cianci Wellness Centre, named in memory of Julia Cianci, class of 2018, where students, faculty, staff and alumnae can benefit from wellness services that support physical, mental and emotional health. Creating a space

that offers an opportunity to participate, engage and communicate freely while putting one's health as a priority is one of the many ways Sacred Heart has chosen to enhance the student experience.

Not just a program, but a one-year experience

The Sacred Heart Grade 12 one-year program provides female students a unique opportunity to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) in the heart of downtown Montreal. Sacred Heart partners with OVS (Ontario Virtual School - Accredited by the Ontario Ministry of Education) to provide a rich online curriculum in conjunction with scheduled physical classes with Sacred Heart teachers. Students are supported throughout every step of their online courses while the content and topics are reviewed, discussed and brought to life in an in-person classroom environment. Grade 12 students have unlimited access to coaching, mentoring, subject support, and university and career planning.

The Ontario Secondary School Diploma is internationally-recognized and permits students to apply directly to universities in Canada, the US and abroad.

Endless Possibilities

Girls' schools have a long history of engaging girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) subjects and Sacred Heart is no exception. The students are encouraged from their first day of school to engage in an array of activities and subjects that allow their interests to expand. From Robotics and coding club, to advanced math, graduates leave Sacred Heart with a plethora of opportunities at their doorstep.

Sacred Heart graduates are perfect examples as they have been accepted to some of the most prestigious and world-renowned universities, into Science programs such as Physics, Biochemistry and Industrial Engineering, to Business and Arts...The possibilities are endless.

When joining Sacred Heart, you develop a common goal with the faculty, staff, parents and alumnae. That goal is to come together and encourage its students to follow their ambitions while supporting them each step of the way, because Sacred Heart is not just a school, at its core, it's a community.

OPEN HOUSE

- Wed. Sept. 28 - 9 to 11 am
5 to 7 pm
- Sat. Oct. 1 - 12:30 to 2:30 pm

The Sacred Heart School of Montreal

sacredheart.qc.ca

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The Sacred Heart School of Montreal is a private English high school for girls, from grades 7 to 11, leading to a Quebec Secondary School Diploma. Grade 12 also available.





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Since 1930, St. George's School of Montreal has been living their mission of being an engaged learning community rooted in progressive education. As the city's first co-educational K-11 independent school, they provide student-centered learning within a rigorous academic environment.

St. George's approach to teaching and learning comes from proven research-based practices focusing on the whole child. "My role is dedicated to expanding progressive education from kindergarten to grade 11, which demonstrates the school's commitment to research and innovation," says Dr. Kimberly Bartlett, the school's Associate Head of Progressive Education.

"There is a deep belief and commitment to individualized learning here that equips, inspires and empowers students to discover their passion and purpose in preparation of their futures."

With an engaging and enriched curriculum, learning comes from doing at St. George's. Their hands-on

approach motivates students on a curiosity-driven quest for knowledge.

Innovation is the norm at St. George's. Using pedagogy from Harvard to teach math, launching a new interdisciplinary STEAM initiative and celebrating several robotics competition wins over the past year, is in both caliber of excellence in the arts and sciences. They will be partnering with McGill University for a psychology class as part of its neuroscience program this year.

"Beyond academics, we also want our students to be active, socially responsible and participate in the world," says Bartlett. "Children feel empowered within our school to explore, create and engage with their 'head, heart and hands' by learning through academic rigor, empathy and taking action."

St. George's is also committed to sustainability. Students participate with multiple local organizations and initiatives throughout the year, demonstrating their



social and environmental leadership. The school is now a proud member of the Canadian Eco-Schools program, and their Sustainability and Community Learning Coordinator leads initiatives K-11, including a student-run "Green Team" at both campuses.

To find out more about St. George's progressive education that includes small class sizes, a bilingual elementary experience and a research-based curriculum from elementary school through high school, visit stgeorges.qc.ca

Loyola High School to roll out the red carpet on September 17

Upcoming Open House welcomes both young men and women for 2023-24 school year

The team at Loyola High School in NDG is thrilled to welcome families of Grade 5 and Grade 6 students from across Montreal for its Open House on Saturday, September 17, as the school readies to launch co-education for the 2023-24 school year.

Already, the response to the school opening to young women has been tremendous, with a significant rush of applications having already been received from both boys and girls excited to join Loyola's renowned educational community. Prospective families will be able to tour the school first-hand to see how Loyola is readying for the new co-ed program, as the school team continues its preparations for the changes ahead with enthusiasm.

"The most exciting aspect of welcoming both boys and girls to Loyola is that they can learn from and challenge each other in the classroom. Hearing perspectives from the lived experiences from young people in a co-ed classroom can only lead to more powerful and insightful discussions," says Annie Beland, Loyola's Vice-Principal for Co-Education and Junior Academics. "Our students are incredibly open to growing and learning from their teachers and from each other. Having both boys and girls sharing their gifts, ideas and opinions in the classroom, in the halls, in clubs and on sports teams will continue to bring learning opportunities to all Loyola students."

Those learning opportunities are supported by an unparalleled passion that teachers bring to their lessons.



With new courses being offered in most years, some of the academic opportunities available include Exercise Science, Computer Programming, Theatre Arts, Architecture & Engineering, Music, Industrial Arts and Philosophy. Paired with a robust extra-curricular program, including

competitive or intramural sports, Loyola has something for all interests.

Beyond the classroom, Loyola also boasts powerful internal connections that support student success, greatly appreciated by alumni like Patrick Shea, current Loyola parent and the founding president of the Loyola High School Alumni Association. "Loyola students and graduates have always shared remarkable community spirit, with strong bonds of friendship and connectedness that they maintain for a lifetime to better serve our society with compassion for oneself and others. I look forward to expanding that spirit and tradition to a more diverse group of alumni and alumnae."

The excitement for Loyola's future is palpable. For alumnus Ryan Brown, who attended the school from 1988 to 1993, the potential of having his two young daughters attend the school when they reach Secondary 1 opens new doors for their future.

"We want what's best for our daughters, and we trust Loyola for that. The curriculum was excellent. The teachers who taught it were first-rate. Extra-curricular activities and sports programs were outstanding, and the facilities (since expanded) second to none," he says in a recent



interview. "I have no doubt that this change – quite likely the biggest change in its existence – [will strengthen] the mission to develop the diverse and unique talents of the Loyola community, regardless of gender."

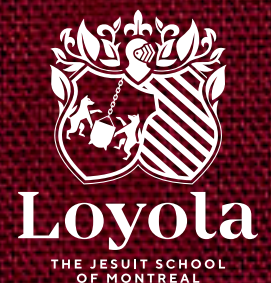
Only students with English-language education eligibility, as defined by the Government of Quebec, may apply to the school

at this time. All registered students also have access to a generous and thriving financial aid program, made possible thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Loyola High School Foundation.

Advanced registration is required for Open House tours on September 17, so act quickly to book your preferred spot by visiting Loyola's website at www.loyola.ca/open-house. Spaces are almost gone!



Open House September 17 Register at loyola.ca



Loyola High School | loyola.ca
7272 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal QC, H4B 1R2



Loyola High School is an English-language high school for grades 7-11, leading to the MEQ's Secondary-School Diploma.

Centennial Academy

Children don't fail. Schools fail children.

Centennial Academy is the only independent, bilingual high school where learning is targeted to students with a variety of challenges. Our sole mission is to help students become autonomous, resilient lifelong learners. More than 90% of our students graduate on time and go on to pursue higher education.

Teenagers with learning challenges (ADHD, dyslexia, organizational issues, anxiety) often unnecessarily struggle in school, but we see and treat students as intelligent and capable. We see high achievers and creative minds that simply require different strategies, structure, and support to succeed.

We like to say that we do more than teach – we change lives. Through a supportive, inclusive, close-knit community, we help students regain their self-confidence and discover the joy of learning.

Neuroscience tells us that the teenage brain is malleable and primed for transformation. By instilling desirable, repeatable patterns, our students develop

and internalize effective behaviours that allow them to take control over learning.

“We create optimal learning conditions by removing obstacles. Learning is done at school – with no outside tutors. Students are provided 25 accommodations and strategies that enhance learning. At home, students review learning and parents focus on loving and supporting their teens – instead of stressing and worrying. Our comprehensive approach to learning is unique, proven and ideal of all learners.”

ANGELA BURGOS, Head of School, Centennial Academy

Centennial Academy uses Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a science-based framework to help struggling students overcome challenges. Students follow the same government curriculum, only broken down into manageable, coachable steps that foster greater autonomy and comprehension.

From grade 7 to 11, English and French students follow a

structured learning path:

- Consistent, predictable routines
- Tailored textbooks for optimal learning
- Colour-coded books by subject for greater organization
- Highly trained teachers that prioritize interaction and in-class learning
- Emphasis on student engagement and understanding, over grades
- Methods that boost motivation and confidence
- An academic experience filled with music, art, and athletics
- Classrooms (average size of 15 students) are optimally designed for student engagement and learning.

Our new home is nestled in a beautifully remote section of the Golden Square Mile provides students with lots of green space, an outdoor gym court, and even access to an Instagram-worthy reflection pond. Blending old-world heritage with new, modern amenities, our opulent surroundings leave a lasting impression on students and parents

alike – providing a memorable and enviable high school experience. We believe that a calm environment lends itself to a calm demeanour and we have curated a serene oasis in the middle of downtown Montreal.

Centennial Academy provides students with wings to grow and room to explore, encouraging a sense of community and friendship. Our robust music, art and athletic programs allow students to develop their passions outside the classroom. We focus on successes and encourage different ways of learning, and encourage conversation and inclusion.

Discover how your struggling teenager (current or future high school student) can achieve academic success and prepare for higher education. We accept new students at any grade level and, in certain cases, throughout the academic year.

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Centennial College

Successful students are made, not born

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Many students arrive at Centennial College after having tried another College. Despite the fact that they had solid grades in high school, they lack the skills to schedule work time, ask for help and stick with their plan. These students did well in the structure provided by family and secondary school but were not equipped to study independently. As well, high schools offer many sports teams and physical activities to help manage the stress of school. In

“Once I got accepted into Centennial College, I was able to work the difficulties I was having. The teachers and the student wellness and learning strategies coaches helped me with note taking, organization skills, managing classes and ultimately gaining confidence in myself. Centennial College has prepared me to be ready for whatever comes my way in the future. Centennial College has taught me to be brave, to accept challenges and to learn from my experiences and difficulties. Centennial College has prepared me for university and my future my goals, whether they are personal or academic.”

JILLIAN, Centennial College graduate

college, such activities are less accessible and students need to be resourceful to develop a work-play balance to support their success. The transition from high school to Cegep is a challenging one. But does not have to be overwhelming.

Centennial College offers Social Science and Commerce

pre-university programs. We use Universal Design For Learning (UDL) framework to deliver our programs in an accessible manner. The UDL approach is being adopted by colleges and universities across North America to respond the wide variety of learners in the 21st century classroom.

Centennial College is a college that will:

- Improve study and work habits.
- Empower students to take on difficult academic challenges.
- Coach students to be autonomous and resilient.
- Help students feel engaged and connected.
- Help students achieve the grades required for university entry.
- Expect as much out of themselves as we expect out of them.

Our results speak for themselves: Centennial College has an 85% graduation rate and a 93% university acceptance rate.

Experience the Centennial Difference

Learn more:

www.college.centennial.qc.ca

We shape our college to fit our students

EXPERIENCE THE CENTENNIAL DIFFERENCE

KELLS ACADEMY

Looking ahead to the future

For a young student losing ground in class every day can be an ordeal. Feelings of puzzlement and frustration can give way to indifference or even anxiety. If unaddressed, the difficulties hinder their advancement and confidence, becoming particularly pronounced in times of transition such as from elementary to high school and high school to college.

For a parent, alert to both their child's struggles and their family's well-being, realizing that a school is unable or unwilling to match your child's individual way of learning is a moment of truth and choice.

At Kells Academy, each student is met with a welcoming and innovative academic environment that recognizes their uniqueness and offers a diversity of learning experiences to match their needs. Through elementary, middle school, high school and grade twelve, student life is built around respect and appreciation of the individual experiences and interests that each student brings to our community.

Using the latest pedagogical techniques based on scientific research, coupled with regard for the individuality and skill set of each child, Kells Academy offers its students not only a formal academic curriculum but also a range of vibrant extra-curricular programs that help the child explore and develop their interests.

The results speak for themselves. Kells enjoys a one hundred percent graduation rate and prides itself on the high academic performance of its students. In the past several years for instance Kells students competed in a number of inter-school regional and national competitions and excelled in their performance. The various challenges that they faced revealed their resilience and grit and appears to have drawn out the best in them. From Science and Math to Debating, Robotics and Community Service, the teams won prizes and distinction in almost every competition that they participated in.

"Learning should not be a struggle, rather it should be the joy of discovery that lasts a lifetime".

Looking to the future, Kells Academy remains dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of excellence in education within an inclusive and nurturing environment. We also remain fully committed to helping our students achieve their full potential. These principles on which the school was founded are the reasons for its success and good reputation, and are at the heart of all the ways that Kells Academy develops, encourages and empowers its students to stand their ground, learn and grow.



ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE:

September 29, 2022 9:00 to 11:00 AM
2290 Cavendish, Montreal, Quebec. H4B 2M7
Tel: 514-487-2345

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

October 13, 2022 5:00 to 8:00 PM
6645 Boul. de Maisonneuve W., Montreal, QC, H4B 2Y3
Tel: 514-485-8565



Kells Academy is a private English all-gender K-11 school leading to the MEES Secondary School Diploma. Certificate of Eligibility not required.

www.kells.ca

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Tel.: 514-485-8565 kadmin@kells.ca
www.kellsgrade12.com



Virtual Open House:
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Rabbi Kowalski joins Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom

By JENNIFER BALL

There is a new face among the spiritual leaders at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Associate Rabbi Lillian Kowalski began work this past July, replacing Rabbi-Educator Ellen Greenspan, who had served at the reform synagogue from July 2014 until June of this year.

Growing up in Albany, New York, Rabbi Kowalski went on to spend her first year of rabbinical school living in Israel and most recently was based out of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"This is the third country that I have lived in, which is such a fascinating opportunity because you learn so much when you spend time in cities and cultures and countries that are not your own," Rabbi Kowalski said.

She explained the distinction of associate rabbi this way: "There are a couple of different distinctions that we can make. The senior rabbi is Rabbi Lisa Grushcow. The distinction between a senior rabbi and associate rabbi and an assistant rabbi comes when you're in a congregation with more than one rabbinic presence. It really has to do with how long you have been in the field and how long you have been at your particular position."

Regardless of hierarchy, it is a very busy time for both women.

"We have just entered the Hebrew month of Elul. That is preparatory month prior to the high holy days, which is the most jam-packed season of holidays that we have in Judaism," Rabbi Kowalski said.

"Within the span of a month, we have Rosh Hashanah (the New Year), [and] 10 days later we have Yom Kippur, or the day of atonement. A couple of days later, we have Sukkot (the fall harvest holiday), which lasts for a whole week and, at the tail-end of Sukkot, we have Simchat Torah, which is the celebration of Torah.

"When we have finished the annual cycle of reading the Torah all the way



Rabbi Lillian Kowalski at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom on September 2.

"Some people meet me and they have never met a woman who is a rabbi before"

through, we rewind it all and start all over again at the very beginning."

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom is the oldest reform synagogue in Canada. It was incorporated on March 30, 1883. In September 1911, it moved to its current site at the corner of Elm and Sherbrooke. The first rabbi was Samuel Marks, who was in office from 1882 to 1889.

The role of spiritual leader and educator for the temple's congregation has changed markedly since Rabbi Marks' time, Rabbi Kowalski believes.

The Jewish Women's archive references that, on June 3, 1972, Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion ordained Sally Jane Priesand, and she became the first woman in America to become a rabbi and the first in the world ordained by a rabbinical seminary.

"Even just in the last 50 years, the ability and availability of formal public ordination of women has already radically changed. ... I would venture to say that potentially before that, the ordination of women was not particularly something that was on anyone's mind [including when the Temple was founded].

"So even just something both as simple and as radical as that has changed the state of what it means to be a rabbi," she said. "I serve as the associate rabbi and director of education, my predecessor in this position was Rabbi Ellen Greenspan and our current senior rabbi is Rabbi Lisa Grushcow.

"Right there, you have three women in the rabbinical role in this congregation and for some people, they meet me and they have never met a woman who is a rabbi before."

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Plastic surgeons work to showcase Greene Ave. landmark

Facelift for Old Post Office, where facelifts will be performed



Architectural rendering of the planned interior entrance of 1304 Greene Ave. Inset: The Old Post Office on September 9.

DRAWING COURTESY OF JEAN-MAXIME LABRECQUE; INSET: INDEPENDENT.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Another round of renovations is under way at the Old Post Office on Greene, as the building is re-purposed yet again – this time for cosmetic surgery.

The imposing structure at 1304 Greene Ave., at de Maisonneuve Blvd., dates to 1913. It was vacated in 1969 because it was too small to handle the volume of mail it was receiving. It was leased briefly by the Bank of Montreal until 1972.

Headway Management of Montreal took it over in 1975 and the company converted the building into a shopping court, which included a video rental store – a retail destination at the time – and a restaurant.

Most recently, it was owned by Vins Philippe Dandurand, which embarked on its own renovation program (see October 16, 2012, p. 1).

Soon, it will be a three-floor cosmetic surgery building with surgery suites and doctor’s offices. The project is on track to be completed by the end of January, as declared to the architect by project manager Jérôme Récipon, who works for the construction company A+.

Jean-Maxime Labrecque is the architect on the project and he has taken an organic approach to try to respect the work of the original architects and builders: W. A. Ritchie and the builder, John Quinlan Co.

The neo-Baroque edifice is topped by a copper dome with columned and pedimented facades on each of its two wings. “The project will be expressing and paying a tribute to the original building, bringing back the fundamental identity,” Labrecque said, who was commissioned to design the two lower stories.

The building project that Labrecque took on was already of good quality, he

said, but the height of the ceilings was only nine feet.

“I realized shortly after receiving the plans that I had access to nearly 17-foot high ceilings. My role as architect is to express the building identity, and the building identity really is this very generous volume on the ground floor.

Majestic volume

“By the majestic volume of the entrance, we have placed a low-volume secretariat and a mezzanine where there are offices. This main volume welcomes natural light from north windows that were hidden before. This natural light can be perceived right away from the entrance.”

A special feature is very large and white walls. They are also going to expose the ceiling, which is made out of 1913 concrete, he said. “We want to express the small imperfections of the building because this

building has had many lives and through these layers of lives, there have been interventions on the building. There have been reinforcements of the structure and we are keeping all of that to express the building’s history.”

He considers that his interventions are very modest, though. “White walls, gigantic, 17 feet high in the main volume. We want to gain as much height as possible. The same in the downstairs, which leads to a very complex ceiling treatment. but we do not want to lose one meter of ceiling height in the building.”

The owners and future occupants: doctors Arash and Eli Izadpanah are both plastic surgeons specializing in facelifts, breast augmentation, Brazilian butt lifts, and tummy tucks.

“We hope it will be a meditative space,” Labrecque said. “Patients will be able to find peace in this environment.”

Rossokhata hopes drop in Liberal support sends votes to the Conservatives

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Being originally from a country where democracy does not have the same long history as here, the Conservative Party of Quebec's Westmount-St. Louis candidate says the CAQ government's response to the COVID pandemic made her acutely aware that an erosion of freedom could end up taking root in Quebec.

Born in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, Katya Rossokhata has lived in Montreal since 2003 when her parents moved here and she was seven.

She grew up in Westmount and attended Marianopolis College. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in human genetics at McGill University.

While describing her personal political outlook as essentially libertarian, she said the CAQ government's COVID-related lockdowns since early 2020 reminded her of the impact the former Soviet system had on Ukraine, "where you can still see the consequences of a totalitarian regime," she said.

As a result, she said, she was able to see "the slippery slope" taking shape in Quebec at the height of the pandemic, spurring her to seriously consider leaving, although she decided to stay "to try and make something better" by running for the provincial Conservatives, because Quebec "is my second home."

Rossokhata said she is appalled by the dilapidated state into which Quebec's public health care system has fallen, not only as a result of the pandemic, but also through chronic neglect long before then.

The Conservatives' platform has a seven-point reform of Quebec's health care system, including what the party refers to as "making room for entrepreneurs," changing how hospitals are funded, decentralizing health care and reforming the



Conservative Party of Quebec candidate in Westmount–St. Louis Katya Rossokhata

public health act.

"I understand that some people are concerned that we may want to privatize health care," she said, defending the Conservatives' position, while maintaining that the proposed reform wouldn't make health care inaccessible to people with lower in-

comes, as is frequently the case now in the US.

Noting Conservative leader Éric Duhaime's recent pledge to repeal the CAQ government's Bill 96, which ramped up the province's French-language protection measures, Rossokhata said her party also

stands committed to repealing Bill 21, which forbade certain provincial government employees from wearing religious symbols.

She said she found it unfortunate that the Legault government has chosen to centre the election largely around language issues, "because Quebec has much greater issues right now. But all the attention is drawn to those bills. I mean, you can't say they're minor – they are big. It's just unfortunate that they had to be put in place when there were much bigger issues to tackle before."

Although Westmount–St. Louis is one of the Quebec Liberal Party's most reliable bastions, Rossokhata is counting on an anticipated drop in support for the Liberals to benefit the Conservatives. The Conservatives finished last in Westmount–St. Louis in the 2018 election, with 2.2 percent of the votes.

"I think my chances will be good if people decide to not vote Liberal," she said. "I think the biggest challenge will be to convince people to stop voting how they used to vote."



Arthur Younanian
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Playground below!



The new equipment for the playground at Westmount Park was still fenced off when this photo was taken September 2. The library is visible at top left.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

New Westmount Park playground open



“It’s fast,” was the verdict of this expert slider, 3½-year-old Raphaël, as he tested the slide on the recently installed playground equipment in Westmount Park. Raphaël and his parents are staying with family in Westmount before returning to Lebanon next week.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Police Report

Electric stand-up scooters not street-legal, says police spokesman

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Following a roadside cyclist safety operation conducted by the Montreal police at St. Catherine and Metcalfe in mid-August, a spokesman for Station 12 is clarifying some of the information given out – including the status of electric stand-up scooters.

In Westmount, the use of a safety helmet is mandatory when using a bicycle, as well as when operating an e-scooter or an e-cycle.

According to the city of Westmount website, failure to wear a safety helmet can result in a fine.

While the number of smaller motorized conveyances seen on streets these days now commonly includes gasoline-powered motor scooters as well as an ever-increasing range of hybrid electric/pedal-powered bicycles, the field is becoming even more crowded with the advent of electric-powered stand-up scooters.

Despite the fact that many are now sold in big-box stores, according to Station 12's public relations spokesperson Cst. Mike Yigit, they are illegal to operate on the street and doing so could result in the operator being issued a ticket – although even that isn't absolutely certain.

"Those are illegal on the public domain," he said regarding the status of stand-up electric scooters "I know a lot of people say that Canadian Tire and Costco sell them. But they are still considered illegal."

As for how the police are dealing with their growing presence on city streets, Cst. Yigit said, "That's the problem. It's a grey zone," while noting that a pilot project undertaken across Montreal a few years back to introduce the Lime electric scooter system is still being evaluated.

So, while the status of these and other vehicles like electric skateboards remains uncertain, but their presence seems only to be growing, he said, "It's up to the police officers' discretion to apply the law or not," while adding that being ticketed remains a distinct reality.

"People are under the impression that they're legal. But they're only legal on private property. If you go to parking lot, you can zoom around. But on a bike path or on a street, normally they're illegal."

Woman allegedly bites officer

A Westmount woman who went to the Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St. to file a complaint about a delinquent tenant ended up being arrested and charged with assault after losing her temper and allegedly biting a police officer.

According to Station 12 spokesman Cst. Mike Yigit, the woman said she was there on behalf of a friend who owned a dwelling from which a tenant had recently fled while removing property belonging to the owner.

"The lady who came to the station wanted us to give her the address of the tenant so that she could go and confront that person," said Yigit.

"But the officer who was working at the station told her that it's not a police matter, it's more for the Régie du Logement [rental board] and it's more a civil matter because there was nothing criminal. When it's a dispute over a contract, especially when it's a lease, it's civil and it's not police."

According to Cst. Yigit, the woman, described as being in her 30s, "got very upset, started yelling and insulting the police officer," to the point that the female officer finally asked the woman to leave the station.

When the woman refused to leave, and continued to create a disturbance witnessed by a number of other people, the officer called for assistance, and she and a second officer tried to escort the woman out of the building.

"The lady refused, fought back and bit the arm of a police officer, to the point that she started to bleed," said Yigit, adding that the injured officer had to be taken to hospital to be treated. He pointed out that images of the incident were captured on security cameras inside the police station.

The woman is charged with assaulting a peace officer, for which the penalty can be imprisonment ranging from 18 months to 10 years depending on the severity of the circumstances.

Two 'views' of water placement

Bench placed in Westmount Park lagoon



A bench was placed above the waterfall in the northern/tennis-court branch of Westmount Park's lagoon sometime before the morning of August 21, as seen here.

Contributor Mo Rahimi enquired searchingly: "Who did this!"

In an email titled "A New Perspective," contributor Adriana Grugel-Park was more philosophical, writing: "[As my husband Joseph McKeown and I] were strolling through Westmount Park this morning,

we overheard a couple of Westmount [Public] Security officers discussing how they were going to remove the bench from the water.

"As they prepared to soak their boots, we overheard them admiring the optics of a water bench and the possibility of cooling one's feet while overlooking the pond on a sultry day.

"It was lovely, and a nice way to start a Sunday morning."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF M. RAHIMI, TOP, AND A. GRUGEL-PARK & J. MCKEOWN, BOTTOM.

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*Westmount
A-dog-tions*

LYSANNE FOWLER

At only six months of age, Miss Tess is very pretty in her distinct black-white-freckled cuteness.

Her personality is glowing as sunshine. Yes, she is so affectionate and smart as a whip. Expressive and intelligent, she is a beauty with a warm heart. She loves every-

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Miss Tess

one she meets, people and dogs. She has met cats but doesn't know who's boss yet. All for the best, as she will be keen on being in a loving and active family in our neighbourhood.

Tess is in foster care for the grassroots volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, impressing her foster family with her friendliness and playfulness.

Tess is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, will be spayed before adoption and microchipped. For more information on her and additional photographs, please refer to the rescue's website at www.gerdysrescue.org and contact the volunteers through Tess's website page or directly at their email info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Who's who? Freddie, Fannie, Frankie



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

At a bit over four months of age, these three sibling kittens are identical in looks still, but their personalities grow on you and each is distinctive.

Freddie is a curious little male, looking to his two sisters, though, for companionship in play.

These three abandoned kittens were saved by a Good Samaritan, who is presently fostering them for the grassroots animal rescue volunteer group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. They were wee little ones when he took them in and, as you can see, they are growing stronger and bigger every day.

Freddie is quite affectionate and communicative, Fannie is bright and energetic, while Frankie is catching up fast and joining in the affection and play with all in the home.

All three are very healthy, and on track for their kitten vetting with their inoculation program. They will be sterilized and microchipped. If you would like more information and cute photographs of this adorable Freddie-Fannie-Frankie family, please refer to the rescue's website at www.gerdysrescue.org and contact the volunteers through the website page or di-



rectly at their email info@gerdysrescue.org.

Call for foster families

With the rescue season being so busy at the moment, it would be wonderful if your family would consider becoming a foster home for cats in need while they are taken in, vetted and put forward for adoption by the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions group.

For more information, please do not hesitate to send them a note at their email info@gerdysrescue.org in order to discuss volunteering.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



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Comin' Up

Thursday, September 15

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

Wednesday, September 21

Meet The Candidates Night for the

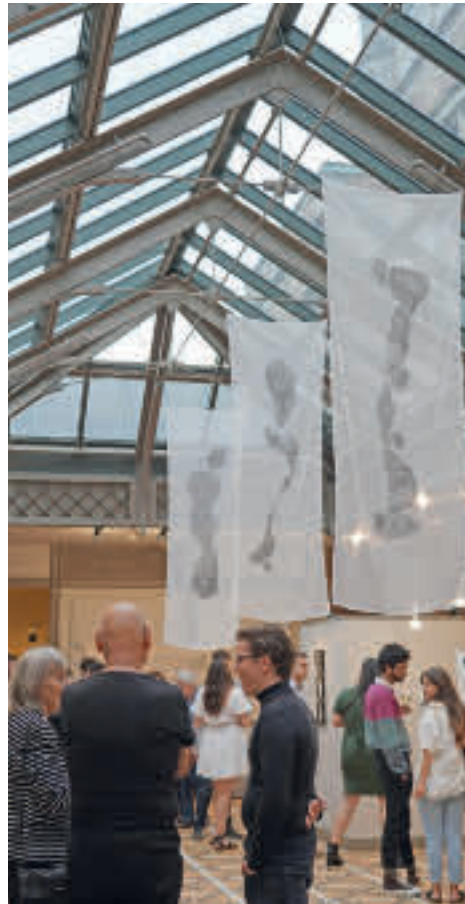
provincial election organized by the West-
mount Municipal Association. Victoria
Hall. 7 pm.

Sunday, September 18

Terry Fox Run. Westmount Park. Reg-
ister at: run.terryfox.ca/2932. Registra-
tion: 10 am. Start: 10:35 am.

Murmurations comes to Westmount

The city hosted a vernissage for the exhibition *Murmurations* August 26. "It presents the textile works of emerging Westmount artist Cecilia Torres," said city Community Events technician Méliissa Denis while noting that 100 people attended the opening. The exhibition runs until September 23.



From left, Ève-Catherine Champoux and artist Cecilia Torres. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.



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An Encanto-ed evening

Over 400 people attended the city’s presentation of the film *Encanto* in Westmount Park August 25, according to Daniel Míguez de Luca, programming and outreach librarian at the Westmount Public Library.

“In theme with the film, the library distributed magical candles and paper butterflies to all the kids,” he said. The West-

mount Scouts sold popcorn and cotton candy.

“This was the first Movie Under the Stars event organized by the Westmount Public Library and Community Events since the pandemic started,” concluded Míguez de Luca.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF WESTMOUNT.



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Papier brings paper to Old Port

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Guests enjoyed the well-organized space, with light pouring in through massive floor-to-ceiling windows facing the Old Port. Not only was the art stimulating – and often sold – the mood was buoyant.

Oh. And “people were so stylish!” one local was heard to comment.

A distinctive Montreal moment. (Don’t miss it next year.)



Antoine Ertaskiran and Megan Bradley of Bradley Ertaskiran gallery.

The 2022 edition of Papier took place in the Old Port the last weekend in August.

Featuring art works on paper – hence the name – as well as sculpture, the fair featured a VIP cocktail launch and three days of public viewing.

Papier’s educational program, presented by the Claudine & Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation, offered a wide line-up, including panel discussions and guided tours.

Westmount-adjacent Bradley Ertaskiran Gallery featured a textile project with artist Karen Kraven, a premiering collaboration between AGAC (Contemporary Art Galleries Association) and La Maison Simons.

Kraven’s work with textiles is influenced by her father’s and his father’s knitting factory that stopped manufacturing the year she was born.

Over 25 local galleries participated as well as some from Toronto and Calgary.

Over three days, through sun and rain, the fair saw a stream of art lovers, critics, researchers and collectors, including former Westmounters Louise and Michel Blouin.



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Meet the Candidates

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7pm

Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. West

There will be a question period.

The WMA will be accepting cash donations upon entrance and encourages contributions to ensure future events.

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Artist Karen Kraven’s piece in the Bradley Ertaskiran booth at Papier: 2022 Hold.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEAN MICHAEL SEMINARO.

Yetman/SYD's new look is fabulous



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount has a new designer. Well, that is a firm is new to the area. SYD Bespoke Interiors shifted location from years in Griffintown (“before the condos”) to offices in one of the designer showroom buildings on St. Catherine

Street. Celebrating 25 years, designer Scott Yetman has “re-branded” with a new name (SYD Bespoke Interiors) and a new look. And the look is fabulous, with an office accented by elegant eclectic accents and European antiques. Scott’s richly varied interests in the decorative and fine arts is immediately discernible. A massive clay bowl attracts the eye. The beautiful piece is “actually *papier mâché*!” The boardroom boasts a significant French Empire mirror, an era evoked in Scott’s office with its large poster of a laurel-crowned Napoleon.

Other eras

Black-and-white photographs recall other eras; one shows Truman Capote; another Halston. Scott’s seven-person multi-talented team supports a myriad of projects, ably assisted by Vixen, an ineffably eager fox terrier pup. Along with current projects in Palm Beach and New York, Scott has collaborated with Christopher Farr Cloth on the design of a new fabric, premiering at the Paris Déco Off show January 2023. His ventures are wide-ranging, from the US to Lac Brome and Montreal.



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“We have been re-doing the Mount Royal Club interiors where we kept the ‘establishment’ feeling with a slightly more modern twist.” A constant traveller, Scott’s next trip is to Rome for a Design Leadership Network meeting. Speaking of Rome, on leaving his office, I espied another outstanding accent piece. A little wooden circular temple with its encompassing columns reminded me of my favourite Rome must-see: Bramante’s exquisite tempietto. In his gleaming modern office Scott Yetman’s love of antique patine is palpable.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Remembering Louis Villeneuve, Renaissance man



Local res Louis Villeneuve passed away suddenly last summer.

Full disclosure: I knew him well. Both professionally – I organized his events – and personally: we dined together often.

My patrician friend was a member of the International Food and Wine Society. A Renaissance man, not only was he an esteemed financial planner with RBC Dominion Securities, he also loved the arts.

Dined at art galleries

Indeed, his client evenings were held at art galleries: de Bellefeuille and d'Este. To cite but a few of his cultural passions: he was a board member of Vie des arts, the Fondation de l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec and l'Orchestre de la francophonie, where he was board president.

This summer, it was the Orchestre that organized a commemorative recital for this much-respected man. Held at St. Andrew and St. Paul, many Westmounters attended as well as his countless friends from all over Montreal.

The site was perfect. The church's beautiful stained-glass windows shed evening light in kaleidoscopic rays adding to the emotive moment.

The Orchestre, composed of 28 musicians from different nationalities, played pieces from Scalia, Mozart, Torelli and Beethoven.

Appreciating music

While the musical performance received appreciative applause, sadly not a sound could be heard from those reading their tribute to Louis. The microphone was mute and their spoken voices didn't carry in the immense space.

Peu importe. Those in attendance sat immersed with their private memories of a man we all miss terribly. Still.

Oh. And Louis loved to dance. A few years ago he delighted his partners at a Victoria Hall disco eve. Special steps. Special man.

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Geordie hosts food fundraiser at Selwyn

By JENNIFER BALL

The west yard of Selwyn House School was “commandeered” as a food fair venue on August 27. The resulting fundraiser was for Geordie Theatre’s 2022-2023 season and the goal was to raise the \$7,500 it needed to hit its fundraising goal of \$10,000 for 2022.

Selwyn House was the setting because Carol-Ann Hoyte, who is the volunteer vice

president of the board at Geordie, worked in the school’s library for the past 15 years. She is now the (remote) program and events coordinator for the Canadian Children’s Book Centre in Toronto.

The food and drink was donated by So-dexo, beer from Brasserie St-Luke was bought at cost, BezBooz (an Etsy vendor) donated a percentage of sales of edible flowers, herbs, spices and tea, and Nutri-tower donated a percentage of sales of hydroponic growing towers/kits at the event.

“We’re a non-profit company and we operate mostly on government funding,” Jimmy Blais, artistic director of Geordie Theatre said, “but there’s a small portion that we rely on from the public, from corporate sponsors and from community members.”

The proceeds are going to be used to cover the cost of the theatre productions. “Shows are pretty expensive, especially the mainstage shows, so we will be putting resources towards creating these shows,” Blais said.

Since 1980, Geordie has been producing and presenting plays to young audiences. Their plays often include themes of emotional support, mental health and well-being, community, self-love, identity and

grief.

“We do that by staying current, by staying in touch with the issues that are important to young people today. It leaves kids with questions – not so much answers – but more questions.

“There is a lot of competing messaging going on. The internet is very present. What we try to do is create balance in that. Trying to directly address things that I feel families should be talking about.”

Two plays

The 2022-2023 season is under way. “We are already in rehearsal for our two-play tour, which is our flagship event, and we will travel with two shows: one for elementary students and one for high school students.”

This year their elementary school play is called *What If?* by the playwright Katey Hoffman and it deals with social anxiety. Their high school story is called *Poof*, by Gillian Clarke, which is essentially a one-person show about a 16-year-old girl who is trying to get a handle on what love means to her.

On October 20 they have a show opening in collaboration with Kidoons, WYRD



Geordie Food Fair poster at Selwyn House August 27.

Productions in association with the 20K Collective and the Segal Centre: *Frankenstein*. “It is a comic-book version of *Frankenstein* and it has a lot of video elements in it. It is a twist on the Mary Shelley classic.”



Jimmy Blais, artistic director of Geordie Theatre at Selwyn House on August 27 – coincidentally in Selwyn colours?

“Critics’ Pick! a belly-laugh funny show.”
– The New York Times

Alex Edelman

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