

School plans to continue as is until June 2024

Offer to buy building for Villa Sainte-Marcelline school refused

By JENNIFER BALL

The offer to buy the building of the Villa Ste-Marcelline school from its owners – the Congrégation des Soeurs de la Villa Sainte-Marcelline – has been refused.

The anonymous possible buyer's stated intent was to own the building for the school's use. Details beyond that, and about the reason for the refusal – presum-

ably by the Congrégation – are scarce.

The school is separate from the Congrégation, which announced last fall its intention not to renew the school's lease for the 2023-24 school year, citing the cost of maintaining the building (see "Villa Sainte-Marcelline may close given \$12-16M cost of renovations," October 18, p. 12).

Soon after, hope emerged when a serious offer to purchase the building was tabled by the family of a student at the school (see "Family of Ste-Marcelline student commits to purchasing building," November 8, p. 7).

What the school says now

An email that was sent to parents on January 20 from the school's director of studies, Ninon St-Pierre, indicated that the board of continued on p. 8

Profiles

City's new DG: Julie Mandeville, p. 13

'Westmount' rep at Hockey Canada: Jonathan Goldbloom, p. 12

Full Winter Carnival back!



Westmount's Winter Carnival was back in full swing (after a COVID diminution in 2021 and a COVID cancellation in 2022) in King George (Murray Hill) Park February 5. Draft horses Tristan, a Clydesdale, left, and Max, a crossbred Belgian-Persian, were trotting around the football field guided by Robert Coallie.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Gradual update of parking meters

Tap option, larger screens featured in new interface

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Regular users of the city's pay-by-plate parking meters may notice that some are sporting a new interface that provides a "tap" option for debit or credit card payment. These meters also have a larger and brighter screen that displays hours of operation and payment methods.

This update is being introduced "grad-

ually" to the already solar-powered meters, according to Public Security director Greg McBain. They aim to provide faster transactions but are otherwise no different in their operation.

The pay-by-plate parking system was introduced by the city in 2015 to enable parkers to pay for the "space" their vehicle occupies and is based on the licence plate. It allows continued on p. 8



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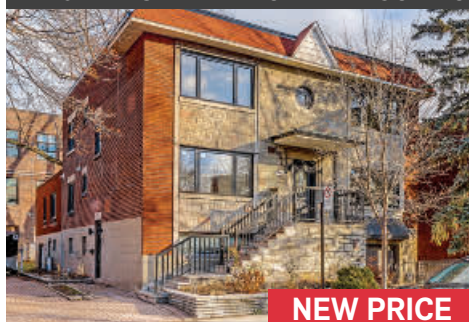
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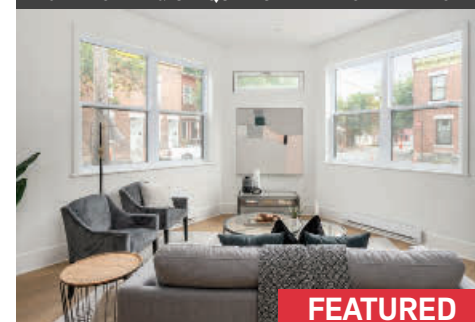
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Second car accident reported at Rosemount intersection

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two car accidents were reported by Public Security on February 1, one attributed to the weather. This one occurred at 7:16 pm at the rather steep intersection of Rosemount Ave. and Rosemount Cresc. when a car slipped into the “island” at the corner, knocking down a stop sign and ending up in a snowbank.

No one was reported at the scene when officers responded and no keys were found in the ignition.

While checking it out, however, the driver arrived at the scene and said the car had slid while coming to a stop.

It had been steered into the snow bank to avoid hitting another car. A tow truck was called to remove the Kia. The driver was reported to be a 28-year-old Montreal man.

This was the same location as another one-car accident reported to have knocked down a traffic light pole January 25 (see story January 31, p. 3).

Went through stop sign

In another accident on February 1, two cars collided at de Maisonneuve and

Olivier when one went through a stop sign, according to Public Security officials. No injuries were reported but the front end of one was damaged.

The incident was reported at 6:45 am when it was still dark. The drivers were found filling out a joint accident report. One of the cars had been driving north on Olivier turning onto de Maisonneuve when one travelling west was driven through the stop sign.

Public Works was called to clean up the debris.

Hit-and-run on Argyle

A hit-and-run incident on Argyle January 29 involved minor damage to the rear bumper of a white Audi reported to have been “perfectly parked.”

Pieces of the offending vehicle had been found at the scene, according to Public Security.

The incident was witnessed by the driver of a city salt truck, who reported seeing a dark mini Cooper hit the Audi without stopping.

The truck driver had to continue salting the hill but all information was turned over to police.




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SPCA wants info on pinned, dead dog

BY JENNIFER BALL

The *Independent's* story of the display of a dead dog on the front bumper of a black F-150 pick-up truck (January 17, p. 3) caught the attention of the SPCA.

Jeanne Beauchamp, public relations account executive for tök communications, handles press relations for the SPCA and appealed to the bystander who witnessed the grisly tableau to contact the SPCA's bureau of investigation: “We were not able to know where, when, how, and who observed this, and therefore could not open an investigation.”

“To advance in this kind of file, we encourage [the witness] to collaborate with the SPCA investigation office. It could really help them!” Beauchamp said, “Technically, the act was in fact not a crime, because the animal was already dead. But, it would definitely deserve some investigation to figure out how the dog died, which could potentially be a crime, e.g. if neglected or killed in such a way as to cause suffering,” Beauchamp said.

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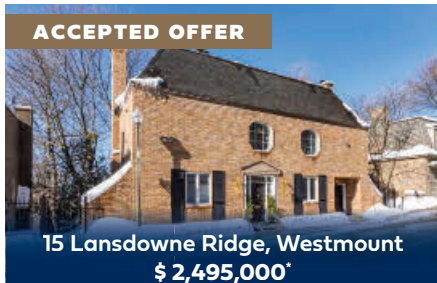
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Lapointe re-appointed 'substitute' DG on Larue's return

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council at a special meeting January 27 re-appointed Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe to the position of substitute director general for Westmount.

Lapointe had been designated substitute DG at the council meeting December 5 to serve in an interim capacity from then until January 22. This was while the city was without a director general and Michel Larue, the assistant DG, was out of the country on holiday, though since returned.

The special council meeting not only repealed the initial resolution authorizing Lapointe's interim authority, but also adopted a new resolution re-appointing him but this time without including any end date.

In moving the new resolution, Councilor Jeff Shamie explained that the role of the substitute, frequently called "interim" DG, is to provide continuity in the event of the "incapacity or absence" of the director general. While Larue was back from his holiday in Asia, it was Lapointe who was seated during the special council meeting at the table usually occupied by Larue.



Dave Lapointe at this year's Winter Carnival, February 5.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Unrelatedly, the city also has a new director general, Julie Mandeville (see Jan. 31, p. 1 and this issue p. 13). That post had been vacant for some three months.

Don't forget!

Lucy Tyson



© Lise Gallant

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, MARQUIS FAMILY

My faith in humanity has been restored. Sunday afternoon [January 30], I went to the Esso station on Grosvenor and Sherbrooke and on my way out. I got stuck in the snow and was unable to get out. The attendant couldn't help me as he was alone and had to take care of his customers, but he did his best to help whenever possible.

A man was passing by and saw me in distress and said, "Wait. I do not live far from here and I will be back in five minutes with proper shovels." He came back with shovels and his two wonderful boys, I think aged 10 and 7. They all started working hard and dug out my front wheels, and pushed my car out of the mess I had gotten myself into.

Olivier Marquis, he was my angel that day.

Also, I was very much touched and impressed that he went home to get the shovels and by the example he was giving to his amazing sons.

In appreciation,

BESY VENNOR, ST. CATHERINE ST.

KUDOS TO PUBLIC WORKS

Chapeau and kudos to Westmount and the Public Works department.

Following the storm of Wednesday night into Thursday [January 25-6], with 22+ centimeters of snow having fallen, and being whipped around by the wind, the streets in my area were plowed and down

to wet pavement by 7:30 am Thursday morning.

A job well done, and certainly most appreciated by me and my neighbours.

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

PLEASE 'TRACKSET' THE MURRAY PARK OVAL

The cross-country ski track on the football field at Murray Park is not being trackset this year, even though the city purchased a tracksetting device a few years ago, and used it occasionally last year.

While it is possible to cross-country ski on the field without a track, it becomes usable in various snow conditions when trackset.

While not of Olympic proportions, the one-third-kilometer oval is a good location for some winter exercise. Hopefully the city will start tracksetting regularly this winter.

PETER TSUK, LANSDOWNE AVE.

Editor's note: See related story on p. 8 of this issue – DP.

WHY RESTRICT TRAFFIC ON VICTORIA?

While there are many things to discuss in this instance, [my question is:] why does the city through its actions restrict traffic flow at such a key point on Victoria near the Metro grocery store? Leaving the snow piled up removed the lane for vehicles to turn into the grocery parking.



The city invests time using front loaders to remove snow from lanes and alleyways. Could it not help more people by not reducing the flow traffic on such a busy street?

L. WOODS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

INCOMPLETE SNOW REMOVAL (2)

This photo was taken on Friday, January



20, at around 2 pm.

Was it a coincidence or on purpose? Why was the snow not fully cleared? It may be a danger to cyclists.

IZZUL HAQ, NDG

REVOLTING TREATMENT OF DEAD DOG

Re: The article "Dog pinned to front bumper" in the January 17 edition (p. 3) of the *Independent*. How revolting! I am surprised that the owners of the pick-up truck could not be charged with something. Does anyone know what the outcome was?

Thank you.

LONI CORNAX, GROSVENOR AVE.

THANK YOU FOR THE HELPING HAND, AND WHEELS!

At the beginning of last week, a man got out of his car to give me a helping hand to get over a large snowbank at the bottom of the stairs at de la Vigne.

He then went one step further and drove me to the corner of Mount Pleasant and Sherbrooke. I want to thank him very much for his kindness and helpfulness.

ELLEN ALFIN, MONTROSE AVE.

Blue collar strike set for Feb. 7-8

Notice of a city blue collar strike planned for February 7 and 8 is expected to close the Gallery and greenhouses both days as well as Victoria Hall at 5 pm. "All activities are cancelled at the Westmount recreation Centre (WRC) for both days," according to department director Dave Lapointe. Updates are to be posted on the city's website.

City council at its meeting January 18 had awarded \$53,890.08 including taxes to the legal firm of Fasken, Martineau, Moulin for "negotiations" with blue collar workers' union, the Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal SCFP (local 301).

Editor's clarification Rémillard praised Miller

An attribution was omitted in our story "Profusion partners with Forbes Global Properties" (January 31, p. 7), for which I apologize. The relevant paragraph should have read:

"I first met Jeff [Hyland] at a real estate conference in Boston 15 years ago," said Profusion founder Louise Rémillard, "and I always looked up to him as a true gentleman, a smart businessman and a very organized and focused realtor. I think if Christina [Miller] and Jeff had met, they would have connected immediately. It was an emotional moment for me yesterday to present [the Jeff Hyland Award of Excellence to Christina] in the presence of the CEO of Forbes Global Properties. Christina is one of a kind and I am deeply attached to her."

We welcome your letters

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City’s 2023 tax bills delivered with letter from mayor

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Most property owners began receiving the city’s 2023 tax bill last week along with the traditional tax letter from Mayor Christina Smith. Dated January 23, this explains the city’s budgets for capital and operating expenditures as well as highlights of tax increases based in large measure on a challenging year in 2022, she writes.

“We are also adapting to an economic context characterized by relatively high inflation, supply chain disruptions and labour shortages in several sectors,” she states.

The city’s operating budget of \$129,539,300 includes its payment of \$67,556,300 (52 percent) to the Montreal agglomeration for shared island-wide expenses. These are notably for police, fire, transit, drinking water and waste-water management, though these services, she points out, are managed by Montreal (see also story January 17, p. 1).

The city will “continue to work with the other demerged cities to ensure that the share we pay to the [Montreal] agglomer-

ation is fair and truly reflects the services provided to our residents.”

In the operating budget, “new staff positions have also been created to ensure that our city adapts to this ever-changing world while continuing to deliver the best possible service to citizens,” she adds.

Revenues from the city’s property taxes have increased by 4.4 percent overall representing three-quarters of total revenue – a heavy reliance on property tax revenues, which, she says “has long been a concern.”

Committed to pay-as-you-go

For the city’s capital expenditures program of \$27.9 million adopted December 5, 2022, the city “remains committed” to pay-as-you-go funding “with the exception of major long-term projects.” This, she describes, as “especially sound” in the current environment of rising interest rates rather than “relying on borrowing” (see story, December 13, 2022, p. 1).

Mayor Smith refers residents to details of the operating budget online at westmount.org/2023budget and for the 2023-2024-2025 capital works program online at westmount.org/capital-works.

Sainte-Marcelline, cont’d from p. 1

directors and the management of the school are now announcing that the Congrégation has indicated that the sale did not conclude as hoped.

“Even though this development is not the one we would have hoped for,” said the email in French, “we are reassured that the Congrégation will maintain the activities for the present school year and also for the school year 2023-2024, which will take place in the current facilities and which will be secured...”

“Here, we will support the efforts of the Congrégation and all the parties that contribute to finding a solution that will guarantee the permanence of our institution...”

“We will continue to engage with you and communicate about best deadlines on the future chapters on the history of Villa Sainte-Marcelline.”

A letter was also sent by Sister Marielle Dion from the Congrégation that echoed every point from St-Pierre, including the clear statement: “le processus de rachat de la Villa Sainte-Marcelline, mentionné dans nos derniers échanges, a été refusé” (“the process of buying the Villa Sainte-Marcelline, mentioned in our last exchanges, has been refused”).

One parent’s view

A parent spoke to the *Independent* on October 24, 2022, saying: “Parents are not

ready to blindly accept that having this buy-out safeguards the future of the school” (see November 1, p. 7).

Now that the buyout discussions have collapsed, the parent reached out again on January 21 and exclaimed, “This is bad news! They are extending the lease for another year, but we have no idea what will happen beyond that. Also, after speaking to a few parents today, no one trusts what they have to say anymore. I think many who have already applied elsewhere will choose to leave. It’s sad! But there is too much uncertainty due to lack of information on their part. We don’t know what happened for the deal to fall through, and what the state of the building is and if our children are in danger. We see no plans of raising money or having renovations done to the building.”

Requests for an interview with St-Pierre went unanswered.

Ski track opens

The cross-country ski track opened at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) February 3.

The trail at King George (Murray) Park is expected to open this week with the exact date to be posted on the city’s website.

Parking meters, cont’d from p. 1

for the use of coin, card or app and enables remote payment (see story, April 19, 2014, p. 1)

Over the years some users, especially those with arthritic fingers, have found it challenging to insert a card into the meter’s slot, which the new “tap” aims to simplify.

The gradual updating of the interface was initially explained on the city’s website December 15, 2022. This was a time when many users of the meters were away on holiday and may only now be discovering it.

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Snow contractor to be ticketed \$459 for illegal dumping

A landscaping contractor clearing snow from the parking lot across from 4039 Tupper, the former Reddy Memorial Hospital, was to be ticketed \$459 for illegally dumping snow in a drop-off zone, Public Security officials said. The witnessed incident occurred January 27 at 9:10 am. This zone is reserved for the use of the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres located in the building.

“I realize there is nowhere to put the snow, but it will have to be piled up on the lot and taken away at the contractor’s expense,” said Public Security director Greg McBain. Keeping drop-off and handicap zones clear of snow is a priority, he explained.

The landscaping company was also given 10 days to obtain a Westmount landscaping permit.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note 1: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2022, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 11.

Note 2: For statistical reasons, when calculating mark-ups, we compare the 2020 valuation with the price paid until the last sales of 2022.

Note 3: The city has not produced another transfer tax list since November, which included transfers registered only up to the end of June, so the July and August sales lists are based on the best information available. We may yet learn of more August transfers once the city resumes publishing the lists of transfers.

August is usually one of those months when real estate agents take some time off, but deeds are signed and families move into Westmount to prepare for a busy fall season.

That is why it shocks us to find only four houses and a duplex transferred last August, compared to an average over the last decade of 17, a previous all-time low of 10 (in 1975), and 11 in August 2021 and 2020, during the pandemic slowdown.

The five sales averaged \$1,942,800, the first time since July 2021 that the average went below \$2 million, and an average mark-up over valuation of 34.6 percent, about 10 percent below the average for the year to date but not necessarily the lowest monthly average for 2022. Still, it is clear that the interest in Westmount property is waning.

Of the five sales closed in August, the highest price was only \$2,500,000 for 76 Arlington Ave., which is lower than the adjusted average for the “typical” Westmount house (multiplying the average house evaluation of \$1,936,003 by the average mark-up would be \$2,606,344).

August transfers: Volume dives! (Probably)



493 Argyle. All photos January 31.

The duplex on Victoria sold for only \$1,300,000 – still no one- or two-family dwelling in Westmount has sold for less than \$1 million since March of 2021 – while the other three are in eastern Westmount, two of which are undergoing serious renovation. Mark-ups ranged from 21.6 percent above the 2020 valuation to 57.5 percent.

The only other deed of sale to report – actually dated July 29, 2022 – was for a one-third share of one of the triplexes on the lower side of Somerville Ave., including the flat at 92 Somerville.

► Right, 76 Arlington.

►► Far right, 437-9 Victoria Ave.





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76 Arlington	Marie-Claude Rigaud	\$2,500,000	\$1,774,700	40.9%
4319 Montrose	Stefano Domenici & Suzanne Collard	\$1,699,000	\$1,327,700	28.0%
495 Mount Pleasant	Silke Claudia Lach	\$2,200,000	\$1,764,700	24.7%
DUPLEXES				
437-39 Victoria	Monique Lepage & Anne Létourneau	\$1,300,000	\$1,069,200	21.6%
SHARE SALES				
90-94 Somerville, 33.3% (July)	Ida Podlesny	\$487,000	\$362,533 ¹	34.3%

¹Valuation is 33.3% of \$1,087,600. Occupancy of 92 Somerville.

Comin' Up

Tuesday, February 14

The Westmount Horticultural Society presents "Landscaping 101" by Felix Pharand, landscape consultant. Westmount Room, Westmount Library. Snacks: 6:30 pm. Free for WHS members (membership: \$25); guests \$7.
7 pm.

Saturday, February 18

Valentine Sing-A-Long/"Songs for Love & Marriage: Come to a Wedding," featuring St. Matthias' musicians and music director Scott Bradford. St. Matthias' Anglican Church, 131 Côte St. Antoine. Entrance is free but attendees are asked to bring a treat to share. 4 pm.

Tuesday, February 21

"Fraud: How to recognize it and how to avoid it," by police officers Adalbert Pimentel and Stephan Laperrière, presented by the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. Free.

Victoria Hall. 12 noon.

We welcome your letters

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

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Goldbloom appointed to Hockey Canada board

By CRAIG CORMACK

Attention to skills such as listening and consensus building has been part of Jonathan Goldbloom's life since he was very young. These skills were passed down to him, he says, from his father, Victor Goldbloom, a cabinet minister in Robert Bourassa's government in the early 1970s.

Goldbloom decided to put these skills to work and opened up a communications firm. As a result, he has worked to help many people through difficult times.

Recently, he was one of nine people chosen out of some 600 applicants to help re-build the reputation of Hockey Canada by joining its board of directors. It is a challenge that he has eagerly embraced. He was also elected to chair the committee on the selection of the next CEO of the troubled organization. I had the pleasure of interviewing him January 21 and this is what he had to say.

Where were you born?

I was born and bred in Westmount.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Selwyn House; I was in the first grade one class in the "new" building in 1960. [Selwyn moved from downtown to its current main building on Côte St. Antoine that year. It has since been materially added to twice.]

I left Selwyn House in grade 10 because my father was in politics and he was a minister in the Bourassa government in 1970. And during the October Crisis, Laporte was killed on a Friday and on the Sunday my father came home and said my mother and I had to leave the country.

We had police guarding the house at the time. We went to Dorval and we couldn't get a flight to the States, so we originally flew to Toronto for a day or two and then on to New York. It wasn't clear when I would be able to return to the country, so I ended up in a prep school outside of Boston. I did grades 10, 11 and 12 there, and then I did my undergraduate degree at Harvard. I studied modern European history and literature.

Did you ever play hockey and at what level?

I played freshman hockey for Harvard on the third line. I played in the Westmount league here and I also played for Selwyn House. That about sums up my hockey career. I still play in the Westmount league.

What is the name of your team?

The MBAs.

How are you guys doing?

Dreadful.

Are you having fun?

Very much. I said to my wife, "I know what to do. I just can't do it anymore."

What is the age range in the league?

I guess it is 35 and up, I am not even the oldest guy on the team, but close.

Does everybody behave themselves?

No hitting or slapshots but it doesn't stop us from falling down.

I understand you run a communications firm. What kinds of projects do you work on?

I have been doing this for a long time. I do a lot of work in public policy and crisis management. I worked for the Quebec Community Groups Network and organized a lot of the discussion around Bill 96. So, I was the principal organizer of the rally of some 5,000 people.

Ever since the bill was tabled, I have been working on the strategy to bring public awareness so people could understand what is in the bill because it is complicated. We also proposed changes which were unsuccessful but at least we were able to bring awareness.

Earlier in my career, I led the campaign to keep the Shriners Hospital in Montreal. I have been very active in politics and public policy. I was in Dominique Anglade's war room. I ran Bob Rae's leadership campaign.

Do you have a background in law?

No, I am just a spin doctor.

Do you help people to get out of trouble?

Many of my files involve trying to harness public opinion behind causes and helping people move forward in their messaging. Sometimes it is as simple as trying to get a building built and getting neighbours on side.

What kind of sports have you played in your life?

Besides hockey, I still play tennis a lot, once or twice a week.

Before your appointment to Hockey Canada have you been involved with your communications company with amateur or professional athletes and if so, are you at liberty to say who?

I have been involved in a number of sports-related files. My colleague and I worked on the communications behind Professor McLaren's investigation into cheating by the Russians during the Olympics – the scandal where they switched urine samples of athletes who were doping so they would test clean. We did the strategy including the press conference in London where he released his report.

My firm has continued to work with



Jonathan Goldbloom on February 1 on Victoria Ave. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

him on current investigations into Gymnastics Canada. My colleague is very involved in that file. I worked with Equestrian Canada on its re-organization and some issues it was having in terms of its structure and positioning.

I represented Amy Kaufman, who was abused by former baseball reporter and ex-husband Jonah Keri. I helped Amy to get her story out on radio and television. I helped her get ready for interviews.

Do you have a favourite sport?

Hockey!

What are some of the greatest challenges you have faced in your personal life?

The first challenge was in 1970 when we left Canada. The second one was when I was between my [university] freshman and sophomore year. I was walking home from a friend's house and on Metcalfe and de Maisonneuve I was hit by a car. I was unconscious for several days and in hospital for 10 days. I had a concussion and I lost my hearing in one ear. I guess it was rallying from that and going back to college in the middle of the year and passing all my courses.

What do you hope to bring to Hockey

Canada as far as your experience to enhance the organization?

I applied to Hockey Canada because my wife encouraged me and I never really expected to be chosen because they had over 600 applicants. I was one of the nine chosen.

Why, I think, I was chosen and why I am enjoying it so much is my whole experience in crisis management, and how you help an organization that clearly has gone through some challenges re-position themselves and regain the confidence of Canadians.

So that is what inspired me to do it and the other thing is hockey matters.

The nice thing about this project is everyone wants us to succeed: the governments want us to succeed, the sponsors want us to succeed, the hockey-parent wants us to succeed and what they want is a change in the culture and they want a hockey organization that makes them proud.

And a lot of that came to the forefront recently in Halifax with the juniors, and it was just the goodwill and the spirit, and the pride was all there.

The people of Halifax and Moncton were the ones who filled the stands because the tournament was only transferred there from Moscow in the summer. Traditionally when you have a world cup, there are fans from all around the world who come. This time, there were just Canadians in the audience because of the short timeline.

So, the nice thing is people want us to succeed. I am happy because I bring a skill set in crises management along with my experience in politics, my involvement in stakeholder relations and stakeholder communications.

My experience involves bringing different communities together and in this one, that is what we have to do. We have to demonstrate that we have learned something and that we are doing something about it. I am happy to make the contribution. They have named me as chair of the committee that is selecting the new CEO. The CEO's responsibility will be to implement the changes that we have made as we move forward.

We have a very credible board under Hugh's [Hugh Fraser] leadership. He has been a judge, he has been involved in sports cases and he is an athlete. He competed on the Canadian track team at the '76 Olympics in Montreal in 100- and 200-meter sprint and he would have gone to Moscow in 1980 but there was the boycott.

Do you know some of the people you will be

..... continued on p. 13

Plans to deliver 'quality services'

Mandeville welcomed 'home' to city hall as new DG

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

"Welcome back," Mayor Christina Smith said enthusiastically January 27 at a special council meeting to appoint Julie Mandeville to the city's top administrative position of director general. The mayor then added: "Welcome home!"

Mayor Smith's welcome generated hearty applause from those in the council chamber described by the mayor as "a room full of the administration and one citizen." The meeting had been hastily called without any detailed agenda listed on the city website, as the lone citizen stated.

Mandeville had worked for the city for seven years, first as treasurer and finance director and then as assistant director general. She left July 18, 2022, to assume the finance position in Brossard three months before the vacant DG position was posted.

"She really understands our city," Mayor Smith later told the *Independent*. The mayor had expressed disappointment when Mandeville left, saying she wished she would stay. "She understood her role of service to the municipality and had built a wonderful team."

While Mandeville did not speak at the recent meeting, she told the *Independent* last week from a skiing holiday in Whistler, BC, that "We have a lot of challenges ahead, and the team will be ready to meet them." She is to assume her new responsibilities February 20.

"Westmount is a small community and citizens expect a lot of high-quality services



From left, Mayor Christina Smith with Julie Mandeville at the January 27 city council meeting confirming her appointment as Westmount's director general, the city's top unelected position.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

which we will make sure we deliver," she added. Despite the departure of some of the team with whom she had worked, some may return, she suggested. "Life is

full of surprises."

In her appointment as assistant DG October 4, 2021, Mandeville had headed up "corporate and proximity services." Along

with Finance, these had included Communications, Information Technology, Library and Community Events as well as Sports and Recreation.

When the DG position became vacant, candidates were sought by a head hunter. Meanwhile, the city's 2023 operating and capital works budgets – previously under Mandeville's direction – were adopted.

Demerger experience

Mandeville is no stranger to the needs of de-merged municipalities, pointing out that this is where she has spent most of her "municipal life."

Residents of Brossard, for example, had voted to de-merge from Longueuil after being a borough in its forced mergers from 2002 to 2006.

When Mandeville was initially hired by Westmount, she was working as director of financial services for the Lester B. Pearson school board. In this role, she is reported to have re-organized the department to improve flexibility, productivity and customer service (see story August 11, 2015, p. 3).

No stranger to the municipal scene, however, she had been city treasurer for both Montreal West and Beaconsfield, and served a stint early in her career as assistant treasurer for the Town of Mount Royal.

Mandeville obtained a commerce degree from McGill in 1995 and has held other financial management positions in businesses that include Yellow Pages, Rolls Royce Canada and Sun Life Financial.

Goldbloom, cont'd from p. 12

working with at Hockey Canada?

I met them in Halifax for three board meetings last December. We have had subsequent meetings over Zoom and we have met for approximately 60 hours now. We are quickly developing a rapport and are identifying what we need to do, setting up the committees and finding the personnel to do it.

Are you excited?

I can't go anywhere without people asking me about Hockey Canada, so the excitement is there. Everyone cares about this.

Is the Hockey Canada position a full-time position or will you continue running your firm as well?

This is a volunteer position.

What kind of lessons did you learn from your father (Victor Goldbloom)?

I learned a couple of things: the impor-

tance of giving back and the importance of listening.

Starting from when he was a doctor, he used to do a lot of medicine over the phone and I noticed he was listening to his patients.

He was also committed to building bridges between anglophones and francophones and later on when he was head of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

We have to listen, and the reality is that we can't address all issues. You have to bring your value system to any task, and I learned that from my father as well. You have to know what you believe in and what you want to accomplish. You have to listen to people and identify what their concerns are and address them to the best of your ability.

My father was the minister in charge of the Olympics in '76. He was brought in to help get things built when the province took over from the city [of Montreal].



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9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is Lola, more than a pretty face. Exquisite and delicate, with huge eyes and a dark-contrast, tabby colouring, she is also most affectionate and playful.

Miss Lola is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery and in need of a loving home. At four years of age, she is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and

Lola



microchipped.

For more information on Lola, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to her information page by her identification number, 51981077, and go to the “Book a visit” rectangle, which is the information link to adoption coordinators. You will then present your contact information and choose a date to schedule an adoption visit with a coordinator at the shelter. Please bring a carrier or you can purchase one on site at the animal accessories boutique.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions
LYSANNE FOWLER

Ashley is a delight, sweet and playful at seven months of age. So pretty and affectionate, enjoying cuddles and sporting walks as a growing puppy. Ashley is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel and needs a family to bond with and enjoy everyday activities with as soon as possible.

She is very healthy, up to date on her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. For more information of adorable young Ashley, please go online to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to her information page by her identification number, 51972974, and click on the “Book a visit” rectangle to be linked to the adoption coordinators. By providing your contact information and scheduling an adoption visit with a coordinator at the shelter, you can meet to discuss Ashley and your family’s interest in bringing her home.

Banning export of live horses for slaughter

Yes, you read that right. This is happening now. The Montreal SPCA has organized a strong campaign to the Canadian government to stop the export of horses from Canada by plane to Japan for the meat trade.

They suffer throughout the trip to a horrible fate.

Each one of us can make a difference here. I have gone to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com and joined in the movement to ban this horrible practice by signing a letter to our member of parliament, Marc Garneau, and to the government authorities.

The letter is as follows: “I am writing to urge the federal government to fulfil its promise to ban the export of live horses, who are routinely sent to Japan by cargo jet for slaughter. This commitment was first made to Canadians in the Liberal

Ashley Puppy



Party’s 2021 election platform. Thereafter, in December of the same year, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also issued a Ministerial Mandate Letter to Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, asking her to achieve results for Canadians and ban this practice.”

We are not there yet, and in the face of inaction, each one of us can lend weight to remind the government of its responsibility. Each letter counts, please join us in taking a stand on this.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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Police Report

Police mum regarding bullets fired on Café Gentile

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

An official at the Montreal police department's Station 12 was guarded in his comments while discussing a gunshot incident on St. Catherine St. last week in which the front window of a popular café/restaurant was left damaged by bullet holes.

While the station's community relations officer, Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, said he couldn't go into detail because an active investigation was under way, several Montreal media identified the establishment as the Café Gentile.

Around 3:20 am on January 31, an intrusion alarm went off at the restaurant. When the police showed up, they found signs that bullets had damaged the glass plane of a door.

"The officers noticed there were traces of impact on the front window, and the impacts were done, we believe, by firearm," said Pimentel, adding that no one was injured by the gunshots.

'Grandparents' steal \$8k

Posing as RCMP officers, perpetrators of a "grandparent" fraud managed to steal

\$8,000 late last month from a retired Westmounter who was fooled into believing her grandchild was in serious trouble with the law.

Police from Station 12 were summoned on January 30 to the Montrose Ave. home of the victim.

On the phone, the perpetrators told the victim that her grandchild had been arrested by the RCMP during a roadside interception during which narcotics were found, and that \$8,000 was needed to post bail.

According to Cst. Pimentel, the suspects knew the grandchild's name and age, which they probably found on social media, and they were able to use that information to contact the victim.

The victim, acting on instructions given by the suspects, went to her bank branch on Greene Ave. and withdrew the amount in cash.

Around 10:30 am, an accomplice, falsely identifying himself as an RCMP officer, turned up at the victim's address to pick up the money, which had been placed in an envelope.

The victim only came to realize some

time later that she had been fooled after phoning her grandchild, who denied being in any sort of legal trouble.

Although Westmount was targeted by a wave of grandparent frauds in recent years and at one point a few suspects were arrested, Cst. Pimentel said the phenomenon "isn't going to disappear any time soon."

Booze burgled

On the afternoon of January 28, an opportunistic thief broke into a basement locker in a multi-unit residential building near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Victoria Ave. and managed to get away with three bottles of liquor found inside.

According to Cst. Pimentel, the suspect entered the building through the locked main door after waiting patiently for someone to come out. He then proceeded to the basement where he forced a locker open and stole the bottles.

Among the evidence recovered by the investigators was a cigarette butt the suspect left behind. DNA analysis may help reveal the suspect's identity. The police also have security camera evidence.



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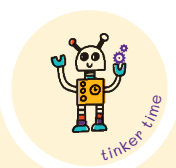
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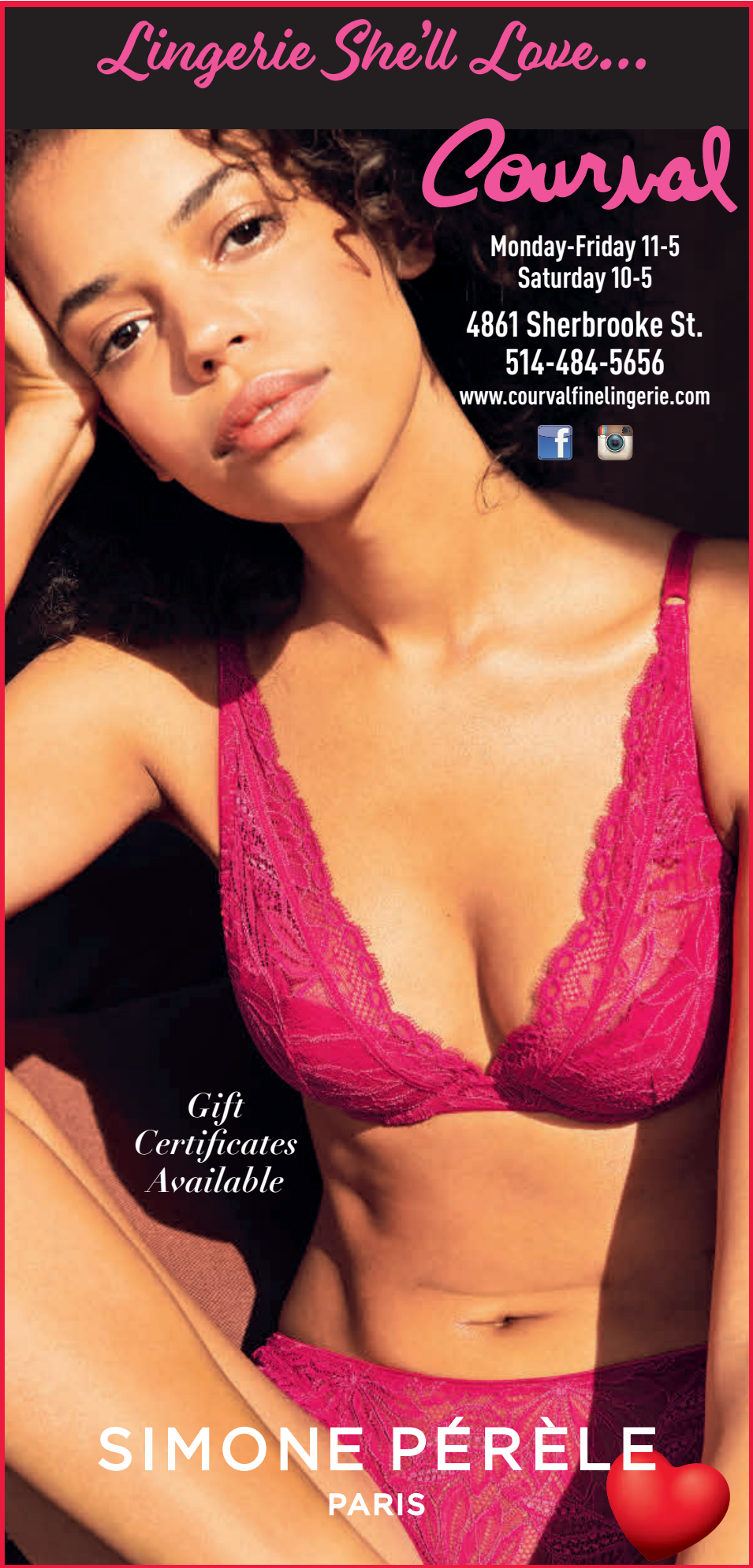
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Camp Lumi aims to illuminate



Retail Review
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Summer camp. What's not to love?! Great activities. Great memories. And now local res Amanda Cohen has founded a new one. Camp Lumi – as in “Il-LUMI-nate your child's summer.” Cohen was a long-time employee of Champions Day Camp (now closed). After many years working in recreation services in Montreal and Toronto, as well as at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2015 Pan Am and ParaPan Am Games, Amanda has returned to Montreal. Raising a family, she has just started bilingual Camp Lumi opening this summer at Lower Canada College (LCC). “LCC's world-class facilities are perfect for my camp. Not only are there outdoor playing fields, but there are indoor innovative art and music rooms. There are also kindergarten-specific areas for the littlest campers.” An optional lunch program using LCC catering is offered. Starting June 26 (until

August 16) campers (age 4 to 14) can attend on a weekly basis or book for the whole summer. The program is well-rounded with “sports and physical activities, sciences and art. I am also offering ‘Before and After Camp,’ so parents could drop off at 7:30 am and pick up at 6 pm.” Cohen has hired trained instructors with backgrounds in education, early childhood development and physical education.



Amanda Cohen, founder of Camp Lumi.



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Feast of the Nations supports Operation Miriam, Chabad seminary



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

At the recent Feast of the Nations gala, supporters rallied to raise \$550,000 in support of Operation Miriam and the Ben Weider Educational Centre/Chabad Seminary of Canada.

Held at Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, the evening honoured **Shari and Ron Shlien**.

Through the generosity of the 350 people in attendance, as well as supportive sponsors, the organization will be able to meet the immediate goals of Operation Miriam, the organization's mission to welcome 125 young women – 25 per year for the next five years – from Ukraine to study at the Ben Weider Educational Centre/Chabad Seminary of Canada.

All expenses for Operation Miriam are being subsidized through events such as the gala or via private donations. On average, the sponsorship of each student refugee is estimated at \$34,400 per year.

Furthermore, ancillary costs such as



Ron Shlien.

legal fees are being provided to the seminary at no charge.

At the One Person, One World gala guests included Eric Bissel, the Cukier families, Jason Farber, Sal Guerrera, Zohar Krivorot, Dr. Stephen Poloz, Ryan Stern,



Patricia Saputo.

Maurice Supino and Yair Szlak. Gala committee organizers were Jordan Aberman, Daniel Benchetrite, Gad Bitton, Nathalie and Benny Bouganim, Rabbi Abraham Cohen, Linda Dagenbach, Jack Dym, Barry Fagen, Sal Guerrera, Anthony House-



The event's auctioneer at work.

father, Barry Kotler, Peter Nicholson, Terry Pomerantz, Aaron Remer, Nadia Saputo, Patricia Saputo, Jeff Segel, Stephen Shiller, Shari and Ron Shlien, Amos Sochaczewski, Derek Stern and Richard Stern.

.....
continued on p. 18



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Social Notes *cont'd from p. 17*

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Speakers were **Rabbi Abraham Cohen, Patricia Saputo** and honoree **Ron Shlien**.

Established in 1989, the Ben Weider Educational Centre/Chabad Seminary of Canada, under the auspices of the world-wide Chabad movement and the Quebec CEGEP system, has been dedicated to the highest calibre of post-secondary education for young Jewish women from the province and beyond. The collegial certificates bestowed are recognized across Canada, the United States and Israel.



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514-944-4919

Ritsi moves, temporarily

The Ritsi women's clothing store, usually located near the northwest corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria, is being renovated, meaning the store has moved until the spring. The temporary store is at 4925 Sherbrooke between Prince Albert and Claremont, but still on the store's usual north side of Sherbrooke. – WI.

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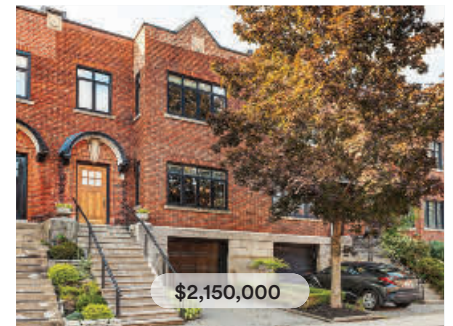
Westmount
594 LANDSDOWNE AV.



Town of Mount-Royal
212 LOCKHART AV.



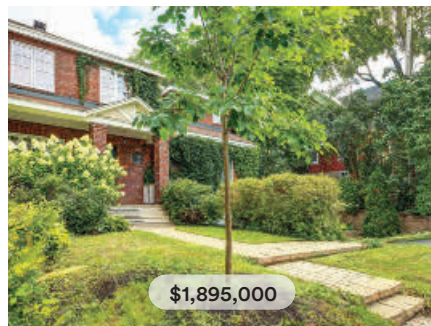
Westmount
3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, APT. 1414



Westmount
87 HOLTON AV.



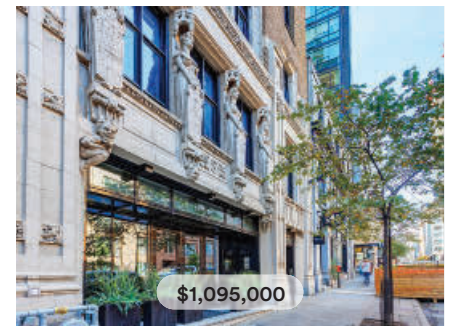
Westmount
370 ELM AV.



Westmount Adjacent
4829 GROSVENOR AV.



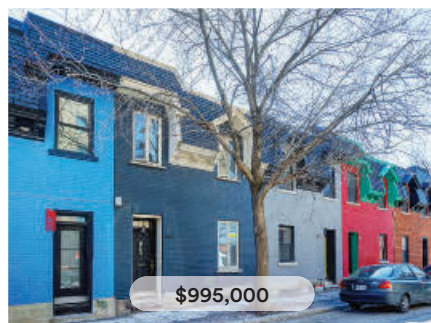
Old Montreal
54 RUE DE BRÉSOLES



Downtown
1070 RUE DE BLEURY, APT. 711



Town of Mount-Royal
1730 CH. NORWAY



South-West
1690 GRAND TRUNK



La Conception
1274 RUE DU CENTENAIRE



Downtown
1224 RUE ST-MATHIEU



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GRUPE SUTTON CENTRE-OUEST, INC.
245 AV. VICTORIA, BUREAU 20, WESTMOUNT, QC H3Z 2M6



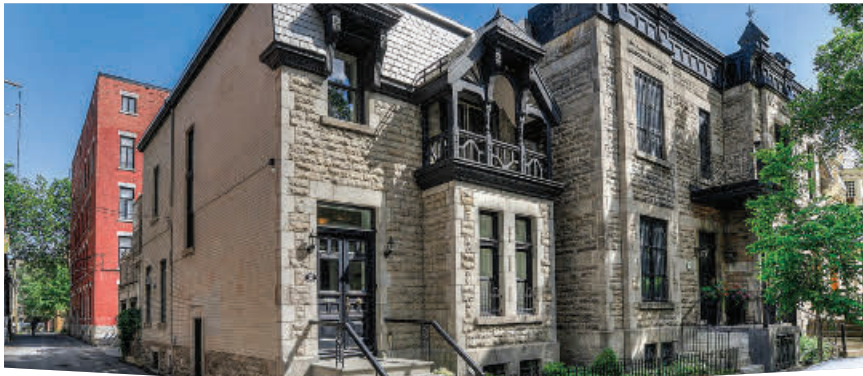
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