

City takes \$1.4 million but empty lot near Atwater remains

Construction guarantee confiscated from 4014-4022 St. Catherine

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council March 6 approved a resolution to confiscate a \$1.4-million monetary guarantee the city had required as part of a construction permit issued for a high-rise project at 4014-4022 St. Catherine, just west of Atwater. Issued in 2019, the permit expired 18 months later on March 30, 2021.

This left behind an empty lot from the demolition of what had been a three-storey building. It was taken down to make way for the proposed \$21-million 7- and 10-storey mixed-use project across from Alexis Nihon Plaza.

As a result, stated last week's council resolution, "the preliminary program (for the new building) was not carried out in a timely manner." The related monetary guarantee deposited by "4014 to 4022 St.

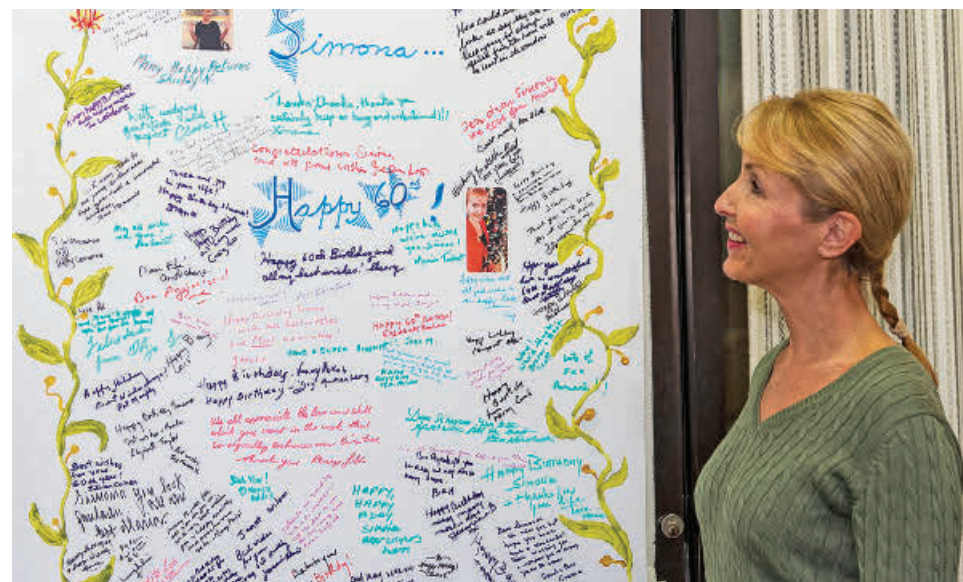
Catherine West Property Inc." would be allocated to the city's general fund.

"It is not the outcome we would want," Councillor Conrad Peart said as commissioner of urban planning. But he was "thankful" the city had imposed the monetary guarantee "to soften the blow and attract other projects."

He later told the *Independent* that the city had not received any "indication that the project was likely to re-start and be completed as originally planned. As such, we find ourselves in the unfortunate and unwelcome position of needing to confiscate the monetary guarantee."

One resident of the area expressed concern last week that the city had not also required that a green space be provided on the site rather than leaving
"a hole in the ground." *continued on p. 11*

Appreciation, 'Happy Birthday' for Buth



Simona Buth, the leisure department supervisor at Manoir Westmount, enjoyed a short vacation recently and was surprised to be welcomed back to work at the door by one of the volunteers at the seniors' residence. They walked together to Buth's office. The residents had gathered to wish Buth a happy 60th birthday, along with a giant card designed by resident Pierre Desjardins. The many comments attest to Buth's work being most appreciated.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

To be fired on King Charles' coronation day, May 6

Two city cannon part of group honouring Ukrainian refugees in St. Pat's parade

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's two restored 1810 cannon will represent the city for the first time in this year's upcoming St. Patrick's parade Sunday, March 19. Part of the contingent will be a World War II transport truck including Ukrainian refugees waving the flag of the war-torn country. "We will be honouring them," explained Patrick Martin, president of the volunteer Westmount Battery.

Accompanying the cannon are members of the volunteer unit wearing their specially designed uniforms replicating those from the era of the cannon.

These have been fired ceremoniously on a couple of recent occasions since their restoration, including to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee and her funeral. "The intent is to fire them for the coronation May 6 of King Charles III," Martin said.



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Woman treated for fall on Greene outside Westmount Square



Public safety officer Troy Graggs, left, and a nurse attend to a woman on the sidewalk on Greene just south of de Maisonneuve March 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When Public Security patrollers answered a call March 8 for a woman who had fallen in the crosswalk facing 1245 Greene, they found her lying on the sidewalk with blood on her face, department officials said. She was on her side and was being attended to by an RCMP officer and a nurse.

Public safety officer Troy Graggs took over from the officer and continued treatment while awaiting Urgences Santé.

The woman was believed to have fallen

while stepping up onto the sidewalk and had suffered a laceration to the forehead. She was taken by ambulance to the Jewish General Hospital. No other details were available other than the victim being described as “elderly.”

Water pours from building when door opened

Water was found coming from the side door of a building at 4945 Sherbrooke, corner Claremont, March 1, Public Security officials said. It was reported to patrollers by a passer-by at 7:11 pm near the northeast corner of Claremont. The leak triggered an alarm, bringing firefighters to the scene. When the door was opened by firefighters, water was reported to have “poured out.”

A property management company for a rental agent involved in the space was contacted and the leak was left in their hands after confirmation it was coming from private plumbing. The former Christian Faure location is next to the Starbucks.

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In 2019, when we started the restoration of the building, we designed the new façade with a heated permanent access ramp and new sign. At the same time, we figured it was time that “Mark & Lachance” became “Lachance & Co.”

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Next issue: Learn who we are!

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\$155,400 goes to help provide community services

Council ups its basket of grants for 7 non-profits



The Visual Arts Centre at Victoria and Somerville on March 10.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Seven non-profit community organizations will share in a total of \$155,400 awarded for this year by city council March 6. These are provided to help with operating costs for services not offered by the city. The total is an increase over last year’s amount of some \$140,000.

The grants reflect applications from the non-profits and recommended by the director of the library and community events, explained Councillor Élisabeth Roux, commissioner of the library and community events, who presented the motion.

“We had the privilege to visit them and were impressed by the work that they do,” Roux said of the organizations.

Mayor Christina Smith echoed her words about the work carried out by these non-profits, noting as an example what had been accomplished by the Contactivity Centre in its work with seniors to help break their isolation over COVID restrictions. “We encourage other groups to apply in the fall for these grants,” she added.

Two of the larger awards are examples of the services provided for the community that are not operated or funded by the city. Together, the following two carry off the lion’s share of the supporting grants.

These are the Contactivity Seniors’

Centre as mentioned and the Atwater Library and Computer Centre, which offers various degrees of computer knowledge and expertise not provided by the Westmount Public Library.

A relatively new non-profit is the Westmount Battery, which restored and now preserves and operates the city’s two 1810 cannon that once sat in Westmount Park. Its volunteers – veterans and cadets – maintain them on behalf of the city and use them on ceremonial occasions such as Remembrance Day and representing the city (see story p. 1).

The Westmount YMCA provides local residents with an opportunity to use an indoor pool year-round at certain reserved times as well as the Teen Zone at the Westmount recreation department (WRC) and other programs differing from the Sports and Recreation department.

Following are this year’s grant recipients listed in alphabetical order:

- Atwater Library (\$37,000),
- Centre Greene/the Greene Avenue Community Centre (\$13,000),
- Contactivity Centre (\$82,400),
- Visual Arts Centre (\$5,000),
- Westmount Battery (\$2,500),
- Westmount Historical Association (\$3,500),
- YMCAs of Québec – Westmount (\$12,000).

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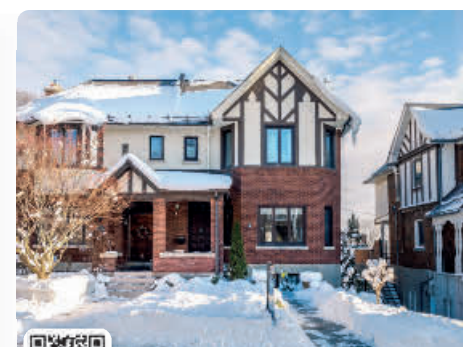


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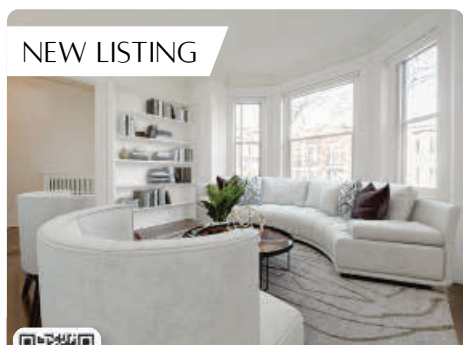
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AV. DE MONKLAND | CDN/NDG
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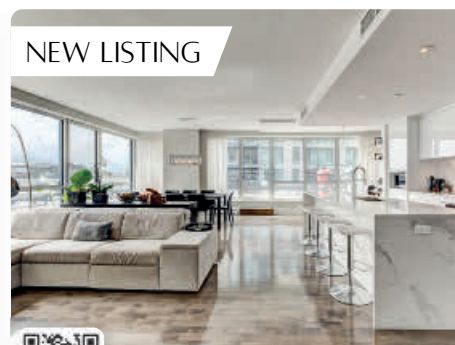


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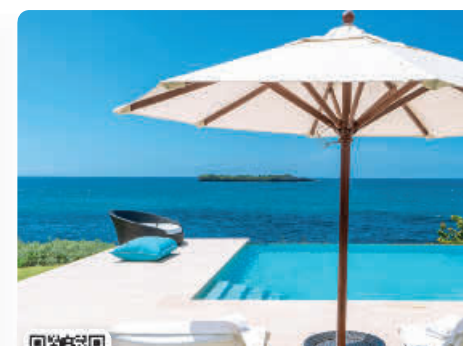
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LISTINGS

EDITORIAL

Best wishes to Marc Garneau

The focus of this newspaper is not national politics, but we have covered aspects of “that particular activity” (to steal Gerry Butts’ recent phrase), including local campaigns for national office and aspects of the career of our longtime MP, Marc Garneau, who announced his resignation March 8. He was elected five times: in 2008, 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2021.

Despite his many other concerns and tasks, and the micro-focus of our newspaper, Marc has *always* found time in a kind and courteous way for our questions and this business’ (rare) federal issues and opinions.

Thank you, Marc.
More importantly, Marc is the kind of

politician that federal and provincial politics could use more of. While his political opponents have no reason to cheer his many electoral successes, everyone can agree that he elevated the tone and content of federal politics. In stark contrast to most federal and provincial politicians, Marc came to politics as a self-made man of actual accomplishment and experience, whose expertise was probably under-used in surface-focused Ottawa and whose integrity could likely have improved many a situation too.

Marc: Best wishes to you in your next endeavours. You will be missed here.

David Price is the editor
of the Independent.

A sampling of the *Independent’s* coverage of Garneau

- “Introducing Marc Garneau, federal Liberal nominee [interview],” November 7, 2007, p. 22
- “Garneau supports Israel on its 61st,” May 5-6, 2009, p. 1
- “MP Garneau gets busy, moves back in, and gets ready to move again [interview],” May 19-20, 2009, p. 6
- “Research funding, CBC, environment are local concerns [interview],” April 12-13, 2011, p. 10
- “Reversal of fortune – Garneau wins

- seat at final hour,” May 10-11, 2011, p. 8
- “NDG-Westmount chooses Garneau,” October 27, 2015, p. 4
- “Election hopefuls air views at WMA Meet the Candidates meeting,” October 1, 2019, p. 9
- “Eight candidates on the ballot in NDG-Westmount,” September 14, 2021, p. 19
- “Interview with Marc Garneau, minister of foreign affairs: On China, where does Canada go from here?” October 12, 2021, p. 7

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Greene to be ‘more welcoming’: Cllr. Gallery

Upgrade of street furniture okayed at \$120,574 max

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Following up on feedback from the city’s survey of temporary public spaces and parklets for this summer released in



An example of the type of furniture the city is buying. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

January, city council March 6 approved the purchase of new street furniture to spruce up Greene Ave.

Proposals from Michel Morelli Designs Inc. were accepted for a maximum of \$120,574 including taxes.

“This is from the survey on street furniture, which was particularly appreciated,” said Councillor Mary Gallery whose commissionership includes parks. The new furniture will be “nicer, more welcoming and friendly,” she explained.

According to a press release that had accompanied the results concerning Greene, de Maisonneuve and Victoria, “city council has adopted to modify the plans for some of the areas with lower satisfaction scores, notably the public space on Greene.” It would also include an upgrading of the type of street furniture to be more in keeping with the tenure of the street (see story January 31, p. 8).

This upgrade of the furniture was a particular request, Mayor Christina Smith noted. Some of the types of furniture, Gallery told the *Independent*, are shaded and have accessible tables.

EDITOR’S NOTE

THANK YOU, NOTARY YOUNANIAN, MAYOR SMITH

I would like to thank notary Arthur Younanian for the help he gave with a small notarial question last month. Arthur is a longtime, frequent and valued advertiser whose practice continues the practice and Sherbrooke-near-Lansdowne location of the late Andy Durso (see “Andy Durso remembered as notary and dedicated Rotarian, April 5, 2022, p. 38). Thank you, Arthur.

I would also like to thank Mayor Christina Smith for her recent help in opening up a new distribution point for the *Independent*. The city provides many locations for our paper to be distributed, from city hall and the library to Victoria Hall and the Westmount recreation centre, and we appreciate each one. Thank you, Mayor Smith. – DP.

Corrections

Brosseau coaches hockey, Makhan on Victoria merchants’ board

Westmount hockey coach André Brosseau was correctly identified at first instance in our story “MacMartin impresses with attitude, willingness to learn” (March 7, p. 4), but he was incorrectly identified with another “B” surname later in the article. He is in fact the same man.

*

Among board members elected recently to the Victoria Village Merchants’ Association is Mike Makhan, co-owner of Aux Vivres. – DP.

Illicit massages in Westmount?

In its article “Sex traffickers are using shell companies to launder illicit profits in Canada” (March 10), *The Globe and Mail* published a table with the title “Number of potentially illicit massage businesses across Canada.”

It listed the number of such businesses by municipality. Toronto (219), Montreal (76) and Vancouver (56) led the pack, but Westmount appeared too, with one.

Group's focus: caring for live animals

SPCA pivots away from investigation of dead dog on truck bumper

BY JENNIFER BALL

The story of the display of a dead dog attached to the front bumper of a black F-150 pick-up truck over the 2022-3 holiday season (see January 17, p. 3) prompted the SPCA to request the *Independent's* source come forward so that an investigation could commence (see February 7, p. 3).

Even if the display itself was not criminal, had a crime occurred beforehand? It is unlikely now that this question will be answered since the SPCA acknowledged in a recent statement that its primary focus is to succor live animals in its care.

SPCA was interested

This statement came some six weeks after Jeanne Beauchamp, public relations account executive for tök communications – who handles press relations for the SPCA – said: "...to advance in this kind of file, we encourage [the witness] to collaborate with the SPCA investigation office, it could really help them!"

Complying, the bystander was prepared to come forward with testimony and pro-

vide photos to the SPCA's bureau of investigation. But that investigation is not currently possible because Beauchamp indicated that the SPCA's limited resources are at the service of animals requiring immediate attention. "...we sincerely appreciate that you want to feature our perspective on this story!" Beauchamp said in a provided statement.

Core mission: shelter, adoption

"Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate your request at this time. The Montreal SPCA receives a large volume of animals and all of our resources are dedicated to fulfilling our core mission of caring for shelter animals and putting them up for adoption, responding to calls and reports from the community, and conducting advocacy campaigns to improve animal welfare.

"The Montreal SPCA has also been affected by the province's current labour shortage, which further limits the amount of time we can commit to any work that falls outside the scope of our current mission."

Advertorial

Unapologetically Working Class

BY L. S. CATTARINI

written with long-overdue respect for the Hamilton I left behind

I was told, in my youth, from someone I admired: "A working class hero is something to be." Those words are from John Lennon, but do they still mean anything? There's a difference between how those with utopian fantasies view the blue-collar population and how those with common sense do. I am trying to defend the labour sector through conservative eyes.

"Working class" means facing reality instead of trying to re-invent it as if you were God. That's the view from the ground up. Working class means respecting how each person contributes to society instead of pretending we're all perfect to begin with and effort doesn't matter. It's the working class who know self-esteem is not an abstraction but a daily chore, and the cure for excess shame – or excess pride – is not the re-engineering imposed by an administration of social justice warriors. We are saved by practising virtue – not by being exempted and protected from its challenge. The cure for the vices that lead to injustice is not a systemic affirmation of diversity by arbitrarily enforcing preference over merit – as if the appearance of justice is what counts.

Being working class means expecting righteous governments, which try to purge inequality, will arrive too late, because a healthy sense of integrity – the unofficial source of what redeems us – doesn't need bureaucratic compassion or prosecution to animate it. Facing reality means seeing through official narratives and exercising one's conscience. Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter and the Freedom Convoy all deserve a public hearing before being ostracized. There is no working class without this essential claim to the right to dissent. Even the quality of human excellence exists by way of growth, not by way of artificial imposition. No institution will achieve more than an individual's belief in his own potential.

Society may still contain its hierarchies reflecting varieties of idealism, but working class is only common decency, only the bedrock beneath all fine architecture. Perhaps the French author Bernanos said it best when he wrote: "Worldly men talk of 'simple people' as they do of 'humble people,' with the same indulgent smile. But they should speak of them as of kings."

Is that too high praise?

Nonetheless, you can expect countless capitalist managers to be dethroned if not for the collaboration of their employees. Let us not forget that the kingdom of free enterprise belongs just as much to every integral worker as to all the innovative entrepreneurs.

However, where basic respect is lacking, where blue collar feels mistreated by white collar, those workers – whether unionized or not – have the moral obligation to act in solidarity. To protest when they can't decently participate in the economy is more fundamental than how negotiable that prospect may be. Working class means dignity is an option even when it looks politically inadvisable. And besides, at bottom, how can society function without its non-executive component? We even have a holiday to remind us that labour in particular belongs to our overall success.

A hero is someone who remains fully human when it's more trendy to plead you're only human. And whether John Lennon was conservative or not, the heroism of those of us not in positions of authority is something that begins in the plain moral defiance of any establishment – even liberal ones.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHO IS BEING SOUGHT?

I find the police and Public Security reports in the *Independent* valuable in large part because they inform the general public what to look out for in terms of crime and personal protection.

They would be even more valuable if the police and Public Security supplied, where possible, and the *Independent* published, the physical descriptions of suspects and perpetrators. And even descriptions of alleged perpetrators.

What's the stumbling block? Police/Public Security? *Independent*? Both?

ALEX SIMONELIS, SHERBROOKE ST.

Editor's reply: I have asked both relevant reporters to request this information. – DP

WHAT'S WITH IDLING BY CITY CONTRACTORS?

On March 3, 10 snow removal trucks

Seeking Shared Housing

Translator, back in Montreal after years in Paris, looking for shared space with own bathroom, in bright apartment or house in Westmount (or NDG). Contact agnesj.trad@hotmail.com.



lined Windsor Ave. with engines idling for at least 20 minutes while they waited for instructions. According to a Public Security officer, car owners in Westmount may be fined after three minutes of idling, but trucks owned by the city don't have any restrictions. I am curious to know whether the latter practice also applies to privately-owned large trucks and other vehicles that emit harmful exhaust gasses and particles?

S. FREEMAN, WINDSOR AVE.

Editor's note: This letter and photo are almost identical to ones from a year ago. See March 8, 2022, p. 6 – DP.

Comin' Up

Saturday, March 18

"Sarah Was Ninety Years Old" and other works performed by Ensemble Vocal One Equall Musick. \$25, \$15 students. Saint-Léon de Westmount, 4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. 8 pm.

Saturday, March 18

"The Disruption Versus Giridharadas," a lecture by L.S. Cattarini, will examine how anti-Trump liberals (such as Giridharadas) and pro-Trump conservatives (aka the "Disruption") both reject the American economic elite. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. \$5. Info: 514.483.0934. 1:30 pm.

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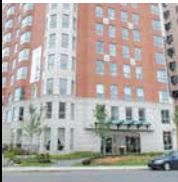
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Westmounters attend launch for *Elsie Reford 150: Objects of Passion*

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmounters were among the more than 50 people who gathered at the Centaur Theatre in Old Montreal on March 6 for the launch of *Elsie Reford 150: Objects of Passion*.

The new book explores the passions of a woman who was an influencer in early 20th century Montreal and the founder of one of Canada's largest private gardens.

Produced by Les Jardins de Métis and Les Éditions Umanium to honour Elsie Reford's 150th birthday last year, the lavishly illustrated volume is a collective work, involving more than a dozen authors with expertise in topics ranging from fashion history to the decorative arts, landscape architecture and horticulture.

Inspired by the best-selling book *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, *Elsie Reford 150* portrays Reford through meticulously selected and beautifully photographed objects.

While gardening was her well-known passion, her other interests are also revealed page by page.

Born in Perth, Ontario in 1872, Elsie Reford first planted the gardens known today as the Jardins de Métis or Reford



Some Westmounters who attended the book launch at the Centaur Theatre on March 6, from left: Rosalind Peppall, Sarah Ivory and cousin Nikola Reford, with Alexander Reford.

Gardens in the mid-1920s in Grand Métis in Quebec's Gaspé region.

She was married to Montreal businessman Robert Wilson Reford, who led a shipping agency that served as a ticket agent for the Cunard-White Star Line.

Alexander Reford, Elsie's great-grandson, who serves today as director of the gardens, noted that since bookstore shelves contain fewer volumes than ever on the history of Montreal, *Elsie Reford 150* commemorates the city as well as the women who contributed to its growth.

"This is a book that celebrates a woman, it does so I think in an interesting way," he said.

"It does so through the objects that she purchased, that she possessed, that she owned, that she was given, that she gifted. It is a book that celebrates a woman through what she used, what she caressed, what she enjoyed."

He called it a book "about keeping stuff around," which, he added, "illustrates the importance of objects in our lives. Sometimes even the most modest objects – it could be a *couteau*, it could an element from a fisherman's case, it could be a fishing rod that is broken or spent – it could be anything."



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Looking southeast at the 4014-22 St. Catherine lot on March 10. The Atwater Library, former Reddy Memorial Hospital and the new 1111 Atwater tower are visible in the background. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Guarantee, cont'd from p. 1

Next to the empty lot is the former Packard car dealership (known more recently as the Subaru building), which has long been largely vacant and shrouded for safety reasons.

Prime property

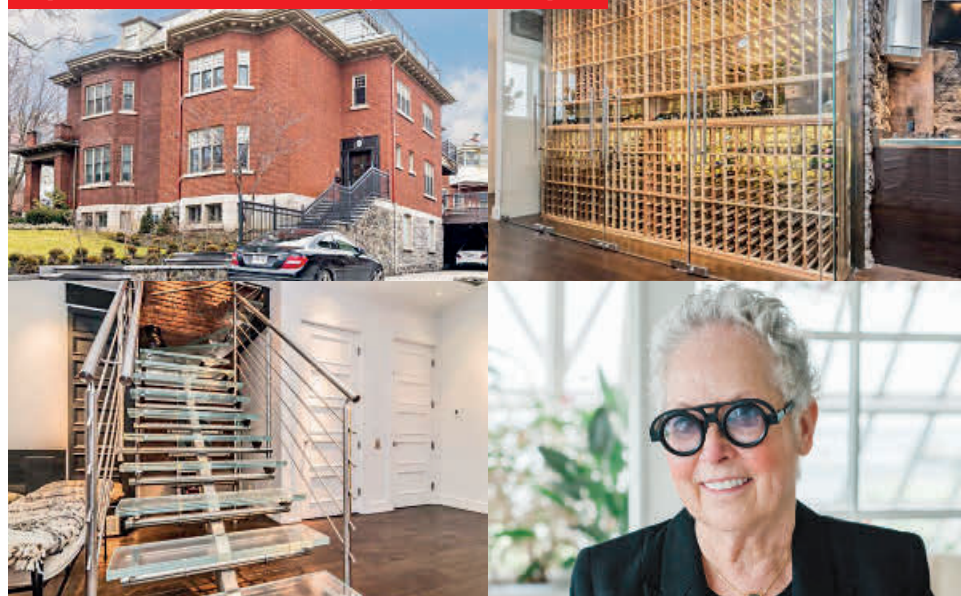
The site for the highrise had been considered a prime property for re-development and had been up-zoned by the city in 2014 to provide for revitalization of a prominent entrance point to Westmount. It was seen as a way to make the street “livable” by introducing residential occupancy

to the commercial zone (see story on demolition meeting February 27, 2018, p. 1 and 16).

Last week's resolution authorizing enforcement of the monetary guarantee states that a formal notice had been sent to “4014 to 4022 St. Catherine West Property Inc.”

The current owner “is eligible to file a new building application at any time,” Peart said. This is listed on the current valuation role as Romspen Investment Corporation of Toronto.

Open House March 19, Sun 2 – 4 pm



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infoWESTMOUNT

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 20 mars

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, March 20



Galerie : appel aux artistes
Les artistes de Westmount sont invité(e)s à soumettre leur candidature pour la prochaine saison d'exposition à la Galerie du Victoria Hall d'ici le 15 avril. Pour en savoir plus et pour accéder au formulaire, visitez westmount.org.

Grève causant une interruption de service les 14, 15 et 16 mars
Une grève est prévue les 14, 15 et 16 mars par le Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal (SCFP, section locale 301). Veuillez noter les interruptions de service suivantes :
- Conservatoire et serres : fermés,
- Galerie du Victoria Hall : fermée à 17 h
- CLW : activités sur les patinoires annulées.
Pendant les fermetures, les activités et services réguliers tenus à ces lieux seront suspendus. Toute mise à jour de la situation sera affichée à westmount.org/nouvelles.

Ville de Montréal : travaux sur la rue Saint-Antoine Ouest
Des entraves et des restrictions de stationnement seront en place la semaine du 20 mars sur la rue Saint-Antoine entre l'av. Atwater et la rue Rose-de-Lima. westmount.org/nouvelles
Activités du printemps : inscription
Inscrivez-vous au soccer, tennis et une foule d'autres activités. westmount.org
Abonnez-vous à E-Westmount
Votre bulletin municipal. westmount.org



Gallery call for proposals
Westmount artists are invited to submit their proposals between now and April 15 for the next exhibition season in the Gallery at Victoria Hall. To learn more and to access the application form, visit westmount.org.

Service interruption due to a strike on March 14, 15, and 16
A strike is planned for March 14, 15, and 16 by the blue collar workers' union, *Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal (SCFP, section locale 301)*. Please note the following service interruptions:
- Conservatory and greenhouses: closed,
- Gallery at Victoria Hall: closed at 5 p.m.
- WRC: all ice activities canceled.
Regular activities and services at these locations will be suspended during the closures. Updates will be posted at westmount.org/news.

Ville de Montréal: road work on Saint-Antoine Ouest
Road obstructions and parking restrictions will be in place during the week of March 20 on Rue Saint-Antoine O., between Ave. Atwater and Rue Rose-de-Lima. westmount.org/news
Registration for spring activities
Sign up now for soccer, tennis and many other activities. westmount.org
Sign up for E-Westmount
Your municipal newsletter. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Concerts d'été : appel de soumissions
Les musiciens sont invités à soumettre leurs candidatures pour cette série de concerts au parc Westmount au plus tard le 6 avril. Informations et formulaire : westmount.org.
Art Westmount 2023
Le festival Art Westmount aura lieu les 6 et 7 mai à Victoria Hall. Réservez votre place en ligne à westmount.org au plus tard le 24 mars.
Concours littéraire McEntyre 2023
Invitation aux étudiants de Westmount : écrivez une histoire, un poème ou un essai sur le thème de l'exploration. Date limite 26 mars. westlib.org
Exposition : Roxanne Dyer et Tracy Steer
Jusqu'au 17 mars, Galerie du Victoria Hall.

Club de films documentaires : Je pleure dans ma tête (2022)
Mercredi 15 mars, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Une discussion animée par Katherine Kassirer, bibliothécaire à l'ONF, suivra. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.
Conférence : Wild Antarctica and the Falkland Islands
Jeudi 23 mars, 16 h, Bibliothèque et Zoom. Avec Frederic Hore, photographe d'aventure et écrivain. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.
Atelier d'écriture (9 à 12 ans)
Jeudi 23 mars, 16 h, Bibliothèque. Avec Andrew Katz. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.
Ciné-club : Sound of Metal (2019)
Mardi 28 mars, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Avec Riz Ahmed et Olivia Cooke. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.
Concert : Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal
Samedi 1^{er} avril, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Airs et scènes d'opéra de Christoph Willibald Gluck. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer concerts: call for submissions
Musicians are invited to submit a candidacy for this concert series in Westmount Park. Deadline is April 6. Information and application form: westmount.org
Art Westmount 2023
The Art Westmount festival will take place May 6 & 7 at Victoria Hall. Reserve a spot online at westmount.org by March 24.
2023 McEntyre Writing Competition
Invitation to Westmount students: write a story, a poem or an essay on the theme of *Exploration*. Deadline is March 26. westlib.org
Exhibition: Roxanne Dyer and Tracy Steer
Until March 17, Gallery at Victoria Hall.
Documentary Film Club: Je pleure dans ma tête (2022)
Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m., Library. Katherine Kassirer, NFB librarian, will lead a discussion after the film. Register at westlib.org.



Lecture: Wild Antarctica and the Falkland Islands
Thursday, March 23, 1 p.m., Library and Zoom. With Frederic Hore, adventure photographer and writer. Register at westlib.org.
Writing Workshop (9 to 12 yr olds)
Thursday, March 23, 4 p.m., Library. With Andrew Katz. Register at westlib.org.
Film Club: Sound of Metal (2019)
Tuesday, March 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. With Riz Ahmed and Olivia Cooke. Register at westlib.org.
Concert: Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal
Saturday, April 1st, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Opera arias and scenes by Christoph Willibald Gluck. Register at westmount.org.

No family yet for Monty, must have been the timing ...



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

directly at info@gerdysrescue.org.
Your neighbour,
Lysanne



I just can't believe it. We featured Monty a few issues ago and I was certain he would have been taken into the loving arms of a new family in a heartbeat.

It must have been the timing. Everyone would have been too busy to notice him.

His best chance is now as Monty is incredibly handsome and a best companion in all ways. This stunning two-tone longhair has been taken into foster care for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions since his owner died recently.

He is eight years old, very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

A very happy chap, he has adapted well and he will fall into place easily in a new family. For more information on Monty, please refer to the rescue's website at www.gerdysrescue.org or write to them

Fun Theo is ready for a new life



Westmount
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LYSANNE FOWLER

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A five-year-old with a working-dog attitude, he is ready to be in a dog club and agility classes, or simply join family members for creative games and outdoor activities.

Theo is presently in a foster home for the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions animal rescue. He would be happy to be adopted into an adult family as a single dog in the home, yet enjoying other dogs at the dog parks and at activity locations.

Theo is healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. As a herding dog, he can be a bit vocal, so

best to be in a detached home with a fenced backyard.

Please enquire about Theo at the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org or by writing directly to the volunteers at their email address info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



On strike !

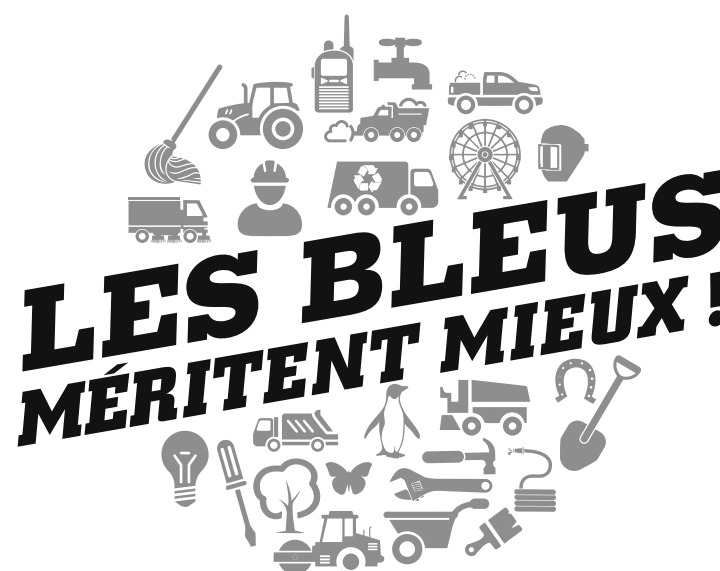
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Centre Greene navigates past COVID, while adapting to staff changes



Seen in the background during the Centre Greene AGM on February 2 are, from left, board treasurer Gerard Fellerath, chairwoman Jane Wightman, interim-executive director Heather Hodges and building operations manager Sophie Cram.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While the last few years at Centre Greene were challenging because of the COVID pandemic, the year 2022 at the community centre on Greene Ave. was transformational, with special projects launched and an interim-executive director appointed.

During Centre Greene's annual general meeting on February 2, board of directors chair Jane Wightman acknowledged the work accomplished by Dr. Diahara Traoré, who was Centre Greene's executive-director from July 2021 until leaving in 2022 when she accepted a research position at the University of Montreal.

'Huge impact' by Traoré

"We were sad to see Dr. Traoré leave but thrilled that she had an opportunity to work in her research field," said Wightman. "Diahara made a huge impact during the short time she was with us. We wish her the very best in this new venture."

Centre Greene's new interim-executive

director is Heather Hodges, formerly director of programs. She is being supported by the centre's building operations manager, Sophie Cram.

As the impacts from the COVID pandemic lessened last year, Centre Greene was able to resume its programs and activities over the summer at full capacity for the first time since March 2020.

"The pandemic has shown us the importance of a continued presence in the lives of the populations we serve," Hodges said in her first annual report. She said this proved to be especially true for the senior population.

Seniors coordinator

With funding from the Grace Dart Foundation and the federal government's New Horizons for Seniors program, Centre Greene now has a community support coordinator dedicated to senior participants for the first time ever.

In the last year, staff at Centre Greene oversaw the implementation of two important initiatives: the A.C.T. (Arts, Creation,

Transformation) program that aims to confront barriers that BIPOC (black, indigenous and "other persons of colour") face, and the Healthy Steps mental health project for youths between ages 16 and 25, funded by the Telus Friendly Futures Foundation.

Reporting on the centre's financial situation, board treasurer Gerard Fellerath said 2022 was a good year for Centre Greene's finances, as program registrations returned to normal levels and rentals of activity space to outside groups again became possible.

Changes to by-laws

During a special session of the board held just before the annual general meeting, Andrea Engels, a legal consultant and Centre Greene volunteer over the years, explained some changes she helped draft for the centre's charter of by-laws.

"The by-laws that the centre had were pretty out of date and they weren't really meeting the needs both of the centre as it operates now, but also they weren't really in line with the regulations of the Quebec Corporations Act or the Canada Revenue Agency," she said.

According to Wightman, the centre found itself in the past sometimes being turned down when applying for grants "because we weren't following certain regulations that were necessary," she said.

The following people will sit over the coming year on Centre Greene's board of directors: Michele Beacom, Erica Bloom, Jonathan Cheung, Gerard Fellerath, Christine Harkness, Peter Marcovitz, Giselle Murphy, Kate Sutherland, Willem Westenberg, Jane Wightman and Trevor Williams, who was profiled in February 21's *Independent* (p. 1).

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Police Report

Law enforcement urges prevention following break-ins at local homes

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Two recent break-ins at houses in Westmount have moved a Montreal police spokesperson to issue some guidelines for safeguarding against home robberies.

The first incident took place around 8:45 pm on March 4 at a home on Westmount Ave. near Victoria Ave.

“We got a call from Public Security that a window at the house was broken,” said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, adding that the owner wasn’t home at the time and the house’s alarm system wasn’t operational.

Responding to a 9-1-1 call, officers from Station 12 noted the shattered window, as well as footprints on the grounds outside the home. Inside, they saw that closets and drawers had been searched and their contents scattered around.

Following the footprints, the officers found they led onto other nearby properties.

The police department’s identification unit was summoned to photograph the footprints as evidence. Among the items found to have been stolen was jewellery.

Lansdowne break-in

In the second incident, a house on Lansdowne Ave. near The Boulevard was broken into sometime between 11 am on March 3 and 10 am on March 6, when the occupants were away for the weekend.

A caretaker discovered the dwelling had been broken into.

“When they came to check on the house, they saw that it was in disorder, meaning it had been searched,” said Cst. Pimentel. As in the previous case, closets and drawers were found open.

As was also the case with a previously-reported break-in several weeks ago at a Westmount home, a rear patio glass door had been shattered to gain entry.

Footprints in the snow indicated that the suspect or suspects had made their way onto the property by jumping a backyard fence. Again, jewellery was stolen.

The identification unit was unable to find any fingerprints, although the footprint evidence was noted.

Suggestions

Cst. Pimentel’s suggestions for safeguarding your house against break-ins include delegating a neighbour or friend to pick up the mail or remove circulars from the front entrance, using electric timers to switch lights on and off so the house appears occupied, and being careful about the personal information you post

on social media.

While Pimentel acknowledged that fraud artists now commonly use information from social media to target and exploit victims, he doesn’t rule out the possibility that household burglars may also be hunting on social media for hints some homeowners may be posting that they are going away for extended periods, leaving their households and property vulnerable.

Spring isn’t 100% beautiful



This piece of urban flotsam (part of a car’s bumper?) is floating around the intersection of Prince Albert and York, disappearing and then appearing again as snow comes and goes, and gets moved around itself. Part of its journey is captured here on March 7 and 8. What other treasures will come to light in the next few weeks?

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.


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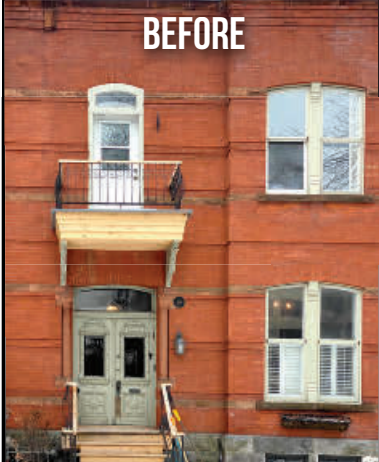
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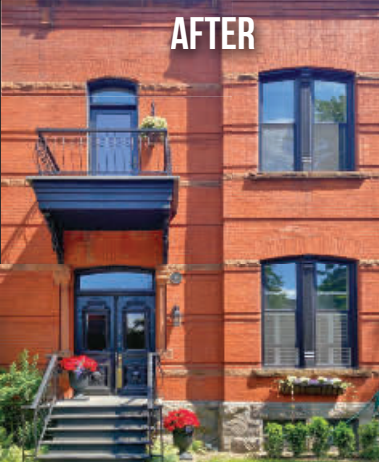
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Store re-opens after painting

COVID just another bump in the road for Greene Ave. stalwart La Cache



La Cache on Greene Ave. on February 3

By JENNIFER BALL

Seeing another empty shop front window on Greene Ave. tends to give one pause these days, given the recent casualties on the destination street. Upon closer inspection, though, April Cornell's La Cache store was not closing – only re-decorating.

A sign in the window seen earlier this year read “the store will be closed January 23 until February 1 for painting” and the store manager, Gabrielle Lisku, remarked that people were coming up to the window to check on what was happening.

Re-painting, inside & out

“We’re re-painting completely, just freshening it up,” Cornell said in a phone interview. “It was getting a bit tired and just before COVID, we had done the front of the store with the yellow and the blue. We had been intending to continue in the store, so now we’re doing the inside.”

The work was completed on the ground floor when the *Independent* met with Lisku on February 3. Cornell indicated that “we’ll do the second floor and the second floor will have a stairwell going up that is going to be a wall of framed memorabilia, like articles from the *Westmount Examiner* and stuff from the beginning of the company.

Beautiful and great memories.”

Little else will migrate from the DNA of the store that was founded 40 years ago by Chris and April Cornell. It has a bounteous supply of clothing, fine linens, Indian textiles and housewares with a fervour for colour and intricate prints.

Cornell said the 2022 Christmas selling season was okay.

“I have to say... obviously the first year of COVID was really bad, but my manager [Lisku] did such an awesome job of calling our customers and serving them over the phone. Then they would pick stuff up or she would ship it to them. So, she really kept it alive when nobody knew what was happening...”

Cornell has a factory in India that gave them a distinctive edge over other retailers, she believes.

“We were able to keep the flow of product, which was really hard for a lot of companies. It was kind of a blessing that we had, first of all: a great manager and second of all: the product that we could keep showing.”

Weathering storms

Cornell has weathered other blips in the business before. La Cache grew to more than 100 stores in the US and Canada and two years

continued on p. 18

continued on p. 18



City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Tony, my trusty Westmount travel agent, sent me an alluring invitation recently. This August, his agency, VCD Travel, has organized a special Venice/Po River cruise. Using luxury cabins as a base, 10 guests will enjoy private culture visits and river tours. (Ask him for more details.)

“Sadly,” I am already booked to go to Italy, this time for a month. I am determined to be able to have a conversation in Italian, so I am going back to school.

Barbara Celli at Montreal’s Istituto Italiano di Cultura suggested a few excellent choices in Florence. I opted for the Michelangelo Institute as I had been there before.

However, like some things Italian, all is not as smooth as one is used to in North America. Rather than a prompt reply to queries, the Scuola simply waits a bit to reply – sometimes a week (or two!).

But, as I remembered that the teachers are fabulous, I simply took a deep breath. After all, I have to get used to the Italian way of doing things, *è vero?*!

Last spring (see columns starting March 29, 2022, p. 10), Rome was amazing, if not

Off to Florence, the heart of the Renaissance



Fiesole.

“caos” (pronounced “kay-os” by my Italian friends).

However, I prefer the quieter elegance of Firenze to practise my stumbling sentences.

It is interesting to know that the Italian language of today – “Italian standard” as

it’s taught in schools – is based on the Florentine dialect.

Three Florentine-area authors of prose and poetry, Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarch – known as the “three crowns” – were pivotal in its development.

Speaking of Florence, one would be

remiss not to mention the Medicis. Starting as bankers, this Florentine family grew into potentates via strategically chosen alliances and politically astute marriages, not to mention wealth.

The Medici legacy

Today, their name is associated with popes (two) and queens (Catherine de’ Medici and Marie de’ Medici of France) – as well as patronage.

It was through Lorenzo de’ Medici’s support of artistic talent that the city flourished most famously. In the 1400s, it was the cultural epicentre of the country.

Due to scholars’ esteem for ancient Rome, classical authors were translated. There was a sense of re-birth; a “renaissance,” the term invented in the 16th century by the world’s first art historian, Giorgio Vasari, himself an artist. A viewpoint called “humanism” changed attitudes.

The Renaissance turned away from medieval scholasticism and revered Greek and Roman thought and art. Ancient statues were discovered, admired and copied.

Roman architecture influenced the fabric of Florence, where Rome’s famed Pantheon (609 AD) inspired the Duomo’s dome. (The *continued on p. 18*



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“Davids” for sale. Although ancient statues were originally coloured, one doubts they were like this.

City views cont'd from p. 17

soaring structure was generously supported by Lorenzo de' Medici's grandfather Cosimo de' Medici.)

Even if you don't enter the iconic Duomo or its 11th century partner, the baptistery – perhaps because of long, long waiting lines – simply stand back in awe.

One of the best things about visiting Italy is that a lot of magnificent art can be seen for free, including in churches. Statues can be appreciated outdoors.

Michelangelo's daunting “David,” usually surrounded by a sea of selfie sticks,

looms over classical statues near Florence's Palazzo Vecchio. Although a copy – the original stands safely in the Accademia Gallery – its towering presence is still commanding.

Dante's sculptural presence can be seen in front of Santa Croce. And if one prefers tranquility, Etruscan ruins can be enjoyed at Fiesole, a quick bus ride just above the city.

I can't wait. Stay tuned, gentle reader, for my Florence reports, coming soon to your mailbox. Ciao!

La Cache cont'd from p. 16

later closed 29 Canadian stores. In 2006, at its height, there were a total of 107 stores.

“Now it is the Greene Ave. store, the flagship store in Burlington, Vt and then we have a store in Asheville, NC,” where one of her three sons lives with his wife. “They run that store.”

Cornell says online shopping is now huge for them. “That's our main business, really.”

She is in total agreement with the *Independent's* assumption that their unique and

specific niche of products is not something that the behemoth online platforms are offering.

“It's probably just too big a pain in the ass to copy it!” she ribbed, “it's always been slightly outside the mainstream.”

Cornell runs the business with her three sons, Cameron, Lee, and Kelly and her daughters-in-law.

Cornell has an aspiration that it could be a third-generation business: “so the five-year-old grandchild is the model!” she said.



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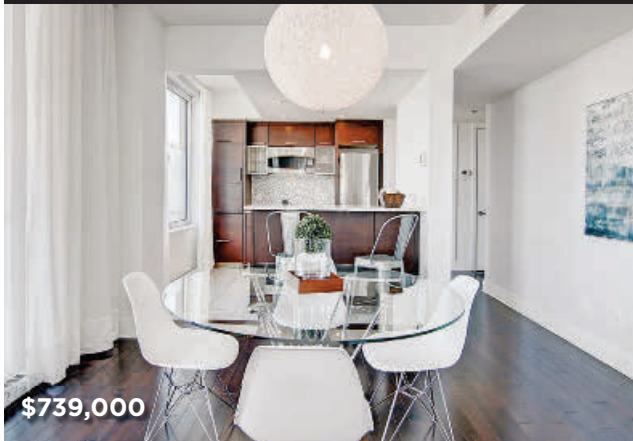
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