

*Fewer pick-ups mean more garbage per time*

## Cllr. D'Amico looks for solutions to moving heavier bins to curb

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Councillor Antonio D'Amico announced at the city council meeting October 7 that "most of the residents" he heard from in his District 1 (i.e. above The Boulevard) were "very upset" by the city's new October-to-May garbage pick-up schedule of once every two weeks and that some were unable to move their now-heavier bins from the back of their properties to the curb.

Some had asked him to get them an exemption from the new schedule, but "there are no exemptions," he found.

Looking for solutions, D'Amico contacted landscapers working in the district to find out if they could place and return bins for residents. Unfortunately, however,

"it would be a paid service," he found, adding that "I'm not happy with that."

He ruminated that a city is sometimes "judged on the way it treats its most vulnerable, the elderly or disabled."

As a result, he had to tell residents they could reach out to their own contractors. He suggested, however, it might be "a great idea for a new business."

City hosts cocktail-dînatore to mark Westmount's 150th see p. 16

*Easy weather, easy riders*



On their way downtown October 11, Isabelle and Jerry were cruising along the Westmount Park cycle path at a safe speed on their Ridstar electric bikes.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON



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*Quebec, Montreal asked to intervene on protests*

## Fewer attend city council October 7 despite lengthy agenda

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Despite a lengthy city council agenda of 32 items October 7, the monthly session was extraordinarily short. Attended by only about nine or 10, questions from the audience were also few compared to those from overflow attendances at recent meetings.

Most related to ongoing traffic consultations over reconstruction of Claremont

and the Fordens as well as Summit Woods, as previously reported.

The meeting opened with a statement from Mayor Christina Smith concerning the first anniversary of the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, a day she referred to as one when "we pay tribute to the victims and express our solidarity with the families of the hostages still being held... and with our

*continued on p. 22*

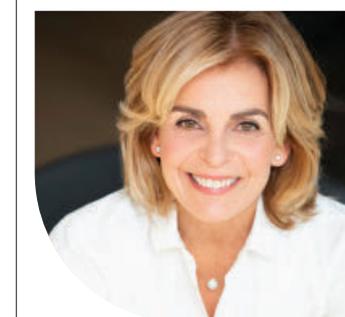
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# Car hits lamp post at Edgehill/ The Blvd., damages pole, itself

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A car travelling west on The Boulevard October 9 crashed into a city light pole at Edgehill around 7:41 am, Public Security officials said. The impact was spotted by a patroller as other emergency vehicles were responding during the morning rush hour.

The black SUV appeared to have sustained a considerable amount of damage when the driver seemed to have lost control. The lamp post was pushed to one side, bringing Hydro Westmount to the scene. No injuries were reported.

The driver was identified as an 18-year-old Westmount man.

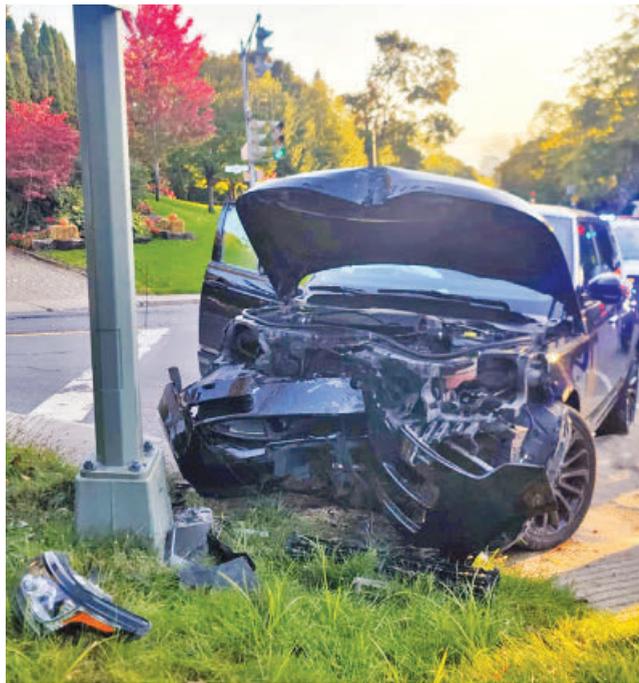


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

## Public Security to set up info table in Summit Woods Nov. 1-2

With the start November 1 of looser off-leash dog regulations in Summit Woods, Public Security is planning to set up an

information table in the woods to remind people of all dog by-law requirements.

From November 1 to April 15 dogs may be off leash from 5 am to midnight in Summit Woods if accompanied by a handler.

The city's other dog by-laws address the need for all dogs to bear a licence tag, and be supervised at all times and under the control of a handler, who must pick up after them and have not more than three dogs in their possession.

Summit Woods, like all Westmount parks, closes at midnight.

The city's forestry engineer is also expected to be on hand to answer questions, said Kimberley Colquhoun, Public Security's assistant director.

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**Police Report**, p. 12

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**City Views,**  
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**Greene's bistrot**, p. 22

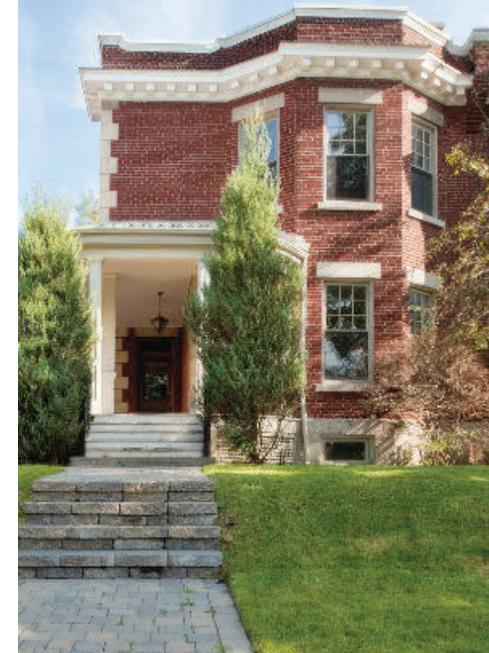


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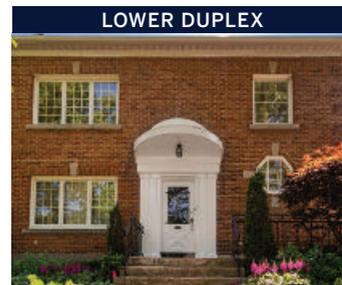


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Baldun leaves due to lengthy daily commute

# Council names Annique Dufour mayor's assistant

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

City council October 7 appointed Annique Dufour to the position of administrative assistant to the mayor given the coming departure of Lina Baldun, who had found the drive to and from the South Shore too much after three years.

Mayor Christina Smith described Baldun as dedicated to the city, followed by a

hearty round of applause from the audience, many of whom had liaised with Baldun over her tenure.

Dufour is also no stranger to the city and its operations.

"I am in my 13th year with the city," she told the *Independent*. She has worked in Urban Planning, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Finance for a period and then with the Communications department in its "assistance@" initiative.

The appointment is effective immediately, she explained, although she will continue with the "assistance@" team during the transition period in finding a replacement for that position.

Dufour is a graduate of Concordia University and holds a certificate from the Institut de Tourisme et d'Hôtellerie du Québec.

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.

Email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com

Experience includes government archives, Jewish Public Library

# MacLean takes over as interim library director

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Meet the library's new interim director, Lauren MacLean. She was appointed to fill the position on July 2 as Anne-Marie Lacombe left on maternity leave.

After having grown up in northern Alberta, she says she has been working in libraries and archives since receiving her master's degree in library and information science from the University of Alberta in 2014.

## Experience

These included the government archives in BC and Alberta, as well as being the associate archivist at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, and most recently at the Jewish Public Library in Montreal.

"I'm thrilled to be the interim director here at the Westmount Public Library and am consistently blown away by the quality of programming and services we offer," she says. She is also "so inspired by the team's dedication to serving this community."

► Interim library director Lauren MacLean on October 8.



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# Budget could increase in 2025 Capital works budget to be revealed at meeting Oct. 21



Looking north up Forden from Montrose on October 11.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the city nears the end of its work under this year's capital works budget, what's expected to unfold for 2025 is expected to be revealed at a special meeting Monday, October 21 at 7 pm at city hall.

If the new budget is in keeping with the projected three-year capital works spending for 2024-2025-2026, the 2025 portion would rise to some \$42.7 million from this year's \$36 million.

This is expected to include major reconstruction projects for Claremont and the Fordens, which are both undergoing public consultation (see stories October 8, p. 4 and p. 8).

The amount that had been projected for roads in 2025 was \$15.8 million, up from

\$9.75 in 2024.

The projects in the 2024 capital works budget have been completed, Mayor Christina Smith told the council meeting October 7.

Budgetted projects do not always occur.

### Capital works for 2025 as foreseen/estimated in 2024:

Water and sewer	6,017,400
Roads (including street lights)	15,798,600
Buildings	7,617,500
Vehicles	1,763,700
Parks	7,430,600
Hydro Westmount (Electrical distribution only)	3,560,000
IT	531,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,718,800</b>

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# Reader Sutherland covers 150th tea, properly identifies Hutchison, fixes all of Independent's 'problems'

"Regarding the [mayor's] slugging of no coverage of the [city's] 150th anniversary tea (October 1, p. 8) and [the newspaper] mis-identifying a volunteer at a recent lawn bowling event (October 8, p. 6), I can tie

both things up with one photo," reader Anne Sutherland told the *Independent* by email October 11. "Voilà: The real Bev Hutchison at said tea. I hope that calms everyone down with this dose of levity."



Above, Westmount Lawn Bowling Club member Beverley Hutchison and, below, the forecourt of the city's greenhouse during its 150th tea on September 5.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF A. SUTHERLAND.



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## EDITORIAL

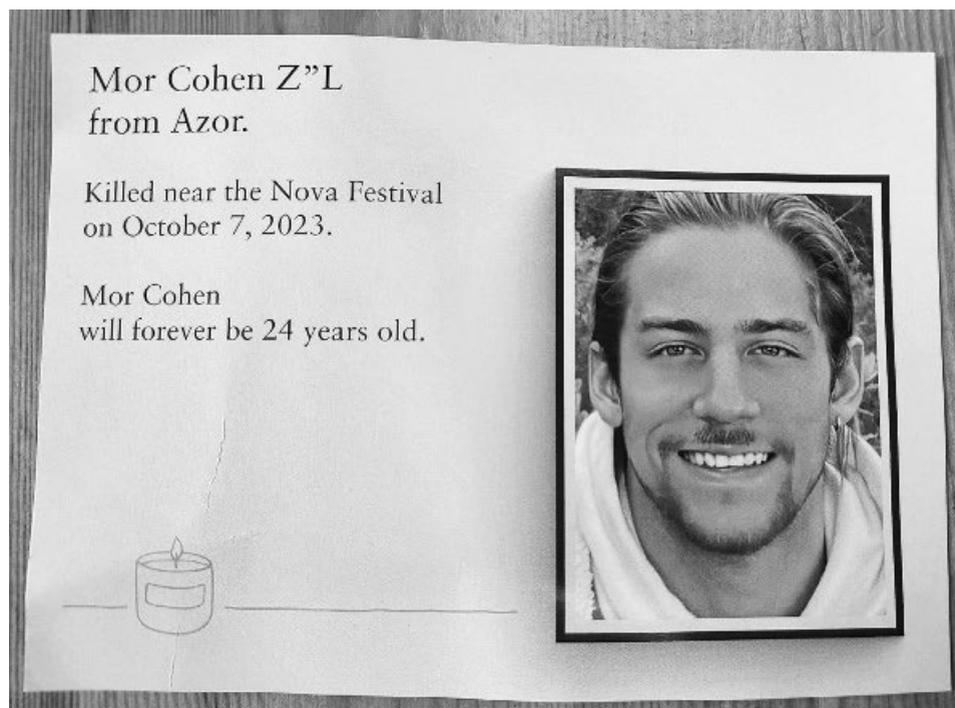
## Remember Mor Cohen – and all the October 7 victims

“I take the war list and I run down it, name after name, which I cannot read, and which we, who are older than you, cannot hear without emotion; names which will be only names to you, the new college, but which to us summon up face after face, full of honesty and goodness, zeal and vigor, and intellectual promise; the flower of a generation ... “And now by tragic necessity their dreams have become yours.”

– Master of Caius (Lindsay Anderson) in *Chariots of Fire* (1981), emphasis added

The *Independent* was invited by Federation CJA (thank you) to an event marking a year since approximately 1,200 people were murdered in Israel on October 7 last year, not including many others harmed or taken as hostages by Hamas and its affiliates. It took place in Hampstead Park – a place kept secret until late in the day – and under tight security, precautions that somehow enhanced the poignancy of the event.

The ceremony was moving and heart-felt, in particular the speeches by Raquel Look, the mother of murder victim and former Montrealer Alex Look, and Ya’ara Mano, a young woman who hid with her family in a safe room – armed with only a kitchen knife and a frying pan. (See p. 14



A postcard from the October 7 ceremony in Hampstead Park.

PHOTO: D. PRICE.

for coverage.)

I was originally escorted to two chairs (one for me, one for photographer Ralph Thompson) at a first location. There were postcards on the chairs and I examined them because I thought they might be

reserving spots for someone else.

Not so. “Our” two cards commemorated two victims of October 7: one woman in her late 20s and one aged 40. I was quickly re-located to another spot by the

organizers and these weren’t objects to be collected like hockey or Pokémon cards, so I did not have time to note their names. I put them back on the chairs and went to the new location.

There, Mor Cohen, age 24, was waiting for me on another postcard. A QR code has since led me to a website that told me he was killed on the Sha’ar HaNegev Rd. in the Mefalsim kibbutz near the Nova music festival and that he lived in Azor (which the internet tells me is a part of Tel Aviv), but nothing else.

I am fairly sure that when Mor woke up on October 6, likely to attend the Nova event, having his likeness end up on a plastic chair in Hampstead Park a year later to be picked up by a weekly newspaper editor from Westmount, Quebec was the farthest thing from his thoughts. I wish he had never made this “voyage,” or at least not in this way.

Nevertheless, I will remember him.

My condolences to his family and friends, wherever they may be, and to anyone affected by the October 7 attack, including and especially those still in captivity in Gaza and those who have been subjected to sexual assault.

*David Price is the editor of the Westmount Independent.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## EDITOR HAS THE LAST WORD – TOO OFTEN!

Yes, indeed, who is the paper for?

I am writing to you about your responses to recent letters to the editor in our local newspaper.

In the issue of October 1, we had the letter from our Mayor Christina Smith on p. 8. In it, she makes some very valid points about certain community events that are not being covered and about a disproportionate amount of space given to a few very vocal people on certain contentious issues (such as the idea that Summit Woods should become forbidden to unleashed dogs).

I agree with Mayor Smith that it seems to many of us that you as the gatekeeper to what gets printed or not seem to have published a disproportionate number of letters from people who are anti-dog and want them banished from ever running freely on the summit again.

Or, if I’m wrong on this, give us the numbers. How many letters did you receive on the pro and contra sides? Show us some statistics!

You as the editor get the last word on

any letter that is published or any issue that is being discussed in our community, and what a last word it usually is! Your reply to the mayor is seven times the length of her email – just sayin’. As usual, you are getting a disproportionate amount of airtime on issues concerning our community as a whole, which is not very democratic to say the least.

Two pages onward on p. 12, we have the letter from Alissa Sklar: “Advertisements should be clearly marked,” where she makes some very valid and important points. I was shocked by your reply to her, which is what prompted me to write this letter in the first place. You accuse her of condescension and yet the only person being condescending is you! The *Westmount Independent* is indeed a local newspaper, this is a statement of fact and has nothing to do with condescension on her side. If someone is a communications professor, it is not credentialism to point that out in a letter about standards in the field of publishing and communications and I’m left to wonder if you would have

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

accused a male professor letter writer of the same.

I think it is time for a few more checks and balances at our local newspaper. Maybe it's time to create an editorial board with representatives from OUR community for OUR community organ?

Or as owner and editor of the paper, and the one who always gets the last word, do you consider it your own personal vehicle to amplify voices you agree with and ignore or denigrate those whose opinions you don't appreciate?

PETRA NIEDERHAUSER, MT. STEPHEN AVE.

**Editor's reply:** Our owner is a private company and not a government. Unlike a government, you can choose to interact with our product or not, and totally different rules and norms apply to it. For this reason, I decline your invitation to have a board of "representatives" from the "community" supervise the newspaper or share statistics about letters. (Why not just call them what they would be? *Censors.*)

On the Summit Woods unleashed dog issue, we have published many letters on both sides (for letters on what seems to be your side, see July 9, p. 22, May 28, p. 6, May 21, p. 10, May 7, p. 8, April 30, p. 8 & 9, April 23, p. 6 and April 16, p. 6). I have made it clear that it is not an issue that matters to me personally. Make dogs compulsory up there or ban them – beer will taste just as good. Believe it or not; read it or not.

Your evidence-less insinuation of sexism is so thin that I would not publish it about a public figure, but I will allow you to be tougher on me. I refer readers to the exact same page (October 1, p. 10) as the one on which Alissa Sklar's letter was published. There, right after Sklar's, I published a letter critical of us by Richard Swift. Was I not as rough in my treatment of *his* letter?

By the way, I have published every letter critical of us (except one letter in the first years of the paper when the writer would not include her street), including now yours. If the "gatekeeper" keeps the gate open to attacks on him, is he a gatekeeper at all?

Lastly, our pages have always been open to the mayor, including a column at greater length than the email in question if she so chooses. – DP.

### MAYOR CHOOSES TO BE PETTY, OPAQUE

Your response (October 1, p. 8) to what, in fact, are Mayor Smith's "petty" remarks in her email to you is pleasantly dutiful – and this is good.

Such a repugnant stance from a public

official once again proves a recurring theme of how this mayor lacks vision, respect, transparency, even inspiration vis à vis her constituents, voters and residents alike.

With her misaligned philosophy and provenly ill performance as mayor of this enclave, her nasty response to our invaluable concerns and "complaints" is shortsighted and lop-sided, and further degrades our trust in this council.

Smith's response is also astonishingly arrogant. Has she not yet recognized the privileged (yes!) role she occupies, even if she was awarded a second term because there was no other contender?

We are visible. And, our voices matter. Why does this mayor and council have a compulsion to treat us with such disdain, even laughing at us when council is in session or walking away at a chance meeting on the street? It is Smith's choice to opaquely operate as she does. This council can do better.

The contrast, David, between your public-facing and constituent-serving duties, however, is clear and measurable. You are our sound check in this community on what truly matters to us.

Issues, problems and concerns are oft met with Smith's and this council's deflecting, ignoring or deferring them, and this is always shocking!

David, keep doing excellent work in your zone of influence and control, and with your trademark professional integrity. All of it is well-appreciated, including your sass and spunk!

NATASHA ARORA, WOOD AVE.

### BRAVO TO INDIE

Bravo to the *Westmount Independent's* editor, David Price, for accurately depicting the role of the paper in the community. Here, the voice of citizens is considered important enough to publish and not taken as "petty complaints." I think the city's motto rather applies: "*Robur meum civeum fides*" – The faith of the citizen is my strength.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, HILLSIDE AVE.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS: PLEASE DON'T LEAD! SERVE!

A question for Anitra Bostock (October 1, p. 9): Does she really believe that the respectable citizenry of Westmount is just suddenly breaking bad?

Isn't it more likely the culmination of having plans and initiatives foisted on us? Ones that we did not seek and that we were not consulted on, let alone allowed to develop a consensus on.

Any opposing concerns have been airily dismissed by the mayor as "petty com-

plaints."

Let me be clear; we do not expect officials to *lead*; we expect them to *serve*. That is the purpose of sending them our tax dollars.

If this dismal tenure has taught us anything, it is this: VOTE!

NAT ORLOW, GROSVENOR AVE.

### IS THERE ANY COMMON SENSE AT CITY HALL?

Today, on this fine, sunny Saturday [October 5], I had occasion *twice* to gather experience related to the topic "Westmount roads and sidewalks."

1. The first was reading and responding to the "Reconstruction of Avenue Claremont" questionnaire in the e-mailed "News" of Friday, October 4.

I could hardly believe my eyes when viewing the excruciating details being imposed on Westmount citizenry in this matter, when the only REALLY URGENT question (in my humble view) should be: "WHAT IS THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE BY WHICH CLAREMONT (north of Sherbrooke) CAN BE RE-SURFACED?!"

2. This includes the (existing, in my view quite adequate) curved link between NDG Ave. and Westmount Ave. No need for change other than to re-surface. The current grotesque "solution" is NOT, but in our opinion amounts to "three steps backwards."

The second occurred when my wife and I went for a stroll down Glen Rd. from St. Catherine towards St. Henri. The sidewalk on the west side (where we walked) is in such poor shape as to invite accidents to happen. Being in my mid-80s, I had to carefully watch my every step so as not to trip over a crack, hole or other surface unevenness. This represents an absolute DISGRACE and SERIOUS HAZARD, not only for the elderly!

Regrettably, it is only one example, because we have ourselves witnessed extensive stretches of defective sidewalks throughout Westmount, which regularly gave rise to reports in the *Independent* about falls and injuries during recent months.

Meanwhile, millions are being spent this summer on re-doing the playground in Westmount Park. Before that work started, we went numerous times with our three-year-old grandson and we all, both he and his grandparents, found it to be quite okay.

This invites the following questions in our minds: (i) is there ANY common sense left to be found at Westmount city hall? (ii) WHERE the h... are their priorities?

MICHAEL R. WERTHEIMER,  
SOMERVILLE AVE.

### PLEASE VOTE IN THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Canada's official language commissioner, Raymond Thiberge, has warned us anglo-Quebecers that we must get out and vote in the EMSB elections that take place on November 3.

There has been such a low turnout in the past that François Legault is trying to do away with English school boards completely. This would be unconstitutional.

The *Montreal Gazette* reported on October 2 that we can call ...1-888-353-2846 to find out if we are on the voters' list for the EMSB. I called and I am indeed on the list, even though none of my grandchildren live in the area. We will be sent a card informing us as to the location of the place where we are to vote.

I wish to defy any (unconstitutional) rulings that François Legault seeks to impose on us. I implore my fellow Quebecers to do the same.

SHIRLEY SKEANS NEWELL,  
SHERBROOKE ST.

### THANK YOU TO PASSER-BY, BUT ARE CITY'S SIDEWALKS SAFE FOR SENIORS?

I want to express many thanks to some wonderful people who helped me on October 8.

I was walking from the Vendôme Metro station along the south side of de Maisonneuve at Victoria, looking forward to visiting my sister, whom I hadn't seen for five years. I walked, lugging my wheeled carry-on suitcase, because I had been travelling for many hours, and felt the need for some air and exercise. Big mistake! I didn't know how bad the condition of the sidewalks is!

I fell.

I was, thanks to the passers-by and one young man in particular, able to continue after my fall. This young man escorted me to my sister's apartment building and made sure that I was okay, and not in need of a paramedic. He was wonderful, and I am very grateful for his kindness.

I am 82 years old, but certainly not, until this fall on de Maisonneuve, unable to walk and travel alone. I now will have a permanent scar on my face, a feeling of relief that it wasn't worse, and I also wonder if it is worth walking in Westmount at all, as a senior citizen.

KATHY ZILKALNS, DRYDEN, ONTARIO

### 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. Email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

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*Moving forward with new discovery workshop*

**Library's 'makerspace' to have public opening Oct. 18**

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Welcome to "The Studio"! That's the name of Westmount Public Library's new "makerspace" workshop that's slated to open officially to the public on October 18 from 4 pm to 6 pm. The goal was to have it opened for the library's 125th anniversary.

The dedicated work area has been created over the last year at ground level at the rear southeast corner of the library overlooking the lagoon along with a new entrance to the library off Westmount Park that has been under construction.

"The new [maker]space is accessible and designed for people to discover, learn, collaborate and be creative," explains Lauren MacLean, interim library director, who is replacing Anne-Marie Lacombe during her maternity leave. "We've filled it with amazing tools and equipment that many people might not have access to otherwise."

Providing the *Independent* with a tour of The Studio and its equipment last week, MacLean and the workshop's specialized facilitators Claire Pienaar and Sabine Plummer showed off much of the equipment.



Admiring a product from the 3D printer October 8 are, from left, Claire Pienaar (specialized facilitator), Lauren MacLean (interim library director) and Sabine Pummer (part-time specialized facilitator).

Included are a 3D printer, sewing machines, weaving looms and a cutting machine. The 3D printer was already in operation, producing small Hallowe'en pumpkins. There is also a large workbench and four tables that can be moved around as needed.

"Activities will include hands-on workshops and scheduled drop-in time where people can explore their own interests, with help from our amazing trained facilitators," MacLean explained.

Effective October 18, The Studio is to be open to the public Tuesday to Thursday from 1 pm to 8 pm and Friday to Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm but closed to the public Sunday and Monday. On Fridays and throughout the week outside of scheduled activities, it is open for drop-in hours that are to be announced via the library's website, newsletter and social media accounts.

"A staff member will always be present in the space during opening hours,"

interim director MacLean said.

**Community workshop**

Some of the skills that typically can be learned in a makerspace pertain to electronics, 3D printing, modelling, coding, robotics and even woodworking. As a public library site, The Studio is to act as a community workshop focussing on audiovisual development and production, library director Anne-Marie Lacombe told the *Independent* before her departure on maternity leave.

"We're very excited by this, as the library needs to move forward," she had said (see story, October 10, 2023, p. 1).

Interestingly, Councillor Matt Aronson, an advocate of encouraging new ideas and sustainability, had owned and operated with his brothers a makerspace workshop called MKRLAB on Sherbrooke in NDG. He closed it at the start of COVID (see story May 25, 2021, p. 8).

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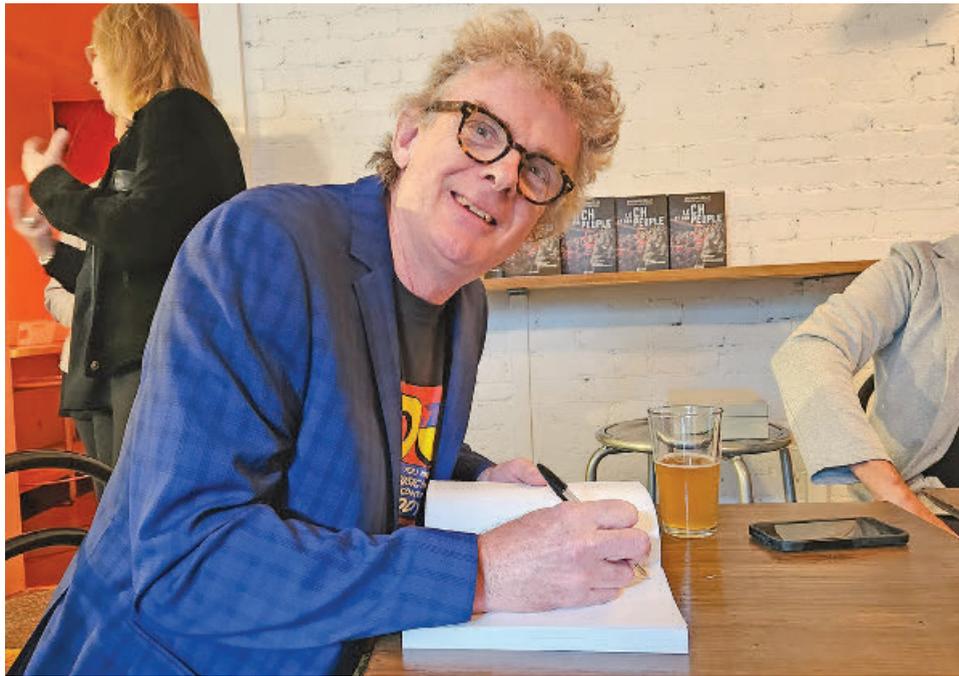


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## Kelly launches Canadiens book



Former Westmounter and Montreal *Gazette* journalist Brendan Kelly was at the former Urso music venue (soon to be re-launched under a new name) on Park Ave. October 8 to launch his French-language book, *Le CH et son peuple*. This is not your usual nostalgic coffee-table sports tome. According to the back cover, Kelly argues “that the club has known its greatest successes when its roster has had the greatest number of *Québécois* ... In spite of the club’s managers, who have almost always been anglophones and proponents of federalism, this tension between business and national sentiment electrifies the history of the Canadiens up to our own day... Who are the Canadiens? A hockey club like the others or the national team of Quebec?” Kelly is looking for an English publisher.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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## Nearby residents, of varied backgrounds, not happy Pro-Lebanon, Pro-Palestine protestors arrive for midnight protest on October 7

BY JENNIFER BALL

October 7 marked the one-year anniversary of Hamas' massacre of Israeli civilians and its hostage-taking of at least 240 people. For Jews and others around the world, it was a day of sadness, mourning and personal reflection. In Westmount, starting at 10:15 pm, the quiet that those endeavours need was broken when a large assembly of pro-Lebanon and pro-Palestine protestors made their presence heard and felt.

Witnesses say they arrived at Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. at 10:15 pm, with their destination being the Israeli consulate's building at 1 Westmount Square. They did not leave until well after midnight.

### Views of 1 Wood residents, police

Two residents of 1 Wood spoke to the *Independent* on October 10. The building is on Wood Ave. at de Maisonneuve opposite 1 Westmount Square.

The first resident was an eyewitness who said: "I think it is a celebration of their martyrs and they are happy that they did this attack..."

"They are yelling hateful things like 'Death to the Jews.' Why is that permitted?"

The second resident said: "I think it is total harassment to come at 10:30 pm at night and they even come at midnight..."

"I never heard of protestors coming and screaming on a residential street at those hours..."

"We called 911 and they wouldn't even do anything."

Sabrina Gauthier of the Montreal police's media relations department spoke to the *Independent* on October 8 and said, "All the protests went well. We did not have any arrests and that is pretty much what I have to say."

"I do not have anything about Westmount."

The police have previously said that the city's noise by-laws do not override the right to protest (see September 17, p. 4).

### Westmount Square residents' views

Two Westmount Square residents spoke with the *Independent* on October 8.

The first resident described the protest as "an intimidation tactic..."

He is not Jewish, but said: "What really hurt me yesterday was the fact that it was October 7, and a lot of my friends [were in mourning]."

He was appalled, he said, that they

would show up on a day where so many were grieving. "Think about all the people that are in 1 Wood, who are in Westmount Square, and they are listening to this."

The second resident went further, saying "I really feel that light should be shone on the mayor [of Westmount]" for not doing more to stop the protests.

The Westmount mayor does not control the Montreal police.

### City's view

On October 4, the city released a statement on its website, "Since the attack on Israel on October 7 and the resurgence of conflicts in the Middle East, several demonstrations have taken place in the city. These demonstrations have caused a great deal of inconvenience for many Westmount residents..."

"The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees citizens freedom of peaceful assembly, association, opinion and expression. The city of Westmount would also like to remind everyone that it does not have the authority to prohibit peaceful demonstrations on its territory, and that the supervision of demonstrations on the island of Montreal is the exclusive responsibility of the Service de police de la Ville Montréal (SPVM)..."

"As we approach the 1st anniversary of the October 7 events, the city recommends that residents exercise caution and civic responsibility during demonstrations, and contact the SPVM (911) in the event of an emergency."

The second 1 Wood resident that the *Independent* talked to wanted the city to know that in her opinion "this is going on beyond freedom of speech..."

"This is just hate."

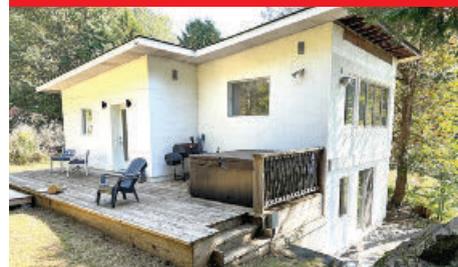


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## Police Report

# Car thefts committed on Sherbrooke St. and Bruce Ave.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

According to incident records kept at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St., two car thefts were the only criminal acts in Westmount to disturb the peace recently.

On October 8, a 2022 Jeep Wrangler compact off-road SUV was stolen from a

parking spot on Bruce Ave. in lower Westmount.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, the owner parked the car in the evening and in the morning when he woke up it was no longer there.

Police officers who were called to the scene to investigate reported there was no broken glass on the ground where the Jeep had been parked, indicating it probably wasn't broken into.

### Jaguar stolen on Sherbrooke during day

A day later, on Oct. 9, a Jaguar luxury car was stolen in broad daylight on Sherbrooke St.

"Between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, the owner had an appointment," said Yigit, reading from the resulting report.

"When she came back, it was gone," he added, while noting there was no sign of force being used in the theft.

### 'Trading zones' for online purchases

In an effort to prevent fraud involving

exchange of purchased goods following online transactions, the Montreal police are currently making available "trading zones" for those buying and selling through internet classified ad sites.

The zones are spaces located at 14 Montreal police neighborhood stations that are under video surveillance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, allowing users to meet the persons with whom they've made an online transaction and to safely exchange the goods sold.

One of the nearest such trading zones is located at Station 20 (1432 St. Catherine St. West near the corner of Bishop St.) in downtown Montreal.

The police also offer the following prevention tips for those buying and selling online:

- Don't pay without ever seeing the goods;
- Make an appointment in a public place (e.g. a safe trading zone);
- Take precautions to identify the seller;
- And if an ad looks too good to be true, it's probably a scam.

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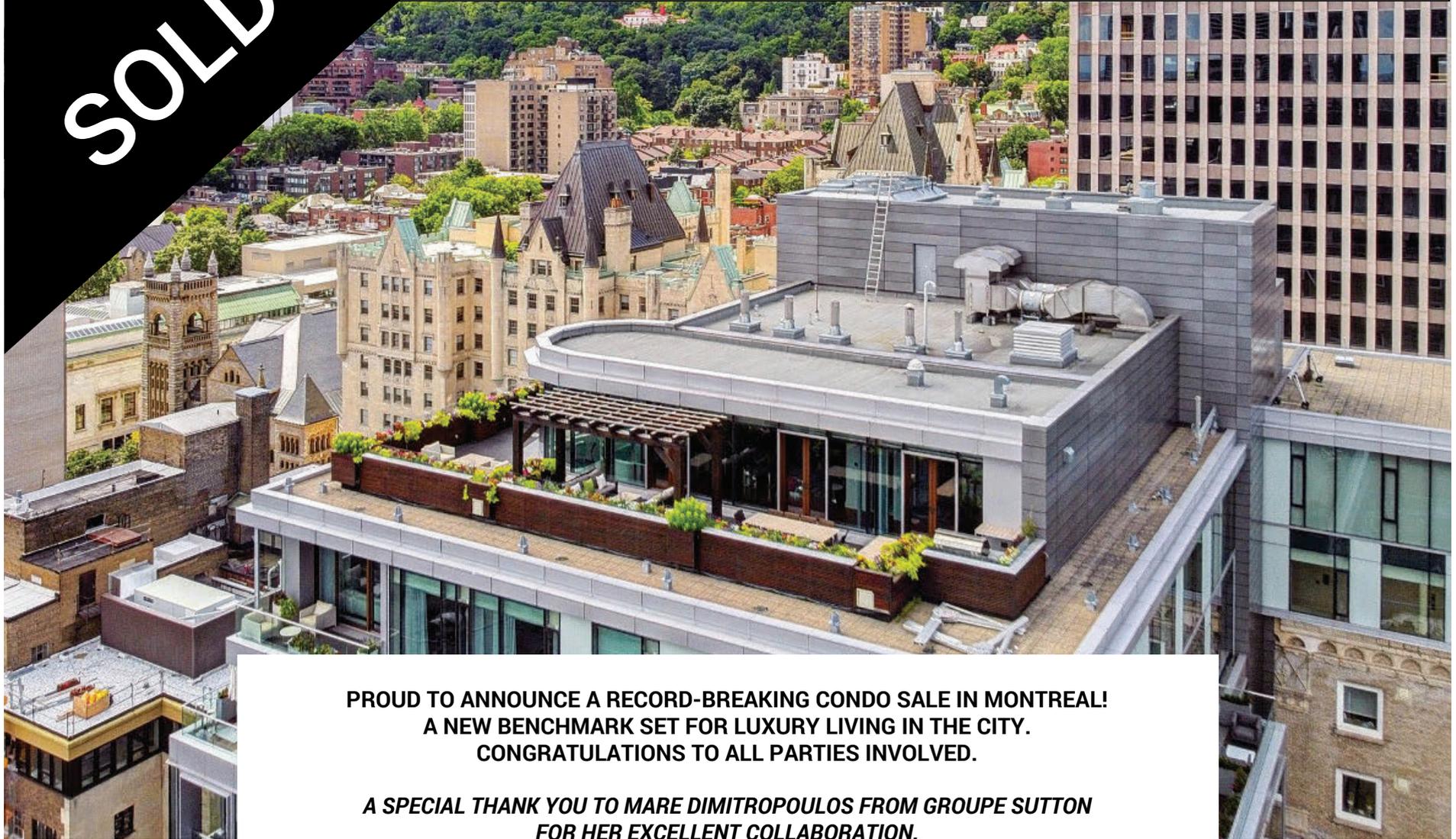


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# Federation CJA marks October 7 in Hampstead Park



Yair Szlak, the CEO of Federation CJA, addresses the crowd.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

Federation CJA organized a two-hour long ceremony to mark one year since Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel that killed approximately 1,200 people and saw approximately 240 kidnapped back to Gaza. The early evening event was held in a tent in Hampstead at Hampstead Park to a capacity crowd of approximately 4,000.

Speakers included the president of Israel, Isaac Herzog (via video message); Paul Hirshson, the consul-general of Israel in Montreal; Yair Szlak, the CEO of Federation CJA, and Steve Sebag, the chair of its board of directors.

The speeches struck a variety of notes: mournful, self-reliant, resilient, grateful for support. The event can be found on YouTube ([youtube.com/watch?v=vhyutfo00g4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhyutfo00g4)).

Côte St. Luc resident and Chabad of Westmount member Raquel Look, mother of murder victim Alex Look, also addressed the crowd.

Her son died shielding other occupants of a bomb shelter from gunfire. The city of Côte St. Luc dedicated a park to him on September 9 of this year, Alexandre Look Place. It is next to his alma mater, JPPS-Bialik. – DP.



Paul Hirschson, the consul general of Israel in Montreal, whose office is at 1 Westmount Square and has been the target of many protests over the last year (and before).



Ya'ara Mano hid in a safe room with her parents and sisters on October 7, 2023. She related how two of her friends and her babysitting client were murdered on that day, and four family friends were kidnapped, at least one of whom was killed in Gaza.



Cantor Hazan Daniel Benlolo at the podium. He sang both the Israeli and Canadian national anthems.



Raquel Look, mother of murder victim Alex Look, addresses the crowd. The wreaths are for foreigners, civilians, first responders, the Israel Defense Forces and police.



Jennifer Maccarone, provincial representative for Westmount-St. Louis. Anna Gainey, MP for NDG-Westmount, was also present.

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*Social Notes*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Westmount marks 150 years at Victoria Hall



Julia Charles and Theodora Molson, with Gregory Charles at the piano.

Move over Céline! Best friends **Julia Charles** and **Theodora Molson** opened Westmount's 150th anniversary cocktail. Accompanied by famed musician, former Westmounter **Gregory Charles** (Julia's dad), they sang "Tomorrow" – a song he created for the occasion.

"Tonight, we are celebrating a legacy," he said, "but let's also look to tomorrow: the future."

Guests were riveted, watching nostalgic black-and-white photos of Westmount from years gone by. Images of local visitors King George V, the Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth II mingled with those showing street cars (!) and massive snowstorms.

Triggering memories of Ogilvy's, the former much-loved iconic retailer, a bag-piper toured the room to much applause.

Victoria Hall was transformed for the night. The stage glowed with fuchsia light, a cheery colour echoed by similarly hued orchids throughout the room.

The large white bar in the middle of the room was manned by Bram Mauer's team. Caterer was Ron Mofford. Mayor **Christina Smith** welcomed all, praising Westmount's sense of community.

(Watch this space next week for a full coverage of this fabulous event.)

## *A Westmount time machine*



# Photographer Szilasi honoured with downtown mural

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount photographer, mentor and Concordia emeritus professor Gabor Szilasi was honoured September 27 at a ceremony on de Maisonneuve Blvd. attended by Montreal mayor Valérie Plante; Annie Gérin, dean of the faculty of fine arts at Concordia University; Helga Pritz, consul general of the consulate of Hungary in Montreal and a large crowd of celebrities and well-wishers.

Szilasi's wife Doreen Lindsay and daughter Andrea were by his side.

A small group of protesters with megaphones did their best to interrupt the event with calls to "Free Palestine," but a line of police protected the dignitaries, guests and celebrants.

The focus of the gathering was a large mural honouring Szilasi. It is 41 feet high by 40 feet wide and painted on the red brick building at 2000 Mackay, facing de Maisonneuve. The artwork incorporates a self-portrait of Szilasi from 1959 with a quintessential Szilasi photograph taken on the corner of St. Catherine St. and Atwater in 1971 of a large crowd trying to squeeze into a bus in the snow.

The mural is the 31st in a series of wall paintings coordinated across Montreal by



From left, daughter and artist Andrea Szilasi, photographer Gabor Szilasi and the mural's designer Rafael Sottolichio.



From left, seated, renowned artist and sculptor Armand Vaillancourt, celebrated centenarian artist Françoise Sullivan, Szilasi and his wife, Doreen Lindsay.

MU (MUMTL.org). The acrylic wall painting was created by Rafael Sottolichio. Artistic direction was provided by MU co-founder Elizabeth-Ann Doyle and photographer Andrea Szilasi. Sponsorship for the mural included the government of Quebec, the city of Montreal, Concordia University, Benjamin Moore, the Montreal Arts Council and the Conseil des arts et lettres du Quebec.

For almost an hour, people swarmed around Szilasi taking "selfies," offering congratulations and interacting.

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Montreal mayor Valérie Plante, left, shows a twinge of emotion as Szilasi was praised for his life achievements.

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# Fall festival comes to Victoria village

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Victoria village sidewalk sale and promotion by merchants took place October 5 under gorgeous blue skies – which were like the perfect porridge, not too hot and not too cold.

The performances, on the other hand, were hot. The music in Prince Albert square and on Victoria Ave. was organized by Gary White, started around noon and rocked through the afternoon.

Ema Jean, who studied voice at Texas University and Liceu Conservatory in Barcelona, sang and played guitar in the indie/folk style to start off the afternoon. Then Mick Grady and Miss Oliver got things rocking with old favourites like “The Loco-Motion.”

Westmounter George Bowser was minus Blue and also minus his scheduled co-performer, singer-songwriter Josée Brault, who unfortunately contracted COVID the night before. Nevertheless, George had the crowd chuckling with his witty rhymes and nifty guitar playing, not to mention a few satirical jabs at the government.

Finally, the Celtic band Solstice got feet tapping and hands clapping for a mix of upbeat reels, jigs and traditional songs.

## Over on Victoria ...

In the meantime, Dimo James was strumming guitar and singing in front of Westmount Florist on Victoria Ave. The Amazing Todsky, a deft magician, had the kids scratching their heads with perplexing



tricks and juggler Hamzce, aka Zazou, had everyone baffled as he made a diabolo (stick, string and cups) roll up a string.

Visual artists John Baily and Anna

Merchant association event organizer and former city councillor Cynthia Lulham, right, was amused as the Amazing Todsky magically pulled about 30 feet of colourful tape out of his mouth.

Gedalof displayed their work on the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke. Children's

author and illustrator Judith Henderson and children's author Anne Renaud had crowds of kids assembling around their book stand to get signed copies.

Kids were challenged to decorate pumpkins outside Aux Vivres with lots of pieces to help the process sponsored by the Christina Miller real estate group.

## Food!

Le Fournil offered giant gingerbread cookies with do-it-yourself icing and assorted toppings. Diva was attending to a line of kids wanting their faces painted while a very tall Amanda Dandelion was striding around on very tall stilts. Many merchants had tents set up or tables arranged outside their stores.

Organizer Cynthia Lulham was delighted with the weather and pleased with the turnout. She explained that promotion had been extended outside Westmount's borders to districts like NDG.

By 4 pm as the performances were winding down, there were still a lot of people milling around, sipping ice coffee and licking ice cream. It felt more like a summer than autumn but it was clearly a “Victori-ous” festival.



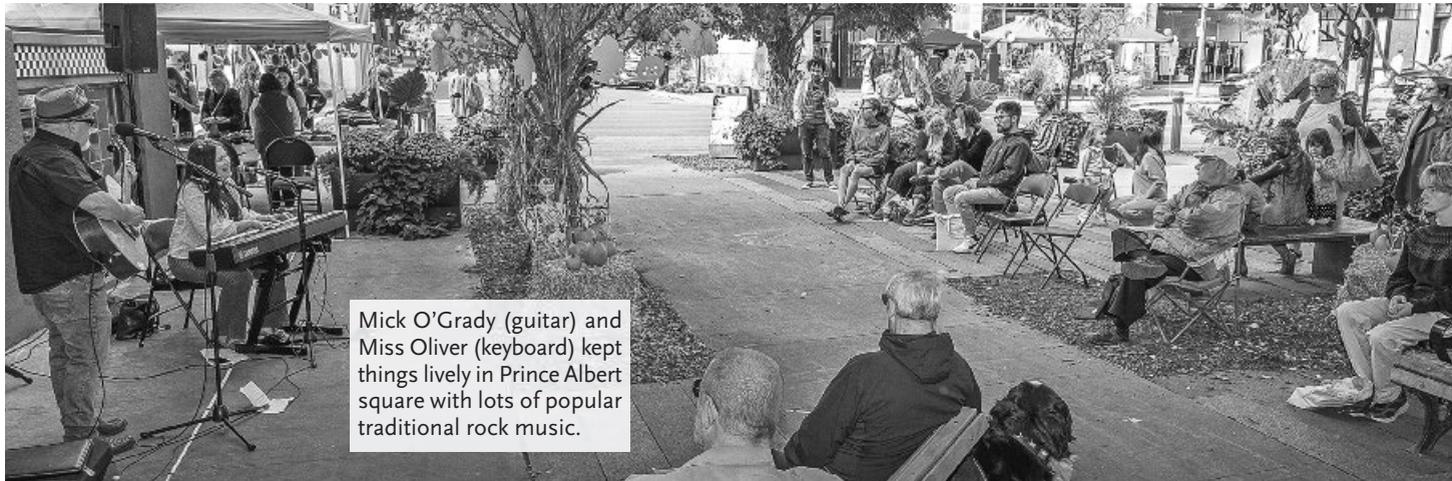
Montrealer Jimmy married a Peruvian and now runs a fair-trade business, JAM, selling alpaca accessories, donating part of the profits back to 14 families in Peru.



Dimo James was generating lots of energy on Victoria Ave. outside Westmount Florist with foot-stomping rock favourites.



Nine-year-old Angéline and three-year-old Claire couldn't contain their excitement after Diva painted their faces.



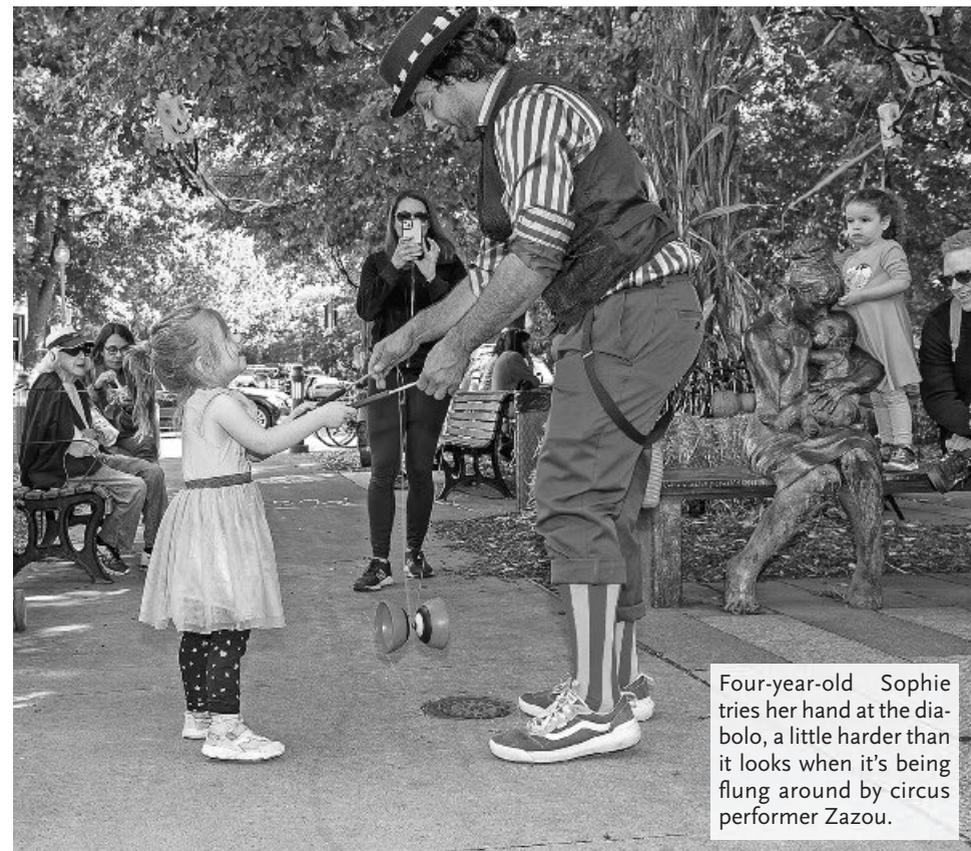
Mick O'Grady (guitar) and Miss Oliver (keyboard) kept things lively in Prince Albert square with lots of popular traditional rock music.



► Six-year-old Marcos couldn't wait to sink his teeth into a Le Fournil gingerbread cookie that he'd decorated with icing sugar, chocolate chips and rainbow sprinkles.



Everyone was dancing and clapping, the young, very young, young at heart and old to the energetic Celtic folk band with lock-tight rhythm and perpetual improvisation, Solstice. It comprises Dave Gossage (left) on flutes and whistles, Kate Bevan-Baker on fiddle and vocals and Patrick Lesyk on acoustic guitar and lead vocals.



Four-year-old Sophie tries her hand at the diabolo, a little harder than it looks when it's being flung around by circus performer Zazou.



◀ Shahrzad Ghafari, poet, photographer and artist presenting one of her collections of poetry and art to Ilyes Berania.



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Just for Kids Foundation event ... great for kids



Volunteers (what a great crew!)

Participating organizations were Tyler Anne Dance Studio, Jabberwocky art, Camp Lumi, Reptizoo, Bouncy Castle and soft play with NCBF, Everblast, dessert-making with The Breadfluencer, Montreal Clowns, Mad Science, Montreal Photo Booth and always a hit: princesses!



Princesses (no hoodies here!).

The Just for Kids (JFK) Foundation Stroll for Kids was another fabulous success. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, it was great fun! Chairs were **Sarah Broccolini** and **Jennifer Cosgrove**. Also present were founders **Alana Geller** and **Jodie Zimmerman-Frenkiel**.

The *über*-exciting day was the result of hard-working committee members **Kelly Cohen**, **Bethia Gates**, **Jaelyn Hoffman**, **Jacqueline Hopmeyer**, **Alfee Kaufman**, **Jaelyn Marcovitz**, **Gloria Meti**, **Stephanie Souffront** and **Jasmine Zhang**.

Many kids were in awe of science projects. One child made a crane that worked through water movements. She then also figured out that air pressure could have similar results. (She is four years old.)

Event sponsor was Broccolini. Diamond sponsors were Richter, Converium Capital, Valsoft, Psycho Bunny and Pharmacie Michael Assaraf.

Held at Le Andover, kids munched on a range of “really good stuff” including the fave: pink cotton candy. Entertainment was fabulous and had little feet (and some big ones!) tapping to the tunes.



Chairs Sarah Broccolini and Jennifer Cosgrove.

The Montreal Princess Party – cute crinolines and crowns – inspired wide-eyed awe. Parents enjoying the fun included **Jennifer Cosgrove** and **Olivier Setlakwe**, **Sarah Broccolini** and **Gordon Milligan**, **Jaelyn Hoffman** and **Norman Hébert**, **Rebecca Wolfe** and **Vince Cavallo**, **Allison Jaskolka**, **Alfee Kaufman**, **Yasemin Comert**, **Marissa De Miguel** and **Sebastien Dolan**, **Caitlin Wetherly** and **Doug Pospisil**, and **John Nourvet**. Also noted was **Lorie Blumer**, executive director JFK Foundation.

The event-full day brought in an unprecedented \$258,000. Proceeds will support the JFK Heart & Hands Clinic at Verdun Elementary School; provide a dedicated space in Pavillion Kat Demes for parents of children undergoing long-term treatment; and continue funding the JFK Sibling Park, free childcare services for siblings of patients in long-term care.



Founders Alana Geller and Jodie Zimmerman-Frenkiel.



## City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Double-bassist Tresham celebrates Schoenberg's 150th

of chains (!), five singers and of course one director: Rafael Payare.

Those that have seen the film *Maestro* know that actor Bradley Cooper “conducted” Mahler’s Second Symphony not only with his baton, but with his body, in imitation of Leonard Bernstein’s *über*-spirited style.

On a similar note, the energy emanating from Payare’s conducting *Gurre-Lieder* was palpable: he almost leapt off the podium.

The emotional narrative of the music with its hints of Wagner and Mahler culminated in an incredible finale. Standing ovations showed audience appreciation of the magnificent music, which echoes the feelings of the characters.

Operatic themes of love and death are recounted in nine songs for soprano and tenor with orchestral accompaniment. Sadly, there were only two OSM performances. (However, you are in luck, dear reader. The OSM has issued a recording of the performance.)

Afterwards, Scott played Berlioz’ *Symphonie fantastique* with the OSM. Added to the Berlioz orchestral components were “orchestra bells” – which look like a small Liberty Bell – of which the OSM owns 12, thanks to Canimex’s sponsorship.

Two were played during the Berlioz,



Scott Tresham at the Westmount Public Library, left, and working.



another packed performance. Catch the OSM while you can. They are in demand and soon to leave on tour, playing in Lon-

don, Paris, Vienna, Luxembourg, Hamburg, Munich and Berlin. I, for one, can’t wait ‘til they come home.



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# Greene's bistrot rises from the ashes, to return officially in future



## Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

space are look-at-me chairs by artist Albert Elkaim.

His crowned lion stares fiercely. "Chanel" lies in letters across a black-and-white

### Council meeting, cont'd from p. 1

thoughts for the thousands of people killed, injured or displaced in Gaza and Lebanon."

Meanwhile, as she later told the *Independent*, "I was very upset to learn there was yet another protest late into the night on October 7 in front of the [Israeli] consulate" at 1 Wood.

She later forwarded a copy of a signed letter dated October 4 that she and Jennifer Maccarone, Westmount's provincial legislative representative, had sent to Quebec security minister François Bonnardel and Montreal mayor Valérie Plante seeking stricter measures for the safety and well-being of residents in that protest zone, "a problem that cannot wait."

Despite the perennial presence of the Montreal police and a meeting Mayor Smith had had with police, residents complain of experiencing intimidation and disturbance (see stories September 17, p. 4, October 8, p. 18).

couch. And his winking Queen Elizabeth II re-touched vintage photo wears non-discreet non-pearl earrings: funky chunky rumour on Greene is that Le Bistrot, the former go-to destination for meals and meet-at-the-bar moments, will pull a

phoenix and arise from years of quietude into a contemporary – and delicious – oasis again.

### Correction: Luluthia phone number

The telephone for Luluthia in Westmount Square is: 438-375-3999.

Westmount's iconic places have been transformed. Tony's Shoe Shop? It's now Galerie 203; celebrating Year 1 on Greene.

Bistrot on the Avenue? Now Galerie 203 Bistrot.

Owner Corinne Asseraf plans to launch the "new bistrot" in 2025. It is currently being used as an extension of her gallery a few doors away and the space was just unofficially inaugurated with a private cocktail for a wealth management firm's VIP clientele. (It was a one-stop event: Corinne is also a caterer.)

And although Galerie 203 Bistrot has wall-to-wall contemporary art, as a nod to past times, nostalgia is in the air. Actually, on the floor.

Corinne has re-purposed a vintage record player. Painted and varnished, the "now pop-art cabinet" will play your 45s. (Apparently people still have them.)

Other eye-catching pieces now in the



Corinne Asseraf at her second Greene Ave. space.

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# FALL HOME MAINTENANCE NEEDS!

## WATER + WIND

As fall sets in, it's time to care,  
Prepare your home for colder air.  
Shut off the hoses, drain the lines,  
Close irrigation, before frost signs.

## FLOW + FILTERS

Clean the gutters + roof drains from all debris,  
To keep your home safe and water-free.  
Service your furnace, don't delay,  
Fresh filters keep the germs at bay.

## BULBS + BRIGHTNESS

Plant your bulbs for spring's bright show,  
Fertilize cedars now to help them grow.  
Trim + protect perennials from frost's bite,  
And check that all your outdoor lights shine bright.

## HOLIDAY HELPING

As holiday's near, it's time to share,  
Sort through your things with love and care.  
Donate to those who need it more,  
Spread kindness wide — let generosity soar.

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