

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 18 No. 11C We are Westmount November 19, 2024

City still on board for possible artificial turf pitch
Province says 'no' to funding
Marianopolis soccer field

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY
Despite news that the Quebec ministry of Education would not provide financial assistance to Marianopolis for a project to replace its current natural playing field with an artificial one, Westmount is expected to continue to support the project, for which the council had adopted conditional approval at the council meeting May 6.
"Our intention is to move forward with the projected new field [Marianopolis] had hoped for," Mayor Christina Smith told the Independent last week. Asked for a time frame, she said "as soon as possible" and that there would be a meeting on the pro-

ject in the coming week.
This partnership would involve Westmount agreeing "to finance the project to a maximum of \$4 million provided it is demonstrated that the proposed development will have a zero environmental impact" (see story May 14, p. 1).
It was reported at the city council meeting November 4 that, at the council's general committee session held in camera September 9, director general Julie Mandeville had "informed the [city council members] that Marianopolis College was refused the subsidy amount from the provincial government."

Selwyn sleeps out in '24 Hours for Unhoused'



A group of 32 Selwyn House students slept outside in the school's yard November 12-13 as part of a number of activities "mirroring the real-world circumstances faced by many unhoused individuals," according to a press release from the school. The façade visible in the back of the photo belongs to the city-owned protective services building on Stanton St. See p.4 for more coverage.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SELWYN HOUSE.

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Work begins at former Rowntree
Antiques/current Resilience building

BY JENNIFER BALL
Major work of some kind has commenced at the property owned by the Resilience Montreal day shelter that used to house Rowntree Antiques. The building is at 780 Atwater, about a half block into St. Henri/Montreal's South-West Borough.
Renovations for Resilience were scheduled to start at the three-storey building in September 2023, but they didn't (see Feb-

ruary 20, p. 18).
The Independent reached out to David Chapman, executive director of Resilience, on November 14, but did not hear back in time for its November 18 press time.
As a result, the nature, budget and timeline of the current work is unknown.
Resilience Montreal is currently located on the southwest corner of Atwater and St. Catherine St. The lot is in both Westmount and continued on p. 18

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Ask me anything ❤️ Real estate edition



Q: What do you prioritize when it comes to building client relationships, especially with buyers and sellers in a luxury market like Westmount?

A: In building client relationships, especially in Westmount’s luxury market, I prioritize trust, transparency, and a personalized approach. I understand that clients in this market expect a high level of professionalism and expertise, so I focus on clear communication, keeping clients fully informed at each step. By deeply understanding their unique preferences and goals, I provide tailored guidance that aligns with their vision. My goal is to ensure a smooth, rewarding experience by fostering confidence and delivering exceptional service that exceeds expectations.

Q: How do you leverage your local expertise in Westmount to advise clients on the best neighbourhoods, schools, and amenities?

A: As a mother of 3, I understand how important it is to find the right community, schools, and amenities for a family’s unique lifestyle. My local expertise in Westmount enables me to guide clients to areas that feel like home, from neighbourhoods with parks to ice cream shops and family friendly cafes and restaurants. I provide tailored advice on the best schools and local resources, so families can settle into a supportive, vibrant community where they can truly thrive.

Q: What do you think are your strongest qualities as a realtor, and how have they helped you succeed in the Westmount market?

A: My strongest qualities as a realtor are my commitment to client relationships, deep market knowledge, and strategic negotiation skills. In the Westmount market, these strengths help me understand and anticipate client needs, offering guidance that’s both data-driven and personally tailored to their goals. I prioritize clear communication and transparency, which builds trust and allows clients to feel confident in every decision. My negotiation skills are honed to secure the best outcomes, making the buying or selling process smooth and rewarding for my clients.

Q: What drives you to work in real estate, and why have you chosen to focus on Westmount properties?

A: My drive to work in real estate comes from growing up in Westmount and my passion for helping people find a place that truly feels like home. I chose to focus on Westmount because it’s a unique blend of history, elegance, and vibrant community life, offering an exceptional quality of living. The Westmount market allows me to leverage my expertise in luxury properties and heritage homes, and I love showcasing the area’s charm and distinct neighbourhoods to help clients find a perfect match for their lifestyle

MORTGAGES WITH MICHAEL

For homeowners in Westmount, renewing a mortgage has always been a pivotal financial decision. In 2025, this process feels even more challenging, given the significant shift in interest rates since the low-cost borrowing era of 2020. Those ultra-low rates, often below 2% are now a distant memory.

Westmount is known for its high-value real estate, a modest increase in mortgage rates can translate to substantial additional annual costs. For many families, this financial adjustment can feel overwhelming, especially if they’re managing other debts or significant life expenses.

What I recommend to Consider Before Renewing Your Mortgage:

1.Your Current and Future Financial Needs.
Think about upcoming expenses, such as home renovations, education costs, or retirement savings. A shorter mortgage term could provide flexibility.

2.Your Homeownership Plans
Are you planning to stay in your Westmount home for the foreseeable future, or are you considering selling, upsizing, or downsizing? If your plans include a move in the next few years, a variable-rate mortgage might align better with your goals.

3. Your Lender’s Renewal Terms
Renewal offers from your current lender may not always be the best option. In many cases, homeowners accept these offers without exploring alternatives, potentially leaving money on the table.

4.Don’t Renew Without a Second Opinion.
In this market, it’s more important than ever to seek a second opinion before committing to a renewal. A mortgage broker can also provide insights into rate trends and strategies to minimize your overall interest costs and financial goals.

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Artisans Westmount logs more than 1,000 attendees

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The concert hall at Victoria Hall was filled Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, with what is traditionally considered to be the start of the gift-giving season as more than 1,000 attendees were logged entering Artisans Westmount.

People were viewed not only looking at what was being offered by a reported 33 or 34 artists and crafts people, but seeming to enjoy lengthy discussions over their work, which many shoppers described as unusual and novel.

Among them were the traditional hand-made note paper, colourful gloves, scarves and tuques as well as blankets, candles, ceramics and handmade bears of Australian mohair and alpaca.

“We were thrilled to have a lot of familiar faces among both our artisans and visitors, and were very glad to welcome some new artisans as well,” said organizer Emily Gamble, interim division head, Community Events. “About two thirds of the exhibitors are repeaters.”

Each year, she added, “I’m impressed by the level of craftsmanship on display. We know Westmounters enjoy the tradition of the annual craft fair, but we have noticed that attendance has been a little slower in the last couple of years, so we are hoping to get the word out further next year so that no one misses out on these unique items.”

Some of the artisans were displaying for



Councillor Elisabeth Roux, right, was among the shoppers at Artisans Westmount, as seen here with organizer Emily Gamble, interim division head of Community Events.

the first time in Westmount while one told the *Independent* he came here every three years as he rotated to similar events.

Many shoppers were heard talking about the unusual items such as wooden crayon holders, Japanese hair ornaments and small airborne plants “growing” out of the helmets of miniature astronauts and in ornamental containers.

“A good show this year with opportunities for shoppers to find lovely items for people on their gift-giving list,” said repeat shopper and former city councillor Rosalind Davis.

Correction: Toboggan run still costs only \$123K

In a story November 12, p. 1 (“City to revert to conventional toboggan run at Murray”), the story’s turn on p. 22 should have listed the cost of the contract for 2022-2023 as having been some \$123,000, to which an additional zero had inadvertently been added, for the second time (see also November 15, 2022, p. 6). We will work to do better! – DP.

Letters to the Editor, p. 8

Pet page, p. 20

City Views: Cenerelli
CEO at Trudeau Foundation, p. 19



Travel:
Lucca part quatre, p. 22
InfoWestmount, p. 10



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Selwyn House students sleep like homeless, prep food for them



▲David Grier, organizer of Selwyn House’s “24 Hours for the Unhoused” and a high school science teacher at the school, addressing the student participants.

◀Barry Christensen of Stepping up, which used to be called Sock It to Me, was among the speakers that participants heard from. His group is most famous for organizing a drive for socks to be used by homeless people.



In addition to sleeping outside in sleeping bags on thin pads (see p. 1), the participants prepared 650 sandwiches for the homeless.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SELWYN HOUSE.

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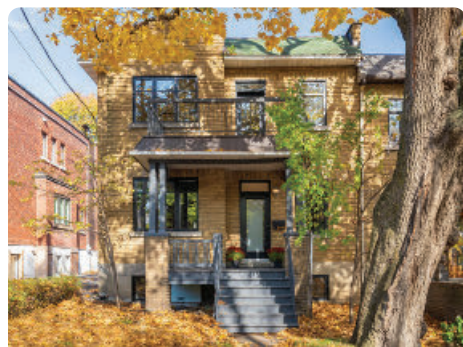
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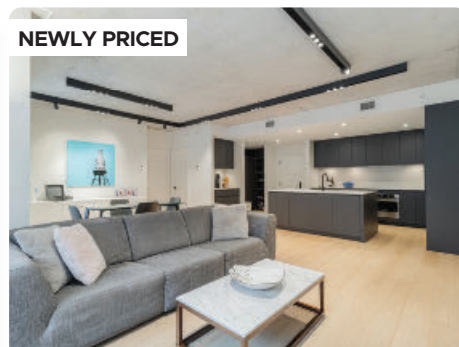
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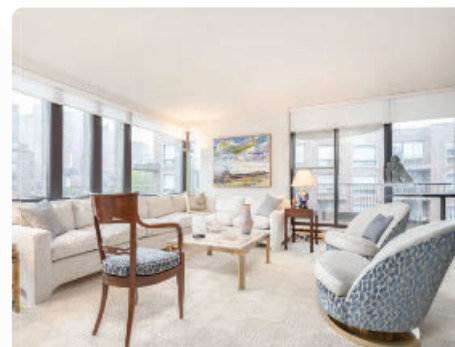


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Former MP, astronaut Garneau opens up at Victoria Hall, launches autobiography

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Addressing more than 300 people eager to hear about his new book on October 16 at Victoria Hall, former NDG-Westmount Liberal MP Marc Garneau had a lot of territory to cover, having had a career that began in the Royal Canadian Navy, took him into space as one of Canada’s first astronauts, then later saw him elected an MP and cabinet minister in Justin Trudeau’s government.

A *Most Extraordinary Ride: Space, Politics, and the Pursuit of a Canadian Dream* was released by Penguin Random House in early October and has been selling well, according to a Paragraphe Bookstore spokesperson who was on hand overseeing the sale of copies signed by Garneau.

Not by design

Answering questions from guest moderator and CTV Montreal news anchor Mutsumi Takahashi, Garneau acknowledged that he never set out to be an astronaut or a politician, and that his life didn’t happen by design so much as by seizing the opportunities and challenges that came along.

Earlier: Headstrong

“I would say that, yes, I definitely did not plan the life that I have led,” he said. “A lot of things happened because opportunities presented themselves.”

He said the main reason he wrote the book was for his children.

“It was to point out to my children that I screwed up like everybody else when I was a teenager. I was headstrong. I had a really strong desire to get out there in the world.

“I wanted to do certain things that sometimes my parents told me ‘No, you can’t do these things,’” he continued. “And I lacked the judgment that comes with time and maturity.”



Former NDG-Westmount Liberal MP Marc Garneau, left, was interviewed by CTV News anchor Mutsumi Takahashi about his new book at Victoria Hall on the evening of Oct. 16.

He said the reason he dwells on this on the book is that “they were learning moments in my life and they really helped – along with my parents and my friends and teachers – to put me back on the straight and narrow, and to benefit from the mistakes that I made.”

Later: Risk + judgement

Deciding that he wasn’t going to abandon taking risks in life, Garneau said he continued in this fashion, “but armed with the lessons that I had learned from my mistakes. And it opened up wonderful opportunities for me, and I could not have asked for a more blessed life than the life that I have had.”

Regarding his elimination from the fed-

eral Liberal cabinet in 2021 after having served as minister of Transport and minister of Foreign Affairs, Garneau explained that an “age gap” of more than 20 years between himself and Justin Trudeau was probably a major factor in the prime minister’s decision not to give him a new cabinet post.

Garneau stood by his choice to speak out against the Liberal government’s Bill C-13, which the government said was passed to modernize the Official Languages Act.

“I felt it was wrong for a federal bill to enshrine in its wording a reference to the Quebec Charter of the French Language and I said so,” he maintained, referring to the Quebec provincial assembly’s Bill 96.



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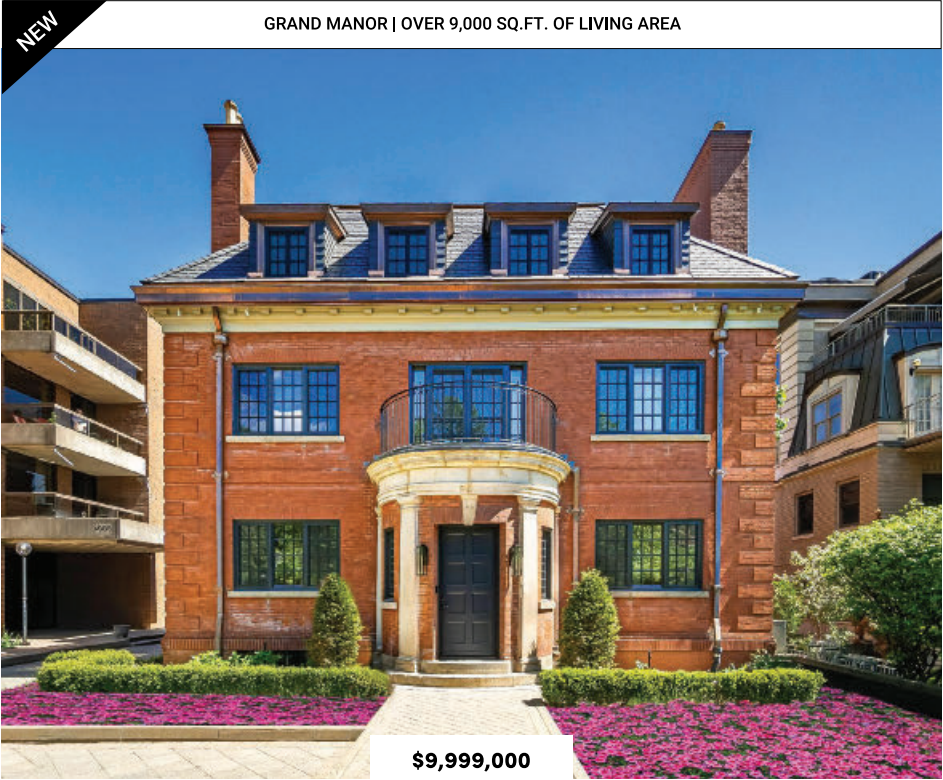
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ERROR PUBLISHED REGARDING COST OF TOBOGGAN RUN

I am writing to bring to your attention an error in an article published in the November 12 edition (p. 1/22) regarding the contract for creating and maintaining the toboggan run in our city.

The article incorrectly stated that the contract costs over \$1,200,000 per winter. In reality, the contract was awarded for \$123,500 in 2022 for the 2022-2023 season. This significant discrepancy could lead to misunderstandings among your readers and misrepresent the city's expenditure.

Additionally, the journalist referred to an article published on November 8, 2022, which was before my hiring date as director general, further complicating the accuracy of the report.

A typo was also made, as the article mentioned a cost of \$1,235,000 instead of \$123,500.

We would appreciate it if you could promptly correct this error in your next publication and, if possible, provide a clarification to address any potential confusion. Accuracy in reporting is crucial, and we value your commitment to delivering precise information to the public.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

JULIE MANDEVILLE, CPA OMA
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
CITY OF WESTMOUNT

ONE OF BEST PLAYGROUNDS EVER

In response to Ms. Tallant's letter (November 5, p. 8), my sibling and I would like to say that the new playground is very interesting for school-age children.

I was one of the first kids to use the playground on opening day (see the ribbon-cutting photo in the October 29 edition of the *Independent*, p. 1). It is one of the best playgrounds I have ever seen and I happen to be a school-age child (age 10).

I found that Westmount put a lot of work into a good playground and I have to say it was worth waiting all summer. The zipline and the trampolines were a very good addition to the playground. In fact, every time I go, there is a huge line for both.

I like the new playground so much I go there at least twice a week.

Thanks, Westmount! How about a new splash pad next?

OLIVIA LEE, ROSLYN AVE.

Car ticketed for obstructing sewer inspections

A car had to be towed November 12 at 11:34 am from Anwoth and Mountain when it was obstructing work to inspect sewers, Public Security officials said. It was ticketed \$180.

Westmount wins 30th annual Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament



Players who took part in the 30th annual Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament at the Westmount Recreation Centre from November 8-10 are seen here with the trophy that was won by Westmount.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

More than a dozen junior hockey teams from Westmount managed to prevail over an equal number of players from Cape Ann in Massachusetts to win the 30th annual Sal Grasso Friendship Tournament on the weekend of November 8 to 10 at the Westmount recreation centre.

The downstairs lobby next to the ice rinks was a scene of controlled pandemonium at the end of the last day, as victorious Westmount players noisily celebrated their victory, while reaching out to touch the coveted trophy, which they hoisted proudly.

The tournament is a long-standing hockey exchange between the two commu-

nities. Hosting the tournament alternates between Westmount and Cape Ann from year to year.

On its Facebook page, the Cape Ann Youth Hockey Association congratulated Westmount on winning this year's tournament.

"Our Cape Ann players represented the USA with hard play, respectful behavior and lots of fun times! Until next time," they said.

The two sides finished the tournament last year with a tie in total games won.

According to Alyssa Sherrard, a sports coordinator at the recreation centre, Westmount prevailed in the 2024 tournament with 19 victories, versus 14 won by Cape Ann.

Public Security starts food drive with \$1,515

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the marking of Remembrance Day and the dropping of temperatures, the season of gift giving and assistance to holiday food drives came into focus last week with the launch of Public Security's annual food drive as the price of admission to the city's annual Artisans Westmount fair at Victoria Hall November 9 and 10 (see story p. 1).

By the end of the two-day event, a total of \$1,515 had been collected at the door along with eight blue boxes full of canned goods and other non-perishables.

Following this start, city blue boxes were to be distributed at the entrances to muni-

cipal buildings including city hall, Victoria Hall, Public Security, the library, and the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). Other non-perishable and non-expired items including sauces, jams, cereals, crackers, soups, oil, gluten-free items, toiletries and gift cards. Pick-up of food donation can be arranged by calling Kimberley Colquhoun, assistant Public Security director, at 514.989.5367.

Two other annual collection events involve "giving Tuesday" outside the Metro store on Victoria, December 3, followed by one the next day at 5 Saisons on Greene Ave. Both present an opportunity for people shopping for groceries to consider buying some for others, said Colquhoun.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT
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LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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Remembrance Day, on November 11



At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a small group of about 40 people, including fire brigade representatives, gathered at the cenotaph in front of city hall led by Catherine Duff Caron (centre), the Reverend Patrick Wheeler of St. Matthias and Rabbi Lisa Grushcow of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. The city's ceremony took place the day before, a Sunday (see November 12, p. 1).

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Council rules on 2 permits for 44 Roxborough

Skylight approved, levelling of front landscape refused

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Requests for two separate permits to undertake work at 44 Roxborough met with different decisions by city council at its meeting November 4. One – to install skylights on the roof of the Category 2 detached house – was approved. The other, to re-landscape the front entrance – was refused.

Both decisions reflected recommendations from the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) based on meeting or failing to meet objectives of the city's By-law 1305 governing site planning and architectural integration programs.

The rejected permit involved flattening the front yard and removing an elevated mound adjacent to the building, which "supported the entrance landing." This included replacing the entrance footpath with a straight one, described as contra-

dicting "the organic layout" of a "mid-century" style property.

Heritage value

The interest in maintaining that style of a Category 2 house of significant heritage value in the summit area reflects some decisions of the PAC and council as property owners in the general area have been requesting to build additional storeys or additions on one- and two-storey homes. One house across the street at 45 Roxborough, a Category 3 house, was allowed to be demolished in part because of its lower heritage rating (see story June 25, 2019, p. 5).

In the shadow of St. Joseph's Oratory, this plateau of land had served as golf links in the first part of the 20th century, after which the land was subdivided and roads laid out for residences "of the best classes" – as it was put at the time.

It was mostly developed, however, after World War II as is "evident" by its modern architecture, according to the city's description of what is called "Character Area 1."

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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 2 décembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, December 2



Consultation publique :
Plan Vélo 2025

21 novembre, 17 h 30, Victoria Hall.
Le public est invité à découvrir et
à s'exprimer sur une version préliminaire
d'un Plan Vélo pour la Ville lors d'une
consultation publique. westmount.org

**Fermeture des patinoires du
Centre des loisirs de Westmount**
Du 9 décembre au 3 janvier, les patinoires du
Centre des loisirs de Westmount seront fermées
pour des travaux essentiels. Cette fermeture est
nécessaire pour remplacer la tour de
refroidissement. westmount.org

**Hiver 2025 : inscription aux activités
dès le 19 novembre**
La période d'inscription pour les activités sportives
et de loisirs pour l'hiver 2025 commence le 19
novembre pour les résidents de Westmount et le 3
décembre pour les non-résidents. westmount.org

Collecte de denrées alimentaires
Soutenez les familles dans le besoin à Westmount
en participant à la collecte annuelle organisée par
les agents de la Sécurité publique. Déposez vos
dons dans les bacs désignés dans les édifices
municipaux **d'ici le 13 décembre**. westmount.org

**Retard dans la collecte des
résidus de jardin**
Les opérations de nettoyage en cours causent un
retard dans la collecte. Laissez vos résidus verts en
bordure de rue et ils seront ramassés dès que
possible. westmount.org/residusverts



**Public consultation:
Bike Plan 2025**
November 21, 5:30 p.m., Victoria Hall.
The public is invited to a public
information session to discover and
comment on a preliminary version of a
Bike Plan for the City. westmount.org

**Closure of the rinks at the Westmount
Recreation Centre**
From December 9 to January 3, the rinks at the
Westmount Recreation Centre will be closed for
essential work. This closure is necessary for the
replacement of the cooling tower. westmount.org

**Winter 2025: Registration for
activities begins November 19**
The registration period for the sports and
recreation 2025 winter activities will begin
November 19 for Westmount residents and
December 3 for non-residents. westmount.org

Holiday Food Drive
Support families in need in Westmount by
participating in the annual Holiday Food Drive
organised by the City's Public Safety Officers. Drop
off your donations in the designated bins located in
municipal buildings **until December 13**.
westmount.org

Garden waste collection delays
Ongoing cleaning operations are causing delays to
garden waste collection. Leave your green waste
bags street side or lane side and they will be
collected as soon as possible.
westmount.org/greenwaste

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Glissement temporel : Soirée en fête
23 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque publique. 125
ans d'histoire prennent vie alors que nous
célébrons notre anniversaire avec des
performances musicales, des activités ludiques,
des cocktails (bar payant) et des hors-d'œuvre
spécifiques à chaque époque. Une boisson
gratuite sera offerte par billet (18+). westlib.org

**Conférence — CP vs CN : How Railways
Reshaped Montreal (1920–today)**
28 novembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Avec
David B. Hanna, PhD. Après l'effondrement des
chemins de fer de 1916 à 1918 et la création de la
Compagnie des chemins de fer nationaux du
Canada, le nouveau CNR, très agressif, a affronté le
CPR, bien établi, dans une lutte pour la suprématie.
westlib.org

Illumination du sapin de Noël
2 décembre, 17 h, hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux
élu(e)s du conseil municipal à l'occasion de cette
célébration. L'illumination de l'arbre de Noël aura
lieu en face de l'Hôtel de ville, avec musique et
boissons chaudes. westmount.org

**Visite d'auteure et atelier avec Monique
Polak (pour tous les âges)**
3 décembre, 16 h, Salle Westmount. En anglais.
Lors de cet événement multigénérationnel,
l'auteure locale Monique Polak lira des extraits de
son dernier livre, *Remember This: The Fascinating
World of Memory*. Monique proposera également
un mini-atelier d'écriture. westlib.org

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Time Slip: Afterhours Party
November 23, 7 p.m., Public Library. 125 years of
history comes alive as we celebrate our
anniversary through musical performances, fun
activities, and era-specific cocktails (cash bar) and
hors d'œuvres. A free drink will be offered per
ticket (18+). westlib.org



Film Club: The Holdovers (2023)
November 26, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. A
thought-provoking dramedy that follows three
lonely people at a New England boarding school
over a holiday break in the 1970s.
westmount.org

**Lecture — CP vs. CN: How Railways
Reshaped Montreal (1920–today)**
November 28, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. With David B.
Hanna, PhD. Following the huge railway collapse of
1916-1918, and the creation of the Canadian
National Railways, the new aggressive CNR went
head-to-head with the well-established CPR in a
battle for supremacy. westlib.org

Christmas Tree Lighting
December 2, 5:00 p.m., City Hall. Join City Council
members for this holiday celebration. The tree
lighting will be held outside City Hall, followed by
music and hot drinks. westmount.org

**Author Visit and Workshop with
Monique Polak (all ages)**
December 3, 4 p.m., Westmount Room. In this
multi-generational event, local author Monique
Polak reads from her latest book,
*Remember This: The Fascinating
World of Memory*. Monique will
also offer a mini writing
workshop. westlib.org

New Leonard Cohen bio alludes to his years in Westmount

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

In the eight years since Westmount-born singer/songwriter/poet Leonard Cohen's death, his legend and image have seemingly become almost inescapable – whether on Canada Post mailboxes, on the brick façades of downtown Montreal skyscrapers, or in feature films based on chapters of his life.

Who?

So, the question as to how many people actually know who Leonard Cohen is might seem a little pointless in a place like Westmount, where he grew up at 599 Belmont Ave.

Yet not all the Westmount High School seniors nor the Roslyn elementary pupils who took part in an exchange on October 30 (moderated by *Gazette* columnist Bill Brownstein, also a Westmounter) with the French author of a new biography on Leon-



From left, *The Gazette's* Bill Brownstein (a Westmounter) interviewed author Christophe Lebold about his Leonard Cohen book at Westmount High School on October 30.

ard Cohen, knew the answer right off.

Getting biblical

Leonard Cohen: The Man Who Saw the Angels Fall (ECW Press) was written by Christophe Lebold, an associate professor at the University of Strasbourg in France, where he teaches literature, rock culture and performance studies.

The 500-plus page work is a thorough exploration of Cohen's life, based on dissertation work Lebold completed in university. Among other things, he suggests that Cohen aspired to walk in the footsteps of a number of different Jewish biblical heroes.

While the lyrics of several of Cohen's songs allude to angels, Lebold maintains this was also one of Jacob's preoccupations. And since Cohen had a well-deserved reputation as a ladies' man, Lebold suggests this was in keeping with King David – who seduced women and sang psalms.

After first becoming acquainted with Leonard Cohen's music through his parents, who owned several of Cohen's 33 rpm vinyl recordings, Lebold said he had a tough decision to make at one point during postgraduate university studies when he was trying to come up with the topic for a thesis.

"It was either Shakespeare or Leonard

Cohen," he said. "I loved both of them. And I still have this close relationship to Shakespeare as well. He's very dear in my heart."

As Lebold noted, Leonard Cohen's first published novel, *The Favourite Game*, contains numerous passages about "Leonard Cohen growing up here in Westmount."

Some of the scenes take place at Roslyn School, where Cohen was enrolled before attending Herzliah High School in Montreal, where one of his teachers was the legendary Canadian poet Irving Layton.

Fighting demons

Lebold maintains that for Leonard Cohen, "writing was really a way to fight demons."

He claimed Cohen never got over his father's death when he was nine years old. He said that from an early age, Cohen began to suffer from severe bouts of depression. "And he had that most of his life," he said. "Until he was in his late 60s, I'd say, he had regular periods."

"Sometimes he would still be functional, and sometimes he would completely collapse and be dysfunctional," he added. "But he knew he had to deal with it somehow. And his way of dealing with it was through art."

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Rogers turns 100!



Margaret Rogers turned 100 earlier this month and was *fêted* by Place Kensington staff and residents.

When asked by a Place Kensington staff member to define the key to her long-life, Rogers replied, “Good will and helping everyone will help you live to 100.”

Place Kensington played the music of Frank Sinatra at her party, which made her smile. She received a bouquet of flowers, a certificate from the residence marking her entry into the centenarian club and the very first slice of a black forest birthday cake. For a previous profile on Rogers, see October 8, p. 10. – J.B.

Villa Maria marks 170th, invites public to carnival

Villa Maria High School is celebrating its 170th anniversary Saturday, November 23 with a family carnival to which it is inviting Westmounters. The program includes creative workshops, a fair, street performers and an exhibit the school’s history. Registration is required at villamaria.qc.ca/en/villamarias-170th-anniversary-carnival/.

Tunnel escalator re-opens between Westmount Square, Alexis Nihon



The re-opened ascending escalator near the Wood Ave. entrance of the Westmount Square-Alexis Nihon tunnel, as seen on November 4.

By JENNIFER BALL

The escalator at the Alexis Nihon-Westmount Square tunnel entrance by Wood Ave. was closed for a lengthy period due to “preventive maintenance” (see August 27, p. 8). It has now re-opened.

Residents of Westmount Square’s towers 2 and 3 are largely *de facto* condo owners. A couple that has lived in both towers 2 and 3 over the past seven years said, “For the first five years, there were no issues...”

“It has only been for about two years that [there have been] frequent closures.”

A tower 3 resident told the *Independent* on August 21 that the escalator had quit months earlier. On November 3, it was the same resident’s observation that the esca-

lator had returned to being operational the week of October 28.

On November 4, the *Independent* reached out to Amir Chouyoukh, who has been a property manager at Creccal Investments Ltd. for five years, to get an understanding of what factors are causing the escalator to have frequent closures; to know the exact date it went out of operation earlier this year; and also precisely when it started working again. No response was received in time for the *Independent’s* deadline.

When in operation, the escalator saves shoppers and residents from walking up 18 steps from the tunnel to Westmount Square’s “C-level” or concourse.

There is only an ascending escalator at the location and not a descending one.

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Pull-out section

Holiday Gift Guide 2024

Articles by Metro Creative Graphics, Inc. (MCG) unless otherwise stated.

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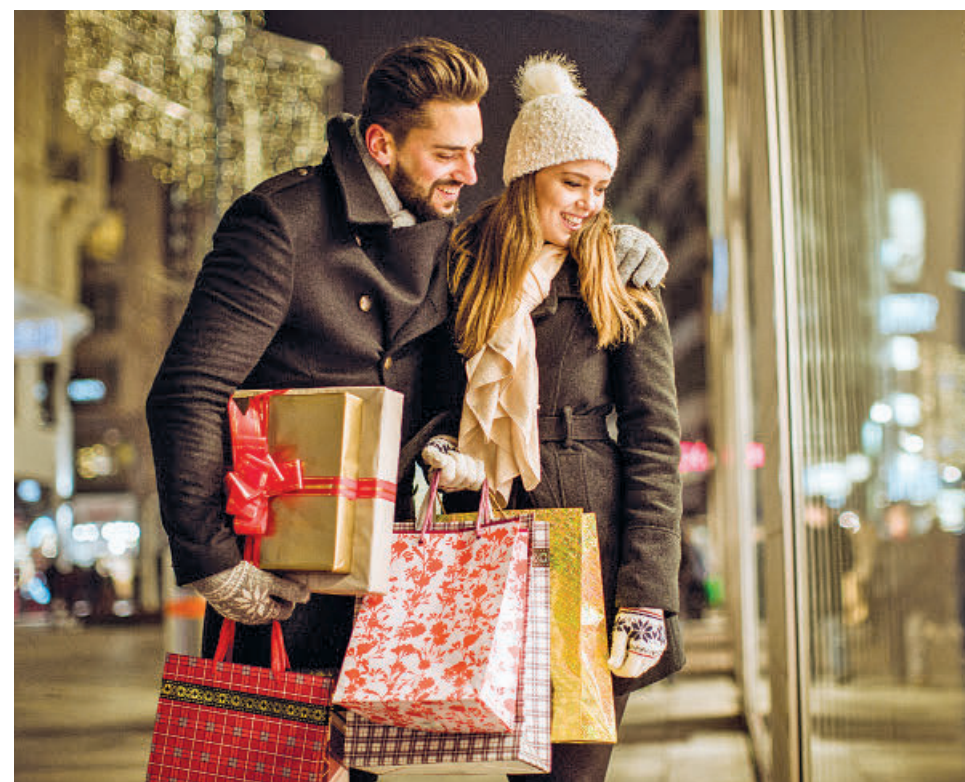


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Why you should shop local for the holidays and beyond



Various components come together to make the holiday season a festive time of year.

There is a lot to get done in a short amount of time during the holiday season, and part of that includes shopping for all of the family members and friends on your shopping list. Shopping can be a complicated process that involves identifying which stores will be the best places to shop. Local retailers make the perfect place to shop for holiday items.

According to the American Express Business Economic Impact Study, more than two thirds of every dollar spent with a local business stays in the community. Indeed, shopping local benefits consumer and community alike. The following are some of the many perks to shopping locally throughout the holiday season.

- **Personalized attention:** Small businesses are known for their personalized customer service and owners and staff are often lauded for taking the time to interact and learn about their customers, a dynamic that is impossible at larger retailers.
- **Meet and interact with people:** Shopping in person at local stores, you'll see faces from your community and become better known in the local area.
- **Shorter lines:** Local stores are bound

to have smaller crowds and thus shorter lines. That translates to less stress and hassle when it comes to getting in and out with holiday gifts.

- **Smaller carbon footprint:** Pollution, traffic congestion, habitat loss, and resource depletion may not occur on the same levels when shopping locally compared to patronizing big box stores.
- **Easier parking:** This goes hand-in-hand with smaller crowds, as shopping locally does not typically require driving up and down endless aisles at malls or standalone retail stores in an effort to find a parking spot. Local retailers in town may have on-street parking or closed lots that are convenient to shoppers.
- **Small batch shopping experience:** Consumers can secure items in small businesses that are not carbon copies of those found across the country at major retail chains. When seeking a unique, thoughtful gift, shopping locally is the way to go.

Shopping locally this holiday season provides an array of benefits to consumers, and helps to solidify a strong Main Street in communities.

– MCG

How to make a home welcoming for holiday guests

Millions of individuals travel to see family and friends during the holiday season. The automotive group AAA estimated that roughly 115 million travellers planned to travel 50 miles or more during the 2023 year-end holiday travel period, which the organization defined as a time that began on December 23 and ended on New Year's Day.

The 2024 holiday season figures to be just as busy for travelers as 2023, and many of those individuals will accept the hospitality of loved ones while away from home. Holiday hosts can embrace these strategies as they prepare to welcome guests in the weeks ahead.

- Clear clutter from working spaces.

The pandemic sparked some lasting changes, including a greater number of professionals working from home. Some do so part-time while others have become fully remote workers. That shift has led many homeowners to transform guest rooms or pockets of shared living spaces into home offices, which can make a residence feel a little more cramped once guests arrive. De-clutter these spaces prior to guests' arrival so they have ample room to relax and maneuver in guest rooms



A clutter-free guest room is one way to make spaces more welcoming for guests.

and to ensure there's no shortage of seating or room to spread out in shared spaces.

- Provide some guest room creature comforts. Some creature comforts in the guest room can make guests feel right at home. A smartphone charging dock on a bedside nightstand is a nice touch that allows guests to keep their

chargers tucked into their luggage, ensuring they won't be forgotten when the time comes to return home. A scent diffuser in the guest room is another nice touch that can help travel-weary guests relax and unwind during their stay. A small handful of books and magazines left on a guest room dresser so guests have some nighttime

reading material is another welcoming gesture that can make them feel right at home.

- Ask ahead about food allergies. Cooking is a big part of holiday hosting, as the dinner table is a relaxing setting to catch up with loved ones. Prior to planning a holiday hosting menu, hosts can reach out to guests and ask if they have any food allergies or other dietary restrictions. This small gesture lets guests know hosts are thinking of them even before they arrive, which can establish the welcoming vibe hosts are aiming for.
- Designate a guests-only bathroom, if possible. If hosts' homes have multiple full bathrooms, designate one exclusively for guests. This gesture affords guests some privacy that they're sure to appreciate. Parents can explain this gesture to kids before guests arrive so there's no confusion during their stay.

As individuals prepare to welcome loved ones into their homes, they can embrace various strategies to welcome their guests and ensure their stay is comfortable and relaxing. – MCG

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Gas fireplace safety tips

Few images capture the spirit of a season as well as a family gathered around a fireplace embodies winter. Winter is indeed a time when families spend more time together indoors, and there's no better gathering spot than around a warm fireplace.

Heartwarming scenes around a fireplace are even more enjoyable when safety has been prioritized. While natural fireplaces with roaring flames are notable safety risks, it's important that individuals with gas fireplaces embrace fire safety as well. The following are some gas fireplace safety strategies everyone can embrace.

- Avoid the DIY installation route. Even the most skilled do-it-yourselfers are urged to let the professionals install a new gas fireplace. Gas lines are nothing to mess around with, and professional installation teams have ample experience setting up new gas fireplaces in a home.
- Be sure to install a carbon monoxide detector on the same floor as the fireplace. During the gas fireplace installation, ask that a carbon monoxide detector with battery back-up is installed on the same floor. The detector alarm will alert individuals

if something is amiss, like a gas leak. Periodically inspect the detector to ensure it's working properly.

- Periodically inspect your safety screen. Glass panels are standard features on many gas fireplaces. Such panels separate the fire within the fireplace from the people and items outside of it. Glass panels can become extremely hot, which is why most gas fireplaces come with safety screens as well. These mesh safety screens can keep curious kids and pets from touching hot glass panels, and also protect adults. Inspect the safety screens periodically to ensure they're still intact and up to the job, replacing them if necessary.
- Keep objects a safe distance away from the fireplace. Experts advise keeping objects a minimum of three feet away from the fireplace at all times. Fabrics and other materials that contact the glass pose a fire hazard, so keep the area in front of the fireplace clear.
- Make the fireplace off limits to children and pets. Though the aforementioned safety screens are a vital safety feature that can keep kids

continued on p. GG-7



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How some popular holiday traditions got their start

Will you be baking gingerbread or hanging stockings by the fireplace this holiday season? Perhaps you'll be lighting the menorah or playing a game of dreidl? The holidays are steeped in tradition, some of which are older than celebrants may realize.

Individuals gather during the holidays and participate in various traditions that have withstood the test of time. Most people engage in these traditions or recognize symbols automatically, but it can be interesting to learn how these traditions came to be.

Christmas caroling

The British traditions of wassailing and mumming and the Slavic tradition of *koliada* were some of the precursors to more modern caroling. People would go door to door and recite poetry or sing with the hope of bringing about good fortune or influencing a future harvest, according to Rutgers University. Carolers spread hope and good tidings through song during a time of year when sunlight was limited.

Christmas trees

Pagans once displayed evergreen

branches as a reminder that spring would come again, while Romans placed them around temples to honour Saturn, the god of agriculture. Eventually the evergreen was used in conjunction with Christian Christmas celebrations. In the sixteenth century, German Christians put trees inside their homes as symbols of everlasting life.

Santa Claus

Children who celebrate Christmas eagerly await the arrival of a jolly sort who goes by the name of Santa Claus. His origin story stretches back to the third century, when St. Nicholas became the patron saint of children. Saint Nicholas was a monk in what is modern-day Turkey. It is said that he travelled helping the poor and the sick. History.com says he is believed to have saved three impoverished sisters from slavery by providing them with a dowry so they could be married, and he also provided gifts to children.

Menorah

The menorah is a multibranched candelabra used in Jewish religious rituals. The menorah is first mentioned

in the book of Exodus when the design of the lamp was revealed to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. Many menorahs are seven-branched, but during Hanukkah, an eight-branched menorah is used. The Hanukkah menorah is modeled after the Tabernacle menorah that corresponds to the eight-day festival. It was used to celebrate the re-dedication of the Second Temple. The available oil supply was supposed to light the menorah for just one day, but the candles actually burned for eight.

Mistletoe

Kissing under the mistletoe is a holiday season tradition that can lead to some red faces when couples are caught beneath the plant. Norse mythology paved the way for kissing under the mistletoe.

Legend has it the gods used mistletoe to resurrect Odin's son, Baldur, from the dead. Baldur's mother, Frigg, the goddess of love, made the plant a symbol of love and vowed to kiss anyone who passed under it. Mistletoe blooms under cold conditions, which is how it became associated with the holiday season.



Yule log

Yule logs were once part of winter solstice celebrations to bring good luck and fortune, but America is where a yule log really caught on as a holiday tradition. In 1966, the WPIX television station in New York City aired a continuous loop of a fireplace burning for three hours with holiday songs playing. It became an annual tradition, says History.com. Some people even serve a cake that looks like a yule log. The *Bûche de Noël* is a traditional Christmas cake that is especially popular in France and Quebec.

Holiday traditions continue in full force. Traditions are an endearing component of celebrations and help to unite people from all backgrounds during this special time of year. – MCG


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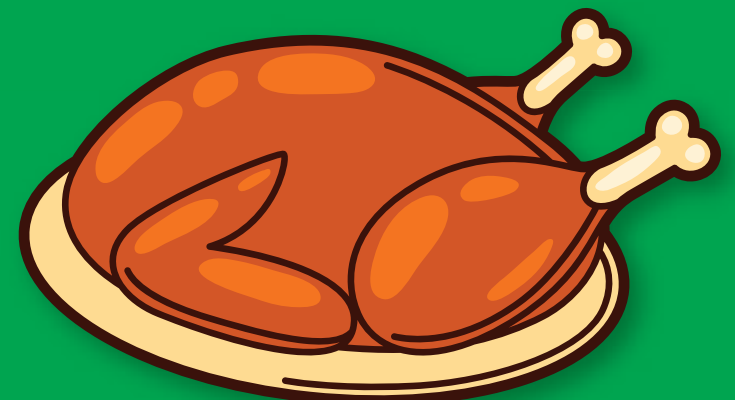
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Be mindful of pets during the holiday season

The magic and wonder of the holiday season can be enthralling for people of all ages. There is so much to see and do during the holiday season, making it easy to forge lasting memories.

With so much to do in December, life at home can sometimes feel a little hectic, especially for the family pet. Although the holidays can be exciting, the season can induce anxiety in pets. Pets like cats and dogs often thrive on routine and familiarity. Switch up that routine and various behavioural issues can arise, including having accidents in the home. Pets also may become more destructive, chewing or clawing at items to release pent-up tension and anxiety. Pet owners who want the season to be festive for their pets can consider the following strategies.

- Gradually introduce new items. Gradually decorate living spaces so pets can grow acclimated to their newly decorated environs. Add a few pieces to rooms each day until you finally have all of your decorations out for display. This way pets can sniff around the decorations and realize they do not pose a threat.
- Keep familiar pet belongings. Try not to upset the apple cart too much in regard to pets' cherished possessions. For example, do not move the dog bed from the living room and place the Christmas tree in its place. Pets need that familiarity and having some of their items with familiar smells can make for a smooth adjustment to holiday decorations.
- Designate a pet-safe zone. If you will be inviting people over during the holidays, set aside a room for pets so they can be in relative quiet away from boisterous crowds. Locking pets away also helps prevent their escape from the home as guests come and go.



- Secure the tree and other decorations. Pets are often curious about new things, and they may climb or paw at items to try to understand them better. Decorative items may end up being knocked over by curious pets. Secure the tree using a string and an anchor to the ceiling or wall like you might secure a large screen TV to prevent it from tipping over. Keep breakable ornaments and other trinkets behind display cases or beyond the reach of pets.
- Discourage pets from using decorations as toys. Reprimand pets or move them away from holiday décor so they don't get the idea that these items are now their toys.
- Be careful with holiday foods. Holiday foods and desserts are rich and full of ingredients that may not be healthy for pets. Keep a secure lid on trash pails and remind holiday guests that pets should not be fed table scraps. Pets may need some time to adjust to the changes that come with holiday decorating and celebrating to keep them happy and safe. – MCG

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Gas fireplace, cont'd from p. GG-4

and pets safe, it's still best that kids and pets are kept away from the fireplace at all times. Turn off the fireplace if kids are playing in the room, and use safety gates to keep kids and pets away when the fireplace is in use.

- Book annual fireplace inspections. Annual inspections of the fireplace can ensure everything is working properly. Professional inspections may detect potentially harmful gas leaks, and annual check-ups also can help individuals extend the life of

their fireplaces.

- Recognize outdoor gas fireplaces have their own safety protocols. Outdoor fireplaces have become wildly popular in recent years. Homeowners with outdoor gas fireplaces must recognize these awe-inspiring features require their own unique safety measures, including turning off the gas supply at the end of the season and protecting the fireplace from the elements when necessary.

Gas fireplace safety strategies can protect residents and also increase the life expectancy of these sought-after features. – MCG



Tips to make holiday dinners more affordable

"Eat, drink and be merry" is a familiar refrain come the holiday season. Hosting a holiday dinner is a great way to welcome family and friends and encourage them to embrace the festive nature of the season. However, the high cost of foods and other essentials may have certain holiday hosts re-thinking their menus.

Stretching holiday entertaining dollars comes down to being savvy. With that in mind, hosts can consider these meal modification strategies.

- Replace a high-cost protein with a more affordable alternative. Sometimes a holiday meal calls for pulling out all of the stops, and that may mean spending more on a special main dish. Rather than a luxury like beef tenderloin or prime rib roast, consider a less expensive dish, such as a pork tenderloin, roasted chicken or seafood.
- Add extra side dishes. Incorporate an inexpensive item like rice, beans or an extra vegetable side dish into the meal so that plates can be filled with the less expensive foods.
- Shop the sales. Plan meals around a supermarket circular. While you may

have had one holiday dinner idea in mind, once you see what the stores are putting on sale you can stock up on those items and build the dinner around them. If you find a good deal several weeks away from the holidays, buy the items and freeze them.

- Buy generic or store brands. Chances are no one will notice if you use generic or store brand ingredients, which can be considerably cheaper than their brand-name counterparts. Many are even manufactured in the same facilities that produce the name brand stuff.
- Make an affordable drink. Alcohol costs can add up when you try to cater to everyone's tastes and preferences. Make one or two bulk drinks, like a holiday punch or signature cocktail.
- Stretch the snacks. Instead of a charcuterie board with expensive cheeses and meats, opt for dips and raw vegetables or a low-cost cheese ball made with cream cheese and herbs. Keep snacks to a minimum; otherwise, guests may fill up and then not have room for dinner. – MCG

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Eight ways to avoid holiday weight gain

A popular, familiar holiday song insists the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is "the most wonderful time of the year." But for people who are mindful of eating and trying to maintain a healthy weight, the holiday season can very well turn into the "most compromising time of the year."

Weight gain during the holiday season is quite common, although the amount gained can vary and it may not be as high as people think. According to research published in the *Journal of Obesity*, the average weight gain during the holidays is anywhere from 0.8 pounds to just under 2 pounds. Although that doesn't sound like a lot, that extra weight stays on, says Dr. Donald Hensrud, a Mayo Clinic physician specializing in nutrition. Cumulative holiday weight gain can add up over the years. Dr. Hensrud says studies also show that people who weigh more to begin with may also gain more weight during the holiday season.

Though the holiday season can be food-centric, it is possible to avoid gaining weight between late November and the start of a new year.

1. Eat protein in the morning. A high-protein breakfast can keep blood



- sugar more stable throughout the day and help control appetite. This can curb snacking as well as over-indulgence later in the day during holiday meals.
2. Keep a consistent schedule. Just because it's the holiday season doesn't mean schedules should go out the window. Stick to structured mealtimes and your usual exercise routine even amid all the celebrating.
 3. Use smaller plates. It's possible to fool yourself into thinking you ate more if you fill up a small plate rather than a

- large one. This can keep your portion sizes more within reason.
4. Curtail the cocktails. Many people enjoy more alcoholic drinks during the holiday season than they do at other times of the year. But alcoholic beverages can be high in calories, especially mixed drinks and traditional egg nog. If you choose to drink, Columbia University Irvington Medical Center suggests sticking to clear liquors with club soda in moderation, and limiting consumption of beer, wine and

- mixed drinks.
5. Load up on a protein-laden snack. An hour before heading out for a holiday party or meal, enjoy a protein-rich shake or yogurt to allow for more self-control later on.
 6. Eat strategically. Fill up on vegetables, whole grains and other less calorie-dense foods. Go sparingly with the foods you know are historically less healthy, including fried offerings or cream-based dishes.
 7. Manage stress effectively. Although the holiday season is a festive time of year, it also can be stressful. Many people cope with stress by eating comfort foods, which can contribute to weight gain. Alleviate stress through exercise, meditation, talking with friends or a therapist, or taking other measures that do not involve food or drinks.
 8. Take the focus off food. Whenever possible, build holiday-related activities around something other than food. For example, replace family baking sessions with some homemade wreath-making.
- Weight gain doesn't have to be a part of the holiday season. By being mindful of behaviours, it's possible to enjoy the season and still maintain health. – MCG



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Mayor speaks to the Rotary Club of Westmount

Smith: Being mayor 'still an incredible job' despite being yelled at while shopping

BY JENNIFER BALL

When Mayor Christina Smith last visited the Rotary Club of Westmount, she had “auxiliary homes” and densification on her mind (June 27, 2023, p. 13). As guest speaker last week, a more personal and introspective oration was on the docket.

She confessed to Rotarians on November 6, a luncheon that took place at Victoria Hall, that she had planned to talk about the “importance of public service, the importance being engaged in our communities, the importance of women and politics and the power of positive politics...”

“[But] my optimism for the power of positive politics has been dampened a little bit.”

She was referring, of course, to the outcome of the US election, which was made known on the morning of her talk. It was a contest between a former prosecutor and the prosecuted, and the world then knew who came up “trumps.”

‘Want to contribute’

Mayor Smith explained her take on why individuals enter politics and public service in the first place, saying “You do it because you care about your community...”

“You care about the city that you live in. You want to contribute to your province, and you want to ultimately contribute to your country.”

Mayor Smith said that even if she disagrees with a politician, she has rarely met one who went into politics for the wrong reasons.

“Despite the news that came out of the US this morning, there’s positive things that we can do to move forward...”

“We are fortunate to live in this city, to live in this community, to live in this prov-



From left, city councillor Mary Gallery and Mayor Christina Smith in Victoria Hall attending the Rotary Club of Westmount’s weekly meeting on November 6.

ince and in this country. It is not without its challenges, but I think we have to reflect on how lucky we are to be here.”

Smith was first elected as city councillor in 2013 and mayor in 2017.

“Our level of government is the closest to the people...”

“When people ask me [about the legacy that you can leave in this city] I could go on and on about infrastructure spending, investment, water networks, sewer connectors and aqueduct maintenance...”

“But I think the biggest legacy that [I] can leave – when I leave this job – is [if] somebody else wants to do it.”

Too personal

The *Independent* published a story (March 28, 2023, p. 1/6.) about Mayor Smith that illustrated when – in her opinion – politics became too personal.

“...[On] Thursday, March 16 [2023] a line

was crossed,” she said. “I was shocked to see several blue-collar workers and union representatives show up in front of my house to demonstrate...”

“This is the home where I live with my family. The home where I live with my children. This is unacceptable... Those actions were nothing more than intimidation...”

And while those individuals showed up and showed their faces, many others do not.

Smith lamented that “It is too easy to fire off a hateful comment. That hateful comment breeds further hateful comments, and I think at the end of the day, if that continues, we’re not going to be too many election cycles away from [a potential candidate determining that they would just rather take a pass.]”

Despite her self-confessed newly dampened optimism on the power of positive politics, she closed her speech on a positive note.

“Despite all of the challenges – and getting yelled at in the grocery store – it is still an incredible job.”

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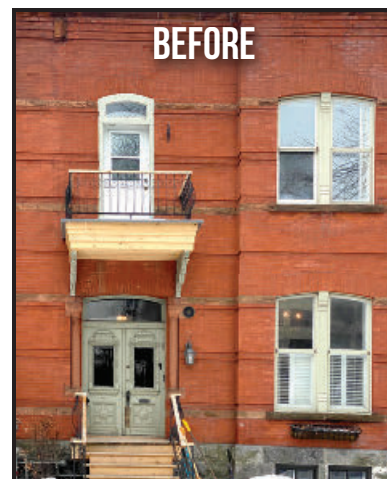
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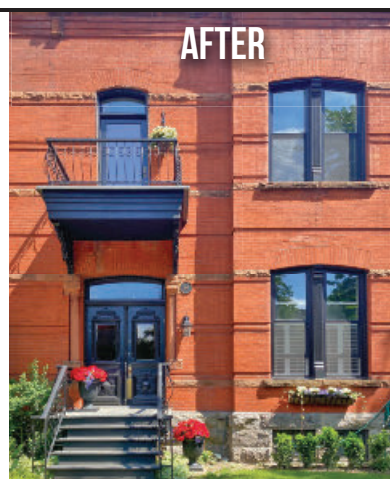
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This time? Six months of down time
STM closes Cabot Square entrance to Atwater Metro

By JENNIFER BALL

The Cabot Square entrance to the Atwater Metro station has been closed again and now it is not just closed for two weeks but for six months.

This Metro entrance is found in Cabot Square at the corner of Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St., and is east of Westmount's border with downtown. It was closed on November 1.

On November 11, Laurence Houde-Roy,

a corporate advisor in the public affairs department of the Montreal Transit Company (STM), told the *Independent* it is closed to safeguard Metro users and its staff.

"In the wake of the current social context and the most recent measures put in place to ensure the safety of its staff and customers, the STM has made the thoughtful decision to authorize the temporary closure of the Cabot entrance (2322 St. Catherine St. West) at the Atwater Metro station...

"The closure of this entrance will be in effect at all times, until April 30 inclusive. Please note that the Atwater station remains easily accessible from the main entrance at 3015 de



A sign on the Atwater Metro station doors photographed November 11 showing it as closed. This entrance is found in Cabot Square at the southeast corner of Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St.

Maisonnette Blvd. West...
"Authorizing the closure will reduce the occurrence of mischief and unwanted or dangerous behaviour, such as intimidation and drug use. The safety of our customers and staff, as well as the integrity of our infrastructure, remains our primary duty as a public carrier."

The statement was provided in French and was translated using DeepL.

When the *Independent* reported on the previous closure, in the April 30 issue (p. 13), the entrance had been closed from April 19 until April 30. It re-opened on May 1.

Houde-Roy was asked to clarify what the long-term plans for the Cabot Square Metro entrance were. But there was no response to that specific question in her statement.

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Police Report

Police at Station 12 report three stolen vehicles

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. believe that at least one car theft committed on Westmount's streets since the beginning of this month may have been a random act of "joy riding," rather than the systematic work of organized criminals.

On the conventional side, on November 2, the owner of a Volvo XC60 compact luxury SUV reported it as having been stolen from in front of a residence on Grosvenor Ave.

According to the incident report, the Volvo was recovered within a few days on Montreal's South Shore.

Police were easily able to locate the stolen vehicle as the owner gave them a street address in St. Hubert provided by an on-board GPS tracking unit.

In a second car-theft incident, this time also on Grosvenor, a Jeep Wrangler off-road four-wheel-drive SUV was stolen on November 7. It was later recovered in Montreal's Rosemont district.

While one of these vehicles appears frequently on lists of most stolen cars and the other might also be targeted because of its higher-than-average value, police are a little perplexed as to the motive behind the theft in Westmount last week of a third vehicle of much less value.

Why was older Tiguan stolen?

The Volkswagen Tiguan (a compact SUV) was reported stolen on November 9 from a parking spot on The Boulevard in upper Westmount.

It was later recovered on Gage Rd., a

side street located between Trafalgar and Côte des Neiges roads on city of Montreal/downtown territory.


"They found the car abandoned on that street," said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

He said a resident notified the police after finding the car suspicious because it was parked facing in the wrong direction on a one-way street.

But after locating and contacting the owner, he confirmed to them that everything of value that had been inside the vehicle (including a TV screen, a laptop computer and a dehumidifier) had been stolen.

As such, the motive could have been theft, "or it could have been a joy ride too," Cst. Yigit suggested, as the car was an older model year and had relatively little book value.

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**AVIS PUBLIC
ASSEMBLÉE PUBLIQUE DE CONSULTATION**

Aux personnes intéressées par le premier projet de résolution no 2024-11-264 adopté en vertu du règlement no 1489 intitulé « *Règlement sur les projets particuliers de construction, de modification et d'occupation d'un immeuble (P.P.C.M.O.I.) de la Ville de Westmount* », portant sur l'immeuble sis au 4216, rue Dorchester, sur le lot 4 142 956 du cadastre du Québec (ci-après « **l'Immeuble** »).

AVIS PUBLIC est donné de ce qui suit :

1. Que le conseil municipal, lors de sa séance ordinaire tenue le lundi 4 novembre 2024, a adopté par résolution le premier projet de résolution no 2024-11-264 visant à permettre, pour l'immeuble, une dérogation au règlement no 1303 intitulé « *Règlement concernant le zonage* ».
2. Que l'objet du premier projet de résolution consiste à permettre de :
 - a) Déroger au règlement n° 1303 de la Ville de Westmount, intitulé *Règlement concernant le zonage*, en permettant, nonobstant la dimension de 35'-0" pour la hauteur maximale d'un bâtiment apparaissant dans la grille des spécifications physico-spatiales pour la zone R6-35-01 du plan de zonage, un bâtiment d'une hauteur maximale de 59'-0" ;
 - b) Déroger au règlement n° 1303 de la Ville de Westmount, intitulé *Règlement concernant le zonage*, en permettant, nonobstant la hauteur maximale de trois (3) étages autorisés pour un bâtiment apparaissant dans la grille des spécifications physico-spatiales pour la zone R6-35-01 du plan de zonage, un bâtiment d'une hauteur maximale de cinq (5) étages ;
 - c) Déroger au règlement n° 1303 de la Ville de Westmount, intitulé *Règlement concernant le zonage*, en permettant, nonobstant le ratio de superficie de plancher maximal de 2 autorisé dans la grille des spécifications physico-spatiales pour la zone R6-35-01 du plan de zonage, un ratio de superficie de plancher maximal de 2,35 ;
 - d) Déroger au règlement n° 1303 de la Ville de Westmount, intitulé *Règlement concernant le zonage*, en permettant, nonobstant le rapport d'implantation maximal de 65 % autorisé dans la grille des spécifications physico-spatiales pour la zone R6-35-01 du plan de zonage, un rapport d'implantation maximal de 66 % ;
 - e) Déroger au règlement n° 1303 de la Ville de Westmount, intitulé *Règlement concernant le zonage*, en permettant, nonobstant l'interdiction d'empiètement dans l'espace entre une rue et l'alignement de construction (établie à 12'-0" pour le boulevard Dorchester) énoncée à la sous-section 5.2.3, l'implantation d'un stationnement sous-terrain et d'une fenêtre à oriel, à une distance minimale respective de 0'-0" et de 10'-3¼" de la ligne de lot avant;
 - f) Déroger au règlement n° 1303 de la Ville de Westmount, intitulé *Règlement concernant le zonage*, en permettant, nonobstant l'exigence d'une longueur de 22'-0" pour l'aire de manoeuvre entre ou devant les espaces de stationnement requise à l'article 5.5.3.2, une aire de manoeuvre allant de 19'-1¼" à 21'-7¼" pour les espaces de stationnement.
3. Qu'une assemblée publique de consultation aura lieu le **lundi 25 novembre 2024 à 19 h**, à la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount située au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. L'assemblée sera diffusée en direct sur le site Web de la Ville.

Le lien vers l'assemblée sera accessible à l'adresse suivante :

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87678546245>

Au cours de cette assemblée, la mairesse, ou un membre du conseil désigné

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING**

To all persons interested by the first draft of resolution No. 2024-11-264 adopted under By-law No. 1489 entitled "*By-law concerning specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposals for an immovable (S.C.A.O.P.I.) of the City of Westmount*", regarding the building at 4216 Dorchester Street, on lot 4 142 956 of the Québec cadaster (hereinafter the "**Immovable**").

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given of the following:

1. That at its regular sitting held on Monday, November 4, 2024, Council adopted by resolution the first draft of resolution No. 2024-11-264 in order to permit, for the Immovable, a variance to By-law No. 1303 entitled "*Zoning By-law*".
2. That the purpose of the first draft resolution consists in permitting to:
 - a) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum height of 35'-0' permitted for a building appearing in the physical and spatial specifications grid for the Zone R6-35-01 of the zoning plan, a building with a maximum height of 59'-0';
 - b) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum height of three (3) storeys authorized for the maximum height of a building appearing in the physical and spatial specifications grid for Zone R6-35-01 of the zoning plan, a building with a maximum height of five (5) storeys;
 - c) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum floor area ratio of 2 allowed in the physical and spatial specifications grid for Zone R6-35-01 of the zoning plan, a floor area ratio of 2.35;
 - d) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the maximum site ratio of 65% permitted in the physical and spatial specifications grid for Zone R6-35-01 of the zoning plan, a site ratio of 66%;
 - e) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the prohibition on the encroachment into the space between a street and the building alignment (established at 12'-0" for Dorchester Boulevard) set out in the subsection 5.2.3, the sitting of an underground parking area and an oriel window, at a minimum distance of 0'-0" and 10'-3¼" from the lot line, respectively;
 - f) Grant a variance to By-law No. 1303 of the City of Westmount, entitled *Zoning By-law*, by allowing, notwithstanding the requirement of a length of 22'-0' for the manoeuvring area between or in front of parking spaces required in article 5.5.3.2, a manoeuvring area ranging from 19'-1¼" to 21'-7¼" for parking spaces.
3. That a public consultation meeting will be held on **Monday, November 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Council Chamber of Westmount City Hall located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West. The meeting will be broadcasted live on the City's website.

The link for the meeting will be available at the following address:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87678546245>

During this meeting, the Mayor, or another member of Council that she will



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par elle, expliquera le premier projet de résolution et entendra les personnes qui désirent s'exprimer.

- Le premier projet de résolution no 2024-11-264 comporte des dispositions propres à un règlement susceptible d'approbation référendaire et concerne la zone R6-35-01 dans laquelle l'Immeuble se situe. L'illustration de cette zone peut être consultée à l'hôtel de ville, de même que sur le site Web de la Ville à l'adresse suivante :

<https://westmount.org/plan-de-zonage/>

- Toute personne intéressée peut consulter le premier projet de résolution et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffe, à l'hôtel de ville, durant les heures d'ouverture.

FAIT à Westmount, Québec, ce 12 novembre 2024.

Me Paule Geoffroy Béliveau
Greffière adjointe de la Ville

have designated, will explain the first draft resolution and will hear every person wishing to be heard.

- The first draft of resolution No. 2024-11-264 contains provisions making it subject to approval by way of referendum and it concerns the zone R6-35-01 in which the Immoveable is located. The sketch of the concerned zone can be consulted at City Hall or on the website of the City at the following address:

<https://westmount.org/plan-de-zonage/>

- Any interested person may consult the first draft resolution and obtain copies at the Office of the City Clerk, at City Hall, during business hours.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this November 12, 2024.

Me Paule Geoffroy Béliveau
Assistant City Clerk

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'Hypotenuse' road reopens

The city's pilot project to close the "hypotenuse" road alongside the Claremont triangle greenspace at its junction with Westmount Ave. was wrapped up just in time for the CEGEP's open house November 10.

"And, just as we promised," Mayor Christina Smith said last week.

The controversial closure August 18-October 30 of the one-way eastbound road was undertaken for analysis concerning the reconstruction of Claremont as a major 2025 capital works project (see story August 20, p. 10).

Overheard

Girl, approximately eight years old, to female caregiver, Lansdowne below Côte St. Antoine, November 13 at 8:50 am:

"We had three giant buckets of candy."

*

Woman to woman, Grosvenor and Sherbrooke, October 24 at 2:42 pm:

"The 'fiesta' episode is boring, until the last minute."

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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APPLICATION FOR A MINOR EXEMPTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Westmount shall consider an application for a minor exemption at the regular sitting of the Municipal Council to be held on **December 2nd, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber, at City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, which shall be broadcast live on the City's website. The link to the sitting will be available at the following address: www.westmount.org/council-live.

Location of the request:

21, Edgehill Road (lot 1 583 252)

Nature of the request:

The request for a minor exemption is aimed at allowing the enlargement of the existing garage into the front building line established at 7.62 meters (25 feet) by section 5.2 of the Zoning By-Law 1303, even though subsection 5.2.3 of the Zoning By-law 1303 stipulates that no building or part of a building (...) may encroach in the space between a street and the building line.

Any interested person may be heard by Council regarding this request at the sitting or during the live broadcast of the sitting on the City's website. Any interested person may also submit questions or comments via the online form: <https://westmount.org/en/questions-for-the-council-meeting>.

For more information, please contact Mr. Yves Wang, of the Urban Planning Department, by phone at 514 989-5200, ext. 5617, or by email at ywang@westmount.org.

GIVEN at Westmount, this Tuesday, November 12th, 2024.

Me Paule Geoffroy Béliveau
Assistant City Clerk

www.westmount.org

Remembrance Day observed by seniors at Place Kensington



Della Robertson (centre), sergeant at arms with the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 24/106 in NDG, stands at attention and salutes as Canadian Armed Forces trumpeter Lt. Alfredo Antony Encarnacion plays "The Last Post."

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Senior citizens at the Place Kensington residence for retirees paid their respects during a Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11 to the many Canadian soldiers who gave their lives or were gravely wounded during the two world wars as well as other military engagements in which Canada took part since the beginning of the 20th century.

Held in the residence's interior winter garden, guests at the ceremony included Old Brewery Mission president James Hughes, Rabbi Adam Scheier of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, Father Law-

rence MacEachen of Ascension of our Lord Church and McGill University Health Centre psychiatrist Dr. Alec Ramsay.

Dorice Walford, a Place Kensington resident who was a flight sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division, and who celebrated her 100th birthday last April, read out Canadian physician/soldier John McCrae's oft-quoted World War I poem, "In Flanders Fields."

At the end of World War II, she was the officer in charge of the rehabilitation of wounded aircrew members returning to Canada at the Canadian Forces' Trenton air base east of Toronto.

Another resident, Jeannette Wiseman,



Place Kensington resident Jeannette Wiseman (centre, next to Place Kensington communications coordinator Doreen Friedman), lights a peace candle.

who was in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) from 1943 to 1945, lit a peace candle. (See November 12, p. 14 for a profile of her.)

According to Place Kensington communications coordinator Doreen Friedman, Wiseman was in England when her future husband, Bill, a flight lieutenant, was released from a German prisoner of war camp following three years imprisonment. Wiseman will be celebrating her 104th birthday later this year.

The Old Brewery Mission's CEO recounted some of his family's history and their involvement in Canada's military and its politics.

Sam Hughes, who was a minister responsible for militia in Prime Minister Robert Borden's World War I cabinet, was James Hughes' great-uncle. Another relative, John Hughes, was the first commandant of CFB Valcartier near Quebec City. Yet another relative, Garnet Hughes, was a Canadian Forces military officer during World War I.

He said that several other relatives who served in World War II were always reluctant to talk about their combat experiences. "It was so harsh, it was so difficult, they lost so many of those that served with them that they just couldn't speak the words," he said.

Resilience, cont'd from p. 1

Montreal's Ville Marie (downtown) borough.

At the end of 2023, Chapman spoke to a handful of journalists indicating that the shelter needed an additional \$6 million to complete the project due to higher-than-expected bids, and said that it could not "remain forever" in its current location at 4000 St. Catherine St., the former site of the Miso restaurant and, many years ago, a McDonald's.

Modulor is doing the new work at 780 Atwater, as indicated by signage posted on the exterior of the building site. Modulor is a general contractor that specializes in residential and commercial new construction and renovation.

On November 12, the *Independent* visited the back of 780 Atwater, which showed an active construction site with trucks, construction equipment, bulldozers and forklifts, including a backhoe inside the building's basement. There is no visible work occurring to the building's front other than a street-level wooden enclosure that covers the front door and windows.

Céline Vaillancourt, section head of communications in the South-West Borough of Montreal, said on November 13, "The [construction] permit was issued on September 11, 2024."

On the same day, Anyck Paradise, who works with her, said: "This is a conversion permit to completely redevelop the interior of the existing building, including the basement."



The back of 780 Atwater Ave., as seen November 12.

Both statements were provided in French and translated using DeepL translate.

The 780 Atwater building, according to the Quebec land registry database, was sold to Resilience for \$600,000 by Rowntree Antiques Inc. in June 2021.

A *Gazette* report published January 3, 2023, indicated that the plan at that time was for the building to "undergo a major transformation to create a space where every inch has been planned to serve the needs of a vulnerable clientele."

At the time Nakuset, who is the executive director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and the co-founder of Resilience Montreal, said it was to be a wellness centre where one would feel a sense of calmness upon entering.

Cenerelli selected by Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation



City views

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Nancy Cleman and Bettina Cenerelli.

Along with the new arrivals to our neighbourhood, Westmount recently welcomed Bettina Cenerelli.

She is the new president and CEO (*pro tem*) of The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Chatting with her at the Westmount Public Library, I learned that, in a way, she is returning home. Before her tenure at Simon Fraser University as senior director of strategic academic planning and student affairs, she was program director at the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation in Montreal, and editor at the University of Montreal Press.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation is an independent and non-partisan charity established in 2001 as a living memorial to the former prime minister. In 2002, with the support of the house of commons, the government of Canada endowed the foundation with \$125 million for the Advanced Research in the Humanities and Human

Sciences Fund.

By granting doctoral scholarships, awarding fellowships, and appointing mentors, the foundation encourages critical reflection and action in areas important to Canadians: human rights and dignity, responsible citizenship, Canada's role in the world at

large, and people and their natural environment.

Lawyer Nancy Cleman, a local res, was among the 2024 mentors selected. Currently, the new nomination process for 2025 mentors is on-going. Trudeaufoundation.ca/mentors – VR.



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9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Introducing Taimour kitten, a growing bundle of joy and play. Purring away, he is quite friendly and curious.

Taimour is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, ready to go home with you whenever you can come for him. A glamorous fawn-and-black tabby, he is growing by leaps and bounds.

Taimour is very healthy, up to date on



Westmount
A-dog-tions
LYSANNE FOWLER

A delight to watch and a queen of hearts, Crystal is in need of a family as soon as possible. She is presently at the Montreal SPCA and you can bring her home to our neighborhood to join our many happy dogs.

Crystal is a beautiful malamute-huskie type, stunningly poised yet friendly and playful. At six years of age, she is very

Taimour kitten

his kitten inoculation program, neutered and microchipped. For more information on him, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then be directed to his information page by his identification number, 200021359. You can also refer to the listing pages of all the cats for adoption, from which his summary will appear with his photograph, then you can click to his detailed page in that way also.

Taimour is presently at the shelter's



cattery, and you can plan a visit as they are open every day, as Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, then Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4. Please bring a carrier when you go. If not, the onsite boutique staff will offer you different models to choose from. Please do not hesitate to visit them, the adoptions counsellors will tell you more about Taimour and you can then discuss your interest.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Breathtaking Crystal

healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

Through the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, you can link to her information page through her identification number, A2000091408. You can also consult the listing of dogs for adoption, where you can link in through her capsule photograph presentation. The SPCA kennel is open seven days a week so you can plan



your visit shortly. Its hours are 3 pm to 8 pm from Monday to Friday, and 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4. Once there, you will then meet with one of their adoption coordinators and visit Crystal to further your discussion of adoption. Such a beauty, Crystal is a wonderful companion, and you can be her family.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Travel

VERONICA REDGRAVE

1. Pienza. Near Lucca, this UNESCO World Heritage site just unveiled *Il Sentiero dell'Arte dell'Anima* ("The Path of Art and Soul"). It is, indeed, a path: a trail network of restful moments. And it's free. Thanks to local patron Urs Rechsteiner, you can stroll the wood-like winding corridor featuring 28 travertine marble benches created by contemporary Italian artists. The Swiss art collector/philanthropist has lived in the area for 30 years. He chose the artists and had each seat placed to best contemplate the magnificent sweeping Tuscan views. The benches are a gift to Pienza from FUR (Fondazione Urs Rechsteiner.) His private villa, Santa Maria, also features modern Italian artworks carefully curated amidst beautifully massed rose beds, a mulberry tree and a vegetable garden. Oh. And a heated pool. The multi-lingual modern Medici has left a wonderful legacy.

2. Food in Lucca. Bar da Gigi celebrates 60 successful years so obviously they are doing something right. I also discovered Magazzino, a just-opened restaurant (Piazza XX Settembre) full of cool young

Good, bad memories from Italy, part 4 (of 4)

diners enjoying the fusion cuisine. Some just came from its nearby sister bar (same owner) Magellano (magellanolucca.it). Here drinks are "packaged" like medicine. It's great fun! And for everyday lunch and dinner, my go-to was Da Nonna Clara (Via Santa Croce).

3. Fruit. Not only are there gorgeous huge pots of lemon trees – yes, with lemons in October – but I saw persimmon as well as pomegranates. And glossy chestnuts were lying everywhere. Chestnut flour is used in local cooking, and a speciality is Necci – a little pancake, often spread with ricotta and rolled. A local "must" is Buccellato bread, full of raisins. (Taddeucci Pastry Shop is the best.)

4. Gardens. Lucca is famed for its Orto Botanico. There a monumental Lebanese cedar stretches almost 100 feet above you as its branches span over 19 feet. Another impressive sight is the large sequoia and hugely high rhododendrons. Camelias flower seasonally. It's a wonderful walk-through any time, but obviously spring is a whole different mood with colours animating the arboreal arches. And, almost year round, many windows sport bright geraniums.

5. Huge comic festival. Every year 100,000 people descend for Lucca's annual



Left, an olive grower brings his harvest to be made into oil. Right, the Comic & Games tent on the piazza in front of San Francesco church.

Comics & Games, the largest comic festival in Europe and the second biggest in the world after Tokyo's Comiket. Amidst the piazzas and the town's 100 churches, massive white tents house events for gamers. Cosplay is the dress of the day. Many arrive already in costume. Some Lucchese leave town but the army of young enthusiasts adds an incredible dynamism to this once Etruscan-then-Roman town.

6. Olives. I visited a local olive oil pressing operation. Neighbours arrived with their crates of just-harvested olives, complete with stalks and leaves. The olives were processed by an intricate machine that separated not-wanted bits (water, leaves, dirt, stems) resulting in olive oil that the owner then collects. All around one was surrounded by the tell-tale silver-grey-green leaves of these trees redolent with ancient history.

7. Rome airport hotel. As I was catching a morning flight, I stayed over night near Fumicino Airport. I chose the Isola Sacra. My error. After checking in, I went to eat. The dining room was half full, but I was told no table for one and a half hours, as these were "hotel guests." (Excuse me? I



thought I was just that...) Having no other choice, I looked at the menu and ordered room service. Got back to my room. The phone rang. My "room service order was ready." I could go back down and pick it up, or they could deliver to my room for five Euros. I picked it up and wondered at the cardboard containers and plastic utensils.

Next time, I'll be at the Hilton. A tunnel links it directly to the airport, and I'm hoping they have real cutlery.

8. Travel. It wouldn't be Italy without the strikes. On arrival, my connecting trains were delayed, but luckily I did catch mine just before the massive week-end train strike, which left many stranded for days. Then, departing from Rome's downtown train station, four trains to Fiumicino Airport were cancelled. The two in service were packed to the rafters, and, furthermore, didn't leave on time. Travellers stood shoulder into shoulder. No security. No ticket checking. Just chaos. Many people missed their flights. Overheard: "This would never happen in Switzerland."

And yet. And yet. We keep returning. I'll be studying in Rome this spring.



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