

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 18 No. 12a

We are Westmount

December 3, 2024

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Editorial: Municipal governments should be responsive, explanatory – not arbitrary, obstructive to press, p. 10

Two real estate projects on **Dorchester** move forward, see p. 19

Library names north reading room after former mayor **Trent**, p. 24

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☞ This issue is the second-to-last one before our usual Christmas break ☜

Library wraps up its 125th celebrations



The 125th anniversary committee at the Westmount Public Library's "Afterhours" party November 23, from left: librarian Wendy Waying, Councillor Elisabeth Roux, resident Marie-Christine Dufour, librarian Daniel Miguez de Luca, residents Kathleen Roger and Helaine Klinger and librarian Lora Baiocco. See p. 26 for story.

PHOTO: LAUREN SWEENEY.

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City consults on cycling to guide future work, spending

BY JENNIFER BALL

A public consultation on Westmount's bike plan took place on November 21 at Victoria Hall with its objective being the generation of "impactful" ideas that will feed into a road map for future capital works expenditures.

The city's current Traffic and Active Transportation Master Plan, created and presented by Genivar Inc. (now WSP), con-

tains an illustrated map for future bike path/lanes that was not mentioned at the meeting (see stories August 27, 2024, p. 1, June 25, 2019 and July 9, 2019, p. 6.)

As outlined on the city's website in a bulletin dated November 1, "This project is part of a broader reflection that ties in with the city's strategic orientations in terms of mobility and urban planning."

The preliminary document that was published *continued on p. 16*



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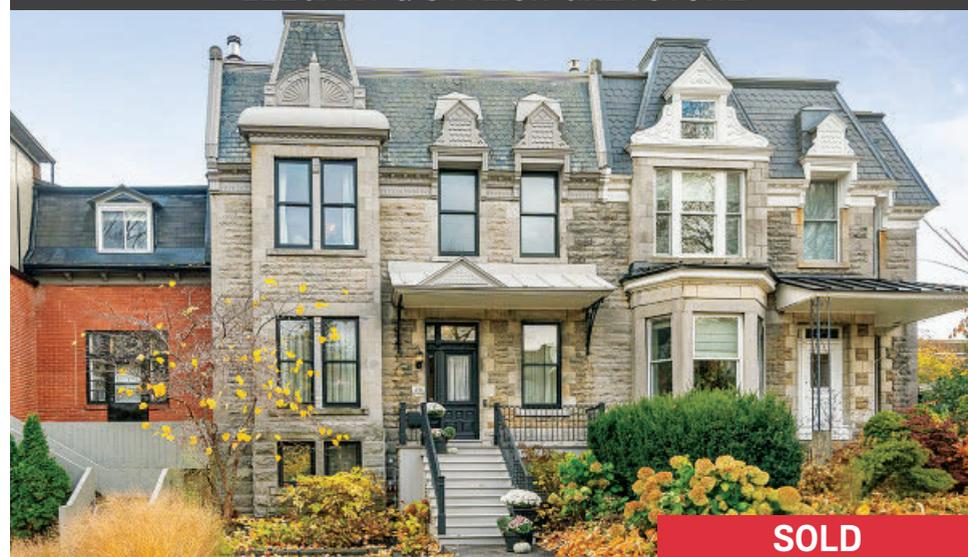
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Drivers 'shaken up' in collision at Roslyn and Côte Rd.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Security officials reported that a collision between two cars November 25 at Roslyn and Côte St. Antoine deployed the airbags of both vehicles, requiring the area to be secured.

The two women driving were "shaken up," requiring assistance from Urgences Santé but no additional details concerning their condition were reported. The accident occurred at about 5:13 pm when Public Security was called to attend and secured the area but their presence was no longer required at 6:05.

Large clean-up brings ticket for \$659

A large pile of construction debris outside 4300 de Maisonneuve was discovered by patrollers Nov. 27 at 8:32 pm, Public Security officials said. A large crane was spotted at the site and the clean-up was described as forcing pedestrians off the sidewalk.

A ticket for \$659 was given to the site manager when the infraction was discovered on the public domain. Permits for such work spell out the needs for security measures to be set up regarding the safe passage for traffic and pedestrians.

Distribution update

Canada Post went on strike November 15, so we cannot mail the *Independent* to you at present. Here's what we have done and are doing.

- As ever, the *Independent* is available on the web at www.westmountindependent.com and by email (to sign up, go to the website).
- At regular drop sites around Westmount (e.g. ATMs, grocery stores, city buildings), there has been no major change, although we are leaving out more copies than normal.
- We have added black metal newspaper boxes at:
 - Côte St. Antoine/Victoria (northwest corner),
 - Sunnyside/Upper Lansdowne (southeast),
 - 310 Victoria Ave. (at de Maisonneuve),
 - The Boulevard/Aberdeen (southeast),
 - Montrose/Mt. Pleasant (northeast),
 - entrance to Murray Park (Montrose/Murray),
 - entrance to Murray Park (Westmount Ave. between Murray Hill & Belmont),
 - The Boulevard at the Roslyn/Upper Roslyn steps (north side),
 - entrance to Queen Elizabeth Gardens (Barat/Vignal).
- At multi-unit buildings (condos and apartments), we are leaving special drops of copies to their lobbies (not to individual mailboxes).
- Door to door for houses and duplexes, the editor will be joined for this issue by four volunteers, but they will not cover the whole city. "A thousand thank-yous to these volunteers, but even if you received a paper last week, please do look for one at a drop point if you can. We are not distribution experts yet," said *Independent* editor David Price.

Issues? Call David at 514.935.4537.



Wishing you all Happy Holidays!

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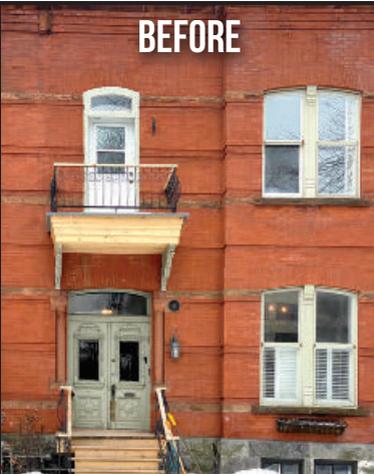
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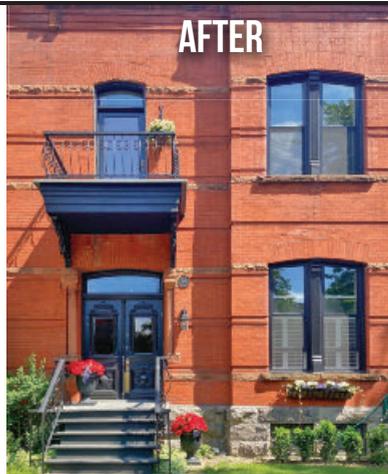
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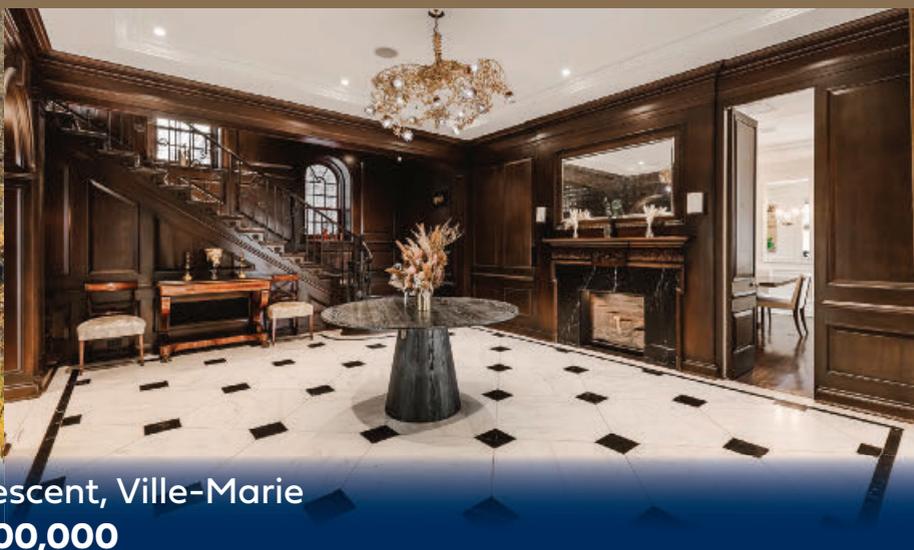
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO BIKE PATH TO SUMMIT NEEDED

Open letter to Mayor Christina Smith and district 1 city councillor Antonio D'Amico

Having attended the public consultation and presentation made by Vélo Québec and hosted by Westmount (including city councillors Aronson and Bostock), and having seen the plan on the Engage Westmount website, I am absolutely taken aback by what Vélo Québec is proposing and what the city appears to be endorsing, specifically a bike path running all the way up Grosvenor, turning onto Sunnyside and thence to the Summit Woods area.

It is quite clear that no one from Vélo Québec has ever been up there, as they do not realize the steepness of the hills, nor the already narrowed streets in that neighbourhood. Who, except for very skilled and physically well-conditioned bikers, could ever climb from lower Westmount up to the summit area? And given the relative lack of vehicular traffic in that part of Westmount, why the need for a bike path at all?

A dedicated path would mean ever more narrowing of the streets such as Grosvenor, further reduction of on-street parking, would certainly increase the difficulty of Public Works being able to properly maintain and plough the road and, of equal importance, could lead to difficulties for the fire department in responding to fires or other emergencies.

The residents in that tranquil neigh-

bourhood should make themselves aware of what is being planned for the area and make their voices heard. A dedicated bike path up to the summit is not necessary, is not needed and is not required.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

Councillor Antonio D'Amico replies:

I thank you for your email and for having participated in the public consultation and presentation by Vélo Québec.

Since this was a hastily-called public consultation, and due to the Canada Post strike, this prevented residents from obtaining their copy of the *Westmount Independent* and thus participating. I contacted several of my residents a few days before the presentation, and none of the residents were aware of this public consultation.

I fully endorse your comments, and it is my understanding based on the last two road reconstructions (Lexington and Upper Lansdowne) and recent calls to residents, that the residents of my district do so also. It is also my understanding that the mayor is in agreement, based on a recent email to one of my residents.

I strongly encourage you and all residents to continue to participate in the process and let the city know your questions and comments on the Engage Westmount website.

I wish to clarify that my comments in this email are specifically limited to the portion of the bike plan that is above, and does not include, The Boulevard.

Thank you.

FINANCIAL TRENDS AT CITY WORRYING

RE: Westmount Park playground renovations (October 29, p. 1); \$21M loan – or is it a \$76.3M loan? (October 29, p. 1); council mandates legal action (November 12, p. 1); and no more refrigerated skating rink in Westmount Park and no toboggan run in Murray Park (November 12, p. 1).

Big loan for the city + lawsuit + cost cutting = I think citizens should be very concerned with how our city's currently being managed. But to start with the positive:

1) I think the playground renovations in Westmount Park are great. Well done, city of Westmount.

2) Turns out the announced \$21-million loan so as to not massively increase property taxes is a first instalment of a \$76.3-million loan for our fine city. Uh ... how did Westmount go from large, yearly budget surpluses to requiring a \$76.3-million loan since the last budget? This is not good. Not good at all.

3) A resident gets a renovation permit (okay, it was issued by mistake) and now council's approved \$50,000+ in lawyer fees to force the resident to undo the work. I can just hear the judge asking: "Was a permit issued?" Westmount's lawyer: "Yes, but..." Judge (interrupting Westmount's lawyer): "Case dismissed." And there goes \$50,000 of taxpayers' money down the drain. This is also quite negative.

4) No more refrigerated outdoor rink in Westmount Park (um ... global warming is getting worse, right, so the need for one is greater so people can regularly skate outdoors), and no more toboggan run like at tubing places in King George Park because the city must cut costs. A city cutting costs and taking a massive loan is really super bad.

So, yeah, I think we should be quite concerned, and I ask council (you should, too) to please re-work its budget and planning and tone it way down to keep things reasonable and affordable and pleasant for all Westmount citizens.

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

UP WITH SPOCK, DOWN WITH PRICE

First, I must point out that your style of putting words in our mouths is quite inflammatory – neither nice nor civil. Worse, those words are not true.

You wrote: "Hernandez implies that she disagrees with my October 22, p. 6 editorial ("We need a federal protest law"), which is fine." Please re-read my letter. At no point did I express disagreement with your editorial. I genuinely appreciate the effort you put into your October 22 editorial. How-

ever, while you wrote extensively on the subject, quantity does not necessarily translate to change. That said, it was undoubtedly a strong example of democratic dialogue.

To be candid, I didn't read your entire editorial. It was too long and, frankly, a bit dull for my taste. I merely skimmed it. My letter's point was simple: federal politicians will likely never draft and pass such a law within our lifetimes. This isn't an opinion but a realistic observation.

You wrote, "In my view, residents of our country, citizens or not, long term or short, from wherever, should be protected wherever they choose to be and should not be asked to move to industrial Siberia because federal politicians can't figure out how to limit never-ending, repeat demonstrations."

Again, please re-read my letter. As Spock says in *The Wrath of Khan* (1982): "Logic clearly dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few." Relocating the consulate to a non-residential area is a straightforward, elegant solution that benefits our community while maintaining the consulate's functions. This idea draws inspiration from Steve Jobs, who said, "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."

Your characterization of re-locating the office as akin to "industrial Siberia" comes across as classist. Notre Dame St. is within walking distance of Westmount, and I wonder how residents of areas like LaSalle or Verdun would feel about your dismissive framing.

In a world where geopolitical conflicts persist, there will never be a way to entirely "limit never-ending, repeat demonstrations." However, all individuals – "residents of our country, citizens or not, long term or short, from wherever" – deserve the right to voice their opinions freely.

Ultimately, we must focus on what is within our control. Adjusting a lease isn't magic. It's simply a practical solution driven by common sense and the desire to benefit everyone involved.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation for encountering thoughtful and intelligent individuals. Thank you for your efforts! One friendly suggestion – always take a moment to breathe and perhaps grab a snack before diving into writing anything.

DIANA HERNANDEZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Editor's reply: Who am I to argue against Spock and Steve Jobs? But I will try.

I wrote that you *implied* you were opposed to my editorial. By using that term, I am alluding – straight-forwardly – to words that weren't in your letter. This is

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Looking east on Notre Dame St. West from near Pullman St. towards Monk Blvd. on November 30. This Southwest Borough area is between St. Henri, Ville Émard, Côte St. Paul, LaSalle and NDG, and between Highway 20 and the Lachine Canal.

PHOTO: D. PRICE.

almost the opposite of putting words in your mouth.

Locally, most people are calling for the mayors of Westmount and Montreal – not federal politicians – to do something about the pro-Palestinian protests and you say you skimmed my editorial, whose headline is “We need a federal protest law.” For these reasons, I find your denial unconvincing.

But, on substance, it doesn't matter. What is important and clear is that we disagree.

I don't remember whether I had eaten recently or not when I wrote my piece, but I do remember checking, using Google Street View, what your proposed re-location area looks like. I have now gone down there myself. See picture above. Reader: Is my use of the term “industrial Siberia” fair in your view?

I am all for free speech. How many of

your letters, including these two that I disagree with, have I now published?

You say I would likely be offending *residents* of Verdun and LaSalle, but my whole point is that there are no *residents* in the area that you recommend, only light-industrial businesses. Their work is important and they have chosen the right place for it, but it is not a friendly place to ask a consulate to move to.

You, on the other hand, think that there are residents there, and you are willing to move your problem (frequent, noisy protests) to them. Who is the classist? – DP

UP WITH PRICE, DOWN WITH HERNANDEZ

I wish both to commend and thank you for your reply to the suggestion for relocation of the Israeli consulate to a non-descript, industrial area – a recommenda-

tion offered so generously by Mme Diana Hernandez of St. Catherine St.

Her target should be the authorities who are unwilling and/or impotent to clamp down on the agitators!

In spite of her eloquence, I take offence not only to her request, but to her ongoing residency to remain nearby as a Westmount neighbour. May I recommend her voluntary relocation – perhaps expressed here with less grace and elegance – i.e. that she move to some neighbourhood that reflects her undesirable and insensitive attitude.

THOMAS REINER, WESTMOUNT AVE.

YES! MONTREAL NEEDS TO BAN PALESTINIAN PROTESTS

Like Amsterdam, Montreal needs finally to ban all these Palestinian protests. Everyone is waiting for Montreal's mayor, and Trudeau and the Quebec premier, to speak up and to do something about the police force not stopping all the noise and nastiness and smashing of glass. This is Canada! Canadians do not act like this!!

SUSAN STEIN, WOOD AVE.

Editor's note: The first version of this letter was received before the downtown Montreal protest/riot of November 22. – DP.

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La date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le **vendredi 31 janvier 2025**.

Seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT 2025

You can apply for a summer job at the City of Westmount as of now. The list of positions and the online application form are available online at westmount.org/summerjobs.

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Batshaw Children Seeking Homes Five-year-old Tom needs love, stability, support

A foster home is being sought for Tom. Tom is a five-month-old baby boy. He is seeking a family to provide him with love, stability and support through his crucial developmental years. Tom, described as a generally calm infant, has shown a preference for consistent routines. When his schedule is disrupted, he may become temporarily fussy, a common trait in babies his age.

At this stage in his life, Tom requires extended attention and stimulation for physical, cognitive and emotional development. Tom would require medical follow-ups so that he can achieve all his milestones. Activities such as talking, reading, and singing to him can significantly boost his development and overall cognitive growth

The ideal family for Tom would be from the black community that can make a long-term commitment to him while providing a secure, stable environment and supporting him through his developmental milestones. The foster family should be prepared to engage in activities that promote Tom's development, such as interactive

play, reading and providing a variety of sensory experiences.

Interested persons should ask for Tom by calling Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514 932-7161 ext. 1139.

Fire in recycling portion of city can needs firefighters

A fire in a city garbage can November 25 proved too stubborn to quell using an extinguisher from a patrol vehicle, Public Security officials said.

Patrollers had noticed smoke rising from the recycling section of the can at 9:38 am outside 4136 St. Catherine across from Westmount Square and initially used an extinguisher but found the fire needed water and firefighters. City Public Works crews were later required to clean up.

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EDITORIAL

Governments should be responsive, explanatory – not arbitrary, obstructive to press

“And now you do what they told ya”
 “Killing in the Name” (1992) by
 Rage Against the Machine

As you probably have too, in recent months and years I have seen many stories in a variety of media outlets about the decline of the press and hand-wringing musings about what can be done, especially by government, to reverse it.

I have already shared my own thoughts about what governments of all levels should *do* (see “Thanks for the ads, François – province’s COVID campaign was win-win-win”).

Put simply, it is this: Government should buy ads in good press outlets; not create subsidies. Using this method, readers, taxpayers, media companies and governments all win by getting something of value to them, without creating more bureaucracy.

In the wake of the city’s removal of our newspaper box from Summit Woods (see story on p. 11), I now have some advice about what government should *not do*: Don’t remove the press’ assets and impede its operations. (If you need a full re-cap of this dispute, see box at right.)

What is at issue here?

The narrow issue is how an entity operates once it has agreed to something. In my view, governments should be held to even higher standards than any ordinary “entity,” but the same principles apply.

The city agreed to the general concept of the boxes, including by consulting the head of its most impacted and most knowledgeable department, Public Works. That very same man was asked about nine new specific locations once the eventuality of a postal strike became a likelihood. **At that point, there was no issue with the Summit Woods location.** The professional was cool with it and gave *specific permission* for the Summit Woods site.

Then the city tried to rescind its permission altogether (about which there remains many questions), and then backtracked in the face of the email trail that I

presented to the mayor – but it added a caveat: remove the Summit Woods box “immediately.”

Why? What is the issue with the box at Summit Woods?

To repeat, I asked and received no reply. (Just as I received no reply to my request for two additional sites, leaving three in limbo.)

Unreasonable behaviour

It is unreasonable to give specific permission and then refuse it.

It is unreasonable in a democracy for a public servant not to answer a relevant, polite question. (And, in this case, this whole drama was created by the municipal government. If it weren’t for this “own goal,” there would be other content for everyone’s enjoyment in this very space.)

More broadly, in a democracy we should not live by personal decree. The director general is unelected, is not our ruler and is not the *Independent’s* parent, who might allow eight of nine requests of a child, but say “no” to one for some lesson-giving reason. **A government needs a reason to change its mind.** It my view, if it changes its mind for some good reason, it should then work to find the easiest way to accommodate the impacted party. (In our case: Move the box left? Right? Up? Down? Explain the problem and I will propose a solution.)

This whole episode has been very irksome to me, but it also highlights very serious issues with the city.

Have any of you had similar experiences with the city? Should government be responsive (and listen to us) or arbitrary (and have us listen to them)?

While media companies are as subject to the law as anyone else, it seems to me that when governments interact with their property, they should have every “T” crossed and every “i” dotted – which was not the case here.

Unlike most activities, economic or otherwise, freedom of the press is a constitutional right, and it is in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to protect the press from government – for the press’ sake, yes, but for the public’s too. If gov-

ernment employees manhandling newspapers and removing them sends a slight chill down your spine, you see it as I do.

Petty or the actual work of municipal government?

Now, someone advocating for the municipal government might say: “This is such petty stuff. Why not just drop it? You have eight functional boxes. The strike will be over soon. Move on.”

This point of view is actually in direct contradiction to what municipal politicians say over and over again, namely that municipal government is close to the people, and closer than any other level of government, and thus important and worthy of respect and consideration.

At a Rotary meeting just last month, Mayor Smith said: “Our level of government is the closest to the people...” (see November 19, p. 13).

She should not be damned or praised much for giving this speech. I have heard it for 17 years from municipal politicians, including ones not from Westmount.

But municipal government cannot claim to be the government that is close to real-life, tangible problems (like parking, traffic, refuse removal, drainage and, yes,

newspaper boxes), and then turn around and call those issues petty when they are criticized and asked to work on them.

For people who make fun of municipal government (and municipal reporting) – and there are many – all our issues are petty.

But as the press knows – and the politicians and municipal employees too when they are living up to their best selves – *these issues matter to the participants*. Try not having access to your parking space or lane or garbage removal for a month and see how your life works.

Well, these newspaper boxes are our “traffic,” our “garbage removal,” our “lane.”

They matter to me now, and they matter to me for the future.

Summary

It matters to me that the city put hands on the Summit Woods box after agreeing to it.

It matters to me that three of our 11 boxes are undeployed.

It matters to me that the city’s word, in general and in specific cases, cannot be trusted.

It matters to me that the municipal government is acting without explaining itself.

It matters to me that the city’s director general did not answer a pertinent, important, polite question and insisted on “immediate” compliance with her decree.

Does it matter to you?

Summary of newspaper box dispute

- In February of 2023, I asked Mayor Christina Smith for permission to put newspaper boxes on city land in the event of a strike by Canada Post, our door-to-door and main distributor.
- After consulting with Public Works director Robert Talarico, Smith conveyed the city’s okay a few days later, including for an immediate test box on The Boulevard at the steps to Upper Roslyn, which was put in place and photographed for the city. In the last year and a half, it has never been an issue.
- When the current postal strike loomed, I asked Talarico by email on October 24 for permission for nine additional sites, **including one at the Oakland entrance to Summit Woods**. This email **included photographs of all the sites**. See the Summit Woods photo on p. 11. On an October 28 phone call, Talarico told me “yes.”
- I asked Talarico for two additional sites by email on November 14. The next day, Talarico attempted to rescind permission for all the sites.
- Over the November 16-17 weekend, I argued my case with Mayor Smith. On the Monday, November 18, the city’s chief unelected employee, director general Julie Mandeville, wrote to say that the city would relent, but that we had to remove the Summit Woods box “immediately.”
- I asked why in an immediate reply email, but received no response. Let me be clear: I had conveyed to Mandeville and Mayor Smith that I was always ready to move a box if it was in the way of some city operation, e.g. snow ploughs.
- I was informed of the absence of the Summit Woods box on November 26 by our private distributor. I asked the city on November 28 if it had removed the box and Mandeville replied the same day that it had. The city offered to drop it by our office or have us pick it up. I chose the first option, and the city delivered the box. – DP

What are readers saying?

Thank you to everyone who has already written in to support us on this topic. Letters coming next issue!

If you haven’t written and have something to say, please write. – DP.

For most of the correspondence in this dispute, see November 26 Supplement on our webpage at www.westmountindependent.com

Summit Park users make box their own



Before its removal by the city (see story at right), someone had begun to leave books – presumably for free pick-up – in the *Independent's* Summit Woods newspaper box. “I liked the idea and asked our private distributor to leave the books in place,” said editor David Price.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

News

City removes *Indie* newspaper box from Summit Woods

The city cut its securing chain and removed the *Independent's* newspaper box from the Oakland Ave. entrance to Summit Woods sometime between November 24 and 26.

City director general Julie Mandeville had objected to the box by email on November 18 even as eight others were re-approved, saying “It has been decided to allow the boxes to remain in place until the end of the [postal] strike, with the exception of those at Summit Woods, that would need to be removed immediately.”

Editor David Price had asked right after: “What is wrong with the one at Summit Woods? Can it be moved slightly?” but his email was not replied to.

When Price realized the box was gone,

he asked Mandeville on November 28 if the city had moved it. Mandeville said yes and offered to drop it by the *Independent's* office building, which city workers did hours later the same day.

For more detail on this story, see the editorial at left and last week, p. 4.

Please write

If these issues and questions concern you, please write to us for publication.

My email address is editor@westmountindependent.com.

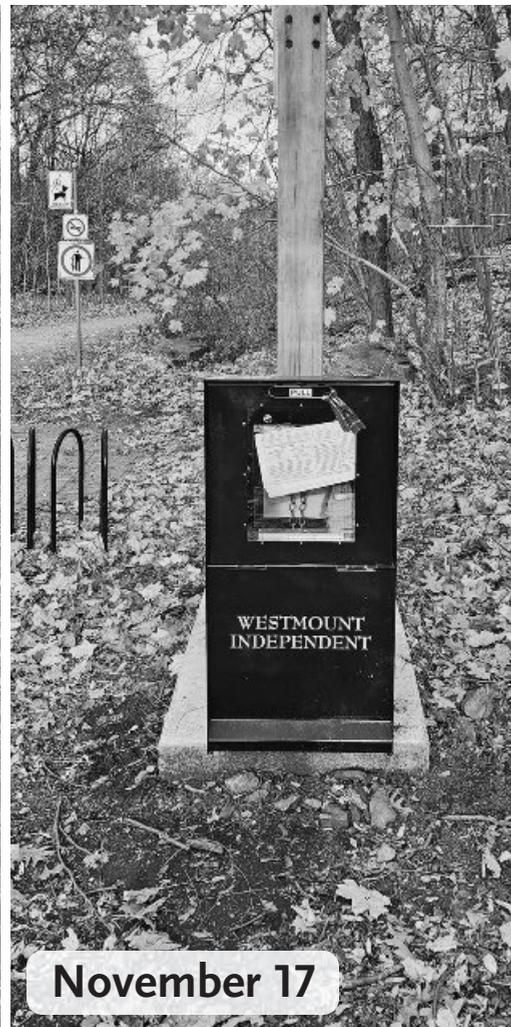
Thanks again to everyone who has already written in. – DP.

Appendix to editorial

What was agreed to, done by *Independent*, done by city



October 24



November 17



November 27

From left, the photo that *Independent* editor David Price sent to Westmount Public Works director Robert Talarico on October 24 for him to approve the site in Summit Woods (which Talarico did on October 28), a newspaper box in that exact place on November 17 and the now-empty site on November 27 after the city removed the box.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Westmount's budget meeting planned for Dec. 16

City's aggro share up 3%, cost of protests 'staggering': mayor

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's payment for island-wide agglomeration services in 2025 is expected to rise to \$70,526,200, an increase of three percent in its aggro share (*quote-part*), according to Montreal's agglomeration budget presented last week. These island-wide services include fire, police and transit.

The city, however, "is not surprised by

the three-percent increase in the aggro *quote-part*," Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* last week.

"The cost of the [pro-Palestine] protests is staggering. The increased costs for public transit are also very concerning; the security costs and infrastructure upgrades are very high. Montreal, like all cities, is facing a significant challenge [and] needs to deal with services and infrastructure investments that far exceed their budgets."

She explained that "While we understand the pressure of increased demands for services, we continue to be concerned with the lack of consultation (by the agglomeration) with the demerged cities. We will see increasing costs this year and for the years to come in public security and public transit."

Westmount's own operating budget for 2025 is to be tabled for adoption at a special budget meeting December 16 at 7 pm.

In the 2025 agglomeration table for the overall shares of the 15 demerged municipalities, Westmount's percentage increase is one of the lowest. It compares with Town of Mount Royal at 3.3 percent, and, at the higher end, Pointe Claire at 6.2 percent.

Manoir Westmount's bazaar raises \$3,200 for local charities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The annual bazaar held by Manoir Westmount November 22 raised more than \$3,200 to be distributed among local charities, according to Simona Buth, leisure department supervisor.

This is the seniors' residence's biggest volunteer initiative, consisting mainly of residents from the handicrafts group who work throughout the year on handmade creations that include knitted/crocheted items and seasonal crafts. "It's the residents' way of giving back to the community and a true labour of love," Buth said.

She also extended thanks to the Westmount community and for bazaar contributions from residents, friends, family members, staff "and some of our sponsors: Metro Westmount, Dominique Voyer Pharmaprix and Westmount Florist." The sale included a raffle as well as tables offering baked goods, plants, rummage and jewellery.

► Simona Buth, Manoir Westmount's leisure department supervisor, sets up items for sale at its annual bazaar November 22.



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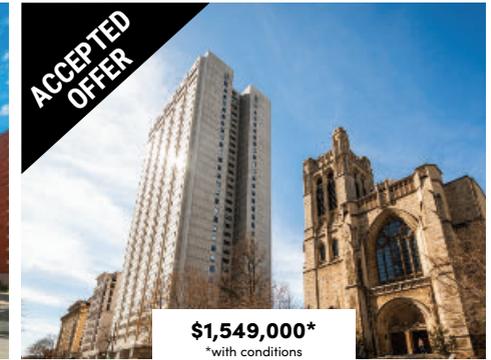
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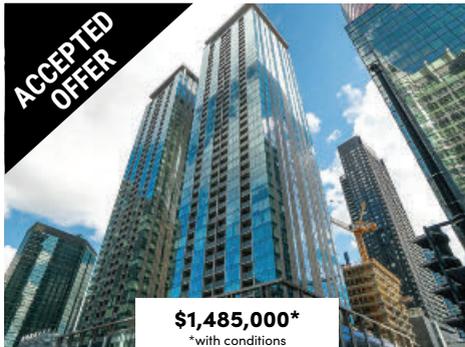
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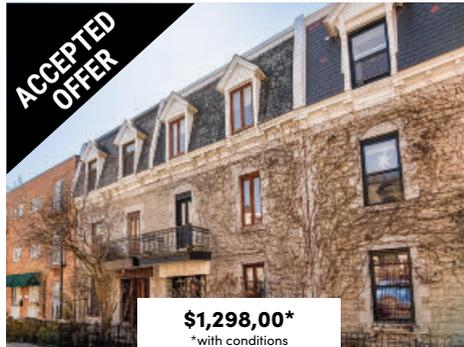
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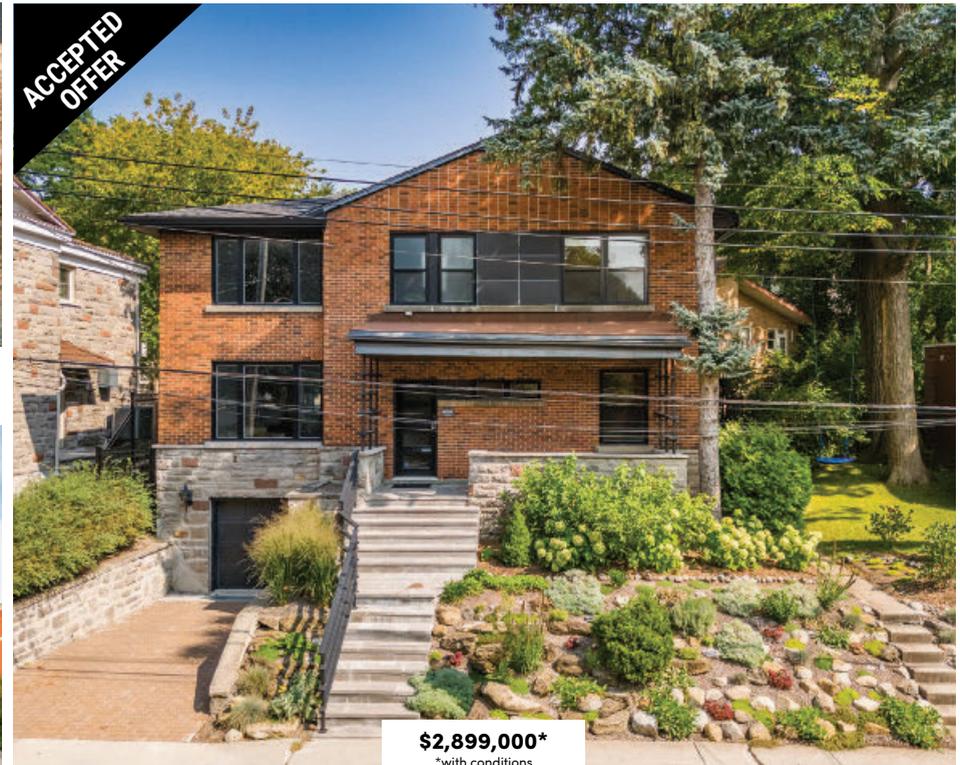
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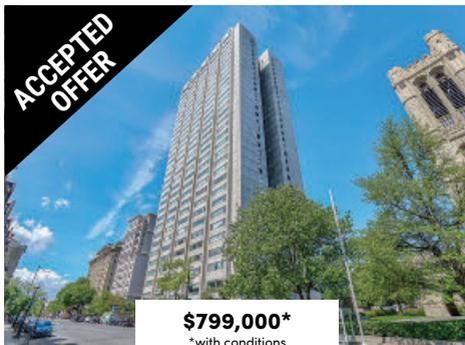
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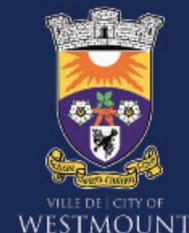
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2024.12.3 Vol.5/24



NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL **Lundi 16 décembre**

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING **Monday, December 16**



Bureaux municipaux fermés du 24 décembre au 2 janvier

Les membres du Conseil et de l'administration de Westmount vous souhaitent de joyeuses fêtes en santé et en sécurité. Au plaisir de vous servir en 2025.



Municipal offices closed December 24 to January 2

The members of Westmount's City Council and administration wish you a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to serving you in 2025.

Fête de la Hanoukka

Lundi 16 décembre, 17 h, hôtel de ville. Une célébration communautaire de la fête des lumières, avec l'illumination de chandelles et une réception. Bienvenue à tous et à toutes. westmount.org.

Carte d'accès aux installations 2025

Obtenez votre carte 2025 en personne ou via le formulaire en ligne. Deux preuves de résidence sont exigées. westmount.org/carte

Emplois d'été 2025

Vous pouvez postuler dès maintenant pour un emploi d'été à la Ville de Westmount. La date limite pour soumettre une candidature est le 31 janvier. westmount.org/emploisdete

Collecte des arbres de Noël

Les semaines du 6 et du 13 janvier (selon les conditions météorologiques). Placez votre sapin en bordure de rue le jour de votre collecte de résidus verts. westmount.org/residusverts

Fermeture temporaire des patinoires du Centre des loisirs de Westmount

Du 9 décembre 2024 au 3 janvier 2025, les deux patinoires du Centre des loisirs seront fermées afin de remplacer la tour de refroidissement du système de réfrigération. westmount.org

Horaires des collectes pour les fêtes

Les collectes de recyclage du mercredi **seront remises au vendredi 27 décembre et vendredi 3 janvier**. Rappel : la collecte des ordures se fait aux 2 semaines entre le 1^{er} octobre et le 30 avril pour les maisons unifamiliales et les immeubles de 2 à 8 unités. westmount.org/ordures

Déneigement et stationnement de rue

Portez attention aux interdictions temporaires de stationnement pendant les opérations de chargement de neige. Les voitures en infraction seront remorquées. westmount.org/deneigement

Chanukah celebration

Monday, December 16, 5 p.m., City Hall. A community celebration of this festival of lights, with a candle lighting and reception. Everyone is welcome to attend. westmount.org

2025 Facility Membership Card

Request your 2025 card in person or via the online form. Two proofs of residence are required. westmount.org/card

Summer employment 2025

Applications are now open for summer jobs at the City of Westmount. The deadline for submitting an application is January 31. westmount.org/summerjobs

Christmas tree collection

Weeks of January 6 and 13 (weather permitting). Place your tree street side the same day as your green waste collection. westmount.org/greenwaste

Temporary closure of the rinks at the Westmount Recreation Centre

From December 9, 2024, to January 3, 2025, the two ice rinks at the Westmount Recreation Centre will be closed to replace the refrigeration system cooling tower. westmount.org

Holiday collection schedules

The Wednesday recycling collection **will be moved to Friday, December 27, and Friday, January 3**. Reminder: garbage collection is every 2 weeks from October 1 to April 30 for single-family homes and buildings with 2 to 8 units. westmount.org/garbage

Snow clearing and street parking

Watch for signage indicating temporary parking restrictions during snow loading operations. Cars that interfere with snow removal will be towed. westmount.org/snowremoval

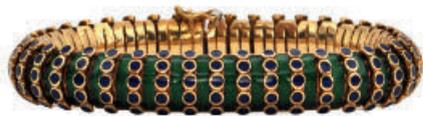
HORAIRE DES FÊTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE	L / M 23	M / T 24	M / W 25	J / T 26	V / F 27	S / S 28	D / S 29	L / M 30	M / T 31	M / W 1	J / T 2	V / F 3
BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES	8 h 30 - 16 30	- - - - - bureaux fermés du 24 décembre au 2 janvier - - - - - offices closed from December 24 to January 2 - - - - -										8 h 30 - 16 h 30
BIBLIOTHÈQUE PUBLIQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY	10 h - 21 h	fermée du 24 au 26 décembre closed from December 24 to 26			10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	fermée du 31 décembre au 2 janvier closed from December 31 to January 2			10 h - 21 h
VICTORIA HALL	- - - - - Victoria Hall fermé du 21 décembre au 5 janvier - - - - - Victoria Hall closed from December 21 to January 5 - - - - -											
CONSERVATOIRE CONSERVATORY	10 h - 21 h	fermé du 24 au 26 décembre closed from December 24 to 26			10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	fermé du 31 décembre au 2 janvier closed from December 31 to January 2			10 h - 21 h
POLICE : PDQ 12 - STATION 12	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 16 h	9 h - 19 h	9 h - 19 h
SERVICES DE COLLECTE RÉSIDENTIELLES RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION SERVICES	résidus alimentaires food waste	résidus alimentaires food waste		ordures ménagère household garbage	ordures ménagère household garbage recyclage recycling			résidus alimentaires food waste	résidus alimentaires food waste		ordures - bâtiments de 9 unités et plus SEULEMENT garbage - buildings of 9 units or more ONLY recyclage recycling	ordures - bâtiments de 9 unités et plus SEULEMENT garbage - buildings of 9 units or more ONLY recyclage recycling

Pull-out section

Holiday Gift Guide 2024

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

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Classic holiday films the whole family can enjoy

Celebrants owe the joy of the holiday season to various components. Décor and gift-giving go a long way toward making December a joyous time of year. Holiday films also do their part to make the season so special.

Many people have their own favourite holiday films, and the following are some that can engage viewers who are young or simply young at heart.

“A Christmas Story”

Released in 1983, this warmly nostalgic, humorous film is a perennial favourite among families. It follows the story of Ralphie, who has his heart set on a very specific Christmas present: a Red Rider BB gun. Amidst wintry exploits and family drama, the true spirit of Christmas manages to shine through in this beloved film. Some of the subject matter can be off-colour, and there are some bullying scenes. So this is a movie best watched with children who are mature enough to make it through without being scared.

“Little Women”

Based on the Louisa May Alcott novel of the same name, the 1994 telling of this

classic follows the March sisters, who confront financial difficulties, romance and family tragedies in mid-nineteenth century Massachusetts. While it’s not a traditional Christmas movie, the importance of spending time with family around Christmastime is a core theme in this coming-of-age tale.

“Klaus”

Perhaps not as well-known as other animated holiday flicks, “Klaus,” released in 2019, has a personality all its own. Postman Jesper, who is not making the grade at the postal academy, is sent to work in a frozen town in the North, where he discovers a reclusive toy maker named Klaus. The unlikely duo ultimately team up to make and deliver toys and bring smiles to children’s faces.

“Meet Me In St. Louis”

Starring the irreplaceable Judy Garland, this movie musical focuses on four sisters who are awaiting the 1904 World’s Fair in their hometown, but learn that their father has accepted a new job and the family must move to New York beforehand. A Christmas miracle occurs and all is right in the end.



Garland sings a memorable version of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” in the film, solidifying this as a holiday classic.

“The Santa Clause”

This Disney film came out in 1994 and remains a family favourite. When divorced dad Scott (Tim Allen) accidentally kills a man in a Santa suit, he magically becomes the next Santa. He must learn to cope with the ways the transformation to the man in red interrupts his normal life, eventually giving over to the magic of Christmas.

“Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas”

Though this 1977 Jim Henson production is a television special and not a full-length feature film, Generation X likely remembers the heartfelt tale of a poor otter family who sacrifice prized possessions to have what’s needed to enter a talent contest.

The goal is to win the prize money to buy special Christmas presents. Audiences get to enjoy narration by Kermit the Frog.

Films are a popular component that help to make the holiday season so special. – MCG

Collange

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*Happy
Holidays*

CHRISTINE

Get more rest while holiday traveling

The holiday season is a time of year when there never seems to be enough hours in the day. Calendars are jam-packed with all sort of activities from the moment Thanksgiving arrives until revellers scream “Happy New Year!” Travel also is a common component of the holiday season, as millions cross time zones in order to see loved ones each December.

Rest does not always come easy while away from home. A number of factors can contribute to this inability to settle.

“In an unfamiliar place, our brains become instinctively more alert, increasing adrenaline to keep us awake and ready to defend ourselves or our loved ones,” says Martin Seeley, CEO of Mattress Next Day in the United Kingdom. This “fight” response may be even stronger when travelling with family.

People have a lot on their minds and tasks to get done in a short period of time during the holiday season. It can be challenging to wind down and find rest when one is so frequently on the move.

It is possible to get more rest for those

who plan accordingly. Here are some tips for getting some relief while travelling for the holidays.

- Bring familiar items from home. It is not just children who can benefit from some comforting items from home. Adults also can enjoy the benefits of familiar pillows and blankets, for example. Aromas are strongly associated with familiarity and triggering memories. So a pillowcase that smells like a home laundry detergent can trigger the body to relax.
- Utilize noise-cancelling earplugs/headphones. Unfamiliar noises can interrupt rest and sleep. Using noise-cancelling products or listening to white noise while settling down to rest can induce sleep.
- Follow the two-day rule. Johns Hopkins Medicine recommends those who will be staying somewhere for fewer than two days to try to keep to a typical schedule. By the time your body adapts to a different schedule, it will be time to come home again.
- Don't overfill your schedule. It's

.....
continued on p. GG-4



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Holiday rest, cont'd from p. GG-3

tempting to try and do too much during holiday visits, but jamming your schedule could lead to additional fatigue. That could translate into not enjoying yourself as much as possible because you're simply too tired.

- Avoid too much alcohol. Some people indulge a bit too much while celebrating the holidays. Although alcohol initially can make you feel sleepy, it leads to poor sleep quality that eventually can wake you up in the middle of the night or contribute to a restless few hours of sleep. Limit drinking, particularly late at night.
- Put electronics away. Lauri Leadly, a sleep educator at Valley Sleep Center

in Arizona, says the blue light emitted from many digital devices can disrupt the circadian rhythm in your body that regulates sleep and wake. When the sun begins to set, turn off devices and stick to darker rooms to begin to set the body up for rest. This is a great time to gather in a room filled with firelight or candlelight.

- Move your body. Be active during the day even when you are travelling for the holidays. Physical exertion is good for the mind and the body, and may help you get better rest each night.

Resting while traveling during the holiday season may not be so easy. But some simple strategies can increase the chances holiday travellers get adequate rest while away from home. – MCG



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Happy Holidays to All Our Customers and Friends

Get a head start on New Year's resolutions

After the rush of the holiday season has largely ended, and the excess of the season starts to weigh on celebrants' minds, it is customary for many people to start thinking about the changes they want to implement in the new year. According to a Pew Research Center survey of United States adults conducted in January 2024, 30 percent of people reported making at least one resolution, with half of this group making more than one. The survey also found that young adults are the most likely to make New Year's resolutions, with 49 percent of those between the ages 18 and 29 saying they have made a resolution.

It's never too early to start thinking about what to improve upon in 2025, or which goals to set. Here are some common resolutions and how to implement them.

- **Exercise more.** Getting in shape is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions every year. Gym memberships spike and people often invest in home exercise equipment around this time of year. According to the American College of Sports Medicine, wearable technology continues to be a top trend in fitness and has been a

mainstay since 2016. While Fitbit and the Apple Watch series have remained strong contenders, one also may want to invest in the Garmin Vivomove, which boasts wireless charging. Tracking fitness goals can keep those resolutions going strong.

- **Improve mental well-being.** Getting in shape is not the only health-related goal this time of year. Mental health also comes into play when people make their resolutions. Taking opportunities to slow down and be more mindful can help. One way to do so is through journaling. Human behaviour expert and author Natalie Friscia Pancetti, says journaling reduces stress, helps with anxiety, encourages confidence, and can improve perceptions. This is why she developed a journal with inspirational writing prompts as a companion to her "This Too" book and planner.
- **Quit smoking.** Quitting smoking is a worthy goal. Health care experts know smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer and has been linked to more than 27 diseases. Many people want to quit smoking, but the Mayo Clinic says only about 5 percent of

people who try to quit succeed without a smoking cessation product. Nicotine replacement items are some of the most popular smoking cessation tools. For those who want to go drug-free, Füm is a device that addresses the three major components of habit formation that occur with smoking. Employing flavoured air, the device replaces the fixation of the hand-to-mouth habit with non-addictive plant extracts that are inhaled, simulating smoking without the negative effects.

- **Learn a new language.** Learning a new skill or language is another popular resolution. Today there are many apps available to help people learn one or more new languages. From Duolingo to Babbel to Memrise, there are programs available whether one is a visual learner or wants to jump right into specific phrases.

Many people get a jump-start on identifying their resolutions so they'll be ready to move forward come New Year's Day. – MCG




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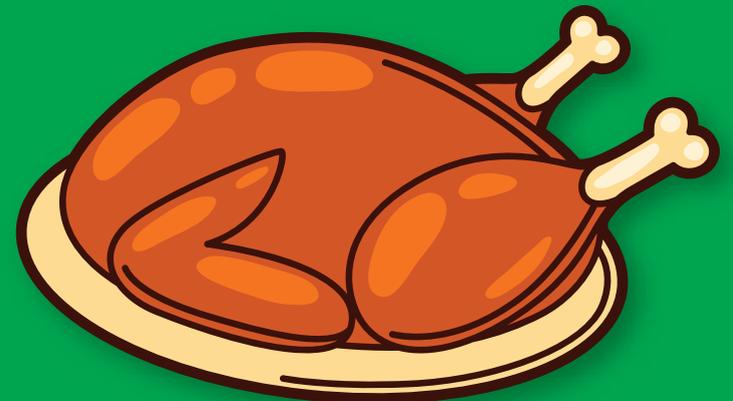
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Fun ways to make Christmas Eve even more special for kids

Parents know that nothing quite matches the excitement young children feel on Christmas Eve. On the day before Christmas, youngsters anxiously anticipate the arrival of Santa Claus that evening, and are perhaps even more excited by the prospects of the following morning, when they'll race into the living room and discover all that the jolly old elf left behind.

Christmas Eve seems to have some built-in magical components, but there are a handful of ways parents can make the day even more special for children.

- Track the big guy's movements online. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and its predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD), have tracked Santa's Christmas Eve flight for more than 60 years. Beginning on

Christmas Eve, families can track Santa's movements across the globe at Noradsanta.org. Kids can visit the site to see where Santa is at any given moment on Christmas Eve, growing more excited as the big fella gets closer and closer to their own region.

- Create a Christmas Eve craft. Gather children and their cousins and/or friends to create a special Christmas Eve craft or decoration that can be displayed next year. This is a great way to channel youngsters' nervous Christmas Eve energy into something productive, and it can make for a great tradition families can continue even after kids are grown.
- Watch a favourite Christmas movie. Hollywood has never shied away from holiday fare, so there's no shortage of festive films to enjoy with youngsters on Christmas Eve. Enjoy a classic like the 1947 film "Miracle on 34th Street" starring Natalie Wood as the adorable "Susan Walker" and Edmund Gwenn as "Kris Kringle," or go with something more recent, such as "The Grinch," the 2018 adaptation of the Dr. Seuss book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.
- Take a nighttime stroll or drive to see the lights. Lighting displays are another component that makes the holiday season so special. After Christmas Eve dinner, take a stroll through your neighbourhood to see the lighting displays or climb into the car to take in a different neighbourhood's offerings if you're already familiar with those in your own neck of the woods.

Christmas Eve is a magical day for youngsters and their parents. Some simple ideas can make the day even more meaningful for children and their families. – MCG



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Boxing Day traditions

The holiday season is filled with activities and steeped in tradition. The magic does not end when Christmas or Hanukkah have come and gone. While people mark off the days until they can count down the hours on New Year's Eve, another event between Christmas Day and December 31 merits attention as well.

Boxing Day is celebrated here and in Great Britain and British Commonwealth nations like Australia and New Zealand. The holiday originated in the United Kingdom but other European nations have since embraced it. Boxing Day coincides with the Christian holiday St. Stephen's Day, which is considered the second day of Christmas. St. Stephen was a deacon the apostles ordained to take care of widows and the indigent.

Boxing Day dates back to 1871, according to *Love to Know*, and came about as a custom for tradesmen and women to collect "Christmas boxes" of money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas in exchange for good service throughout the year. Many workers, particularly household servants, had to work on Christmas Day, so Boxing Day provided an opportunity for them

to visit with their own families. The workers took home boxes filled with foods and other gifts. Federally here, in Ontario and in the U.K., Boxing Day is a government-mandated holiday. If it falls on a weekend, then the holiday will be observed on the following Monday. Schools and many organizations are



closed on this day. Stores tend to be open, as Boxing Day sales are popular.

As with most events, Boxing Day features some notable customs:

- Workers, especially those in service positions, are honoured. It's customary to give a financial gift to people who provide services throughout the year.

This includes mail carriers, sanitation workers, hair stylists and others.

- Contribute to the less fortunate. People often donate food to local food banks and support charities.
- Watch or attend sporting events. Boxing Day also is marked by sporting events like horse racing and football, with the U.K. often hosting a full day of Premier League games.
- Take a chilly swim. Some individuals enjoy participating in Polar Plunges to raise money for charities. One annual event features people jumping into the English Channel, and similar plunges are held elsewhere.
- Head to the stores. Boxing Day is similar to Black Friday in the United States. Boxing Day is filled with slashed prices and bargains for shoppers who are eager to spend holiday gift cards.
- Meet up with friends and families. On Boxing Day, friends frequently get together to socialize and go out for dinner or drinks.

Boxing Day is celebrated the day after Christmas and provides a chance to continue the merriment of the holiday season. – MCG

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Tips to simplify holiday cooking

Food is an important component of the holiday season for millions of people across the globe. Many a holiday host has wrestled with what to serve for their gathering and how to prepare meals while still finding time to spend with loved ones. Sometimes simplicity is the way to go when hosting for the holidays. Just because certain dishes are less labour-intensive to prepare does not mean they lack flavour. Hosts can consider these tips to simplify holiday cooking this year.

- Utilize shop-from-home services. Supermarkets can be particularly busy this time of year. By shopping from the comfort of home, holiday hosts can sort through their lists and let someone else navigate crowded store aisles. The small fee involved for this service can be well worth the time saved.
- Scale back the sides. Some hosts feel an impressive dinner spread is one with plenty of options. Several side dishes requires a lot of time and money, and such foods may take away from the star of the table. Guests might fill up on rolls, potatoes and salads, leaving little room for the main

course. Scaling back on sides creates more time for hosts to mingle with family and ensures everyone gets their fill of the main course.

- Delegate some of the work. Asking guests to bring a little something to the meal doesn't immediately turn it into a potluck. However, it can reduce some of the work the host has to do. Figure out who is bound to be an early arrival, and ask that person to bring an appetizer. Individuals who like to be fashionably late can bring side dishes or desserts. Delegating beverage detail also can be a time-saver.
- Familiar is often fabulous. A major holiday is seldom the right time to experiment with a new, labour-intensive dish. Rather than risk an epic fail, hosts should stick to meals they have prepared before. Also, familiar flavours may appeal to a greater number of guests.
- Include some prepared foods. While it is perfectly all right to cater the entire dinner, that can prove costly. If the budget doesn't allow for a fully catered meal, supplement with some prepared dishes to help save time, particularly those recipes that can be complicated.



- Make it a buffet. Sit-down dinners require careful timing to ensure all foods are set out hot and ready-to-eat. A buffet-style meal involves preparing trays of food in advance, and then setting them to heat in chafing dishes until meal time. This involves far less

strategizing with meal preparation and frees up time for hosts to spend with guests.

Holiday meals require a lot of effort, but some handy suggestions can ensure hosts have ample time to spend with loved ones. – MCG

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Police Report

Burglars steal \$200,000 in valuables from de Ramezay condo

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. were contending with a significant surge of criminal activity in the last two weeks, including two major burglaries and nearly a half-dozen car thefts.

Sometime between 7 and 8:30 pm on November 23, a condominium located on de Ramezay Ave. in Westmount was broken into and robbed of valuables estimated by the owners with a value of \$200,000.

According to an inventory of stolen property they furnished to the police, the perpetrators got away with jewellery as well as valuable documents that were being stored in a household safe located in the master bedroom.

The owners only learned of the theft when they were contacted the day after by an individual (possibly a neighbour), informing them that a rear door appeared broken and was ajar. Rooms in the dwelling were turned upside down by the thieves searching for valuables.

Station 12 spokesperson Cst. Emmanuel Provencher said technicians from the

Montreal police dept.'s forensics investigations unit were called in to locate fingerprints and other possible clues.

It wasn't clear whether the owners were equipped with an alarm system, although there was no mention of one in the incident report.

Contractor's equipment stolen

The day before, a theft committed at a property in lower Westmount saw a construction contractor lose an estimated \$10,000 worth of work equipment.

According to Cst. Provencher, the contractor was carrying out extensive work at a house on Olivier Ave.

Although the main entrance door was secured with a padlock, a worker arriving on the morning of November 22 filed a report with the police, saying the lock had been broken and was no longer in place.

As there were no security cameras at or near the work site, the investigators have no leads, Provencher added.

Toyota not stolen

During the early morning hours on November 22, an attempt was made to

steal a Toyota Land Cruiser parked on Upper Belmont in upper Westmount, although the perpetrator failed to pull it off.

The vehicle's quick-thinking owner spotted the attempted theft as it was under way but the would-be thief made good his escape, according to Cst. Provencher.

However, the suspect left behind one of the tools of his trade – a crowbar – which was handed over to forensics for fingerprint analysis.

As the suspect was believed to still be in the vicinity shortly after fleeing, an all-points bulletin was sent out to police cruisers, although nothing came of it, according to the police report.

Running Kia stolen

Later on that same day, another car theft was committed in Westmount, although it was probably the work of a "joyrider" spontaneously taking advantage of an opportunity.

Around 8:30 pm on November 22, a Kia Rio that was parked while running and unlocked outside 4557 Sherbrooke St. across the street from Westmount Park

was stolen.

According to Provencher, the vehicle belonged to a fast-food delivery driver.

Two cars stolen from one lot

On November 24, car thieves struck twice in a parking lot located behind an apartment building on Clarke Ave. between Sherbrooke St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Sometime over the course of the day, a Jaguar F-Pace crossover SUV and a Range Rover luxury SUV, owned by separate owners, were stolen.

It was early evening by the time they became aware the vehicles were missing, said Cst. Provencher.

He said there were no witnesses, no security camera images or signs of forced entry such as broken window glass left behind on the ground.

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.

email us at:

editor@westmountindependent.com



VILLE DE | CITY OF
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ADOPTION DU BUDGET 2025

AVIS PUBLIC est donné que:

1° le budget de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2025 sera déposé pour adoption au cours d'une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal qui se tiendra le lundi 16 décembre 2024, à 19 h dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount; et

2° lors de cette séance, les délibérations du conseil et la période de questions porteront exclusivement sur le budget.

FAIT à Westmount, le 3 décembre 2024.

ADOPTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET

NOTICE is given that:

1. The budget of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 2025 will be tabled for adoption at a special sitting of the Municipal Council to be held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount; and

2. At said special sitting, the Council deliberations and the question period shall deal exclusively with the budget.

GIVEN at Westmount, on December 3, 2024.

Me Paule Geoffroy-Béliveau
Greffière adjointe de la ville / Assistant City Clerk

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Cycling consultation, cont'd from p. 1

- by the city had these project objectives:
- Provide a safe, connected and user-friendly network for all types of riders,
 - Create a connected cycling network that encourages both utilitarian and recreational cycling,
 - Increase bicycle use for short trips,
 - Offer a coordinated vision with the Greater Montreal cycling network, and be eligible for subsidies for the development of cycling infrastructure,
 - Promote and encourage the use of bicycles as an active and eco-responsible mode of transportation,
 - Determine an implementation and deployment strategy,
 - Develop a decision-making tool.

The public consultation included a series of participatory exercises. Participants reviewed the types of existing cycling facilities in Westmount and marked up a map of the city showing how they could and should be improved.

The first exercise was to consider modifications to the existing infrastructure – at intersections and between intersections – that could make cycling safer. The group that the *Independent* observed at work gave much thought to Westmount’s unique and hilly topography when considering changes.

‘Bike Plan’ coming

The city of Westmount is developing its “2025 Bike Plan” in collaboration with Vélo Québec.

Antoine Hébert Maher from the non-profit was on site to explain the five types of existing cycle facilities in Montreal and Westmount that participants could choose from for the exercise.

- They were:
- “Designated roadway” – example: Côte St. Antoine in Westmount,
 - “One-way cycle lane with delineator” – example: Glen Rd. in St. Henri (and

- Westmount),
- “Two-way cycle lane on street, with delineators” – example: de Maisonneuve Blvd. in Westmount,
- “Cycle lane” – example: Côte St. Antoine in Westmount,
- “Multipurpose path” – Parc de l’Hôtel de Ville in Old Montreal.

He presented this information in French, and it was translated using DeepL translator.

Using these five categories, participants could propose changes for an optimal cycling circuit.

Step 2: Ancillary infrastructure

The second exercise involved a marked-up map of Westmount indicating where better lighting, additional Bixi stands and additional bike stands should go.

Baked into this exercise was the anticipation that a greater demand for these three components will be needed since “promotion and encouragement of the use of bicycles as an active and eco-responsible mode of transportation” is a goal of the city.

Anitra Bostock, councillor for District 5; commissioner of public works, accessibility and mobility; and lead member of the Transportation Advisory Committee, said, “This plan aligns with our commitment to promoting stable and active transportation options.”

City councillor Matt Aronson, of District 7, is city commissioner for climate and sustainability, for economic development and for citizen engagement. He said, “Our vision at the city of Westmount is to create an environment in Westmount that is bike friendly..

“Not necessarily bike dependent but bike friendly..

“... this plan is a step towards realizing that ambition and what we really want to do is listen..

“We are here to gather your opinions



Residents at work at a public consultation meeting at Victoria Hall November 21.

and your perspectives to get this right.”

Next steps

Tom Flies, senior director in the projects and land management office at the city, briefly explained next steps.

“The information will all be [considered] and then a plan will be drafted. It will then be [delivered] to council. It will

also be published, and it will be adopted by council if it is deemed acceptable..

“...We will have this plan as a road map for future capital works and we will integrate the different strategic aspects that we want to work on..

“The different improvements will also be recommended in the plan, and they will be [gradually executed] over the next few years.”

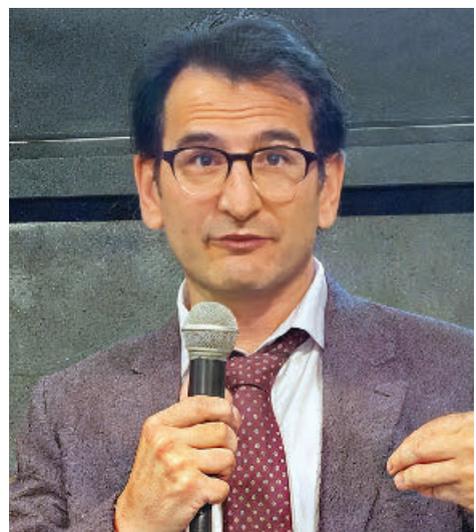
St. Andrew’s holds intergenerational get-togethers at 2 seniors’ centres



St. Andrew’s pre-school on Hillside Ave. held an intergenerational get-together with nearby seniors at the St. Margaret’s centre on October 29. Two days later, the children visited the also-nearby Place Kensington (not pictured). PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANDREW’S.



City councillor Anitra Bostock on November 21.



City councillor Matt Aronson on November 21.

The Two Sandras ... ruminates on birthdays

Birthdays range from unobserved to important milestones

BY SANDRA FELDMAN,
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

My husband Ron recently had a big birthday: He turned 90. This happy occasion led us to discuss what birthdays have meant to us in our lives.

My husband's omitted birthdays

For Ron, birthdays have been a strictly adult phenomenon. His immigrant parents emphasized Jewish holidays, not personal ones. When he was a child, his birthday wasn't even acknowledged, let alone celebrated.

For years, in fact, he and one of his brothers got their birthdays mixed up! It was only when his parents checked his birth certificate before his *bar mitzvah* that they realized the boys' dates had been switched.

My parents were younger and more modern-minded. Even so, I didn't have a birthday party until my Sweet Sixteen: a luncheon for girls at the exotic new Chinese restaurant Ruby Foo's.

Some of my classmates were luckier. I remember attending my first birthday party in grade 1. We sang, we ate sandwiches, we watched the birthday girl open her gifts – including coveted paper-doll books from Woolworth's – and we left with treats to take home.

Children's parties at Rose Bowl Lanes

Each of our three kids had similar parties every year. At first, these *fêtes* would be at our house, diligently recorded in home movies. They later migrated to venues like Rose Bowl Lanes, but the menus were mostly the same: hot dogs, pizza and, of course, cake. The kids would

leave with "loot bags" of trinkets and candy.

Ron and I celebrated our own birthdays less often, but we would mark each new decade in our lives with jovial *soirées*. We had witty friends, so these evenings included humorous poems, songs and tributes.

We understood what each 10-year marker would likely entail: 30 was adulthood, 40 was family, 50 was maturity; 60 was a wind-down, 70 was retirement and 80 was a gradual move to the exit.

But what does it mean to turn 90? We don't have a template for this one, and we look to the future with a mix of curiosity and dread. Yet Ron's birthday was observed with wonderful celebrations – a series of joyous gatherings with family and friends.

Birthdays for us now are less about what happens next than what we are lucky enough to have now. We are grateful to

have each other, and that we are still able to read, to think, to feel and to love. The future feels less pressing; the present is our birthday gift.

Everything else is just icing on the cake.

About the Sandras:

Retired Westmount High English teacher Sandra Hendlisz is a former Westmounter. Both Sandras attend the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

See February 16, 2021, p. 22, June 15, 2021, p. 18, October 26, 2021, p. 16, August 23, 2022 and May 7, 2024, p. 22 for their previous reminiscences.

Birthdays – apolitical, areligious, personal

BY SANDRA HENDLISZ,
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

As human beings, we often find joy in celebrating milestones. An example of this is celebrating birthdays. Many people use their birthdays to reflect on life and on past experiences and to look forward to the future.

Our birthdays are often an opportunity to express gratitude, acknowledge growth and change in ourselves. It is also an opportunity to see how we can improve aspects of ourselves in different areas. When we look back on the things we have done in the past years, our self-esteem can be improved and we can be imbued with purpose, meaning and hope.

We are at an age where we have friends in their 80s and 90s. It is amazing to witness how some of them have adapted to this change. Some have become anxious and worried about many things they never worried about in the past. Others have entered this phase of life with grace and dignity in their daily lives.

My walking partner is a lady about to turn 90 and she continues the habit of walking for two hours daily. She still maintains her lifelong passion for music and the arts. It is always hard to know if there is a genetic factor involved or it is simply behavioural.

Positive = more satisfied

I have a few friends who have reached 90 as a new and different time of life. My friends who have positive attitudes seem to be more satisfied with their lives. Exer-

cise and good social networks keep their minds active. Reading and different discussions, be they political or social, and a fascination with new technology and its impact on our lives occupy the thoughts of many people.

This year was a milestone birthday for my husband Jacques. He was 75 years old in September.

Jacques retired from his work as director of the Douglas Institute 12 years ago. His first response to being 75 was that in the 1880s it was rare to live that long. One accepted one's fate and so he feels very lucky to be alive today. Jacques' character is humorous and witty. He sees the best and the lighter side of any situation. He is entertaining and amusing. As well, he is optimistic and upbeat.

He takes pleasure in the events of his day-to-day life, which then become more stories for telling. His good spirit is recog-

nized by his two-year-old grandson, who is full of joy when Jacques comes into the room.

As well, Jacques is serious, compassionate, a great partner, a wonderful father and grandfather, a fabulous cook, a wine collector and obsessive about small and meaningless activities such as loading the dishwasher. He does not take himself too seriously. He is a caring friend.

To quote the Westmount writer Rita Pomade: "Birthdays are to celebrate our own time to be on this planet. One's birthday is the only holiday that is not religious or political, just personal."

► These big blue bins were photographed on York St. near Prince Albert November 29. They are the first of the city-provided 360-liter recycling containers that the *Independent* has seen.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BBBs arrive



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GUEST COLUMN

French not threatened – Language laws harm Quebec – Promote culture, not exodus

BY DAVID TAIT

In the era of the internet as the purveyor of news and of the emerging technologies in artificial intelligence, Canadians will be faced with the challenge of discerning what is factual news, both in content and in pictures.

My thesis today is that this threat is real and serious and I will try to demonstrate this with an example.

I would ask Canadians to question the news that they receive and research it so that they can rely on it.

I have submitted this opinion piece to both the *Globe & Mail* and *Montreal Gazette*; and most of these points of view to two French newspapers in Montreal (*Le Devoir* and *La Presse*); and some to a third French newspaper (*Journal de Montréal*). The only newspaper to publish my opinion pieces was the *Westmount Independent* (April 30, 2024, p. 16).

I am not, nor have I been, a member of any political party or any organization espousing political views. I am a very concerned Canadian as you will discern if you read on. But I speak for myself, as I do not know how many Quebecers share my views.

Gross misinformation in Quebec

I am a retired businessman and, having lived most of my life in Quebec, I would like to bring to your attention the truly remarkable use of misinformation in Quebec and how seemingly intelligent people have fallen for it.

Essentially the ultra-nationalists have been pounding and pounding the idea that “French is threatened in Quebec” and have used this as a reason to push and pass legislation at the provincial and federal levels that changes Canada’s constitution and that, I will argue, damages Quebec and Canada’s economy.

I will set out my point of view in three parts:

1. The threat to the French language in Quebec;
2. The promotion of Quebec culture within the province; and
3. The economic effects of language misinformation.

The threat to the French language in Quebec

Premier Legault and two of his ministers, Simon Jolin-Barette and Jean-François Roberge, have repeated the refrain that the French language is threatened in Quebec. A recently published book of essays,

“Le français en déclin? Repenser la francophonie Québécoise,” discusses this topic from many perspectives.

It is what I would call misinformation to call a language “threatened” when 94 percent of the provincial population speaks French and where the percentage of people in Montreal who can speak French has gone up to 90 percent (2021) from 80 percent in 1971.

And yet, under the guise of this “threat,” Bill 96 (Quebec) and Bill C-13 (Canada) were passed almost unanimously.

- Bill 96, an amendment to the Charter of the French Language, recognizes French as the sole common language in Quebec. It was passed unanimously in the *Assemblée Nationale*.
- Bill C-13, has essentially adopted parts of Bill 96 into the Canadian constitution. It was passed almost unanimously (except for one person) by the federal parliament.

More shamefully, if possible, three former Liberal premiers (Charest, Couillard and Daniel Johnson) joined three separatist former premiers (Marois, Bouchard and Jean-Marc Johnson) and used the premise that the French language was threatened to call for the strengthening of Bill 101 and for it to be applied to federal institutions in Quebec. Again, misinformation prevailed.

The promotion of Quebec culture

I feel not only that the French language in Quebec is far from threatened, but also that this is the wrong parameter to be concerned about. Of concern is the preservation and promotion of Quebec culture. The present and future dominance of American culture is a challenge to cultures around the world. If Quebec culture is supported, I would argue that the use of the French language in Quebec will be assured.

For the present time, Quebec culture is holding up well, as anyone who reads the Saturday edition of *Journal de Montréal* will attest. Every facet of the arts is humming.

However, as new generations are more and more exposed to American culture, it is important that the Quebec government put more resources into education and promoting Quebec culture.

This could involve, in conjunction with the various religious bodies in Quebec, the re-invention in the use of the churches, particularly those in small villages. They could be used partly for religious services and partly re-purposed to offer various arts

instruction (and also courses in new technologies). This would require major commitments to funding by the Quebec government.

To promote and protect the Quebec culture in the way described above will require huge amounts of funding. This should be a pre-occupation of the Quebec government, but its focus on misinforming everyone of the status of the French language is counterproductive in promoting Quebec culture. People and corporations are leaving and will leave Quebec to jurisdictions where they can live their lives and run their businesses as they choose.

The economic effects of language misinformation

This isn’t my conjecture: in Quebec we have the experience of the passing of language laws in 1971 that culminated in Bill 101. While it led to some worthwhile but-tressing of the French language, it came at a huge economic cost to Quebec:

1. Between 1971 and 2015, Quebec had a net out-migration of 582,470 people (Source: Interprovincial Migration in Canada: Quebecers Vote with their Feet, Fraser Institute).
2. Quebec’s gross domestic product (GDP) as a percentage of the national total fell from 25 percent in 1971 to 20 percent in 2021 (Source: Statistics Canada).
3. Since 1971, Quebec has received well over \$200 billion in equalization payments as a “have-not” province. The number for 2024 will be in the \$14-billion range. These funds from the federal government are over and above the regular federal payments for such things as Old Age Security, unemployment insurance payments and various social programs.

Premier Legault has said many times that he would enact policies to reduce Quebec’s need for these equalization payments and lead Quebec to a “have” status. Instead, he has enacted Bill 96, which, I believe, will negatively affect the economy of Quebec and exacerbate the reliance on these payments.

All to say, to promote Quebec culture the Quebec government will need huge funding and, if history is any guide, its policy on language will be seriously detrimental to Quebec’s ability to do that.

Final thoughts and recommendations

My firm belief is that the Quebec government should focus on supporting econ-

omic growth rather than spreading misinformation about the French language that will lead to a further erosion in its tax base as more individual and companies “vote with their feet.”

And let history be our guide. In 1971, somewhat before the status of French became a hot political issue, Quebec relied on equalization grants of some \$430 million from the federal government. This equates to roughly \$3 billion in today’s dollars. This year, Quebec will receive some \$14 billion or five times what it received before the mass exodus of 580,000 people and hundreds of companies. Essentially, it can be argued that Quebec relies on high equalization payments to offset the loss of tax revenues from those persons and companies who have left Quebec.

Let me emphasize, Quebec cannot afford another such exodus.

My recommendations will follow a short personal story. My late brother, John Tait, was a very senior federal civil servant at the time of the repatriation of our constitution and the writing of our Charter of Rights. He was integrally involved in drafting these documents.

He and I discussed the inclusion of the infamous Notwithstanding Clause in the Charter of Rights, whereby legislatures could bypass certain of its provisions. John was concerned that it might be misused, but said that there was no consensus to pass the Charter of Rights without it. I remember him saying something to this effect, “We have to be confident that our future leaders will act in good faith and use it only in exceptional circumstances.”

The Quebec government used the Notwithstanding Clause to *unanimously* pass Bill 96. To a non-politician, this would seem to be a clear case of acting in bad faith, because if it was good legislation, it would not need the protection of the Notwithstanding Clause. Similarly, Bill C-13 at the federal level essentially acquiesces to Bill-96 by incorporating parts of Bill 96 into Bill C-13.

The legality of these laws is being taken to the Supreme Court of Canada. But they are in use today.

In a democracy, our only sure right to challenge/change bad laws is to exercise our voting rights to elect politicians who are in “good faith” and will correct these laws, passed largely on the misinformation that the French language is threatened in Quebec.

In Quebec, we have a very good example of the power of the people. During the 1980 referendum, a group of women led by Mme Louise Robic, a former provincial Liberal cabinet member, organized a rally *continued on p. 19*

4216 Dorchester's permit expires

New public consultation on same project hears little dissent

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 4-5 storey condo-type building that received permit approval by city council some two years ago returned to the public arena November 25 for a new public consultation meeting given its now-expired approval. This took place in the council chamber and online.

Because the proposed development for 4216 Dorchester, a vacant lot just west of Greene, deviated from city by-laws, it had

proceeded through the city's SCAOPI process, which now requires an updated review despite the lack of changes.

In presenting the current status, city Urban Planning director Frédéric Neault outlined a summary of ways in which the building deviated from by-laws that included maximum height in storeys, floor-to-area ratio and setback from Dorchester (see story Feb. 15, 2022, p. 1).

He described benefits available to the public "in perpetuity" from such a project

included benches and community garden boxes.

In respect to the new timing now that the public portion has been reactivated, Neault said the project's approval by council could come December 20 leading to permit approval "at the end of winter or in spring 2025."

District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez asked if the rooftop mechanical equipment would be encased, as she had previously done, to which Neault said "yes." This

would be to reduce noise and nuisance.

Former city councillor George Bowser, a resident of Columbia Ave., asked from the floor about hours of permitted use of nearby streets by construction trucks, he was told the city cannot regulate street use but can do so at construction sites.

Bowser further pointed out that many students use the lane behind the proposed worksite to travel back and forth, posing a potential safety issue of which workers needed to be aware.

At the end of these questions and none submitted online, the entire session was adjourned by Mayor Christina Smith just shy of 15 minutes.

.....
Guest column, cont'd from p. 18

at the [old] Montreal Forum to protest against an outrageous comment by one of the leaders of the "Yes" movement. The rally took the name of Yvette and 15,000 women showed up to throw their support behind remaining in Canada. The "No" side won the referendum by 60 percent to 40 percent, thanks in no small measure to these "Yvettes."

So again, we need new Yvettes and Yvons, and all fair-minded Quebecers of all political stripes, to stand up to misinformation and for anglos and allophones in Quebec.

My recommendations are to use our voting power to elect representatives who reflect and uphold our values and rights, and also who will curtail the use of the Notwithstanding Clause:

1. To all Quebecers: in the next election, do not vote for politicians who voted for Bill 96 by using the Notwithstanding Clause. Vote in new elected officials who will (1) repeal Bill 96 and (2) pledge to not use the Notwithstanding Clause except under prescribed circumstances (which we will leave to lawyers to set out);
2. Likewise for all Canadians: do not vote for politicians who voted for Bill C-13. Vote in new elected officials who will repeal this law and pledge to not use the Notwithstanding Clause except under prescribed circumstances;
3. To all fair-minded Quebecers: reject the "anglo-bashing" of the CAQ government as exemplified by the reduction in English-speakers' rights under Bill 96, by the diminishment of English-language CEGEPs and universities in Quebec, *et cetera*;
4. To all Quebecers: lead the way in rejecting the mis-use of the Notwithstanding Clause and thereby set an example to all Canadians; and
5. To all Quebecers: return to the linguistic harmony that existed before the election of the CAQ and passing of Bill 96.

David Tait lives in St. Marguerite.

Plan: 17 housing units

City issues construction permit for former St. Stephen's Church

BY JENNIFER BALL

A construction permit for the conversion and addition of volume to the existing building of the former St. Stephen's Church was issued by the city on October 30.

The former church – on Dorchester at Atwater whose civic address is 1 Weredale Park – saw changes to the exterior of the building shortly after the permit was issued. Wooden barriers went up to seal off the property. A total of 17 housing units will be added to this neighbourhood. (See

also October 22, p. SL-8.)

Mugisha Rutishisha, director of the Communications department at the city, provided a statement on November 25 confirming that the construction permit had been issued and he provided the date of the issuance as October 30.

Frédéric Neault, director of the Urban Planning department, clarified that the construction permit was issued to "Stanford Properties – Le Jardin Stephens Inc." The sale of the property to Stanford Properties took place in August 2017.

On October 7, Neault said: "In May 2022, the project was approved by council, but no permit was issued..."

When asked to confirm that the issued permit still had the same scope and that there were no amendments to it, Neault confirmed the issuance was "A construction permit for the conversion and addition of volume to the existing building. In the end, a total of 17 housing units will be added to this neighbourhood..."

"Same scope of work – no amendment," he affirmed.

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

August transfers: High prices, some extremes

trose house selling for 60.8 percent more than its municipal tax value, while the house on Elm, which apparently had been abandoned by its owner, was exchanged for 41.6 percent less than its \$1,499,400 valuation.

The list of nine sales in August, down from 10 in July and 18 in June, included several very strong prices, but of the five that sold for over \$3 million, only the Montrose house and one more on Sunnyside Ave. went for more than their respective valuations, helping to create an average mark-up of 6.9 percent, slightly below the 8.8-percent mark-up over valuation for the year so far.

Because there were so many high prices in August, the monthly average came to \$3,748,333, the fourth month to date this year that the average topped \$3 million.

Condos

Westmount's condominium market was alive and well in August too, as eight buyers signed deeds for apartments and flats ranging in price from \$1,950,000 at 215 Redfern Ave., down to \$524,000 for an apartment at 4215 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Two flats in the former triplexes on Claremont Ave. just north of Sherbrooke St. changed hands, one for \$685,000 and the other for \$600,000.

Only the 215 Redfern apartment sold below valuation.

Combining those sales with the three reported for July, the third quarter of 2024 – with September sales still to report – has an average price for condos of \$921,864 and an average mark-up over valuation of 13.6 percent. For the previous three months, that is, April through June, the average

price for nine sales was \$1,458,000, but the average mark-up was only 9.5 percent.

The city's most recent list of transfer taxes – from which the sales list is derived – also included three sales transacted in June and July, most notably the sale of No. 1 Malcolm Rd., the only address on that street, which is accessible only by way of Trafalgar Heights in the city of Montreal, which is accessible only by way of Belvedere Circle in Westmount. The mark-up on that property is 64.3 percent, even higher than the mark-up at 4302 Montrose Ave., and the \$5,990,000 declared for the house sale does not include another \$1,800,000 paid out for “extras” around the property, according to the deed of sale.

No commercial or multi-residential sales were included in the latest list of transfer taxes.



4302 Montrose, left, and 372 Elm on November 28.

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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in August

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
372 Elm	Sale by court (abandoned property) ¹	\$875,000	\$1,499,400	-41.6%
428 Elm	Torrance Ragueneau	\$1,860,000	\$1,700,400	9.4%
218 Metcalfe	Mathieu Chantelois & Marcelo Gomez Wiuckstern	\$2,305,000	\$1,818,900	26.7%
4302 Montrose	Sarah Mashaal	\$9,000,000	\$5,598,100	60.8%
322 Roslyn	Sylvia Oliver Ritchie Adams	\$1,745,000	\$2,011,600	-13.3%
579 Roslyn	Daniel Boudet de Montplaisir & Sandrine Tibau	\$4,550,000	\$4,769,000	-4.6%
64 Summit Crescent	Joelle Benchimol	\$4,400,000	\$5,675,000	-22.5%
74 Summit Crescent	estate Evelyn Taiger	\$3,500,000	\$3,984,300	-12.2%
56 Sunnyside	Kerrigan Turner	\$5,500,000	\$4,508,400	22.0%
CONDOMINIUMS				
432 Claremont	Roni Chahwan & Sara Caselgrandi	\$685,000	\$662,600	3.4%
434 Claremont	Flora Lee Wagner	\$600,000	\$595,700	0.7%
4215 de Maisonneuve #4	Rafael Tahan & Paolo de Michele	\$524,000	\$474,000	10.5%
4855 de Maisonneuve #204	Lorraine Faughnan	\$545,000	\$416,000	31.0%
215 Redfern #202	Bruno Charest & Lyne Ricord	\$1,950,000	\$1,994,600	-2.2%
4700 St. Catherine #311	Albert Elkaim & Lisane Cousineau	\$1,350,000	\$1,036,100	30.3%
205 Victoria #101	Menghui Ouyang	\$760,000	\$694,100	9.5%
1 Wood # 210	Gail Gelber	\$654,000	\$577,400	13.3%
EARLIER SALES				
4373 Montrose (June)	estate Derek Drummond	\$1,689,000	\$1,648,200	2.5%
1 Ramezay	estate Teresa Eberwein	\$2,900,000	\$2,420,300 ²	19.8%
1 Malcolm	Benoît Charron & Fiducie Charron	\$5,990,000	\$3,646,200 ³	64.3%

¹Court-ordered sale of abandoned property.

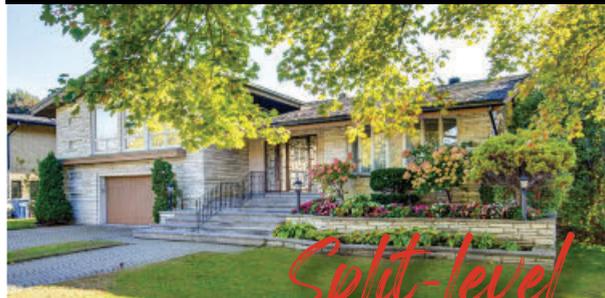
²Valuation is a combination of \$515,800 for the land and building in Westmount, \$1,904,500 for the kind and building in Montreal.

³Another \$1,800,000 is paid out for moveables in the property.

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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Pampered Pets owner Anna Maria Ranieri.

Warm coats in wonderful colours. Fun boots. Healthy snacks. But the seasonal choices aren't for us: they're for our furry friends.

Pampered Pets has been a go-to destination for over 20 years. Although dog owners are the main fans, cat lovers also pop by. Grooming is so busy the team is booked days in advance.

Owner **Anna Maria Ranieri** handles any "behaviour" challenges ("but we have very few"), as she is trained, and empathizes with the ones that are a bit worried about losing their seasonal manes.

The little shop seems huge as it offers a wide array of pet goodies. I loved the little booties – paw protectors against salty and gritty pavements.

"Some dogs don't mind them. For others, we offer styles that stay on better, and mukluks for larger dogs."

Tiny overcoats caught my eye. Chic covers for all sizes. And the animal snacks looked good enough for me to sample. (But I didn't!)

Bocce's Tumeric Latte ("good for inflammation") is one of many doggie delights offered. There was also Birthday Cake, Bone Broth, and Soft and Chunky.

During COVID, the Pampered Pets team was more than supportive of worried pet owners. Not only did they deliver ("I did it myself!") but offered curbside service, and supplied do-it-yourself grooming kits.

Formerly on Victoria Ave. (11 years), the shop celebrates 10 years on Sherbrooke near Claremont. While trying to set up my interview, I could never get through on the telephone, proof that the services are in full demand. However, leaving a message brought a quick response as the staff checks often.

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LYSANNE FOWLER

Young Kenzo

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As a very healthy young adult, Kenzo is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. For more information on him, please do not hesitate to go to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, referring to his information page by his identification number, 2000076160, and clicking on the “Fill out the form” black rectangle on the upper right-hand side of the page. You will then provide your contact information in order for the adoption coordinators to reach out to you in return and discuss your interest and adoption of Kenzo. A handsome and intelligent young fellow, he is a young companion who will fit in beautifully in your active routine.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

As a cute German shepherd-type puppy, there was a bit of a difficult time for Kenzo. Yes, adoption, and then – oops – a change of plans.

Now in foster care for the Montreal SPCA, that was the fate that Kenzo suffered as a young dog. So now it would be wonderful if a family in our neighbourhood would reach out to welcome him in their home. At a year and a bit, we will agree that it was a lot of upheaval.

Yet, throughout, his personality shines as he remains most loving and attentive. He enjoys play, walks and cuddling immensely. Bonding and catching up on

Klaus the pirate kitten and Violette his little sister



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Klaus, right, is such a handsome and rakish kitten, with his pirate look due to the loss of an eye further to an illness when he was very young. His sister Violette, below, is his constant companion, affectionate yet a bit shy still.

Both these little tabby darlings are in foster care for the Montreal SPCA.

Kittenish ways and games abound around them as this dynamic duo have everyone's attention for affection and play. Both little ones are very healthy, up to date on their kitten inoculation program, sterilized and microchipped.

If you would be interested in them, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to their information pages from their identification numbers, respectively 2000135397 for Klaus, and 2000135403 for Violette. Then

click on the black “Fill out the box” rectangle on the upper right-hand side of the pages to provide your contact information.

An adoption counsellor will get back to you to discuss your interest and adoption framework for these siblings together. There is so much to look forward to in having two kittens in the family, such joy and companionship for all. Please reach out.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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400 attend final 125th anniversary events

Original library room dedicated to former mayor Peter Trent

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount library's north reading room was officially dedicated November 23 to former mayor Peter Trent, which was followed immediately by an "Afterhours" party to close the library's 125th anniversary celebrations (see p. 26).

The newly named "Peter F. Trent Art and Architecture Room" looking out on Sherbrooke St. was originally the stand-alone library built in 1899.

The two events – this dedication one by invitation and the sold-out anniversary party – eventually merged into one large Saturday evening event at the library, attended by a combined total of some 400 for which the main floor was festooned with theme-related decorations, floral arrangements, coloured lighting and music for dancing.

The reading room's official dedication to Trent recognized the leadership and determination he had provided in realizing the library's restoration and extensive new addition completed in 1995.

In addressing this renewal project, Trent explained how it had resulted from a community-driven campaign for what at that time was a \$7.5-million project (\$20 million in today's money, he suggested). "It raises the question," he said "Is there a



Mayor Christina Smith and former mayor Peter Trent November 23. The Westmount Public Library's original room has been re-named to honour Trent's role in the library's 1995 renovation and in demerging Westmount from the city of Montreal in 2006.

future for us in Quebec? Look around you. This is Westmount's answer!"

In tributes from Mayor Christina Smith, who unveiled a dedication plaque, as well as from former councillors Victor

Drury and Gary Ikeman, Trent's political leadership was also recognized in his later fight that led the current 15 demerged suburbs out of the merged city of Montreal in 2006 and "getting our city back for us."

Dr. Alfieri helps launch recipe book to support gynecological, breast cancer research

New Westmount resident Dr. Joanne Alfieri is pictured with *Recettes de Femmes Recipes* in front of Appetite for Books on Victoria Ave., where it is being sold. Alfieri is the co-director of the Program for Women's Cancer Research at the McGill University Health Centre, which the cookbook is raising funds for.

It features recipes from 15 female chefs

including Josée di Stasio, Geneviève O'Gleman, Dyan Solomon, Isabelle Deschamps Plante, Fisun Ercan, Geneviève Everell, Helena Loureiro and Lesley Chesterman. Along with the recipes are "inspiring stories of resilience," according to a press release, from a breast cancer and a cervical cancer survivor, a column by food critic Lesley Chesterman and wine suggestions

from female winemakers by sommelier Vanya Filipovic.

The funds raised are to be used for clinical research that aims to reduce radiation-treatment side effects and to improve outcomes for women diagnosed with gynecological or breast cancer.



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Spector looks 'round, concludes 'love is for everyone'



Art

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Interestingly, the artist works with “loud music playing, so the colour palette of each work in in part a response to a song” – an audio/visual playlist. Her paintings and sculptural cubes are notice-me bright: acrylic painted as bands of colour on Russian birch and topped with resin.

Shapes run the gamut: panels, cubes, columns and rhombuses filled the enormous gallery space as guests sipped bubbly while walking around the free-standing columns.

One preferred piece was polished, mirrored stainless steel. A perfect selfie of a selfie: it made one reflect.

Spector joined de Bellefeuille in 2019, and in 2022 had a solo show at its Toronto gallery. Recently, her work was featured in a solo exhibition at Spanierman Modern, her New York gallery.

Full disclosure. I met Heidi a few years ago when I helped arrange an art tour for collectors from New York. Then I acquired an early piece. It still gives me great pleasure, a vibrant yet tranquil anecdote to tech's daily deluge.

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Heidi Spector – Eternal Optimist



Brooke Perrin, director GdB III (Galerie de Bellefeuille Port Royal), and Heidi Spector.

Studying for my art history degree, I learnt about *tondos*, a Renaissance term for a circular work of art. So I was most interested to see what local artist Heidi Spector was doing with this form.

Sadly, my favourite *tondo* was sold. Another large *tondo*, “Love is for Everyone,” portrayed a Pantone palette.

At the downtown Galerie de Bellefeuille show, most shapes were sharp. Her geometric minimalist collection was inspired by Frank Stella, as well as Donald Judd and Yves Klein.

In particular, Stella's famous statement “What You See is What You Get” – the unofficial slogan of minimalist practice – motivated Spector “to put paint, colour, resin and steel onto birch without any emotional context.”

Curiously, however, for me it was the contrary. Heidi's candy-coloured works are emotional. They are full of joy.



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Library's 'Afterhours' party signs off on 125 years



The library's circulation desk as transformed and Councillor Elisabeth Roux, commissioner for the library, at the events November 23.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the year 2024 began to wind down November 23, the library's yearlong 125th anniversary celebrations came to a close with an "afterhours" party held not at Victoria Hall, the city's traditional party venue, but fittingly in the library itself.

This event highlighted different eras of the library, for which the main floor was transformed by coloured lighting, dance music, a jazz band, DJs, dancing and a themed speakeasy bar featuring entertainers, futuristic games, a signature cocktail and hors d'oeuvres.

At the party's start, Councillor Elisabeth Roux, as commissioner of the library and a member of the anniversary committee, said "we had the community at heart" when putting this event together.

Indeed, she explained, if the library is

so important to the community, it's not only because of the beautiful building, "but because of who are inside: a group of dedicated people who care deeply about what happens at the library and the services that are provided."

She later said that "we were touched that many people who attended the event took the time to write to us to let us know what a great time they had. It was fabulous to see the community coming together and celebrating our fantastic library."

One of the highlights of the library's anniversary year had been the opening of the library's new ground-floor entrance off Westmount Park and creation of The Studio "makerspace" (see story October 15, p. 8). Another was the recognition of its children's library to host the national launch of this year's annual TD Summer Reading Club (see story July 2, p. 12).

Corrected version: Marie Dumas marks 30 years on Greene



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

An incorrect version (names mixed up) of this column appeared last week on p. 14. The Independent apologizes for the errors in that article. – DP.

'Tis the season. Gift-giving is in the air. So local stores are buzzing with parcel-packing shoppers attempting to miss the postal strike. In vain, it turns out.

But local boutique Marie Dumas is celebrating more than the season. It marks 30 years on Greene. It was founded by Francine Dumas and her daughters Marie and Stéphanie, who have taken over the shop since she retired.

And what a boutique it is. Renowned for floral arrangements created by Marie – gorgeous groupings that don't need watering – as well as wedding registry gifts, for 23 years Marie Dumas was originally in a smaller space closer to St. Catherine St.

Today, the sparkling shop is much larger, although that's difficult to see as every corner is packed with discoveries. Fashion accessories, babies' clothes, candles, area rugs, glass and table wares, and one of my favourite "old school" items: napkin rings.

Mixed with the contemporary items and classics is fun fuchsia: a holiday tree and *Nutcracker* figures. I noted the hot

trend of the day: a pickleball racquet cover.

To celebrate their long successful sojourn, two weeks ago Marie and Stéphanie welcomed guests to bubbly and cupcakes. A pink theme ("we love that colour!") ruled; pastel balloons welcomed guests, brightening the grey day. Even the Instagram-ready holiday table setting shone with roses



Stéphanie and Marie Dumas.

gilded with gold touches. Cupcakes by local baker Michele Korne shared space with mimosas and mock cocktails.

Gift-giving has never been so delicious.

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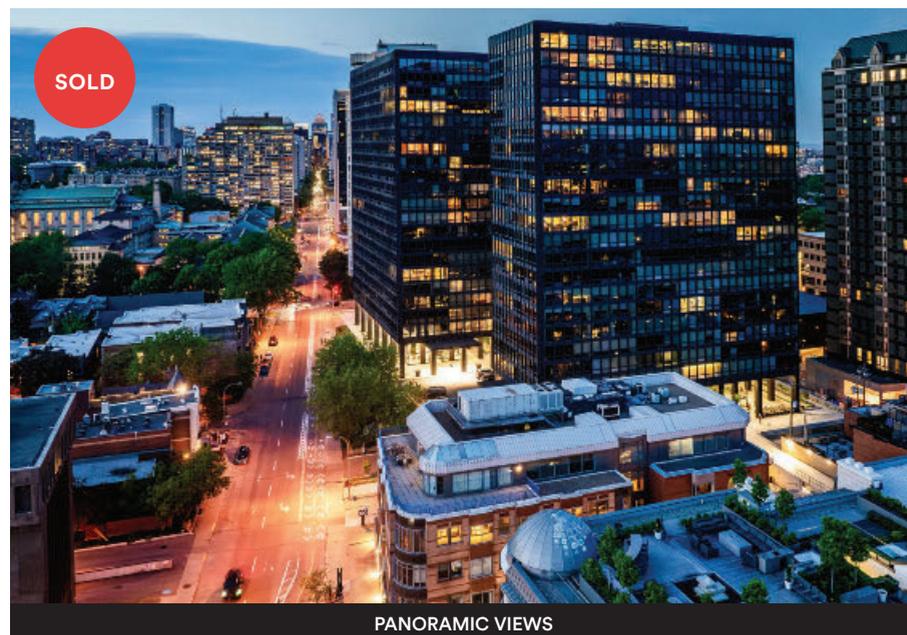


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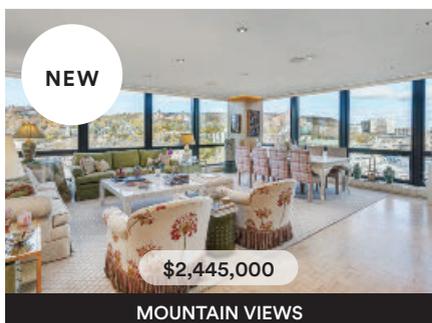


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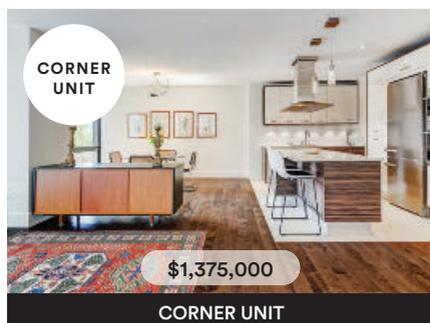


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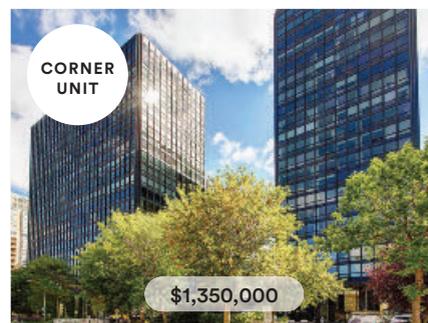


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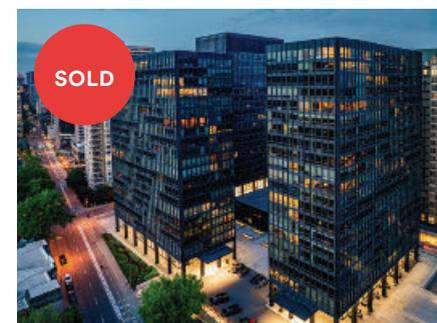
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Where in these collections are the paintings that reflect the rapid urbanization, shifting cultural landscapes, and lived experiences of Canadians in this transformative era? Which artists will be chosen to define this overlooked chapter? This void in representation cannot persist indefinitely. The postwar period gave rise to important artistic contributions, capturing the struggles of cities in flux and the human experience of the people within them. Philip Surrey and John Little stand out as two of the most compelling chroniclers of urban Canada in their generation. With our exhibition, we reimagine how this pivotal period can and should be represented in our nation's museums.

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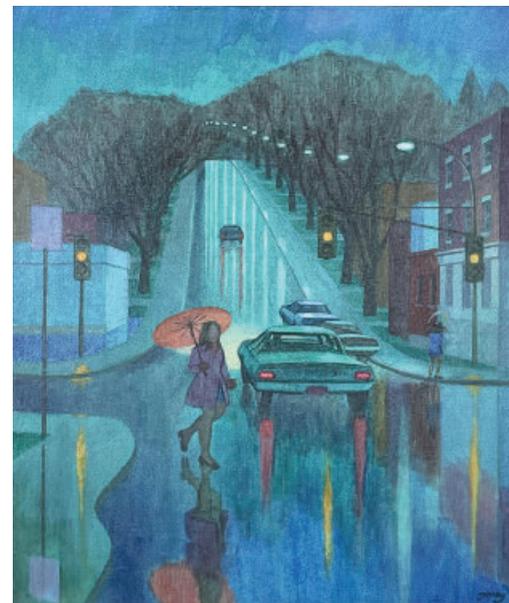
Monday, Dec 9 - Friday, Dec 13: 10:00 - 17:00

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