

April – or should we call the month ‘Variable’



April 4



April 7

Views of Prince Albert square.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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'That's a great question': Cllr. Bostock

Will city negotiate to keep Bixi stations open here next winter?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Will Westmount negotiate with Bixi to keep at least the three docking stations located on the city's portion of the commuter bike path open next winter? They are located along de Maisonneuve.

"It's a great question," said Councillor Anitra Bostock, whose commissionership includes mobility. She was replying to a

question by the *Independent* and said she would be checking with the city's traffic mobility committee to find out whether or not the issue had been raised or studied, but no answer was available at press time.

It was a request initially made at the council meeting December 18 by Dan Lambert, about which "I never heard back," he told the *Independent* last week.

continued on p. 14



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Discovered lost at 3 am

Public Security helps two women get to airport

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two women from Nunavik flagged down a patroller outside 1 Wood April 2 at 3 am appearing to be “disorientated,” Public Security officials said. Finding it “strange” for the women to be there at that hour, he stopped to speak with them.

The women were reported to have said they had been in town for medical treatment and were supposed to catch a plane home from Dorval at 7:30 am, but had no way to get to the airport. They had been staying at an Inuit centre in Dorval.

The women were kept warm while the officer spent “a lot of time” trying to find solutions for them, but ended up helping them catch a bus to the airport at 3:45 am. No other details were available.

Officers to staff info table in Summit Woods April 19-21

In response to recent concerns expressed at city council concerning dogs at Sum-

mit Woods, Public Security officials announced last week they would hold an information table at the centre space in the woods on three days Friday to Sunday on April 19 to 21, according to assistant department director Kimberley Colquhoun.

This will be to explain the dog by-law and regulations and to emphasize what is required of dog walkers in the bird and fauna sanctuary. Complaints have included the widening of trails. Details of the information centre were still in the planning stages last week.

Easter Bingo for seniors becoming regular event

An Easter bingo event for seniors April 28 attracted a larger number of players than the previous year, Public Security officials reported. The event took place at Victoria Hall with the aim of providing a social venue and help for anyone having trouble playing the game. Potted plants were presented as prizes.



Enjoying the Bingo at Victoria Hall on April 28. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.

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2023

Some of the treats offered during last year's information campaign in Summit Woods by Marie-Ève Parent, then a public safety officer (now with Urban Planning), and PSO Julie Noiret.

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Most city snow contracts go to April

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The good news for Westmount residents in the wake of last week's storm of heavy snow and freezing rain April 4 is that most of the city's snow-related contracts continue through to the end of April even though a few end on the 15th.

As a result, Public Works director Robert Talarico said during the storm, "There are no additional preparations on our side as our winter equipment is still in service and only gets stored or converted for summer operations at the end of April. Workforce is not a problem as we are still

on the winter-hour schedules.

"I recall in previous years," he added, "that April gave us significant amounts of snow, but we were always ready for the challenge. This is the reason we ensure that our snow-fighting equipment is always available until end of April to respond to the challenges of our Canadian winters."

It was almost a year ago to the day last year – April 5 – that freezing rain brought down numerous trees and branches on streets, property, cars and even in Summit Woods (see many photos April 11, 2023, p. 1, 10 and following).



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It wasn't just snow clearing last week. A tree came down on Redfern as a result of April 4's storm.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SECURITY.



This tree was blocking Grove Park at Sherbrooke St. April 4. "I heard the thud as it came down," photo contributor Jacquelyn Ingleton told the *Independent*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF J. INGLETON.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**ONLY IN WESTMOUNT
(IN A GOOD WAY)**

On Tuesday [April 2], I left a message with Hydro Westmount to inform them that two street lights on Hillside Ave. were on all day and night throughout the Easter weekend and beyond.

A few hours later, I received a phone call from them to thank me and if interested, they would give me the job number. Incredible service!

I am very impressed with Hydro Westmount!

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.

**THE STORY (AND JOKE)
IS IN THE DETAILS**

Your correction (March 26, p. 7) to the story (February 27, p. 1) about the jogger who kicked a dog (it was an 18-lb dog, not a 10-lb dog, and it was not last week, but over a year ago), reminds me of following the old joke.

One man says to the other “Is it true that Ivan Ivanovich Ivanov from Omsk won a new car in the lottery?”

The second man replies, “Yes, that is true in principle. However, it wasn’t Ivan Ivanovich Ivanov but Aleksander Aleksandrovich Aleksandrov. Secondly, he is not from Omsk, but from Krasnoyarsk. Third, it was not a car but a bicycle. And finally, he did not win it, but it was stolen from him.”

TOM HUGHES, ST. CATHERINE ST.

**UNLEASHED DOGS HAVE
UNSEEN EFFECTS**

As a dog-owning, dog-loving Westmount resident, I strongly support requiring dogs to be on leash at all times in Summit Woods – and in all public spaces except the city dog runs.

Every time I have taken my dog (on leash) to Summit Woods, there have been unleashed dogs running around – even during nesting season and during the times of day when dogs are supposed to be leashed. My dog is very anxious, and an unleashed dog (even a harmless, friendly one) that runs up to her causes her considerable stress. This has happened at Summit Woods often enough that I no longer feel comfortable taking her there. That means both my dog and I are deprived of the pleasure of a calm, on-leash walk in this beautiful place. I have also observed dogs off leash on many occasions in Westmount Park.

Those who ignore the leash rules may not realize it, but they are preventing dogs who must be kept away from other dogs (for health or other reasons) from enjoying public spaces. They are also making it hard for some other people to relax and enjoy a stroll. Parents of young children have to be on alert, and so do people who are afraid of dogs and people with infirmities who may worry about an energetic dog bowling them over.

People who let their dogs run off leash

may believe they will come reliably when called, but from what I’ve seen, this is seldom the case. They may believe their dog running around harms no one, but they likely don’t even see those who have to constantly watch out for unleashed dogs and take wide detours to avoid an encounter.

I encourage council to require and enforce on-leash-at-all-times rules in Summit Woods and all the city parks.

KATHLEEN KEARNS, ACADEMY RD.

WHERE’S THE GARDEN?

I had to think about the approved design [for the Doug Ellis Memorial Garden] for several days after seeing it. The design is for a “memorial garden.” However, looking at the drawings, there seems to be a planting of just a few bushes and grass with the focus on lots of glass and concrete.

There is no plaque visible* in the drawings as to where Doug Ellis will be recog-

nized. In addition, a story needs to be told as to why this was created.

Looking at the design alone and not knowing the back story, this looks like a monument to the NHL. I think this has to go back to the drawing board and put the accent on the garden since the working title is “memorial garden.”

An interesting idea someone ran by me... a scenario can be created for the Story Walk to tell the full story including photos and an awareness campaign. Following the Story Walk exhibit, the plaques could be permanently installed in the recreation centre.

FREDERICK GIRVAN, VICTORIA AVE.

**Editor’s note:* There is what looks like a podium that could hold a plaque in the bottom right quadrant of the drawing (March 19, p. 10), between the benches and the sideboards. – DP.

Featured: Biographies, art books, cookbooks

**‘Friends’ volunteers prepare
for library book sale April 13-14**

Seen on April 4, the Friends of the Library team members who sort books together every Thursday are, from left: Pat Machin, Louise Cauchon, Peggy Curran, Kevin Wright and Sarah Downer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Among the many books prepared by the Friends of the Library volunteers for their spring quality book sale April 13 and 14 are many art books, cookbooks and biographies.

The event takes place both days at Victoria Hall from 10 am to 4 pm.

“These are some of subjects that specially stood out for them while sorting for this sale,” said Lora Baiocco, acting

assistant director of the library and community events.

The book sales take place twice a year to help fund many of the library’s projects. Last year, the spring sale took place later than usual in June and raised a record total of \$13,745 (see story June 13, p. 3).

The success of the book sales “reflects a lot of hard work and, as always the generosity of Westmounters,” Baiocco said.

“As always, there is something for everyone.”

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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

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Where did ‘Imagine Westmount’ go?

The Independent became curious about where Imagine Westmount 2040, the city’s consultation project on urban planning (see April 27, 2021, p. 1, October 27, 2020, p. 1), had gone and asked Mayor Christina Smith. She replied on March 20, as reproduced below.

*

Imagine Westmount 2040, the revision of our Urban Master Plan, was suspended in 2020. The project’s suspension is mainly due to an adjustment of our administration’s priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic and a redefinition of our urban planning strategy.

The Montreal agglomeration and the CMM [Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, which covers most of the metropolitan region of Montreal, including Laval, and parts of the North and South

Shores and of the Suroit], of which we are a part, are currently reviewing certain policies on land use planning and the protection of built heritage.

The unveiling of these new policies is expected in 2026 and will allow us to consider revising our local urban planning programmes so that they meet our community’s aspirations while coherently integrating with the agglomeration’s and metropolitan development plans.

In the meantime, council continues to act in a strategic and targeted manner on specific vulnerable sectors. Thus, in August 2023, we adopted a resolution to launch a Special Planning Programme (SPP or PPU in French) for the revitalization of the southeast sector of our city.

In January 2024, the council awarded a contract to the architectural firm Lemay

for the consultation and design process for this project. The consultation process will start this spring, and the project is slated to conclude in fall 2025. This is a very important step for the city.

The city’s Urban Planning department has also undertaken a systematic review of its construction by-laws to address certain short-term issues.

We understand that the suspension of the Imagine Westmount 2040 project may have raised some questions. However, rest assured that our council is resolutely committed to continuing its work to ensure that our city’s urban planning and sustainable development strategy best meets the needs of the community, in an approach that invites and encourages citizen participation.

Correction

We mixed up the titles of two people in last week’s Social Notes (p. 29). Dr. Lesley Fellows is McGill’s vice-principal (health affairs) and dean of the faculty of medicine and health sciences; and McGill professor Thomas Duchaine is the assistant director (scientific affairs) at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. – DP.

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Strange signage



If this sign weren’t there, would people run through all the red lights? As seen on eastbound Sherbrooke at Claremont on April 7.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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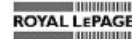
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Buy land, get Dorchester plans too



Realtor Sean Greenspoon told the *Independent* April 2 that the council-approved plans for the vacant lot on the south side of Dorchester west of Greene would come with the purchase of the land. The plans for the 11-unit building (see January 24, 2023, p. 1) are prominently featured on the for-sale sign and on the web listing. The plot went on sale last month for \$3 million plus sales taxes. Greenspoon also pointed out that the actual work permits have yet to be issued by the city. Above, the land on April 5.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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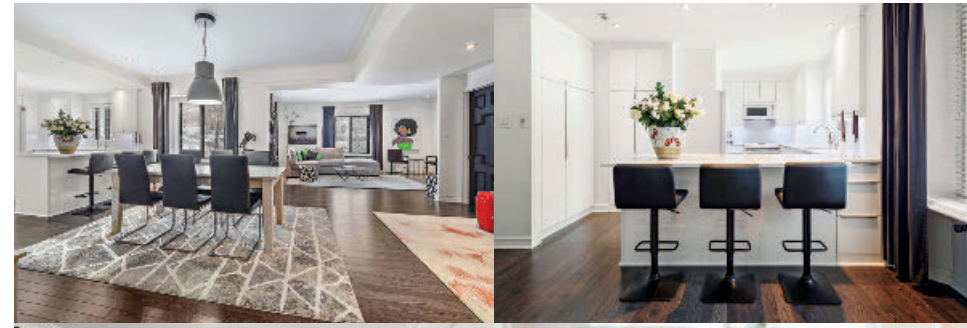
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Doug Ellis Garden begins to take shape



This spraypainted outline, photographed March 29 to the southwest of the Westmount recreation centre, is a “pre-marking” to confirm survey data of where the Douglas Ellis Memorial Garden will be placed. It is not “official or precise at the moment,” according to the city. The *Independent* has enhanced the spraypaint for visibility and added an arrow.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT



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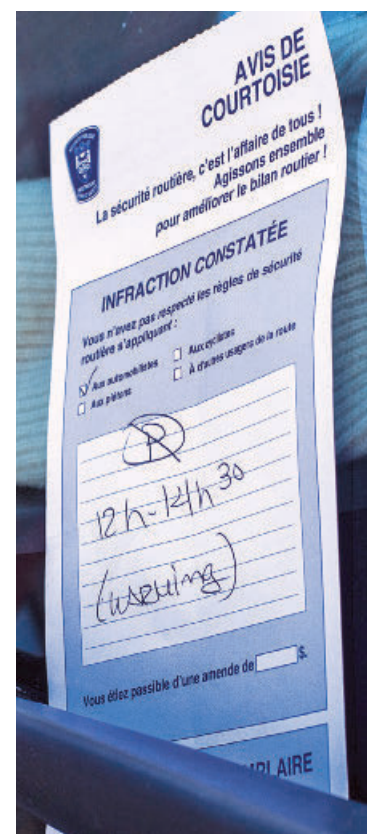
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To clean or clear the streets?



Before April 4's return to winter, it was that time of the year again and, as of April 1, street-cleaning parking restrictions returned. This lucky driver, left, on Arlington Ave. only got a warning. Three days later, there was a full-on snow-removal operation. Street cleaning would have to wait. Clearing snow was clearly required from the Westmount Public Library's parking lot on April 4.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



Dr. Sara Johnson, Esq., Ph.D, TEP, CFP, JD, LL.M., CFA.

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City: No gasoline leaf blowers ever, electric till May 31 only

On its website March 26, the city reminded residents and contractors that as of October 2023, the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers is prohibited in Westmount.

Presumably, the fall 2023 tolerance for gasoline-powered blowers posted on the city's infoWestmount page in the October 10, 2023 *Independent* (p. 18) has not been

renewed.

The prohibitions don't stop there.

Electric leaf blowers may only be used from October 1 to May 31, Monday to Saturday (except on holidays), from 8 am to 4 pm.

Contractors wishing to use leaf blowers in Westmount must first obtain a permit from the city.

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What's the poop?

Is dog excrement a hazard? Or no big deal? Or good?

BY JENNIFER BALL

A city of Montreal resident recently told the *Independent* that she does not clean up after her dog if it has relieved itself deep in Summit Woods, implying that dog feces is no big deal.

Is there a scientific basis to this cavalier attitude? Might dogs' deposits be benign, or even a natural fertilizer and a good thing?

(Regardless, dog owners not picking up their dogs' droppings can be fined up to \$300 by Westmount Public Security, as posted on placards outside the park.)

The *Independent* reached out for an interview with the city's nascent advisory committee for the environment and sustainability, which will include city councillor Matt Aronson, and was told that it was still in the nomination-of-candidates phase.

Resident: 'Unrecognized danger' of dog feces

At least one Westmount resident does have views. Maryam Kamali Nezhad contended that there are environmental hazards related to the presence of what she

classified as "many dogs" in Summit Woods.

Nezhad said, "Recent scientific literature reviews highlight the unrecognized danger that dog feces pose to biodiversity.

"Dog urine can also threaten the balance of biodiversity in natural spaces. It almost instantly burns grass roots, disrupts soil balance and affects root health, potentially leading to tree death.

"It is crucial to control dog behaviour in areas prioritizing tree preservation."

Nezhad drew the *Independent's* attention to Article 18 of By-law No. 1522, which was adopted by city council on May 7, 2018.

"These dogs are considered nuisances in this natural setting," Nezhad summarized.

The city would seem to agree. Article 18 reads: "if any dog shall cause damage to any lawn, grass plot, garden or flower bed, or any flowers, shrubs or plants, said dog shall be deemed to be a nuisance and the guardian thereof shall be deemed to have infringed this by-law."

Province: Concentrated dog leavings create issue

When asked the same question, Josée Guimond, who is a press relations and communications advisor at the Quebec provincial office of the Minister of the Environment, said "...dog excrement, like all animal excrement, contains elements useful for fertilizing plants. Indeed, excrement contains nitrogen, phosphorus, organic matter and microorganisms, while urine mainly contains nitrogen, acids and salts...

"In case of excess dosage, animal waste

pings in the same place by several animals is increased...

"Furthermore, if certain studies have made it possible to detect fecal bacteria of canine origin in surface water (Tambalo, Boa *et al.* 2012, Ervin, Van De Werfhorst *et al.* 2014), the environmental impact of this presence has not been evaluated. In the context of urban parks, the demonstration of this impact remains to be done...

"In all cases, the authors of these studies are unanimous on the importance of picking up dog excrement when walking. Collecting excrement makes it possible, among other things, to reduce the nitrogen intake by almost half, and almost the entire phosphorus intake of dog droppings, thus reducing the risk of environmental impacts."

And while it is true that bears do what they please in the woods, they have different diets than dogs, which cannot be considered comparable. Bears don't eat commercial dog food, as was explained by an article by Tony Reynolds dated May 16, 2018, that appears on American Animal Hospital Association website.

"...The difference is their diet. Like all wildlife, bears forage for food in their home environment.

That means they're consuming resources and nutrients from the same ecosystem they're a part of."

Summit Woods – officially a bird and fauna sanctuary – is a 57-acre park edged by Summit Circle at its southwest border, and contained by Ridgewood Ave. in Côte des Neiges to the north and to the east by Côte des Neiges Rd. in Montreal's Ville Marie (downtown) borough.



This sign reads that any person failing to control a dog in his or her care or who fails to pick up feces from the same animal is liable for a fine ranging from \$75 to \$300, as seen February 4.

can have negative impacts on the environment.

"In the case of areas frequented by several dogs, due to the characteristic behaviour of the latter, the risk of excessive localized intake by the deposit of urine or drop-

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All dogs must be kept on a leash at all times during this period. You must be in possession of a valid Westmount dog licence. Public Safety will issue fines for non-compliance. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of it in the garbage.



**Is 'April Wonderland' a phrase?
Maybe it should be**



The *Independent* was not the only one admiring and photographing this view of Winchester Ave. on April 4.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Bixi, cont'd from p. 1

Lambert is the president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount.

"The negotiations will need to start now for next winter," he said in renewing his call for local year-round use of the bike path following the results announced by Bixi last week of a "successful" winter pilot project downtown.

While the non-profit Bixi organization stocks its five docking stations within

Westmount, the city pays for the service. This amounted to a total of \$58,944.23 (taxes included) over the 2023 season from April through November, according to city officials.

These five stations in Westmount resulted from previous negotiations and to date involved those along de Maisonneuve at Greene, Metcalfe and Victoria as well as on Sherbrooke at Redfern, and at Maria-nopolis on Westmount Ave.

City plows path in Westmount Park

The city already pays for winter plowing of the path through Westmount Park even though the Westmount Bixi stations are not open.

"For cycling to be a viable mobility option to reduce CO₂, cycling infrastructure must be available year-round," Lambert had said in his request to the council. While Bixi was offering winter service in five Montreal boroughs, he explained at the time, it was only up to the Westmount border at Atwater. As a result, "NDG cannot have Bixi winter stations without Westmount."

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Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair attracts devoted bibliophiles to Centre Greene

By MARTIN C. BARRY

After more than 30 years as one of Montreal's leading annual antiquarian book events – with virtually all held in Westmount – the Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair drew hundreds of patrons to the gym at Centre Greene on March 30.

Eighteen dealers from Quebec and Ontario in rare and out-of-print books, maps, prints, autographs and all manner of ephemera brought a selection of their best stock for bibliophiles to inspect, examine and purchase – or to simply look at if they wished.

The selection of available books covered just about every subject imaginable, from art to zoology and everything in between, at prices to suit every pocket – from \$10 to \$1,000 and more.

Some of the highlights included first editions by Charles Dickens, early and rare Canadiana, and an original 1685 printing of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* from the fourth folio of his collected works.

A new addition to this year's roster of exhibitors was a book binder and restorer.

So, if you had a special book that you'd been meaning to have re-bound or restored, you could bring it along and discuss your wishes directly with a professional.

Ephemera?

People sometimes wonder about "ephemera," according to longtime Kitchener Ave. resident Wilfrid de Freitas. He and his wife, Susan Ravdin, have been organizing the fair for the past three decades – this year being the thirty-first.

As he explained, ephemera are essentially items such as theatre or event programmes, restaurant menus, publicity or tourist brochures or even timetables, all of which might originally have had a short-term usefulness, although they have since become collectors' items.

Among the dealers who came from far was professional bookseller Alan Foljambe of Kingston, Ontario. He specializes in rare or unusual publications featuring visuals, photography and graphics. Among his offerings was a paperback edition of some of the work of influential American photographer Diane Arbus.

Wanted poster

One of the more esoteric pieces up for sale at a dealer's table was a "wanted" poster created by the RCMP in conjunction with the Montreal police during Quebec's 1970 October Crisis.

At that time, as the illustrated poster spelled out, a \$150,000 reward was pledged by law enforcement authorities for information leading to the arrests of FLQ members Francis Simard and Marc Carbonneau, as well as brothers Jacques and Paul Rose.

The item's owner, rare books and manuscripts dealer Jean Daoust, said he acquired it along with several other wanted posters that were from the estate of one of the police investigators during the October Crisis.



Rare books and manuscripts dealer Jean Daoust is seen here on March 30 during the Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair with a "wanted" poster from Quebec's 1970 October Crisis.



Seen here at Centre Greene on March 30 are Kitchener Ave. residents Susan Ravdin and Wilfrid de Freitas who organize the annual Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair.

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DU CONSEIL

Lundi 6 mai

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, May 6

JOUR DE LA TERRE
EARTH DAY

Jour de la Terre : le 20 avril

Échange de vêtement au Victoria Hall, corvée de nettoyage et promenade guidée des arbres au parc Westmount, conférence et kiosques. Plus de détails à westmount.org/jourdelaterre.

JOUR DE LA TERRE
EARTH DAY

Earth Day: April 20

Clothing swap at Victoria Hall, Big cleanup and Guided Tree Tour in Westmount Park, conference and kiosks. More details at westmount.org/earthday.

Table d'information de la Sécurité publique dans le Bois Summit

Les agents de la Sécurité publique de Westmount seront disponibles dans le Bois Summit les 12, 13 et 14 avril pour fournir des informations sur les règlements et aider les personnes à obtenir un permis de chien valide de Westmount.

Des Canadiennes inspirantes

Visitez l'exposition « Women Are Persons! » à l'hôtel de ville d'ici le 15 mai et soyez inspirés par les « Famous 5 »! Détails à westmount.org.

Collecte de RDD : le 20 avril

La collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux aura lieu le samedi 20 avril dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque, de 9 h à 16 h 30. Les articles acceptés, y compris les vieux appareils électroniques, peuvent être consultés sur le site westmount.org/rdd.

Distribution spéciale d'arbres

Les résidents de Westmount peuvent obtenir gratuitement un arbre de la Ville. Cette année, les espèces indigènes sont privilégiées. Quantités limitées disponibles. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org/arbreg gratuit

Public Safety Information Table in Summit Woods

Westmount Public Safety officers will be available within Summit Woods on April 12, 13 and 14 to provide information about regulations and help guide individuals on how to obtaining a valid Westmount dog licence.

Inspiring Canadian Women

Visit the "Women are Persons" exhibition at City Hall from now until May 15 and be inspired by the "Famous 5"! Details at westmount.org

HHW collection on April 20

Household hazardous waste collection is on Saturday, April 20th in the Library parking lot from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Accepted items, including old electronics, at westmount.org/hhw.

Special Tree Distribution

Westmount residents can receive one free tree from the City. This year, native species are being highlighted. Limited quantities available. Register at westmount.org/freetree

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Conférence — Montreal: A Magnet for Railways 1836 - 1915

Mercredi 10 avril, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec David B. Hanna, PhD, expert en patrimoine et ancien professeur d'urbanisme. En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

WestmountLittéraire

Samedi 13 avril, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Rencontrez quatre auteurs célèbres de notre communauté pour une soirée littéraire en lectures et en discussions. Mettant en vedette Michelle Franklin, Rich Larson, Su J. Sokol et Philippe Yong. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Rencontre d'auteur : Nathan Hellner-Mestelman

Vendredi 26 avril, 13 h, Bibliothèque.

Préparez-vous à voir l'univers comme vous ne l'avez jamais vu avec l'auteur de *Cosmic Wonder*. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Jusqu'au 3 mai 2024. Œuvres de Emma June Huebner. westmount.org.

Conférence « Impacts et alternatives de la mode » avec Entremaille

Samedi 20 avril de 11 h 30 à 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. Cette conférence d'introduction dresse un portrait complet des impacts, autant environnementaux que sociaux, de l'industrie de la mode. Informations et formulaire : westmount.org/jourdelaterre.

Appel de dossiers 2024

La Galerie du Victoria Hall

Jusqu'au 15 avril. Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leur candidature pour la prochaine saison d'exposition. Informations et formulaire : westmount.org.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



Lecture — Montreal: A Magnet for Railways 1836 - 1915

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m., Library. With David B. Hanna, PhD, heritage expert, and former professor of urban planning. Register at westlib.org.

WestmountLit

Saturday, April 13, 7 p.m., Library. Meet four acclaimed authors from our community for a literary soirée of readings and discussion. Featuring authors Michelle Franklin, Rich Larson, Su J. Sokol, and Philippe Yong. Register at westlib.org.

Author Event: Nathan Hellner-Mestelman

Friday, April 26, 1 p.m., Library. Prepare to view

the universe like you've never seen it before with the author of *Cosmic Wonder*. Register at westlib.org.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

Until May 3, 2024. Works by Emma June Huebner. westmount.org.

Conference: Fashion Industry Impacts and Alternatives, with Entremaille

Saturday, April 20, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall. This introductory conference provides a comprehensive overview of the environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry. Details at westmount.org/earthday.

Call for proposals 2024

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

Until April 15. Westmount artists may submit proposals for the next exhibition season. Information: westmount.org.

Police Report

A break-in, an attempted burglary, a recovered car and a stolen one

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A household burglary, along with an attempted break-in and two stolen car incidents, kept police at Station 12 busy in recent weeks.

Around 8 pm on March 30, officers at the Stanton St. station received a call from a security company regarding an alarm that had been triggered at a home on Prince Albert Ave.

Upon arrival, the investigators noted that a patio-level glass sliding door at the rear of the residence had been shattered by an intruder.

According to the incident report, there were ample signs of a burglary, including opened drawers, closets and cupboards, with their contents scattered onto the floor.

However, since the owners were away travelling, an inventory of what was stolen couldn't be made, said Station 12's community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit.

"We have to wait for the residents to return to tell us what was stolen," added

Yigit, while noting that the police department's identification unit failed to find fingerprints or active security cameras.

Break-in attempt on Rosemount

The owners of a home on Westmount's Rosemount Ave. were lucky to be spared the disturbance of a robbery on March 30 – although there were signs that someone attempted to get in.

"Officers received an alarm regarding a broken window," said Cst. Yigit.

"When they arrived on the scene, they walked around outside and they saw a door leading into the backyard was open. The officers went into the back to look and they saw a damaged window."

But since the owners weren't home, and there were no clear signs of a burglary, the officers wrote in their report that nothing appeared to have been stolen.

Although they noted there were security cameras positioned around the home, it wasn't clear whether images of suspects were captured.

RAV4 recovered on Mt. Pleasant

A 2022 Toyota RAV4 compact crossover SUV that was stolen on Côte des Neiges Rd. in the city of Montreal during the early hours on April 2 was recovered by police a few hours later on Mount Pleasant Ave. in Westmount.

The vehicle was reported missing after 2 am, and by 6 am it had been located.

According to a description of the circumstances furnished by the owner to the police, the vehicle was equipped with an on-board security camera system.

Around 2:20 am, the camera recorded an unknown individual taking a cell-phone photo of the car's vehicle identification number, located above the dashboard under the windshield.

Ten minutes later, according to Cst. Yigit, the same person returned, entered the vehicle (without forced entry), and drove away. When the police later recovered the vehicle, there were no broken locks or windows, he added.

Given the emerging use of new and often illicit wireless technologies by car thieves, he speculated that access to the VIN number may have made it possible to decode the car's security system.

"They may have a database where they can get the codes," he said. On a more positive note, the car was recovered thanks to a vehicle tracking system.

Expedition SUV stolen on Kensington

A couple from the US who were visiting family members on April 1 at a home on Westmount's Kensington Ave. reported the theft of their full-size 2022 Ford Expedition SUV sometime overnight.

According to their summary of the incident, they parked in the home's private driveway around 9 pm the previous evening. They realized around 9 am on April 2 that it was no longer there.

Again, as with most recent car theft incidents reported in Westmount, there were no signs left behind of forced physical entry such as broken window glass fragments.

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When a 'fake man' tells a real story



Westmounter Wendy Hayden's exhibition of Irish storied clay sculpture was photographed in the Gallery at Victoria Hall March 28 as the exposition was coming to an end. Each work comes with its own story steeped in Irish tradition. Hayden is seen cheek to jowl with her sculpture of "An Fear Bréige" (literally "the fake man," or scarecrow).

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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comedy at home will allow.

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Delightful and attentive, they are looking forward to settling in to a new family environment and we hope you will find out more about them to start the process of adoption.

You would refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to the cat adoption section and refer to Fuzzy and Banshee's information pages by their identification numbers, which are 200073877 for Fuzzy and 200073879 for Banshee.

Once there, please click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle in order to open the information form and provide your basic contact information and note your

interest. From that, you will enable the adoption coordinators to get in touch with you to discuss adoption and offer more

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Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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In Westmount, we are used to giving pups their start, sometimes a bit belatedly, as is the case for Kenzo, who suffers from food insecurity and needs to grow out of this protective reaction. There will be another meal, but sometimes dogs suffering from this condition do not think so, and this anxiety needs to be addressed.

He is already doing very well at the kennel, in a framework of good nutrition, play and exercise with training that is setting him up beautifully for a family environment.

Kenzo is a very healthy youngster, up to date with his inoculations for his age, neutered and microchipped. Please enquire about visiting him for adoption by referring to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, heading to the dog adoption section, and scrolling for his information page from his identification number, 200076160.

You can plan your visit during its opening hours daily, which are from 3 pm to 8 pm from Monday to Friday and from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte



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Educator Jaquays explains ‘non-binary’ to Rotary

BY JENNIFER BALL

A parent to four children, Robyn Jaquays has been an educator for more than 20 years, but she herself went back to school in response to her youngest child identifying in 2020 as non-binary.

According to Jaquays, for the most part people typically fall into two categories: male or female. That idea is known as a gender binary. But not everyone fits so perfectly into the man-or-woman categories. That’s where the term “non-binary” comes into play.

The Cleveland Clinic says in simple terms, being nonbinary means that you do not identify (solely or at all) with the idea of being a man or a woman.

Jaquays admitted when she delivered her talk at the Rotary Club of Westmount luncheon on April 3 at Victoria Hall that the concept of non-binary could be a confusing point.

“I’m here to help you adapt to this new reality in a compassionate and a structured way.”

Sex at birth *q* gender

In her talk, Jaquays used the definitions “sex assigned at birth” to classify the biological binary sex registered upon birth on viable sex organs and “gender identity” as the personal sense of one’s own gender regardless of social expectations and constructs associated with biological sex. “Cis-gender” was conveyed as when a person’s gender identity corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Jaquays anchored her talk with science.



“Let’s look at chromosomes. If any of you can remember your high school, XY is male, right? And XX is female and this has been the gold standard of gender identity for the longest time...”

“They’ve come up with new metrics to measure and now we have people who have one X.

“We also have people with two Xs, and a Y and the literature shows also three Xs and Y. These binaries that we had no longer apply.”

Jaquays showed a series of brain scans going from a cisgender woman’s brain to a transman’s and said that her research has led her to believe that gender is a social construct.

“The problem is, is that a lot of people are at odds with these constructs.”

Why change language?

According to Jaquays, an argument that she has bumped up against often is why should we have to adapt our language – and our email and business signatures for that matter – for such a small percentage of the population?

In her talk, she presented the percentage of folks in the world as not identifying solely or at all with the idea of being a man or a woman as two percent and then went on to contextualize the data.

“Two percent of the world population is [162 million people]. There are [144 million Russians] on the planet so we have more trans and non-binary people on the planet than we do Russians!”

As an educator, Jacquays’ teachings have been shaped by extensive travels and a deep understanding of linguistics, language dynamics, and body language nuances.

Alongside her academic pursuits, Jaquays delves into independent research in neurobiology, bridging interdisciplinary insights into her work.

◀ Robyn Jaquays delivering a talk at the Westmount Rotary Club on April 3 at Victoria Hall.

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Op Art on Greene



As seen April 2. For the uninitiated, "Op artworks are abstract, with many better-known pieces created in black and white. Typically, they give the viewer the impression of movement, hidden images, flashing and vibrating patterns, or swelling or warping," according to Wikipedia.

PHOTO: VERONICA REDGRAVE.

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Surgical Procedures

- Face: face lift, fat Transfer, Blepharoplasty, Rhinoplasty
- Breast: Breast augmentation, breast lift
- Body: Abdominoplasty, Lipo, BBL, Hymenoplasty
- Hand: Private hand surgery (Non RAMQ)
- Ophtamology: Laser vision correction



Doherty investigates heart of darkness, tries to stay positive



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

A bitter wind blustered in vain the day of Susan Doherty's book launch: Victoria Hall was packed.

Monday Rent Boy is the third book by the award-winning author. Joseph Conrad wasn't the only writer to speak of the "heart of darkness." Doherty tackles it head on. Through the protagonists – two boyhood friends who have been abused by their local priest – she parallels today's proliferation of online child porn and predators with the shameful secret the boys share. The terrible tie that binds them is one she openly attacks. In her welcoming presentation, she talked about the research for her book; she interviewed those abused by a trusted person. But, stressing the power of resilience, she noted that her "goal was to write a novel about sex abuse, the grooming and manipulation of innocent children, and self-destruction," but to leave the reader feeling optimistic.

continued on p. 22



Hal Hannaford and Susan Doherty.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

Susan was introduced by **Kari Cullen**, past chair of the Writer's Trust of Canada, a non-profit that champions Canadian writers. Guests included Susan's husband **Hal Hannaford**, former Selwyn House headmaster, and their children **Alisse** and **Reid Hannaford**; the current head of Selwyn **Mike Downey** with his wife **Laura**; **Lori Schubert**, executive director Quebec Writers' Federation; **Linda Leith**, Linda Leith Publishing; **Laurent Ferreira**, CEO National Bank of Canada, and his wife **Leslie Silver**; **Donna Doherty** and **Ross Fraser**; **Dominique Lanctôt** and **Paul Setlakwe**, **Denise Price**, **Sylvie** and **Jean Chagnon**, **Jill Drummond** and **Philip Nickels**, **Sarah Ivory** and **Stewart Guthrie**, **Gina Roitman**, **Andrea Usher-Jones**, **Nancy Rosenfeld**, sisters **Leslie** and **Lindsay Doig**, **Elaine Roy**, **Joyce Wells**, **Lynne McLaughlin**, **Rosalind** and **Tom Davis**, and **Daniel Miguez de Luca** from Westmount Library.

Managed by the Argo Bookshop team **Moti Lieberman** and **Jack Watkins**, *Montreal Rent Boy* speedily sold on site.



Denise Price, Guthrie Stewart and Sarah Ivory.



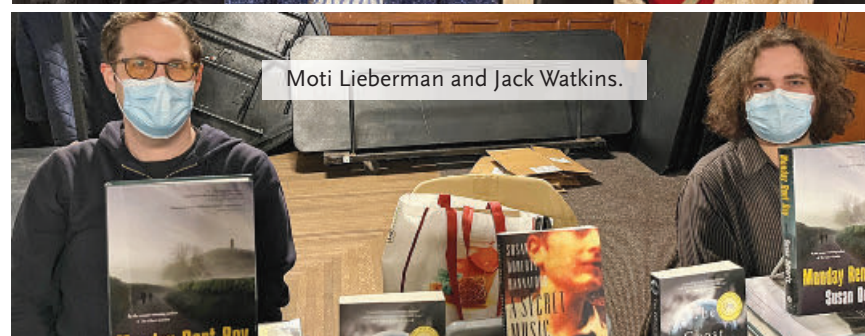
Ross Fraser and Donna Doherty, the sister of Susan.



Thea Lindsay, Rosalind Davis and Barbara Osler.



Elaine Roy, Joyce Wells and Lynne McLaughlin.



Moti Lieberman and Jack Watkins.



Sisters Leslie and Lyndsay Doig.

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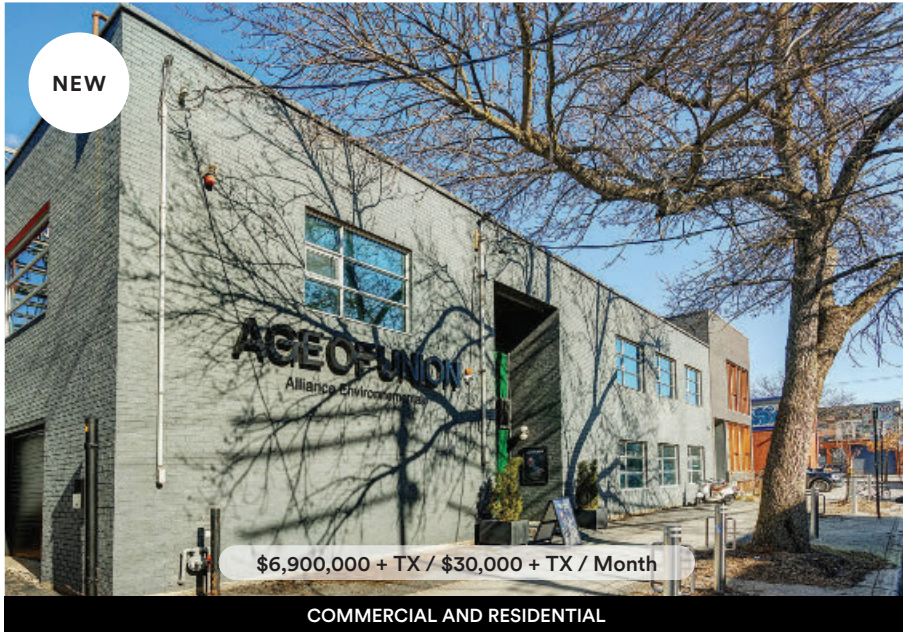
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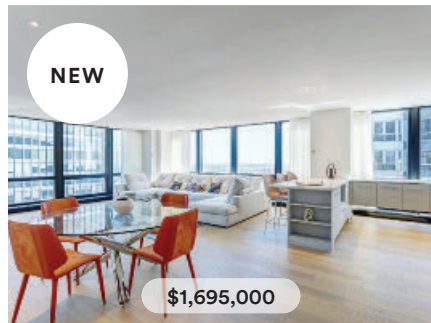
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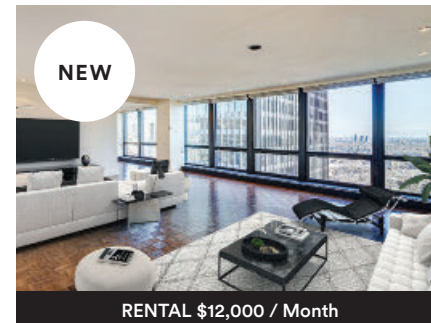
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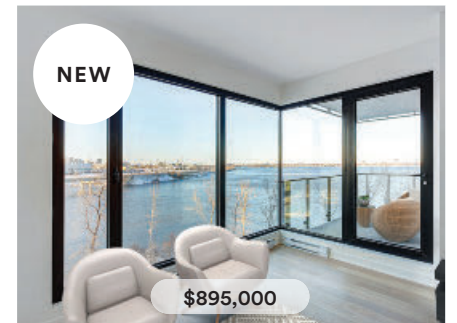
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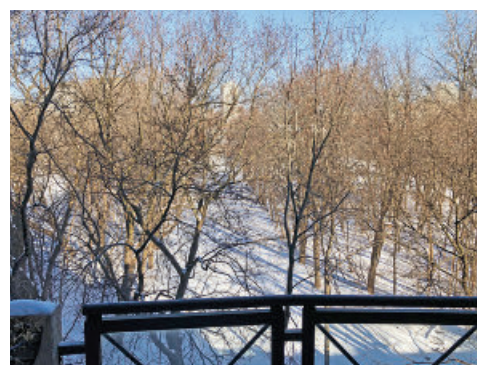


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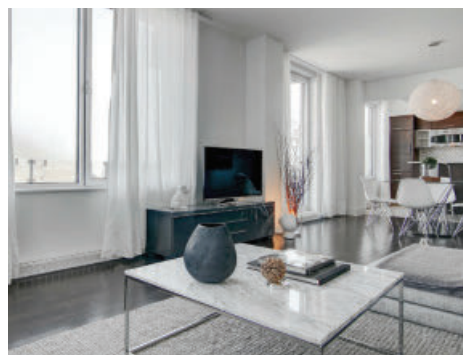
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